- 1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:56,520
- 00:00:56,520 --> 00:00:57,610 Good afternoon.
- 3 00:00:57,610 --> 00:01:01,290 My name is Irene Katz, I'm a member of the Kean College Oral
- 4 00:01:01,290 --> 00:01:04,860 Testimonies Project of the Holocaust Resource Center.
- 5 00:01:04,860 --> 00:01:07,350 We are affiliated with the Archival Testimonies
- 6 00:01:07,350 --> 00:01:11,010 Project of the Sterling library of Yale University.
- 7 00:01:11,010 --> 00:01:14,040 Sharing the interview with me is Dr. Bernard Weinstein,
- 8 00:01:14,040 --> 00:01:16,770 director of the project.
- 9 00:01:16,770 --> 00:01:18,330 And Dr. Weinstein and I would like
- 10 00:01:18,330 --> 00:01:22,140 to welcome Eva Kempinski, a Holocaust survivor now living
- 11 00:01:22,140 --> 00:01:24,780 in Union, New Jersey, who is here to tell us
- 12 00:01:24,780 --> 00:01:26,910 some of her experiences.

00:01:26,910 --> 00:01:28,080 Eva, we welcome you.

00:01:28,080 --> 00:01:29,028 Thank you.

15

00:01:29,028 --> 00:01:30,450 Welcome.

16

00:01:30,450 --> 00:01:32,580 You told me, on the phone yesterday,

17

00:01:32,580 --> 00:01:36,190 that you were from a shtetl, as you said, in Poland.

18

00:01:36,190 --> 00:01:38,820 Could you tell me anything about what it was like growing up

00:01:38,820 --> 00:01:40,740 in that town in Poland?

20

00:01:40,740 --> 00:01:42,510 This was a little shtetl.

21

00:01:42,510 --> 00:01:47,870 The population was 22,000, and Jews was 8,000.

22

00:01:47,870 --> 00:01:49,840 This little shtetl have everything.

00:01:49,840 --> 00:01:56,960 Have Hasidic Jews, Zionist Jews, all organization, cheders,

00:01:56,960 --> 00:02:01,560 yeshiva, shul, everything.

25

00:02:01,560 --> 00:02:06,150 My childhood was very good.

26 00:02:06,150 --> 00:02:09,389 I have all my family around.

27 00:02:09,389 --> 00:02:13,860 My father, my mother, were lovely people.

28 00:02:13,860 --> 00:02:15,900 I grew up between eight children,

29 00:02:15,900 --> 00:02:17,700 and we love each other.

30 00:02:17,700 --> 00:02:24,210 I went to school and have a nice Shabbos, a nice Yontif Till I

31 00:02:24,210 --> 00:02:28,930 begin to understand, it was almost too late.

32 00:02:28,930 --> 00:02:31,140 It was everything that you wanted.

33 00:02:31,140 --> 00:02:32,250 Yes.

34 00:02:32,250 --> 00:02:34,237 Could you tell us something about your family,

35 00:02:34,237 --> 00:02:35,820 about what your father and mother did,

36 00:02:35,820 --> 00:02:37,430 and how many brothers and sisters you have?

37 00:02:37,430 --> 00:02:37,930 Yes. 38 00:02:37,930 --> 00:02:42,600 I have very lovely parents.

00:02:42,600 --> 00:02:49,380 My father was a big scholar Respected him all the city,

40 00:02:49,380 --> 00:02:50,640 not only the Jews.

41 00:02:50,640 --> 00:02:51,600 Everyone respected him.

42 00:02:51,600 --> 00:02:58,680 He was very smart person and very understanding person.

43 00:02:58,680 --> 00:03:01,790 My mother was a lovely person, not was working,

00:03:01,790 --> 00:03:04,290 was at home raising the children,

45 00:03:04,290 --> 00:03:07,380 and helping poor people, and caring

46 00:03:07,380 --> 00:03:11,080 for everyone that was in need.

47 00:03:11,080 --> 00:03:13,440 And I have six sisters and one brother.

48 00:03:13,440 --> 00:03:15,900 we were seven daughters and one brother,

49 00:03:15,900 --> 00:03:18,083 and I'm the one would survive.

50 00:03:18,083 --> 00:03:19,500 You're the only one that survived.

51 00:03:19,500 --> 00:03:21,580 Yes, I was the sixth in--

52 00:03:21,580 --> 00:03:22,850 The sixth of the eight.

53 00:03:22,850 --> 00:03:24,550 Yeah, of the eight.

54 00:03:24,550 --> 00:03:28,860 I have two small sisters after me.

55 00:03:28,860 --> 00:03:30,320 I was in Wieluń.

56 00:03:30,320 --> 00:03:34,020 Wieluń was the city where the war begin.

57 00:03:34,020 --> 00:03:39,930 September 1, 1939, at 5 o'clock in the morning,

58 00:03:39,930 --> 00:03:42,980 the Germany bombed Wieluń.

59 00:03:42,980 --> 00:03:45,275 We lost our house, everything.

60 00:03:45,275 --> 00:03:48,630

61 00:03:48,630 --> 00:03:50,270 I broke an-- how do you call it?

62 00:03:50,270 --> 00:03:52,260 Your arm.

63 00:03:52,260 --> 00:03:54,270 My father was injured. 64 00:03:54,270 --> 00:03:58,200 He left Wieluń and never me go back to Wieluń.

65 00:03:58,200 --> 00:04:00,030 Were there any signs before that bombing?

66 00:04:00,030 --> 00:04:01,870 Did you have any idea what was coming?

67 00:04:01,870 --> 00:04:02,430 No.

68 00:04:02,430 --> 00:04:05,100 They was telling on the radio, maybe be a war,

69 00:04:05,100 --> 00:04:07,620 maybe yes, maybe-you know how everyone

70 00:04:07,620 --> 00:04:09,240 wanted to hope the best.

71 00:04:09,240 --> 00:04:16,170 And even be, nobody can imagine-- in their imagination,

72 00:04:16,170 --> 00:04:18,369 think this becoming killing people.

73 00:04:18,369 --> 00:04:20,180 So you really didn't want to believe it.

74 00:04:20,180 --> 00:04:22,260 For my parents, it not was the first war.

75 00:04:22,260 --> 00:04:28,570 It wasn't world war first two, was better, but you know,

76

00:04:28,570 --> 00:04:30,660 they wasn't at home.

77

00:04:30,660 --> 00:04:34,440 Was things that you lived over, but nobody

78

00:04:34,440 --> 00:04:38,390 have some picture of the war.

79

00:04:38,390 --> 00:04:41,550 And I will tell you, maybe they supposed to do more,

80

00:04:41,550 --> 00:04:46,240 but then you have big families, and you not have where to go.

81

00:04:46,240 --> 00:04:46,980 Where do you go?

82

00:04:46,980 --> 00:04:50,490

83

00:04:50,490 --> 00:04:55,980 Before this all happened, did you encounter antisemitism,

84

00:04:55,980 --> 00:04:57,255 did you encounter persecution?

85

00:04:57,255 --> 00:04:58,510 Yes.

86

00:04:58,510 --> 00:05:03,690 And it was a part in the Poles, what was writing, can't

87

00:05:03,690 --> 00:05:07,830 disturb, don't buy by Jews, or you can go

00:05:07,830 --> 00:05:10,370 in the street and rock about--

89

00:05:10,370 --> 00:05:13,470 threw up at you.

90

00:05:13,470 --> 00:05:16,070 Left from the payess met the boy [INAUDIBLE]..

91

00:05:16,070 --> 00:05:19,520

92

00:05:19,520 --> 00:05:25,260 A lot was this happened as you ran away, was one.

93

00:05:25,260 --> 00:05:30,820 In the native, every human being is--

94

00:05:30,820 --> 00:05:32,430 It's to say, I'm not ashamed.

95

00:05:32,430 --> 00:05:36,138 You know, you're not believe this can happen to you.

96

00:05:36,138 --> 00:05:38,430 Did you think it was happening anywhere else in Europe,

97

00:05:38,430 --> 00:05:40,763 or did you think this was only happening where you were?

98

00:05:40,763 --> 00:05:41,520 No, I was knowing.

99

00:05:41,520 --> 00:05:46,050 You know, I have family in other cities, bigger cities, Łódż,

100

00:05:46,050 --> 00:05:51,410 Warsaw, parents, family,

maybe not was feeling

101 00:05:51,410 --> 00:05:56,730 so [NON-ENGLISH] for the big cities more exposed, you know?

102 00:05:56,730 --> 00:06:00,570 In Wieluń, this time, when you in school, and you have family,

103 00:06:00,570 --> 00:06:04,650 then [INAUDIBLE] this is your whole life.

104 00:06:04,650 --> 00:06:06,355 You don't think about those things.

105 00:06:06,355 --> 00:06:09,090 I'm not was in politics and not belong to organizations.

106 00:06:09,090 --> 00:06:13,140 I know I went to school, I come home, I have my family.

107 00:06:13,140 --> 00:06:14,820 How old were you when the war broke out?

108 00:06:14,820 --> 00:06:17,240 Just 14 years.

109 00:06:17,240 --> 00:06:22,370 I am born end of August, and September 1st war broke out.

110 00:06:22,370 --> 00:06:24,990 Did you go to a Jewish school or did you--

111 00:06:24,990 --> 00:06:28,340 I went to this Jewish school till grade four. 00:06:28,340 --> 00:06:31,140 After that was I went to the public school.

113

00:06:31,140 --> 00:06:35,470 I was still learning afternoon, a little Talmud Torah.

114

00:06:35,470 --> 00:06:38,800 Was your life in the public school different?

115

00:06:38,800 --> 00:06:39,300 no

116

00:06:39,300 --> 00:06:42,510 No, the public school was only for Jews.

117

00:06:42,510 --> 00:06:44,820 So the public schools were in a sense segregated.

118

00:06:44,820 --> 00:06:48,420 The public school of only Jewish students.

119

00:06:48,420 --> 00:06:50,850 Not the teachers was all Jewish, all the students

120

00:06:50,850 --> 00:06:51,930 was all Jewish.

121

00:06:51,930 --> 00:06:53,280 I see.

122

00:06:53,280 --> 00:06:56,880 You said your father was a scholar, and a very, very

123

00:06:56,880 --> 00:06:58,260 religious man--

124

00:06:58,260 --> 00:06:59,310

00:06:59,310 --> 00:07:02,320 And was that kind of education important in your home?

126

00:07:02,320 --> 00:07:03,450 Oh yes, oh yes.

127

00:07:03,450 --> 00:07:07,010 I have sisters who went to Gymnasium and study more.

128

00:07:07,010 --> 00:07:09,160 My father was very--

129

00:07:09,160 --> 00:07:10,900 open minded man.

130

00:07:10,900 --> 00:07:14,640 Was it unusual for girls to have that extensive a Jewish

131

00:07:14,640 --> 00:07:17,130 education in those days?

132

00:07:17,130 --> 00:07:18,310 Sure.

133

00:07:18,310 --> 00:07:18,960 Oh yes.

134

00:07:18,960 --> 00:07:19,540 I think so.

135

00:07:19,540 --> 00:07:21,520 I grew up in the home.

136

00:07:21,520 --> 00:07:24,190 Oh yes.

137

00:07:24,190 --> 00:07:28,315 OK, maybe my brother go to yeshiva to study, 138 00:07:28,315 --> 00:07:30,210 but the girls was--

139

00:07:30,210 --> 00:07:34,050 one can be-- what you want, you know.

140

00:07:34,050 --> 00:07:37,460 And not was easy, important to study.

141

00:07:37,460 --> 00:07:43,050 But still they have at least a 12-year school.

142

00:07:43,050 --> 00:07:44,710 This was not so hard.

143

00:07:44,710 --> 00:07:47,190 And then university was not easy for Jews.

144

00:07:47,190 --> 00:07:47,900 It was harder.

145

00:07:47,900 --> 00:07:50,550 It was harder to get in, or it was harder to stay in?

146

00:07:50,550 --> 00:07:54,630 To stay, to get in, and they was beating up Jewish students.

147

00:07:54,630 --> 00:07:57,145 Was very difficult. Very difficult.

