

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:27,840

2

00:00:27,840 --> 00:00:30,030
My name is Dr. Sidney Langer.

3

00:00:30,030 --> 00:00:32,400
And I'm the director
of the oral history

4

00:00:32,400 --> 00:00:35,310
project of the Holocaust
Studies Resource Center

5

00:00:35,310 --> 00:00:37,650
at Kean College of New Jersey.

6

00:00:37,650 --> 00:00:40,120
I'm very pleased to
have with me today

7

00:00:40,120 --> 00:00:44,280
Mrs. Luna Kaufman who is a
survivor of the Holocaust,

8

00:00:44,280 --> 00:00:48,600
and presently resides
in Watchung, New Jersey.

9

00:00:48,600 --> 00:00:51,030
Mrs. Kaufman was
very instrumental

10

00:00:51,030 --> 00:00:55,170
in the establishment of Governor
Thomas Kean's New Jersey

11

00:00:55,170 --> 00:00:59,010
Council on Holocaust
Education, and currently serves

12

00:00:59,010 --> 00:00:59,970
as a member.

13
00:00:59,970 --> 00:01:02,550
Mrs. Kaufman is
also the president

14
00:01:02,550 --> 00:01:05,580
of Temple Sholom in Plainfield.

15
00:01:05,580 --> 00:01:07,440
Thank you very
much, Mrs. Kaufman

16
00:01:07,440 --> 00:01:09,520
for coming to talk to me today.

17
00:01:09,520 --> 00:01:12,190

18
00:01:12,190 --> 00:01:14,610
Can you tell me a little bit
about the town in which you

19
00:01:14,610 --> 00:01:20,080
were born, and some indication
of the nature of life--

20
00:01:20,080 --> 00:01:24,990
family life, the relationship
between the Jewish community

21
00:01:24,990 --> 00:01:28,450
and the non-Jewish
community in your town?

22
00:01:28,450 --> 00:01:31,630
Yes, I come from
Krakow from Poland.

23
00:01:31,630 --> 00:01:34,860
I was born for third
generation in the same house.

24
00:01:34,860 --> 00:01:36,870
I only know about
three generations

25
00:01:36,870 --> 00:01:39,780
because I never was
wise enough to ask when

26
00:01:39,780 --> 00:01:41,670
the older generation was alive.

27
00:01:41,670 --> 00:01:46,230
We were a very big
part of our community.

28
00:01:46,230 --> 00:01:51,840
I come from a upper middle class
family, very well educated.

29
00:01:51,840 --> 00:01:57,000
Majority of the family had
higher education, very active

30
00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:00,300
people who took part
in the Jewish life

31
00:02:00,300 --> 00:02:04,500
as well as the intellectual
life of Poland.

32
00:02:04,500 --> 00:02:10,289
We considered ourself to be a
part of the Polish environment,

33
00:02:10,289 --> 00:02:13,260
quite well established in it.

34
00:02:13,260 --> 00:02:19,170
Yet always as it was true
in any European country,

35

00:02:19,170 --> 00:02:22,020
we were Jews from Poland.

36

00:02:22,020 --> 00:02:23,640
We were not Polish Jews.

37

00:02:23,640 --> 00:02:24,990
We were not Poles.

38

00:02:24,990 --> 00:02:27,210
We were Jews living in Poland.

39

00:02:27,210 --> 00:02:30,090
There was always a
very big borderline

40

00:02:30,090 --> 00:02:33,240
of where the Jewish
position was.

41

00:02:33,240 --> 00:02:35,280
It's not the same way
as it is in America.

42

00:02:35,280 --> 00:02:37,020
When you're an
American you might

43

00:02:37,020 --> 00:02:40,230
be an American Jew, an
American Italian, or whatever.

44

00:02:40,230 --> 00:02:41,790
But you are an American first.

45

00:02:41,790 --> 00:02:43,060
This was not the case.

46

00:02:43,060 --> 00:02:47,070
Even so our tradition
went very far back.

47

00:02:47,070 --> 00:02:49,200

I know my grandfather
participated

48

00:02:49,200 --> 00:02:52,510

in an uprising of Poland,
and fought with the army.

49

00:02:52,510 --> 00:02:57,030

He was a messenger during an
uprising in the Polish army.

50

00:02:57,030 --> 00:03:01,650

My father was an officer of the
Austrian army when Poland was

51

00:03:01,650 --> 00:03:04,600

under the Austrian occupation.

52

00:03:04,600 --> 00:03:10,080

My uncle was a professional
officer in the Austrian army.

53

00:03:10,080 --> 00:03:12,570

So as you can see we
were a great big part

54

00:03:12,570 --> 00:03:15,450

of the entire life and culture.

55

00:03:15,450 --> 00:03:20,370

Yet the moment the war broke
out-- and I was 12 at the time,

56

00:03:20,370 --> 00:03:22,950

this all became buried.

57

00:03:22,950 --> 00:03:24,240

It all disappeared.

58

00:03:24,240 --> 00:03:27,240

We were Jews and foremost Jews.

59

00:03:27,240 --> 00:03:31,260

And this other part
play no role at all.

60

00:03:31,260 --> 00:03:35,640

It didn't protect
us from anything.

61

00:03:35,640 --> 00:03:38,070

We were just
singled out as Jews,

62

00:03:38,070 --> 00:03:42,180

and then had to go through
all the tribulations

63

00:03:42,180 --> 00:03:44,700

despite our contribution
toward building

64

00:03:44,700 --> 00:03:50,870

of the country that was our
heritage partially as well.

65

00:03:50,870 --> 00:03:53,760

As far as I know, somebody
did write at one point

66

00:03:53,760 --> 00:03:57,450

a history of our family,
and evidently our family

67

00:03:57,450 --> 00:04:01,050

settled in Poland following
the Spanish Inquisition.

68

00:04:01,050 --> 00:04:04,290

So we do have a long
history going back.

69

00:04:04,290 --> 00:04:07,320

And I understand that part

of the family converted,

70

00:04:07,320 --> 00:04:09,300

and there was a whole
line of Christians

71

00:04:09,300 --> 00:04:11,790

with the same last name.

72

00:04:11,790 --> 00:04:15,270

Evidently one of the
forefathers converted.

73

00:04:15,270 --> 00:04:17,370

How large was your family?

74

00:04:17,370 --> 00:04:19,079

We had a very large family.

75

00:04:19,079 --> 00:04:26,310

Recently I counted that about 45
members of my immediate family

76

00:04:26,310 --> 00:04:30,600

was killed in the Holocaust,
and about 45 survived.

77

00:04:30,600 --> 00:04:33,630

And that I'm talking just about
the very immediate family.

78

00:04:33,630 --> 00:04:36,750

I'm not talking about
second cousins and so forth.

79

00:04:36,750 --> 00:04:39,570

This is all first
cousins, uncles, and aunt.

80

00:04:39,570 --> 00:04:42,510

My grandparents were not
alive when the war broke out.

81

00:04:42,510 --> 00:04:44,550

And how many siblings
did you have?

82

00:04:44,550 --> 00:04:47,800

I had one sister who was
a year older than me.

83

00:04:47,800 --> 00:04:50,560

She was killed and
so was my father.

84

00:04:50,560 --> 00:04:53,550

My mother and myself survived.

85

00:04:53,550 --> 00:04:56,250

Can you describe some of
the changes that took place

86

00:04:56,250 --> 00:04:59,740

when Hitler came to power?

87

00:04:59,740 --> 00:05:03,180

It was interesting because
I was not old enough

88

00:05:03,180 --> 00:05:06,210

at the time to wear an armband.

89

00:05:06,210 --> 00:05:10,320

This was the
identification of Jews.

90

00:05:10,320 --> 00:05:13,030

And at a time when
the order came out

91

00:05:13,030 --> 00:05:15,180

that we were supposed
to wear armbands

92

00:05:15,180 --> 00:05:17,220

identifying us as Jews--

93

00:05:17,220 --> 00:05:21,360

this was the armbands
bearing the star.

94

00:05:21,360 --> 00:05:26,130

I decided at the time that
I will wear one as well,

95

00:05:26,130 --> 00:05:28,900

because I did not
want to pretend

96

00:05:28,900 --> 00:05:30,820

that I-- not so much pretend.

97

00:05:30,820 --> 00:05:34,330

I felt I wanted to identify
with the Jewish society.

98

00:05:34,330 --> 00:05:38,350

And you must understand that
I went to school where I

99

00:05:38,350 --> 00:05:40,930

was one of two Jewish children.

100

00:05:40,930 --> 00:05:44,830

Yet I was always very
definitely strongly Jewish.

101

00:05:44,830 --> 00:05:49,210

We were what you call today
in here reformed Jews, very

102

00:05:49,210 --> 00:05:50,620

assimilated.

103

00:05:50,620 --> 00:05:52,600

Yet we were very strong Jews.

104

00:05:52,600 --> 00:05:56,890

We stood on our own convictions,
and our own beliefs.

105

00:05:56,890 --> 00:05:59,650

And we maintained it.

106

00:05:59,650 --> 00:06:02,920

So the change was
first that we--

107

00:06:02,920 --> 00:06:06,830

obviously my father
could not work.

108

00:06:06,830 --> 00:06:08,860

We could not function
in the community.

109

00:06:08,860 --> 00:06:11,200

We could not use transportation.

110

00:06:11,200 --> 00:06:13,770

We could not shop in stores.

111

00:06:13,770 --> 00:06:16,900

So putting on an
armband meant depriving

112

00:06:16,900 --> 00:06:19,570

the family of the availability
of all the services,

113

00:06:19,570 --> 00:06:23,470

because as somebody who
did not wear an armband,

114

00:06:23,470 --> 00:06:26,410

and I don't have a very Semitic
appearance because I'm light

115

00:06:26,410 --> 00:06:30,130

and I have blue eyes, which

is not the stereotype,

116

00:06:30,130 --> 00:06:34,720

I would have been able to
use the public transportation

117

00:06:34,720 --> 00:06:37,120

trying to reach the
other end of town

118

00:06:37,120 --> 00:06:38,770

where the rest of
the family lived.

119

00:06:38,770 --> 00:06:42,460

And knowing that the
phones were taken away,

120

00:06:42,460 --> 00:06:45,460

any private transportation
was taken away,

121

00:06:45,460 --> 00:06:50,530

this was a very important
factor for our existence.

122

00:06:50,530 --> 00:06:53,590

I decided that I rather
did not have the advantage.

123

00:06:53,590 --> 00:06:56,590

And luckily my family
did not force me,

124

00:06:56,590 --> 00:06:59,500

knowing that this was the
only link they could have had

125

00:06:59,500 --> 00:07:03,580

that also would have permit me
to go to the non-Jewish stores

126

00:07:03,580 --> 00:07:06,850

where the food supply
was a little more ample,

127
00:07:06,850 --> 00:07:10,750
and bring-- buy the
food for the family.

128
00:07:10,750 --> 00:07:13,510
And I am really amazed when
I think about it, that when

129
00:07:13,510 --> 00:07:15,730
I came home and I
said, no, I don't want

130
00:07:15,730 --> 00:07:17,500
to be identified as a non-Jew.

131
00:07:17,500 --> 00:07:23,410
I feel that they are trying
to degrade us as Jews,

132
00:07:23,410 --> 00:07:26,860
but I feel that they
are the degraded ones

133
00:07:26,860 --> 00:07:30,430
because their behavior is not
one I want to identify with.

134
00:07:30,430 --> 00:07:33,310
I would rather
identify with the Jews

135
00:07:33,310 --> 00:07:36,010
because I am rather proud that
we would never do anything

136
00:07:36,010 --> 00:07:36,850
like it.

137
00:07:36,850 --> 00:07:38,433
And you were 12 years

old at the time?

138
00:07:38,433 --> 00:07:39,700
I was 12 years old.

139
00:07:39,700 --> 00:07:42,070
Now, this is all at the
time when Germany actually

140
00:07:42,070 --> 00:07:43,245
went into Poland.

141
00:07:43,245 --> 00:07:43,870
That's correct.

142
00:07:43,870 --> 00:07:46,490
Immediately after the entrance.

143
00:07:46,490 --> 00:07:47,410
It was November.

144
00:07:47,410 --> 00:07:48,580
They entered in September.

145
00:07:48,580 --> 00:07:50,800
In November we had
to wear armbands.

146
00:07:50,800 --> 00:07:53,140
Had you been aware of what
had taken place already

147
00:07:53,140 --> 00:07:57,430
in Germany prior to the
German movement into Poland?

148
00:07:57,430 --> 00:07:59,050
That's a very
interesting question.

149
00:07:59,050 --> 00:08:02,620
We did obviously, because

the German refugees

150
00:08:02,620 --> 00:08:04,360
were coming to Poland.

151
00:08:04,360 --> 00:08:10,630
Yet somehow in our own mind
this didn't make sense.

152
00:08:10,630 --> 00:08:13,660
We did not believe
that this was truly

153
00:08:13,660 --> 00:08:15,430
happening, that this
was a true sweep

154
00:08:15,430 --> 00:08:20,360
throughout the entire
Jewish population.

155
00:08:20,360 --> 00:08:23,440
We were trying to justify
it why in Germany they

156
00:08:23,440 --> 00:08:25,100
did what they did.

157
00:08:25,100 --> 00:08:29,300
The reason being first of all
that we lived in a country--

158
00:08:29,300 --> 00:08:31,750
Eastern Europe was
very anti-Semitic.

159
00:08:31,750 --> 00:08:33,460
This was a part of life.

160
00:08:33,460 --> 00:08:36,100
This was the way we functioned.

161

00:08:36,100 --> 00:08:37,240
We functioned within it.

162
00:08:37,240 --> 00:08:40,480
We had a lot of Polish friends
who as individual weren't.

