

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:29,880

2

00:00:29,880 --> 00:00:32,580

I believe in our  
previous conversation

3

00:00:32,580 --> 00:00:35,310

we were talking about  
acts of resistance

4

00:00:35,310 --> 00:00:37,020

in the concentration camp.

5

00:00:37,020 --> 00:00:42,300

And you told of the story  
of three young boys who

6

00:00:42,300 --> 00:00:46,380

tried to escape and were, in  
fact, caught very quickly.

7

00:00:46,380 --> 00:00:49,410

And you mentioned, I believe,  
that the Jewish police

8

00:00:49,410 --> 00:00:52,890

were asked to hang these  
three young men in front

9

00:00:52,890 --> 00:00:56,280

of the concentration  
camp population.

10

00:00:56,280 --> 00:00:58,230

Would you say that  
that pretty much

11

00:00:58,230 --> 00:01:02,980

served to deter any future  
acts of resistance in the camp?

12

00:01:02,980 --> 00:01:03,480

Yes.

13

00:01:03,480 --> 00:01:07,230

That definitely was a very,  
very strong deterrent.

14

00:01:07,230 --> 00:01:09,570

Because it was not  
only a question

15

00:01:09,570 --> 00:01:14,040

of witnessing the punishment  
but also the mass punishment

16

00:01:14,040 --> 00:01:18,150

that was administered to people  
who are totally uninvolved.

17

00:01:18,150 --> 00:01:22,380

And as I stated before,  
considering that they did it

18

00:01:22,380 --> 00:01:25,800

in order to better the  
society, to gain something

19

00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:29,970

for the society, not  
so much for themselves,

20

00:01:29,970 --> 00:01:32,580

to see that everybody  
gets punished

21

00:01:32,580 --> 00:01:36,750

because you try to do something  
was a tremendous deterrent.

22

00:01:36,750 --> 00:01:42,300

I have rarely seen an incident  
where the individual would be

23

00:01:42,300 --> 00:01:44,940  
punished for what he has done.

24

00:01:44,940 --> 00:01:47,970  
If the punishment  
was administered,

25

00:01:47,970 --> 00:01:50,220  
it was always a mass punishment.

26

00:01:50,220 --> 00:01:53,010  
The individual, obviously,  
was the first example

27

00:01:53,010 --> 00:01:54,960  
and the most severe punishment.

28

00:01:54,960 --> 00:01:57,360  
But along with it,  
they would take

29

00:01:57,360 --> 00:02:01,950  
people who would be the  
most meaningful to expose

30

00:02:01,950 --> 00:02:04,920  
to punishment where the  
rest of the community

31

00:02:04,920 --> 00:02:06,940  
would respond very strongly.

32

00:02:06,940 --> 00:02:10,800  
So as a result, that really  
paralyzed the society.

33

00:02:10,800 --> 00:02:14,100  
Because who wants to escape  
knowing that thousands

34

00:02:14,100 --> 00:02:17,830  
of people will be whip lashed?

35

00:02:17,830 --> 00:02:26,040  
And did that incident also serve  
to stimulate more cohesiveness

36

00:02:26,040 --> 00:02:30,370  
among the individuals living  
in the concentration camp?

37

00:02:30,370 --> 00:02:30,870  
Yes.

38

00:02:30,870 --> 00:02:32,378  
I think in a sense--

39

00:02:32,378 --> 00:02:33,670  
A sense of solidarity possible?

40

00:02:33,670 --> 00:02:34,300  
Yes.

41

00:02:34,300 --> 00:02:34,800  
Yes.

42

00:02:34,800 --> 00:02:38,220  
I think that there is a certain  
sense of solidarity when

43

00:02:38,220 --> 00:02:40,650  
you know that you are treated--

44

00:02:40,650 --> 00:02:43,890  
that one for all  
and all for one.

45

00:02:43,890 --> 00:02:49,680  
People were, surprisingly  
enough under the circumstances,

46

00:02:49,680 --> 00:02:52,450  
at least in my  
experience, people

47

00:02:52,450 --> 00:02:56,160  
were much more responsive to the  
community that I would expect.

48

00:02:56,160 --> 00:02:58,230  
True, they were fighting  
for a piece of bread.

49

00:02:58,230 --> 00:03:00,250  
And true, they  
were fighting for--

50

00:03:00,250 --> 00:03:04,840  
but if you consider what  
they were fighting for,

51

00:03:04,840 --> 00:03:09,300  
I think that we have a lot to  
be proud of, for what Jews are.

52

00:03:09,300 --> 00:03:12,630  
We were much more civilized  
that I would have thought.

53

00:03:12,630 --> 00:03:15,210  
As much as we look  
at it as brutality,

54

00:03:15,210 --> 00:03:18,550  
but we have to take  
up the consideration

55

00:03:18,550 --> 00:03:20,850  
all the aspects leading into it.

56

00:03:20,850 --> 00:03:24,000  
Have there been any  
antagonism at all

57

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:27,540  
in the concentration  
camp between Jews

58  
00:03:27,540 --> 00:03:30,930  
from various countries?

59  
00:03:30,930 --> 00:03:32,370  
Not from the  
different countries,

60  
00:03:32,370 --> 00:03:34,830  
but there are very  
big differences

61  
00:03:34,830 --> 00:03:38,910  
between the cities and villages  
and different segments.

62  
00:03:38,910 --> 00:03:43,170  
And definitely, there was  
a rift between the people.

63  
00:03:43,170 --> 00:03:45,960  
There were groups  
within the group, where

64  
00:03:45,960 --> 00:03:48,000  
the people who came  
from the same town,

65  
00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:51,130  
they considered themselves  
as one cohesive family,

66  
00:03:51,130 --> 00:03:54,720  
and they would fend  
for each other.

67  
00:03:54,720 --> 00:03:56,700  
Whatever the common  
denominator was,

68  
00:03:56,700 --> 00:03:59,280  
the people had a  
tendency of forming

69

00:03:59,280 --> 00:04:04,620  
groups that would ally along the  
line of whatever the interest

70

00:04:04,620 --> 00:04:05,790  
was.

71

00:04:05,790 --> 00:04:09,210  
Where there discussions held  
among the individuals living

72

00:04:09,210 --> 00:04:10,950  
in the concentration camp?

73

00:04:10,950 --> 00:04:14,070  
In camp was a little more  
difficult, because our workday

74

00:04:14,070 --> 00:04:15,930  
was 12 hours.

75

00:04:15,930 --> 00:04:18,630  
The curfew was very early.

76

00:04:18,630 --> 00:04:21,600  
And they did not  
encourage too much

77

00:04:21,600 --> 00:04:25,860  
of a participation in any  
kind of group activity.

78

00:04:25,860 --> 00:04:29,100  
But yet, there was definitely--

79

00:04:29,100 --> 00:04:33,690  
there were evenings devoted  
to poetry or to reading.

80

00:04:33,690 --> 00:04:34,560  
Not so much reading.

81  
00:04:34,560 --> 00:04:37,740  
There was no reading,  
but discussing things.

82  
00:04:37,740 --> 00:04:42,180  
But very limited, because  
you wouldn't want--

83  
00:04:42,180 --> 00:04:44,220  
there was no place  
to congregate.

84  
00:04:44,220 --> 00:04:46,950  
The space in the  
barracks were so small

85  
00:04:46,950 --> 00:04:49,560  
that there was no  
place to congregate.

86  
00:04:49,560 --> 00:04:55,230  
And also the fear of having  
a group seen by the Germans.

87  
00:04:55,230 --> 00:04:57,810

88  
00:04:57,810 --> 00:04:59,840  
This was not something  
that they would encourage

89  
00:04:59,840 --> 00:05:01,840  
or they would permit.

90  
00:05:01,840 --> 00:05:04,350  
Did you yourself or  
your mother become

91  
00:05:04,350 --> 00:05:06,870  
ill at all while living  
in the concentration camp?



92

00:05:06,870 --> 00:05:07,560

Yes.

93

00:05:07,560 --> 00:05:09,690

We were ill twice actually.

94

00:05:09,690 --> 00:05:11,940

I was ill severely twice.

95

00:05:11,940 --> 00:05:14,520

Once was typhoid, which  
we all went through.

96

00:05:14,520 --> 00:05:17,670

And when you're talking about  
the reaction of the world

97

00:05:17,670 --> 00:05:20,730

when the typhoid broke  
out, obviously the fever

98

00:05:20,730 --> 00:05:22,620

was the worse.

99

00:05:22,620 --> 00:05:25,260

And they turned to  
Red Cross, asking

100

00:05:25,260 --> 00:05:27,300

for aspirants for the camp.

101

00:05:27,300 --> 00:05:29,580

And they were turned  
down because they

102

00:05:29,580 --> 00:05:32,310

said that since we were  
not political prisoners,

103

00:05:32,310 --> 00:05:39,670

we did not apply for the Geneva  
Convention, and as a result,

104  
00:05:39,670 --> 00:05:42,610  
we did not deserve  
to get the aspirants.

105  
00:05:42,610 --> 00:05:44,118  
You're talking about medication.

106  
00:05:44,118 --> 00:05:46,410  
I'm not even talking about  
anything else but aspirants.

107  
00:05:46,410 --> 00:05:48,790  
So there was absolutely  
no help from any place.

108  
00:05:48,790 --> 00:05:52,800  
As a matter of fact, there were  
several times an inspection,

109  
00:05:52,800 --> 00:05:56,040  
a Red Cross, an  
international inspection that

110  
00:05:56,040 --> 00:05:58,680  
came to the camps to  
see the conditions,

111  
00:05:58,680 --> 00:06:00,810  
and they claimed the  
conditions were fine.

112  
00:06:00,810 --> 00:06:03,030  
Usually prior to this  
kind of inspection,

113  
00:06:03,030 --> 00:06:06,450  
there would be weeks and  
weeks of painting and cleaning

114  
00:06:06,450 --> 00:06:09,270  
and washing to the  
point where they even

115  
00:06:09,270 --> 00:06:11,220  
made us paint the  
stones on the road

116  
00:06:11,220 --> 00:06:13,770  
white so it would  
look bright and clean.

117  
00:06:13,770 --> 00:06:17,760  
And you have to be totally  
blind to know that if there

118  
00:06:17,760 --> 00:06:21,300  
are 200 women in one  
room, that isn't exactly

119  
00:06:21,300 --> 00:06:22,950  
a very human condition.

120  
00:06:22,950 --> 00:06:26,020  
And maybe the soup that  
day was a little better

121  
00:06:26,020 --> 00:06:29,670  
than the average, but that was  
still a little square of bread

122  
00:06:29,670 --> 00:06:30,600  
and a bowl of soup.

123  
00:06:30,600 --> 00:06:34,260  
And that cannot be  
considered human food ration.

124  
00:06:34,260 --> 00:06:36,270  
And yet, the reports  
were positive.

125  
00:06:36,270 --> 00:06:38,950  
They claimed that the  
conditions were fine.

126

00:06:38,950 --> 00:06:40,980

They didn't want to see it.

127

00:06:40,980 --> 00:06:44,550

So you believe that the Red  
Cross in fact could have seen?

128

00:06:44,550 --> 00:06:45,102

Oh, yes.

129

00:06:45,102 --> 00:06:45,810

Oh, surely they--

130

00:06:45,810 --> 00:06:46,830

They were not deluded?

131

00:06:46,830 --> 00:06:50,260

No, they couldn't have been.

