

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,964

2

00:00:05,964 --> 00:00:08,946

[MUSIC PLAYING]

3

00:00:08,946 --> 00:00:23,370

4

00:00:23,370 --> 00:00:24,880

Good afternoon.

5

00:00:24,880 --> 00:00:26,280

My name is Bernard Weinstein.

6

00:00:26,280 --> 00:00:28,800

I'm a member of the Kean

College oral testimonies

7

00:00:28,800 --> 00:00:31,590

project of the Holocaust

Resource Center.

8

00:00:31,590 --> 00:00:33,720

We are affiliated with

the Video Archives

9

00:00:33,720 --> 00:00:37,020

for Holocaust Testimonies

at Yale University.

10

00:00:37,020 --> 00:00:39,770

Sharing the interview with

me is Jose [PERSONAL NAME]

11

00:00:39,770 --> 00:00:43,740

and we are privileged to

welcome Sonya Oshman, a survivor

12

00:00:43,740 --> 00:00:47,130

presently living in Hillside

New Jersey, who has generously

13

00:00:47,130 --> 00:00:49,740  
volunteered to give testimony  
about her experiences

14

00:00:49,740 --> 00:00:52,290  
before, during, and  
after the Holocaust.

15

00:00:52,290 --> 00:00:54,930  
Mrs. Oshman, we would  
like to welcome you

16

00:00:54,930 --> 00:00:58,260  
and we'd like to ask you  
if you begin by telling us

17

00:00:58,260 --> 00:01:01,470  
about the town or  
city in which you

18

00:01:01,470 --> 00:01:06,510  
lived in your formative years.

19

00:01:06,510 --> 00:01:07,040  
Can I start?

20

00:01:07,040 --> 00:01:09,720  
Yes.

21

00:01:09,720 --> 00:01:14,470  
My name is Mrs. Oshman, Sonya  
Oshman, and I was born--

22

00:01:14,470 --> 00:01:19,590  
I was born December  
17, 1922 in the town,

23

00:01:19,590 --> 00:01:22,050  
I would say today's a town  
what years ago maybe was

24

00:01:22,050 --> 00:01:25,800

one of city of  
Novogradok in Poland,

25

00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:27,680

and the name was Navahrudak.

26

00:01:27,680 --> 00:01:31,530

It's the northeastern  
part of Poland.

27

00:01:31,530 --> 00:01:39,960

I come from quite a traditional  
family, Jewish family,

28

00:01:39,960 --> 00:01:41,420

of course.

29

00:01:41,420 --> 00:01:44,820

We were a family  
of five children.

30

00:01:44,820 --> 00:01:50,560

I had wonderful parents  
that were very--

31

00:01:50,560 --> 00:01:54,480

they were traditional but  
also, they brought us up

32

00:01:54,480 --> 00:01:55,890

in a very modern way.

33

00:01:55,890 --> 00:01:59,850

34

00:01:59,850 --> 00:02:02,040

At that time, I  
was quite fortunate

35

00:02:02,040 --> 00:02:09,990

because I could go to

school from my whole family.

36

00:02:09,990 --> 00:02:14,790

And then, and I could do a  
lot of things what I liked.

37

00:02:14,790 --> 00:02:17,040

Excuse me, were these  
public schools you went to?

38

00:02:17,040 --> 00:02:18,850

I went to public schools.

39

00:02:18,850 --> 00:02:23,490

And I went also to higher  
education, which is they,

40

00:02:23,490 --> 00:02:28,560

you can see them studying  
with gymnasium, which was,

41

00:02:28,560 --> 00:02:35,140

at that time, it's like if you  
compare with our education,

42

00:02:35,140 --> 00:02:37,590

it's public school plus.

43

00:02:37,590 --> 00:02:39,210

It's like two  
years of college, I

44

00:02:39,210 --> 00:02:41,250

would say, because  
we had all kind,

45

00:02:41,250 --> 00:02:45,510

we had two languages there,  
and Latin for 4, 6 years.

46

00:02:45,510 --> 00:02:52,350

And so then after I  
finished my gymnasium,

47  
00:02:52,350 --> 00:02:54,810  
I wanted to go for medicine.

48  
00:02:54,810 --> 00:02:59,310  
But since we had quite a  
difficult situation because

49  
00:02:59,310 --> 00:03:01,270  
at that time, we had  
the Soviet Unions,

50  
00:03:01,270 --> 00:03:04,470  
the Soviet Union had  
occupied our territory,

51  
00:03:04,470 --> 00:03:07,750  
and my parents did not want  
to send me to a medical school

52  
00:03:07,750 --> 00:03:10,720  
out from this territory.

53  
00:03:10,720 --> 00:03:14,700  
So I had to be satisfied  
with the schools

54  
00:03:14,700 --> 00:03:16,530  
that we had over there.

55  
00:03:16,530 --> 00:03:21,550  
And I went then to  
study languages.

56  
00:03:21,550 --> 00:03:24,750  
And then one of the  
languages was French.

57  
00:03:24,750 --> 00:03:28,560  
And I was studying  
until the war started.

58

00:03:28,560 --> 00:03:32,400

And the rest of my  
family, we were five.

59

00:03:32,400 --> 00:03:36,330

They were all in the  
age of schoolchildren.

60

00:03:36,330 --> 00:03:38,130

I mean schoolings.

61

00:03:38,130 --> 00:03:40,200

My parents, they had a business.

62

00:03:40,200 --> 00:03:42,870

My mother and father,  
they worked together.

63

00:03:42,870 --> 00:03:47,340

At home I was fortunate  
to have my grandparents

64

00:03:47,340 --> 00:03:49,500

from my mother's side.

65

00:03:49,500 --> 00:03:52,400

And on Sunday my  
mother had help we

66

00:03:52,400 --> 00:03:57,910

lived a quiet comfortable life.

67

00:03:57,910 --> 00:04:00,780

What was your father's business?

68

00:04:00,780 --> 00:04:06,330

My father had a store from a  
quite big, from motorcycles,

69

00:04:06,330 --> 00:04:11,940

and bicycle, radios, electrical  
appliances, plus people

70

00:04:11,940 --> 00:04:15,240  
they worked for him too and  
also my mother was very active

71

00:04:15,240 --> 00:04:17,170  
in the business.

72

00:04:17,170 --> 00:04:23,340  
As a Jewish family, I would  
say that we were all quiet,

73

00:04:23,340 --> 00:04:29,660  
I mean, fortunate because  
my father was a businessmen.

74

00:04:29,660 --> 00:04:32,610  
But of course, in  
the same town, there

75

00:04:32,610 --> 00:04:35,040  
were Jewish families  
that they did not

76

00:04:35,040 --> 00:04:37,800  
have the same  
opportunity that I had.

77

00:04:37,800 --> 00:04:42,660  
Because in order for  
the Jew, there was not--

78

00:04:42,660 --> 00:04:47,600  
we did not have antisemitism  
like in the open.

79

00:04:47,600 --> 00:04:52,380  
But there was always  
a hidden inside,

80

00:04:52,380 --> 00:04:54,510  
whether it was education  
or no matter what

81

00:04:54,510 --> 00:05:01,950

it is that Jewish  
children, they could not

82

00:05:01,950 --> 00:05:05,670

reach exactly what they wanted  
like any kind of profession

83

00:05:05,670 --> 00:05:11,385

or whatever, unless you  
had influence by parents,

84

00:05:11,385 --> 00:05:15,270

you had money, and  
you had capability.

85

00:05:15,270 --> 00:05:17,160

Which you had to  
be very capable.

86

00:05:17,160 --> 00:05:21,900

Do you remember that any  
things that were ever said to,

87

00:05:21,900 --> 00:05:24,900

let's say to you or to  
other Jewish children

88

00:05:24,900 --> 00:05:27,470

that you knew of  
that indicated that--

89

00:05:27,470 --> 00:05:28,527

That I'm Jewish?

90

00:05:28,527 --> 00:05:29,360

Yes, that you were--

91

00:05:29,360 --> 00:05:29,916

Oh, yes.

92

00:05:29,916 --> 00:05:31,374



As a matter of  
fact, we used to, we

93  
00:05:31,374 --> 00:05:36,600  
lived in, on the street  
and cross the way I had a--

94  
00:05:36,600 --> 00:05:39,310  
it was a family.

95  
00:05:39,310 --> 00:05:42,850  
And family are very influential.

96  
00:05:42,850 --> 00:05:47,640  
And then I had a friend and  
he used to play with me.

97  
00:05:47,640 --> 00:05:50,307  
And we went to schools together,  
we were very good friends.

98  
00:05:50,307 --> 00:05:51,140  
These were non-Jews.

99  
00:05:51,140 --> 00:05:52,200  
So we are --

100  
00:05:52,200 --> 00:05:53,590  
These were non-Jews that you--

101  
00:05:53,590 --> 00:05:54,090  
Non-Jews.

102  
00:05:54,090 --> 00:05:54,960  
Yes, non-Jews.

103  
00:05:54,960 --> 00:05:57,570  
Of course, we used to  
go to school together.

104  
00:05:57,570 --> 00:06:00,060  
And we used to socialize

and everything.

105  
00:06:00,060 --> 00:06:03,480  
And he was a boy.

106  
00:06:03,480 --> 00:06:05,150  
And I was, of  
course, the same age.

107  
00:06:05,150 --> 00:06:06,300  
We played together.

108  
00:06:06,300 --> 00:06:09,680  
We used to go to each other's  
houses and everything.

109  
00:06:09,680 --> 00:06:13,340  
So he used to always  
tell me that he'd say,

110  
00:06:13,340 --> 00:06:16,310  
like they used to say,  
he used to joke and say,

111  
00:06:16,310 --> 00:06:19,370  
they used to say, like  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

112  
00:06:19,370 --> 00:06:20,720  
What does it mean?

113  
00:06:20,720 --> 00:06:22,820  
That we don't like the Jews.

114  
00:06:22,820 --> 00:06:26,090  
But the Jewish  
girls, we like them.

115  
00:06:26,090 --> 00:06:28,310  
So otherwise, you could see it.

116  
00:06:28,310 --> 00:06:31,200

Also, there was  
in there lots of--

117  
00:06:31,200 --> 00:06:35,050  
I mean, we know from everyday  
life, nobody said anything.

118  
00:06:35,050 --> 00:06:36,450  
I mean, whatever.

119  
00:06:36,450 --> 00:06:38,660  
But in schools,  
for example, when

120  
00:06:38,660 --> 00:06:42,600  
they used to accept children,  
so there was this, of course,

121  
00:06:42,600 --> 00:06:44,080  
we were a minority.

122  
00:06:44,080 --> 00:06:47,750  
But with percentage was very  
small from Jewish children

123  
00:06:47,750 --> 00:06:52,910  
going into the gymnasium  
or going to other high --

124  
00:06:52,910 --> 00:06:54,440  
universities.

125  
00:06:54,440 --> 00:06:56,750  
Now, if a Jewish  
boy or a girl, they

126  
00:06:56,750 --> 00:07:01,040  
wanted to go into university,  
was quite very difficult.

127  
00:07:01,040 --> 00:07:07,316  
You had to have money,  
influence, and be very bright.

128  
00:07:07,316 --> 00:07:10,460  
But you see, in the  
war, other children,

129  
00:07:10,460 --> 00:07:12,080  
they couldn't afford to do that.

130  
00:07:12,080 --> 00:07:16,460  
So then, after you finish,  
you have your education,

131  
00:07:16,460 --> 00:07:22,400  
whether [INAUDIBLE],, whatever  
it is, so you go into trades.

132  
00:07:22,400 --> 00:07:25,790  
And so they used  
to go for whatever.

133  
00:07:25,790 --> 00:07:30,200  
They used to go into  
mechanics or be a carpenter,

134  
00:07:30,200 --> 00:07:32,600  
or they used to go  
into other things.

135  
00:07:32,600 --> 00:07:36,530  
The same thing like the Jewish  
people over there in our town.

136  
00:07:36,530 --> 00:07:42,050  
And it was not only our town  
that the Jews, mostly, they

137  
00:07:42,050 --> 00:07:46,130  
weren't even farmers because  
they did not have a chance even

138  
00:07:46,130 --> 00:07:47,155  
to purchase.

139

00:07:47,155 --> 00:07:48,530

And they didn't  
have enough money

140

00:07:48,530 --> 00:07:51,400

to purchase land and  
work on the land.

141

00:07:51,400 --> 00:07:51,900

Yeah.

142

00:07:51,900 --> 00:07:52,750

So what did they do?

143

00:07:52,750 --> 00:07:55,550

They used to settle in the  
small towns or the bigger

144

00:07:55,550 --> 00:08:00,410

towns, big cities, and  
they used to do trade work.

145

00:08:00,410 --> 00:08:05,040

And this was mostly the work  
that the people they did.

146

00:08:05,040 --> 00:08:06,560

Also, there were  
lots of merchants.

147

00:08:06,560 --> 00:08:07,260

Right.

148

00:08:07,260 --> 00:08:08,510

There were small people there.

149

00:08:08,510 --> 00:08:10,420

They had smaller  
stores and bigger

150

00:08:10,420 --> 00:08:14,660

and you know very big ones

And that's how they grew.

151

00:08:14,660 --> 00:08:17,800

But of course, it  
was, they used to say,

152

00:08:17,800 --> 00:08:20,270

and this is true, maybe  
that's our obsession.

153

00:08:20,270 --> 00:08:21,920

But it's not.