148

00:07:57,145 --> 00:07:58,770 This is the reason many Jewish students

149

00:07:58,770 --> 00:08:02,560 went to Paris, to Belgium, to other countries to study.

00:08:02,560 --> 00:08:05,460 Switzerland, you know.

151

00:08:05,460 --> 00:08:09,420 I had three married sisters, before the war.

152

00:08:09,420 --> 00:08:11,190 Three married sisters before, you said.

153

00:08:11,190 --> 00:08:12,405 Yes.

154

00:08:12,405 --> 00:08:15,480 Did have any special duties, or any special obligations

155

00:08:15,480 --> 00:08:18,330 as being one of the younger children in the family?

156

00:08:18,330 --> 00:08:18,830 No.

157

00:08:18,830 --> 00:08:22,160 I grew up in a middle class family.

158

00:08:22,160 --> 00:08:25,090 There was still a help at home.

159

00:08:25,090 --> 00:08:27,940 This not was a luxury in these times.

160

00:08:27,940 --> 00:08:30,540 Was a help.

161

00:08:30,540 --> 00:08:33,360 What kind of business did most of the people in the town

00:08:33,360 --> 00:08:34,789 involve themselves with?

163

00:08:34,789 --> 00:08:41,840 In stores, and businessmen, and doctors, and dentist.

164

00:08:41,840 --> 00:08:44,228 Everything what you want, in every direction.

165

00:08:44,228 --> 00:08:45,145 And where the Jewish--

166

00:08:45,145 --> 00:08:45,410 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

167

00:08:45,410 --> 00:08:46,753 And shoemakers and everything.

168

00:08:46,753 --> 00:08:48,420 Were the Jewish families involved in all

169

00:08:48,420 --> 00:08:49,890 of these professions also?

170

00:08:49,890 --> 00:08:51,360 Yes, in our shtetl this was--

171

00:08:51,360 --> 00:08:54,120 I'm telling you-- was everything.

172

00:08:54,120 --> 00:08:57,100 Was poorer, richer, middle class, and professional

173

00:08:57,100 --> 00:09:02,010 and [INAUDIBLE] in everything.

174

00:09:02,010 --> 00:09:04,220 Sounds like a very nice place to have grown up.

175 00:09:04,220 --> 00:09:05,840 Yes. 176 00:09:05,840 --> 00:09:08,670 Were there any special memories that you have, 177 00:09:08,670 --> 00:09:13,380 that you retained from the early years from before the war? 178 00:09:13,380 --> 00:09:15,660 My home. 179 00:09:15,660 --> 00:09:19,290 I grew up in very warm home. 180 00:09:19,290 --> 00:09:23,180 You know I know so much stories about my family. When I come to Palestine after the war, when 182

00:09:23,180 --> 00:09:26,100

00:09:26,100 --> 00:09:29,610 I met the cousins from my father, my mother.

00:09:29,610 --> 00:09:30,420 I know.

184 00:09:30,420 --> 00:09:32,940 How you know?

00:09:32,940 --> 00:09:36,810 I know for my father was talking to us very--

186 00:09:36,810 --> 00:09:40,890 Friday when you are sitting by Shabbos [? day ?] my father

00:09:40,890 --> 00:09:44,280

was telling stories, and I like stories.

188

00:09:44,280 --> 00:09:45,440 I'm Hasidic daughter.

189

00:09:45,440 --> 00:09:47,370 I like stories.

190

00:09:47,370 --> 00:09:50,460 And I was sitting with my mouth open,

191

00:09:50,460 --> 00:09:53,265 and I remember 'til now, the stories.

192

00:09:53,265 --> 00:09:55,140 You said your grandmother also lived with you

193

00:09:55,140 --> 00:09:56,140 most of the time.

194

00:09:56,140 --> 00:09:58,200 Yes, this was my mother's mother.

195

00:09:58,200 --> 00:10:00,870 Did she also tell you stories about her generation?

196

00:10:00,870 --> 00:10:01,560 Yes.

197

00:10:01,560 --> 00:10:05,890 Most I remember the stories from my father.

198

00:10:05,890 --> 00:10:09,890 Is there anything in particular that you remember the most?

199

00:10:09,890 --> 00:10:11,280 From my father you know--

00:10:11,280 --> 00:10:13,980

201

00:10:13,980 --> 00:10:15,240 my father come from--

202

00:10:15,240 --> 00:10:17,520 not from Wieluń my father come from another city.

203

00:10:17,520 --> 00:10:20,550 My father married to Wieluń from Piotrków,

204

00:10:20,550 --> 00:10:22,650 is a much bigger city.

205

00:10:22,650 --> 00:10:27,060 And this was very big and famous family, the Horowitz.

206

00:10:27,060 --> 00:10:29,580 And my father was telling stories

207

00:10:29,580 --> 00:10:32,430 about Hasidim about [? Rabbium ?]..

208

00:10:32,430 --> 00:10:35,440 My father was a [? chosed, ?] and a rabbi, you know.

209

00:10:35,440 --> 00:10:39,350 The ghetto rabbi was his rabbi, and I like this story still

210

00:10:39,350 --> 00:10:39,850 today.

211

00:10:39,850 --> 00:10:42,030 I like the stories.

00:10:42,030 --> 00:10:43,870 Do you tell them to your children, too?

213

00:10:43,870 --> 00:10:44,370 Yes.

214

00:10:44,370 --> 00:10:49,780 My son is now studying Geneva, and work in the library.

215

00:10:49,780 --> 00:10:52,950 In find encyclopedia make me Xerox from family

216

00:10:52,950 --> 00:10:56,610 Horowitz 400 years back, and brought me home.

217

00:10:56,610 --> 00:10:57,690 That's wonderful.

218

00:10:57,690 --> 00:11:01,140 You know, shouldn't my children know how much I can--

219

00:11:01,140 --> 00:11:05,720 So you had a tradition and you had family history.

220

00:11:05,720 --> 00:11:07,260 Oh yes, I have roots.

221

00:11:07,260 --> 00:11:08,760 Roots, a genealogy.

222

00:11:08,760 --> 00:11:12,900 I [INAUDIBLE] born from a stone, but I'm not born from a stone.

223

00:11:12,900 --> 00:11:14,280 I had my mother and a father.

224

00:11:14,280 --> 00:11:15,988

That must have been

very important to you

225

00:11:15,988 --> 00:11:17,160 in the worst times.

226

00:11:17,160 --> 00:11:17,670

227

00:11:17,670 --> 00:11:19,745 You see, this is the faith.

228

00:11:19,745 --> 00:11:22,530

229

00:11:22,530 --> 00:11:26,200 I still believe it, after this all, still I believe it.

230

00:11:26,200 --> 00:11:29,090 Yes.

231

00:11:29,090 --> 00:11:35,770 When did you begin to realize that things were getting bad,

232

00:11:35,770 --> 00:11:36,770 that things were going--

233

00:11:36,770 --> 00:11:40,130 Very, very fast.

234

00:11:40,130 --> 00:11:44,780 I come to Warsaw, I told you, in 1939

235

00:11:44,780 --> 00:11:47,780 in December, end of December.

236

00:11:47,780 --> 00:11:51,920 And I left Łódż, not me, was in the way.

237

00:11:51,920 --> 00:11:54,470 Meaning, you're

Meaning, you're

supposed to wear the--

238

00:11:54,470 --> 00:11:54,970 The armband.

239

00:11:54,970 --> 00:11:57,990 --The armband with the star.

240

00:11:57,990 --> 00:12:00,380 And was-- things happen on this street.

241

00:12:00,380 --> 00:12:02,540 They cut the beards, the Jews.

242

00:12:02,540 --> 00:12:08,510 And was [INAUDIBLE] [NON-ENGLISH] about immediately

243

00:12:08,510 --> 00:12:10,070 But you --

244

00:12:10,070 --> 00:12:11,240 What does happen after?

245

00:12:11,240 --> 00:12:15,430 You can imagine these they put people in crematorium,

246

00:12:15,430 --> 00:12:18,050 that you burn children alive?

247

00:12:18,050 --> 00:12:20,640 That they threw children in the windows?

248

00:12:20,640 --> 00:12:23,220 I saw, they throw--

240

00:12:23,220 --> 00:12:26,060 was thrown a child from the third floor.

250

00:12:26,060 --> 00:12:27,730

And you couldn't imagine that then.

251

00:12:27,730 --> 00:12:29,960 It sticks with you.

252

00:12:29,960 --> 00:12:33,660 It's not artists what can bring this on the paper.

253

00:12:33,660 --> 00:12:36,100 A poet, what can write about this before?

254

00:12:36,100 --> 00:12:38,288 These things were just not human.

255

00:12:38,288 --> 00:12:39,330 Did most of your family--

256

00:12:39,330 --> 00:12:41,300 Even now, excuse me, when I'm talking,

257

00:12:41,300 --> 00:12:44,720 I don't think you can believe everything.

258

00:12:44,720 --> 00:12:47,350 It's hard for you to adjust everything

259

00:12:47,350 --> 00:12:48,660 what I am talking to you.

260

00:12:48,660 --> 00:12:50,618 It's hard to comprehend that that could happen.

261

00:12:50,618 --> 00:12:53,120 Yes, you know, I'm meshuggeneh you know, what's she talking?

262

00:12:53,120 --> 00:12:56,510

Were you in Łódż first, and then in Warsaw?

263

00:12:56,510 --> 00:12:58,580 Were you in the

ghetto in both places?

264

00:12:58,580 --> 00:13:03,250

No, when I was in Łódż, not was a ghetto.

265

00:13:03,250 --> 00:13:05,130 Before they make the ghetto.

266

00:13:05,130 --> 00:13:08,090 It was just two months

of war, three months.

267

00:13:08,090 --> 00:13:11,090 And then I come to Warsaw, not was a ghetto either.

268

00:13:11,090 --> 00:13:13,220 they make the

ghetto in 1940 and I

269

00:13:13,220 --> 00:13:16,490 come September, in Yom

Kippur, they close.

270

00:13:16,490 --> 00:13:22,540 And I come Christmas, Hanukkah,

'39 it was months not ghetto.

271

00:13:22,540 --> 00:13:25,510 After they make they ghetto bigger, smaller, they push--

272

00:13:25,510 --> 00:13:29,280 So you had a chance to see it before it became a ghetto.

273

00:13:29,280 --> 00:13:29,780

Yes.

00:13:29,780 --> 00:13:31,447 And you could appreciate the difference.

275

00:13:31,447 --> 00:13:35,150 You feel you are Jew, even it was a ghetto.

276

00:13:35,150 --> 00:13:37,610 There was still pressure against you without the ghetto.

277

00:13:37,610 --> 00:13:38,120 Oh, yes.

278

00:13:38,120 --> 00:13:41,210 How you feel?

279

00:13:41,210 --> 00:13:45,170 Were you together with the other members of your family then?

280

00:13:45,170 --> 00:13:49,250 You see, the night when the war begin, I was injured,

281

00:13:49,250 --> 00:13:52,790 and they took me in a hospital, in a city

282

00:13:52,790 --> 00:13:56,300 before my shtetl watch.

283

00:13:56,300 --> 00:13:58,460 I heard that my older sister was living there

284

00:13:58,460 --> 00:14:00,980 with the husband with two children.

285

00:14:00,980 --> 00:14:03,150 And she don't know either I'm in this hospital,

00:14:03,150 --> 00:14:05,090 and they was looking for me.

287 00:14:05,090 --> 00:14:08,250 And my father went to Łódż, and when my brother ran away,

288

00:14:08,250 --> 00:14:09,590 somebody took me to Warsaw.

289

00:14:09,590 --> 00:14:12,810 This was when they bombed , you know, the family is apart.

290

00:14:12,810 --> 00:14:15,420 I have one married sister was in Warsaw,

291

00:14:15,420 --> 00:14:19,670 one married sister was in Belgium living.

292

00:14:19,670 --> 00:14:23,300 And my brother was in yeshiva, and my sister

293

00:14:23,300 --> 00:14:26,730 was a teacher in other city.