132

00:06:50,260 --> 00:06:53,100

The whole conditions  
were so subhuman.

133

00:06:53,100 --> 00:06:55,680

How can they  
possibly not see it?

134

00:06:55,680 --> 00:06:57,180

Did anybody make  
an attempt to speak

135

00:06:57,180 --> 00:06:58,610

to any officials  
of the Red Cross?

136

00:06:58,610 --> 00:06:58,780

Oh, no.

137

00:06:58,780 --> 00:06:59,070

Was it possible?

138

00:06:59,070 --> 00:06:59,612

You couldn't.

139

00:06:59,612 --> 00:07:01,380

No, couldn't.

140

00:07:01,380 --> 00:07:06,030

They came, and they came with  
the Germans through the camp.

141

00:07:06,030 --> 00:07:10,440

They came marching through, and  
they had the flag of Red Cross,

142

00:07:10,440 --> 00:07:12,360

and there were different  
nations represented,

143

00:07:12,360 --> 00:07:14,010

but nobody could speak to them.

144

00:07:14,010 --> 00:07:15,840

Maybe there was some  
occasion someplace,

145

00:07:15,840 --> 00:07:18,150

but I don't know of it.

146

00:07:18,150 --> 00:07:19,860

How were you able  
to sustain yourself?

147

00:07:19,860 --> 00:07:22,740

I mean, did you consider at the  
time the silence of the world?

148

00:07:22,740 --> 00:07:25,577

Here, the International Red  
Cross was coming into the camp.

149

00:07:25,577 --> 00:07:26,910

Where was the rest of the world?

150

00:07:26,910 --> 00:07:28,140

Where was the United States?

151

00:07:28,140 --> 00:07:29,140

Where was Great Britain?

152

00:07:29,140 --> 00:07:31,110

We were very much surprised.

153

00:07:31,110 --> 00:07:34,758

We didn't know that the rest of  
the world didn't do anything.

154

00:07:34,758 --> 00:07:37,050

That's why we were thinking  
that this whole thing would

155

00:07:37,050 --> 00:07:39,862

end much sooner than  
it did, because we

156

00:07:39,862 --> 00:07:41,820

thought that the rest of  
the world would react.

157

00:07:41,820 --> 00:07:44,520

We never imagined  
that they wouldn't.

158

00:07:44,520 --> 00:07:47,800

And we had no way of  
obtaining any official news.

159

00:07:47,800 --> 00:07:51,343

So we weren't informed  
of what was going on.

160

00:07:51,343 --> 00:07:53,010

And then you asked  
me about the illness.

161

00:07:53,010 --> 00:07:56,670

Then following that,  
I somehow managed

162  
00:07:56,670 --> 00:07:59,520  
to scrape out from the typhoid.

163  
00:07:59,520 --> 00:08:04,860  
And I was assigned in  
to work on picric acid,

164  
00:08:04,860 --> 00:08:09,270  
which is a very toxic substance.

165  
00:08:09,270 --> 00:08:12,270  
It's a yellow powder  
which they pressed

166  
00:08:12,270 --> 00:08:14,940  
to manufacture underwater mine.

167  
00:08:14,940 --> 00:08:17,550  
And how toxic it was,  
the best example,

168  
00:08:17,550 --> 00:08:19,950  
that before the  
war in the factory,

169  
00:08:19,950 --> 00:08:24,690  
they had people working six hour  
shifts, two hours at a time,

170  
00:08:24,690 --> 00:08:27,480  
wearing gas masks  
and getting milk

171  
00:08:27,480 --> 00:08:29,430  
and all kinds of protections.

172  
00:08:29,430 --> 00:08:35,429  
We worked non-stop with no food,  
no protection, no interruption,

173  
00:08:35,429 --> 00:08:36,570  
nothing.

174  
00:08:36,570 --> 00:08:38,309  
Obviously no milk.

175  
00:08:38,309 --> 00:08:40,950  
So I managed to work--  
usually the duration

176  
00:08:40,950 --> 00:08:45,270  
of working in this particular  
point was rather short.

177  
00:08:45,270 --> 00:08:47,640  
I managed to work maybe  
three, four months.

178  
00:08:47,640 --> 00:08:49,230  
And my lungs were attacked.

179  
00:08:49,230 --> 00:08:53,280  
And I developed a lung disease,  
and I was spitting blood.

180  
00:08:53,280 --> 00:08:57,390  
And I was then  
shipped out to what

181  
00:08:57,390 --> 00:09:00,360  
they called a  
krankenstube which means

182  
00:09:00,360 --> 00:09:02,430  
in translation a sick room.

183  
00:09:02,430 --> 00:09:03,810  
And that's exactly what it was.

184  
00:09:03,810 --> 00:09:06,060  
The only advantage was that  
they didn't have to get up



185  
00:09:06,060 --> 00:09:07,080  
to work every morning.

186  
00:09:07,080 --> 00:09:09,270  
But that was the extent  
of the care you received.

187  
00:09:09,270 --> 00:09:12,150  
There were two doctors  
with absolutely no supplies

188  
00:09:12,150 --> 00:09:13,508  
whatsoever.

189  
00:09:13,508 --> 00:09:14,550  
They were Jewish doctors?

190  
00:09:14,550 --> 00:09:14,820  
Yes.

191  
00:09:14,820 --> 00:09:15,862  
They were Jewish doctors.

192  
00:09:15,862 --> 00:09:17,640  
They were very, very fine men.

193  
00:09:17,640 --> 00:09:21,210  
One of them was Adam Wasserman.

194  
00:09:21,210 --> 00:09:23,940  
And it was very interesting,  
because the moment

195  
00:09:23,940 --> 00:09:26,730  
the war ended, when I  
came back to Krakow,

196  
00:09:26,730 --> 00:09:29,260  
I came across this  
man on the street.

197

00:09:29,260 --> 00:09:33,180

And when he saw me, he said I  
can't believe you are alive.

198

00:09:33,180 --> 00:09:36,750

As far as I could see, your  
lungs were completely shot.

199

00:09:36,750 --> 00:09:40,860

Go immediately for x-rays  
and see what's happening.

200

00:09:40,860 --> 00:09:42,390

I went, and there was nothing.

201

00:09:42,390 --> 00:09:44,010

I don't even have scars.

202

00:09:44,010 --> 00:09:45,570

It's just totally unbelievable.

203

00:09:45,570 --> 00:09:50,700

But I luckily did not have  
to return to this work,

204

00:09:50,700 --> 00:09:52,530

because that was  
at the time when

205

00:09:52,530 --> 00:09:56,160

they evacuated us to Germany  
and I worked in a metal factory.

206

00:09:56,160 --> 00:09:58,330

Therefore, there were  
no toxic materials.

207

00:09:58,330 --> 00:10:00,420

And that's what helped me heal.

208

00:10:00,420 --> 00:10:02,910

How many years were you

in the concentration camp?

209

00:10:02,910 --> 00:10:03,810

Four years.

210

00:10:03,810 --> 00:10:04,530

Four years.

211

00:10:04,530 --> 00:10:05,070

Yeah.

212

00:10:05,070 --> 00:10:08,700

And in what year were  
you evacuated to Germany?

213

00:10:08,700 --> 00:10:10,540

In 1944.

214

00:10:10,540 --> 00:10:13,110

So at the end of the war.

215

00:10:13,110 --> 00:10:17,970

Can you describe the  
last days in the camp?

216

00:10:17,970 --> 00:10:19,440

You mean in Germany already?

217

00:10:19,440 --> 00:10:20,190

No.

218

00:10:20,190 --> 00:10:20,880

Oh, in Poland?

219

00:10:20,880 --> 00:10:21,380

Yes.

220

00:10:21,380 --> 00:10:23,880

221

00:10:23,880 --> 00:10:25,800

At the time, as I  
told you, I wasn't

222  
00:10:25,800 --> 00:10:28,942  
working, because I was  
recovering from the sickness.

223  
00:10:28,942 --> 00:10:30,740  
And the doctors  
decided that they

224  
00:10:30,740 --> 00:10:33,440  
would let me stay a  
little longer, hoping

225  
00:10:33,440 --> 00:10:36,470  
that, by some miracle,  
something will happen.

226  
00:10:36,470 --> 00:10:38,360  
And as you can  
see, it did happen.

227  
00:10:38,360 --> 00:10:43,260  
We could see at the time the  
Russian front line coming.

228  
00:10:43,260 --> 00:10:45,530  
You could hear the  
gunshots at night.

229  
00:10:45,530 --> 00:10:48,290  
You could see the fire at night.

230  
00:10:48,290 --> 00:10:51,080  
And we thought, any day,  
we would be liberated.

231  
00:10:51,080 --> 00:10:54,460  
And all of a sudden, what came  
to the vicinity of the camp,

232  
00:10:54,460 --> 00:10:55,940

everything stopped.

233

00:10:55,940 --> 00:10:57,020

Nothing was happening.

234

00:10:57,020 --> 00:10:59,030

Nobody was coming.

235

00:10:59,030 --> 00:11:03,690

And it took about three weeks  
and not an inch of progress.

236

00:11:03,690 --> 00:11:04,190

Nothing.

237

00:11:04,190 --> 00:11:06,920

In the meantime, the  
Germans gathered enough time

238

00:11:06,920 --> 00:11:12,320

to put their ranks together and  
organize the transport of us

239

00:11:12,320 --> 00:11:14,750

to Germany.

240

00:11:14,750 --> 00:11:18,050

And this is, again, a  
question of collaboration.

241

00:11:18,050 --> 00:11:24,390

There was a man who was the  
Jewish director of the camp.

242

00:11:24,390 --> 00:11:26,600

And he worked always  
with the Germans

243

00:11:26,600 --> 00:11:29,960

in trying to select  
the people who

244

00:11:29,960 --> 00:11:32,750  
are supposed to be shot because  
they're too sick to work.

245  
00:11:32,750 --> 00:11:35,540  
And I had always had very  
big discussions with him

246  
00:11:35,540 --> 00:11:37,580  
and very big arguments with him.

247  
00:11:37,580 --> 00:11:40,040  
Luckily, somehow, he  
didn't take it against me.

248  
00:11:40,040 --> 00:11:42,540  
And I said, how can you  
do something like that?

249  
00:11:42,540 --> 00:11:45,530  
And he kept on telling  
me, you don't see the fact

250  
00:11:45,530 --> 00:11:47,660  
that if the Germans  
tell me that today you

251  
00:11:47,660 --> 00:11:51,350  
have to deliver 100 people,  
I deliver only 100 people.

252  
00:11:51,350 --> 00:11:54,710  
And I see to it that I pick up  
the ones that are the sickest.

253  
00:11:54,710 --> 00:11:58,160  
And therefore, the rest  
has a chance to live.

254  
00:11:58,160 --> 00:12:00,320  
If I would say no,  
they will come in,

255

00:12:00,320 --> 00:12:02,780  
and even if they would  
only have a hundred,

256  
00:12:02,780 --> 00:12:05,090  
they will take the healthiest,  
because the sick would

257  
00:12:05,090 --> 00:12:06,800  
die anyhow.

258  
00:12:06,800 --> 00:12:11,600  
Therefore, the impact  
would be twice as big.

259  
00:12:11,600 --> 00:12:15,530  
I couldn't quite understand  
it, that he would

260  
00:12:15,530 --> 00:12:18,260  
do this kind of work anyhow.