154

00:08:21,920 --> 00:08:25,520

They say, no matter when  
the Jew came, so with him,

155

00:08:25,520 --> 00:08:28,550

in the [INAUDIBLE],, he brought  
a little bit anti-Semitism.

156

00:08:28,550 --> 00:08:30,070

Yeah.

157

00:08:30,070 --> 00:08:32,710

And then eventually,  
as the war started,

158

00:08:32,710 --> 00:08:36,890

and we had, then, when the  
Germans occupied our territory,

159

00:08:36,890 --> 00:08:40,940

so we saw it very clearly  
that the population turned

160

00:08:40,940 --> 00:08:41,990

against us.

161

00:08:41,990 --> 00:08:44,510

And they went hand by  
hand with the Germans.

162

00:08:44,510 --> 00:08:48,920

And when we had these  
actions and the killings

163

00:08:48,920 --> 00:08:50,900

in the ghettos,  
the Germans, they

164

00:08:50,900 --> 00:08:53,860

did not have to have  
their army there.

165

00:08:53,860 --> 00:08:56,830

They just had the  
militia that was

166

00:08:56,830 --> 00:09:01,490

formed from the population  
that used to live over there.

167

00:09:01,490 --> 00:09:05,190

And they had two or  
three German soldiers.

168

00:09:05,190 --> 00:09:07,010

And the action was done.

169

00:09:07,010 --> 00:09:09,320

And the killing was done.

170

00:09:09,320 --> 00:09:15,020

So as I say, I'm  
not prosecuting.

171

00:09:15,020 --> 00:09:19,450

I mean, I'm telling you  
exactly what it was.

172

00:09:19,450 --> 00:09:22,280

But there were  
also Polish people

173

00:09:22,280 --> 00:09:24,900  
that they were  
very good friends.

174  
00:09:24,900 --> 00:09:28,280  
And they worked  
together with us.

175  
00:09:28,280 --> 00:09:30,130  
And they helped us.

176  
00:09:30,130 --> 00:09:35,120  
That was a percentage  
also, of course.

177  
00:09:35,120 --> 00:09:40,940  
But the majority, like you  
could see, it was not pro.

178  
00:09:40,940 --> 00:09:42,620  
It was against.

179  
00:09:42,620 --> 00:09:44,210  
Yeah.

180  
00:09:44,210 --> 00:09:46,910  
Before we get into  
the war years,

181  
00:09:46,910 --> 00:09:52,290  
were there any early memories  
that you have of your family

182  
00:09:52,290 --> 00:09:58,100  
or of your life before that are  
particularly important to you

183  
00:09:58,100 --> 00:10:00,310  
that you would like  
to share with us?

184  
00:10:00,310 --> 00:10:00,950  
Oh, yes.



185  
00:10:00,950 --> 00:10:01,965  
I would like to share.

186  
00:10:01,965 --> 00:10:02,465  
Why not?

187  
00:10:02,465 --> 00:10:02,965  
Please.

188  
00:10:02,965 --> 00:10:09,230  
We had a wonderful, beautiful  
life at home, very respectful.

189  
00:10:09,230 --> 00:10:14,210  
Yeah, I come from,  
a traditional home.

190  
00:10:14,210 --> 00:10:19,460  
I remember that always  
we had dinners together.

191  
00:10:19,460 --> 00:10:21,590  
And then-- Including  
your grandparents?

192  
00:10:21,590 --> 00:10:23,610  
Including my  
grandparents, of course.

193  
00:10:23,610 --> 00:10:26,390  
There wasn't much of  
love and devotion.

194  
00:10:26,390 --> 00:10:31,520  
And of course, all the  
children, we used to come,

195  
00:10:31,520 --> 00:10:33,380  
never ate alone.

196  
00:10:33,380 --> 00:10:35,700

There was always  
morning of course,

197  
00:10:35,700 --> 00:10:37,010  
before you go to school.

198  
00:10:37,010 --> 00:10:38,120  
It's natural.

199  
00:10:38,120 --> 00:10:40,595  
But at night, after my  
father used to come from ,

200  
00:10:40,595 --> 00:10:43,610  
with my mother from the  
store, so the whole family got

201  
00:10:43,610 --> 00:10:44,360  
together.

202  
00:10:44,360 --> 00:10:46,230  
Never nobody missed.

203  
00:10:46,230 --> 00:10:48,680  
Ate together, we  
joined together,

204  
00:10:48,680 --> 00:10:50,970  
we celebrated holidays together.

205  
00:10:50,970 --> 00:10:51,920  
Beautiful.

206  
00:10:51,920 --> 00:10:55,280  
Every Friday night,  
it was a Friday night

207  
00:10:55,280 --> 00:10:59,750  
with candles and prayers and  
a beautiful dinner, of course.

208  
00:10:59,750 --> 00:11:03,690

Holidays, high holidays,  
always going to the temple,

209  
00:11:03,690 --> 00:11:05,560  
to synagogues.

210  
00:11:05,560 --> 00:11:07,960  
Saturday to synagogues.

211  
00:11:07,960 --> 00:11:09,370  
And it was a  
beautiful like that.

212  
00:11:09,370 --> 00:11:10,810  
We had a beautiful life.

213  
00:11:10,810 --> 00:11:11,860  
Of course, yes.

214  
00:11:11,860 --> 00:11:12,880  
It was very nice.

215  
00:11:12,880 --> 00:11:14,290  
And we'll never forget it.

216  
00:11:14,290 --> 00:11:19,120  
Also, I was really fortunate  
because my parents,

217  
00:11:19,120 --> 00:11:21,910  
they supported us all the time.

218  
00:11:21,910 --> 00:11:24,470  
We never had any problems.

219  
00:11:24,470 --> 00:11:27,610  
Yes, they were very  
supportive, maybe

220  
00:11:27,610 --> 00:11:31,780  
because they were young people.

221

00:11:31,780 --> 00:11:37,485

In fact, when my mother  
was killed, she was 43.

222

00:11:37,485 --> 00:11:40,570

And my father was 45 years.

223

00:11:40,570 --> 00:11:43,390

And they considered  
this as old people.

224

00:11:43,390 --> 00:11:46,210

So they started a  
family very young.

225

00:11:46,210 --> 00:11:48,700

And my parents, they were young.

226

00:11:48,700 --> 00:11:50,420

So we had together then.

227

00:11:50,420 --> 00:11:52,730

They grew together with us.

228

00:11:52,730 --> 00:11:55,630

And the whole family  
was a very happy family,

229

00:11:55,630 --> 00:11:58,870

except that in the town  
where I used to be,

230

00:11:58,870 --> 00:12:03,970

we had a lot of the youth--

231

00:12:03,970 --> 00:12:09,820

except for the education  
that we used to have,

232

00:12:09,820 --> 00:12:13,990

there was something  
else in us because we

233  
00:12:13,990 --> 00:12:16,510  
had some kind other aspiration.

234  
00:12:16,510 --> 00:12:20,530  
Since we felt a little bit  
maybe that we are a minority

235  
00:12:20,530 --> 00:12:21,620  
or whatever.

236  
00:12:21,620 --> 00:12:26,320  
So there was all  
this thinking about--

237  
00:12:26,320 --> 00:12:32,770  
it was like in back of your  
mind that you were thinking

238  
00:12:32,770 --> 00:12:41,830  
about our tradition, about  
our forefathers, about a land

239  
00:12:41,830 --> 00:12:46,540  
that we had, and that about  
the Jews that were slaves.

240  
00:12:46,540 --> 00:12:48,610  
And then we were then liberated.

241  
00:12:48,610 --> 00:12:51,860  
Then about this-- that we  
never had our own land.

242  
00:12:51,860 --> 00:12:56,600  
And we were chased from one  
place to the other for years,

243  
00:12:56,600 --> 00:12:58,120  
always.

244  
00:12:58,120 --> 00:13:03,160

We learned, and at that time, I  
didn't experience what I read.

245  
00:13:03,160 --> 00:13:04,120  
And I learned.

246  
00:13:04,120 --> 00:13:07,750  
And everybody knew about  
it, about all the pogroms

247  
00:13:07,750 --> 00:13:10,470  
that they used to do on Jews.

248  
00:13:10,470 --> 00:13:13,350  
It's-- well, Poland-- it was not  
exactly at the time in Poland.

249  
00:13:13,350 --> 00:13:15,090  
It was Russia.

250  
00:13:15,090 --> 00:13:18,122  
It was Spain.

251  
00:13:18,122 --> 00:13:21,250  
So we learned about all  
the prosecutions, that's

252  
00:13:21,250 --> 00:13:22,850  
everything against our people.

253  
00:13:22,850 --> 00:13:26,700  
And always, their  
scapegoat was the Jew.

254  
00:13:26,700 --> 00:13:29,200  
So in the children's  
minds, there

255  
00:13:29,200 --> 00:13:32,320  
was always something  
left a little bit

256

00:13:32,320 --> 00:13:35,350  
that we should think  
about our homeland.

257  
00:13:35,350 --> 00:13:37,570  
Maybe there will  
be some day when

258  
00:13:37,570 --> 00:13:40,420  
we're going to be able  
to accomplish something

259  
00:13:40,420 --> 00:13:44,260  
for our people, that  
we shouldn't be chased,

260  
00:13:44,260 --> 00:13:50,020  
that we should be also have  
our own land, our own army,

261  
00:13:50,020 --> 00:13:52,570  
and our own freedom,  
that people,

262  
00:13:52,570 --> 00:13:54,980  
they shouldn't  
make pogroms on us.

263  
00:13:54,980 --> 00:13:57,010  
So what did we do at that time?

264  
00:13:57,010 --> 00:14:01,410  
Since Israel, at that time,  
was under a mandate from--

265  
00:14:01,410 --> 00:14:02,920  
England had it.

266  
00:14:02,920 --> 00:14:06,220  
And they did not let in Jews  
into Israel at that time--

267  
00:14:06,220 --> 00:14:07,570

it was not Israel at the time.

268

00:14:07,570 --> 00:14:09,480

It was Palestine.

269

00:14:09,480 --> 00:14:12,940

And so the youth,

lots of us-- not all

270

00:14:12,940 --> 00:14:16,090

of us, but a lot of

the Jewish youth,

271

00:14:16,090 --> 00:14:18,970

they used to belong to parties.

272

00:14:18,970 --> 00:14:20,920

Zionist parties.

273

00:14:20,920 --> 00:14:22,510

What was their aim?

274

00:14:22,510 --> 00:14:28,030

The aim was how to get

someday, when we grow up,

275

00:14:28,030 --> 00:14:32,020

to go to our country, and

being and live there together

276

00:14:32,020 --> 00:14:34,810

with all the countries

in the world.

277

00:14:34,810 --> 00:14:39,700

Because Poland was a country

that you had only Poles.

278

00:14:39,700 --> 00:14:43,330

The Jews, they were only

a minority, but except--

279



00:14:43,330 --> 00:14:45,920  
and gypsies, excuse me.

280  
00:14:45,920 --> 00:14:48,410  
Gypsies, Jews, and the Poles.

281  
00:14:48,410 --> 00:14:50,380  
There weren't  
another nationality.

282  
00:14:50,380 --> 00:14:51,730  
It's not like we have today.

283  
00:14:51,730 --> 00:14:54,010  
We're living in a  
beautiful democracy

284  
00:14:54,010 --> 00:14:55,900  
like we have United States.

285  
00:14:55,900 --> 00:14:58,720  
This is a masterpiece.

286  
00:14:58,720 --> 00:15:01,360  
Something for the world  
to see in the future.

287  
00:15:01,360 --> 00:15:03,310  
And by the way,  
this is the reason

288  
00:15:03,310 --> 00:15:07,390  
why I came today after 40  
years, to come and tell

289  
00:15:07,390 --> 00:15:10,630  
something and tell about  
my experience, not looking

290  
00:15:10,630 --> 00:15:14,680  
for vengeance, not  
looking for pity,

291

00:15:14,680 --> 00:15:18,760

but just to teach the world  
and the future generation

292

00:15:18,760 --> 00:15:21,100

there should never  
have been something

293

00:15:21,100 --> 00:15:27,030

what happened with us because  
this was something outrageous.

294

00:15:27,030 --> 00:15:30,140

It was just you cannot  
even think about it.

295

00:15:30,140 --> 00:15:33,370

After so many years,  
what I went through,

296

00:15:33,370 --> 00:15:37,870

and I'm sitting and thinking,  
what happened to me?

297

00:15:37,870 --> 00:15:39,610

And how people,  
they could be cruel

298

00:15:39,610 --> 00:15:41,350

and do with human beings--

299

00:15:41,350 --> 00:15:43,420

it's just unbelievable.

300

00:15:43,420 --> 00:15:47,770

I just don't-- sometimes, I  
think whether it's true or not.

301

00:15:47,770 --> 00:15:49,150

Its just unbelievable.

302

00:15:49,150 --> 00:15:53,680

Animals, they just don't  
behave like the Nazis

303  
00:15:53,680 --> 00:15:58,010  
with their ideas,  
what they did to us.

304  
00:15:58,010 --> 00:16:00,430  
First to the Jews,  
gypsies, and then

305  
00:16:00,430 --> 00:16:03,220  
they conquered the  
other the people.

306  
00:16:03,220 --> 00:16:07,290  
They did, also, atrocities  
to other people also.

307  
00:16:07,290 --> 00:16:11,290  
But then, the other  
people, they fought a war.