294

00:14:26,730 --> 00:14:29,350 So 'til we come together--

295

00:14:29,350 --> 00:14:33,418 well, after when I was feeling better,

296

00:14:33,418 --> 00:14:34,835 and they find me in this hospital,

297

00:14:34,835 --> 00:14:40,640 and my sister brought me to Łódż, to my father, my mother.

298

00:14:40,640 --> 00:14:43,900

My father was injured the neck and was three weeks not going

299

00:14:43,900 --> 00:14:48,560 down to daven You can imagine what this was, when I walk in,

300

00:14:48,560 --> 00:14:50,405 my father stepped down.

301

00:14:50,405 --> 00:14:52,280 Was a miracle, for everyone was telling this,

302

00:14:52,280 --> 00:14:53,840 I am not alive anymore.

303

00:14:53,840 --> 00:14:55,550 I'm killed.

304

00:14:55,550 --> 00:14:58,848 So saw me, walk down from bed.

305

00:14:58,848 --> 00:14:59,640 For the first time?

306

00:14:59,640 --> 00:15:02,580 For the first time.

307

00:15:02,580 --> 00:15:04,200 The excitement.

308

00:15:04,200 --> 00:15:06,230 And after my brother come, my sister

309

00:15:06,230 --> 00:15:09,290 what was teaching, and ironically

310

00:15:09,290 --> 00:15:11,360 my sister from Belgium wasn't home

00:15:11,360 --> 00:15:13,160 this time when the war begin.

312

00:15:13,160 --> 00:15:16,430 This was summertime, and she come home.

313

00:15:16,430 --> 00:15:19,890 You know this was [NON-ENGLISH] you know,

314

00:15:19,890 --> 00:15:22,140 her husband was a Hasidic Jew, too,

315

00:15:22,140 --> 00:15:24,210 and supposed to come back to [Place Name].

316

00:15:24,210 --> 00:15:26,620 Bur she come a little earlier home.

317

00:15:26,620 --> 00:15:29,300 And after she went back to her husband

318

00:15:29,300 --> 00:15:31,910 to Belgium, where she was killed.

319

00:15:31,910 --> 00:15:34,170 Anyway, you know.

320

00:15:34,170 --> 00:15:36,290 One sister was living in Warsaw.

321

00:15:36,290 --> 00:15:39,200 One sister with the children was Warsaw and the time

322

00:15:39,200 --> 00:15:41,390 after she went back to her husband.

00:15:41,390 --> 00:15:45,940 It was-- everyone was at the place.

324

00:15:45,940 --> 00:15:47,570 We was together a little time.

325

00:15:47,570 --> 00:15:50,150

326

00:15:50,150 --> 00:15:51,650 You don't know where is better.

327

00:15:51,650 --> 00:15:54,192 You know you want to save the child You send this here,

328

00:15:54,192 --> 00:15:56,830 You send this here.

329

00:15:56,830 --> 00:15:59,600 And ironically, I'm the one what alive,

330

00:15:59,600 --> 00:16:02,540 and I was anytime so afraid, I never

331

00:16:02,540 --> 00:16:05,300 want to go away to know no place,

332

00:16:05,300 --> 00:16:08,570 only to stay with my mother and father.

333

00:16:08,570 --> 00:16:09,857 And I am alive.

334

00:16:09,857 --> 00:16:11,690 And did you stay with your mother and father

335

00:16:11,690 --> 00:16:12,500 that whole time?

00:16:12,500 --> 00:16:13,333

Not that whole time.

337

00:16:13,333 --> 00:16:13,910

Three weeks.

338

00:16:13,910 --> 00:16:15,650 My father they took before.

339

00:16:15,650 --> 00:16:18,740

My mother they took from my hand at Majdanek.

340

00:16:18,740 --> 00:16:19,730

And your father?

341

00:16:19,730 --> 00:16:22,610

Went at 42 to Treblinka.

342

00:16:22,610 --> 00:16:23,810

From the Warsaw ghetto?

343

00:16:23,810 --> 00:16:29,920

With my youngest sister,

with my baby sister.

344

00:16:29,920 --> 00:16:31,660

They took the two

of them together?

345

00:16:31,660 --> 00:16:34,460

Yeah, they was hidden,

and they come to find him,

346

00:16:34,460 --> 00:16:36,380

and they took them.

347

00:16:36,380 --> 00:16:40,510

And was on the table a little bread and my father tell

348

00:16:40,510 --> 00:16:47,280

my sister, [NON-ENGLISH]

father, me don't need anymore.

349

00:16:47,280 --> 00:16:48,280 But she not was telling.

350

00:16:48,280 --> 00:16:50,560 My mother was hidden another place.

351

00:16:50,560 --> 00:16:53,800 She was smart enough not to tell this, but she said.

352

00:16:53,800 --> 00:16:56,980 We don't need anymore.

353

00:16:56,980 --> 00:17:01,008 My father took the [INAUDIBLE] with him..

354

00:17:01,008 --> 00:17:03,550 Did you know that they had taken your father and sister away?

355

00:17:03,550 --> 00:17:09,950 I was known 3 days later, I was another place.

356

00:17:09,950 --> 00:17:11,200 How did you hear about things?

357

00:17:11,200 --> 00:17:14,829 How did news travel in the ghetto?

358

00:17:14,829 --> 00:17:19,859 You see this was a time when was a big selection.

359

00:17:19,859 --> 00:17:23,190 And everyone was in this in dispatch from the ghetto.

360

00:17:23,190 --> 00:17:25,002 The young people took to work.

00:17:25,002 --> 00:17:27,210 You mean a selection to take to the concentrate camp?

362

00:17:27,210 --> 00:17:28,650 Yes, this was a selection.

363

00:17:28,650 --> 00:17:32,690 What they tell, all Jews must be in this and this place,

364

00:17:32,690 --> 00:17:35,960 and who not be, be killed.

365

00:17:35,960 --> 00:17:40,440 After, it was a week then is a section

366

00:17:40,440 --> 00:17:44,770 in Warsaw with Umschlagplatz, not far.

367

00:17:44,770 --> 00:17:48,210 They took the young people back to the work, my brother,

368

00:17:48,210 --> 00:17:50,100 my sister and I went back.

369

00:17:50,100 --> 00:17:53,520 I mean there was place for my little sister, my father

370

00:17:53,520 --> 00:17:54,960 mother, we hid them.

00:17:54,960 --> 00:17:58,370 And they find my father, my little sister,

372

00:17:58,370 --> 00:17:59,770 but my mother did not find.

00:17:59,770 --> 00:18:02,610 But she want to go but she was with the other women,

374

00:18:02,610 --> 00:18:07,740 and did not give her the [? they stop her ?]..

375

00:18:07,740 --> 00:18:10,530 Where were they hiding?

376

00:18:10,530 --> 00:18:16,380 In a room on the fourth floor.

377

00:18:16,380 --> 00:18:21,630 In Europe was a dining tables, big time, they had to--

378

00:18:21,630 --> 00:18:25,650 the bottom was a little place to put

379

00:18:25,650 --> 00:18:28,095 in some things, a little closet.

380

00:18:28,095 --> 00:18:28,870 For storage.

381

00:18:28,870 --> 00:18:30,290 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

382

00:18:30,290 --> 00:18:31,920 And in this little storage, my father

383

00:18:31,920 --> 00:18:33,990 was with my little sister, but my father

384

00:18:33,990 --> 00:18:37,670 not be going in with womans in one small place.

385

00:18:37,670 --> 00:18:39,210 So Hasidic Jew.

00:18:39,210 --> 00:18:40,150 It was with my sister.

387

00:18:40,150 --> 00:18:43,710 My mother was with other three womans in the attic closet.

388

00:18:43,710 --> 00:18:48,210 What was so-- did not see, they put something covered.

389

00:18:48,210 --> 00:18:48,880 With you?

390

00:18:48,880 --> 00:18:49,380 Not with me.

391

00:18:49,380 --> 00:18:54,900 With three strange woman what was in the same apartment.

392

00:18:54,900 --> 00:18:57,610 I tell you, I walk back with my sister--

393

00:18:57,610 --> 00:18:59,730 And how long were they hiding this way?

394

00:18:59,730 --> 00:19:03,150 You see, in day time they was hiding all day.

395

00:19:03,150 --> 00:19:07,830 In the night, when was a little quiet that they go out.

396

00:19:07,830 --> 00:19:11,310 You need a little air.

397

00:19:11,310 --> 00:19:15,340 And this was Thursday night, they took my father

398 00:19:15,340 --> 00:19:20,920 with my sister, and Friday was Erev Rosh Hashanah. 399 00:19:20,920 --> 00:19:23,840 '42. 400 00:19:23,840 --> 00:19:25,730 And three days later you found out. 401 00:19:25,730 --> 00:19:26,320 Yes. 402 00:19:26,320 --> 00:19:27,153 [INTERPOSING VOICES] 403 00:19:27,153 --> 00:19:28,250 --took the mother back. 404 00:19:28,250 --> 00:19:30,255 Did you ever see them again after that? 405 00:19:30,255 --> 00:19:30,755 My father? 406 00:19:30,755 --> 00:19:33,810 407 00:19:33,810 --> 00:19:36,760 Did you ever hear anything? 408 00:19:36,760 --> 00:19:39,630 They took him to Treblinka. 409 00:19:39,630 --> 00:19:42,840 And then when did they take you and your mother? 410

00:19:42,840 --> 00:19:45,800 In the uprising, when the ghetto uprising was --

411 00:19:45,800 --> 00:19:46,910 In '43.

412

00:19:46,910 --> 00:19:52,720 '43, in the end of April, we was in Lublin, my mother,

413

00:19:52,720 --> 00:19:55,330 my brother, and sister and I before.

414

00:19:55,330 --> 00:20:00,270 And after that then they took my mother to Majdanek

415

00:20:00,270 --> 00:20:03,490 and we was know, Majdanek is a death camp.

416

00:20:03,490 --> 00:20:05,743 And we were still in Lublin working.

417

00:20:05,743 --> 00:20:07,160 We all want to go with the mother,

418

00:20:07,160 --> 00:20:09,750 and my mother tell, no, you are young.

419

00:20:09,750 --> 00:20:12,230 I went with her, and she was crying all the way,

420

00:20:12,230 --> 00:20:14,130 that I'd be killed.

421

00:20:14,130 --> 00:20:17,130 And they was killed and I'm alive.

422

00:20:17,130 --> 00:20:21,000
Did you know what Treblinka
meant, and what Majdanek meant?

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:25,130 Yes, I know.

424

00:20:25,130 --> 00:20:26,400 And this time, I know.

425

00:20:26,400 --> 00:20:28,650 You knew from rumors that you had heard in the ghetto?

426

00:20:28,650 --> 00:20:31,570 In Warsaw ghetto was underground.

427

00:20:31,570 --> 00:20:37,660 And when they begin the selections on Tisha B'Av '42,

428

00:20:37,660 --> 00:20:40,910 the Warsaw ghetto was knowing where the people going.

429

00:20:40,910 --> 00:20:46,980 In the right, don't go, don't go.

430

00:20:46,980 --> 00:20:50,130 In other words, the underground was encouraging resistance?

431

00:20:50,130 --> 00:20:52,800 Oh yes, was resistance you know.

432

00:20:52,800 --> 00:20:55,220 They were saying fight back?

433

00:20:55,220 --> 00:20:57,900 Fight back. you know, go in a bunker.

434

00:20:57,900 --> 00:21:00,030 Everyone was in the bunkers.

00:21:00,030 --> 00:21:01,830 I was in a bunker too.

436

00:21:01,830 --> 00:21:05,890 A big bunker, it was a couple hundred people in this bunker.

437

00:21:05,890 --> 00:21:09,330 After when the Germans put in gas and water,

438

00:21:09,330 --> 00:21:10,610 had not other choice.

439

00:21:10,610 --> 00:21:14,160 Did the people believe what they were being told?

440

00:21:14,160 --> 00:21:15,210 Yes.

441

00:21:15,210 --> 00:21:17,440 I not can tell if nobody ever--

442

00:21:17,440 --> 00:21:19,610 I believed.

443

00:21:19,610 --> 00:21:22,010 I believed, and nobody come back from the old people

444

00:21:22,010 --> 00:21:24,410 what they take months before.