261  
00:12:18,260 --> 00:12:20,780  
His name was Goldberg.

262  
00:12:20,780 --> 00:12:24,530  
And the day came where they  
were evacuating the camp,

263  
00:12:24,530 --> 00:12:28,590  
and the order came that the  
sickroom had to be emptied.

264  
00:12:28,590 --> 00:12:31,160  
Everybody was going  
to be exterminated,

265  
00:12:31,160 --> 00:12:32,900  
because they didn't  
want to bother

266  
00:12:32,900 --> 00:12:34,640  
taking sick people with them.

267

00:12:34,640 --> 00:12:37,490

And they were afraid of  
carrying diseases to Germany.

268

00:12:37,490 --> 00:12:41,270

And besides, those  
were useless people.

269

00:12:41,270 --> 00:12:43,430

So he came together  
with the Germans,

270

00:12:43,430 --> 00:12:45,680

and he was the first  
one to walk in.

271

00:12:45,680 --> 00:12:48,410

And the Germans started talking,  
so they didn't enter the room

272

00:12:48,410 --> 00:12:49,640

that fast.

273

00:12:49,640 --> 00:12:52,040

And I was in my  
nightgown in bed.

274

00:12:52,040 --> 00:12:55,190

He walked in, he grabbed me  
and another friend of mine,

275

00:12:55,190 --> 00:12:57,680

who was also at the  
time recovering--

276

00:12:57,680 --> 00:13:01,340

and we were quite all  
right already by then--

277

00:13:01,340 --> 00:13:04,460

grabbed us and threw us  
out through the back door



278  
00:13:04,460 --> 00:13:07,400  
and said get out  
and keep on running.

279  
00:13:07,400 --> 00:13:09,020  
And then the Germans  
entered, and they

280  
00:13:09,020 --> 00:13:10,370  
took everybody who was there.

281  
00:13:10,370 --> 00:13:12,630  
They killed everybody.

282  
00:13:12,630 --> 00:13:17,390  
So this really proved  
his point to a degree.

283  
00:13:17,390 --> 00:13:21,320  
Whether it made him feel a  
little less guilty because he

284  
00:13:21,320 --> 00:13:26,210  
had done something decent,  
it's a very complicated issue

285  
00:13:26,210 --> 00:13:28,400  
to judge that.

286  
00:13:28,400 --> 00:13:30,390  
And your mother?

287  
00:13:30,390 --> 00:13:32,270  
My mother was all right.

288  
00:13:32,270 --> 00:13:34,860  
She did not work.

289  
00:13:34,860 --> 00:13:36,600  
She had typhoid.

290

00:13:36,600 --> 00:13:40,760

And luckily, she had  
typhoid, I think, before me.

291

00:13:40,760 --> 00:13:42,410

And then I had typhoid later.

292

00:13:42,410 --> 00:13:45,140

So we kind of took  
care of each other.

293

00:13:45,140 --> 00:13:47,840

We were not ill  
at the same time.

294

00:13:47,840 --> 00:13:53,810

And after that, she stayed  
pretty much in a fair health.

295

00:13:53,810 --> 00:13:56,990

And she was lucky she was  
never working as hard as I was.

296

00:13:56,990 --> 00:14:02,330

I somehow seemed to have had  
a much heavier physical work.

297

00:14:02,330 --> 00:14:05,330

And she was not an  
old woman at the time.

298

00:14:05,330 --> 00:14:06,860

And of course,  
all this time, you

299

00:14:06,860 --> 00:14:08,420

had no information about your--

300

00:14:08,420 --> 00:14:08,540

No.

301

00:14:08,540 --> 00:14:08,720

At that point--

302  
00:14:08,720 --> 00:14:09,200  
--sister or your father.

303  
00:14:09,200 --> 00:14:11,300  
--we had absolutely no  
information about them,

304  
00:14:11,300 --> 00:14:17,370  
nothing, until the  
very end of the war.

305  
00:14:17,370 --> 00:14:22,190  
And this was already in  
'45, in the spring of '45.

306  
00:14:22,190 --> 00:14:23,648  
All of a sudden--

307  
00:14:23,648 --> 00:14:25,190  
when they shipped  
us, they shipped us

308  
00:14:25,190 --> 00:14:28,550  
into Leipzig, Germany to  
an ammunition factory.

309  
00:14:28,550 --> 00:14:29,720  
It was called HASAG.

310  
00:14:29,720 --> 00:14:32,840  
How many people actually  
went with you to Germany?

311  
00:14:32,840 --> 00:14:36,620  
Oh, there must have been  
probably about 600, 700.

312  
00:14:36,620 --> 00:14:38,460  
Out of the total  
population in the camp,

313

00:14:38,460 --> 00:14:42,110  
which was approximately what?

314

00:14:42,110 --> 00:14:44,797  
The entire camp at that  
point was transported--

315

00:14:44,797 --> 00:14:46,130  
The entire camp was transported.

316

00:14:46,130 --> 00:14:49,070  
--except for the  
people who were sick.

317

00:14:49,070 --> 00:14:52,970  
I suspect that they had reached  
the point in their economy

318

00:14:52,970 --> 00:14:56,210  
where they needed every  
able body and their hands

319

00:14:56,210 --> 00:14:58,070  
because everybody  
was at the frontline.

320

00:14:58,070 --> 00:15:01,250  
And when you think about  
it, you have a labor force

321

00:15:01,250 --> 00:15:05,300  
that you didn't need to  
house, to feed, to pay.

322

00:15:05,300 --> 00:15:10,080  
Obviously, that was quite a  
boost for their war effort.

323

00:15:10,080 --> 00:15:14,330  
So whoever was capable  
of performing tasks--

324

00:15:14,330 --> 00:15:16,370  
and we were luckily  
on the stream

325  
00:15:16,370 --> 00:15:19,910  
of factories, labor  
camps, rather than

326  
00:15:19,910 --> 00:15:22,700  
the regular extermination camps.

327  
00:15:22,700 --> 00:15:27,200  
They tried to maintain us  
to the very last moment

328  
00:15:27,200 --> 00:15:29,670  
with the intention, I  
think, of eventually,

329  
00:15:29,670 --> 00:15:33,060  
at the end of the war when  
we will not be necessary,

330  
00:15:33,060 --> 00:15:36,652  
destroying us, but they just  
didn't get around to it.

331  
00:15:36,652 --> 00:15:38,610  
Did you know during this  
time what was going on

332  
00:15:38,610 --> 00:15:40,230  
in the death camps?

333  
00:15:40,230 --> 00:15:41,190  
Oh, yes.

334  
00:15:41,190 --> 00:15:42,090  
Yes.

335  
00:15:42,090 --> 00:15:45,420  
I'm not so sure that we were  
so totally aware of what

336  
00:15:45,420 --> 00:15:47,070  
was going on in Auschwitz.

337  
00:15:47,070 --> 00:15:51,830  
I know that, for example,  
even our camp had

338  
00:15:51,830 --> 00:15:54,780  
the ovens at the crematoria.

339  
00:15:54,780 --> 00:15:55,800  
We didn't see them.

340  
00:15:55,800 --> 00:15:57,870  
They were a little  
distance from us.

341  
00:15:57,870 --> 00:16:00,180  
And we could see  
trucks with people.

342  
00:16:00,180 --> 00:16:02,820  
The reason we knew there were  
people, every now and then,

343  
00:16:02,820 --> 00:16:06,120  
you would see a hand waving  
or you would see some motion

344  
00:16:06,120 --> 00:16:07,860  
as the trucks passed by.

345  
00:16:07,860 --> 00:16:10,290  
And every time you saw  
the trucks passing by,

346  
00:16:10,290 --> 00:16:12,210  
they were covered  
trucks, at night,

347  
00:16:12,210 --> 00:16:14,670

you would smell the  
stench of human bodies.

348  
00:16:14,670 --> 00:16:15,840  
I don't know who they were.

349  
00:16:15,840 --> 00:16:17,820  
I don't know where  
they came from, where

350  
00:16:17,820 --> 00:16:19,740  
they were bringing them from.

351  
00:16:19,740 --> 00:16:22,410  
But definitely, it was there.

352  
00:16:22,410 --> 00:16:26,130  
But we were never near it  
enough to see it actually.

353  
00:16:26,130 --> 00:16:30,630  
But we knew it was  
going on in our camp.

354  
00:16:30,630 --> 00:16:35,460  
We did not have understanding  
of the extent of what

355  
00:16:35,460 --> 00:16:36,820  
was going on in Auschwitz.

356  
00:16:36,820 --> 00:16:42,690  
As I said, to the very end of  
the war, in '45 in the spring,

357  
00:16:42,690 --> 00:16:48,720  
they sent a shipment of women  
from Auschwitz into our camp.

358  
00:16:48,720 --> 00:16:51,060  
And a lot of our  
friends came in,

359

00:16:51,060 --> 00:16:54,270  
and they told me that they have  
seen my sister in Auschwitz,

360

00:16:54,270 --> 00:16:56,410  
that she was alive  
and she was fine.

361

00:16:56,410 --> 00:16:59,130  
And the irony of it being  
that she was originally

362

00:16:59,130 --> 00:17:03,120  
supposed to go with this  
shipment to that camp.

363

00:17:03,120 --> 00:17:07,260  
But in all the instances,  
nobody knew what was going on

364

00:17:07,260 --> 00:17:10,200  
and what was going to  
happen to the people.

365

00:17:10,200 --> 00:17:12,329  
I had a cousin who  
was from Belgium,

366

00:17:12,329 --> 00:17:15,990  
and she worked in the kitchen,  
had some contacts in Auschwitz.

367

00:17:15,990 --> 00:17:19,710  
And in order to  
help my sister, she

368

00:17:19,710 --> 00:17:21,960  
arranged for her to  
escape from the transport,

369

00:17:21,960 --> 00:17:25,560  
thinking that they're  
going into the crematoria.



370

00:17:25,560 --> 00:17:27,930  
And she remained in Auschwitz.

371

00:17:27,930 --> 00:17:30,510  
She remained for another  
month in Auschwitz.

372

00:17:30,510 --> 00:17:32,540  
And then they shipped  
the transport from there

373

00:17:32,540 --> 00:17:37,200  
to Struthof, which  
was the seaport where

374

00:17:37,200 --> 00:17:41,760  
in the last days of the war they  
put all the women on the ship

375

00:17:41,760 --> 00:17:42,930  
and drowned the ship.

376

00:17:42,930 --> 00:17:46,590  
And as a result, she was killed  
the last few days of the war.

377

00:17:46,590 --> 00:17:48,870  
But when the war ended,  
we were convinced

378

00:17:48,870 --> 00:17:50,910  
that she was alive,  
because we had

379

00:17:50,910 --> 00:17:53,040  
such recent regards from her.

380

00:17:53,040 --> 00:17:55,980  
And they were telling  
us how my cousin was

381

00:17:55,980 --> 00:17:57,690  
helping her and  
bringing her food,

382  
00:17:57,690 --> 00:17:59,610  
that she really  
was taken care of,

383  
00:17:59,610 --> 00:18:02,790  
and she was together with  
her cousin and a sister

384  
00:18:02,790 --> 00:18:05,760  
of her boyfriend and  
they were all together

385  
00:18:05,760 --> 00:18:08,590  
and that we shouldn't  
worry about it.

386  
00:18:08,590 --> 00:18:12,370  
So that was really  
the irony of it.