308  
00:16:11,290 --> 00:16:13,670  
But we were prosecuted  
for nothing.

309  
00:16:13,670 --> 00:16:14,350  
For what?

310  
00:16:14,350 --> 00:16:15,640  
Because I was a Jew?

311  
00:16:15,640 --> 00:16:16,890  
What did I do?

312  
00:16:16,890 --> 00:16:17,890  
Yeah.

313  
00:16:17,890 --> 00:16:19,610  
I didn't do anything wrong.

314

00:16:19,610 --> 00:16:20,540  
I was fine.

315  
00:16:20,540 --> 00:16:21,410  
I was good.

316  
00:16:21,410 --> 00:16:25,600  
I respected my friends,  
my Polish friends,

317  
00:16:25,600 --> 00:16:27,080  
who were very good friends.

318  
00:16:27,080 --> 00:16:28,360  
I used to eat in their house.

319  
00:16:28,360 --> 00:16:30,450  
I had a friend who used  
to come to my house.

320  
00:16:30,450 --> 00:16:32,380  
It was a beautiful situation.

321  
00:16:32,380 --> 00:16:34,610  
But I was a Jew.

322  
00:16:34,610 --> 00:16:39,030  
So we tried to into  
some organizations.

323  
00:16:39,030 --> 00:16:40,660  
And there were  
Zionist organizations.

324  
00:16:40,660 --> 00:16:42,600  
Your whole family or you alone?

325  
00:16:42,600 --> 00:16:43,460  
No, the youth.

326  
00:16:43,460 --> 00:16:43,960  
Yeah.

327  
00:16:43,960 --> 00:16:45,127  
I'm talking about the youth.

328  
00:16:45,127 --> 00:16:46,360  
You and your contemporaries.

329  
00:16:46,360 --> 00:16:50,170  
Yes, with my contemporaries.

330  
00:16:50,170 --> 00:16:54,660  
I mean, at my age, it was  
going on like that for years.

331  
00:16:54,660 --> 00:16:55,260  
Sure.

332  
00:16:55,260 --> 00:16:58,480  
So there were two  
organizations like Betar,

333  
00:16:58,480 --> 00:17:00,200  
and Hashomer they called it.

334  
00:17:00,200 --> 00:17:02,200  
They were pro-Zionist.

335  
00:17:02,200 --> 00:17:04,710  
What do you mean pro-Zionist?

336  
00:17:04,710 --> 00:17:08,869  
Their aim is to come to Israel  
one day and be independent.

337  
00:17:08,869 --> 00:17:10,599  
This is all what was.

338  
00:17:10,599 --> 00:17:18,040  
So we used to make  
meetings and talk about it,

339

00:17:18,040 --> 00:17:20,650  
how beautiful would it be.

340  
00:17:20,650 --> 00:17:24,109  
And we did support  
how much we could,

341  
00:17:24,109 --> 00:17:31,000  
a little, Israel, not being  
bad citizens to Poland.

342  
00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:32,230  
We were in Poland.

343  
00:17:32,230 --> 00:17:33,520  
We appreciated it.

344  
00:17:33,520 --> 00:17:34,660  
We paid our taxes.

345  
00:17:34,660 --> 00:17:36,070  
We were good citizens.

346  
00:17:36,070 --> 00:17:39,910  
But except that we had  
something else in our mind.

347  
00:17:39,910 --> 00:17:43,120  
It's like that we have  
something else to support.

348  
00:17:43,120 --> 00:17:45,340  
And this was also  
very beautiful.

349  
00:17:45,340 --> 00:17:46,030  
Yeah.

350  
00:17:46,030 --> 00:17:52,060  
It was really very beautiful,  
just we lived with ideas.

351

00:17:52,060 --> 00:17:55,090

Our minds, they were  
always occupied.

352

00:17:55,090 --> 00:17:59,200

There were aspirations that  
I wanted to be something.

353

00:17:59,200 --> 00:18:01,370

I wanted to do something.

354

00:18:01,370 --> 00:18:04,300

And I would say in  
my life, for example,

355

00:18:04,300 --> 00:18:06,490

I wanted to be a doctor.

356

00:18:06,490 --> 00:18:10,390

And I thought by being a doctor,  
I should help other people.

357

00:18:10,390 --> 00:18:13,090

And I should accomplish  
my studies and become one.

358

00:18:13,090 --> 00:18:16,240

And I felt that I would  
be a good one also.

359

00:18:16,240 --> 00:18:19,600

But unfortunately, at  
times, they weren't with me.

360

00:18:19,600 --> 00:18:20,730

Things they worked out.

361

00:18:20,730 --> 00:18:21,230

So--

362

00:18:21,230 --> 00:18:27,520

Was it generally accepted in  
the setting in which you grew up

363  
00:18:27,520 --> 00:18:29,000  
for women to become doctors?

364  
00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:29,720  
A woman should be a doctor?

365  
00:18:29,720 --> 00:18:30,250  
Yes.

366  
00:18:30,250 --> 00:18:31,570  
Well, I'll tell you something.

367  
00:18:31,570 --> 00:18:32,470  
Yes.

368  
00:18:32,470 --> 00:18:33,430  
Yes.

369  
00:18:33,430 --> 00:18:37,120  
You see, when people, they're  
talking about the old country,

370  
00:18:37,120 --> 00:18:39,430  
we are forgetting  
that the old country,

371  
00:18:39,430 --> 00:18:41,110  
it means it's years ago.

372  
00:18:41,110 --> 00:18:45,070  
When somebody says, that  
was the old country--

373  
00:18:45,070 --> 00:18:47,120  
so there were times years ago.

374  
00:18:47,120 --> 00:18:52,010  
But as the time goes ahead,  
everything was going ahead.

375



00:18:52,010 --> 00:18:57,430  
So my generation, when I was  
born in 1922, it was Poland.

376  
00:18:57,430 --> 00:19:00,130  
It was an independent  
country because there

377  
00:19:00,130 --> 00:19:03,880  
were times when Poland and the  
situation, the territorial,

378  
00:19:03,880 --> 00:19:06,280  
was that people,  
these countries,

379  
00:19:06,280 --> 00:19:09,190  
they used to occupy  
this poor territory.

380  
00:19:09,190 --> 00:19:10,040  
That's true.

381  
00:19:10,040 --> 00:19:12,770  
You see that Germany used  
to grab a piece of Poland,

382  
00:19:12,770 --> 00:19:14,620  
or Russia, they used to take.

383  
00:19:14,620 --> 00:19:19,000  
On the top, Estonia  
or Lithuania.

384  
00:19:19,000 --> 00:19:25,020  
So, I lived in times when  
Poland had her independence.

385  
00:19:25,020 --> 00:19:26,950  
They were modern times.

386  
00:19:26,950 --> 00:19:28,540  
My parents, they

were young people.

387

00:19:28,540 --> 00:19:31,120

And they understood,  
intelligent.

388

00:19:31,120 --> 00:19:32,830

And so why not?

389

00:19:32,830 --> 00:19:35,140

I could become a real one.

390

00:19:35,140 --> 00:19:36,250

I changed gymnasium.

391

00:19:36,250 --> 00:19:39,460

And I couldn't go for  
studies somewhere else.

392

00:19:39,460 --> 00:19:41,940

But I took whatever  
it was available.

393

00:19:41,940 --> 00:19:44,740

And maybe, if the  
war wouldn't start,

394

00:19:44,740 --> 00:19:47,500

we wouldn't have this  
operation, I mean,

395

00:19:47,500 --> 00:19:49,370

the German occupation  
and everything.

396

00:19:49,370 --> 00:19:51,770

So possible that  
I would be today--

397

00:19:51,770 --> 00:19:52,510

I'm an old woman.

398

00:19:52,510 --> 00:19:53,440  
I'm a grandmother.

399  
00:19:53,440 --> 00:19:58,150  
I would be maybe an old  
doctor helping people a lot.

400  
00:19:58,150 --> 00:19:59,500  
Yes.

401  
00:19:59,500 --> 00:20:02,890  
Yeah, I had beautiful memories.

402  
00:20:02,890 --> 00:20:08,560  
We had very, of  
course, I say it was.

403  
00:20:08,560 --> 00:20:10,090  
But they are beautiful memories.

404  
00:20:10,090 --> 00:20:12,580  
Of course, they are sad also.

405  
00:20:12,580 --> 00:20:17,910  
But as I say again, you  
cannot live with the past.

406  
00:20:17,910 --> 00:20:21,030  
You have to go  
forward and continue.

407  
00:20:21,030 --> 00:20:23,580  
You don't forget it.

408  
00:20:23,580 --> 00:20:25,010  
But you have to continue.

409  
00:20:25,010 --> 00:20:26,700  
And we have to be very--

410  
00:20:26,700 --> 00:20:29,760  
thank God I'm a happy person.

411  
00:20:29,760 --> 00:20:31,150  
Why?

412  
00:20:31,150 --> 00:20:36,390  
[? After, ?] I'm as happy as  
I can be because I cannot be

413  
00:20:36,390 --> 00:20:39,540  
a very happy person,  
whatever I went through,

414  
00:20:39,540 --> 00:20:44,340  
and what's left behind me  
cannot make me very happy.

415  
00:20:44,340 --> 00:20:48,075  
But, under the circumstances,  
I'm thankful to God

416  
00:20:48,075 --> 00:20:50,310  
that, first of all, I'm  
in a beautiful country

417  
00:20:50,310 --> 00:20:54,750  
that I live in, in a  
beautiful democracy.

418  
00:20:54,750 --> 00:20:57,540  
We are all freedom  
loving people.

419  
00:20:57,540 --> 00:21:01,470  
And I brought up a nice  
family, not too big one.

420  
00:21:01,470 --> 00:21:03,540  
I have two children, two sons.

421  
00:21:03,540 --> 00:21:06,930  
Thank God, they  
are both lawyers.

422

00:21:06,930 --> 00:21:09,690

Very respectful people.

423

00:21:09,690 --> 00:21:11,730

And I have two little  
grandchildren, maybe

424

00:21:11,730 --> 00:21:13,620

on the way another one.

425

00:21:13,620 --> 00:21:14,510

And I'm very happy.

426

00:21:14,510 --> 00:21:16,440

Thank God, my  
husband is with me.

427

00:21:16,440 --> 00:21:18,540

I have a very nice husband.

428

00:21:18,540 --> 00:21:24,810

And I mean, as possible,  
under the circumstances,

429

00:21:24,810 --> 00:21:28,290

I'm thankful to God the way  
things, they worked out.

430

00:21:28,290 --> 00:21:31,470

Of course, there are lots of  
different and difficult times

431

00:21:31,470 --> 00:21:32,430

ahead.

432

00:21:32,430 --> 00:21:35,440

And also, right now,  
nothing is smooth.

433

00:21:35,440 --> 00:21:38,055

Every day or  
something else, there

434  
00:21:38,055 --> 00:21:42,040  
are some health problems  
and other problems.

435  
00:21:42,040 --> 00:21:43,230  
Yes, of course.

436  
00:21:43,230 --> 00:21:45,750  
And when we came  
to this country,

437  
00:21:45,750 --> 00:21:47,040  
we had lots of problems.

438  
00:21:47,040 --> 00:21:49,990  
It was very difficult,  
very difficult.

439  
00:21:49,990 --> 00:21:53,170  
I did things, believe  
it or not, I would never

440  
00:21:53,170 --> 00:21:54,540  
believe in my life.

441  
00:21:54,540 --> 00:21:57,150  
My mother would get up  
and say, Sonya, hey.

442  
00:21:57,150 --> 00:21:57,950  
What happened here?

443  
00:21:57,950 --> 00:21:59,430  
You doing this and that?

444  
00:21:59,430 --> 00:22:00,750  
It's impossible.

445  
00:22:00,750 --> 00:22:01,860  
Yes, I did.

446

00:22:01,860 --> 00:22:04,810

But work?

447

00:22:04,810 --> 00:22:06,600

There's nothing wrong with it.

448

00:22:06,600 --> 00:22:08,400

I worked very hard  
in this country.

449

00:22:08,400 --> 00:22:10,050

And I accomplished  
a lot, thank God.

450

00:22:10,050 --> 00:22:11,490

It's a beautiful country.

451

00:22:11,490 --> 00:22:14,550

If you wanted to work, you  
could work up your way.

452

00:22:14,550 --> 00:22:15,750

Let me ask you a question.

453

00:22:15,750 --> 00:22:16,720

Yes.

454

00:22:16,720 --> 00:22:19,770

When did you first feel  
that you were in danger?

455

00:22:19,770 --> 00:22:22,980

Was it at the time of  
the outbreak of the war,

456

00:22:22,980 --> 00:22:26,220

or did you know anything  
before that maybe--

457

00:22:26,220 --> 00:22:27,190

When I was in danger?

458

00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:27,690

Yeah.

459

00:22:27,690 --> 00:22:28,523

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

460

00:22:28,523 --> 00:22:30,390

When did you when did  
you first sense this?

461

00:22:30,390 --> 00:22:32,680

You mean after the occupation,  
or even before then?

462

00:22:32,680 --> 00:22:33,180

Before.

463

00:22:33,180 --> 00:22:33,930

Before.

464

00:22:33,930 --> 00:22:35,460

Yes, I did.

465

00:22:35,460 --> 00:22:37,290

Yes, I did.

466

00:22:37,290 --> 00:22:40,850

For example, I felt a time  
we were in danger when

467

00:22:40,850 --> 00:22:44,620

my whole family was in danger.