163
00:08:40,480 --> 00:08:44,710
But the government and
the laws were anti-Semitic

164
00:08:44,710 --> 00:08:47,140
or maybe if you look
at it those were

165
00:08:47,140 --> 00:08:49,730
the minorities, and
minorities they had no right.

166
00:08:49,730 --> 00:08:53,080
Whereupon we looked up
on Germany as the country

167
00:08:53,080 --> 00:08:57,700
where the Jew was most equal
to any other country in Europe,

168
00:08:57,700 --> 00:08:59,290
had the biggest freedom.

169
00:08:59,290 --> 00:09:02,230
As I mentioned, my family
had higher education.

170
00:09:02,230 --> 00:09:04,450
In order to obtain it
they had to travel either

171
00:09:04,450 --> 00:09:07,660
to Vienna or Berlin
because there they

172
00:09:07,660 --> 00:09:08,950

could attend university.

173

00:09:08,950 --> 00:09:11,080

In Poland at that
time, a Jew could not

174

00:09:11,080 --> 00:09:13,210

attend the university.

175

00:09:13,210 --> 00:09:17,050

So when they came and they
told us the people where

176

00:09:17,050 --> 00:09:20,110

we looked for the civil
rights, the liberties,

177

00:09:20,110 --> 00:09:22,150

the freedom, they
are persecuting

178

00:09:22,150 --> 00:09:27,310

Jews we took it with a
grain of salt. I don't know.

179

00:09:27,310 --> 00:09:30,580

If I was older maybe I could
analyze it better at the time.

180

00:09:30,580 --> 00:09:34,840

But it appeared to me at
the time that you think,

181

00:09:34,840 --> 00:09:37,270

all right, the
German Jews did not

182

00:09:37,270 --> 00:09:39,350

want to be the Jews
living in Germany.

183

00:09:39,350 --> 00:09:40,870

They wanted to be the Germans.

184
00:09:40,870 --> 00:09:43,630
What right did they
have to be the Germans?

185
00:09:43,630 --> 00:09:46,270
So the Germans resented
that the Jews tried

186
00:09:46,270 --> 00:09:49,990
to usurp their nationality.

187
00:09:49,990 --> 00:09:53,260
And therefore, they mistreated
the people and chased them out.

188
00:09:53,260 --> 00:09:58,000
We never quite understood
what was really happening.

189
00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:00,970
The older generation might
have understand it better.

190
00:10:00,970 --> 00:10:04,060
But this was my attitude to it.

191
00:10:04,060 --> 00:10:07,810
And to emphasize this, when
the German army entered

192
00:10:07,810 --> 00:10:10,480
Poland my father went down--

193
00:10:10,480 --> 00:10:13,390
it the first day of the
war when they entered.

194
00:10:13,390 --> 00:10:14,150
Do-

195
00:10:14,150 --> 00:10:14,650

Yes.

196
00:10:14,650 --> 00:10:15,070
I'm sorry.

197
00:10:15,070 --> 00:10:16,487
You recall that
first day vividly.

198
00:10:16,487 --> 00:10:18,430
Oh, yes very vividly.

199
00:10:18,430 --> 00:10:21,300
It was interesting because
we got up in the morning.

200
00:10:21,300 --> 00:10:23,430
The stories about
war forthcoming

201
00:10:23,430 --> 00:10:26,890
were all the time
for the past year.

202
00:10:26,890 --> 00:10:29,740
There was always talk about
that with the annexation

203
00:10:29,740 --> 00:10:32,560
of Czechoslovakia and Austria.

204
00:10:32,560 --> 00:10:35,260
This was kind of expected.

205
00:10:35,260 --> 00:10:38,950
And one morning my father
got up and started calling

206
00:10:38,950 --> 00:10:40,210
here, look at the children.

207
00:10:40,210 --> 00:10:41,980

They're having
military maneuvers

208
00:10:41,980 --> 00:10:43,360
and how realistic it looks.

209
00:10:43,360 --> 00:10:44,450
Look at this plane.

210
00:10:44,450 --> 00:10:48,010
It looks like it's
really shot down.

211
00:10:48,010 --> 00:10:49,210
It was really shot down.

212
00:10:49,210 --> 00:10:50,750
That was the
beginning of the war.

213
00:10:50,750 --> 00:10:51,610
But there was a
tremendous amount

214
00:10:51,610 --> 00:10:52,652
of disbelief [INAUDIBLE].

215
00:10:52,652 --> 00:10:53,290
Oh, yeah.

216
00:10:53,290 --> 00:10:54,340
Oh, yes.

217
00:10:54,340 --> 00:10:57,940
This was all-- everybody
said, oh, it's just talk.

218
00:10:57,940 --> 00:11:00,920
This is someplace-- it really
isn't going to happen here.

219
00:11:00,920 --> 00:11:03,250

It's not going to
happen in this manner.

220
00:11:03,250 --> 00:11:06,130
And three days after
that happened, we were--

221
00:11:06,130 --> 00:11:07,390
this is fairly close to--

222
00:11:07,390 --> 00:11:10,090
Krakow is pretty close
to the German border.

223
00:11:10,090 --> 00:11:11,530
The Germans entered.

224
00:11:11,530 --> 00:11:13,000
And my father went down.

225
00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:15,220
And he comes marching
back upstairs

226
00:11:15,220 --> 00:11:17,290
with the Austrian officer.

227
00:11:17,290 --> 00:11:18,790
He said, look at
this propaganda.

228
00:11:18,790 --> 00:11:19,990
This is ridiculous.

229
00:11:19,990 --> 00:11:22,450
This man served with
me in the first war.

230
00:11:22,450 --> 00:11:24,370
We were best of friends.

231
00:11:24,370 --> 00:11:25,570

He is now in this army.

232
00:11:25,570 --> 00:11:27,460
How can this army
inflict the kind

233
00:11:27,460 --> 00:11:29,110
of stories they telling us?

234
00:11:29,110 --> 00:11:30,370
This is my best friend.

235
00:11:30,370 --> 00:11:31,750
That's impossible.

236
00:11:31,750 --> 00:11:34,000
This is all propaganda, and
they trying to scare us.

237
00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:34,750
But it's not true.

238
00:11:34,750 --> 00:11:37,540
Let's not worry about it.

239
00:11:37,540 --> 00:11:43,660
And I subscribed strongly
to the sophistication

240
00:11:43,660 --> 00:11:52,240
of German psychologists who have
so intelligently masterminded

241
00:11:52,240 --> 00:11:56,800
the whole operation where
each step was so prepared,

242
00:11:56,800 --> 00:12:00,250
and taken one step
at a time, and seeing

243
00:12:00,250 --> 00:12:04,390

how the people adjusted to
that and taking the next step,

244

00:12:04,390 --> 00:12:06,640
that by the time you
reached a certain point

245

00:12:06,640 --> 00:12:08,530
it was a point of no return.

246

00:12:08,530 --> 00:12:12,460
But it wasn't that it was
plunged into it where people

247

00:12:12,460 --> 00:12:15,340
still would have had
the means of rebellion

248

00:12:15,340 --> 00:12:17,260
or the desire to rebel.

249

00:12:17,260 --> 00:12:22,060
It was a constant feeling if
we comply with this step then

250

00:12:22,060 --> 00:12:24,850
that will be it, and
nothing else will happen.

251

00:12:24,850 --> 00:12:28,900
We have never believed that
this was a part of a master plan

252

00:12:28,900 --> 00:12:31,450
that will lead from one
thing to another to another.

253

00:12:31,450 --> 00:12:33,940
Yet if you read Mein Kampf
it's not a guesswork.

254

00:12:33,940 --> 00:12:34,450
Correct.

255
00:12:34,450 --> 00:12:38,710
But I think our image of the
German culture and intellect

256
00:12:38,710 --> 00:12:43,540
and freedom and rights
was so ingrained in us

257
00:12:43,540 --> 00:12:45,730
that it defied any reason.

258
00:12:45,730 --> 00:12:49,170
And this is why
it was successful.

259
00:12:49,170 --> 00:12:50,170
That's very interesting.

260
00:12:50,170 --> 00:12:52,810
Many people have suggested
that a lot of the Jews

261
00:12:52,810 --> 00:12:54,980
who were living in
Poland at the time

262
00:12:54,980 --> 00:12:57,460
saw the Polish Jews
who were expelled

263
00:12:57,460 --> 00:13:00,458
from Germany being expelled
because they were Polish Jews.

264
00:13:00,458 --> 00:13:01,000
That's right.

265
00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:02,667
And that's why they
were being expelled.

266

00:13:02,667 --> 00:13:05,950
Oh, we found many other reasons
why those people were expelled.

267
00:13:05,950 --> 00:13:10,330
They were from Poland, and they
were trying to be too German.

268
00:13:10,330 --> 00:13:11,890
There was always some excuse.

269
00:13:11,890 --> 00:13:16,690
I think one of the realities
was that we had nowhere to go.

270
00:13:16,690 --> 00:13:18,490
And to know that
you have nowhere

271
00:13:18,490 --> 00:13:22,150
to go, and know that
there is a need to go

272
00:13:22,150 --> 00:13:24,820
would have been much
more frightening.

273
00:13:24,820 --> 00:13:29,150
So if you said, all right,
we don't really have to go,

274
00:13:29,150 --> 00:13:32,710
we didn't have the
alternative anyhow.

275
00:13:32,710 --> 00:13:35,560
When the Germans
marched into Poland

276
00:13:35,560 --> 00:13:37,210
there was no
discussion whatsoever

277

00:13:37,210 --> 00:13:39,760
among the Jewish community
that, in fact, there

278
00:13:39,760 --> 00:13:42,820
was a Final Solution
that was set into motion.

279
00:13:42,820 --> 00:13:44,140
This was a war.

280
00:13:44,140 --> 00:13:46,030
Yeah, and it will be over.

281
00:13:46,030 --> 00:13:47,770
The war is not going
to stand still.

282
00:13:47,770 --> 00:13:48,970
Something will happen.

283
00:13:48,970 --> 00:13:50,470
Tomorrow the whole
thing will end.

284
00:13:50,470 --> 00:13:54,160
This is just a nightmare that
cannot be true, cannot be real.

285
00:13:54,160 --> 00:13:56,680
It just cannot continue.

286
00:13:56,680 --> 00:13:58,450
It just isn't real.

287
00:13:58,450 --> 00:14:00,220
It was such a total disbelief.

288
00:14:00,220 --> 00:14:01,810
And another thing
that the Germans

289

00:14:01,810 --> 00:14:04,150
did that when they
entered the towns

290
00:14:04,150 --> 00:14:09,190
they immediately rounded up all
the leaders, all the people who

291
00:14:09,190 --> 00:14:10,420
could have organized.

292
00:14:10,420 --> 00:14:12,940
And I'm talking about the
sophisticated leaders,

293
00:14:12,940 --> 00:14:14,980
because then when you
look at the partisans who

294
00:14:14,980 --> 00:14:16,750
was in the partisans.

295
00:14:16,750 --> 00:14:19,840
There were the young
people, who really did not

296
00:14:19,840 --> 00:14:23,230
have the training, did not
have the sophistication.

297
00:14:23,230 --> 00:14:25,510
Not so much sophistication,
but they did not

298
00:14:25,510 --> 00:14:28,300
have the preparation of
life to be the leaders.

299
00:14:28,300 --> 00:14:31,570
They could not carry the
clout with the society,

300
00:14:31,570 --> 00:14:33,400

because they emerged
all of a sudden.

301
00:14:33,400 --> 00:14:34,930
They were halfway in hiding.

302
00:14:34,930 --> 00:14:37,300
So even so, they
became the leaders,

303
00:14:37,300 --> 00:14:38,800
nobody was aware of it.

304
00:14:38,800 --> 00:14:41,020
But the names that
were known that could

305
00:14:41,020 --> 00:14:43,060
have rallied the people
around, the Germans

306
00:14:43,060 --> 00:14:44,653
took it away immediately.

307
00:14:44,653 --> 00:14:46,070
And that would
include, of course,

308
00:14:46,070 --> 00:14:48,278
the leading members of the
kehilla itself in Holland.

309
00:14:48,278 --> 00:14:50,410
Oh sure, sure, sure.

310
00:14:50,410 --> 00:14:54,940
Those people were immediately
taken away from the community

311
00:14:54,940 --> 00:14:57,100
upon entrance.

312

00:14:57,100 --> 00:15:00,190
And the public transportation
was taken away.

313
00:15:00,190 --> 00:15:02,020
The communication
was taken away.

314
00:15:02,020 --> 00:15:04,690
These are all within the
first few days of the--

315
00:15:04,690 --> 00:15:06,520
The moment the war
started and they

316
00:15:06,520 --> 00:15:08,980
started any kind of
activity, this, right away,

317
00:15:08,980 --> 00:15:10,640
was destroyed.

318
00:15:10,640 --> 00:15:13,660
So to try to rally when you
cannot have a newspaper.

319
00:15:13,660 --> 00:15:14,710
You cannot have a radio.

320
00:15:14,710 --> 00:15:16,930
You cannot have a telephone.

321
00:15:16,930 --> 00:15:18,820
How do you reorganize
the community?

322
00:15:18,820 --> 00:15:20,510
Your leaders are gone.

323
00:15:20,510 --> 00:15:25,150
So somebody else emerges and
tries to get the followers.

324
00:15:25,150 --> 00:15:26,690
How does he get the followers?

325
00:15:26,690 --> 00:15:28,820
Who believes him that
he can do anything?

326
00:15:28,820 --> 00:15:31,170
Did, in fact, people attempt
to emerge as leaders?

327
00:15:31,170 --> 00:15:31,670
Oh, yeah.

328
00:15:31,670 --> 00:15:34,260
But they had no access.

329
00:15:34,260 --> 00:15:35,955
They had no exposure, no access.

330
00:15:35,955 --> 00:15:36,830
Nobody believed this.

331
00:15:36,830 --> 00:15:39,630
Who is he, telling
me what to do?