387  
00:18:12,370 --> 00:18:16,500  
And did you have any information  
on your father at the time?

388  
00:18:16,500 --> 00:18:17,610  
No, not at the time.

389  
00:18:17,610 --> 00:18:20,550  
I found out very  
shortly after the war

390  
00:18:20,550 --> 00:18:24,420  
that my father was shipped  
into Auschwitz in '44.

391  
00:18:24,420 --> 00:18:28,080  
And I just very  
recently found out

392

00:18:28,080 --> 00:18:31,050  
from somebody who worked in  
the archives in Auschwitz

393  
00:18:31,050 --> 00:18:34,500  
that, when the shipment  
of the men came in,

394  
00:18:34,500 --> 00:18:37,290  
there were two shipments that  
came in, one from Hungary

395  
00:18:37,290 --> 00:18:38,940  
and one from Krakow.

396  
00:18:38,940 --> 00:18:42,870  
And they originally planned  
to take the Hungarian shipment

397  
00:18:42,870 --> 00:18:48,450  
into the furnaces,  
into the crematoria.

398  
00:18:48,450 --> 00:18:51,480  
And somehow they  
shifted the trucks

399  
00:18:51,480 --> 00:18:55,260  
and by mistake took the  
shipment that came from Krakow

400  
00:18:55,260 --> 00:18:58,980  
and my father was executed then  
in the crematoria of Auschwitz.

401  
00:18:58,980 --> 00:19:01,350  
So I know exactly it  
was in May of '44.

402  
00:19:01,350 --> 00:19:02,160  
In '44.

403  
00:19:02,160 --> 00:19:04,200

Yeah.

404

00:19:04,200 --> 00:19:06,960

And you were in  
Germany for how long?

405

00:19:06,960 --> 00:19:09,090

In Germany, I think  
we were only--

406

00:19:09,090 --> 00:19:13,290

not quite a year, I believe.

407

00:19:13,290 --> 00:19:17,070

This is again a situation that  
I don't have the exact dates.

408

00:19:17,070 --> 00:19:19,950

I'm not very accurate on that.

409

00:19:19,950 --> 00:19:22,890

How was the news brought to  
you that the war was over?

410

00:19:22,890 --> 00:19:23,820

What happened exactly?

411

00:19:23,820 --> 00:19:26,700

It wasn't.

412

00:19:26,700 --> 00:19:29,160

What happened is that  
when the war was ended,

413

00:19:29,160 --> 00:19:32,460

they decided to evacuate us all.

414

00:19:32,460 --> 00:19:36,360

And in the process  
of evacuation,

415

00:19:36,360 --> 00:19:39,360

I suspect that the  
reason they evacuated us,

416  
00:19:39,360 --> 00:19:42,690  
that the soldiers  
who were guarding us,

417  
00:19:42,690 --> 00:19:45,060  
by the sheer fact that  
they were guarding us,

418  
00:19:45,060 --> 00:19:48,030  
were immune from going to the  
front line as the auxiliary.

419  
00:19:48,030 --> 00:19:50,310  
Because those were there  
as young people who would

420  
00:19:50,310 --> 00:19:51,390  
have been capable.

421  
00:19:51,390 --> 00:19:53,970  
So if they evacuated us,  
they had somebody to guard,

422  
00:19:53,970 --> 00:19:57,030  
and that protected them from  
going to the front line.

423  
00:19:57,030 --> 00:20:00,240  
We went what they call on the  
death march for three weeks.

424  
00:20:00,240 --> 00:20:01,170  
We were just marching.

425  
00:20:01,170 --> 00:20:03,712  
When I looked up at the world,  
we were just going in circles,

426  
00:20:03,712 --> 00:20:05,400  
getting nowhere.

427  
00:20:05,400 --> 00:20:08,945  
And we got no food.

428  
00:20:08,945 --> 00:20:10,320  
We didn't have  
anywhere to sleep.

429  
00:20:10,320 --> 00:20:11,010  
We didn't stop.

430  
00:20:11,010 --> 00:20:13,560  
It was just thousands  
and thousands

431  
00:20:13,560 --> 00:20:17,220  
of people lining the  
roads and walking around.

432  
00:20:17,220 --> 00:20:19,080  
And finally, toward  
the very end,

433  
00:20:19,080 --> 00:20:21,840  
they divided us  
into smaller groups.

434  
00:20:21,840 --> 00:20:28,810  
And they permitted us to  
go into different barns.

435  
00:20:28,810 --> 00:20:31,960  
We, for example,  
we entered a barn--

436  
00:20:31,960 --> 00:20:34,990  
there were about 300 women  
that they put into the barn

437  
00:20:34,990 --> 00:20:36,560  
at night--

438

00:20:36,560 --> 00:20:38,140  
and that was the  
first time that we

439  
00:20:38,140 --> 00:20:41,800  
were able to get off our  
feet and rest a little.

440  
00:20:41,800 --> 00:20:44,860  
We hardly could walk anymore.

441  
00:20:44,860 --> 00:20:48,160  
And we woke up in  
the morning and we

442  
00:20:48,160 --> 00:20:53,350  
saw there was a pile of German  
uniforms right at the doorway.

443  
00:20:53,350 --> 00:20:56,260  
And we were absolutely  
stunned by it.

444  
00:20:56,260 --> 00:20:58,930  
And we were afraid to get out,  
because we didn't know what

445  
00:20:58,930 --> 00:21:00,880  
was outside beyond that door.

446  
00:21:00,880 --> 00:21:02,050  
So we stayed there.

447  
00:21:02,050 --> 00:21:05,830  
And a day later, a manager  
of the state came in

448  
00:21:05,830 --> 00:21:07,690  
and he said the owners  
are on their way.

449  
00:21:07,690 --> 00:21:08,440  
I'm here.

450  
00:21:08,440 --> 00:21:10,760  
I don't really  
have food supplies.

451  
00:21:10,760 --> 00:21:14,800  
But there is a pile of potatoes  
that will start for the winter.

452  
00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:17,470  
Give me several women,  
and we will go out,

453  
00:21:17,470 --> 00:21:20,200  
and we'll make up some  
water with the potatoes,

454  
00:21:20,200 --> 00:21:22,180  
and you will have some food.

455  
00:21:22,180 --> 00:21:23,740  
And this was our great luck.

456  
00:21:23,740 --> 00:21:26,320  
Because after all  
the starvation,

457  
00:21:26,320 --> 00:21:29,230  
we could not return to eating  
because there was no food.

458  
00:21:29,230 --> 00:21:33,520  
It was a very, very gradual,  
slow return to food.

459  
00:21:33,520 --> 00:21:37,510  
He then took a bicycle  
and a white flag

460  
00:21:37,510 --> 00:21:40,780  
and went someplace to  
the nearest Red Cross



461

00:21:40,780 --> 00:21:43,900

post trying to get some help  
for us, to get some medication,

462

00:21:43,900 --> 00:21:44,700

to get some food.

463

00:21:44,700 --> 00:21:46,300

Got nothing.

464

00:21:46,300 --> 00:21:49,540

Came back, and we stayed  
there for a few days.

465

00:21:49,540 --> 00:21:53,550

Two Russian soldiers  
came in on a motorcycle.

466

00:21:53,550 --> 00:21:55,000

They were injured.

467

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:58,230

And since the  
shortage of watches

468

00:21:58,230 --> 00:22:00,470

in Russia was tremendous--

469

00:22:00,470 --> 00:22:02,470

they were not manufactured  
after the revolution.

470

00:22:02,470 --> 00:22:05,320

They first rounded  
up all the Germans,

471

00:22:05,320 --> 00:22:07,420

took all the watches  
from them, and then

472

00:22:07,420 --> 00:22:09,970

with a gun to the

mayor's head said,

473

00:22:09,970 --> 00:22:12,820  
we are coming back tomorrow,  
and every single woman

474

00:22:12,820 --> 00:22:15,410  
has to be in bed  
in a private home.

475

00:22:15,410 --> 00:22:19,810  
We will not permit you to house  
them like that in the barn.

476

00:22:19,810 --> 00:22:22,690  
The Germans were terrified  
and immediately arranged

477

00:22:22,690 --> 00:22:26,320  
through several villages to  
place us in different homes.

478

00:22:26,320 --> 00:22:30,370  
And we finally had a place  
to be like human beings.

479

00:22:30,370 --> 00:22:31,480  
They never came back.

480

00:22:31,480 --> 00:22:32,950  
And we didn't  
know, because there

481

00:22:32,950 --> 00:22:34,393  
was no communication,  
what's going

482

00:22:34,393 --> 00:22:35,560  
on in the rest of the world.

483

00:22:35,560 --> 00:22:37,990  
We were in those  
little villages.

484

00:22:37,990 --> 00:22:39,310

The peasants didn't know.

485

00:22:39,310 --> 00:22:39,970

We didn't know.

486

00:22:39,970 --> 00:22:42,428

There were some people, there  
was a man from Czechoslovakia

487

00:22:42,428 --> 00:22:45,160

who was sent to forced  
labor, and a lot

488

00:22:45,160 --> 00:22:47,230

of the people from the  
freedom who were working

489

00:22:47,230 --> 00:22:48,640

on forced labor in Germany.

490

00:22:48,640 --> 00:22:50,950

Nobody knew anything  
what was going on.

491

00:22:50,950 --> 00:22:52,870

And there was a  
village next door

492

00:22:52,870 --> 00:22:55,210

to which we had to  
go every few days

493

00:22:55,210 --> 00:22:58,480

to bring the bread because there  
was no bakery in this village.

494

00:22:58,480 --> 00:23:03,020

And one day, my  
girlfriend and myself,

495

00:23:03,020 --> 00:23:08,320  
we were walking to an adjoining  
village with a pushcart

496  
00:23:08,320 --> 00:23:11,890  
to get some bread  
for the village.

497  
00:23:11,890 --> 00:23:15,010  
And we still were wearing  
our prison dresses.

498  
00:23:15,010 --> 00:23:18,760  
That was the normal  
thing for us.

499  
00:23:18,760 --> 00:23:21,830  
And two soldiers  
came about and said,

500  
00:23:21,830 --> 00:23:23,350  
how come you're  
in prison dresses?

501  
00:23:23,350 --> 00:23:26,860  
And we looked at him wondering,  
what is he talking about?

502  
00:23:26,860 --> 00:23:27,910  
He said, don't you know?

503  
00:23:27,910 --> 00:23:30,490  
The war ended three days ago.

504  
00:23:30,490 --> 00:23:34,510  
So you can imagine we dropped  
everything and ran back.

505  
00:23:34,510 --> 00:23:37,270  
But then a very  
difficult time started.

506  
00:23:37,270 --> 00:23:42,010

Because we were  
in no man's land.

507  
00:23:42,010 --> 00:23:45,940  
At one time, several  
American journalists came in,

508  
00:23:45,940 --> 00:23:49,060  
and they brought some  
chocolates to the women.

509  
00:23:49,060 --> 00:23:51,410  
And I was very proud,  
and I said I'm not

510  
00:23:51,410 --> 00:23:52,660  
going to accept the chocolate.

511  
00:23:52,660 --> 00:23:54,490  
I'm not going to take anything.

512  
00:23:54,490 --> 00:23:56,290  
And it was lucky,  
because the ones that did

513  
00:23:56,290 --> 00:23:59,410  
got very sick because  
that was too heavy.

514  
00:23:59,410 --> 00:24:03,010  
We couldn't handle  
something like that.