445

00:21:24,410 --> 00:21:27,240 You heard nothing from them.

446

00:21:27,240 --> 00:21:30,000 I think I was not--

447

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:35,340 I was knowing, you know, you-anytime you have a hope, maybe,

00:21:35,340 --> 00:21:36,278 maybe--

449

00:21:36,278 --> 00:21:37,320 this is the Jewish faith.

450

00:21:37,320 --> 00:21:41,790

451

00:21:41,790 --> 00:21:44,740 And you were very young then, and young people have hope.

452

00:21:44,740 --> 00:21:48,100 Hope and stronger, and you want to live.

453

00:21:48,100 --> 00:21:50,030 Everyone wanted to live.

454

00:21:50,030 --> 00:21:52,100 It's a normal thing.

455

00:21:52,100 --> 00:21:55,860 Everyone fight for the life and wanted it.

456

00:21:55,860 --> 00:21:58,458 So how old were you when you were taken from the ghetto?

457

00:21:58,458 --> 00:21:59,000 To Auschwitz?

458

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:00,040 Into Majdanek?

459

00:22:00,040 --> 00:22:00,790 To Majdanek.

460

00:22:00,790 --> 00:22:01,810 Seventeen and a half.

461

00:22:01,810 --> 00:22:06,090

462 00:22:06,090 --> 00:22:08,430 How old was your mother at that time?

463

00:22:08,430 --> 00:22:09,580 My mother was killed.

464

00:22:09,580 --> 00:22:11,555 She was 43.

465

00:22:11,555 --> 00:22:13,180 You can imagine, she had grandchildren.

466

00:22:13,180 --> 00:22:14,110 Very young.

467

00:22:14,110 --> 00:22:14,610 Yes.

468

00:22:14,610 --> 00:22:17,160

469

00:22:17,160 --> 00:22:21,600 How long were you able to stay with your mother?

470

00:22:21,600 --> 00:22:25,020 Saturday they took us from Lublin to Majdanek.

471

00:22:25,020 --> 00:22:28,100 This is very close, this is a kilometer.

472

00:22:28,100 --> 00:22:30,990 It's less than a mile.

473

00:22:30,990 --> 00:22:34,640 We was running, running--

474

00:22:34,640 --> 00:22:35,730

Germans.

475

00:22:35,730 --> 00:22:37,560 Terrible.

476

00:22:37,560 --> 00:22:40,560 And this was the night from Saturday to Sunday,

477

00:22:40,560 --> 00:22:43,530 and Sunday was May 1st.

478

00:22:43,530 --> 00:22:47,770 Was it a little raining, but it was warm, it was outside.

479

00:22:47,770 --> 00:22:51,842 And all the night I was listening

480

00:22:51,842 --> 00:22:53,884 my mother was saying, why are you coming with me?

481

00:22:53,884 --> 00:22:55,884 You are so young, you don't know what it's like.

482

00:22:55,884 --> 00:22:56,710 You need to live.

483

00:22:56,710 --> 00:23:05,290

484

00:23:05,290 --> 00:23:07,320 How long had you been in the work camps

485

00:23:07,320 --> 00:23:10,090 or in the work details?

486

00:23:10,090 --> 00:23:18,050

From '43 first of May, 'til May 8th, '45.

00:23:18,050 --> 00:23:20,560 Two years.

488

00:23:20,560 --> 00:23:22,910 This was after the ghetto.

489

00:23:22,910 --> 00:23:23,410 Yeah, sure.

490

00:23:23,410 --> 00:23:25,090 Two years.

491

00:23:25,090 --> 00:23:27,430 Were there other people with you from your home town,

492

00:23:27,430 --> 00:23:28,900 or any other people that you knew?

493

00:23:28,900 --> 00:23:30,940

494

00:23:30,940 --> 00:23:34,570 And you know, some day in the morning, they was telling us--

495

00:23:34,570 --> 00:23:36,290 now I tell you this little story.

496

00:23:36,290 --> 00:23:38,750 This [INAUDIBLE] know.

497

00:23:38,750 --> 00:23:40,190 No, this was Auschwitz.

498

00:23:40,190 --> 00:23:40,690 Auschwitz.

499

00:23:40,690 --> 00:23:41,793 No, I'm not confused.

500

00:23:41,793 --> 00:23:43,210 She wasn't at

Majdanek [INAUDIBLE]

501

00:23:43,210 --> 00:23:45,770 don't know her in Majdanek.

502

00:23:45,770 --> 00:23:50,800 Sunday they was telling us we go make a shower.

503

00:23:50,800 --> 00:23:51,863 This is in Majdanek?

504

00:23:51,863 --> 00:23:53,530 Majdanek, and I will tell you something.

505

00:23:53,530 --> 00:23:55,620 At the time the night come to Majdanek

506

00:23:55,620 --> 00:23:57,850 there are not crematoriums.

507

00:23:57,850 --> 00:24:00,930 You only have gas what comes from the showers,

508

00:24:00,930 --> 00:24:05,960 but the bodies they burn outside.

509

00:24:05,960 --> 00:24:07,660 The two months that I was in Majdanek,

510

00:24:07,660 --> 00:24:11,680 we was carrying stones to build the crematorium.

511

00:24:11,680 --> 00:24:13,060 Did you know you were doing that?

00:24:13,060 --> 00:24:13,662 No.

513

00:24:13,662 --> 00:24:15,370

What did they tell you you were building?

514

00:24:15,370 --> 00:24:16,190 No, I tell you.

515

00:24:16,190 --> 00:24:19,590 Sunday they was telling us we go make a shower,

516

00:24:19,590 --> 00:24:23,080 and I with my mother very close.

517

00:24:23,080 --> 00:24:26,650 And how we come to the door, to go into the shower,

518

00:24:26,650 --> 00:24:28,232 SS men from both sides.

519

00:24:28,232 --> 00:24:33,120 They took my mother, and I scream, this is my mother.

520

00:24:33,120 --> 00:24:34,730 And the answer was, You so stupid,

521

00:24:34,730 --> 00:24:37,140 your mother go work in the kitchen.

522

00:24:37,140 --> 00:24:42,400 And I still keep the mother, standing take me and push me

523

00:24:42,400 --> 00:24:43,280 in the shower.

524

00:24:43,280 --> 00:24:46,760 My mother not so [INAUDIBLE].

525 00:24:46,760 --> 00:24:48,530 That's how you were separated from her? 526 00:24:48,530 --> 00:24:50,280 527 00:24:50,280 --> 00:24:53,360 And in the evening, I was crying, 528 00:24:53,360 --> 00:24:55,740 you can imagine, I was upset. 00:24:55,740 --> 00:24:58,430 I saw a big fire, is not--530 00:24:58,430 --> 00:25:00,560 fire and smoke. 531 It was Poles there too, not Jews, Poles. And one asked me,

00:25:00,560 --> 00:25:04,960

00:25:04,960 --> 00:25:06,740 what are you crying?

00:25:06,740 --> 00:25:09,200 And I know-- they took my mother.

534 00:25:09,200 --> 00:25:12,360 She said, you see this is your mother.

535 00:25:12,360 --> 00:25:13,940 The smoke is your mother.

536 00:25:13,940 --> 00:25:15,210 She told you that?

00:25:15,210 --> 00:25:15,710

Yes.

538

00:25:15,710 --> 00:25:17,570 Who was it who told you this?

539

00:25:17,570 --> 00:25:18,820 Gentiles from Poland.

540

00:25:18,820 --> 00:25:20,650 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

541

00:25:20,650 --> 00:25:27,290 In Warsaw was a big jail, Pawiak, and it took--

542

00:25:27,290 --> 00:25:28,500 The political prisoners.

543

00:25:28,500 --> 00:25:29,000 Yes.

544

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:35,180 And it was-- give me the message.

545

00:25:35,180 --> 00:25:37,200 She told you that about your mother?

546

00:25:37,200 --> 00:25:38,398 Yes.

547

00:25:38,398 --> 00:25:40,190 Was there someone else with you in the camp

548

00:25:40,190 --> 00:25:42,400 that you could get close to, that you could talk to?

549

00:25:42,400 --> 00:25:44,750 You see, the night come and after they tell us,

550

00:25:44,750 --> 00:25:47,120 everyone go in the barrack.

551

00:25:47,120 --> 00:25:49,910 And you know in Majdanek the barracks was--

552

00:25:49,910 --> 00:25:52,160 I think for [INAUDIBLE] two beds, in the bottom

553

00:25:52,160 --> 00:25:56,708 to the top on the wood bridges.

554

00:25:56,708 --> 00:25:59,000 Everyone take a bridge and if there was too many people

555

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:00,940 they tell two.

556

00:26:00,940 --> 00:26:01,880 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

557

00:26:01,880 --> 00:26:02,970 --a nice day.

558

00:26:02,970 --> 00:26:06,170 And I don't and -- nothing no I don't know what he was telling.

559

 $00:26:06,170 \longrightarrow 00:26:08,010$ I was with my pain.

560

00:26:08,010 --> 00:26:12,770 And a lady from upstairs called me, she don't know me.

561

00:26:12,770 --> 00:26:16,760 [NON-ENGLISH] you know, small.

562

00:26:16,760 --> 00:26:18,110 You know, I was small.

563

00:26:18,110 --> 00:26:20,460 Small girl, come up, come up.

564

00:26:20,460 --> 00:26:22,490 I did not have to--

565

00:26:22,490 --> 00:26:24,740 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

566

00:26:24,740 --> 00:26:25,980 She hoisted you up.

567

00:26:25,980 --> 00:26:26,480 Yes.

568

00:26:26,480 --> 00:26:29,172 And she was talking nice to me.

569

00:26:29,172 --> 00:26:31,670 I never saw her before.

570

00:26:31,670 --> 00:26:33,140 And she was good to me.

571

00:26:33,140 --> 00:26:36,120 This is the lady what I tell you did [INAUDIBLE] after I lost

572

00:26:36,120 --> 00:26:39,030 her [? after find ?] Auschwitz.

573

00:26:39,030 --> 00:26:42,355 What the best what you can, she want to please me.

5/4

00:26:42,355 --> 00:26:44,780 And I was close with her.

575

00:26:44,780 --> 00:26:48,510 You know, from Majdanek was four transport going to Auschwitz.

576

00:26:48,510 --> 00:26:49,960

It's all, the rest was all--

577 00:26:49,960 --> 00:26:52,880

578 00:26:52,880 --> 00:26:54,570 crematory, you know?

579 00:26:54,570 --> 00:26:57,860 And she wasn't the first and I wasn't the last, so I lost her.

00:26:57,860 --> 00:27:00,000 But I find her, after I tell you the story

581 00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:02,240 of how I find her in Auschwitz.

582 00:27:02,240 --> 00:27:05,200 Not, i was alone, you know.

583 00:27:05,200 --> 00:27:06,920 How much longer were you there before you

00:27:06,920 --> 00:27:08,720 were moved to Auschwitz?

585 00:27:08,720 --> 00:27:09,510 Two months.

586 00:27:09,510 --> 00:27:10,870 Two months?

587 00:27:10,870 --> 00:27:17,170 Two months in Majdanek is to live 120 years now.

588 00:27:17,170 --> 00:27:20,948 Not many people that have encountered 20 years.

589 00:27:20,948 --> 00:27:22,740 And did they tell you where you were going?

590 00:27:22,740 --> 00:27:24,380 No, nothing.

591 00:27:24,380 --> 00:27:26,900 And you know when they took us, the transport, you

592 00:27:26,900 --> 00:27:27,910 don't know what.

593 00:27:27,910 --> 00:27:31,142 You see something you need to believe Everyone

594 00:27:31,142 --> 00:27:33,170 has to belive something.

595 00:27:33,170 --> 00:27:34,120 Why, I don't know.

596 00:27:34,120 --> 00:27:35,760 I think I was the worst.

597 00:27:35,760 --> 00:27:37,220 I not keep myself.

598 00:27:37,220 --> 00:27:38,000 This I live.

599 00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:39,440 I was the best.

600 00:27:39,440 --> 00:27:40,910 I was the worst.

601 00:27:40,910 --> 00:27:43,078 This the reason I living.

