

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,670

2

00:00:13,670 --> 00:00:15,210

Mrs. Oshman, as
we were speaking,

3

00:00:15,210 --> 00:00:18,650

you were telling us about
what your family was

4

00:00:18,650 --> 00:00:19,820

doing in the ghetto.

5

00:00:19,820 --> 00:00:21,858

How long did this
situation go on

6

00:00:21,858 --> 00:00:23,400

as you described it
before the break?

7

00:00:23,400 --> 00:00:24,050

That's right.

8

00:00:24,050 --> 00:00:26,810

I'm going to explain to you
exactly what was going on.

9

00:00:26,810 --> 00:00:30,440

You see, as I said again, they
kept us until they needed us.

10

00:00:30,440 --> 00:00:32,810

When they feel that they
don't have use for us,

11

00:00:32,810 --> 00:00:36,490

so then they get rid of-- they
got rid of all these people.

12

00:00:36,490 --> 00:00:40,070

And then as I say again, they
just this ghetto they kept us,

13

00:00:40,070 --> 00:00:41,420

I would say--

14

00:00:41,420 --> 00:00:43,280

I'm not going to
exaggerate-- like about--

15

00:00:43,280 --> 00:00:49,797

I would say like about maybe
about six, seven months or so.

16

00:00:49,797 --> 00:00:52,130

[? Nights ?] couple months
or maybe more even than that.

17

00:00:52,130 --> 00:00:54,350

You see, this I don't,
recall or maybe more.

18

00:00:54,350 --> 00:01:01,190

Let's see, I would say,
think they kept us over there

19

00:01:01,190 --> 00:01:03,800

over where this was in 1940.

20

00:01:03,800 --> 00:01:07,040

This was already 1942, OK?

21

00:01:07,040 --> 00:01:11,150

So they kept us about, I
would say-- yeah, about eight

22

00:01:11,150 --> 00:01:14,300

or nine months in this place.

23

00:01:14,300 --> 00:01:15,890

And of course,
there was a reason,

24
00:01:15,890 --> 00:01:18,620
as I said before,
because they needed us.

25
00:01:18,620 --> 00:01:22,130
And eventually, they found out
that all this war could be--

26
00:01:22,130 --> 00:01:27,680
it's mostly was done, and there
was no use for us anymore.

27
00:01:27,680 --> 00:01:32,540
So they felt that they don't
need such an amount of people,

28
00:01:32,540 --> 00:01:35,570
that they think that they
could use less of us.

29
00:01:35,570 --> 00:01:38,010
So what they decided to do--

30
00:01:38,010 --> 00:01:47,480
what they decided to do is
to liquidate this ghetto

31
00:01:47,480 --> 00:01:50,960
and put the amount
of people that they

32
00:01:50,960 --> 00:01:54,560
need in a smaller place.

33
00:01:54,560 --> 00:01:57,710
Otherwise, to get rid
of the extra hands

34
00:01:57,710 --> 00:02:01,610
that they didn't needed, OK?

35

00:02:01,610 --> 00:02:10,340

And one morning, it was
an order that everybody--

36

00:02:10,340 --> 00:02:16,580

I mean, that everybody
should come that should--

37

00:02:16,580 --> 00:02:21,680

no, should report to work, OK?

38

00:02:21,680 --> 00:02:24,530

Otherwise, with exception,
because there were some people

39

00:02:24,530 --> 00:02:27,110

that they were on, some
people they were sick.

40

00:02:27,110 --> 00:02:28,580

So they were in the hospital.

41

00:02:28,580 --> 00:02:30,430

Some people they were sick.

42

00:02:30,430 --> 00:02:33,080

They were laying in the
beds, that they did not

43

00:02:33,080 --> 00:02:35,990

go to work because
the Germans actually

44

00:02:35,990 --> 00:02:39,260

did not check the inside.

45

00:02:39,260 --> 00:02:43,700

As a matter of fact, they were
afraid to get into the ghetto.

46

00:02:43,700 --> 00:02:47,870

Because they thought maybe
there was dirt and lice who

47
00:02:47,870 --> 00:02:50,120
knows what kind of sicknesses?

48
00:02:50,120 --> 00:02:51,740
They were afraid.