515  
00:24:03,010 --> 00:24:08,800  
And what started because  
there was no authorities,

516  
00:24:08,800 --> 00:24:12,220  
this became like the free ground  
for the Russians to come in.

517  
00:24:12,220 --> 00:24:13,780  
And the rape was tremendous.

518  
00:24:13,780 --> 00:24:16,300  
As a matter of fact,  
they killed some women.

519  
00:24:16,300 --> 00:24:20,860  
And their attitude was we  
put our lives on the line,

520  
00:24:20,860 --> 00:24:23,620  
therefore, we have the right  
to do whatever we want to do.

521  
00:24:23,620 --> 00:24:26,830  
It's our privilege to do it.

522  
00:24:26,830 --> 00:24:28,900  
And there was a  
lot of harassment

523  
00:24:28,900 --> 00:24:31,010  
and a lot of difficulty.

524  
00:24:31,010 --> 00:24:33,760  
So after a few days, we  
just packed up and left.

525  
00:24:33,760 --> 00:24:36,196  
We just decided that--

526  
00:24:36,196 --> 00:24:38,770  
and besides, we were very  
anxious to go back home,

527  
00:24:38,770 --> 00:24:42,640  
thinking that being that  
we had the car at home,

528  
00:24:42,640 --> 00:24:45,970  
and we knew that if anybody  
from the family survived,

529

00:24:45,970 --> 00:24:49,420  
would come to Krakow  
to this house.

530  
00:24:49,420 --> 00:24:52,030  
So we wanted to get there  
as soon as possible.

531  
00:24:52,030 --> 00:24:54,400  
And then we boarded trains.

532  
00:24:54,400 --> 00:24:56,500  
There were no normal  
trains running.

533  
00:24:56,500 --> 00:25:02,680  
But the transport trains,  
they went for a few miles.

534  
00:25:02,680 --> 00:25:04,540  
And there was nothing  
loaded on them.

535  
00:25:04,540 --> 00:25:06,930  
They permitted us  
to board the trains.

536  
00:25:06,930 --> 00:25:08,920  
They were usually  
up in platforms.

537  
00:25:08,920 --> 00:25:11,710  
And then we went a trip  
that normally takes

538  
00:25:11,710 --> 00:25:14,020  
maybe seven hours, eight hours.

539  
00:25:14,020 --> 00:25:16,210  
It took us an excess  
of a week, because it

540  
00:25:16,210 --> 00:25:18,730

would be an hour of  
riding, and then we

541  
00:25:18,730 --> 00:25:21,460  
had to wait a day or two  
till something else came

542  
00:25:21,460 --> 00:25:22,730  
across that would take us.

543  
00:25:22,730 --> 00:25:24,340  
Who accompanied  
you on that trip?

544  
00:25:24,340 --> 00:25:26,210  
My mother and this  
friend of mine.

545  
00:25:26,210 --> 00:25:26,950  
And the friend.

546  
00:25:26,950 --> 00:25:29,895  
As a matter of fact,  
she lives now in Clark.

547  
00:25:29,895 --> 00:25:33,670

548  
00:25:33,670 --> 00:25:35,820  
It was also a strange  
story, because we

549  
00:25:35,820 --> 00:25:38,160  
got lost after the  
war and didn't know

550  
00:25:38,160 --> 00:25:39,600  
about each other for 20 years.

551  
00:25:39,600 --> 00:25:42,160  
And we met by  
coincidence in New York



552

00:25:42,160 --> 00:25:44,220

and found out that we're  
living 10 minutes away

553

00:25:44,220 --> 00:25:44,906

from each other.

554

00:25:44,906 --> 00:25:45,406

Right.

555

00:25:45,406 --> 00:25:49,050

[INAUDIBLE] So what happened  
when you came back to Krakow?

556

00:25:49,050 --> 00:25:50,820

So when we came  
back to Krakow, we

557

00:25:50,820 --> 00:25:53,520

tried to get back into  
our own apartment, which

558

00:25:53,520 --> 00:25:58,590

we gave to a Polish family who  
had to escape the Nazis closer

559

00:25:58,590 --> 00:26:00,990

to the border.

560

00:26:00,990 --> 00:26:03,630

We gave it to them  
together with the contents,

561

00:26:03,630 --> 00:26:09,370

because when they made  
us leave the town,

562

00:26:09,370 --> 00:26:11,370

we didn't want the Germans  
to get the apartment.

563

00:26:11,370 --> 00:26:14,250

And she needed one,  
so we let her have it.

564  
00:26:14,250 --> 00:26:17,550  
We could not repossess the whole  
apartment, because you only

565  
00:26:17,550 --> 00:26:20,790  
got that many square  
foot per person,

566  
00:26:20,790 --> 00:26:23,220  
and there was just  
the two of us.

567  
00:26:23,220 --> 00:26:24,780  
And when we came,  
she said she's not

568  
00:26:24,780 --> 00:26:26,100  
going to live with strangers.

569  
00:26:26,100 --> 00:26:29,050  
And she was quite nasty  
about the whole situation.

570  
00:26:29,050 --> 00:26:33,870  
And life was too short at  
that time to start fighting

571  
00:26:33,870 --> 00:26:39,330  
and to get into a place  
and sharing an apartment

572  
00:26:39,330 --> 00:26:40,590  
with somebody who was hostile.

573  
00:26:40,590 --> 00:26:43,260  
So we just dropped  
the whole thing.

574  
00:26:43,260 --> 00:26:47,640  
And at the end, this woman

took us in and gave us

575

00:26:47,640 --> 00:26:50,910

a room in her apartment.

576

00:26:50,910 --> 00:26:52,590

Obviously we didn't

pay her for it.

577

00:26:52,590 --> 00:26:53,970

We didn't give her anything.

578

00:26:53,970 --> 00:26:57,810

And it was just that she

decided to give us a shelter.

579

00:26:57,810 --> 00:26:59,670

And then eventually

down the line,

580

00:26:59,670 --> 00:27:01,560

we were able to

get an assignment

581

00:27:01,560 --> 00:27:04,660

for a tiny little room

in a basement someplace.

582

00:27:04,660 --> 00:27:06,995

And that's where we

lived for five years.

583

00:27:06,995 --> 00:27:07,620

For five years.

584

00:27:07,620 --> 00:27:08,453

Then we left Poland.

585

00:27:08,453 --> 00:27:09,150

Yeah.

586

00:27:09,150 --> 00:27:10,725

So then you left Poland in 19--

587  
00:27:10,725 --> 00:27:11,610  
1950.

588  
00:27:11,610 --> 00:27:12,720  
In 1950.

589  
00:27:12,720 --> 00:27:15,230  
Yeah.

590  
00:27:15,230 --> 00:27:18,750  
How did you happen to  
come to the United States?

591  
00:27:18,750 --> 00:27:23,490  
I married a man who  
lived in America.

592  
00:27:23,490 --> 00:27:27,180  
My road was I met my  
husband during the war--

593  
00:27:27,180 --> 00:27:30,360  
actually, I'm sorry, right  
after the war in school.

594  
00:27:30,360 --> 00:27:31,710  
And he immediately left.

595  
00:27:31,710 --> 00:27:34,530  
He lived in Germany  
and studied in Germany.

596  
00:27:34,530 --> 00:27:36,150  
And I stayed in Poland.

597  
00:27:36,150 --> 00:27:38,730  
And when Israel  
was created, they

598  
00:27:38,730 --> 00:27:41,830

gave us a right to  
emigrate to Israel.

599

00:27:41,830 --> 00:27:44,730

So when I came to Israel, he was  
by then already in the States.

600

00:27:44,730 --> 00:27:47,380

He came over, we were  
married, and I came here.

601

00:27:47,380 --> 00:27:50,220

Oh, so what year then did  
you emigrate to Israel.

602

00:27:50,220 --> 00:27:51,720

1950.

603

00:27:51,720 --> 00:27:54,060

Oh, in 1950 you went  
directly to Israel.

604

00:27:54,060 --> 00:27:56,830

Directly to Israel, yes.

605

00:27:56,830 --> 00:27:58,860

And then in '52 I came here.

606

00:27:58,860 --> 00:28:00,990

And in 1952, you came  
to the United States.

607

00:28:00,990 --> 00:28:03,090

Yeah.

608

00:28:03,090 --> 00:28:05,490

Which was also a very  
difficult situation,

609

00:28:05,490 --> 00:28:08,430

because we were married, and  
for still another year after we

610

00:28:08,430 --> 00:28:11,340

were married, I could  
not get American papers.

611

00:28:11,340 --> 00:28:14,430

They would not let us come in.

612

00:28:14,430 --> 00:28:17,760

I was able, finally,  
as a wife of a--

613

00:28:17,760 --> 00:28:20,610

he was not yet a  
citizen, but a resident.

614

00:28:20,610 --> 00:28:22,260

I was able to come,  
but they would not

615

00:28:22,260 --> 00:28:23,400

permit my mother to come.

616

00:28:23,400 --> 00:28:26,310

And my mother had to stay in  
Israel for another five years.

617

00:28:26,310 --> 00:28:30,390

And they would not permit her to  
come till I got my citizenship.

618

00:28:30,390 --> 00:28:32,370

And then I could bring her over.

619

00:28:32,370 --> 00:28:36,170

So the door wasn't open  
even after the war.

620

00:28:36,170 --> 00:28:37,720

Just come back to Krakow.

621

00:28:37,720 --> 00:28:40,290

You were in Krakow

from 1945 to 1950.

622

00:28:40,290 --> 00:28:41,340

That's correct.

623

00:28:41,340 --> 00:28:44,310

What was life like in Krakow  
during those five years?

624

00:28:44,310 --> 00:28:46,710

I came to Krakow immediately.

625

00:28:46,710 --> 00:28:49,230

I decided I'm going  
to live on my own.

626

00:28:49,230 --> 00:28:53,260

On my own living, there was  
a lot of help coming in,

627

00:28:53,260 --> 00:28:55,590

and I didn't want it.

628

00:28:55,590 --> 00:28:59,580

One organization that I felt  
was really outstanding was ORT.

629

00:28:59,580 --> 00:29:01,440

Because they were  
teaching trade and they

630

00:29:01,440 --> 00:29:05,370

were giving people opportunity  
to get on their own two feet.

631

00:29:05,370 --> 00:29:09,540

And this is why I today  
believe so strongly

632

00:29:09,540 --> 00:29:15,030

that if you want to help people,  
help them become independent.

633

00:29:15,030 --> 00:29:17,820

And I took some  
courses from ORT,

634

00:29:17,820 --> 00:29:21,990

and I also started working  
in a sewing factory.

635

00:29:21,990 --> 00:29:24,420

I was sewing German uniforms.

636

00:29:24,420 --> 00:29:27,060

And shortly after,  
the news came in

637

00:29:27,060 --> 00:29:30,180

that they're trying  
to form a school.

638

00:29:30,180 --> 00:29:32,160

And I helped  
organize the school.

639

00:29:32,160 --> 00:29:36,930

And they gave us the possibility  
to attend school in the evening

640

00:29:36,930 --> 00:29:40,500

while working during  
the day for credit.

641

00:29:40,500 --> 00:29:42,960

And they abbreviated  
high school,

642

00:29:42,960 --> 00:29:46,660

because obviously I had lost the  
whole six years of education.