602 00:27:43,078 --> 00:27:44,120 What do you mean by that?

603

00:27:44,120 --> 00:27:48,940 You see, when you tell, oy, she's alive.

604

00:27:48,940 --> 00:27:51,500 I need be, I get the [INAUDIBLE]..

605

00:27:51,500 --> 00:27:54,380 No, my parents were better for me, my sisters were better.

606

00:27:54,380 --> 00:27:58,280 And they was killed.

607

00:27:58,280 --> 00:27:59,190 Why am I alive?

608

00:27:59,190 --> 00:28:00,330 I don't know.

609

00:28:00,330 --> 00:28:02,180 Maybe this is a punishment.

610

00:28:02,180 --> 00:28:05,150 I don't know.

611

00:28:05,150 --> 00:28:07,000 Maybe it was meant to be that way.

612

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:07,600 Maybe.

613

00:28:07,600 --> 00:28:10,950 Maybe you need talk to me.

614

00:28:10,950 --> 00:28:14,100 And you know, when they took us, the transport to go,

615

00:28:14,100 --> 00:28:15,080 we don't know.

616

00:28:15,080 --> 00:28:19,480 It was one night outside, after the same shower.

617

00:28:19,480 --> 00:28:23,980 You go in the shower and all of a sudden,

618

00:28:23,980 --> 00:28:26,410 you was ready for the shower.

619

00:28:26,410 --> 00:28:32,720 I saw someone coming in and tell, stop, it's a mistake.

620

00:28:32,720 --> 00:28:35,490 They're going other place, not the shower.

621

00:28:35,490 --> 00:28:37,620 Then this SS man not open the door.

622

00:28:37,620 --> 00:28:40,130 This was the gas.

623

00:28:40,130 --> 00:28:42,620 Was a transport for all the people.

624

00:28:42,620 --> 00:28:44,630 In that transport for young people to work,

625

00:28:44,630 --> 00:28:46,140 what they wanted send to Auschwitz,

626

00:28:46,140 --> 00:28:47,990 and they make a mistake.

627

00:28:47,990 --> 00:28:50,390 They mixed up the transport.

628

00:28:50,390 --> 00:28:52,700

And they took us out.

629 00:28:52,700 --> 00:28:54,590 In the morning, they

In the morning, they took us to really shower

630

00:28:54,590 --> 00:28:57,337 before we went on the train to Auschwitz.

631

00:28:57,337 --> 00:28:58,170 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

632

00:28:58,170 --> 00:28:59,503 So it was meant for you to live.

633

00:28:59,503 --> 00:29:01,505 You see I never forget it.

634

00:29:01,505 --> 00:29:02,195 A second.

635

00:29:02,195 --> 00:29:05,930

636

00:29:05,930 --> 00:29:08,940 So that you felt yourself that you had

637

00:29:08,940 --> 00:29:10,190 been marked for extermination?

638

00:29:10,190 --> 00:29:14,880 No, I was still believing I find somebody from my sisters,

639

00:29:14,880 --> 00:29:16,520 I had young sisters.

640

00:29:16,520 --> 00:29:20,110 And you know I was so broken that I --

641

00:29:20,110 --> 00:29:20,865

You believe this.

642 00:29:20,865 --> 00:29:25,810 I never do nothing to be in line,

643 00:29:25,810 --> 00:29:31,810 to go away from a selection, to exchange some bread--

644 00:29:31,810 --> 00:29:35,050 I was going so straight.

645 00:29:35,050 --> 00:29:37,420 And I not ever desire to live.

646 00:29:37,420 --> 00:29:40,370

647 00:29:40,370 --> 00:29:42,580 I don't know why I stayed alive.

648 00:29:42,580 --> 00:29:46,110 I have here a friend, well she was in Majdanek and Auschwitz,

649 00:29:46,110 --> 00:29:46,810 too.

650 00:29:46,810 --> 00:29:48,280 She was in there.

651 00:29:48,280 --> 00:29:50,680 She tell me, a couple of times she was telling me,

652 00:29:50,680 --> 00:29:54,400 I not can believe that you not was doing this

653 00:29:54,400 --> 00:29:56,680 and this and this and you live.

654 00:29:56,680 --> 00:29:59,620 I would never have more bread than they give me.

655 00:29:59,620 --> 00:30:02,050 You know in Auschwitz too, you have--

656 00:30:02,050 --> 00:30:04,480 you went to work, you bring home a potato,

657 00:30:04,480 --> 00:30:06,145 you give the potato away, they give you

658 00:30:06,145 --> 00:30:11,170 a little bread, a handkerchief-but I never do this.

659 00:30:11,170 --> 00:30:12,290 You never tried anything--

00:30:12,290 --> 00:30:12,915 Never tried it.

661 00:30:12,915 --> 00:30:15,550

662 00:30:15,550 --> 00:30:17,620 I was once in a selection in Auschwitz.

663 00:30:17,620 --> 00:30:21,440 I met a girl from our house, what I was living in Warsaw,

664 00:30:21,440 --> 00:30:26,380 in the ghetto, my age, a beautiful girl.

665 00:30:26,380 --> 00:30:28,290 Twice I told you, my age.

666 00:30:28,290 --> 00:30:30,400 I was small, skinny.

00:30:30,400 --> 00:30:32,170 And she was close to me.

668

00:30:32,170 --> 00:30:37,210 She begged me to go behind the bridge, you know.

669

00:30:37,210 --> 00:30:40,193 She was afraid that I would be taken to the crematorium cause

670

00:30:40,193 --> 00:30:43,150 I'm so small was looking be 12 years.

671

00:30:43,150 --> 00:30:47,050 And I tell her no, I was too weak.

672

00:30:47,050 --> 00:30:50,230 You believe she went left, and I went right?

673

00:30:50,230 --> 00:30:52,270 Left was death and--

674

00:30:52,270 --> 00:30:55,570 you can answer this question as why?

675

00:30:55,570 --> 00:30:56,990 She was beautiful.

676

00:30:56,990 --> 00:30:58,460 It doesn't seem logical, does it?

677

00:30:58,460 --> 00:30:59,570 No.

678

00:30:59,570 --> 00:31:05,800 When somebody tell me this, this was standing next to me.

00:31:05,800 --> 00:31:08,720 There was nothing logical about any of it.

680

00:31:08,720 --> 00:31:09,220 No.

681

00:31:09,220 --> 00:31:11,630 I was afraid for the people for children.

682

00:31:11,630 --> 00:31:14,080 She was and good-looking and tall.

683

00:31:14,080 --> 00:31:17,380 Some people say that what enabled them to survive

684

00:31:17,380 --> 00:31:19,570 was that they had a will to live.

685

00:31:19,570 --> 00:31:21,700 What you're saying is that you weren't

686

00:31:21,700 --> 00:31:24,820 trying any harder than anybody else, and yet you lived anyway.

687

00:31:24,820 --> 00:31:25,320 Yes.

688

00:31:25,320 --> 00:31:25,660 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

689

00:31:25,660 --> 00:31:27,993 And you even you even said that you didn't want to live.

690

00:31:27,993 --> 00:31:32,250 No, sometime I was thinking to myself, when I [INAUDIBLE]

00:31:32,250 --> 00:31:36,130

met nobody, I'd better be killed.

692

00:31:36,130 --> 00:31:38,140

And you know when I was liberated,

693

00:31:38,140 --> 00:31:42,340

this was May 8, '45, in Czechoslovakia

694

00:31:42,340 --> 00:31:44,170

where I told you.

695

00:31:44,170 --> 00:31:47,440

Was evening almost, the Russian liberated us.

696

00:31:47,440 --> 00:31:51,590

I was two days on my bed.

697

00:31:51,590 --> 00:31:53,530

I not was hungry.

698

00:31:53,530 --> 00:31:55,120

I not want dresses.

699

00:31:55,120 --> 00:31:57,210

I was a sick two days.

700

00:31:57,210 --> 00:32:02,920

At this moment, I realized I am alive and I have nobody.

\0T

00:32:02,920 --> 00:32:06,430

And I am living all the

time in concentration camp,

702

00:32:06,430 --> 00:32:09,280

you are thinking tomorrow's

not mine, tomorrow.

703

00:32:09,280 --> 00:32:10,840

You must know we will all be killed.

704

00:32:10,840 --> 00:32:12,530 You're not was believing.

705

00:32:12,530 --> 00:32:15,470 But when I was liberated, and I saw I am alive,

706

00:32:15,470 --> 00:32:20,693 this makes so appealing to me that I was sick two days,

707

00:32:20,693 --> 00:32:21,610 you know, you believe.

708

00:32:21,610 --> 00:32:25,230 I come to Palestine in '46.

709

00:32:25,230 --> 00:32:28,230 Nothing having-- better --

710

00:32:28,230 --> 00:32:33,670 sure I have a skirt on, I have nothing, not luggage, nothing.

711

00:32:33,670 --> 00:32:35,410 Just what you had on you.

712

00:32:35,410 --> 00:32:40,320 A toothbrush, and a pyjama, blue and green.

713

00:32:40,320 --> 00:32:42,040 You know I have no desire for nothing.

714

00:32:42,040 --> 00:32:45,110

715

00:32:45,110 --> 00:32:47,380

And yet you got through everything.

00:32:47,380 --> 00:32:51,490 You told us in Majdanek there was a woman who helped you

717

00:32:51,490 --> 00:32:53,230 after you were separated from your mother

718

00:32:53,230 --> 00:32:56,222 and that you were reunited with her again in Auschwitz

719

00:32:56,222 --> 00:32:58,180 and that there was something important that you

720

00:32:58,180 --> 00:32:59,470 wanted to tell us about her.

721

00:32:59,470 --> 00:33:02,560 I come to Auschwitz and now she was quarantine.

722

00:33:02,560 --> 00:33:03,870 You know what is a quarantine.

723

00:33:03,870 --> 00:33:04,850 They keep you--

724

00:33:04,850 --> 00:33:05,350 Quarantined.

725

00:33:05,350 --> 00:33:07,840 Oh, quarantined.

726

00:33:07,840 --> 00:33:10,330 Often you went to a block to work,

727

00:33:10,330 --> 00:33:12,640 but still don't know where to send us.

/28

00:33:12,640 --> 00:33:14,800

It was daytime, in the morning was

729

00:33:14,800 --> 00:33:17,950 Appell, who not was working go back in the block,

730

00:33:17,950 --> 00:33:19,030 and go to work.

731

00:33:19,030 --> 00:33:20,950 You know, to work places to go.

732

00:33:20,950 --> 00:33:23,410 All of a sudden I see [? Deraka. ?]

733

00:33:23,410 --> 00:33:25,570 The woman from Majdanek.

734

00:33:25,570 --> 00:33:28,330 She tell me, you know, she called me Evunya In Polish,

735

00:33:28,330 --> 00:33:30,610 Eva, small.

736

00:33:30,610 --> 00:33:32,650 It's Evanya

737

00:33:32,650 --> 00:33:35,842 She tell me, good I see you, I need something from you.

738

00:33:35,842 --> 00:33:37,050 I said, what you want Rachel?

739

00:33:37,050 --> 00:33:45,460 I We have so little not plates, a dfiferent plate for the soup,

740

00:33:45,460 --> 00:33:46,630 everyone had soup.

741

00:33:46,630 --> 00:33:47,350 Like bowls--

742

00:33:47,350 --> 00:33:50,380 It's a bowl, a big bowl.

743

00:33:50,380 --> 00:33:55,250 And she tell me, listen, I have bread here, so much bread.

744

00:33:55,250 --> 00:33:57,150 I not can take this to work.

745

00:33:57,150 --> 00:34:00,070 You go in the block, keep this bread.

746

00:34:00,070 --> 00:34:03,157 When they call you in daytime and tell Appell,

747

00:34:03,157 --> 00:34:05,240 put this someplace, then go out, for they kill you

748

00:34:05,240 --> 00:34:07,010 when they see.

749

00:34:07,010 --> 00:34:10,370 I don't know and I said, yes, Rachel I do.

750

00:34:10,370 --> 00:34:14,699 I was sitting all day on the bed.

751

00:34:14,699 --> 00:34:19,040 I will tell you, I was much over my life, after my sickness.