49
00:02:51,740 --> 00:02:55,250
They just communicated
with these people

50
00:02:55,250 --> 00:02:57,930
that represented the Jewish
community, the Jewish ghetto.

51
00:02:57,930 --> 00:02:59,160
The Judenrat?

52
00:02:59,160 --> 00:03:00,170
The Judenrat, right.

53
00:03:00,170 --> 00:03:02,807
The Judenrat and also
the [NON-ENGLISH Word].

54
00:03:02,807 --> 00:03:04,140
[NON-ENGLISH word] was the word.

55
00:03:04,140 --> 00:03:07,120
A couple people
that they appointed

56
00:03:07,120 --> 00:03:10,660
the people which place to work.

57
00:03:10,660 --> 00:03:14,270
Also we had a
militia and police.

58
00:03:14,270 --> 00:03:16,830
There was police
also in that ghetto.

59

00:03:16,830 --> 00:03:19,340

There were some
Jewish policemen.

60

00:03:19,340 --> 00:03:21,820

Of course, some people,
they feel bad about it,

61

00:03:21,820 --> 00:03:24,330

but there was no choice.

62

00:03:24,330 --> 00:03:26,462

They had to do this work.

63

00:03:26,462 --> 00:03:28,420

They had to appoint people
and say, you go here

64

00:03:28,420 --> 00:03:30,230

and you go there.

65

00:03:30,230 --> 00:03:32,970

Because otherwise,
it wouldn't work.

66

00:03:32,970 --> 00:03:36,400

So one day, it came an order.

67

00:03:36,400 --> 00:03:37,400

We didn't know about it.

68

00:03:37,400 --> 00:03:40,430

The population from the
ghetto didn't know a thing.

69

00:03:40,430 --> 00:03:43,700

Only the Judenrat and
the [NON-ENGLISH word].

70

00:03:43,700 --> 00:03:45,720

They knew exactly

that it's going

71

00:03:45,720 --> 00:03:51,140

to be now another
aktion, another killing.

72

00:03:51,140 --> 00:03:53,960

But you see, they couldn't
do anything about it.

73

00:03:53,960 --> 00:03:57,170

They had to follow orders.

74

00:03:57,170 --> 00:04:02,870

And so as usual, the people
that used to go to the barracks

75

00:04:02,870 --> 00:04:05,390

where the army used to
stay, they went to work.

76

00:04:05,390 --> 00:04:09,140

The other people, they went to
work here and there and there.

77

00:04:09,140 --> 00:04:12,050

And that's it.

78

00:04:12,050 --> 00:04:14,470

And there was some
people that were not

79

00:04:14,470 --> 00:04:20,660

appointed to work this
very same day, see?

80

00:04:20,660 --> 00:04:22,700

There were just people
that they appoint,

81

00:04:22,700 --> 00:04:24,320

and they sent out guards.

82

00:04:24,320 --> 00:04:27,220

You go here, you
go there and there.

83

00:04:27,220 --> 00:04:29,660

But there were
people they did not

84

00:04:29,660 --> 00:04:31,990

get any appointments at all.

85

00:04:31,990 --> 00:04:34,760

They weren't appointed
to go nowhere.

86

00:04:34,760 --> 00:04:38,300

So they were told to
stay in the ghetto.

87

00:04:38,300 --> 00:04:41,570

And these people, they
really didn't know why.

88

00:04:41,570 --> 00:04:45,090

So they said that there was
not enough work for everybody.

89

00:04:45,090 --> 00:04:49,125

But the Judenrat and the
[NON-ENGLISH word] they knew

90

00:04:49,125 --> 00:04:54,050

that it's going to be the
end of this ghetto, OK?

91

00:04:54,050 --> 00:04:58,340

So these people that were
appointed to go to work,

92

00:04:58,340 --> 00:04:59,910

they went.

93

00:04:59,910 --> 00:05:03,800
Now these people, that they
remained in the ghetto,

94
00:05:03,800 --> 00:05:08,850
they stayed in the ghetto.