332
00:15:39,630 --> 00:15:42,690
There was no way of
building up any new people.

333
00:15:42,690 --> 00:15:45,703
It happened too fast.

334
00:15:45,703 --> 00:15:47,120
What were some of
the other things

335
00:15:47,120 --> 00:15:51,230
that happened immediately
after the German invasion?

336

00:15:51,230 --> 00:15:55,100

I think that the worst thing
that happened was, as you know,

337

00:15:55,100 --> 00:15:58,490

the European male
is a very proud man.

338

00:15:58,490 --> 00:16:00,080

He was always the provider.

339

00:16:00,080 --> 00:16:02,480

He was always the man
upon-- the whole family

340

00:16:02,480 --> 00:16:08,180

depended upon decisions,
and dependent upon income.

341

00:16:08,180 --> 00:16:09,590

This was the leader.

342

00:16:09,590 --> 00:16:11,930

And the moment the
Germans entered,

343

00:16:11,930 --> 00:16:16,955

the first thing they did, they
did not permit the man to work.

344

00:16:16,955 --> 00:16:20,790

And they restricted any
kind of an activity.

345

00:16:20,790 --> 00:16:25,190

So as a result, the man
immediately was degraded.

346

00:16:25,190 --> 00:16:29,090

It was necessary, at
times, that the women tried

347

00:16:29,090 --> 00:16:32,240

to earn in many different
ways, because you

348

00:16:32,240 --> 00:16:34,430

could cook something and sell.

349

00:16:34,430 --> 00:16:37,130

It's not that we needed
much money to live on.

350

00:16:37,130 --> 00:16:39,320

And we, for the most part,
were selling what we had.

351

00:16:39,320 --> 00:16:42,260

But the money was
immediately taken away

352

00:16:42,260 --> 00:16:43,940

because banks were frozen.

353

00:16:43,940 --> 00:16:46,940

And the man was
right away destroyed.

354

00:16:46,940 --> 00:16:49,730

His ego was broken tremendously.

355

00:16:49,730 --> 00:16:52,580

And to follow that
up, what they did

356

00:16:52,580 --> 00:16:55,580

is that the moment we
got the armbands on,

357

00:16:55,580 --> 00:16:58,250

every morning, they would
have on street corners

358

00:16:58,250 --> 00:17:02,510

people who would capture
the Jews and made them work.

359
00:17:02,510 --> 00:17:05,480
But they made them work in
very humiliating conditions,

360
00:17:05,480 --> 00:17:09,200
shoveling snow, or coal,
or sweeping the streets,

361
00:17:09,200 --> 00:17:10,460
which was--

362
00:17:10,460 --> 00:17:11,675
This is not like in here.

363
00:17:11,675 --> 00:17:13,550
You go and they catch
you in some small town,

364
00:17:13,550 --> 00:17:14,450
and nobody knows you.

365
00:17:14,450 --> 00:17:16,069
You are 50 miles away from home.

366
00:17:16,069 --> 00:17:20,030
Those were people who are
very, very highly regarded

367
00:17:20,030 --> 00:17:21,380
in the community.

368
00:17:21,380 --> 00:17:24,170
And all of a sudden, there
they were, sweeping the streets

369
00:17:24,170 --> 00:17:30,590
and being jeered by all
the people who were--

370

00:17:30,590 --> 00:17:33,350

It's difficult to
understand it and to say it.

371

00:17:33,350 --> 00:17:37,210

It sounds maybe a
little different.

372

00:17:37,210 --> 00:17:40,160

But the class distinction
was very strong.

373

00:17:40,160 --> 00:17:45,020

And the image of the man who
was somebody socially all

374

00:17:45,020 --> 00:17:46,280

of a sudden being destroyed.

375

00:17:46,280 --> 00:17:48,072

And the janitor standing
there and laughing

376

00:17:48,072 --> 00:17:49,550

and seeing the man
sweep the street

377

00:17:49,550 --> 00:17:52,620

was tremendously destructive.

378

00:17:52,620 --> 00:17:54,498

Is this a perception
that was conveyed to you

379

00:17:54,498 --> 00:17:55,165

by your father--

380

00:17:55,165 --> 00:17:55,665

Yes.

381

00:17:55,665 --> 00:17:58,340

--Or is this a perception
that you, yourself, also felt?

382
00:17:58,340 --> 00:18:00,320
Oh I felt as well as my father.

383
00:18:00,320 --> 00:18:03,560
I know that, at one point, when
my father was made to shovel

384
00:18:03,560 --> 00:18:05,897
the coal, I got dressed.

385
00:18:05,897 --> 00:18:06,480
I was dressed.

386
00:18:06,480 --> 00:18:08,120
And I was passing
by, and I saw it.

387
00:18:08,120 --> 00:18:10,370
And I just grabbed the shovel
and shoveled it together

388
00:18:10,370 --> 00:18:13,770
with him, as if to defy the
Germans and say, you know,

389
00:18:13,770 --> 00:18:15,110
I'm not ashamed of it.

390
00:18:15,110 --> 00:18:16,108
You make me do it.

391
00:18:16,108 --> 00:18:17,150
And I couldn't care less.

392
00:18:17,150 --> 00:18:18,860
It doesn't make me
lesser of a person

393
00:18:18,860 --> 00:18:20,210
because I'm shoveling the snow.

394

00:18:20,210 --> 00:18:21,230

But I was a young kid.

395

00:18:21,230 --> 00:18:23,210

I didn't have the
image in community.

396

00:18:23,210 --> 00:18:24,537

I didn't have the family.

397

00:18:24,537 --> 00:18:26,370

You know, I could afford
to do those things.

398

00:18:26,370 --> 00:18:29,570

It didn't mean any-- you know,
you can be very, very brave

399

00:18:29,570 --> 00:18:32,310

when you are young and you
have no responsibilities.

400

00:18:32,310 --> 00:18:32,810

Correct.

401

00:18:32,810 --> 00:18:33,830

And, of course,
at that time, you

402

00:18:33,830 --> 00:18:35,090

were not going to
school anymore.

403

00:18:35,090 --> 00:18:35,450

Oh no.

404

00:18:35,450 --> 00:18:36,590

The schools were closed.

405

00:18:36,590 --> 00:18:40,790

That was another thing is
knowing the Jewish interest

406
00:18:40,790 --> 00:18:43,670
in education and the
importance that education

407
00:18:43,670 --> 00:18:46,360
played in Jewish
life, immediately

408
00:18:46,360 --> 00:18:47,360
the schools were closed.

409
00:18:47,360 --> 00:18:48,980
We could not attend schools.

410
00:18:48,980 --> 00:18:51,140
And it was illegal
to go to schools.

411
00:18:51,140 --> 00:18:53,780
So what we did is we,
at first, my parents

412
00:18:53,780 --> 00:18:56,780
organized a school
were in private homes.

413
00:18:56,780 --> 00:19:01,310
The teachers would come and
they would conduct classes.

414
00:19:01,310 --> 00:19:04,190
But that became illegal
and very dangerous.

415
00:19:04,190 --> 00:19:06,470
And they had to abandon
it after a few weeks,

416
00:19:06,470 --> 00:19:09,680
because there was, right
away, reports to the Germans

417

00:19:09,680 --> 00:19:12,470

that so many kids are
walking into the building.

418

00:19:12,470 --> 00:19:15,210

And they assumed if there are
so many kids the same age,

419

00:19:15,210 --> 00:19:17,210

there must be some
teaching going on.

420

00:19:17,210 --> 00:19:19,250

And that would have
meant death penalty

421

00:19:19,250 --> 00:19:21,870

for the teachers or the
people who own the apartment.

422

00:19:21,870 --> 00:19:23,990

So that had to be
stopped immediately.

423

00:19:23,990 --> 00:19:28,130

And that also was a tremendous
burden on the parents.

424

00:19:28,130 --> 00:19:31,340

It sounds so strange that
when your life is in danger,

425

00:19:31,340 --> 00:19:33,860

all of a sudden, if your
children cannot get education,

426

00:19:33,860 --> 00:19:35,780

what a disaster that is.

427

00:19:35,780 --> 00:19:37,940

But this was all
the chipping away

428

00:19:37,940 --> 00:19:40,280
at the dignity of the community.

429

00:19:40,280 --> 00:19:42,530
And all breaking--
you know, this was all

430

00:19:42,530 --> 00:19:44,090
designed to break the spirit.

431

00:19:44,090 --> 00:19:45,278
Correct.

432

00:19:45,278 --> 00:19:46,820
And you felt that,
in fact, your life

433

00:19:46,820 --> 00:19:49,730
was in danger at that time.

434

00:19:49,730 --> 00:19:51,710
No, at that time,
I still did not

435

00:19:51,710 --> 00:19:54,800
think that my actual
life was in danger.

436

00:19:54,800 --> 00:19:56,810
I felt that the
community was in danger,

437

00:19:56,810 --> 00:20:01,160
that they tried to really
destroy our dignity.

438

00:20:01,160 --> 00:20:06,530
And they tried to
suppress us by creating

439

00:20:06,530 --> 00:20:10,760
some kind of an image

of a lesser human being.

440

00:20:10,760 --> 00:20:15,680

And I did everything
possible to say, no, this

441

00:20:15,680 --> 00:20:17,330

is their image of me.

442

00:20:17,330 --> 00:20:19,820

I have my own image of me.

443

00:20:19,820 --> 00:20:22,230

And they should be
ashamed of it, not me.

444

00:20:22,230 --> 00:20:22,730

Mm-hmm.

445

00:20:22,730 --> 00:20:26,610

And I did not consider
any of those things

446

00:20:26,610 --> 00:20:32,700

as a degrading
event, because I felt

447

00:20:32,700 --> 00:20:36,900

that, as far as I was
concerned, it didn't change me

448

00:20:36,900 --> 00:20:37,770

as a human being.

449

00:20:37,770 --> 00:20:40,620

Whatever I was, whether
I shovel the snow,

450

00:20:40,620 --> 00:20:44,430

or whatever I did, the
most illustrious thing,

451

00:20:44,430 --> 00:20:46,200

I was the same me.

452

00:20:46,200 --> 00:20:48,480

And if anybody looked
at me and could not see

453

00:20:48,480 --> 00:20:50,975

beyond that, what do I care?

454

00:20:50,975 --> 00:20:55,950

Did the other members of your
family have the same feelings?

455

00:20:55,950 --> 00:21:00,870

Not as much as me, because
I was always a tomboy.

456

00:21:00,870 --> 00:21:02,070

And I didn't care.

457

00:21:02,070 --> 00:21:04,950

If my hands got
dirty shoveling snow,

458

00:21:04,950 --> 00:21:07,980

I enjoyed it, because
otherwise I was never

459

00:21:07,980 --> 00:21:09,622

permitted to be dirty.

460

00:21:09,622 --> 00:21:11,580

My sister, on the other
hand, was a year older.

461

00:21:11,580 --> 00:21:15,030

And she was a very elegant
girl, always very immaculate.

462

00:21:15,030 --> 00:21:17,940

And when she was made to
shovel snow and get dirty,

463
00:21:17,940 --> 00:21:21,660
and her clothes got
dirty, it upset her.

464
00:21:21,660 --> 00:21:24,910
I, in a sense, derive
satisfaction out of it,

465
00:21:24,910 --> 00:21:27,185
that who cares, you know?

466
00:21:27,185 --> 00:21:28,560
What happened to
the relationship

467
00:21:28,560 --> 00:21:30,990
that you had with
your fellow classmates

468
00:21:30,990 --> 00:21:32,272
when you had attended school?

469
00:21:32,272 --> 00:21:34,230
Did you have any close
relationships with them?

470
00:21:34,230 --> 00:21:35,040
No.

471
00:21:35,040 --> 00:21:40,300
Somehow, strangely enough, I
had friends in grade school,

472
00:21:40,300 --> 00:21:43,740
but there was a distance.

473
00:21:43,740 --> 00:21:45,720
We had a good relationship.

474
00:21:45,720 --> 00:21:47,435
I went to school,

and they were with me

475

00:21:47,435 --> 00:21:48,810
throughout the
whole school year.

476

00:21:48,810 --> 00:21:52,260
But we never developed the
kind of rapport and relations

477

00:21:52,260 --> 00:21:54,630
that would carry
beyond the school.

478

00:21:54,630 --> 00:21:58,230
I have not maintained
very much of a contact.

479

00:21:58,230 --> 00:22:02,070
At that time, when the
war broke out-- and also,

480

00:22:02,070 --> 00:22:04,590
through a peculiar
set of circumstances,

481

00:22:04,590 --> 00:22:07,560
I did not go to my
original school.

482

00:22:07,560 --> 00:22:11,850
The students that went to
school with me, the girls--

483

00:22:11,850 --> 00:22:13,890
because this was all
boys and girls school--

484

00:22:13,890 --> 00:22:16,410
lived in a different
section of town.

485

00:22:16,410 --> 00:22:20,080

And I somehow never quite
socialized with them very much.

486
00:22:20,080 --> 00:22:21,750
I don't know why.

487
00:22:21,750 --> 00:22:24,540
You always socialize with the
people who lived in the area

488
00:22:24,540 --> 00:22:26,580
that you lived.

489
00:22:26,580 --> 00:22:29,860
And I never developed a
rapport with those girls

490
00:22:29,860 --> 00:22:31,860
where this would have continued.

491
00:22:31,860 --> 00:22:33,570
Did you have any
religious education?

492
00:22:33,570 --> 00:22:35,650
Were you attending any
religious school at all?

493
00:22:35,650 --> 00:22:37,140
Hardly any.

494
00:22:37,140 --> 00:22:40,110
I went to a Catholic school.

495
00:22:40,110 --> 00:22:42,690
And I was in the
Catholic school.

496
00:22:42,690 --> 00:22:46,230
We had to go every single
morning in front of the altar.