752

00:34:19,040 --> 00:34:24,050 Never you have so pain when you hungry, and you smell bread.

753

00:34:24,050 --> 00:34:24,780

This a pain--

754

00:34:24,780 --> 00:34:25,280 It hurts.

755

00:34:25,280 --> 00:34:27,330 It hurts.

756

00:34:27,330 --> 00:34:28,120 Hurts.

757

00:34:28,120 --> 00:34:29,989 Smell bread, and it's not mine.

758

00:34:29,989 --> 00:34:31,219 And you can't eat it.

759

00:34:31,219 --> 00:34:35,210 You can when you want but I not touch this.

760

00:34:35,210 --> 00:34:38,190 After me go on Appell, she come home, and I [INAUDIBLE]

761

00:34:38,190 --> 00:34:39,460 I handle this, I knew it.

762

00:34:39,460 --> 00:34:42,072 She said, you not took bread from me?

763

00:34:42,072 --> 00:34:44,030 Until you not give me.

764

00:34:44,030 --> 00:34:48,139 She took one make it half and she give me.

765

00:34:48,139 --> 00:34:50,520 But I was not touching this bread.

766

00:34:50,520 --> 00:34:54,380

And today I prove myself, this is

767

00:34:54,380 --> 00:34:57,150 the biggest satisfaction what I can prove this,

768

00:34:57,150 --> 00:34:59,000 I'm still strong.

769

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:02,290 You know you today when you put here diamonds, not count,

770

00:35:02,290 --> 00:35:05,060 and I take a diamond, it's not so important.

771

00:35:05,060 --> 00:35:06,580 Not as that piece of bread.

772

00:35:06,580 --> 00:35:08,840 Ah, when you're hungry, you not eat today

773

00:35:08,840 --> 00:35:10,800 and you smell the bread and you keep

774

00:35:10,800 --> 00:35:14,550 its promise 5:00 in the morning to 6:00 in the evening--

775

00:35:14,550 --> 00:35:15,920 And don't eat it.

776

00:35:15,920 --> 00:35:16,920 This is a [NON-ENGLISH].

777

00:35:16,920 --> 00:35:18,337 You know what is a [NON-ENGLISH]??

778

00:35:18,337 --> 00:35:18,950 No.

779 00:35:18,950 --> 00:35:26,930 This is you need be very, very strong.

780

00:35:26,930 --> 00:35:31,750 And after, she went her way and I went her way other work.

781 00:35:31,750 --> 00:35:33,980 I saw her sometimes.

782 00:35:33,980 --> 00:35:39,290 All of a sudden she disappeared, and I heard she's sick,

783 00:35:39,290 --> 00:35:43,260 she had typhus, and they took her another place in hospital,

784 00:35:43,260 --> 00:35:44,800 in Auschwitz.

785 00:35:44,800 --> 00:35:47,010 And I no hear from her and nothing could not see her

786 00:35:47,010 --> 00:35:47,510 anymore..

787 00:35:47,510 --> 00:35:50,975 I work in Tel Aviv, with my cousin.

788 00:35:50,975 --> 00:35:54,710

789 00:35:54,710 --> 00:35:59,040 Manuel's wife is standing by a window.

790 00:35:59,040 --> 00:36:02,530 And I look in a window in a store and gifts, 791 00:36:02,530 --> 00:36:06,260 and some time in somebody you look at you, you feel the--

792

00:36:06,260 --> 00:36:07,060 Vibration.

793

00:36:07,060 --> 00:36:07,920 Staring at you.

794

00:36:07,920 --> 00:36:10,790 Yes, you know, and I look at a tall lady

795

00:36:10,790 --> 00:36:13,290 and remind me the lady from Auschwitz.

796

00:36:13,290 --> 00:36:16,450 She was cleaning, a Jewish lady.

797

00:36:16,450 --> 00:36:18,170 And with her was her husband.

798

00:36:18,170 --> 00:36:19,740 I don't know, a tall man.

799

00:36:19,740 --> 00:36:21,500 And she did this is --

800

00:36:21,500 --> 00:36:23,888 pointing at me and telling, this she is.

801

00:36:23,888 --> 00:36:24,680 She recognized you.

802

00:36:24,680 --> 00:36:25,740 Yes.

803

00:36:25,740 --> 00:36:29,480 And my cousin was thinking, God forbid, what I do, what crime,

00:36:29,480 --> 00:36:31,010 is she looking for me?

805

00:36:31,010 --> 00:36:34,430 And she tell me, you're the [NON-ENGLISH] [INAUDIBLE]??

806

00:36:34,430 --> 00:36:35,690 I said, yes.

807

00:36:35,690 --> 00:36:36,650 So I looking for you.

808

00:36:36,650 --> 00:36:38,010 Have a message for you.

809

00:36:38,010 --> 00:36:40,010 So she recognized you before you recognized her.

810

00:36:40,010 --> 00:36:43,305 And recognize her too after when I look down, but not

811

00:36:43,305 --> 00:36:44,180 seeing her, you know.

812

00:36:44,180 --> 00:36:46,010 She recognize me, but she was standing so

813

00:36:46,010 --> 00:36:47,360 looking in the window too.

814

00:36:47,360 --> 00:36:50,200 And after she went back and looked at me.

815

00:36:50,200 --> 00:36:53,420 And I said, yes, and now on block was three of us.

816

00:36:53,420 --> 00:36:55,820 One was a tall, skinny. 817 00:36:55,820 --> 00:36:57,860 One was a blonde and a little chubby,

818

00:36:57,860 --> 00:37:00,430 and I was the little one.

819

00:37:00,430 --> 00:37:01,130 I said, yes.

820

00:37:01,130 --> 00:37:04,160 She said, I have a message for you, and are looking for you.

821

00:37:04,160 --> 00:37:06,130 I said what is the message?

822

00:37:06,130 --> 00:37:08,060 Rachel. she was working in hospital.

823

00:37:08,060 --> 00:37:13,530 This poor lady died, and she called me before she died,

824

00:37:13,530 --> 00:37:16,010 and she said this I go block 13 and then

825

00:37:16,010 --> 00:37:19,100 look for that little Eva, and tell her

826

00:37:19,100 --> 00:37:23,880 that her last prayer was that I'd be alive.

827

00:37:23,880 --> 00:37:26,140 And then she tell me she loved me

828

00:37:26,140 --> 00:37:27,800 Cause she wanted a sister once.

00:37:27,800 --> 00:37:33,310

830

00:37:33,310 --> 00:37:34,830 And you never forgot her either.

831

00:37:34,830 --> 00:37:40,430

832

00:37:40,430 --> 00:37:42,870 When was the last time you saw her?

833

00:37:42,870 --> 00:37:50,877 In '43, maybe July maybe August, summertime, I don't know.

834

00:37:50,877 --> 00:37:51,460 End of summer.

835

00:37:51,460 --> 00:37:52,335 I think she was sick.

836

00:37:52,335 --> 00:37:54,830

837

00:37:54,830 --> 00:37:56,720 I know only Rachel is her name.

838

00:37:56,720 --> 00:37:58,550 She is from Warsaw, and I understood it

839

00:37:58,550 --> 00:38:02,080 when you are supposed to tell you--

840

00:38:02,080 --> 00:38:04,580 the Kaddish show you a name.

841

00:38:04,580 --> 00:38:07,220 I tell Rachel [NON-ENGLISH].

842

00:38:07,220 --> 00:38:08,780 You say Kaddish for her?

843

00:38:08,780 --> 00:38:13,180 You know, when I go for Yizkor.

844

00:38:13,180 --> 00:38:15,310 And you still do that, you said.

845

00:38:15,310 --> 00:38:16,310 I never forget her--

846

00:38:16,310 --> 00:38:19,798 This is the woman who died, and said before she

847

00:38:19,798 --> 00:38:20,840 died, that she loved you?

848

00:38:20,840 --> 00:38:21,673 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

849

00:38:21,673 --> 00:38:24,440 She prayed that I'd be in life and she tell me, yes --

850

00:38:24,440 --> 00:38:25,940 And this lady was working.

851

00:38:25,940 --> 00:38:28,277 She give her a message and she never find me.

852

00:38:28,277 --> 00:38:29,610 But she find me in the Tel Aviv.

853

00:38:29,610 --> 00:38:31,040 She gave me the message.

854

00:38:31,040 --> 00:38:32,350 Is this lady still alive?

855

00:38:32,350 --> 00:38:32,940 I think so.

00:38:32,940 --> 00:38:33,950

More I not see her.

857

00:38:33,950 --> 00:38:36,350 Sure, she was married, she told me this is her husband.

858

00:38:36,350 --> 00:38:39,740 Much older lady for me, you know.

859

00:38:39,740 --> 00:38:44,290 I never saw her after.

860

00:38:44,290 --> 00:38:47,660 She bring me the message to Tel Aviv.

861

00:38:47,660 --> 00:38:48,717 It's amazing.

862

00:38:48,717 --> 00:38:49,550 Is this not amazing?

863

00:38:49,550 --> 00:38:51,320 Yes.

864

00:38:51,320 --> 00:38:57,140 Maybe that says that there is a reason why people live through.

865

00:38:57,140 --> 00:38:59,000 Maybe that was her reason, to tell you.

866

00:38:59,000 --> 00:38:59,990 Yes.

867

00:38:59,990 --> 00:39:04,160 You know, after the years, now in this stage,

868

00:39:04,160 --> 00:39:09,900

I think first Am Israel Hai, not murder.

869

00:39:09,900 --> 00:39:15,520 We never go never be finish me enough to kill 6 million

870

00:39:15,520 --> 00:39:19,320 so you know, Hitler wanted to finish everyone.

871

00:39:19,320 --> 00:39:24,650 And second, maybe, must be a witness to talk about this.

872

00:39:24,650 --> 00:39:25,760 Yes.

873

00:39:25,760 --> 00:39:26,290 I know.

874

00:39:26,290 --> 00:39:29,720 And this normally be in people be

875

00:39:29,720 --> 00:39:33,090 writing books so to be talking.

876

00:39:33,090 --> 00:39:36,800 History not to be Jewish survivors here

877

00:39:36,800 --> 00:39:39,710 and history go in other stories.

878

00:39:39,710 --> 00:39:42,350 History you can only hear from survivors.

879

00:39:42,350 --> 00:39:44,620 And I will tell you something.

880

00:39:44,620 --> 00:39:47,110

Even when interview hundred survivors,

00:39:47,110 --> 00:39:48,590 you not be knowing the truth.

882

00:39:48,590 --> 00:39:49,980 You know why?

883

00:39:49,980 --> 00:39:53,620 The six million Jews not talking anymore.

884

00:39:53,620 --> 00:39:59,300 They suffered the worst, but they are not witnesses anymore.

885

00:39:59,300 --> 00:40:01,810 The ones who died can't tell their stories.

886

00:40:01,810 --> 00:40:04,370 And this may never know did--

887

00:40:04,370 --> 00:40:05,470 how they suffered.

888

00:40:05,470 --> 00:40:05,980 Believe me.

889

00:40:05,980 --> 00:40:09,010

890

00:40:09,010 --> 00:40:10,810 You were not liberated from Auschwitz.

891

00:40:10,810 --> 00:40:12,893 You were in another concentration camp after that.

292

00:40:12,893 --> 00:40:17,200 Weisswasser, I was working there from December 'til May.

893

00:40:17,200 --> 00:40:19,213

Ammunition.

894

00:40:19,213 --> 00:40:21,380 What kind of work did you do there in the munitions?

895

00:40:21,380 --> 00:40:23,500 Very hard, you know what is galvanization?

896

00:40:23,500 --> 00:40:25,030 Mhm.

897

00:40:25,030 --> 00:40:28,720 Very dangerous work.

898

00:40:28,720 --> 00:40:31,340 And how long were you there?

899

00:40:31,340 --> 00:40:35,218 End of December to my liberation, May 8th.

900

00:40:35,218 --> 00:40:37,010 Describe the dangerous work you were doing,

901

00:40:37,010 --> 00:40:38,200 but why was it dangerous?

902

00:40:38,200 --> 00:40:50,290 This was ammunition fabricate when you make the [INAUDIBLE]..