643

00:29:46,660 --> 00:29:48,210

I didn't go to  
high school at all



644

00:29:48,210 --> 00:29:50,820

because I was in sixth  
grade when the war ended.

645

00:29:50,820 --> 00:29:54,360

And within a year, I was able  
to make up the high school

646

00:29:54,360 --> 00:29:55,800

equivalency.

647

00:29:55,800 --> 00:30:00,000

And conditionally on that, they  
admitted us into University

648

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:02,130

in order to give  
us a possibility

649

00:30:02,130 --> 00:30:05,850

to finish the high school  
education while already

650

00:30:05,850 --> 00:30:08,800

enrolled in the first  
year of college.

651

00:30:08,800 --> 00:30:15,100

And as a result, I was able  
to make up all the lost years.

652

00:30:15,100 --> 00:30:17,940

And within five years, I  
graduated with a master's

653

00:30:17,940 --> 00:30:20,190

degree in musicology.

654

00:30:20,190 --> 00:30:24,360

When I graduated,  
I was not quite 24.

655

00:30:24,360 --> 00:30:27,000

So when you think about  
it, all those last years

656

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:31,360

really didn't delay me in  
completing my education.

657

00:30:31,360 --> 00:30:33,510

And that was a tremendous  
satisfaction as a result.

658

00:30:33,510 --> 00:30:37,560

I never really used it,  
because I left Poland

659

00:30:37,560 --> 00:30:39,780

the moment I graduated.

660

00:30:39,780 --> 00:30:43,050

And in Israel in 1950,  
there wasn't exactly

661

00:30:43,050 --> 00:30:46,560

a great big field  
for musicologists.

662

00:30:46,560 --> 00:30:48,690

So I never worked  
in my profession

663

00:30:48,690 --> 00:30:50,580

for a finite extent of time.

664

00:30:50,580 --> 00:30:58,050

But it gave me a  
very good feeling.

665

00:30:58,050 --> 00:31:02,310

And I felt tremendous pride  
in being able to achieve it.

666

00:31:02,310 --> 00:31:04,440

Were you ever questioned  
during those years

667  
00:31:04,440 --> 00:31:08,490  
by any of the Allied officials  
about your experiences

668  
00:31:08,490 --> 00:31:09,780  
during the war?

669  
00:31:09,780 --> 00:31:11,910  
No.

670  
00:31:11,910 --> 00:31:16,980  
No I did not have the  
opportunity to talk to anybody.

671  
00:31:16,980 --> 00:31:20,280  
What other organizations  
between 1945 and 1950

672  
00:31:20,280 --> 00:31:24,030  
in Krakow were offering  
assistance other than ORT?

673  
00:31:24,030 --> 00:31:27,810  
It was UNRWA and--

674  
00:31:27,810 --> 00:31:33,120  
basically it was UNRWA and ORT.

675  
00:31:33,120 --> 00:31:36,420  
They did have a  
tremendous organization

676  
00:31:36,420 --> 00:31:39,270  
where they were bringing goods,  
they were supporting hospitals.

677  
00:31:39,270 --> 00:31:43,980  
I can't minimize that because  
this was really a lifeblood

678

00:31:43,980 --> 00:31:46,027  
to many, many people.

679

00:31:46,027 --> 00:31:47,610  
There were many sick  
people, and there

680

00:31:47,610 --> 00:31:50,220  
were people who needed  
assistance and wanted

681

00:31:50,220 --> 00:31:51,720  
assistance.

682

00:31:51,720 --> 00:31:57,040  
But I was a little apprehensive,  
because in many instances,

683

00:31:57,040 --> 00:32:00,870  
it prevented some people  
from taking their own steps

684

00:32:00,870 --> 00:32:03,660  
and restoring their  
life and also created

685

00:32:03,660 --> 00:32:04,800  
a lot of corruption.

686

00:32:04,800 --> 00:32:08,610  
Because free goods were  
coming and the ones who

687

00:32:08,610 --> 00:32:12,420  
had the jurisdiction of  
it help themselves to it.

688

00:32:12,420 --> 00:32:14,730  
But without it, it would  
have been totally impossible.

689

00:32:14,730 --> 00:32:17,910

Because it was very  
nice to say that you

690  
00:32:17,910 --> 00:32:19,230  
want to do things on your own.

691  
00:32:19,230 --> 00:32:21,598  
But if everybody  
would have said it,

692  
00:32:21,598 --> 00:32:22,890  
it wouldn't have been possible.

693  
00:32:22,890 --> 00:32:26,790  
It was possible because for the  
few people that tried to do it,

694  
00:32:26,790 --> 00:32:30,610  
there was always room, but  
not for so many people.

695  
00:32:30,610 --> 00:32:33,030  
And then in 1952, you  
came to the United States.

696  
00:32:33,030 --> 00:32:34,020  
Yeah.

697  
00:32:34,020 --> 00:32:34,990  
To New York?

698  
00:32:34,990 --> 00:32:35,490  
Yes.

699  
00:32:35,490 --> 00:32:37,143  
I came originally to New York.

700  
00:32:37,143 --> 00:32:39,060  
And I lived in New York  
for about three months

701  
00:32:39,060 --> 00:32:41,430

and decided I didn't  
want to live in the city.

702  
00:32:41,430 --> 00:32:43,290  
I moved right away  
to New Jersey.

703  
00:32:43,290 --> 00:32:44,790  
You came over with your mother?

704  
00:32:44,790 --> 00:32:45,540  
No, no.

705  
00:32:45,540 --> 00:32:47,297  
My mother had to wait  
another five years--

706  
00:32:47,297 --> 00:32:47,880  
Oh, I'm sorry.

707  
00:32:47,880 --> 00:32:48,260  
--until she was  
permitted to come here.

708  
00:32:48,260 --> 00:32:49,800  
That's right.

709  
00:32:49,800 --> 00:32:52,740  
I came alone.

710  
00:32:52,740 --> 00:32:55,500  
We got an apartment  
in Union City.

711  
00:32:55,500 --> 00:32:58,290  
And we lived in Union City  
in New Jersey for four years.

712  
00:32:58,290 --> 00:33:00,610  
And then I had my first child.

713  
00:33:00,610 --> 00:33:02,760

So then I stopped working.

714

00:33:02,760 --> 00:33:05,970

And my husband continued  
with his career,

715

00:33:05,970 --> 00:33:07,530

but I stopped working.

716

00:33:07,530 --> 00:33:09,420

For the time, I was  
raising the children.

717

00:33:09,420 --> 00:33:12,060

718

00:33:12,060 --> 00:33:14,130

What was your  
perception of the United

719

00:33:14,130 --> 00:33:15,510

States when you came here?

720

00:33:15,510 --> 00:33:19,410

At first when I came,  
I was very unhappy.

721

00:33:19,410 --> 00:33:21,510

First of all, I have  
resented the fact

722

00:33:21,510 --> 00:33:24,630

that I was treated very  
badly in the American embassy

723

00:33:24,630 --> 00:33:27,660

when I applied for the papers.

724

00:33:27,660 --> 00:33:30,330

This was 1950, 1951.

725

00:33:30,330 --> 00:33:33,060

The receptionist at  
the American embassy

726  
00:33:33,060 --> 00:33:36,630  
was an Egyptian woman  
who treated Jews

727  
00:33:36,630 --> 00:33:38,040  
in a terrible manner.

728  
00:33:38,040 --> 00:33:42,990  
And we were interrogated and  
treated in such a terrible way

729  
00:33:42,990 --> 00:33:46,110  
that I really  
didn't want to come.

730  
00:33:46,110 --> 00:33:49,470  
And I had a terrible  
image of American people.

731  
00:33:49,470 --> 00:33:54,450  
I felt that everybody  
was moneygrubbing

732  
00:33:54,450 --> 00:33:56,700  
and that everybody was  
pushy and that people

733  
00:33:56,700 --> 00:34:00,360  
were callous and people were  
just awful, self-centered.

734  
00:34:00,360 --> 00:34:04,440  
And so far, the image all over  
Europe wasn't the greatest.

735  
00:34:04,440 --> 00:34:05,970  
Because people  
didn't really travel.

736  
00:34:05,970 --> 00:34:07,870



There was no exposure.

737

00:34:07,870 --> 00:34:11,909

And it took me quite a  
long time to really sift

738

00:34:11,909 --> 00:34:16,110

through the whole thing and find  
out who the people really were

739

00:34:16,110 --> 00:34:19,440

and what was here and what  
were the opportunities.

740

00:34:19,440 --> 00:34:21,420

And it came to me  
as quite a shock

741

00:34:21,420 --> 00:34:25,139

to find out that there is  
no other nation like it,

742

00:34:25,139 --> 00:34:27,300

there are no other  
people like this.

743

00:34:27,300 --> 00:34:30,900

But the image in the world,  
the ugly American image,

744

00:34:30,900 --> 00:34:32,730

it's not a movie.

745

00:34:32,730 --> 00:34:35,489

It's reality.

746

00:34:35,489 --> 00:34:39,929

Because the people who first  
ventured abroad were people who

747

00:34:39,929 --> 00:34:41,909

the nouveau rich  
for the most part.

748  
00:34:41,909 --> 00:34:44,550  
And it wasn't the nouveau  
rich who ventured.

749  
00:34:44,550 --> 00:34:46,320  
Those were the ones  
who made the impact

750  
00:34:46,320 --> 00:34:48,150  
because they were noticeable.

751  
00:34:48,150 --> 00:34:50,010  
They came at the  
time-- this was Vogue

752  
00:34:50,010 --> 00:34:52,560  
wearing the Hawaiian  
shirts and all this.

753  
00:34:52,560 --> 00:34:56,840  
And people came, they  
had comparatively money

754  
00:34:56,840 --> 00:35:01,275  
to everybody, and they  
tried to wield the power

755  
00:35:01,275 --> 00:35:02,400  
because they had the money.

756  
00:35:02,400 --> 00:35:04,650  
So they expected  
everybody to bow for it.

757  
00:35:04,650 --> 00:35:06,540  
By the way, the  
very small minority

758  
00:35:06,540 --> 00:35:09,080  
who came in this fashion,  
the others who came

759

00:35:09,080 --> 00:35:10,920  
weren't noticed.

760

00:35:10,920 --> 00:35:14,310  
So as a result, this was  
the image that stayed.

761

00:35:14,310 --> 00:35:16,770  
And everything else  
that went wasn't noticed

762

00:35:16,770 --> 00:35:18,360  
because it was not conspicuous.

763

00:35:18,360 --> 00:35:20,910  
It was done in a  
peaceful manner,

764

00:35:20,910 --> 00:35:22,200  
so nobody knew it was there.

765

00:35:22,200 --> 00:35:27,150

766

00:35:27,150 --> 00:35:29,730  
So you went from New  
York to Union City.

767

00:35:29,730 --> 00:35:30,450  
To Union City.

768

00:35:30,450 --> 00:35:33,750  
And we lived in Union  
City for five years.

769

00:35:33,750 --> 00:35:36,420  
And then we moved  
into New Brunswick

770

00:35:36,420 --> 00:35:37,653  
for another four years.

771

00:35:37,653 --> 00:35:39,070

And then the rest  
of the time, I'm

772

00:35:39,070 --> 00:35:41,220

already for 23  
years in Watchung.

773

00:35:41,220 --> 00:35:42,720

In Watchung.

774

00:35:42,720 --> 00:35:44,880

What was the reaction  
of the Jewish community

775

00:35:44,880 --> 00:35:48,720

that you encountered in  
New York or in New Jersey?