95
00:05:08,850 --> 00:05:12,420
And of course, all these
people that they stayed--

96
00:05:12,420 --> 00:05:15,120
the ones that they went
to work, they were there,

97
00:05:15,120 --> 00:05:19,490
and the ones that they stayed,
they were all liquidated.

98
00:05:19,490 --> 00:05:24,720
The Germans-- they
walked into the ghetto,

99
00:05:24,720 --> 00:05:28,310
and they were going from
one house to the other one.

100
00:05:28,310 --> 00:05:33,390
And they pulled out the people
and they killed them, executed

101
00:05:33,390 --> 00:05:34,940
them immediately on the place.

102
00:05:34,940 --> 00:05:38,080
They didn't bother
even to do anything.

103
00:05:38,080 --> 00:05:42,510
They just-- that's
where they did it.

104
00:05:42,510 --> 00:05:44,630

And what is the story with me?

105

00:05:44,630 --> 00:05:49,050

106

00:05:49,050 --> 00:05:52,070

And my sister.

107

00:05:52,070 --> 00:05:56,650

How did I escape, OK?

108

00:05:56,650 --> 00:06:02,400

Well, I'll tell you what.

109

00:06:02,400 --> 00:06:03,170

I was told.

110

00:06:03,170 --> 00:06:05,400

Somebody told me.

111

00:06:05,400 --> 00:06:14,370

A friend said to me, do not
stay this day in the ghetto.

112

00:06:14,370 --> 00:06:16,930

113

00:06:16,930 --> 00:06:19,960

Because if you stay, that's
going to be your end.

114

00:06:19,960 --> 00:06:22,936

115

00:06:22,936 --> 00:06:25,920

OK?

116

00:06:25,920 --> 00:06:28,230

And he told me something else.

117

00:06:28,230 --> 00:06:29,730

What he told me?

118

00:06:29,730 --> 00:06:35,070

He told me that at after when
it's going to be a screening.

119

00:06:35,070 --> 00:06:38,230

I mean, they're going to get
rid of this amount of people.

120

00:06:38,230 --> 00:06:44,430

And the rest that will stay
and remain for this time,

121

00:06:44,430 --> 00:06:49,975

they're going to put in the
buildings in the courthouse.

122

00:06:49,975 --> 00:06:51,600

And these people that
are going to stay

123

00:06:51,600 --> 00:06:56,163

in the courthouse for time
being, they will need them.

124

00:06:56,163 --> 00:06:57,830

They will do work,
and they'll be alive.

125

00:06:57,830 --> 00:07:00,420

126

00:07:00,420 --> 00:07:01,680

OK?

127

00:07:01,680 --> 00:07:05,310

So when he told me that, of
course, I told my mother,

128

00:07:05,310 --> 00:07:06,630

and I told my sister.

129

00:07:06,630 --> 00:07:08,950

And I told other people
there, a couple whom

130

00:07:08,950 --> 00:07:12,930

I met, because there was
practically-- everybody

131

00:07:12,930 --> 00:07:15,360

was in their house,
this and this.

132

00:07:15,360 --> 00:07:16,530

And I came over to the--

133

00:07:16,530 --> 00:07:17,160

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

134

00:07:17,160 --> 00:07:18,785

Sonya, was there
anybody in your family

135

00:07:18,785 --> 00:07:21,688

who was sent on any kind of work
assignment out of the ghetto,

136

00:07:21,688 --> 00:07:23,730

or was every member of
your family in the ghetto?

137

00:07:23,730 --> 00:07:24,587

Oh yes, my brothers.

138

00:07:24,587 --> 00:07:25,170

Your brothers?

139

00:07:25,170 --> 00:07:26,550

My father also.

140

00:07:26,550 --> 00:07:27,760

The men were?

141

00:07:27,760 --> 00:07:28,950

Sure, the men were.

142

00:07:28,950 --> 00:07:30,230

They went, of course.

143

00:07:30,230 --> 00:07:32,150

Even my mother was sent to work.

144

00:07:32,150 --> 00:07:32,690

Yeah.

145

00:07:32,690 --> 00:07:35,837

But I got to work in
the ghetto as a nurse,

146

00:07:35,837 --> 00:07:37,170

and I took my sister next to me.