903

00:40:50,290 --> 00:40:51,010 The guns?

904

00:40:51,010 --> 00:40:51,510 The guns.

905

00:40:51,510 --> 00:40:53,460 The put in the guns.

906

00:40:53,460 --> 00:40:54,560

The bullets.

907

00:40:54,560 --> 00:40:55,820 The bullets.

908

00:40:55,820 --> 00:41:00,590 You active when they ready, you polished them.

909

00:41:00,590 --> 00:41:03,170 You put this in the chemicals.

910

00:41:03,170 --> 00:41:06,628 The chemicals when a German was working it, was working.

911

00:41:06,628 --> 00:41:08,420 He was wearing here a mask and here a mask.

912

00:41:08,420 --> 00:41:10,590 I had not nothing me.

913

00:41:10,590 --> 00:41:11,810 You were exposed.

914

00:41:11,810 --> 00:41:14,090 You had no protection at all.

915

00:41:14,090 --> 00:41:17,000 After the nighttime you was working shifts night and day.

916

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:20,000 You go to a machine, you polish, and when you tie it,

917

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:23,590 and you make one mistake, you go in the machines then.

918

00:41:23,590 --> 00:41:25,940 One was a girl from Hungary.

00:41:25,940 --> 00:41:28,970 I was many-- this camp was more Hungarian Jews

920

00:41:28,970 --> 00:41:31,710 than Polish Jews.

921

00:41:31,710 --> 00:41:34,490 A second maybe, for a slip, she went with the machine

922

00:41:34,490 --> 00:41:36,190 as pieces.

923

00:41:36,190 --> 00:41:37,940 You know the [INAUDIBLE] machines,

924

00:41:37,940 --> 00:41:41,590 you had her hair catch or something.

925

00:41:41,590 --> 00:41:44,330 Very dangerous work.

926

00:41:44,330 --> 00:41:48,170 Was it mostly women working in that factory?

927

00:41:48,170 --> 00:41:50,390 Was working mens, too, but not together.

928

00:41:50,390 --> 00:41:54,470 And the men was not Jews, was from other, Yugoslavian,

929

00:41:54,470 --> 00:41:56,240 French.

930

00:41:56,240 --> 00:41:58,110 Jewish it was only the woman, that

931

00:41:58,110 --> 00:42:00,110

in this, when I was working.

932 00:42:00,110 --> 00:42:01,900 A big fabric.

933 00:42:01,900 --> 00:42:03,500 And this was in which camp?

934 00:42:03,500 --> 00:42:05,990 Weisswasser the last five months what I was.

935 00:42:05,990 --> 00:42:07,790 This is in Czechoslovakia.

936 00:42:07,790 --> 00:42:08,930 So you were in three camps.

937 00:42:08,930 --> 00:42:10,350 You were in Majdanek, Auschwitz--

938 00:42:10,350 --> 00:42:14,290 And after when Auschwitz was almost liberated,

939 00:42:14,290 --> 00:42:17,750 they try the people to take to other work.

940 00:42:17,750 --> 00:42:20,060 How would you compare the three camps

941 00:42:20,060 --> 00:42:23,190 to each other, which was the worst, which--

942 00:42:23,190 --> 00:42:28,940 I can tell, the worst was Majdanek and Auschwitz.

943 00:42:28,940 --> 00:42:36,890 Auschwitz I was living I don't maybe

00:42:36,890 --> 00:42:38,940

five minutes from the crematorium.

945

00:42:38,940 --> 00:42:42,960

You so smell all day and you know

946

00:42:42,960 --> 00:42:46,400

it was snowing so when we going home and com

we going home and come in

947

00:42:46,400 --> 00:42:49,670

and they put putting kind of it's not easy.

948

00:42:49,670 --> 00:42:53,640

And you was waiting every day for you to go.

949 00:42:53,640 --> 00:42:56,000

Was that time in

Auschwitz when you go,

950

00:42:56,000 --> 00:42:57,970

Mengele make so many said exits.

951

00:42:57,970 --> 00:43:04,470

And after in '44 when come

from Hungary the Jews for Łódż.

952

00:43:04,470 --> 00:43:08,710

And there was so many people

the crematoriums was too small.

953

00:43:08,710 --> 00:43:11,200

Was not time to make this all.

954

00:43:11,200 --> 00:43:16,240

You make a selection for

an happenings you know,

955

00:43:16,240 --> 00:43:20,612

and they put your number

and you wait for the death.

956 00:43:20,612 --> 00:43:22,445 You know, what is, God forbid, that somebody

957 00:43:22,445 --> 00:43:26,850 had cancer and the doctor tell you you'll be living a month?

958 00:43:26,850 --> 00:43:28,770 And this you was, it was not known

959 00:43:28,770 --> 00:43:33,190 if you come tomorrow to call you, on a week, or a month.

960 00:43:33,190 --> 00:43:38,250 It once was a selection I was in the beds was a big mix.

961 00:43:38,250 --> 00:43:42,140 Eight, ten girls, was a girl, foreign too

962 00:43:42,140 --> 00:43:44,430 but it was a different method.

963 00:43:44,430 --> 00:43:45,580 And she had a good coat.

964 00:43:45,580 --> 00:43:49,750 [INAUDIBLE] she had begged me to take my coat.

965 00:43:49,750 --> 00:43:51,350 I not need anymore.

966 00:43:51,350 --> 00:43:52,990 Give me you my food.

967 00:43:52,990 --> 00:43:55,910 And I no can do this, and I tell her no. 968 00:43:55,910 --> 00:43:58,790 You believe they put them, the numbers

969

00:43:58,790 --> 00:44:03,080 did not come to work anymore.

970

00:44:03,080 --> 00:44:05,660 I come home from work, she not was more dead

971

00:44:05,660 --> 00:44:09,860 and her coat was there.

972

00:44:09,860 --> 00:44:12,470 She not take her coat, she left for me.

973

00:44:12,470 --> 00:44:16,460

974

00:44:16,460 --> 00:44:17,240 What did you do?

00:44:17,240 --> 00:44:20,570

976

00:44:20,570 --> 00:44:21,140 She is gone.

977

00:44:21,140 --> 00:44:25,290

978

00:44:25,290 --> 00:44:30,210 [INAUDIBLE] You know I have to tell you,

979

00:44:30,210 --> 00:44:36,740 sometime myself not can believe a person can be so strong,

980

00:44:36,740 --> 00:44:39,180

and can lift over

so many things.

981

00:44:39,180 --> 00:44:39,980 As you did.

982

00:44:39,980 --> 00:44:41,730 You know I think I'm normal.

983

00:44:41,730 --> 00:44:44,060 Instead be normal.

984

00:44:44,060 --> 00:44:49,170 I still have children, raise family, and talk and work.

985

00:44:49,170 --> 00:44:51,820 Something [NON-ENGLISH].

986

00:44:51,820 --> 00:44:56,350 Something is wrong here, the chemistry, something wrong.

987

00:44:56,350 --> 00:44:58,770 But you must be very strong, and you must have

988

00:44:58,770 --> 00:45:02,370 had a will to have survived it.

989

00:45:02,370 --> 00:45:05,810 And you're here to talk about it and to tell future generations.

990

00:45:05,810 --> 00:45:07,440 Oh I'm strong.

991

00:45:07,440 --> 00:45:10,410 When I tell you I never was doing nothing.

992

00:45:10,410 --> 00:45:11,520 Really to live--

993

00:45:11,520 --> 00:45:12,360

To help yourself.

994

00:45:12,360 --> 00:45:14,820 My fate pushed me you know.

995

00:45:14,820 --> 00:45:16,590 I know that myself

996

00:45:16,590 --> 00:45:19,152 You think it was something out of your own control

997

00:45:19,152 --> 00:45:20,110 that was impelling you.

998

00:45:20,110 --> 00:45:23,520 You see, in Auschwitz was all kind of works.

999

00:45:23,520 --> 00:45:26,380 Was one work what was calling Kanada.

1000

00:45:26,380 --> 00:45:27,630 I don't know what you call it.

1001

00:45:27,630 --> 00:45:29,610 I just heard about that last week.

1002

00:45:29,610 --> 00:45:31,950 This was very good kommando.

1003

00:45:31,950 --> 00:45:35,220 Why-- ironic why what's good, but the old things, when

1004

00:45:35,220 --> 00:45:38,550 did people come to Auschwitz, what you took away the clothes,

1005

00:45:38,550 --> 00:45:41,940 and the luggage, was coming from Greece, from Belgium,

00:45:41,940 --> 00:45:44,120 from Holland, and all over.

1007

00:45:44,120 --> 00:45:49,290 This girls was selecting shoes, dresses for the Germans

1008

00:45:49,290 --> 00:45:51,276 everything need to be perfect.

1009

00:45:51,276 --> 00:45:54,047 And between the dress them a good dress or they find bread

1010

00:45:54,047 --> 00:45:54,547 or they --

1011

00:45:54,547 --> 00:46:00,750 It must be that young people.

1012

00:46:00,750 --> 00:46:02,520 And I was in Auschwitz with a girl

1013

00:46:02,520 --> 00:46:04,230 what I was very close with her.

1014

00:46:04,230 --> 00:46:05,567 She left to other.

1015

00:46:05,567 --> 00:46:07,720 I lost her, she is in Poland.

1016

00:46:07,720 --> 00:46:09,330 I'm not going find her anymore.

1017

00:46:09,330 --> 00:46:12,190 She was very close.

1018

00:46:12,190 --> 00:46:17,590 And we both decide to go to Kanada.

00:46:17,590 --> 00:46:20,220 And it was the one with [INAUDIBLE] sure when you want,

1020

00:46:20,220 --> 00:46:21,230 you can go to Kanada.

1021

00:46:21,230 --> 00:46:26,310 And this evening after Appell you wrote your number

1022

00:46:26,310 --> 00:46:29,030 in the morning you go there.

1023

00:46:29,030 --> 00:46:31,860 After Appell she wrote my number in this scarce number

1024

00:46:31,860 --> 00:46:33,780 my friend she was small.

1025

00:46:33,780 --> 00:46:36,220 In my name in the morning.

1026

00:46:36,220 --> 00:46:37,910 Ida was her name.

1027

00:46:37,910 --> 00:46:39,660 [Personal Name] I don't know [INAUDIBLE]..

1028

00:46:39,660 --> 00:46:41,220 Are you crazy?

1029

00:46:41,220 --> 00:46:44,460 Ida I'm not going.

1030

00:46:44,460 --> 00:46:46,830 [INAUDIBLE]

1031

00:46:46,830 --> 00:46:49,160 I don't know.

1032

00:46:49,160 --> 00:46:54,100

My father come, I never had a dreams, not much.

1033

00:46:54,100 --> 00:46:55,290 I wish I had.

1034

00:46:55,290 --> 00:46:57,900 My father come and tell, stay where you stay.

1035

00:46:57,900 --> 00:47:00,180 You'll be in life anyway.

1036

00:47:00,180 --> 00:47:01,365 Don't go there.

1037

00:47:01,365 --> 00:47:03,240 Your father said that to you when your dream.

1038

00:47:03,240 --> 00:47:05,050 And I not went.

1039

00:47:05,050 --> 00:47:07,530 And everyone can tell you when today you

1040

00:47:07,530 --> 00:47:12,010 can have a position that 25,000 and you can work out

1041

00:47:12,010 --> 00:47:13,920 5,000, what's your take?

1042

00:47:13,920 --> 00:47:18,330 It is not good it's not that he [INAUDIBLE] this was

1043

00:47:18,330 --> 00:47:22,290 life or death, and I'm not one.

1044

00:47:22,290 --> 00:47:24,915 Because of what your father told you in the dream? 1045 00:47:24,915 --> 00:47:25,415 Yes.

1046 00:47:25,415 --> 00:47:27,810 And once I have a dream with my mother too.

1047 00:47:27,810 --> 00:47:31,770 I was very sick in Auschwitz, and you know in Auschwitz you

1048 00:47:31,770 --> 00:47:33,270 was knowing when you go in hospital,

1049 00:47:33,270 --> 00:47:35,190 you must not come back.