497

00:22:46,230 --> 00:22:49,890

And we were excused from praying
because of our relationship

498

00:22:49,890 --> 00:22:50,670

with the teachers.

499

00:22:50,670 --> 00:22:54,730

And I don't know, they
never forced us into it.

500

00:22:54,730 --> 00:22:58,440

And since we had, at home, a
very strong identity as Jews,

501

00:22:58,440 --> 00:23:00,120

there was never a
question in my mind.

502

00:23:00,120 --> 00:23:00,690

I'm going.

503

00:23:00,690 --> 00:23:04,800

And this is the Christian
God and the other girls

504

00:23:04,800 --> 00:23:05,820

are praying.

505

00:23:05,820 --> 00:23:08,580

I'm not requested to
pray, because I'm a Jew.

506

00:23:08,580 --> 00:23:10,350

And this is not my
religion belief.

507

00:23:10,350 --> 00:23:13,050

And therefore, I just
go there because that's

508

00:23:13,050 --> 00:23:15,480

what the function is at

that hour of the day.

509

00:23:15,480 --> 00:23:19,260

And I never felt
any kind of conflict

510

00:23:19,260 --> 00:23:20,962

that, because I go
there every morning,

511

00:23:20,962 --> 00:23:22,920

I'm going to be converted
and I all of a sudden

512

00:23:22,920 --> 00:23:24,630

become a Christian.

513

00:23:24,630 --> 00:23:26,490

I had a very good
rapport with the priest,

514

00:23:26,490 --> 00:23:30,510

who was coming to teach
Catholicism in the school.

515

00:23:30,510 --> 00:23:32,970

We had a lovely,
lovely relationship

516

00:23:32,970 --> 00:23:35,670

all throughout the
years I went to school.

517

00:23:35,670 --> 00:23:41,160

And yet, everybody knew
the fact that I was Jewish.

518

00:23:41,160 --> 00:23:44,400

And I wasn't
uncomfortable about it.

519

00:23:44,400 --> 00:23:46,260

I knew that I didn't

have the full rights.

520

00:23:46,260 --> 00:23:48,630

I knew there were
certain disadvantages.

521

00:23:48,630 --> 00:23:50,520

But I was what I was.

522

00:23:50,520 --> 00:23:52,470

And there was no
question about it.

523

00:23:52,470 --> 00:23:54,330

At one point, they finally--

524

00:23:54,330 --> 00:23:56,620

I don't know how it came about.

525

00:23:56,620 --> 00:23:58,410

It was very strange,
because about,

526

00:23:58,410 --> 00:24:00,570

I think fourth,
fifth grade, there

527

00:24:00,570 --> 00:24:07,200

was a actual teacher of religion
who came to teach us Judaism.

528

00:24:07,200 --> 00:24:07,950

In the school?

529

00:24:07,950 --> 00:24:09,970

In the school.

530

00:24:09,970 --> 00:24:12,730

I don't know who hired him,
whether the parents paid

531

00:24:12,730 --> 00:24:13,360

for it or--

532

00:24:13,360 --> 00:24:15,700

I can't imagine the
school paying for it.

533

00:24:15,700 --> 00:24:20,290

Unfortunately, he was nowhere
intellectually, or physically,

534

00:24:20,290 --> 00:24:23,200

or in any way, shape, or form,
resembling the priest, who was

535

00:24:23,200 --> 00:24:26,840

a very attractive exciting man.

536

00:24:26,840 --> 00:24:30,250

He was an older man
that had a lot of poise,

537

00:24:30,250 --> 00:24:31,330

and a lot of charisma.

538

00:24:31,330 --> 00:24:33,910

This Jewish teacher,
unfortunately, wasn't.

539

00:24:33,910 --> 00:24:38,200

So what resulted was that I
gave him a terribly hard time

540

00:24:38,200 --> 00:24:39,610

and got no education.

541

00:24:39,610 --> 00:24:44,050

But my father was a very,
very well educated man,

542

00:24:44,050 --> 00:24:45,730

Jewishly educated.

543

00:24:45,730 --> 00:24:48,280
And whatever education
I got was at home.

544
00:24:48,280 --> 00:24:49,580
It wasn't in school at all.

545
00:24:49,580 --> 00:24:51,670
That didn't work out.

546
00:24:51,670 --> 00:24:54,370
You mentioned before that
your father came over to you

547
00:24:54,370 --> 00:24:59,720
and, very incredulously,
expressed tremendous dismay.

548
00:24:59,720 --> 00:25:01,060
Yeah.

549
00:25:01,060 --> 00:25:02,720
What happened next?

550
00:25:02,720 --> 00:25:05,470
And did you, yourself,
observe any actions

551
00:25:05,470 --> 00:25:09,180
that were taken against
the Jews or the Jewish--

552
00:25:09,180 --> 00:25:09,680
Oh yes.

553
00:25:09,680 --> 00:25:12,740
Oh yes, you know,
immediately they started--

554
00:25:12,740 --> 00:25:17,980
First of all, they put the
stars on the store windows

555

00:25:17,980 --> 00:25:20,080

in order to identify
the Jewish stores.

556

00:25:20,080 --> 00:25:23,080

That's the only
place we could shop.

557

00:25:23,080 --> 00:25:25,090

Then they would,
as I told you, grab

558

00:25:25,090 --> 00:25:27,610

people to work on the
streets and humiliate them.

559

00:25:27,610 --> 00:25:31,150

And then, shortly after, there
started a physical violence

560

00:25:31,150 --> 00:25:35,020

where they took my
girlfriend's parents--

561

00:25:35,020 --> 00:25:37,780

This is somebody I later on
met in concentration camp

562

00:25:37,780 --> 00:25:39,190

and befriended.

563

00:25:39,190 --> 00:25:40,660

They were orthodox Jews.

564

00:25:40,660 --> 00:25:41,890

They were Hasidim.

565

00:25:41,890 --> 00:25:43,930

Her brother and her
father were both wearing

566

00:25:43,930 --> 00:25:45,772

kippahs and the dark coats.

567

00:25:45,772 --> 00:25:47,230

And they grabbed
them on the street

568

00:25:47,230 --> 00:25:49,120

and they killed them
publicly very shortly

569

00:25:49,120 --> 00:25:50,170

after the war started.

570

00:25:50,170 --> 00:25:51,070

Did you observe that?

571

00:25:51,070 --> 00:25:52,510

Yes, yes.

572

00:25:52,510 --> 00:25:56,270

And so the brutality
started very shortly after.

573

00:25:56,270 --> 00:25:59,455

But we still thought, OK,
we're going to wake up tomorrow

574

00:25:59,455 --> 00:26:00,580

and everybody will be gone.

575

00:26:00,580 --> 00:26:02,110

And it will be over.

576

00:26:02,110 --> 00:26:03,730

It cannot be--

577

00:26:03,730 --> 00:26:05,330

This cannot continue.

578

00:26:05,330 --> 00:26:06,730

There is a world beyond that.

579

00:26:06,730 --> 00:26:10,015

And beside Germany, there
are some other countries.

580

00:26:10,015 --> 00:26:11,390

Somebody will come
to the rescue.

581

00:26:11,390 --> 00:26:12,480

Something will happen.

582

00:26:12,480 --> 00:26:13,720

It can't continue.

583

00:26:13,720 --> 00:26:16,060

And at this time you
were 12 years old.

584

00:26:16,060 --> 00:26:16,560

Yeah.

585

00:26:16,560 --> 00:26:19,630

586

00:26:19,630 --> 00:26:23,620

What happened next in terms
of your own immediate family?

587

00:26:23,620 --> 00:26:29,210

Then-- I'm trying to
reconcile the dates.

588

00:26:29,210 --> 00:26:31,690

I don't remember exactly
whether it was six months, eight

589

00:26:31,690 --> 00:26:33,130

months, or whatever.

590

00:26:33,130 --> 00:26:37,810

We lived in the center of town
in the non-Jewish section.

591
00:26:37,810 --> 00:26:41,200
And the Germans decided
that they needed

592
00:26:41,200 --> 00:26:42,550
the better places to live.

593
00:26:42,550 --> 00:26:47,080
Therefore, they will ship
us all out into the suburbs.

594
00:26:47,080 --> 00:26:48,610
When you talk
about suburbs, it's

595
00:26:48,610 --> 00:26:51,220
a very big difference
between the American suburbs

596
00:26:51,220 --> 00:26:52,960
and the European suburbs.

597
00:26:52,960 --> 00:26:57,790
The suburbs in Europe, really,
in Poland in particular,

598
00:26:57,790 --> 00:26:59,170
were really villages.

599
00:26:59,170 --> 00:27:02,260
The moment the streetcar
ended, the villages started.

600
00:27:02,260 --> 00:27:03,610
The people were uneducated.

601
00:27:03,610 --> 00:27:05,230
They were very simple.

602
00:27:05,230 --> 00:27:07,480
They lived in very

crowded conditions.

603

00:27:07,480 --> 00:27:09,520

And they made us
all leave the town

604

00:27:09,520 --> 00:27:12,010

and move into the
small villages.

605

00:27:12,010 --> 00:27:13,030

As a result--

606

00:27:13,030 --> 00:27:14,425

This is approximately
six months?

607

00:27:14,425 --> 00:27:15,140

This would be--

608

00:27:15,140 --> 00:27:17,170

This was, I don't know,
six months or a year.

609

00:27:17,170 --> 00:27:20,060

One of these days,
I have to really see

610

00:27:20,060 --> 00:27:21,950

the chronology of dates.

611

00:27:21,950 --> 00:27:23,440

I don't remember exactly.

612

00:27:23,440 --> 00:27:25,610

I never pinpointed it.

613

00:27:25,610 --> 00:27:28,880

And the problem with that
was that, all of a sudden,

614

00:27:28,880 --> 00:27:32,560

we found ourselves in an
area where the cultural gap

615
00:27:32,560 --> 00:27:34,160
was tremendous.

616
00:27:34,160 --> 00:27:38,350
And we had to live in the small
towns by sharing apartments.

617
00:27:38,350 --> 00:27:42,130
The people were made to give
up a room in their apartment.

618
00:27:42,130 --> 00:27:45,940
If you know that a family might
have lived in two to three

619
00:27:45,940 --> 00:27:50,270
rooms, and then you forced
upon them a second family,

620
00:27:50,270 --> 00:27:52,690
which has totally
different lifestyle,

621
00:27:52,690 --> 00:27:54,430
and they have to take
one of the rooms--

622
00:27:54,430 --> 00:27:56,470
and the rooms were very small--

623
00:27:56,470 --> 00:27:59,980
and they live, really,
on top of each other

624
00:27:59,980 --> 00:28:02,255
with such great differences.

625
00:28:02,255 --> 00:28:03,130
We were supposed to--

626

00:28:03,130 --> 00:28:04,720

We were paying rent.

627

00:28:04,720 --> 00:28:06,790

But that was irrelevant.

628

00:28:06,790 --> 00:28:09,070

The people felt very
uncomfortable with us.

629

00:28:09,070 --> 00:28:11,950

We felt uncomfortable with
them, because we did not

630

00:28:11,950 --> 00:28:14,350

have a common language to
cook in the same kitchen.

631

00:28:14,350 --> 00:28:17,350

This is a cold stove where--

632

00:28:17,350 --> 00:28:20,560

It's not like a gas range that
you can bring into your room

633

00:28:20,560 --> 00:28:23,200

or else it takes a
few minutes to cook.

634

00:28:23,200 --> 00:28:24,970

You have to heat it
up for a few hours.

635

00:28:24,970 --> 00:28:29,170

And the whole procedure
became very, very difficult.

636

00:28:29,170 --> 00:28:31,960

And you had to share that
stove, cooking at the same time,

637

00:28:31,960 --> 00:28:34,180

because the coal
supply was small.

638
00:28:34,180 --> 00:28:36,900
And you wanted to utilize
the heat once was there.

639
00:28:36,900 --> 00:28:40,870
And the different ways of
approaching the kitchen--

640
00:28:40,870 --> 00:28:44,480
It really became
very, very difficult.

641
00:28:44,480 --> 00:28:47,410
And what was also
frightening that it almost

642
00:28:47,410 --> 00:28:51,670
became like a donut where the
entire Jewish population was

643
00:28:51,670 --> 00:28:55,540
moved into the small towns
surrounding the city.

644
00:28:55,540 --> 00:28:59,890
And we absolutely lost contact
with the immediate family,

645
00:28:59,890 --> 00:29:02,530
because if you were moved to
one end of town and somebody

646
00:29:02,530 --> 00:29:05,860
to the other, if you
couldn't use transportation,

647
00:29:05,860 --> 00:29:07,720
there was no communication.

648
00:29:07,720 --> 00:29:10,750

If you wrote a postcard or
a letter, it went forever.

649
00:29:10,750 --> 00:29:13,870
And, for the most part, you
were afraid to write in it,

650
00:29:13,870 --> 00:29:16,360
because you knew
there was censorship.

651
00:29:16,360 --> 00:29:18,580
It was a very
frightening feeling,

652
00:29:18,580 --> 00:29:20,080
sitting in those villages.

653
00:29:20,080 --> 00:29:23,140
Most of them didn't
even have electricity.

654
00:29:23,140 --> 00:29:25,660
It was still by some oil light.

655
00:29:25,660 --> 00:29:28,480
Very primitive conditions.

656
00:29:28,480 --> 00:29:30,610
So when they
announced the ghetto,

657
00:29:30,610 --> 00:29:34,810
it was interesting because
I always talked about it.

658
00:29:34,810 --> 00:29:37,870
And I thought, I must be the
only one who felt that way.

659
00:29:37,870 --> 00:29:39,940
And I was almost
ashamed to say it.