776

00:35:48,720 --> 00:35:52,950

In New York at that time, the  
Jewish community that I knew

777

00:35:52,950 --> 00:35:56,770

were only the people who  
came before me to America.

778

00:35:56,770 --> 00:35:58,980

And I decided if  
I was coming here,

779

00:35:58,980 --> 00:36:01,660

I was not going to live  
in the ghetto from Europe.

780

00:36:01,660 --> 00:36:05,580

And I very shortly cut off ties.

781

00:36:05,580 --> 00:36:09,930

And that's when we moved  
into Union City, where

782

00:36:09,930 --> 00:36:13,110

I had no special connection  
with the Jewish community

783

00:36:13,110 --> 00:36:14,310

at that time.

784

00:36:14,310 --> 00:36:17,670

I was involved with  
the young people.

785

00:36:17,670 --> 00:36:19,288

We moved to New  
Brunswick, I was not

786

00:36:19,288 --> 00:36:20,580

very much involved in anything.

787

00:36:20,580 --> 00:36:22,380

I was working in  
New York, commuting,

788

00:36:22,380 --> 00:36:24,210

and I didn't know  
too many people.

789

00:36:24,210 --> 00:36:26,550

I had some neighbors with  
whom I was very close,

790

00:36:26,550 --> 00:36:29,190

Italian people  
whom we befriended.

791

00:36:29,190 --> 00:36:32,100

And I really tried  
to make an effort

792

00:36:32,100 --> 00:36:36,720

to get to know the American  
people and the American way

793

00:36:36,720 --> 00:36:37,450

of life.

794

00:36:37,450 --> 00:36:39,120

I worked in a bank.

795

00:36:39,120 --> 00:36:42,420

I had an opportunity to work  
in a sewing factory, because I

796

00:36:42,420 --> 00:36:45,270

had the skills and the pay  
was three times as big.

797

00:36:45,270 --> 00:36:47,770

But I felt that if I would  
go, I would sit again

798

00:36:47,770 --> 00:36:51,810

among immigrants who  
didn't speak English.

799

00:36:51,810 --> 00:36:53,250

I could not learn the language.

800

00:36:53,250 --> 00:36:56,940

I could not learn the  
customs and the way of life

801

00:36:56,940 --> 00:36:57,570

in the States.

802

00:36:57,570 --> 00:36:59,700

And I didn't want  
to stand still,

803

00:36:59,700 --> 00:37:02,100

so I took the job in  
the bank because I

804

00:37:02,100 --> 00:37:05,100

felt the exposure would  
be much more interesting.

805

00:37:05,100 --> 00:37:06,810

And as a matter  
of fact, I worked

806

00:37:06,810 --> 00:37:09,210

with Senator Javits' sister.

807

00:37:09,210 --> 00:37:11,370

She was the sister or cousin.

808

00:37:11,370 --> 00:37:14,250

She was the vice president  
in charge of my section.

809

00:37:14,250 --> 00:37:16,770

So I had a pretty  
good introduction

810

00:37:16,770 --> 00:37:19,770

to what the life  
here has to offer.

811

00:37:19,770 --> 00:37:22,680

And that changed my  
views drastically.

812

00:37:22,680 --> 00:37:26,430

And then when we went  
to New Brunswick,

813

00:37:26,430 --> 00:37:31,290

I started getting interested in  
American politics, finding out,

814

00:37:31,290 --> 00:37:33,100

how does the country function?

815

00:37:33,100 --> 00:37:35,400

I joined the League  
of Women Voters.

816

00:37:35,400 --> 00:37:39,640

And that was a very  
big eye-opener for me.

817  
00:37:39,640 --> 00:37:43,170  
I finally found out, what  
does it mean, democracy?

818  
00:37:43,170 --> 00:37:46,270  
And how does it  
work and what it is.

819  
00:37:46,270 --> 00:37:49,410  
And from there on,  
I have been always

820  
00:37:49,410 --> 00:37:54,420  
very involved in the public  
life in many different facets.

821  
00:37:54,420 --> 00:37:59,640  
But not until my children were  
ready to go to religious school

822  
00:37:59,640 --> 00:38:03,300  
that I even considered looking  
at the Jewish community

823  
00:38:03,300 --> 00:38:05,550  
and the Jewish organization.

824  
00:38:05,550 --> 00:38:10,503  
I didn't feel that it  
had any place in my life.

825  
00:38:10,503 --> 00:38:11,670  
I didn't know much about it.

826  
00:38:11,670 --> 00:38:13,500  
I didn't know where  
to go about it.

827  
00:38:13,500 --> 00:38:15,690  
I had no contact with it.



828  
00:38:15,690 --> 00:38:18,240  
I finally joined a  
temple when it was

829  
00:38:18,240 --> 00:38:19,680  
time to send my kids to school.

830  
00:38:19,680 --> 00:38:24,660

831  
00:38:24,660 --> 00:38:26,205  
It swallowed me very fast.

832  
00:38:26,205 --> 00:38:30,180

833  
00:38:30,180 --> 00:38:31,270  
What would you say--

834  
00:38:31,270 --> 00:38:33,540  
I know this is a very  
difficult question to answer.

835  
00:38:33,540 --> 00:38:36,960  
But what are the  
lessons of the Holocaust

836  
00:38:36,960 --> 00:38:39,660  
to be learned, to  
be transmitted?

837  
00:38:39,660 --> 00:38:41,460  
I think that--

838  
00:38:41,460 --> 00:38:43,410  
I do speak a lot  
on the Holocaust.

839  
00:38:43,410 --> 00:38:47,730  
And I usually like  
to go to schools

840

00:38:47,730 --> 00:38:51,570  
where the children have problems  
functioning in the society.

841

00:38:51,570 --> 00:38:53,400  
And many of the  
schools that I do

842

00:38:53,400 --> 00:38:57,000  
speak to are schools  
in the ghettos.

843

00:38:57,000 --> 00:39:00,330  
And I feel it's very  
essential for them

844

00:39:00,330 --> 00:39:03,210  
to understand that  
the society is not

845

00:39:03,210 --> 00:39:08,140  
going to make a life for them  
good, great, or indifferent,

846

00:39:08,140 --> 00:39:12,330  
that it's their attitude and  
their ability to function

847

00:39:12,330 --> 00:39:16,020  
and their desire to  
function that can give them

848

00:39:16,020 --> 00:39:19,050  
the opportunity to  
get into the lifestyle

849

00:39:19,050 --> 00:39:21,310  
that they would like to be.

850

00:39:21,310 --> 00:39:25,830  
I feel that anger is  
very counterproductive.

851

00:39:25,830 --> 00:39:28,830

Because if you are angry and  
you go and break a window,

852

00:39:28,830 --> 00:39:31,380

nobody really cares whether  
you broke the window.

853

00:39:31,380 --> 00:39:34,200

Nobody is going to give  
you a bouquet of flowers

854

00:39:34,200 --> 00:39:35,400

when you did it.

855

00:39:35,400 --> 00:39:38,400

But you wind up in jail,  
and you have a record.

856

00:39:38,400 --> 00:39:42,540

And that anger prevents you from  
functioning and doing something

857

00:39:42,540 --> 00:39:44,350

constructive for yourself.

858

00:39:44,350 --> 00:39:46,990

But it just doesn't  
solve anything.

859

00:39:46,990 --> 00:39:49,560

And it is very  
amazing to them to see

860

00:39:49,560 --> 00:39:54,930

me walk into the classroom and  
talk to them, how hungry I was

861

00:39:54,930 --> 00:40:00,060

and how deprived I was of  
any human dignity, and yet,

862

00:40:00,060 --> 00:40:04,030

that it was in my power  
to do something about it.

863

00:40:04,030 --> 00:40:06,810

It is an absolute  
revelation to them.

864

00:40:06,810 --> 00:40:10,410

Because they think  
because our society has

865

00:40:10,410 --> 00:40:15,240

a tendency of saying, you  
have the rights to do it

866

00:40:15,240 --> 00:40:18,120

and people are doing such  
terrible things to you.

867

00:40:18,120 --> 00:40:19,520

They sit and they wait.

868

00:40:19,520 --> 00:40:21,270

It people are doing  
terrible things to me,

869

00:40:21,270 --> 00:40:23,730

they are to do  
great things to me.

870

00:40:23,730 --> 00:40:25,920

And it's not true either way.

871

00:40:25,920 --> 00:40:27,300

You have to do it yourself.

872

00:40:27,300 --> 00:40:28,800

And I think this  
is a lesson that

873

00:40:28,800 --> 00:40:34,800

is very strongly overlooked,  
that it is our obligation

874  
00:40:34,800 --> 00:40:37,470  
to give everybody the tools  
and the encouragement,

875  
00:40:37,470 --> 00:40:41,550  
to give them the understanding  
how much is in their hands

876  
00:40:41,550 --> 00:40:44,550  
what they can accomplish  
with it, what they have

877  
00:40:44,550 --> 00:40:47,890  
and where it can get them.

878  
00:40:47,890 --> 00:40:50,490  
And I think this is why  
teaching Holocaust is

879  
00:40:50,490 --> 00:40:52,200  
such an important factor.

880  
00:40:52,200 --> 00:40:55,360  
Because if we just want  
to go back and say,

881  
00:40:55,360 --> 00:40:58,620  
all right, we want the sympathy  
because so many people were

882  
00:40:58,620 --> 00:41:01,800  
killed and we want the  
sympathy because we

883  
00:41:01,800 --> 00:41:05,160  
had a difficult time,  
nobody will listen.

884  
00:41:05,160 --> 00:41:08,865  
Because they have guilt.

Because it's past history.

885  
00:41:08,865 --> 00:41:11,400

886  
00:41:11,400 --> 00:41:14,340  
And then you see  
the number of movies

887  
00:41:14,340 --> 00:41:16,447  
that were produced that  
show all the horrors,

888  
00:41:16,447 --> 00:41:18,030  
and they start looking  
at it like they

889  
00:41:18,030 --> 00:41:20,100  
were watching Hitchcock movie.

890  
00:41:20,100 --> 00:41:24,790  
And unless we can relate to what  
happens if you go to a school

891  
00:41:24,790 --> 00:41:27,690  
where there is a very  
strongly segregated group

892  
00:41:27,690 --> 00:41:31,140  
and they think they are  
superior because they might be

893  
00:41:31,140 --> 00:41:35,910  
the model, the tall,  
blond, blue-eyed

894  
00:41:35,910 --> 00:41:40,290  
with all the trimmings  
that is, and you show them

895  
00:41:40,290 --> 00:41:43,290  
what the tall, blond,  
blue-eyed intellectuals did

896  
00:41:43,290 --> 00:41:45,270  
to the rest of the  
world, then they

897  
00:41:45,270 --> 00:41:49,290  
start looking at the others  
and understanding that it's not

898  
00:41:49,290 --> 00:41:52,740  
such a tremendous glory in it,  
that this is not sufficient,

899  
00:41:52,740 --> 00:41:54,720  
that, all right, you  
are part of a society

900  
00:41:54,720 --> 00:41:59,310  
and you should be respected, but  
you have to respect the others.

901  
00:41:59,310 --> 00:42:01,710  
Nobody gives you  
the lease on it.

902  
00:42:01,710 --> 00:42:05,070  
And you don't really  
have the advantage of it.