147

00:07:37,170 --> 00:07:39,030

Yeah, so it was just
you and your sister

148

00:07:39,030 --> 00:07:39,930

who remained behind?

149

00:07:39,930 --> 00:07:42,010

That's right, when they
went to work already.

150

00:07:42,010 --> 00:07:42,510

All right.

151

00:07:42,510 --> 00:07:45,490

And their work wasn't finished.

152

00:07:45,490 --> 00:07:47,080

I mean, they really needed them.

153

00:07:47,080 --> 00:07:49,650

So my family thank

God was at that time--

154
00:07:49,650 --> 00:07:51,660
still, we were lucky.

155
00:07:51,660 --> 00:07:54,600
And so I came to the gates.

156
00:07:54,600 --> 00:07:57,960
The were about to close already.

157
00:07:57,960 --> 00:07:59,990
Everybody left.

158
00:07:59,990 --> 00:08:04,220
And so one of them from the
[NON-ENGLISH word] said to me,

159
00:08:04,220 --> 00:08:06,880
Sonya, what are you doing here?

160
00:08:06,880 --> 00:08:10,530
So I said to him, listen,
I'm not going to stay here,

161
00:08:10,530 --> 00:08:13,830
and I want immediately
you should open the gate

162
00:08:13,830 --> 00:08:16,410
and let me go--

163
00:08:16,410 --> 00:08:20,200
me and my sister and another
couple ladies that were there.

164
00:08:20,200 --> 00:08:22,480
He didn't say a word.

165
00:08:22,480 --> 00:08:25,230
He opened the gate.

166

00:08:25,230 --> 00:08:28,980

He opened the gate, because
the gate was closed already.

167

00:08:28,980 --> 00:08:32,220

He opened the gate,
and we took off--

168

00:08:32,220 --> 00:08:34,340

about four people or so.

169

00:08:34,340 --> 00:08:38,710

And we went to the end of the
town, since I was born there,

170

00:08:38,710 --> 00:08:40,970

and I knew approximately
where I am.

171

00:08:40,970 --> 00:08:45,150

So through the fields we went.

172

00:08:45,150 --> 00:08:47,820

And then we got
to the courthouse.

173

00:08:47,820 --> 00:08:51,120

And at that time,
the courthouse,

174

00:08:51,120 --> 00:08:53,700

they didn't have any fence yet.

175

00:08:53,700 --> 00:08:57,280

It was nothing organized yet.

176

00:08:57,280 --> 00:09:01,740

So when I came to the
courthouse, I walked in there.

177

00:09:01,740 --> 00:09:04,770

And it was [INAUDIBLE] people

that were working there,

178
00:09:04,770 --> 00:09:07,410
putting up gates.

179
00:09:07,410 --> 00:09:09,300
And it was like
a whole mishmash.

180
00:09:09,300 --> 00:09:14,610
So between all these
things, I could get away

181
00:09:14,610 --> 00:09:17,400
with all my survival--

182
00:09:17,400 --> 00:09:20,830
with my sister and the
other couple ladies.

183
00:09:20,830 --> 00:09:22,320
OK, by the end of the day--

184
00:09:22,320 --> 00:09:25,130

185
00:09:25,130 --> 00:09:29,000
so all these people
that they went to work,

186
00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:32,930
they did not come back
to that old ghetto.

187
00:09:32,930 --> 00:09:36,140
They came back,
already they appointed

188
00:09:36,140 --> 00:09:41,076
them to stay in the courthouse.

189
00:09:41,076 --> 00:09:42,320

You follow?

190
00:09:42,320 --> 00:09:44,630
And all these people they
were there in the ghetto

191
00:09:44,630 --> 00:09:50,100
left, they were all liquidated.

192
00:09:50,100 --> 00:09:55,250
So whoever was left over
there, they were all killed.

193
00:09:55,250 --> 00:09:57,700
So they got rid of another--

194
00:09:57,700 --> 00:10:01,340
I would say maybe another
2,000 people or so.

195
00:10:01,340 --> 00:10:04,640
So the rest of the ghetto was
concentrated in the courthouse?

196
00:10:04,640 --> 00:10:05,340
Yes.

197
00:10:05,340 --> 00:10:07,430
So not yet, but you
see, all these people

198
00:10:07,430 --> 00:10:11,000
that they went to work,
they came to the courthouse.