660
00:29:39,940 --> 00:29:41,740
And when I came across
Schindler's List--

661
00:29:41,740 --> 00:29:45,400
where it's most of the
people from my town--

662
00:29:45,400 --> 00:29:47,980
and I came across
the same statement,

663
00:29:47,980 --> 00:29:49,960
I was totally shocked
that when they

664
00:29:49,960 --> 00:29:52,490
announced that the
ghetto is forming,

665
00:29:52,490 --> 00:29:55,540
it was almost a relief to us.

666
00:29:55,540 --> 00:29:57,220
That there, we are
coming, we were

667
00:29:57,220 --> 00:29:59,440
going to be a whole
Jewish community,

668
00:29:59,440 --> 00:30:01,540
get this moral support
from each other.

669
00:30:01,540 --> 00:30:04,040
And who cares the
quarters are very tight.

670
00:30:04,040 --> 00:30:05,347
It is very jammed.

671

00:30:05,347 --> 00:30:07,180

But at least, if you're
sharing the kitchen,

672

00:30:07,180 --> 00:30:09,910

you're sharing it with
another Jew who knows--

673

00:30:09,910 --> 00:30:11,500

and you have
somebody you talk to.

674

00:30:11,500 --> 00:30:12,770

They understand you.

675

00:30:12,770 --> 00:30:15,940

You, all of a sudden,
found out that you

676

00:30:15,940 --> 00:30:19,210

were going to be
again among people

677

00:30:19,210 --> 00:30:21,970

who had some lines of
communication with you.

678

00:30:21,970 --> 00:30:24,563

Did you have any idea what
ghetto life would be like?

679

00:30:24,563 --> 00:30:26,230

In other words, you're
suggesting that--

680

00:30:26,230 --> 00:30:29,080

Not quite, no, no.

681

00:30:29,080 --> 00:30:31,790

We did not anticipate it.

682

00:30:31,790 --> 00:30:33,130

We didn't give it a thought.

683

00:30:33,130 --> 00:30:35,530

There was no alternative.

684

00:30:35,530 --> 00:30:37,300

There was no question about it.

685

00:30:37,300 --> 00:30:39,850

We were going because
that was-- and you

686

00:30:39,850 --> 00:30:41,950

know, for a young person
like me, all of a sudden,

687

00:30:41,950 --> 00:30:44,033

I thought OK, there will
be a lot of young people.

688

00:30:44,033 --> 00:30:45,690

And my friends will be there.

689

00:30:45,690 --> 00:30:49,750

It was such a welcome
sigh of relief,

690

00:30:49,750 --> 00:30:52,060

not anticipating
where it will lead.

691

00:30:52,060 --> 00:30:55,090

And also not being concerned
where it will lead.

692

00:30:55,090 --> 00:30:57,310

Immediately, this was a relief.

693

00:30:57,310 --> 00:30:59,230

This was something
that's going to bring us

694

00:30:59,230 --> 00:31:01,510
a relief this moment.

695
00:31:01,510 --> 00:31:03,910
And we looked for that
relief and we didn't

696
00:31:03,910 --> 00:31:05,260
think what would be tomorrow.

697
00:31:05,260 --> 00:31:09,280
I don't think you ever could
think what would be tomorrow.

698
00:31:09,280 --> 00:31:10,810
We lived with today.

699
00:31:10,810 --> 00:31:14,920
And if today, whatever the
issue was, if it brought us

700
00:31:14,920 --> 00:31:17,350
a relief, it brought
us more comfort,

701
00:31:17,350 --> 00:31:20,800
we felt, OK, now we
have one day to breathe.

702
00:31:20,800 --> 00:31:22,720
What price will we
pay for it tomorrow?

703
00:31:22,720 --> 00:31:24,070
Nobody cared.

704
00:31:24,070 --> 00:31:28,510
We were not-- we just
didn't speculate.

705
00:31:28,510 --> 00:31:29,290
You couldn't.

706

00:31:29,290 --> 00:31:32,030

I think you would
go mad if you did.

707

00:31:32,030 --> 00:31:34,448

Well, how long did you live
in this particular suburb?

708

00:31:34,448 --> 00:31:35,740

What was the name of that town?

709

00:31:35,740 --> 00:31:36,840

Bronowice.

710

00:31:36,840 --> 00:31:40,160

Bronowice before you got the
order to move into the ghetto?

711

00:31:40,160 --> 00:31:42,040

To ghetto, almost
a year, I think.

712

00:31:42,040 --> 00:31:42,820

Almost a year.

713

00:31:42,820 --> 00:31:44,770

Yeah, was this was
quite a long span.

714

00:31:44,770 --> 00:31:47,385

And then we moved
into the ghetto.

715

00:31:47,385 --> 00:31:49,510

You were still together
with your immediate family?

716

00:31:49,510 --> 00:31:51,550

I was still together
with my immediate family.

717

00:31:51,550 --> 00:31:53,770

At that point, we were
the entire ghetto.

718
00:31:53,770 --> 00:31:56,320
Up to the creation of
concentration camp,

719
00:31:56,320 --> 00:31:57,910
we were all together.

720
00:31:57,910 --> 00:31:59,470
We were lucky in that sense.

721
00:31:59,470 --> 00:32:02,470
Also, they did not separate
the families at that point

722
00:32:02,470 --> 00:32:03,400
tremendously.

723
00:32:03,400 --> 00:32:07,850
The families did go together
and function together.

724
00:32:07,850 --> 00:32:12,700
But right away, when
we entered the ghetto--

725
00:32:12,700 --> 00:32:14,380
Can you sort of
describe what happened

726
00:32:14,380 --> 00:32:15,547
when you entered the ghetto?

727
00:32:15,547 --> 00:32:18,620
What you saw, was somebody
standing guarding the ghetto?

728
00:32:18,620 --> 00:32:20,930
Yeah, they brought
us into the ghetto.

729

00:32:20,930 --> 00:32:24,550

And we found these
tremendously cramped quarters

730

00:32:24,550 --> 00:32:26,950

surrounded by barbed wires.

731

00:32:26,950 --> 00:32:29,410

And at that point,
part of the ghetto

732

00:32:29,410 --> 00:32:33,040

included part of a mountain.

733

00:32:33,040 --> 00:32:34,817

And, to us, it was
such a great thing.

734

00:32:34,817 --> 00:32:36,400

We thought this was
the greatest thing

735

00:32:36,400 --> 00:32:39,505

that there were some piece of
an outdoor that we could go.

736

00:32:39,505 --> 00:32:41,320

And there was a curfew.

737

00:32:41,320 --> 00:32:44,260

I think it was about 9
o'clock in the evening.

738

00:32:44,260 --> 00:32:48,790

But every day, around this
certain time of the day,

739

00:32:48,790 --> 00:32:52,300

we all would go to this
one part near the mountain,

740

00:32:52,300 --> 00:32:54,580

and we would meet
all our friends.

741
00:32:54,580 --> 00:32:57,730
And we resumed a cultural life.

742
00:32:57,730 --> 00:32:59,470
We were not permitted
to have books.

743
00:32:59,470 --> 00:33:02,680
We were not permitted,
officially, to do anything.

744
00:33:02,680 --> 00:33:06,110
But the people who lived in that
section, and some of the people

745
00:33:06,110 --> 00:33:09,430
who came earlier, could
bring some of the furniture.

746
00:33:09,430 --> 00:33:12,010
As a result, some of the
people brought pianos.

747
00:33:12,010 --> 00:33:17,050
And the cultural life in
ghetto was quite extensive.

748
00:33:17,050 --> 00:33:19,240
And, I think, after
living in the suburbs,

749
00:33:19,240 --> 00:33:22,660
everybody was so hungry for
an intellectual stimulation

750
00:33:22,660 --> 00:33:26,890
where we would sit down and the
older generation would discuss

751
00:33:26,890 --> 00:33:28,540

books, or recite poetry.

752

00:33:28,540 --> 00:33:33,730

Or somebody who knew math would
sit and give us information.

753

00:33:33,730 --> 00:33:36,010

I can't say in an
official lecture,

754

00:33:36,010 --> 00:33:40,120

but the education
started to go on.

755

00:33:40,120 --> 00:33:43,725

And we started feeling,
again, like civilized people.

756

00:33:43,725 --> 00:33:45,850

But this, again, was
education very much in private

757

00:33:45,850 --> 00:33:46,433

and in secret.

758

00:33:46,433 --> 00:33:47,020

Oh, yeah.

759

00:33:47,020 --> 00:33:48,250

And it was not organized.

760

00:33:48,250 --> 00:33:50,350

It just happened that
somebody's father might

761

00:33:50,350 --> 00:33:52,420

have been a professor
of maths, and when

762

00:33:52,420 --> 00:33:55,360

we went to their house, their
father would tell us this.

763

00:33:55,360 --> 00:33:56,610

They came to my house.

764

00:33:56,610 --> 00:33:58,930

Since my father was very
well-versed in literature,

765

00:33:58,930 --> 00:34:02,530

he would discuss it with us when
the friends came to our house.

766

00:34:02,530 --> 00:34:04,390

It was nothing formalized.

767

00:34:04,390 --> 00:34:07,450

Or we would know that, let's
say, one evening somebody

768

00:34:07,450 --> 00:34:09,540

is going to give us a
concert in somebodies house.

769

00:34:09,540 --> 00:34:12,780

So we would all gather and go
to that house to listen to it.

770

00:34:12,780 --> 00:34:18,210

You know, there were
constant word by mouth.

771

00:34:18,210 --> 00:34:21,030

We would talk to each other
and find out what's going on

772

00:34:21,030 --> 00:34:25,670

and move on to private homes
for all the different functions.

773

00:34:25,670 --> 00:34:28,620

People were being deported from
the ghetto during this time.

774

00:34:28,620 --> 00:34:31,739

They started deporting a
little later, yes, yes.

775

00:34:31,739 --> 00:34:33,960

We did not know
exactly where they

776

00:34:33,960 --> 00:34:36,909

were going, what was going on.

777

00:34:36,909 --> 00:34:41,070

It was something-- a
lot of speculation.

778

00:34:41,070 --> 00:34:44,010

But we really didn't know
where they were going.

779

00:34:44,010 --> 00:34:45,810

I, at least, didn't.

780

00:34:45,810 --> 00:34:47,650

I know that they were going.

781

00:34:47,650 --> 00:34:50,100

I think that the first one--

782

00:34:50,100 --> 00:34:53,192

I don't even know what were
the first camps that they

783

00:34:53,192 --> 00:34:54,150

were being shipped out.

784

00:34:54,150 --> 00:34:55,920

And we thought it
was just labor camps,

785

00:34:55,920 --> 00:34:58,270

and they would be working there.

786

00:34:58,270 --> 00:34:59,850
We have not realized--

787
00:34:59,850 --> 00:35:01,440
And I don't know
that at that time

788
00:35:01,440 --> 00:35:04,780
they really did actually
a lot of shooting.

789
00:35:04,780 --> 00:35:05,920
I don't know even today.

790
00:35:05,920 --> 00:35:06,660
I have no idea.

791
00:35:06,660 --> 00:35:08,880
Well, what about in
the ghetto itself?

792
00:35:08,880 --> 00:35:17,310
In the ghetto itself, they
would come in occasionally.

793
00:35:17,310 --> 00:35:19,830
And there would be some
beating or some brutality.

794
00:35:19,830 --> 00:35:23,310
But comparatively, I
was very fortunate,

795
00:35:23,310 --> 00:35:26,100
because everybody in the ghetto
had to get a work assignment.

796
00:35:26,100 --> 00:35:26,600
Right.

797
00:35:26,600 --> 00:35:27,710
As soon as possible.

798

00:35:27,710 --> 00:35:29,310

This was your ticket to safety.

799

00:35:29,310 --> 00:35:31,270

This includes yourself?

800

00:35:31,270 --> 00:35:31,770

Yeah.

801

00:35:31,770 --> 00:35:32,640

Your sister?

802

00:35:32,640 --> 00:35:33,750

Yeah, yeah.

803

00:35:33,750 --> 00:35:37,380

And my sister and my father
came into the ghetto,

804

00:35:37,380 --> 00:35:39,120

and they had an
assignment outside

805

00:35:39,120 --> 00:35:41,940

of the ghetto, which was much
more difficult, because they

806

00:35:41,940 --> 00:35:44,760

had to march in formation
and get out of the ghetto.

807

00:35:44,760 --> 00:35:48,030

And they were exposed
to much more brutality.

808

00:35:48,030 --> 00:35:49,830

I, on the other
hand, was very lucky.

809

00:35:49,830 --> 00:35:52,890

I received a job
in a brush factory

810

00:35:52,890 --> 00:35:56,100
making brushes from horse hair.

811

00:35:56,100 --> 00:35:59,490
And it was very interesting
how I did receive the job.

812

00:35:59,490 --> 00:36:02,070
I came to what they call
"the arbeitsamt," which

813

00:36:02,070 --> 00:36:05,130
was the work or the
labor department,

814

00:36:05,130 --> 00:36:07,050
or whatever they would call it.

815

00:36:07,050 --> 00:36:09,660
And you stood in line
for hours and hours

816

00:36:09,660 --> 00:36:11,970
to get assignment
for work, because we

817

00:36:11,970 --> 00:36:16,140
knew that if we had
the employment papers,

818

00:36:16,140 --> 00:36:21,190
we were a little more
immune to being deported.

819

00:36:21,190 --> 00:36:24,750
So we all tried to get work
assignments, because then it

820

00:36:24,750 --> 00:36:30,840
would make us more essential,
so to say, to the functioning.

821

00:36:30,840 --> 00:36:33,840

And then I came in, when
my turn came, the woman who

822

00:36:33,840 --> 00:36:37,260

was assigning the job-- a German
woman-- turns around to me

823

00:36:37,260 --> 00:36:39,005

and she says, do you knit?

824

00:36:39,005 --> 00:36:40,350

And I said, yes, I knit.

825

00:36:40,350 --> 00:36:42,150

At that point, I was
knitting and trying

826

00:36:42,150 --> 00:36:45,315

to make up some money by
knitting, making sweaters.