1050 00:47:35,190 --> 00:47:38,370 I've [INAUDIBLE] you sometime is sick you're not can help.

1051 00:47:38,370 --> 00:47:42,210 When I was a really sick, fever.

1052 00:47:42,210 --> 00:47:44,050 And I tell them I'm not be better tomorrow.

1053 00:47:44,050 --> 00:47:45,128 I not go work anymore.

1054 00:47:45,128 --> 00:47:46,170 And I can't work anymore.

1055 00:47:46,170 --> 00:47:47,100 I go to hospital.

1056 00:47:47,100 --> 00:47:50,340 You give up.

1057 00:47:50,340 --> 00:47:52,980 This night, my mother come to me and give me 1058 00:47:52,980 --> 00:47:55,350 a glass ice cold water.

1059

00:47:55,350 --> 00:47:56,850 And I tell her, mommy, she--

1060

00:47:56,850 --> 00:47:59,670 I'm so cold, and you give me a cold water?

1061

00:47:59,670 --> 00:48:01,710 Just drink, drink.

1062

00:48:01,710 --> 00:48:03,780 I was speaking Jewish at home with my parents.

1063

00:48:03,780 --> 00:48:09,210 It's just the reason I like the language so much.

1064

00:48:09,210 --> 00:48:11,510 In the morning I tell, I go to work.

1065

00:48:11,510 --> 00:48:15,430 Just as I was feeling better.

1066

00:48:15,430 --> 00:48:17,430 As if you had really drunk the water.

1067

00:48:17,430 --> 00:48:18,630 I was thinking I drink.

1068

00:48:18,630 --> 00:48:20,710 This was a dream.

1069

00:48:20,710 --> 00:48:23,250 And when you woke up in the morning, you felt strong

10/0

00:48:23,250 --> 00:48:24,180

and you felt good.

1071 00:48:24,180 --> 00:48:25,013 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

1072

00:48:25,013 --> 00:48:26,430 Enough to go to work.

1073

00:48:26,430 --> 00:48:29,700 And my friend was--

1074

00:48:29,700 --> 00:48:30,500 they are that good.

1075

00:48:30,500 --> 00:48:32,370 I feel much better I will be all right.

1076

00:48:32,370 --> 00:48:36,750 I went to work and not went to the hospital.

1077

00:48:36,750 --> 00:48:38,670 It's as if your mother saved your life.

1078

00:48:38,670 --> 00:48:42,060 And this is the reason I say something back to this

1079

00:48:42,060 --> 00:48:44,190 my parents come and dream.

1080

00:48:44,190 --> 00:48:47,800 Be doing something maybe for me.

1081

00:48:47,800 --> 00:48:50,430 But they came to you at very important times.

1082

00:48:50,430 --> 00:48:51,875 Yes, but not now.

1083

00:48:51,875 --> 00:48:55,200

00:48:55,200 --> 00:48:57,820 That's extraordinary.

1085

00:48:57,820 --> 00:49:00,610 They came to you when you needed them.

1086

00:49:00,610 --> 00:49:02,780 I need them now too.

1087

00:49:02,780 --> 00:49:03,837 Forgive me.

1088

00:49:03,837 --> 00:49:06,460

1089

00:49:06,460 --> 00:49:09,940 How long was it before you were actually liberated?

1090

00:49:09,940 --> 00:49:10,700 How old I was?

1091

00:49:10,700 --> 00:49:15,580 No, how long was it from the time you came into Auschwitz?

1092

00:49:15,580 --> 00:49:17,050 To-- it was Weiss--

1093

00:49:17,050 --> 00:49:18,050 what was the name of it?

1094

00:49:18,050 --> 00:49:18,842 Five months almost.

1095

00:49:18,842 --> 00:49:22,350

1096

00:49:22,350 --> 00:49:25,930

[Mumbles]

00:49:25,930 --> 00:49:28,810 Was there a point at which you really

1098

00:49:28,810 --> 00:49:31,715 knew that you were going to survive?

1099

00:49:31,715 --> 00:49:37,970 After, when it was April, end of March,

1100

00:49:37,970 --> 00:49:42,340 sometime you heard Germany was telling--

1101

00:49:42,340 --> 00:49:44,470 you know that Germany is losing.

1102

00:49:44,470 --> 00:49:50,870 But you know a day before, they kill you.

1103

00:49:50,870 --> 00:49:53,490 you know when we was in--

1104

00:49:53,490 --> 00:49:55,610 Auschwitz was bombed, too.

1105

00:49:55,610 --> 00:49:59,360 And everyone was, when they bomb our barrack, may be dead.

1106

00:49:59,360 --> 00:50:02,930 Not in crematorium, but a normal dead.

1107

00:50:02,930 --> 00:50:04,840 But they bombed the crematorium?

1108

00:50:04,840 --> 00:50:07,260 Didn't ever bomb the crematorium.

00:50:07,260 --> 00:50:09,990 What do you think, they don't know the American charges where

1110

00:50:09,990 --> 00:50:11,170 the crematorium is?

1111

00:50:11,170 --> 00:50:13,150 Nobody cared about us Jews.

1112

00:50:13,150 --> 00:50:14,200 They bombed all around.

1113

00:50:14,200 --> 00:50:15,090 All around.

1114

00:50:15,090 --> 00:50:22,340 And the smoke He wanted to be finished.

1115

00:50:22,340 --> 00:50:24,100 They help Hitler.

1116

00:50:24,100 --> 00:50:27,080 Did you wonder why they didn't do that?

1117

00:50:27,080 --> 00:50:30,533 Or did that come to you later on,

1118

00:50:30,533 --> 00:50:32,450 that they could have done it and didn't do it?

1119

00:50:32,450 --> 00:50:34,600 I asked why they not do.

1120

00:50:34,600 --> 00:50:35,300 I was angry.

1121

00:50:35,300 --> 00:50:36,490 I don't know who this is.

00:50:36,490 --> 00:50:39,400 This is from England soldiers, or America when --

1123

00:50:39,400 --> 00:50:42,740 I don't know, but I was angry.

1124

00:50:42,740 --> 00:50:43,240 I was angry.

1125

00:50:43,240 --> 00:50:44,410 How could they not--

1126

00:50:44,410 --> 00:50:49,820 how many life you can save when they bomb the crematoriums?

1127

00:50:49,820 --> 00:50:53,110 They never bomb the crematoriums.

1128

00:50:53,110 --> 00:50:54,970 Now, I look different on this story,

1129

00:50:54,970 --> 00:50:56,840 as I was not in newspapers.

1130

00:50:56,840 --> 00:50:57,340 Nothing.

1131

00:50:57,340 --> 00:50:58,000 I was close.

1132

00:50:58,000 --> 00:50:58,860 I was hungry.

1133

00:50:58,860 --> 00:51:00,580 I was angry only.

1134

00:51:00,580 --> 00:51:06,310 Now I was talking and student was asking me, I'm angry?

00:51:06,310 --> 00:51:07,960 Sure, I'm angry.

1136

00:51:07,960 --> 00:51:10,560 I'm angry at the

Jews in America, too.

1137

00:51:10,560 --> 00:51:13,210 You not do enough.

1138

00:51:13,210 --> 00:51:14,230

You felt betrayed.

1139

00:51:14,230 --> 00:51:15,760

Yes.

1140

00:51:15,760 --> 00:51:16,448

You need scream.

1141

00:51:16,448 --> 00:51:17,740

You need to make demonstration.

1142

00:51:17,740 --> 00:51:19,780

You need do something.

1143

00:51:19,780 --> 00:51:20,980

Nobody was believing.

1144

00:51:20,980 --> 00:51:22,240

Maybe you're not was knowing.

1145

00:51:22,240 --> 00:51:23,620

Maybe you're not was believing.

1146

00:51:23,620 --> 00:51:28,390

I know that people was knowing.

1147

00:51:28,390 --> 00:51:29,050

I don't know.

1148

00:51:29,050 --> 00:51:32,990

That's the reason now when do something for Russian Jews.

00:51:32,990 --> 00:51:35,780 Forever a Jew what is under pressure

1150

00:51:35,780 --> 00:51:37,330 we will do everything to help.

1151

00:51:37,330 --> 00:51:38,830 And when you scream, somebody heard.

1152

00:51:38,830 --> 00:51:41,490

1153

00:51:41,490 --> 00:51:44,480 You're not [INAUDIBLE] what I can do, you can do.

1154

00:51:44,480 --> 00:51:48,750

1155

00:51:48,750 --> 00:51:50,270 But at the time at the time this was

1156

00:51:50,270 --> 00:51:54,530 happening it was just the sense that nobody seemed to care.

1157

00:51:54,530 --> 00:51:56,820 It wasn't just the Jews or the Americans.

1158

00:51:56,820 --> 00:51:59,000 Nobody, nobody.

1159

00:51:59,000 --> 00:52:00,110 Jews was escaped.

1160

00:52:00,110 --> 00:52:03,650 My sister escaped from Belgium.

1161

00:52:03,650 --> 00:52:06,260 She won't escape to Switzerland,

did not give her in.

1162

00:52:06,260 --> 00:52:09,260 She went to French, and French she went to Spain.

1163

00:52:09,260 --> 00:52:13,190 Franco sent her back to Lyon In France,

1164

00:52:13,190 --> 00:52:16,110 In France, the Germans sent her to Auschwitz.

1165

00:52:16,110 --> 00:52:19,970 Nobody wanted to help the Jew.

1166

00:52:19,970 --> 00:52:23,060 You felt that you were really there on your own,

1167

00:52:23,060 --> 00:52:25,640 and that your survival was dependent on yourselves.

1168

00:52:25,640 --> 00:52:26,473 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

1169

00:52:26,473 --> 00:52:30,800 Today on our own to, need be strong.

1170

00:52:30,800 --> 00:52:34,040 And he said I need be strong.

1171

00:52:34,040 --> 00:52:36,880 I only believe one thing, but this time be Israel and not

1172

00:52:36,880 --> 00:52:37,850 be happen this.

1173

00:52:37,850 --> 00:52:40,937

00:52:40,937 --> 00:52:43,270 If Israel had existed then, this wouldn't have happened.

1175

00:52:43,270 --> 00:52:46,190 When you have a mother, you are more protected.

1176

00:52:46,190 --> 00:52:49,680 An orphan is not good.

1177

00:52:49,680 --> 00:52:51,630 When did you learn about this sister

1178

00:52:51,630 --> 00:52:53,310 and what had happened to her?

1179

00:52:53,310 --> 00:52:54,550 Was that afterwards?

1180

00:52:54,550 --> 00:52:59,550 Afterwards, my dear sister what was living in Belgium

1181

00:52:59,550 --> 00:53:01,860 was met at that cousin.

1182

00:53:01,860 --> 00:53:06,290 And two cousins sisters had husbands away.

1183

00:53:06,290 --> 00:53:08,040 And one was with her together she only

1184

00:53:08,040 --> 00:53:10,500 woke up in the hotel for one couple hours,

1185

00:53:10,500 --> 00:53:14,020 and she not was anymore.

1186

00:53:14,020 --> 00:53:15,780

I know.

1187

00:53:15,780 --> 00:53:19,500

I had lost my

father, my sister, I

1188

00:53:19,500 --> 00:53:22,040 had Treblinka, Majdanek,

Chelmno, and Auschwitz.

1189

00:53:22,040 --> 00:53:24,840

1190

00:53:24,840 --> 00:53:27,120

Where the members of your family had been?

1191

00:53:27,120 --> 00:53:27,980

Yes.

1192

00:53:27,980 --> 00:53:31,270

In Chelmno, I have two married

sisters with three children

1193

00:53:31,270 --> 00:53:34,840

and a younger sister from me.

1194

00:53:34,840 --> 00:53:37,560

Eva, we're going to take a short break

1195

00:53:37,560 --> 00:53:39,330

and we'll continue

the discussion

1196

00:53:39,330 --> 00:53:40,990

with Eva Chava-Kempinski.

1197

00:53:40,990 --> 00:53:42,540

In just a few more minutes.

1198

00:53:42,540 --> 00:53:43,120

Thank you.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection 00:53:43,120 --> 00:53:44,780 Thank you.

1200 00:53:44,780 --> 00:53:51,000