199
00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,430
And this was the last--

200
00:10:13,430 --> 00:10:14,210
The remnant?

201
00:10:14,210 --> 00:10:14,960

That's right.

202

00:10:14,960 --> 00:10:20,720

This was the last part, the
last station, I would say,

203

00:10:20,720 --> 00:10:23,780

for all these people
they survived.

204

00:10:23,780 --> 00:10:29,570

OK, when I came
to the courthouse,

205

00:10:29,570 --> 00:10:34,160

and I was waiting
very anxiously to see

206

00:10:34,160 --> 00:10:36,800

when my family will come.

207

00:10:36,800 --> 00:10:38,300

So my father came.

208

00:10:38,300 --> 00:10:41,200

My mother came.

209

00:10:41,200 --> 00:10:43,770

My two brothers
came, but one didn't.

210

00:10:43,770 --> 00:10:49,370

211

00:10:49,370 --> 00:10:50,940

What did they do?

212

00:10:50,940 --> 00:10:54,140

Over there where they
worked, the two of them--

213

00:10:54,140 --> 00:10:58,440

my two other brothers--
they worked in the barracks

214
00:10:58,440 --> 00:11:00,620
where the army was stationed.

215
00:11:00,620 --> 00:11:04,270
So over there there already
they did some cleaning also.

216
00:11:04,270 --> 00:11:06,700
So from these people,
they felt that they

217
00:11:06,700 --> 00:11:08,630
don't need all of them there.

218
00:11:08,630 --> 00:11:14,280
So half, they separated, and
the other half, they left.

219
00:11:14,280 --> 00:11:17,750
And so some of them, they
liquidated immediately.

220
00:11:17,750 --> 00:11:19,940
As a matter of fact, I'll
tell you what we heard--

221
00:11:19,940 --> 00:11:22,370
and we know that,
and it's sure--

222
00:11:22,370 --> 00:11:24,360
that the people that
they slaughtered there--

223
00:11:24,360 --> 00:11:27,165
all from the Polish
population after the war--

224
00:11:27,165 --> 00:11:30,110
that these people that

they went to work,

225

00:11:30,110 --> 00:11:32,270

and the half that they
left and the other half--

226

00:11:32,270 --> 00:11:34,370

I mean, to be killed.

227

00:11:34,370 --> 00:11:39,240

They told them to
dig their own graves,

228

00:11:39,240 --> 00:11:43,090

and then they buried over them.

229

00:11:43,090 --> 00:11:46,490

Otherwise, they dug
their own graves,

230

00:11:46,490 --> 00:11:48,720

and they killed
them right in there.

231

00:11:48,720 --> 00:11:51,400

This was a half of
the working people

232

00:11:51,400 --> 00:11:54,820

that they came from that ghetto.

233

00:11:54,820 --> 00:11:57,420

So one of my brothers
didn't come back.

234

00:11:57,420 --> 00:11:59,530

It was the younger, Charlie.

235

00:11:59,530 --> 00:12:04,500

And I'm the one that
was born in 1927.

236

00:12:04,500 --> 00:12:07,230
OK, so one was missing already.

237
00:12:07,230 --> 00:12:10,380
Of course, we were all crying.

238
00:12:10,380 --> 00:12:13,550
What could I tell you?

239
00:12:13,550 --> 00:12:15,390
What could we do?

240
00:12:15,390 --> 00:12:17,730
Nothing.

241
00:12:17,730 --> 00:12:27,080
Misery, atrocities,
hunger, and what hunger.

242
00:12:27,080 --> 00:12:30,770
The only thing, the desire that
you want to live, and also--

243
00:12:30,770 --> 00:12:32,890
because we were young.

244
00:12:32,890 --> 00:12:35,470
See, when you're young, you
could survive a lot of things.

245
00:12:35,470 --> 00:12:38,010

246
00:12:38,010 --> 00:12:41,470
And they started again.

247
00:12:41,470 --> 00:12:46,020
There's going to be the
ghetto in that courthouse.

248
00:12:46,020 --> 00:12:46,960
They had also there--

249
00:12:46,960 --> 00:12:49,590
there were big
buildings and barracks.