827

00:36:45,315 --> 00:36:47,430

And I said, yes, I do knit.

828

00:36:47,430 --> 00:36:49,590

She said, if you knit
a sweater, a back

829

00:36:49,590 --> 00:36:51,690

to a sweater for my fiance--

830

00:36:51,690 --> 00:36:53,550

I started a sweater
I can't finish.

831

00:36:53,550 --> 00:36:54,960

It's his birthday tomorrow.

832

00:36:54,960 --> 00:36:58,320

If you do it overnight, I
will give you a very good job

833
00:36:58,320 --> 00:36:59,280
assignment.

834
00:36:59,280 --> 00:37:02,310
So I grabbed the wool, ran
home, and made the sweater.

835
00:37:02,310 --> 00:37:05,100
And you know, obviously,
in one nights time,

836
00:37:05,100 --> 00:37:06,480
there isn't enough
time to do it.

837
00:37:06,480 --> 00:37:08,460
So I made it very small,
stuck it in water,

838
00:37:08,460 --> 00:37:10,530
and stretched to three
times the dimension,

839
00:37:10,530 --> 00:37:12,540
and brought it to
her the next morning.

840
00:37:12,540 --> 00:37:14,790
As a result, she gave
me the assignment

841
00:37:14,790 --> 00:37:16,600
for the brush factory.

842
00:37:16,600 --> 00:37:19,240
And it was very fortunate
for me for several reasons.

843
00:37:19,240 --> 00:37:23,490
First of all, I did not have
to leave the ghetto walls

844

00:37:23,490 --> 00:37:28,380

and be constant under
the German supervision.

845

00:37:28,380 --> 00:37:32,250

The second of all, this was one
of the very, very few places

846

00:37:32,250 --> 00:37:34,500

where they paid for piecework.

847

00:37:34,500 --> 00:37:36,810

I don't know why they paid.

848

00:37:36,810 --> 00:37:39,900

And I became very proficient
in making the brushes.

849

00:37:39,900 --> 00:37:41,580

I'm very handy.

850

00:37:41,580 --> 00:37:44,850

And I think, also, what it
was that, all of a sudden,

851

00:37:44,850 --> 00:37:47,470

I was assigned to do a job.

852

00:37:47,470 --> 00:37:51,570

And I felt the job was something
that gave me an ability

853

00:37:51,570 --> 00:37:52,800

to learn a new skill.

854

00:37:52,800 --> 00:37:55,950

And learning a new skill
and doing something new,

855

00:37:55,950 --> 00:37:58,680

was feeling, all right,
I'm still a human being,

856
00:37:58,680 --> 00:38:00,180
because I'm making progress.

857
00:38:00,180 --> 00:38:03,838
I'm not caught in the death
trap and being wasted.

858
00:38:03,838 --> 00:38:05,130
So all of a sudden, I started--

859
00:38:05,130 --> 00:38:08,550
This was a big deal for me to
make the best brushes possible.

860
00:38:08,550 --> 00:38:11,130
And the better they were
and the faster I worked,

861
00:38:11,130 --> 00:38:14,220
the better pay I received.

862
00:38:14,220 --> 00:38:17,310
And this helped us tremendously
during the entire time

863
00:38:17,310 --> 00:38:22,530
in the ghetto, because I have
really made decent money.

864
00:38:22,530 --> 00:38:24,060
You know, you couldn't buy much.

865
00:38:24,060 --> 00:38:26,820
You bought the food rations
or whatever, this was pennies.

866
00:38:26,820 --> 00:38:30,330
And I was able to make
enough money to pay for it.

867
00:38:30,330 --> 00:38:32,920

And that was a very
big boost to me.

868
00:38:32,920 --> 00:38:34,380
And because of
that, I was in later

869
00:38:34,380 --> 00:38:37,200
able to get a work
assignment for my mother

870
00:38:37,200 --> 00:38:38,460
in the same factory.

871
00:38:38,460 --> 00:38:41,760
And then, when the time came
and they were exporting people--

872
00:38:41,760 --> 00:38:44,140
deporting people--
she had work papers.

873
00:38:44,140 --> 00:38:45,270
And that saved her.

874
00:38:45,270 --> 00:38:46,530
Mm-hmm.

875
00:38:46,530 --> 00:38:48,960
What did you live on in the
ghetto in terms of food?

876
00:38:48,960 --> 00:38:51,330
You said you had ration cards.

877
00:38:51,330 --> 00:38:52,890
I really don't know.

878
00:38:52,890 --> 00:38:57,720
You know, I have never paid
attention what the food was

879

00:38:57,720 --> 00:39:00,030
or where it really came from.

880
00:39:00,030 --> 00:39:03,930
But I was very fortunate
throughout the entire war.

881
00:39:03,930 --> 00:39:05,510
I was never hungry.

882
00:39:05,510 --> 00:39:07,010
If there was no
food for three days,

883
00:39:07,010 --> 00:39:08,250
so there was no
food for three days.

884
00:39:08,250 --> 00:39:09,190
It didn't bother me.

885
00:39:09,190 --> 00:39:10,700
I don't know why.

886
00:39:10,700 --> 00:39:13,430
I discussed it with
my friends that,

887
00:39:13,430 --> 00:39:15,710
through times-- where
obviously the food rations were

888
00:39:15,710 --> 00:39:18,950
the same for everybody--
and when you ask people,

889
00:39:18,950 --> 00:39:22,580
what was the worst thing to
you in the concentration camp?

890
00:39:22,580 --> 00:39:23,540
They say hunger.

891

00:39:23,540 --> 00:39:26,330

I said, you know, I never
remember being hungry.

892

00:39:26,330 --> 00:39:29,510

Somehow, whatever food we
got, it was always enough.

893

00:39:29,510 --> 00:39:31,400

And it didn't make
any difference.

894

00:39:31,400 --> 00:39:32,960

Maybe it was a mental attitude.

895

00:39:32,960 --> 00:39:34,910

Or maybe I just don't
require that much food

896

00:39:34,910 --> 00:39:36,860

under normal circumstances.

897

00:39:36,860 --> 00:39:37,640

I don't know.

898

00:39:37,640 --> 00:39:39,350

But it always puzzles me.

899

00:39:39,350 --> 00:39:41,580

I have no reply to it.

900

00:39:41,580 --> 00:39:43,970

How long did you and
your immediate family

901

00:39:43,970 --> 00:39:46,080

live in the ghetto?

902

00:39:46,080 --> 00:39:48,400

I think that it was
almost two years.

903

00:39:48,400 --> 00:39:50,660

It was from, I think,
from '41 to '43,

904

00:39:50,660 --> 00:39:53,570

when Prussia was created.

905

00:39:53,570 --> 00:39:58,310

Again, as I say, I have to
one day verify all those days.

906

00:39:58,310 --> 00:39:59,727

But historically,
that is simple--

907

00:39:59,727 --> 00:40:00,227

Sure.

908

00:40:00,227 --> 00:40:02,150

--because all this
happened at the same time.

909

00:40:02,150 --> 00:40:05,630

And I'm not too
terribly occupied

910

00:40:05,630 --> 00:40:07,790

with the historical facts,
because I feel those,

911

00:40:07,790 --> 00:40:09,080

I leave to the historians.

912

00:40:09,080 --> 00:40:10,550

Right, sure.

913

00:40:10,550 --> 00:40:14,840

Can you describe a little
bit the administrative setup

914

00:40:14,840 --> 00:40:17,670

of the ghetto, the

Judenrat for example?

915
00:40:17,670 --> 00:40:18,170
Yeah.

916
00:40:18,170 --> 00:40:21,030

917
00:40:21,030 --> 00:40:22,940
What kind of attitude
the Jewish community

918
00:40:22,940 --> 00:40:25,370
had toward the
Judenrat, et cetera?

919
00:40:25,370 --> 00:40:29,420
We were not terribly proud of
the fact that they were there.

920
00:40:29,420 --> 00:40:30,410
We were rather--

921
00:40:30,410 --> 00:40:31,990
At this time just--

922
00:40:31,990 --> 00:40:32,490
Yeah.

923
00:40:32,490 --> 00:40:34,190
--excuse me, you were
about 13 years old or--

924
00:40:34,190 --> 00:40:35,630
No, this was already, this is--

925
00:40:35,630 --> 00:40:36,130
14.

926
00:40:36,130 --> 00:40:38,840
--two years later, so
it was about 15, 16.

927
00:40:38,840 --> 00:40:41,900
That was already
getting a little older.

928
00:40:41,900 --> 00:40:45,410
And for the most part, the
people who took the jobs

929
00:40:45,410 --> 00:40:47,180
as the policemen
and the Judenrat--

930
00:40:47,180 --> 00:40:50,060
because we had our own police
that administered the ghetto--

931
00:40:50,060 --> 00:40:53,840
were the people from
the lower socioeconomic.

932
00:40:53,840 --> 00:40:56,630
And we felt that they took it
to give themselves a boost,

933
00:40:56,630 --> 00:40:57,650
to give themself--

934
00:40:57,650 --> 00:41:00,560

935
00:41:00,560 --> 00:41:02,270
You know, that was
their only chance

936
00:41:02,270 --> 00:41:05,910
for being elevated
because they collaborated.

937
00:41:05,910 --> 00:41:09,290
But I think I would be very
careful in judging them very

938

00:41:09,290 --> 00:41:13,970

harshly, because it's very easy
to say, all right, they did it

939

00:41:13,970 --> 00:41:16,700

for personal gain or
whatever the reason was.

940

00:41:16,700 --> 00:41:18,560

But when you think
about it, that

941

00:41:18,560 --> 00:41:22,880

because of their administration,
they were able to do both.

942

00:41:22,880 --> 00:41:27,470

They were able to enforce the
rules on us and, at times,

943

00:41:27,470 --> 00:41:28,070

be cruel.

944

00:41:28,070 --> 00:41:31,050

But yet, they had no
gun in their hands.

945

00:41:31,050 --> 00:41:33,560

And if they did hit
somebody, eventually--

946

00:41:33,560 --> 00:41:39,050

which was a fraction as
frequently as the Germans--

947

00:41:39,050 --> 00:41:41,650

it was never with the force
that the Germans would do it.

948

00:41:41,650 --> 00:41:44,090

If they wouldn't do it, the
Germans would have done it.

949

00:41:44,090 --> 00:41:49,350

So I have very mixed
feelings about it.

950

00:41:49,350 --> 00:41:52,160

I am very grateful that
nobody in my family

951

00:41:52,160 --> 00:41:54,770

was involved in it.

952

00:41:54,770 --> 00:41:59,600

And I think I would feel
quite bad if they did.

953

00:41:59,600 --> 00:42:03,320

But I have a very hard time
judging them too harshly,

954

00:42:03,320 --> 00:42:06,860

because I don't think that it
is as simple as say, all right,

955

00:42:06,860 --> 00:42:08,270

they wanted to corroborate.

956

00:42:08,270 --> 00:42:09,500

And they masterminded.

957

00:42:09,500 --> 00:42:11,570

They really didn't.

958

00:42:11,570 --> 00:42:14,810

They were a tool
as well as we were.

959

00:42:14,810 --> 00:42:16,400

And when you think
about a man who

960

00:42:16,400 --> 00:42:22,010

thinks he will have a way of

saving his family, and do it,

961

00:42:22,010 --> 00:42:27,410

you know, it becomes a little
difficult thing to try to say,

962

00:42:27,410 --> 00:42:29,120

all right, he should
not have done it

963

00:42:29,120 --> 00:42:34,260

even so his family could have
had a better chance of living.

964

00:42:34,260 --> 00:42:36,290

I don't know whether
we can afford

965

00:42:36,290 --> 00:42:38,450

to be that harsh on them.

966

00:42:38,450 --> 00:42:40,340

Were there any other
Jewish organizations

967

00:42:40,340 --> 00:42:42,680

in the ghetto itself?

968

00:42:42,680 --> 00:42:44,840

Not that I recollect.

969

00:42:44,840 --> 00:42:46,160

Not officially.

970

00:42:46,160 --> 00:42:48,740

Obviously there was an
underground created,

971

00:42:48,740 --> 00:42:50,355

of which I was totally unaware.

972

00:42:50,355 --> 00:42:51,730

And the strangest
thing happened,

973
00:42:51,730 --> 00:42:55,520
that I had a cousin
who was brought up

974
00:42:55,520 --> 00:42:56,630
with me like a brother.

975
00:42:56,630 --> 00:42:59,240
We were born in the
same apartment house.

976
00:42:59,240 --> 00:43:03,470
And since childhood, we
were always together.

977
00:43:03,470 --> 00:43:04,837
He was about--

978
00:43:04,837 --> 00:43:06,920
I think he was about three
years, four years older

979
00:43:06,920 --> 00:43:08,330
than me.

980
00:43:08,330 --> 00:43:12,680
And very recently, I picked up
a book on Polish resistance.

981
00:43:12,680 --> 00:43:14,240
And I saw his picture in it.

982
00:43:14,240 --> 00:43:15,440
All those years, I had--

983
00:43:15,440 --> 00:43:16,107
You had no idea.

984
00:43:16,107 --> 00:43:17,600

--no idea.

985

00:43:17,600 --> 00:43:18,990

And he survived the war.

986

00:43:18,990 --> 00:43:20,870

And I was in contact
with him after the war.

987

00:43:20,870 --> 00:43:23,390

I had no idea he had
any involvement in it.

988

00:43:23,390 --> 00:43:26,510

The secrecy was so tremendous,
because they considered me,

989

00:43:26,510 --> 00:43:29,030

at the time, probably
too young to be involved.

990

00:43:29,030 --> 00:43:31,370

And also, they would not
say anything to anybody

991

00:43:31,370 --> 00:43:33,470

unless they really had
to, because the danger was

992

00:43:33,470 --> 00:43:35,540

so tremendous to them.