468

00:22:44,620 --> 00:22:46,560

What sign did you have?

469

00:22:46,560 --> 00:22:47,370

What--

470

00:22:47,370 --> 00:22:49,020

What sign did you have of this?



471  
00:22:49,020 --> 00:22:49,140  
What sign?

472  
00:22:49,140 --> 00:22:50,807  
I'll tell you what  
kind of a sign I had.

473  
00:22:50,807 --> 00:22:56,250  
It was in 1940, 1939 and  
1940, when the Soviet Union

474  
00:22:56,250 --> 00:23:00,150  
occupied our territory.

475  
00:23:00,150 --> 00:23:02,400  
Physically, they  
didn't abuse you.

476  
00:23:02,400 --> 00:23:05,850  
But they took away from  
you so many things.

477  
00:23:05,850 --> 00:23:08,940  
And then, we were afraid  
maybe whether we'll

478  
00:23:08,940 --> 00:23:13,510  
be able to stay in this  
place where I was born,

479  
00:23:13,510 --> 00:23:19,550  
or maybe I'm going to have  
someday finish up in Siberia.

480  
00:23:19,550 --> 00:23:22,790  
This I did worry about  
because when they came in,

481  
00:23:22,790 --> 00:23:25,500  
except they nationalized  
everything because they

482

00:23:25,500 --> 00:23:28,010  
are the form of the government.

483

00:23:28,010 --> 00:23:30,470  
It's a socialist country,  
whether it's communist

484

00:23:30,470 --> 00:23:31,450  
or whatever it is.

485

00:23:31,450 --> 00:23:33,760  
But they took everything  
away from my father.

486

00:23:33,760 --> 00:23:35,730  
For example, they confiscated--

487

00:23:35,730 --> 00:23:37,440  
they chased us out  
from the house.

488

00:23:37,440 --> 00:23:39,295  
They made us very tight.

489

00:23:39,295 --> 00:23:41,420  
They put in some other  
people, which was all right.

490

00:23:41,420 --> 00:23:44,580  
But they didn't kill us, thank  
God, because it could be worse.

491

00:23:44,580 --> 00:23:50,010  
But at that time, we  
didn't know the danger

492

00:23:50,010 --> 00:23:52,890  
of killing that could be worse.

493

00:23:52,890 --> 00:23:58,030  
I mean, everything you  
could establish accordingly.

494  
00:23:58,030 --> 00:24:01,510  
So comparing to killing,  
it was beautiful.

495  
00:24:01,510 --> 00:24:05,400  
But when we got out  
-- from a normal life.

496  
00:24:05,400 --> 00:24:08,720  
And then my father,  
he owned this.

497  
00:24:08,720 --> 00:24:09,760  
We owned the house.

498  
00:24:09,760 --> 00:24:12,520  
It was my house, for  
example, not my parents'.

499  
00:24:12,520 --> 00:24:15,520  
So anyway, this was yours.

500  
00:24:15,520 --> 00:24:18,190  
And then, when everything  
was taken away from you,

501  
00:24:18,190 --> 00:24:20,850  
and you don't own it anymore.

502  
00:24:20,850 --> 00:24:23,850  
And then it was there  
were some families

503  
00:24:23,850 --> 00:24:27,870  
that eventually, some  
day, they came and they

504  
00:24:27,870 --> 00:24:29,490  
told them to pack up.

505  
00:24:29,490 --> 00:24:30,810

And they took them.

506  
00:24:30,810 --> 00:24:36,060  
And they displaced  
them into Siberia.

507  
00:24:36,060 --> 00:24:38,590  
And these families, of  
course, they did not survive.

508  
00:24:38,590 --> 00:24:39,970  
They died there.

509  
00:24:39,970 --> 00:24:42,690  
As a matter of fact, I  
had a very good friend.

510  
00:24:42,690 --> 00:24:46,440  
And they came in  
middle of the night.

511  
00:24:46,440 --> 00:24:50,100  
And they told them that  
have to pack and get ready.

512  
00:24:50,100 --> 00:24:51,110  
Why was this done?

513  
00:24:51,110 --> 00:24:52,380  
Political reasons?

514  
00:24:52,380 --> 00:24:53,220  
It wasn't political.

515  
00:24:53,220 --> 00:24:56,040  
It's just because they wanted--

516  
00:24:56,040 --> 00:24:59,490  
you see, this particular  
family, for example, this father

517  
00:24:59,490 --> 00:25:02,080

had a pharmacy.

518  
00:25:02,080 --> 00:25:04,020  
He was a pharmacist.

519  
00:25:04,020 --> 00:25:06,210  
But all that they  
wanted was to get rid

520  
00:25:06,210 --> 00:25:09,480  
of that, of the more  
influential people,

521  
00:25:09,480 --> 00:25:12,750  
of the more intelligent people.

522  
00:25:12,750 --> 00:25:13,710  
The professionals?

523  
00:25:13,710 --> 00:25:15,090  
Professionals, exactly.

524  
00:25:15,090 --> 00:25:17,820  
Professionals  
because-- that's true

525  
00:25:17,820 --> 00:25:21,690  
and also the  
educated, the students

526  
00:25:21,690 --> 00:25:23,260  
because who could revolt?

527  
00:25:23,260 --> 00:25:26,040  
It's the professional  
person or the student

528  
00:25:26,040 --> 00:25:27,810  
or the person that  
understands something.

529  
00:25:27,810 --> 00:25:31,770

Was your father's business  
appropriated by the Russians?

530  
00:25:31,770 --> 00:25:34,667  
Well, they took away everything.

531  
00:25:34,667 --> 00:25:36,250  
And my father was  
with our businesses.

532  
00:25:36,250 --> 00:25:37,890  
As a matter of  
fact, we-- together

533  
00:25:37,890 --> 00:25:41,410  
with our five children,  
we were on the list

534  
00:25:41,410 --> 00:25:44,550  
to also should happen to  
us something like that.

535  
00:25:44,550 --> 00:25:47,790  
Somebody very influential  
who knew my father,

536  
00:25:47,790 --> 00:25:52,170  
he came and told us, be  
careful because this night,

537  
00:25:52,170 --> 00:25:53,580  
they're going to come.

538  
00:25:53,580 --> 00:25:56,760  
And they'll take all these  
families and displace them.

539  
00:25:56,760 --> 00:25:58,980  
So you see, the other  
family wasn't informed.

540  
00:25:58,980 --> 00:26:02,760  
My father was informed by

this influential person.

541

00:26:02,760 --> 00:26:05,910

And they told him, make  
sure that this night you're

542

00:26:05,910 --> 00:26:08,070

not going to be home  
with your family.

543

00:26:08,070 --> 00:26:10,530

So my father took  
all the five of us

544

00:26:10,530 --> 00:26:12,990

with my grandmother,  
grandfather, and my mother.

545

00:26:12,990 --> 00:26:15,930

And it's not that we escaped.

546

00:26:15,930 --> 00:26:18,750

We went to somebody  
else's house so we weren't

547

00:26:18,750 --> 00:26:21,480

home when they came to get us.

548

00:26:21,480 --> 00:26:23,310

Otherwise, we would  
be there maybe.

549

00:26:23,310 --> 00:26:25,650

But look, there are other  
atrocities happened.

550

00:26:25,650 --> 00:26:28,200

I mean, this is whatever it is.

551

00:26:28,200 --> 00:26:32,460

But yes, this was the first time  
when I was really very afraid.

552

00:26:32,460 --> 00:26:34,230

And also was a second time.

553

00:26:34,230 --> 00:26:36,330

When I had finished,

I was at the end

554

00:26:36,330 --> 00:26:44,880

of to get my affidavit

from gymnasium.

555

00:26:44,880 --> 00:26:47,340

And then, we were under

the Russians at that time.

556

00:26:47,340 --> 00:26:49,710

Soviet Union occupied

our territory.

557

00:26:49,710 --> 00:26:51,000

558

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:52,440

I mean, it was at

the end already,

559

00:26:52,440 --> 00:26:54,250

when I got my affidavit.

560

00:26:54,250 --> 00:26:59,670

And I was called to,

it's like the FBI here.

561

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

[SPEAKING RUSSIAN] they

called it in Russia.

562

00:27:01,560 --> 00:27:02,700

NKVD.

563

00:27:02,700 --> 00:27:03,350

That's right.



564  
00:27:03,350 --> 00:27:04,500  
NKGB.

565  
00:27:04,500 --> 00:27:05,190  
KGB, too.

566  
00:27:05,190 --> 00:27:06,000  
That's right.

567  
00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:08,400  
KGB, right.

568  
00:27:08,400 --> 00:27:10,280  
And I was called.

569  
00:27:10,280 --> 00:27:11,250  
And how?

570  
00:27:11,250 --> 00:27:12,350  
I was in school.

571  
00:27:12,350 --> 00:27:14,910  
And when I got my  
diploma, the principal

572  
00:27:14,910 --> 00:27:16,830  
called me into his office.

573  
00:27:16,830 --> 00:27:18,360  
And he said to me  
Sonya, you should

574  
00:27:18,360 --> 00:27:20,880  
know that you have  
now an appointment.

575  
00:27:20,880 --> 00:27:23,100  
You're not going home,  
but you're going over

576

00:27:23,100 --> 00:27:24,550  
there to this building.

577  
00:27:24,550 --> 00:27:25,740  
How old were you?

578  
00:27:25,740 --> 00:27:27,930  
At that time, it was 1940.

579  
00:27:27,930 --> 00:27:29,820  
I was born in 1922.

580  
00:27:29,820 --> 00:27:31,020  
I was 18 years old.

581  
00:27:31,020 --> 00:27:31,853  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

582  
00:27:31,853 --> 00:27:34,710  
Yeah so, they said they  
called me into this building.

583  
00:27:34,710 --> 00:27:37,980  
So I said to him, are they  
calling me in to the NKVD.

584  
00:27:37,980 --> 00:27:39,240  
He says, yes.

585  
00:27:39,240 --> 00:27:40,710  
I said, what did I do?

586  
00:27:40,710 --> 00:27:42,570  
He said to me, I  
really don't know.

587  
00:27:42,570 --> 00:27:44,865  
But you should be  
there after school.

588  
00:27:44,865 --> 00:27:46,990  
After you've got this, they

say, with the affidavit

589

00:27:46,990 --> 00:27:47,730

in your hand--

590

00:27:47,730 --> 00:27:49,920

don't go home, he said to me.

591

00:27:49,920 --> 00:27:51,570

I was scared to death.

592

00:27:51,570 --> 00:27:53,280

And of course, I  
took my affidavit.

593

00:27:53,280 --> 00:27:58,000

I had to go because  
there was no escape.

594

00:27:58,000 --> 00:27:58,860

There was no escape.

595

00:27:58,860 --> 00:28:02,280

I couldn't-- or I  
kill myself, go home.

596

00:28:02,280 --> 00:28:04,470

I cannot escape.

597

00:28:04,470 --> 00:28:07,740

So I came into this  
building very first day.

598

00:28:07,740 --> 00:28:08,695

I was scared to death.

599

00:28:08,695 --> 00:28:09,195

That's true.

600

00:28:09,195 --> 00:28:10,630

I'll never forget it.

601

00:28:10,630 --> 00:28:14,880

So after, when I walked in,  
the door behind me just locked.

602

00:28:14,880 --> 00:28:16,290

I tried to open it.

603

00:28:16,290 --> 00:28:17,700

You could couldn't open it.

604

00:28:17,700 --> 00:28:19,290

I walked into the second room.

605

00:28:19,290 --> 00:28:20,190

The same thing.

606

00:28:20,190 --> 00:28:23,420

And then, the third  
room, I walked in.

607

00:28:23,420 --> 00:28:25,710

There was a policeman  
standing and showed to me

608

00:28:25,710 --> 00:28:27,200

the room that I should walk in.

609

00:28:27,200 --> 00:28:28,470

It was a small room.

610

00:28:28,470 --> 00:28:31,170

After I walked in, exactly  
the same thing, the door

611

00:28:31,170 --> 00:28:32,070

was locked on me.

612

00:28:32,070 --> 00:28:35,330

613

00:28:35,330 --> 00:28:38,760

And there was a little  
desk and a chair.

614  
00:28:38,760 --> 00:28:41,250  
And I sat down.

615  
00:28:41,250 --> 00:28:43,970  
The only thing what  
I saw something.

616  
00:28:43,970 --> 00:28:46,080  
They weren't very  
careful, though.

617  
00:28:46,080 --> 00:28:52,470  
There were two names, two  
other names from two students

618  
00:28:52,470 --> 00:28:54,540  
from my class.

619  
00:28:54,540 --> 00:28:56,630  
And it was on the paper.

620  
00:28:56,630 --> 00:28:57,530  
And I read it.

621  
00:28:57,530 --> 00:28:58,800  
And I knew exactly.

622  
00:28:58,800 --> 00:29:00,270  
I never mentioned  
to these people

623  
00:29:00,270 --> 00:29:03,930  
that I knew that  
they were there, OK?

624  
00:29:03,930 --> 00:29:08,210  
So when I walked in, and this  
general, he was a general.

625

00:29:08,210 --> 00:29:09,180  
He walked out with me.

626  
00:29:09,180 --> 00:29:10,710  
I saw everything.

627  
00:29:10,710 --> 00:29:11,490  
And he walks in.

628  
00:29:11,490 --> 00:29:12,670  
He says to me, hi.

629  
00:29:12,670 --> 00:29:13,710  
I say, hi.