903  
00:42:05,070 --> 00:42:06,780  
It is how you turn  
it and what you

904  
00:42:06,780 --> 00:42:12,300  
do with it that gives you  
the aim to strike at someone.

905  
00:42:12,300 --> 00:42:14,920  
And that isn't such  
a great thing to do.

906  
00:42:14,920 --> 00:42:21,120  
There is no glory and no

dignity in it and no beauty.

907

00:42:21,120 --> 00:42:23,130

And when you look at  
people who are having

908

00:42:23,130 --> 00:42:26,820

a very difficult time,  
you should understand

909

00:42:26,820 --> 00:42:30,060

that those are not subhumans.

910

00:42:30,060 --> 00:42:32,760

And I think even also again  
on the other spectrum,

911

00:42:32,760 --> 00:42:38,130

to see the kids who knew  
the treatment we received

912

00:42:38,130 --> 00:42:43,050

and see what we emerged from  
it, they all of a sudden start

913

00:42:43,050 --> 00:42:46,650

thinking, you know something,  
we are mistreating somebody.

914

00:42:46,650 --> 00:42:50,370

And they probably aren't what  
we are trying to paint them.

915

00:42:50,370 --> 00:42:52,980

They might be something  
else beneath that.

916

00:42:52,980 --> 00:42:55,420

Maybe we shouldn't do it.

917

00:42:55,420 --> 00:42:58,890

So I hope that it will  
be understood and taught



918  
00:42:58,890 --> 00:43:01,650  
in that vein and not  
with bitterness and not

919  
00:43:01,650 --> 00:43:03,720  
with viciousness.

920  
00:43:03,720 --> 00:43:06,360  
The children asked me if I would  
see a German on the street,

921  
00:43:06,360 --> 00:43:08,790  
would I kill him?

922  
00:43:08,790 --> 00:43:12,810  
And I explain to them  
I wasn't surprised

923  
00:43:12,810 --> 00:43:13,920  
that they asked me that.

924  
00:43:13,920 --> 00:43:16,620  
It was in a ghetto school,  
and I could understand

925  
00:43:16,620 --> 00:43:17,820  
where they were coming from.

926  
00:43:17,820 --> 00:43:21,210  
And I tried to explain to  
them that the Germans were

927  
00:43:21,210 --> 00:43:22,980  
teaching us a certain lesson.

928  
00:43:22,980 --> 00:43:26,160  
If I were to do it, I  
would emulate the Germans.

929  
00:43:26,160 --> 00:43:29,350  
They are not exactly my model.

930

00:43:29,350 --> 00:43:31,800

Therefore, for me to  
turn around and walk away

931

00:43:31,800 --> 00:43:33,930

with it, with the hatred--

932

00:43:33,930 --> 00:43:37,590

granted, it is to the  
Germans, but it is a hatred.

933

00:43:37,590 --> 00:43:40,050

It is something that I condemn.

934

00:43:40,050 --> 00:43:43,590

So to turn around and say, all  
right, now I have the right

935

00:43:43,590 --> 00:43:47,760

to do it, I'm putting  
myself just exactly together

936

00:43:47,760 --> 00:43:49,050

with them in line.

937

00:43:49,050 --> 00:43:51,210

And this is what I  
want them to see.

938

00:43:51,210 --> 00:43:54,030

I said I will never  
forgive anybody.

939

00:43:54,030 --> 00:43:59,010

I will never let any criminal  
go without proper trial.

940

00:43:59,010 --> 00:44:02,280

But I will never think to  
put justice in my own hands.

941

00:44:02,280 --> 00:44:05,430

Because this is why we  
are civilized people,

942

00:44:05,430 --> 00:44:09,120

that we make people  
accountable for their actions,

943

00:44:09,120 --> 00:44:11,920

and we want them in the  
proper court of law.

944

00:44:11,920 --> 00:44:14,520

And the reason to bring  
them to the account

945

00:44:14,520 --> 00:44:16,290

and bring them to  
account like Eichmann

946

00:44:16,290 --> 00:44:18,810

was brought, publicly,  
where the world

947

00:44:18,810 --> 00:44:23,260

will understand the justice  
of it, that makes sense.

948

00:44:23,260 --> 00:44:25,327

But for me to go ahead  
and kill Eichmann,

949

00:44:25,327 --> 00:44:27,410

I wouldn't be doing anything  
else they were doing.

950

00:44:27,410 --> 00:44:30,220

951

00:44:30,220 --> 00:44:33,130

Did you happen to go to the  
recent gathering in Washington

952

00:44:33,130 --> 00:44:34,135  
of Holocaust survivors?

953  
00:44:34,135 --> 00:44:34,635  
Yes.

954  
00:44:34,635 --> 00:44:35,180  
Yes.

955  
00:44:35,180 --> 00:44:36,380  
I was at the gathering.

956  
00:44:36,380 --> 00:44:38,050  
How was it?

957  
00:44:38,050 --> 00:44:39,290  
It was very interesting.

958  
00:44:39,290 --> 00:44:42,010  
I feel it was a very  
important statement

959  
00:44:42,010 --> 00:44:48,520  
to make an impact in  
the capital for them

960  
00:44:48,520 --> 00:44:51,680  
to see that there is  
such a tremendous power.

961  
00:44:51,680 --> 00:44:55,270  
And I think it dramatized  
very strongly the need

962  
00:44:55,270 --> 00:44:57,460  
for the existence of Israel.

963  
00:44:57,460 --> 00:45:01,630

964  
00:45:01,630 --> 00:45:04,030  
They came into contact

with the survivors,

965

00:45:04,030 --> 00:45:06,550

and they could  
realize that there

966

00:45:06,550 --> 00:45:09,700

is a way of lifting yourself  
up and rebuilding your life.

967

00:45:09,700 --> 00:45:11,390

And I think the  
reaction was great,

968

00:45:11,390 --> 00:45:14,650

and they really  
understood that the people

969

00:45:14,650 --> 00:45:18,970

have a dignity in what  
they did with their life.

970

00:45:18,970 --> 00:45:22,330

They had expected,  
I think, a bunch

971

00:45:22,330 --> 00:45:24,280

of people for whom  
they could feel sorry.

972

00:45:24,280 --> 00:45:26,840

And they encountered  
something totally different.

973

00:45:26,840 --> 00:45:31,660

They encountered a very  
vocal, very accomplished group

974

00:45:31,660 --> 00:45:32,380

of people.

975

00:45:32,380 --> 00:45:35,050

And they started

thinking we better

976

00:45:35,050 --> 00:45:38,410

see we have to do  
with civilized people.

977

00:45:38,410 --> 00:45:43,120

And we better don't  
look down and understand

978

00:45:43,120 --> 00:45:46,230

what is the chemistry  
of Israel, that Israel

979

00:45:46,230 --> 00:45:50,470

is a country consisting of  
people on whom you can count,

980

00:45:50,470 --> 00:45:53,740

people with integrity,  
people with motivation,

981

00:45:53,740 --> 00:45:56,230

with sense of values,  
that this is not

982

00:45:56,230 --> 00:46:01,660

a bunch of some savages that  
escaped into the desert,

983

00:46:01,660 --> 00:46:06,430

and that if this is an  
ally, this is a true ally,

984

00:46:06,430 --> 00:46:10,330

and this is a country that has  
to stand on its own two feet

985

00:46:10,330 --> 00:46:12,760

with the dignity of the  
country, because this

986

00:46:12,760 --> 00:46:14,300

is the people that produced it.

987

00:46:14,300 --> 00:46:17,620

And I think that was a  
very positive impact.

988

00:46:17,620 --> 00:46:21,130

And the next gathering  
is going to be in Sweden.

989

00:46:21,130 --> 00:46:21,670

Oh, is it?

990

00:46:21,670 --> 00:46:23,590

I didn't hear anything about it.

991

00:46:23,590 --> 00:46:25,660

I have no idea.

992

00:46:25,660 --> 00:46:28,870

I understand you're also  
involved in another project.

993

00:46:28,870 --> 00:46:29,740

Yes.

994

00:46:29,740 --> 00:46:35,800

I felt that it is time now to  
open a new chapter in history.

995

00:46:35,800 --> 00:46:40,450

I think that we are exploring  
the part of Holocaust,

996

00:46:40,450 --> 00:46:43,030

but I think it is  
necessary also to explore

997

00:46:43,030 --> 00:46:48,130

the part of the American  
soldier, the man on the street

998

00:46:48,130 --> 00:46:49,960  
who had the sacrifice  
of his own home

999  
00:46:49,960 --> 00:46:53,740  
and his own life came  
to Europe to the rescue.

1000  
00:46:53,740 --> 00:46:57,250  
And I think it dramatizes  
very strongly what

1001  
00:46:57,250 --> 00:46:59,090  
America stands for.

1002  
00:46:59,090 --> 00:47:01,460  
And as a result, I'm  
working right now

1003  
00:47:01,460 --> 00:47:05,950  
with Governor Kaine on a major  
project for New Jersey, which

1004  
00:47:05,950 --> 00:47:09,040  
will be, I believe, the  
first national project of--

1005  
00:47:09,040 --> 00:47:11,530  
I don't know of any place else--

1006  
00:47:11,530 --> 00:47:15,040  
which will be paying tribute  
to the liberators of Europe

1007  
00:47:15,040 --> 00:47:16,990  
and the liberation of Europe.

1008  
00:47:16,990 --> 00:47:20,570  
Because we are all  
in it together.

1009  
00:47:20,570 --> 00:47:23,590  
We wouldn't be here if somebody



didn't come to our rescue.

1010

00:47:23,590 --> 00:47:25,990

This is how the world functions.

1011

00:47:25,990 --> 00:47:27,370

Today, you are the victim.

1012

00:47:27,370 --> 00:47:29,290

Tomorrow, somebody  
else is the victim.

1013

00:47:29,290 --> 00:47:35,620

And if we do not keep our eyes  
on the issue of brotherhood

1014

00:47:35,620 --> 00:47:40,870

and we don't understand that  
we are our brothers' keepers,

1015

00:47:40,870 --> 00:47:43,180

that we are in need--

1016

00:47:43,180 --> 00:47:45,880

that's the only  
thing we can turn, is

1017

00:47:45,880 --> 00:47:50,110

to turn to another human  
being, to another nation.

1018

00:47:50,110 --> 00:47:53,830

So this monument will be  
for the 30th anniversary

1019

00:47:53,830 --> 00:47:55,540

of the second war.

1020

00:47:55,540 --> 00:47:59,410

And I think it is essential  
that this segment of history

1021

00:47:59,410 --> 00:48:05,200  
was brought to the public view  
and also that the tribute was

1022  
00:48:05,200 --> 00:48:08,560  
paid to the man who laid  
their life on the line.

1023  
00:48:08,560 --> 00:48:10,840  
Because this is--

1024  
00:48:10,840 --> 00:48:11,750  
Very important.

1025  
00:48:11,750 --> 00:48:15,910  
This is how our life came about.

1026  
00:48:15,910 --> 00:48:19,600  
I want to thank you very  
much for speaking with me.

1027  
00:48:19,600 --> 00:48:22,550  
And I wish you a lot  
of luck in the future

1028  
00:48:22,550 --> 00:48:24,790  
and on your work in the project.

1029  
00:48:24,790 --> 00:48:25,430  
Thank you.

1030  
00:48:25,430 --> 00:48:27,150  
Thank you.

1031  
00:48:27,150 --> 00:48:31,309