993

00:43:35,540 --> 00:43:38,270

And also, they felt that
if anybody else knew,

994

00:43:38,270 --> 00:43:40,120

they would be danger.

995

00:43:40,120 --> 00:43:42,950

So this was kept pretty quiet.

996

00:43:42,950 --> 00:43:45,230

So you then lived with
your immediate family

997

00:43:45,230 --> 00:43:46,447

for about two years in--

998

00:43:46,447 --> 00:43:47,280

In the ghetto, yeah.

999

00:43:47,280 --> 00:43:49,850

--in the ghetto itself.

1000

00:43:49,850 --> 00:43:51,590

What happened after that?

1001

00:43:51,590 --> 00:43:54,020

Then, after that, my
father and my sister

1002

00:43:54,020 --> 00:43:58,255

were working in
a lumber company.

1003

00:43:58,255 --> 00:43:58,880

And they took--

1004

00:43:58,880 --> 00:43:59,797

Outside of the ghetto?

1005

00:43:59,797 --> 00:44:00,740

Outside of the ghetto.

1006

00:44:00,740 --> 00:44:04,070

And at one point, they decided
that they going to take them

1007

00:44:04,070 --> 00:44:05,237

into the lumber company.

1008

00:44:05,237 --> 00:44:06,570

And they would house them there.

1009
00:44:06,570 --> 00:44:09,360
So they would not be
transporting them anymore.

1010
00:44:09,360 --> 00:44:11,980
That was just close to
liquidation of the ghetto.

1011
00:44:11,980 --> 00:44:13,860
I think probably this
was in preparation

1012
00:44:13,860 --> 00:44:15,750
for liquidating the ghetto.

1013
00:44:15,750 --> 00:44:18,030
And then they announce
one day that the ghetto

1014
00:44:18,030 --> 00:44:19,680
is being liquidated.

1015
00:44:19,680 --> 00:44:21,570
And it was lucky, because I--

1016
00:44:21,570 --> 00:44:23,900
Did you lose total
contact with your--

1017
00:44:23,900 --> 00:44:24,900
At that time, yes.

1018
00:44:24,900 --> 00:44:25,770
--father and sister?

1019
00:44:25,770 --> 00:44:29,040
We knew where they were, but
we lost contact with them.

1020
00:44:29,040 --> 00:44:30,930
Were any reports

coming back from this?

1021
00:44:30,930 --> 00:44:33,060
Very, very vague, very little.

1022
00:44:33,060 --> 00:44:34,560
We knew they were
safe, because this

1023
00:44:34,560 --> 00:44:38,050
was one of the better post
where we knew that people

1024
00:44:38,050 --> 00:44:39,180
were treated decently.

1025
00:44:39,180 --> 00:44:41,370
Their food supply was fair.

1026
00:44:41,370 --> 00:44:46,020
And that there was no
actual physical brutality.

1027
00:44:46,020 --> 00:44:48,210
So when we found
out that they were

1028
00:44:48,210 --> 00:44:49,980
being taken there
to be housed, we

1029
00:44:49,980 --> 00:44:52,710
were relieved, because that
gave them a certain immunity

1030
00:44:52,710 --> 00:44:54,180
for a period of time.

1031
00:44:54,180 --> 00:44:58,320
So that was quite good for them.

1032
00:44:58,320 --> 00:44:59,970

And I stayed with my mother.

1033

00:44:59,970 --> 00:45:03,090

And as I said, it was
just by an absolute fluke

1034

00:45:03,090 --> 00:45:06,160

that I one day decided to
get her the working papers

1035

00:45:06,160 --> 00:45:08,760

so she could work with
me in the factory.

1036

00:45:08,760 --> 00:45:11,130

Because when they were
liquidating the ghetto,

1037

00:45:11,130 --> 00:45:13,540

whoever did not have the blue
card, as they called it--

1038

00:45:13,540 --> 00:45:14,880

which was the working card--

1039

00:45:14,880 --> 00:45:18,440

was not permitted to go
to the concentration camp.

1040

00:45:18,440 --> 00:45:20,550

You know, it sounds
bizarre when you

1041

00:45:20,550 --> 00:45:22,740

think that going to
the concentration camp

1042

00:45:22,740 --> 00:45:23,700

was a ticket for life.

1043

00:45:23,700 --> 00:45:26,490

It was a ticket for
life at that juncture.

1044
00:45:26,490 --> 00:45:29,430
Because they took everybody
who did not have it,

1045
00:45:29,430 --> 00:45:30,810
and they rounded them up.

1046
00:45:30,810 --> 00:45:32,120
It was [PLACE NAME].

1047
00:45:32,120 --> 00:45:35,280
This was like a city square.

1048
00:45:35,280 --> 00:45:37,710
They rounded everybody,
they shot a lot of people

1049
00:45:37,710 --> 00:45:38,730
on the spot over there.

1050
00:45:38,730 --> 00:45:41,040
And the rest of
them, they deported--

1051
00:45:41,040 --> 00:45:44,040
Again, I think it
might be Bergen-Belsen.

1052
00:45:44,040 --> 00:45:46,980
I'm not so sure which
camp they deported them.

1053
00:45:46,980 --> 00:45:49,660
And majority of
them were killed.

1054
00:45:49,660 --> 00:45:51,930
And this is knowledge that
came back to the ghetto?

1055
00:45:51,930 --> 00:45:53,550

Yes, that came back to us.

1056
00:45:53,550 --> 00:45:56,160
And then they took
us and marched us

1057
00:45:56,160 --> 00:46:00,660
from the Krakow ghetto
into the concentration camp

1058
00:46:00,660 --> 00:46:01,860
into Prussia.

1059
00:46:01,860 --> 00:46:04,050
It's not terribly far.

1060
00:46:04,050 --> 00:46:07,370
It's only, I don't know,
two miles, three miles,

1061
00:46:07,370 --> 00:46:08,820
something like that.

1062
00:46:08,820 --> 00:46:11,070
I don't-- maybe five miles.

1063
00:46:11,070 --> 00:46:12,643
But it took many, many hours.

1064
00:46:12,643 --> 00:46:13,560
It took the whole day.

1065
00:46:13,560 --> 00:46:16,860
What they did is they told us
all to pack up our belongings

1066
00:46:16,860 --> 00:46:19,680
and mark the valises.

1067
00:46:19,680 --> 00:46:21,270
Actually, they
said that everybody

1068
00:46:21,270 --> 00:46:23,910
can take two valises with
them, and mark the valises

1069
00:46:23,910 --> 00:46:26,130
with our names, and throw
them out of the window

1070
00:46:26,130 --> 00:46:27,210
into the street.

1071
00:46:27,210 --> 00:46:31,380
And then they rounded us up,
and we marched in formation

1072
00:46:31,380 --> 00:46:32,880
to march to the camp.

1073
00:46:32,880 --> 00:46:34,320
There were thousands of people.

1074
00:46:34,320 --> 00:46:36,720
And you can imagine
what was going on,

1075
00:46:36,720 --> 00:46:38,760
where the families
were separated

1076
00:46:38,760 --> 00:46:40,380
because, if they
had small children,

1077
00:46:40,380 --> 00:46:42,780
the mother was taken
with the children.

1078
00:46:42,780 --> 00:46:45,270
Some mothers had the
choice, what should they do,

1079

00:46:45,270 --> 00:46:48,000
they should give up the small
child and go with the bigger,

1080
00:46:48,000 --> 00:46:51,810
or they should take the bigger
and have the bigger child shot

1081
00:46:51,810 --> 00:46:53,190
together with the smaller?

1082
00:46:53,190 --> 00:46:56,880
It was just
unbelievable, you know.

1083
00:46:56,880 --> 00:47:01,290
The choices that people
had to make were inhuman.

1084
00:47:01,290 --> 00:47:04,995
And there was a lot of violent--

1085
00:47:04,995 --> 00:47:08,070
a lot of violence on
the street at the time.

1086
00:47:08,070 --> 00:47:09,780
And we were going to the camp.

1087
00:47:09,780 --> 00:47:12,690
And all of a sudden, as we
were marching toward the camp,

1088
00:47:12,690 --> 00:47:15,340
my mother noticed that her
pocketbook was missing,

1089
00:47:15,340 --> 00:47:18,390
which meant her identification
card and her blue card

1090
00:47:18,390 --> 00:47:19,780
was missing.

1091
00:47:19,780 --> 00:47:21,660
Which also meant that,
if she didn't have it,

1092
00:47:21,660 --> 00:47:23,070
she could not enter the camp.

1093
00:47:23,070 --> 00:47:25,842
And we were terribly frightened.

1094
00:47:25,842 --> 00:47:27,300
It looked, at that
point, that this

1095
00:47:27,300 --> 00:47:29,680
is a totally lost situation.

1096
00:47:29,680 --> 00:47:30,653
So we started marching.

1097
00:47:30,653 --> 00:47:32,820
We didn't want to say
anything that she was missing.

1098
00:47:32,820 --> 00:47:34,357
At this point, they
didn't check it.

1099
00:47:34,357 --> 00:47:36,690
We knew that there would be
a checkpoint at the entrance

1100
00:47:36,690 --> 00:47:38,350
to the concentration camp.

1101
00:47:38,350 --> 00:47:41,940
So as we were going, we started
slowing down, and slowing down,

1102
00:47:41,940 --> 00:47:46,980
and kind of let everybody

drift ahead of us.

1103

00:47:46,980 --> 00:47:52,410

And what appeared like hours,
and all of a sudden I hear

1104

00:47:52,410 --> 00:47:54,880

somebody screaming,
Mrs. [? Fuus, ?] Mrs.

1105

00:47:54,880 --> 00:47:57,180

[? Fuus! ?] That was
the name of my mother.

1106

00:47:57,180 --> 00:47:58,440

It's a friend of mine.

1107

00:47:58,440 --> 00:48:02,730

In all the piles and mountains
of luggage and everything,

1108

00:48:02,730 --> 00:48:05,190

she found my
mother's pocketbook.

1109

00:48:05,190 --> 00:48:09,810

And she looked into it, and
saw that her papers were there.

1110

00:48:09,810 --> 00:48:14,160

And she carried it and screaming
through the thousands of people

1111

00:48:14,160 --> 00:48:15,760

and came across
and gave it to us.

1112

00:48:15,760 --> 00:48:17,010

And therefore, we could enter.

1113

00:48:17,010 --> 00:48:19,440

You know, this is something
absolutely unbelievable.

1114
00:48:19,440 --> 00:48:20,940
She now lives in New York.

1115
00:48:20,940 --> 00:48:22,132
I reminded her of it.

1116
00:48:22,132 --> 00:48:23,340
She doesn't even remember it.

1117
00:48:23,340 --> 00:48:23,840
Right.

1118
00:48:23,840 --> 00:48:25,560
She did it because
you can imagine

1119
00:48:25,560 --> 00:48:26,970
what was going on that day.

1120
00:48:26,970 --> 00:48:30,840
It was like being in hell.

1121
00:48:30,840 --> 00:48:32,848
And what happened
upon arrival at the--

1122
00:48:32,848 --> 00:48:33,765
Then when we arrived--

1123
00:48:33,765 --> 00:48:34,848
At the concentration camp.

1124
00:48:34,848 --> 00:48:38,160
--in the camp, they had
assigned us to barracks.

1125
00:48:38,160 --> 00:48:43,980
And we were, maybe, about
200 women to a room.

1126

00:48:43,980 --> 00:48:47,910
And the whole routine of
concentration camp started.

1127
00:48:47,910 --> 00:48:48,450
At first--

1128
00:48:48,450 --> 00:48:49,420
Were you together
with your mother?

1129
00:48:49,420 --> 00:48:50,910
Yes, I was with her
the entire time.

1130
00:48:50,910 --> 00:48:51,410
In the room?

1131
00:48:51,410 --> 00:48:53,520
Together we shared a bed.

1132
00:48:53,520 --> 00:48:57,340
And we had the work assignment.

1133
00:48:57,340 --> 00:48:59,940
But they did not transfer,
yet, the equipment.

1134
00:48:59,940 --> 00:49:02,620
So we didn't work for it
at the very beginning.

1135
00:49:02,620 --> 00:49:05,700
But they didn't want
to leave us idle.

1136
00:49:05,700 --> 00:49:08,160
They knew that
people who are idle

1137
00:49:08,160 --> 00:49:11,490
will have the time and the
energy to do something.

1138
00:49:11,490 --> 00:49:14,380
So they wanted to keep us
employed the entire time.

1139
00:49:14,380 --> 00:49:18,150
So the moment we got there, they
would take us in the morning,

1140
00:49:18,150 --> 00:49:20,490
and we would work
for 12 hours a day.

1141
00:49:20,490 --> 00:49:22,830
One morning, we would get
up, and we took stones

1142
00:49:22,830 --> 00:49:25,597
from one side to the road to
the other side of the road.

1143
00:49:25,597 --> 00:49:27,180
The next day, we
would get up and have

1144
00:49:27,180 --> 00:49:31,150
to take the stones from this
side of the road to this side,

1145
00:49:31,150 --> 00:49:36,870
back and forth, in order
not to keep us idle.

1146
00:49:36,870 --> 00:49:40,770
This was absolutely
maddening, you know.

1147
00:49:40,770 --> 00:49:42,510
I think it's a
tremendous penalty

1148
00:49:42,510 --> 00:49:48,690
to have people do something

totally useless and constantly

1149
00:49:48,690 --> 00:49:51,030
under the eyes of the
Germans with the whips,

1150
00:49:51,030 --> 00:49:55,200
and the harassment, and
the beating, and very, very

1151
00:49:55,200 --> 00:49:56,160
big cruelty.

1152
00:49:56,160 --> 00:49:59,250
It was a tremendous change
from the ghetto time

1153
00:49:59,250 --> 00:50:02,250
where I was a little
more sheltered from it.