630  
00:29:13,710 --> 00:29:16,620  
I know that you  
have your affidavit,

631  
00:29:16,620 --> 00:29:18,180  
and you have finished school.

632  
00:29:18,180 --> 00:29:21,570  
I mean, you're accomplished.

633  
00:29:21,570 --> 00:29:22,440  
I said, yes.

634  
00:29:22,440 --> 00:29:23,640

635  
00:29:23,640 --> 00:29:27,250  
He says to me, do you know  
why I invited you here?

636  
00:29:27,250 --> 00:29:29,310  
So I said, did I  
do anything wrong?

637  
00:29:29,310 --> 00:29:30,320  
No, I don't know.

638

00:29:30,320 --> 00:29:30,930

No, he says.

639

00:29:30,930 --> 00:29:32,520

You didn't do anything wrong.

640

00:29:32,520 --> 00:29:34,710

There is one thing  
that I want from you.

641

00:29:34,710 --> 00:29:38,430

There is purpose that I  
wanted you should come.

642

00:29:38,430 --> 00:29:40,470

And I picked you, he said to me.

643

00:29:40,470 --> 00:29:41,700

I said, why me?

644

00:29:41,700 --> 00:29:44,820

He said because I feel that you  
are the right person for that.

645

00:29:44,820 --> 00:29:47,310

I said, would you please  
tell me what it is?

646

00:29:47,310 --> 00:29:49,800

He says to me like that I  
don't want nothing from you.

647

00:29:49,800 --> 00:29:51,990

The only thing what  
I want, since I

648

00:29:51,990 --> 00:29:55,190

know that you are between  
intelligent people,

649

00:29:55,190 --> 00:29:58,650

and you go out to all your

friends are very intelligent.

650

00:29:58,650 --> 00:30:01,710

He said to me, you are  
between the Jewish people

651

00:30:01,710 --> 00:30:04,110

and the Polish  
and this and that.

652

00:30:04,110 --> 00:30:07,710

All I want you to do,  
if you go somewhere,

653

00:30:07,710 --> 00:30:10,680

or if I send you  
somewhere, you should just

654

00:30:10,680 --> 00:30:15,150

tell me what was going  
on and explain to me

655

00:30:15,150 --> 00:30:18,452

and translate to me since  
I know that you are well,

656

00:30:18,452 --> 00:30:19,470

you are a good student.

657

00:30:19,470 --> 00:30:20,137

You know French.

658

00:30:20,137 --> 00:30:21,350

And you know Latin.

659

00:30:21,350 --> 00:30:23,430

Exactly, that's what he told me.

660

00:30:23,430 --> 00:30:25,800

He knew all the  
history of my life.

661



00:30:25,800 --> 00:30:29,070

And he said, you would be  
a perfect person for this.

662

00:30:29,070 --> 00:30:32,730

So I said to him, well, how  
do you expect me to do that?

663

00:30:32,730 --> 00:30:33,990

He says, why?

664

00:30:33,990 --> 00:30:38,880

I said, look, I'm sorry,  
but I have other intentions.

665

00:30:38,880 --> 00:30:41,610

He said to me, what kind  
of intentions do you have?

666

00:30:41,610 --> 00:30:45,225

I say, I have intentions  
to continue my studies.

667

00:30:45,225 --> 00:30:47,730

668

00:30:47,730 --> 00:30:49,230

He says to me, what  
kind of studies?

669

00:30:49,230 --> 00:30:52,940

I say, yeah well, I  
want to become a doctor.

670

00:30:52,940 --> 00:30:54,690

So maybe, if God willing.

671

00:30:54,690 --> 00:30:55,493

And I was --

672

00:30:55,493 --> 00:30:56,910

And by that time,  
when I finished,

673  
00:30:56,910 --> 00:30:59,310  
I sent out my applications.

674  
00:30:59,310 --> 00:31:03,120  
So I already was accepted to  
medical school in Smolensk.

675  
00:31:03,120 --> 00:31:06,600  
Smolensk is a city in Russia.

676  
00:31:06,600 --> 00:31:09,210  
But this is very close  
to the Polish border.

677  
00:31:09,210 --> 00:31:12,480  
So this is the first  
place where they

678  
00:31:12,480 --> 00:31:16,460  
had a medical school and the  
closest to the Polish border.

679  
00:31:16,460 --> 00:31:18,630  
I mean, closest to home.

680  
00:31:18,630 --> 00:31:20,510  
And I told him that.

681  
00:31:20,510 --> 00:31:23,160  
I said, look, I  
have an acceptance

682  
00:31:23,160 --> 00:31:27,127  
for Smolensk University  
to go and study medicine.

683  
00:31:27,127 --> 00:31:28,710  
And the second thing  
I say, if I'm not

684  
00:31:28,710 --> 00:31:31,500

going to be able to go over  
there, so I'm going to go.

685  
00:31:31,500 --> 00:31:32,940  
Possible, I said  
that my parents,

686  
00:31:32,940 --> 00:31:35,550  
they wouldn't let me go  
because my mother wouldn't

687  
00:31:35,550 --> 00:31:37,890  
like I should leave,  
stay away from home.

688  
00:31:37,890 --> 00:31:40,230  
So possible that I would  
like to go over here.

689  
00:31:40,230 --> 00:31:41,720  
And there was in Bialystok.

690  
00:31:41,720 --> 00:31:44,670  
Bialystok, it was not far away  
from the local [INAUDIBLE]

691  
00:31:44,670 --> 00:31:45,540  
city.

692  
00:31:45,540 --> 00:31:49,350  
And they had that  
university that had all the,

693  
00:31:49,350 --> 00:31:51,960  
they called it, from  
foreign languages.

694  
00:31:51,960 --> 00:31:54,420  
So I said, if not  
that, I'm accepted here

695  
00:31:54,420 --> 00:31:58,240  
to study and continue

my studies in French.

696

00:31:58,240 --> 00:32:01,440

So I said, I don't think what  
I would be able to do that.

697

00:32:01,440 --> 00:32:03,840

I say, I would love  
to do that, I said.

698

00:32:03,840 --> 00:32:06,310

But I don't think  
if I could do that.

699

00:32:06,310 --> 00:32:09,480

The minute when I told  
him, so with his hand,

700

00:32:09,480 --> 00:32:14,220

he knocked with such a  
force over the table.

701

00:32:14,220 --> 00:32:16,530

And you know what he said?

702

00:32:16,530 --> 00:32:19,320

And he cursed in Russian.

703

00:32:19,320 --> 00:32:23,140

And he said to me, what  
the hell is going on?

704

00:32:23,140 --> 00:32:25,322

All of you, you want to study.

705

00:32:25,322 --> 00:32:26,030

Meaning the Jews?

706

00:32:26,030 --> 00:32:29,010

None of you want to have some  
such easy life and everything.

707

00:32:29,010 --> 00:32:31,590

It seems like,  
what I understood,

708

00:32:31,590 --> 00:32:35,970

that these two people that were  
ahead of me, the two names,

709

00:32:35,970 --> 00:32:36,800

and I know.

710

00:32:36,800 --> 00:32:41,130

So also, they had  
the same excuse.

711

00:32:41,130 --> 00:32:43,800

So I said, I want  
to go to study.

712

00:32:43,800 --> 00:32:45,810

And I want to go this.

713

00:32:45,810 --> 00:32:47,800

So he said, if so, OK.

714

00:32:47,800 --> 00:32:49,680

But he was very angry.

715

00:32:49,680 --> 00:32:51,510

And I thought, maybe  
he's going to put me

716

00:32:51,510 --> 00:32:53,400

into jail or whatever.

717

00:32:53,400 --> 00:32:55,450

But then, he walks out again.

718

00:32:55,450 --> 00:32:59,460

And he says to me like  
that, don't you dare ever

719

00:32:59,460 --> 00:33:04,290  
tell your parents that you were  
here, that you were invited

720  
00:33:04,290 --> 00:33:08,370  
because if I find out that your  
mother and father they know

721  
00:33:08,370 --> 00:33:11,550  
that you were here, it's  
going to be like that.

722  
00:33:11,550 --> 00:33:14,540  
That's exactly  
what he showed me.

723  
00:33:14,540 --> 00:33:15,420  
So I said, no.

724  
00:33:15,420 --> 00:33:16,860  
I'm not going to tell anybody.

725  
00:33:16,860 --> 00:33:22,020  
This is all what I know,  
and I will know myself.

726  
00:33:22,020 --> 00:33:24,600  
So then, came out a soldier.

727  
00:33:24,600 --> 00:33:25,980  
He told me to let me out.

728  
00:33:25,980 --> 00:33:27,480  
And I walked out.

729  
00:33:27,480 --> 00:33:28,830  
This is number two scare.

730  
00:33:28,830 --> 00:33:33,720  
And it was really very scary  
because otherwise, they

731

00:33:33,720 --> 00:33:37,080  
wanted me into spying.

732  
00:33:37,080 --> 00:33:41,250  
They wanted to engaged  
me into spying.

733  
00:33:41,250 --> 00:33:43,340  
I know you start with  
them with a little thing

734  
00:33:43,340 --> 00:33:44,880  
with translations.

735  
00:33:44,880 --> 00:33:49,510  
And then, I would go on and  
on and on and on and on.

736  
00:33:49,510 --> 00:33:53,230  
And this was very  
scary, very scary.

737  
00:33:53,230 --> 00:33:54,030  
This is number two.

738  
00:33:54,030 --> 00:33:59,110  
The third one was 1941 in June.

739  
00:33:59,110 --> 00:34:05,190  
Was also very scary moment  
when Russia and Germany,

740  
00:34:05,190 --> 00:34:08,489  
they finished their  
friendship by dividing Poland.

741  
00:34:08,489 --> 00:34:12,280  
And they started fighting  
between the two of them.

742  
00:34:12,280 --> 00:34:15,389  
And then, before they  
walked in, of course,

743  
00:34:15,389 --> 00:34:19,590  
so they paved their  
way with bombs.

744  
00:34:19,590 --> 00:34:21,280  
They bombed our city.

745  
00:34:21,280 --> 00:34:24,840  
This was the first thing  
before they walked in.

746  
00:34:24,840 --> 00:34:26,730  
And they demolished everything.

747  
00:34:26,730 --> 00:34:31,230  
The very first bombs  
fell into our house.

748  
00:34:31,230 --> 00:34:33,929  
And we were very  
lucky to survive.

749  
00:34:33,929 --> 00:34:37,870  
My sister could get killed.

750  
00:34:37,870 --> 00:34:39,440  
She was hurt.

751  
00:34:39,440 --> 00:34:41,960  
But I don't know.

752  
00:34:41,960 --> 00:34:44,770  
At that time, it's a  
miracle that we survived.

753  
00:34:44,770 --> 00:34:46,540  
Everything was demolished.

754  
00:34:46,540 --> 00:34:47,860  
And everything was gone.



755

00:34:47,860 --> 00:34:53,110

And practically the whole  
city was demolished,

756

00:34:53,110 --> 00:34:55,690

ruined from all these bombs.

757

00:34:55,690 --> 00:35:01,660

And in no time, the Russians,  
the Soviets, they escaped.

758

00:35:01,660 --> 00:35:04,740

And they left the city.

759

00:35:04,740 --> 00:35:07,940

And it was still stand  
for a day or two.

760

00:35:07,940 --> 00:35:12,460

And then, they walked  
in, the Germans.

761

00:35:12,460 --> 00:35:14,350

The very first thing  
when they walked in,

762

00:35:14,350 --> 00:35:19,810

the first step, everybody  
was hiding, of course.

763

00:35:19,810 --> 00:35:21,460

So they gave an order--

764

00:35:21,460 --> 00:35:25,030

this was the number one,  
the very first day--

765

00:35:25,030 --> 00:35:29,080

all Jews professionals,  
they should

766

00:35:29,080 --> 00:35:32,740

come into that center  
place of the city

767  
00:35:32,740 --> 00:35:36,160  
because we had an old city  
around the Polish old cities.

768  
00:35:36,160 --> 00:35:39,910  
They were built as a marketplace  
like and all these streets that

769  
00:35:39,910 --> 00:35:42,440  
go in all directions.

770  
00:35:42,440 --> 00:35:49,070  
So they said, the first, all  
the Jewish intelligentsia, OK?

771  
00:35:49,070 --> 00:35:52,960  
All the educated, I mean,  
the doctors, the lawyers,

772  
00:35:52,960 --> 00:35:56,410  
the influential people,  
they should come.

773  
00:35:56,410 --> 00:35:59,050  
And of course, they thought,  
who knew that they would come,

774  
00:35:59,050 --> 00:36:01,370  
and they are going to  
be killed instantly?

775  
00:36:01,370 --> 00:36:05,250  
They thought, maybe they  
want representation sometime.

776  
00:36:05,250 --> 00:36:07,960  
They want to give some  
advices or whatever.

777  
00:36:07,960 --> 00:36:09,190

Who could think of it?

778

00:36:09,190 --> 00:36:12,460

So 50 people-- the most prominent and educated

779

00:36:12,460 --> 00:36:14,750

and intelligent.

780

00:36:14,750 --> 00:36:16,400

They came in.

781

00:36:16,400 --> 00:36:19,180

I mean, they were present.

782

00:36:19,180 --> 00:36:21,160

And the minute they came--

783

00:36:21,160 --> 00:36:26,950

it didn't take five minutes when they were all laying dead.

784

00:36:26,950 --> 00:36:27,700

They killed them--

785

00:36:27,700 --> 00:36:28,390

They shot them?

786

00:36:28,390 --> 00:36:29,920

Shot them instantly.

787

00:36:29,920 --> 00:36:31,060

Did you not see this?

788

00:36:31,060 --> 00:36:33,720

I didn't see it because I was hiding.

789

00:36:33,720 --> 00:36:38,500

But I know about it because then, whoever did--

790

00:36:38,500 --> 00:36:41,820

I mean, there were Polish  
people living in there.

791

00:36:41,820 --> 00:36:43,090

They killed them.

792

00:36:43,090 --> 00:36:46,000

The following then [INAUDIBLE]  
dead people decide.

793

00:36:46,000 --> 00:36:46,800

I didn't.

794

00:36:46,800 --> 00:36:48,790

I'll tell you why.

795

00:36:48,790 --> 00:36:51,970

My parents, they saw.

796

00:36:51,970 --> 00:36:54,960

The minute they walked in, also,  
this was the very first day.

797

00:36:54,960 --> 00:36:58,480

The second day, so  
these German soldiers,

798

00:36:58,480 --> 00:37:02,290

they grabbed some Jewish girls.

799

00:37:02,290 --> 00:37:03,723

And they raped them.

800

00:37:03,723 --> 00:37:05,140

Now, one of the  
girls that I knew,

801

00:37:05,140 --> 00:37:09,190

a very good friend  
of mine, apparently--

802

00:37:09,190 --> 00:37:10,960

it was not normal times.

803

00:37:10,960 --> 00:37:12,510

Maybe she was curious.

804

00:37:12,510 --> 00:37:13,850

She wanted to see.

805

00:37:13,850 --> 00:37:15,740

So she jumped out  
from the house.

806

00:37:15,740 --> 00:37:18,610

And here, a couple of  
soldiers, they grabbed her.

807

00:37:18,610 --> 00:37:23,368

She had-- she never survived.

808

00:37:23,368 --> 00:37:24,160

They all raped her.

809

00:37:24,160 --> 00:37:27,210

And she was dead after that.

810

00:37:27,210 --> 00:37:31,230

So of course, my grandmother  
also, she insisted.

811

00:37:31,230 --> 00:37:36,810

She said, the Germans  
are getting in.

812

00:37:36,810 --> 00:37:40,200

And she had some, not  
experience, but you know.

813

00:37:40,200 --> 00:37:42,480

She said the children,  
the young girls,

814

00:37:42,480 --> 00:37:46,120

they have to be not on --  
whatever, to hide them.

815

00:37:46,120 --> 00:37:48,990

So of course, my mother  
took me and my sister.

816

00:37:48,990 --> 00:37:52,110

And they put us in --  
somebody behind that lived

817

00:37:52,110 --> 00:37:53,610

in the suburbs there.

818

00:37:53,610 --> 00:37:54,580

It's not like suburbs.

819

00:37:54,580 --> 00:37:56,370

But it's a town.

820

00:37:56,370 --> 00:37:59,520

And in the back of the town,  
there were smaller houses.

821

00:37:59,520 --> 00:38:01,500

And the people  
there that we knew.

822

00:38:01,500 --> 00:38:06,840

So I was hidden there  
for a couple of days

823

00:38:06,840 --> 00:38:11,220

until this situation  
did clear up.

824

00:38:11,220 --> 00:38:12,940

But it didn't clear up.

825

00:38:12,940 --> 00:38:14,850

Absolutely not.

826  
00:38:14,850 --> 00:38:18,840  
In a very couple days, it  
was like two or three days.

827  
00:38:18,840 --> 00:38:20,660  
So what did this do?

828  
00:38:20,660 --> 00:38:23,070  
They gave orders.

829  
00:38:23,070 --> 00:38:31,240  
They gave an order that  
everybody, the whole population

830  
00:38:31,240 --> 00:38:37,080  
from Novogradok, young  
or old, whoever is alive,

831  
00:38:37,080 --> 00:38:40,670  
they should come  
to this courthouse

832  
00:38:40,670 --> 00:38:42,720  
where we have the courthouse.

833  
00:38:42,720 --> 00:38:45,967  
It is like about a mile  
and a half from our house

834  
00:38:45,967 --> 00:38:46,800  
where we used to be.

835  
00:38:46,800 --> 00:38:49,107  
This was only Jews or everybody?

836  
00:38:49,107 --> 00:38:49,690  
Only the Jews.

837  
00:38:49,690 --> 00:38:50,140  
Only the Jews.

838

00:38:50,140 --> 00:38:50,973

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

839

00:38:50,973 --> 00:38:52,455

Only the Jewish population.

840

00:38:52,455 --> 00:38:53,080

This was just--

841

00:38:53,080 --> 00:38:57,060

What was the size of  
the Jewish population?

842

00:38:57,060 --> 00:39:01,500

We were approximately from  
15,000, something like that,

843

00:39:01,500 --> 00:39:02,000

yeah.

844

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:03,450

Or maybe even more.

845

00:39:03,450 --> 00:39:06,580

From 15,000 to 18,000,  
something like that.

846

00:39:06,580 --> 00:39:08,700

And they gave an order  
that all the people,

847

00:39:08,700 --> 00:39:11,910

they should come  
to this courthouse.

848

00:39:11,910 --> 00:39:14,730

Of course, the  
courthouse was very huge.

849

00:39:14,730 --> 00:39:16,710

It could put in a lot of people.



850

00:39:16,710 --> 00:39:19,020

But of course, not everybody.

851

00:39:19,020 --> 00:39:20,100

Not everybody.

852

00:39:20,100 --> 00:39:22,530

Some people, maybe  
they were smart.

853

00:39:22,530 --> 00:39:23,520

They did not come.

854

00:39:23,520 --> 00:39:24,180

They escaped.

855

00:39:24,180 --> 00:39:26,590

They ran away to the  
little towns there.

856

00:39:26,590 --> 00:39:28,500

So these people, they survived.

857

00:39:28,500 --> 00:39:31,050

But later on, they  
got caught anyway.

858

00:39:31,050 --> 00:39:35,230

But the majority, we  
didn't know anything.

859

00:39:35,230 --> 00:39:38,520

So everybody came  
to this courthouse.

860

00:39:38,520 --> 00:39:43,440

Courthouse and courtyard,  
it was filled up

861

00:39:43,440 --> 00:39:47,730

with people you could  
imagine, whoever was alive.

862  
00:39:47,730 --> 00:39:50,730  
Except that also,  
it was summertime.

863  
00:39:50,730 --> 00:39:53,640  
So lots of people, they used  
to be away some other places,

864  
00:39:53,640 --> 00:39:54,930  
like vacations.

865  
00:39:54,930 --> 00:39:57,100  
So more likely, they did  
not escape from that.

866  
00:39:57,100 --> 00:39:58,860  
So they died later on.

867  
00:39:58,860 --> 00:40:00,390  
They were killed,  
whatever it is.

868  
00:40:00,390 --> 00:40:02,640  
But for the time being,  
just the population

869  
00:40:02,640 --> 00:40:06,880  
that they were present at  
this time in Novogradok.

870  
00:40:06,880 --> 00:40:08,410  
So of course, everybody came.

871  
00:40:08,410 --> 00:40:12,850  
And now, they came all  
these soldiers with --

872  
00:40:12,850 --> 00:40:18,570  
all equipped, its  
army, and it's wartime.

873

00:40:18,570 --> 00:40:22,110  
And they started to  
segregate all these people.

874  
00:40:22,110 --> 00:40:23,580  
You go on this side.

875  
00:40:23,580 --> 00:40:24,870  
And this one on this side.

876  
00:40:24,870 --> 00:40:27,740  
This one on this side, and  
the other one on this side.

877  
00:40:27,740 --> 00:40:29,010  
And what did I see?

878  
00:40:29,010 --> 00:40:30,070  
And what did we notice?

879  
00:40:30,070 --> 00:40:33,060  
And we saw that  
the young people,

880  
00:40:33,060 --> 00:40:38,730  
they left on one side, the  
elderly people and the children

881  
00:40:38,730 --> 00:40:40,470  
on the other side.

882  
00:40:40,470 --> 00:40:41,970  
And that's what happened.

883  
00:40:41,970 --> 00:40:45,330  
They segregated,  
and they divided us.

884  
00:40:45,330 --> 00:40:49,980  
So they told these people  
that they put on this site

885

00:40:49,980 --> 00:40:52,350  
to go away and stay over there.

886  
00:40:52,350 --> 00:40:57,480  
And in about, I would say,  
in about a half an hour,

887  
00:40:57,480 --> 00:41:04,500  
there came a long line  
of trucks, army trucks.

888  
00:41:04,500 --> 00:41:09,570  
And all these elderly people  
and the children, they

889  
00:41:09,570 --> 00:41:12,170  
told them to get  
into the trucks.

890  
00:41:12,170 --> 00:41:14,130  
Soon they started to cry.

891  
00:41:14,130 --> 00:41:17,430  
And there was screaming  
and children crying,

892  
00:41:17,430 --> 00:41:19,230  
little infants.

893  
00:41:19,230 --> 00:41:23,130  
You know month or two  
months, one year old.

894  
00:41:23,130 --> 00:41:25,240  
Mothers with little children.

895  
00:41:25,240 --> 00:41:28,590  
And by the way, the  
mothers with the kids,

896  
00:41:28,590 --> 00:41:31,830  
they left together, OK?

897

00:41:31,830 --> 00:41:32,790

So they said--

898

00:41:32,790 --> 00:41:35,430

Were the mothers and the  
children put on separate sides

899

00:41:35,430 --> 00:41:35,930

originally?

900

00:41:35,930 --> 00:41:37,410

Yeah, the mothers  
and the children.

901

00:41:37,410 --> 00:41:38,860

Yeah, but then what they did--

902

00:41:38,860 --> 00:41:40,490

they'd said then  
eventually-- first,

903

00:41:40,490 --> 00:41:44,017

they told the mothers with  
the children to stay together.

904

00:41:44,017 --> 00:41:45,600

But then, they took  
away the children.

905

00:41:45,600 --> 00:41:49,110

And the mothers, they told  
to go on the other side.

906

00:41:49,110 --> 00:41:51,620

Could you imagine the cruelty?

907

00:41:51,620 --> 00:41:53,130

And the mothers wouldn't go.

908

00:41:53,130 --> 00:41:54,330

The mothers wouldn't go.

909

00:41:54,330 --> 00:41:55,140

They were beaten.

910

00:41:55,140 --> 00:41:58,170

And some of them, they  
were killed instantly.

911

00:41:58,170 --> 00:42:00,270

But what happened,  
what they said,

912

00:42:00,270 --> 00:42:04,260

that they're taking all  
these people to work,

913

00:42:04,260 --> 00:42:08,100

to put them in special places  
where they're going to work.

914

00:42:08,100 --> 00:42:09,490

They'll give them food.

915

00:42:09,490 --> 00:42:10,620

They will dress them.

916

00:42:10,620 --> 00:42:12,810

And they'll live over there.

917

00:42:12,810 --> 00:42:16,830

And people, when it's like  
that, when you're were

918

00:42:16,830 --> 00:42:19,560

desperate or whatever, and  
somebody tells you something,

919

00:42:19,560 --> 00:42:22,630

so maybe you believe that  
it might be like that.

920

00:42:22,630 --> 00:42:25,080

And as a matter of fact,

I'll tell you something,

921

00:42:25,080 --> 00:42:33,100  
it was about a year or maybe  
two years until we found out.

922

00:42:33,100 --> 00:42:37,930  
We were still believing that  
maybe, that our grandparents--

923

00:42:37,930 --> 00:42:39,880  
I was thinking, maybe  
my grandparents,

924

00:42:39,880 --> 00:42:42,670  
they took them away,  
maybe they're still alive.

925

00:42:42,670 --> 00:42:44,943  
Maybe they still work  
because you could not

926

00:42:44,943 --> 00:42:46,360  
imagine that they're  
going to take

927

00:42:46,360 --> 00:42:49,010  
the people that didn't  
do anything and just kill

928

00:42:49,010 --> 00:42:50,510  
themselves.

929

00:42:50,510 --> 00:42:54,910  
So at that time, they  
took away all these--

930

00:42:54,910 --> 00:42:56,020  
you'd see all the trucks.

931

00:42:56,020 --> 00:42:58,240  
It was a whole line.

932

00:42:58,240 --> 00:43:00,340

And they put all the  
elderly people there.

933

00:43:00,340 --> 00:43:02,020

Imagine elderly people.

934

00:43:02,020 --> 00:43:05,890

My grandmother would be at that  
time maybe about 59 years old.

935

00:43:05,890 --> 00:43:09,340

My grandpa maybe  
was 60 years old.

936

00:43:09,340 --> 00:43:12,010

Now, you could imagine, OK?

937

00:43:12,010 --> 00:43:15,340

And so, they were put  
it into these trucks.

938

00:43:15,340 --> 00:43:16,930

And the kids.

939

00:43:16,930 --> 00:43:18,580

Now, the mothers,  
they did not want

940

00:43:18,580 --> 00:43:20,830

to separate with the children.

941

00:43:20,830 --> 00:43:22,790

So they forced them to get away.

942

00:43:22,790 --> 00:43:24,820

But if not, they were beaten.

943

00:43:24,820 --> 00:43:26,980

And some of them,  
they were shot also.