1154
00:50:02,250 --> 00:50:07,680
But luckily, because of that,
very shortly, the brush factory

1155
00:50:07,680 --> 00:50:08,980
was completed.

1156
00:50:08,980 --> 00:50:11,487
And I started working
again in the brush factory.

1157
00:50:11,487 --> 00:50:12,570
In the concentration camp.

1158
00:50:12,570 --> 00:50:15,640
In the concentration camp,
which made it much easier.

1159
00:50:15,640 --> 00:50:20,280
So then we really didn't
have these useless days,

1160

00:50:20,280 --> 00:50:24,030

which I think I would
have gone out of my mind.

1161

00:50:24,030 --> 00:50:27,600

How would you describe the
living conditions in the camp?

1162

00:50:27,600 --> 00:50:28,920

They were terrible.

1163

00:50:28,920 --> 00:50:33,660

Yet, I don't think the dirt
was so terrible, because first

1164

00:50:33,660 --> 00:50:34,980

of all, we washed partially.

1165

00:50:34,980 --> 00:50:37,800

And also, they
have very carefully

1166

00:50:37,800 --> 00:50:41,970

supervised us and
maintained some kind

1167

00:50:41,970 --> 00:50:45,180

of a so-called
sanitary conditions.

1168

00:50:45,180 --> 00:50:47,940

They brought the
valises into the camp.

1169

00:50:47,940 --> 00:50:51,360

And whoever found something had
some clothes to change into.

1170

00:50:51,360 --> 00:50:53,550

Most of it was gone.

1171

00:50:53,550 --> 00:50:59,130

And also, at that time, they
dug ditches in the camp.

1172
00:50:59,130 --> 00:51:01,465
And they already, at
that time, decided

1173
00:51:01,465 --> 00:51:03,840
that they were going to keep
in the camp as few people as

1174
00:51:03,840 --> 00:51:05,020
possible.

1175
00:51:05,020 --> 00:51:07,080
So they were shooting
by lining people

1176
00:51:07,080 --> 00:51:09,780
along the lines of the
ditches and shooting them.

1177
00:51:09,780 --> 00:51:11,640
And dropping them
into the ditches

1178
00:51:11,640 --> 00:51:12,870
which they dug themselves.

1179
00:51:12,870 --> 00:51:15,660
And we have seen it all along.

1180
00:51:15,660 --> 00:51:21,660
This was, I think, of all
the times, the worst time.

1181
00:51:21,660 --> 00:51:24,330
For me, I think it was
probably the first shock

1182
00:51:24,330 --> 00:51:25,500
of the exposure.

1183

00:51:25,500 --> 00:51:28,710

And also the brutality there
was much greater than anything

1184

00:51:28,710 --> 00:51:31,030

I experienced later on.

1185

00:51:31,030 --> 00:51:34,200

So it was a combination
of both elements

1186

00:51:34,200 --> 00:51:36,430

that made it so difficult.

1187

00:51:36,430 --> 00:51:40,050

How were you able to sustain
yourself during those days?

1188

00:51:40,050 --> 00:51:44,040

I think that pretty you much
consider this a bad dream.

1189

00:51:44,040 --> 00:51:46,080

And you went in
a haze saying OK,

1190

00:51:46,080 --> 00:51:49,800

tomorrow morning I'll get
up, and that will be over.

1191

00:51:49,800 --> 00:51:52,780

You could not start thinking--

1192

00:51:52,780 --> 00:51:56,460

And I think I developed,
in a crazy way, you know,

1193

00:51:56,460 --> 00:51:58,830

it just isn't rational.

1194

00:51:58,830 --> 00:52:02,410

But I developed the desire of

the defiance to the Germans,

1195

00:52:02,410 --> 00:52:06,720

saying, no matter what you're
going to do, I'm going to live.

1196

00:52:06,720 --> 00:52:11,145

And this will be my
getting even with them.

1197

00:52:11,145 --> 00:52:14,880

It doesn't make any sense when
you see this kind of shooting,

1198

00:52:14,880 --> 00:52:17,010

and when you're exposed
to it all the time.

1199

00:52:17,010 --> 00:52:21,150

And I never felt that now I
reached a point I don't want

1200

00:52:21,150 --> 00:52:23,970

to live anymore or
something like-- it never--

1201

00:52:23,970 --> 00:52:24,750

I said no.

1202

00:52:24,750 --> 00:52:27,390

Because, if I do
that, I'm just going

1203

00:52:27,390 --> 00:52:30,060

to do what they want to
accomplish in the first place.

1204

00:52:30,060 --> 00:52:33,490

And I'm not going to comply.

1205

00:52:33,490 --> 00:52:36,930

So this is the best
explanation I have for it.

1206
00:52:36,930 --> 00:52:39,180
Were there any children
in the concentration camp?

1207
00:52:39,180 --> 00:52:41,910
No, I was among the youngest
that was permitted to enter.

1208
00:52:41,910 --> 00:52:44,640
All the younger
ones were killed.

1209
00:52:44,640 --> 00:52:47,690
They would not admit anybody,
because they were not

1210
00:52:47,690 --> 00:52:49,310
considered employable.

1211
00:52:49,310 --> 00:52:50,960
And also, they
considered the people

1212
00:52:50,960 --> 00:52:53,840
who are over the age,
let's say, of 40 to be--

1213
00:52:53,840 --> 00:52:58,400
Actually, their criteria
for being old was gray hair.

1214
00:52:58,400 --> 00:52:59,900
And the strange
thing that happened,

1215
00:52:59,900 --> 00:53:03,050
my mother was a very
beautiful woman, gray-haired

1216
00:53:03,050 --> 00:53:05,990
and never dyed her hair.

1217

00:53:05,990 --> 00:53:08,180

She looked very
always very dignified.

1218

00:53:08,180 --> 00:53:11,270

As long as I can remember,
she had pure white hair.

1219

00:53:11,270 --> 00:53:13,100

And one day, I get
up, and I said, Mom,

1220

00:53:13,100 --> 00:53:14,467

you have to dye your hair.

1221

00:53:14,467 --> 00:53:16,050

And she said, you're
absolutely crazy.

1222

00:53:16,050 --> 00:53:18,830

First of all, where
do you get dye?

1223

00:53:18,830 --> 00:53:20,240

We hardly have what to eat.

1224

00:53:20,240 --> 00:53:24,020

You're going to give up food
ration, bread, to dye my hair?

1225

00:53:24,020 --> 00:53:25,970

What are you talking about?

1226

00:53:25,970 --> 00:53:27,530

And I insisted upon it.

1227

00:53:27,530 --> 00:53:28,730

I said, I don't know.

1228

00:53:28,730 --> 00:53:31,280

Do it please, and I
started carrying on.

1229
00:53:31,280 --> 00:53:32,540
It's, OK, I won't bother you.

1230
00:53:32,540 --> 00:53:34,250
You want me to,
I'm going to do it.

1231
00:53:34,250 --> 00:53:36,170
This is a crazy idea.

1232
00:53:36,170 --> 00:53:38,090
Within a few days
after that, they

1233
00:53:38,090 --> 00:53:40,490
came and selected every
gray-haired person

1234
00:53:40,490 --> 00:53:42,680
as being too old to work.

1235
00:53:42,680 --> 00:53:44,420
And they were all shot.

1236
00:53:44,420 --> 00:53:46,370
And it was absolutely--

1237
00:53:46,370 --> 00:53:48,680
The whole thing made
no rhyme or reason.

1238
00:53:48,680 --> 00:53:50,990
You just acted upon
instinct in doing

1239
00:53:50,990 --> 00:53:53,720
crazy things that,
in a normal world,

1240
00:53:53,720 --> 00:53:55,970
would be considered insane.

1241
00:53:55,970 --> 00:53:57,980
But this is what
made you proceed,

1242
00:53:57,980 --> 00:54:01,160
and what enabled you to live.

1243
00:54:01,160 --> 00:54:03,050
Did you have any
idea at that time

1244
00:54:03,050 --> 00:54:05,990
where your father
and your sister were?

1245
00:54:05,990 --> 00:54:08,900
We knew that they were
still in that factory, yes.

1246
00:54:08,900 --> 00:54:12,350
And they eventually were
brought to our camp.

1247
00:54:12,350 --> 00:54:17,073
And they were transported into
our camp for a period of time.

1248
00:54:17,073 --> 00:54:17,990
And they stayed there.

1249
00:54:17,990 --> 00:54:20,750
But we were deported from
that camp prior to them

1250
00:54:20,750 --> 00:54:23,210
coming permanently to live.

1251
00:54:23,210 --> 00:54:27,230
So we had mild
communication, some hearsay.

1252

00:54:27,230 --> 00:54:28,940
But really not communication.

1253
00:54:28,940 --> 00:54:32,000
And I always felt that the
family was divided into,

1254
00:54:32,000 --> 00:54:35,030
my father was with my sister,
and I was with my mother.

1255
00:54:35,030 --> 00:54:39,590
And I felt that some comfort
in it, that none of us

1256
00:54:39,590 --> 00:54:42,560
was really left
alone, that we all

1257
00:54:42,560 --> 00:54:45,620
had some support from somebody.

1258
00:54:45,620 --> 00:54:49,520
Did you observe any resistance
in the concentration camp?

1259
00:54:49,520 --> 00:54:50,930
Was there any
planned resistance?

1260
00:54:50,930 --> 00:54:52,560
Was there any talk
of resistance?

1261
00:54:52,560 --> 00:54:54,903
Yes, there was
talk of resistance.

1262
00:54:54,903 --> 00:54:56,570
Not only was there a
talk of resistance,

1263
00:54:56,570 --> 00:55:02,210

there were three young boys who
were a part of the resistance.

1264
00:55:02,210 --> 00:55:05,060
And they tried to escape.

1265
00:55:05,060 --> 00:55:06,920
And I think this
is the best example

1266
00:55:06,920 --> 00:55:11,600
of the German psychology, why
there was so little resistance.

1267
00:55:11,600 --> 00:55:14,100
The underground to
help them escape.

1268
00:55:14,100 --> 00:55:17,660
And escape, this is a
very simple thing to say.

1269
00:55:17,660 --> 00:55:20,060
But when you are
surrounded by two

1270
00:55:20,060 --> 00:55:23,120
rows of electrified
barbed wires,

1271
00:55:23,120 --> 00:55:26,240
with searchlights
going 24 hours a day,

1272
00:55:26,240 --> 00:55:30,650
with the dogs on the
peripheral, and the camp

1273
00:55:30,650 --> 00:55:34,550
is quite a distance from
any kind of civilization,

1274
00:55:34,550 --> 00:55:38,180

the chances of escape aren't
so tremendously great.

1275
00:55:38,180 --> 00:55:39,770
But they did manage to escape.

1276
00:55:39,770 --> 00:55:41,310
And they were
immediately caught.

1277
00:55:41,310 --> 00:55:45,630
They were caught within 24
hours from their escape.

1278
00:55:45,630 --> 00:55:49,340
One of the boys was a boy
that I knew from ghetto.

1279
00:55:49,340 --> 00:55:53,030
And in order to penalize them--

1280
00:55:53,030 --> 00:55:54,680
because you see,
what the Germans

1281
00:55:54,680 --> 00:55:59,420
understood very well that
those boys were partisans.

1282
00:55:59,420 --> 00:56:03,440
They wanted to do something
dramatic, dynamic.

1283
00:56:03,440 --> 00:56:06,890
Their life-- They were
like kamikaze fighters.

1284
00:56:06,890 --> 00:56:12,170
Their life was at stake, and
they were very much conscious

1285
00:56:12,170 --> 00:56:13,130
of their society.

1286
00:56:13,130 --> 00:56:15,170
And they were part
of the society.

1287
00:56:15,170 --> 00:56:17,150
And their rebellion
was for the betterment

1288
00:56:17,150 --> 00:56:21,140
of society, not their own gain.

1289
00:56:21,140 --> 00:56:23,810
They knew that, if they
would just punish them

1290
00:56:23,810 --> 00:56:26,390
because they tried
to do something,

1291
00:56:26,390 --> 00:56:27,860
the punishment
would mean nothing.

1292
00:56:27,860 --> 00:56:29,330
Because the kamikaze
fighters were

1293
00:56:29,330 --> 00:56:33,260
going to be killed in
order to drown the ship.

1294
00:56:33,260 --> 00:56:35,490
This was their purpose.

1295
00:56:35,490 --> 00:56:37,910
But the Germans
understood the difference.

1296
00:56:37,910 --> 00:56:41,070
And as a result,
when they penalized,

1297

00:56:41,070 --> 00:56:45,870

they penalized the
entire community.

1298

00:56:45,870 --> 00:56:47,460

And they rounded us all up.

1299

00:56:47,460 --> 00:56:51,360

They rounded thousands of
people to watch the hanging.

1300

00:56:51,360 --> 00:56:54,300

And they had the Jewish
policemen hang them.

1301

00:56:54,300 --> 00:56:57,540

And following that, we
had to march single file,

1302

00:56:57,540 --> 00:57:01,680

and they killed a lot
of people that day.

1303

00:57:01,680 --> 00:57:04,560

And also whipped
thousands of people,

1304

00:57:04,560 --> 00:57:06,720

ripping their skins
completely to shreds.

1305

00:57:06,720 --> 00:57:09,450

Nobody really thought
that much of resistance

1306

00:57:09,450 --> 00:57:12,840

from thereon, because who wanted
to expose so many thousands

1307

00:57:12,840 --> 00:57:14,310

of people for punishment?

1308

00:57:14,310 --> 00:57:17,610

1309

00:57:17,610 --> 00:57:18,510

OK.

1310

00:57:18,510 --> 00:57:20,910

OK.

1311

00:57:20,910 --> 00:57:22,160

[? So-- ?]

1312

00:57:22,160 --> 00:57:27,062