944

00:43:26,980 --> 00:43:32,230

But the kids, they used to throw  
them like rocks into the truck.

945

00:43:32,230 --> 00:43:35,300

946

00:43:35,300 --> 00:43:37,420

I'm talking about it now.

947

00:43:37,420 --> 00:43:39,320

It's after 40 years.

948

00:43:39,320 --> 00:43:41,770

And so time does a lot.

949

00:43:41,770 --> 00:43:43,150

Time cures.

950

00:43:43,150 --> 00:43:45,460

And in the beginning,

I would not

951

00:43:45,460 --> 00:43:47,790

be able to talk  
about it like that.

952

00:43:47,790 --> 00:43:49,960

But time does-- it cures.

953

00:43:49,960 --> 00:43:52,780

You get used to it  
and this and that.

954

00:43:52,780 --> 00:43:56,140

But it's really-- it's terrible.

955

00:43:56,140 --> 00:43:57,070

Terrible.

956

00:43:57,070 --> 00:43:58,720

It's just un-human.

957

00:43:58,720 --> 00:44:02,560

It's like you cannot  
even [INAUDIBLE]..

958

00:44:02,560 --> 00:44:05,290

I have no words even  
how to express it.

959

00:44:05,290 --> 00:44:11,080

Where were your parents and your  
brothers, your older brothers?

960

00:44:11,080 --> 00:44:11,780

At that time?

961

00:44:11,780 --> 00:44:13,740

Yes, we were all together.

962

00:44:13,740 --> 00:44:14,865

Your parents were with you?

963

00:44:14,865 --> 00:44:19,000

Yes, my mother, my father,  
our five children, and also

964

00:44:19,000 --> 00:44:21,400

my grandmother and grandfather.

965

00:44:21,400 --> 00:44:23,120

So my grandfather  
and grandmother

966

00:44:23,120 --> 00:44:24,490

were separated immediately.

967

00:44:24,490 --> 00:44:25,370

They took them away.

968

00:44:25,370 --> 00:44:25,870

Yes.

969

00:44:25,870 --> 00:44:29,700

We, for time being, remained  
together as a family.

970

00:44:29,700 --> 00:44:31,210

Even your sister?

971

00:44:31,210 --> 00:44:32,960

Yeah, my sister  
was nine years old.

972

00:44:32,960 --> 00:44:33,500

She was nine years old.

973

00:44:33,500 --> 00:44:34,292

She was nine years.

974

00:44:34,292 --> 00:44:36,040

She was a big girl.

975

00:44:36,040 --> 00:44:36,970

She was a big girl.

976

00:44:36,970 --> 00:44:38,660

She was a big girl.

977

00:44:38,660 --> 00:44:42,370

And so she could get  
away for more than nine,

978

00:44:42,370 --> 00:44:43,510

like 12 or 13, 14.

979

00:44:43,510 --> 00:44:48,250

As a matter of fact, she  
was alive until 1943.

980

00:44:48,250 --> 00:44:50,770

So you could imagine  
the way she looked

981

00:44:50,770 --> 00:44:52,440

and how she was  
beautiful developed

982

00:44:52,440 --> 00:44:57,640

that she stayed with us until  
1943, until she was killed.

983

00:44:57,640 --> 00:45:01,630

So when my grandparents,  
they took them away.

984

00:45:01,630 --> 00:45:03,880

And I remained with my family.

985

00:45:03,880 --> 00:45:08,050

And this was the very  
first horrible scene,

986

00:45:08,050 --> 00:45:09,430

horrible [INAUDIBLE].

987

00:45:09,430 --> 00:45:12,490

The horrible scene  
with the little kids,

988

00:45:12,490 --> 00:45:15,160

how they used to throw them  
into the trucks like rocks,

989

00:45:15,160 --> 00:45:16,870

like bones.

990

00:45:16,870 --> 00:45:19,390

It's just-- it's unbelievable.

991

00:45:19,390 --> 00:45:22,540

And of course, they would  
get killed instantly.

992

00:45:22,540 --> 00:45:25,590

There was, I remember,

the rabbi from our town.

993

00:45:25,590 --> 00:45:30,120

He stood up against  
all these atrocities.

994

00:45:30,120 --> 00:45:36,460

So he was instantly shot  
on the place over there.

995

00:45:36,460 --> 00:45:40,330

And that's how it started.

996

00:45:40,330 --> 00:45:44,410

These elderly people--  
they took them away.

997

00:45:44,410 --> 00:45:47,680

Of course, I thought that maybe  
they are working somewhere.

998

00:45:47,680 --> 00:45:52,540

But then, eventually, we found  
out that that very same day,

999

00:45:52,540 --> 00:45:54,940

they were all killed.

1000

00:45:54,940 --> 00:45:58,210

And as a matter of  
fact, they were--

1001

00:45:58,210 --> 00:46:00,040

not this particular group--

1002

00:46:00,040 --> 00:46:02,770

but in some other  
places also, the graves,

1003

00:46:02,770 --> 00:46:04,440

they were ready already.

1004

00:46:04,440 --> 00:46:07,690

1005

00:46:07,690 --> 00:46:10,720

And they told them to  
get into the graves.

1006

00:46:10,720 --> 00:46:14,050

And they got killed instantly.

1007

00:46:14,050 --> 00:46:16,240

They didn't have to  
push them in, though,

1008

00:46:16,240 --> 00:46:18,250

because they were in it already.

1009

00:46:18,250 --> 00:46:22,250

That's what we were told  
by friends, Polish friends,

1010

00:46:22,250 --> 00:46:25,600

that they saw that,  
after the war.

1011

00:46:25,600 --> 00:46:27,580

This happened to  
the very first group

1012

00:46:27,580 --> 00:46:29,470

at the very first killing.

1013

00:46:29,470 --> 00:46:35,410

And this was, I guess,  
around December 1941.

1014

00:46:35,410 --> 00:46:39,360

Now, what did they do with  
the rest of the people?

1015

00:46:39,360 --> 00:46:44,090

OK, you see, their  
plan, it was, of course,

1016  
00:46:44,090 --> 00:46:45,880  
to destroy all of us.

1017  
00:46:45,880 --> 00:46:50,250  
We should be clean  
of Jews and gypsies,

1018  
00:46:50,250 --> 00:46:52,630  
but there weren't  
too many gypsies.

1019  
00:46:52,630 --> 00:46:57,320  
But you see, they  
left us for a reason.

1020  
00:46:57,320 --> 00:47:00,460  
They had a reason.

1021  
00:47:00,460 --> 00:47:05,320  
First of all, they needed us.

1022  
00:47:05,320 --> 00:47:08,500  
Work, manpower.

1023  
00:47:08,500 --> 00:47:11,670  
They needed working hands.

1024  
00:47:11,670 --> 00:47:16,880  
So every day, first of  
all, this group that

1025  
00:47:16,880 --> 00:47:22,020  
remained, so they  
put us together.

1026  
00:47:22,020 --> 00:47:27,780  
It was also-- in the  
back of this Novogradok,

1027  
00:47:27,780 --> 00:47:31,200  
there was a certain

place that there were

1028

00:47:31,200 --> 00:47:32,920  
houses, small little houses.

1029

00:47:32,920 --> 00:47:36,750  
The gentile people,  
little farmers,

1030

00:47:36,750 --> 00:47:38,040  
they used to live over there.

1031

00:47:38,040 --> 00:47:41,620  
It's a little way, about  
two miles from the city.

1032

00:47:41,620 --> 00:47:45,030  
So they put all  
of us over there.

1033

00:47:45,030 --> 00:47:48,000  
So they put all of us there.

1034

00:47:48,000 --> 00:47:53,680  
There were about 50  
families in one house.

1035

00:47:53,680 --> 00:47:58,380  
We slept one in the  
top of the other one.

1036

00:47:58,380 --> 00:48:01,000  
On one level, or  
[INAUDIBLE] story?

1037

00:48:01,000 --> 00:48:04,450  
We put those little like  
the, maybe like a bunk--

1038

00:48:04,450 --> 00:48:04,950  
Yes.

1039



00:48:04,950 --> 00:48:05,610  
--bed.

1040  
00:48:05,610 --> 00:48:08,250  
But we had to build it because  
there was no other reason,

1041  
00:48:08,250 --> 00:48:08,750  
I mean.

1042  
00:48:08,750 --> 00:48:09,390  
Yeah.

1043  
00:48:09,390 --> 00:48:10,290  
No clothes.

1044  
00:48:10,290 --> 00:48:14,540  
The way we left the house,  
that's how they let us stay.

1045  
00:48:14,540 --> 00:48:17,630

1046  
00:48:17,630 --> 00:48:20,820  
And we were put right  
away in this place.

1047  
00:48:20,820 --> 00:48:22,500  
They put a fence around.

1048  
00:48:22,500 --> 00:48:24,000  
So it was a ghetto.

1049  
00:48:24,000 --> 00:48:24,930  
That's right.

1050  
00:48:24,930 --> 00:48:27,870  
And this was, they initiated,  
they started a ghetto

1051  
00:48:27,870 --> 00:48:29,880  
from the Novogradok.

1052  
00:48:29,880 --> 00:48:33,600  
And this started  
at the end of 1941.

1053  
00:48:33,600 --> 00:48:37,825  
Immediately, after they  
got rid and these people,

1054  
00:48:37,825 --> 00:48:40,870  
and they started a  
ghetto from Novogradok.

1055  
00:48:40,870 --> 00:48:43,230  
And we lived over there.

1056  
00:48:43,230 --> 00:48:44,250  
We stayed there.

1057  
00:48:44,250 --> 00:48:48,660  
As I say again, we  
formed our own community

1058  
00:48:48,660 --> 00:48:52,800  
because they had to  
communicate with us.

1059  
00:48:52,800 --> 00:48:55,110  
They couldn't communicate  
with everybody.

1060  
00:48:55,110 --> 00:48:57,880  
So they formed the Judenrat.

1061  
00:48:57,880 --> 00:49:02,100  
The Judenrat, it was formed  
from a couple of people.

1062  
00:49:02,100 --> 00:49:05,910  
They represented us.

1063  
00:49:05,910 --> 00:49:07,530

This was the Jewish Council?

1064  
00:49:07,530 --> 00:49:08,610  
That's the couple.

1065  
00:49:08,610 --> 00:49:10,800  
Well, I wouldn't say couples.

1066  
00:49:10,800 --> 00:49:11,670  
Council, council.

1067  
00:49:11,670 --> 00:49:12,400  
Council.

1068  
00:49:12,400 --> 00:49:12,900  
Yes.

1069  
00:49:12,900 --> 00:49:13,800  
Yeah, it was like a--

1070  
00:49:13,800 --> 00:49:14,970  
Yes, it was a council, right.

1071  
00:49:14,970 --> 00:49:15,470  
Yes.

1072  
00:49:15,470 --> 00:49:19,710  
It was the representatives--  
it was like a little--

1073  
00:49:19,710 --> 00:49:22,440  
they managed also everything,  
all the [? affairs ?]

1074  
00:49:22,440 --> 00:49:25,200  
that they had or  
they wanted from us,

1075  
00:49:25,200 --> 00:49:28,500  
something from the Jews,  
so they could communicate.

1076

00:49:28,500 --> 00:49:32,310  
And also, they had another part.

1077

00:49:32,310 --> 00:49:37,860  
It was like people  
that took care,

1078

00:49:37,860 --> 00:49:40,170  
they took care of the work part.

1079

00:49:40,170 --> 00:49:46,210  
So they used to send out people  
to work and appointed everybody

1080

00:49:46,210 --> 00:49:49,300  
what kind of work and  
where you should go.

1081

00:49:49,300 --> 00:49:52,380  
And be surprised,  
they were very busy.

1082

00:49:52,380 --> 00:49:57,450  
They were on the go 24 hours  
a day because the Germans,

1083

00:49:57,450 --> 00:49:58,780  
they demanded.

1084

00:49:58,780 --> 00:50:04,440  
And if you didn't do it, there  
was nothing left but a bullet.

1085

00:50:04,440 --> 00:50:05,677  
They had to cooperate.

1086

00:50:05,677 --> 00:50:06,510  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1087

00:50:06,510 --> 00:50:07,870  
What kind of work?

1088

00:50:07,870 --> 00:50:08,610

Pardon me?

1089

00:50:08,610 --> 00:50:10,080

What kind of work?

1090

00:50:10,080 --> 00:50:11,850

Well, I'll explain to you.

1091

00:50:11,850 --> 00:50:15,570

There were all kinds of work  
that they used these people

1092

00:50:15,570 --> 00:50:18,300

like they used to  
put in an order.

1093

00:50:18,300 --> 00:50:20,730

I need 100 people.

1094

00:50:20,730 --> 00:50:25,750

They should come and work  
for the army in the barracks.

1095

00:50:25,750 --> 00:50:29,310

And there, where the  
army was stationed.

1096

00:50:29,310 --> 00:50:35,940

So for the army, they needed  
cleaning and whatever, washing.

1097

00:50:35,940 --> 00:50:39,900

They needed women and men,  
carpentry, whatever, you know?

1098

00:50:39,900 --> 00:50:44,510

The army was based behind  
Novogradok, the German army,

1099

00:50:44,510 --> 00:50:45,010

I mean.

1100  
00:50:45,010 --> 00:50:46,980  
They occupied this territory.

1101  
00:50:46,980 --> 00:50:49,380  
They did all the occupation.

1102  
00:50:49,380 --> 00:50:51,420  
I mean, so they had  
to stay somewhere.

1103  
00:50:51,420 --> 00:50:53,910  
And it was an army.

1104  
00:50:53,910 --> 00:50:59,910  
And I'll tell you something,  
to beat the Soviets--

1105  
00:50:59,910 --> 00:51:01,230  
they stepped out.

1106  
00:51:01,230 --> 00:51:02,600  
And they ran away.

1107  
00:51:02,600 --> 00:51:05,690  
So they needed a force,  
believe it or not.

1108  
00:51:05,690 --> 00:51:07,410  
And they had it.

1109  
00:51:07,410 --> 00:51:10,860  
So it was the army  
there, when they

1110  
00:51:10,860 --> 00:51:12,130  
were in there, the air force--

1111  
00:51:12,130 --> 00:51:14,530  
there was a navy, but  
the air force was there.

1112

00:51:14,530 --> 00:51:17,940

They had their planes  
that they used to send out

1113

00:51:17,940 --> 00:51:19,620

from this territory.

1114

00:51:19,620 --> 00:51:24,068

And so they needed men, they  
needed people to work for them.

1115

00:51:24,068 --> 00:51:25,110

And that's what they did.

1116

00:51:25,110 --> 00:51:27,310

They took the Jews  
to work for them.

1117

00:51:27,310 --> 00:51:32,790

Now, the Jews, they had  
to clean up the whole town

1118

00:51:32,790 --> 00:51:36,090

from the rubble and  
from the ruins that--

1119

00:51:36,090 --> 00:51:37,440

it was bombed.

1120

00:51:37,440 --> 00:51:39,740

Then, people they  
had to live and eat,

1121

00:51:39,740 --> 00:51:40,900

and the Germans themselves.

1122

00:51:40,900 --> 00:51:43,350

They had to feed an army.

1123

00:51:43,350 --> 00:51:47,450

So things, they had to  
come in from the farmers

1124  
00:51:47,450 --> 00:51:48,330  
and everything.

1125  
00:51:48,330 --> 00:51:49,800  
They used to make markets.

1126  
00:51:49,800 --> 00:51:53,130  
And the farmers, they  
used to come and bring

1127  
00:51:53,130 --> 00:51:56,400  
all this dairy and  
milk and this and that.

1128  
00:51:56,400 --> 00:52:00,270  
Like you said, like before,  
they had to feed an army.

1129  
00:52:00,270 --> 00:52:02,380  
And they needed all this help.

1130  
00:52:02,380 --> 00:52:04,320  
And so we worked around them.

1131  
00:52:04,320 --> 00:52:09,050  
And except that, they  
needed also trades people.

1132  
00:52:09,050 --> 00:52:11,550  
And they needed very badly.

1133  
00:52:11,550 --> 00:52:14,360  
They needed mechanics, right?

1134  
00:52:14,360 --> 00:52:18,770  
They needed even a watchmakers.

1135  
00:52:18,770 --> 00:52:21,650  
They asked people,  
who is a watchmaker?



1136

00:52:21,650 --> 00:52:24,110

Who is a carpenter?

1137

00:52:24,110 --> 00:52:27,730

Who was a smith, a blacksmith,  
or a silversmith, a goldsmith,

1138

00:52:27,730 --> 00:52:28,750

or whatever.

1139

00:52:28,750 --> 00:52:30,950

They needed all the trades.

1140

00:52:30,950 --> 00:52:32,990

And where could they  
get all the trades?

1141

00:52:32,990 --> 00:52:36,150

Between the Jews in the ghetto.

1142

00:52:36,150 --> 00:52:38,870

And for the time being,  
things, they settled.

1143

00:52:38,870 --> 00:52:40,280

And they did not settle.

1144

00:52:40,280 --> 00:52:41,900

They did not settle  
like to get out

1145

00:52:41,900 --> 00:52:44,990

1, 2, 3, from this territory.

1146

00:52:44,990 --> 00:52:47,720

They planned on to  
stay many more years,

1147

00:52:47,720 --> 00:52:48,600

you know what I mean?

1148

00:52:48,600 --> 00:52:51,710

They planned on the  
invasion to go to Stalingrad

1149

00:52:51,710 --> 00:52:55,610

and, I mean, to Moscow.

1150

00:52:55,610 --> 00:52:57,770

They wanted to conquer  
the whole world.

1151

00:52:57,770 --> 00:52:59,470

So they needed this base.

1152

00:52:59,470 --> 00:53:04,730

And in order to keep up this  
base, they needed human hands.

1153

00:53:04,730 --> 00:53:08,210

So the children  
they didn't need.

1154

00:53:08,210 --> 00:53:09,020

They killed them.

1155

00:53:09,020 --> 00:53:10,130

They got rid of them.

1156

00:53:10,130 --> 00:53:12,540

The elderly people  
they didn't need.

1157

00:53:12,540 --> 00:53:13,040

What?

1158

00:53:13,040 --> 00:53:15,770

They didn't have  
any use of them.

1159

00:53:15,770 --> 00:53:16,670

Out.

1160

00:53:16,670 --> 00:53:18,060  
So who they left?

1161  
00:53:18,060 --> 00:53:22,880  
They left the strong people  
that could do something.

1162  
00:53:22,880 --> 00:53:25,550  
And we were there.

1163  
00:53:25,550 --> 00:53:27,520  
And we were placed  
into the ghettos.

1164  
00:53:27,520 --> 00:53:31,970  
And every day,  
everybody had his place

1165  
00:53:31,970 --> 00:53:35,120  
where he had to go to work.

1166  
00:53:35,120 --> 00:53:37,820  
This one had to do carpentry.

1167  
00:53:37,820 --> 00:53:40,280  
He was appointed for carpentry.

1168  
00:53:40,280 --> 00:53:43,700  
This one had to do  
some other work.

1169  
00:53:43,700 --> 00:53:45,200  
He was appointed to this work.

1170  
00:53:45,200 --> 00:53:46,760  
This is a watchman.

1171  
00:53:46,760 --> 00:53:50,510  
I mean, for watching or  
fixing jewelry or something--

1172  
00:53:50,510 --> 00:53:51,890

they needed everything.

1173  
00:53:51,890 --> 00:53:54,830  
And they needed jewels also.

1174  
00:53:54,830 --> 00:54:00,170  
They had plenty of gold that  
they took away from Jews.

1175  
00:54:00,170 --> 00:54:01,170  
So what did they need?

1176  
00:54:01,170 --> 00:54:02,712  
They used to come  
to each of us, say,

1177  
00:54:02,712 --> 00:54:06,460  
hey, why don't you make me a  
nice bracelet or a nice ring

1178  
00:54:06,460 --> 00:54:07,690  
or a brush or something?

1179  
00:54:07,690 --> 00:54:08,810  
If not, I'll kill you.

1180  
00:54:08,810 --> 00:54:10,370  
It was done.

1181  
00:54:10,370 --> 00:54:10,970  
They made it.

1182  
00:54:10,970 --> 00:54:12,620  
They did it.

1183  
00:54:12,620 --> 00:54:13,970  
They didn't have a choice.

1184  
00:54:13,970 --> 00:54:15,310  
They did as good as they could.

1185

00:54:15,310 --> 00:54:20,630  
And they did it because they  
could pay with their lives.

1186  
00:54:20,630 --> 00:54:21,890  
What did you do?

1187  
00:54:21,890 --> 00:54:23,090  
I was-- I'll tell you what.

1188  
00:54:23,090 --> 00:54:26,100  
Since we lived in this  
little community--

1189  
00:54:26,100 --> 00:54:26,600  
little.

1190  
00:54:26,600 --> 00:54:27,475  
It wasn't that small.

1191  
00:54:27,475 --> 00:54:29,250  
There were thousands of people.

1192  
00:54:29,250 --> 00:54:34,280  
So within the same community,  
we needed in-site work.

1193  
00:54:34,280 --> 00:54:35,450  
So I was working--

1194  
00:54:35,450 --> 00:54:39,850  
we had a hospital  
within the ghetto.

1195  
00:54:39,850 --> 00:54:42,030  
You needed everything.

1196  
00:54:42,030 --> 00:54:44,210  
OK no, so we had a hospital.

1197  
00:54:44,210 --> 00:54:48,018  
And I worked as a nurse in

the hospital next to a doctor.

1198

00:54:48,018 --> 00:54:49,310

There weren't too many doctors.

1199

00:54:49,310 --> 00:54:52,810

We had just one  
doctor that survived.

1200

00:54:52,810 --> 00:54:54,770

So he was a doctor  
in the hospital.

1201

00:54:54,770 --> 00:54:58,010

We needed him because people,  
they used to come every day.

1202

00:54:58,010 --> 00:54:59,180

This one was hurt.

1203

00:54:59,180 --> 00:55:00,560

This one was shot.

1204

00:55:00,560 --> 00:55:02,660

This one was burned.

1205

00:55:02,660 --> 00:55:05,120

This one couldn't walk.

1206

00:55:05,120 --> 00:55:06,350

The other one had this.

1207

00:55:06,350 --> 00:55:07,930

And what did we get?

1208

00:55:07,930 --> 00:55:08,430

Nothing.

1209

00:55:08,430 --> 00:55:11,065

1210

00:55:11,065 --> 00:55:11,565  
Nothing.

1211  
00:55:11,565 --> 00:55:14,610

1212  
00:55:14,610 --> 00:55:16,050  
We did have nothing.

1213  
00:55:16,050 --> 00:55:19,110  
Was your family together  
at this time with you

1214  
00:55:19,110 --> 00:55:20,330  
in this particular area?

1215  
00:55:20,330 --> 00:55:21,240  
Yes, yes, yes.

1216  
00:55:21,240 --> 00:55:25,350  
In this family, in this  
time, we were all together.

1217  
00:55:25,350 --> 00:55:29,310  
My mother, father, and five  
children, we were all together.

1218  
00:55:29,310 --> 00:55:31,530  
And we were all sent to work.

1219  
00:55:31,530 --> 00:55:32,970  
OK, explain how.

1220  
00:55:32,970 --> 00:55:34,470  
And we were all in this house.

1221  
00:55:34,470 --> 00:55:37,410  
There were 50, maybe  
more than 50 families.

1222  
00:55:37,410 --> 00:55:40,770  
So we slept one, me,

my father, and mother,

1223

00:55:40,770 --> 00:55:43,260

we slept one next to  
each other like herring.

1224

00:55:43,260 --> 00:55:45,060

But we were happy  
that we are alive.

1225

00:55:45,060 --> 00:55:47,105

No clothes.

1226

00:55:47,105 --> 00:55:49,530

The only thing what we had.

1227

00:55:49,530 --> 00:55:51,570

And food, just a piece of bread.

1228

00:55:51,570 --> 00:55:55,026

We used to get one  
slice and water.

1229

00:55:55,026 --> 00:55:56,002

That's all.

1230

00:55:56,002 --> 00:55:59,010

And you had to survive  
on it and live on it.

1231

00:55:59,010 --> 00:56:00,810

But we were young.

1232

00:56:00,810 --> 00:56:05,020

1233

00:56:05,020 --> 00:56:09,670

A drive to be alive  
could do lots of things.

1234

00:56:09,670 --> 00:56:13,080

You could survive even



worse things than that.

1235

00:56:13,080 --> 00:56:19,090

And so I worked in the  
hospital as a nurse, OK?

1236

00:56:19,090 --> 00:56:24,260

My brothers, they were  
sent, all of them, to work.

1237

00:56:24,260 --> 00:56:26,750

They were kids out from school.

1238

00:56:26,750 --> 00:56:28,220

What could they do?

1239

00:56:28,220 --> 00:56:30,710

But still, they did something.

1240

00:56:30,710 --> 00:56:36,350

So one of the brothers, they  
put him to work as a mechanic.

1241

00:56:36,350 --> 00:56:38,350

And then the other  
one was a carpenter.

1242

00:56:38,350 --> 00:56:40,530

But young children,  
they pick it up 1, 2, 3.

1243

00:56:40,530 --> 00:56:45,550

The other one, they took  
him to clean the streets.

1244

00:56:45,550 --> 00:56:47,300

And the same thing  
with my little sister.

1245

00:56:47,300 --> 00:56:49,590

So she was working with me.

1246

00:56:49,590 --> 00:56:50,930  
I took her into the hospital.

1247  
00:56:50,930 --> 00:56:53,410  
And she worked with me  
and said, hey, I help.

1248  
00:56:53,410 --> 00:56:54,650  
So she helped with me.

1249  
00:56:54,650 --> 00:56:58,910  
And my mother also was sent  
to clean for the Germans.

1250  
00:56:58,910 --> 00:57:00,630  
And my father also.

1251  
00:57:00,630 --> 00:57:03,800  
Sometimes, for days, she  
used to clean their houses.

1252  
00:57:03,800 --> 00:57:06,650  
And the ladies to  
wash their rooms,

1253  
00:57:06,650 --> 00:57:08,012  
they were stationed there.

1254  
00:57:08,012 --> 00:57:09,220  
We're going to have to stop--

1255  
00:57:09,220 --> 00:57:10,010  
Yeah.

1256  
00:57:10,010 --> 00:57:12,010  
--for a few minutes so  
they can change the tape.

1257  
00:57:12,010 --> 00:57:13,400  
And we'll continue momentarily.

1258  
00:57:13,400 --> 00:57:13,900

Sure.

1259  
00:57:13,900 --> 00:57:15,250  
OK.

1260  
00:57:15,250 --> 00:57:22,000