250
00:12:49,590 --> 00:12:52,370
We were about at that time
a couple thousand people.

251
00:12:52,370 --> 00:12:55,860
And they there was
where to put the people.

252
00:12:55,860 --> 00:12:58,230
They put a fence
immediately around it.

253
00:12:58,230 --> 00:13:02,000
Then they put the
double wiring, you know?

254
00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:07,650
And they put up a station
there with searchlights.

255
00:13:07,650 --> 00:13:11,145
This was real-- this was not a--

256
00:13:11,145 --> 00:13:14,160
I wouldn't say this
wasn't a ghetto anymore.

257
00:13:14,160 --> 00:13:18,400
To me, this was a
concentration camp already.

258
00:13:18,400 --> 00:13:21,290
Because all the people
that they lived there,

259
00:13:21,290 --> 00:13:22,900
they had to report
in the morning,

260
00:13:22,900 --> 00:13:24,460
get up early in the morning.

261
00:13:24,460 --> 00:13:28,420
We had numbers, and
we were counted.

262
00:13:28,420 --> 00:13:30,760
You had the appell?

263
00:13:30,760 --> 00:13:31,540
Of course.

264
00:13:31,540 --> 00:13:36,910
And everything, this was
a real concentration camp.

265
00:13:36,910 --> 00:13:43,520
And the people that remained
in this area, same thing.

266
00:13:43,520 --> 00:13:45,730
Since we stayed
already here for good--

267
00:13:45,730 --> 00:13:47,460
I mean, this was for good.

268
00:13:47,460 --> 00:13:51,520
What could we expect something
else until next time.

269
00:13:51,520 --> 00:13:53,390
So of course, we had their way.

270
00:13:53,390 --> 00:13:59,970
The same thing where there
was a little emergency room

271
00:13:59,970 --> 00:14:04,840
for all kinds of people, whether

you get hurt or whatever it is.

272

00:14:04,840 --> 00:14:10,210

And was there a barber
that was needed.

273

00:14:10,210 --> 00:14:12,700

And there also
they, at that time.

274

00:14:12,700 --> 00:14:14,860

And everybody-- we were
sleeping one on, and --

275

00:14:14,860 --> 00:14:18,040

usually on the top of each
other with the bunk beds,

276

00:14:18,040 --> 00:14:20,780

about 50 families in
a very small room,

277

00:14:20,780 --> 00:14:23,950

one on the top of other,
everybody wearing exactly

278

00:14:23,950 --> 00:14:26,430

the same clothes, full of lice.

279

00:14:26,430 --> 00:14:29,140

[INAUDIBLE] where they
were working around us,

280

00:14:29,140 --> 00:14:30,920

they could carry us away.

281

00:14:30,920 --> 00:14:33,130

But we survived.

282

00:14:33,130 --> 00:14:36,520

And bread, we got one slice--

283

00:14:36,520 --> 00:14:39,100
each of us-- with
a cup of water.

284
00:14:39,100 --> 00:14:40,060
And what kind of water?

285
00:14:40,060 --> 00:14:41,200
Dirty water.

286
00:14:41,200 --> 00:14:45,440
And the bread-- if this would be
at least a nice piece of bread,

287
00:14:45,440 --> 00:14:49,750
but they were those
pieces from the wheat

288
00:14:49,750 --> 00:14:51,520
that they didn't clean it, even.

289
00:14:51,520 --> 00:14:53,950
It's like if you
could kill yourself--

290
00:14:53,950 --> 00:14:55,230
Hmm

291
00:14:55,230 --> 00:14:57,490
--eating it.

292
00:14:57,490 --> 00:15:00,700
And everybody also
started to work.

293
00:15:00,700 --> 00:15:03,610
And everybody was working.

294
00:15:03,610 --> 00:15:05,480
One was working as a carpenter.

295
00:15:05,480 --> 00:15:07,750

The other one was
working as a tailor.

296
00:15:07,750 --> 00:15:09,010
The other one was working--

297
00:15:09,010 --> 00:15:11,680
some of them, they
were shoemakers.

298
00:15:11,680 --> 00:15:16,250
And also, there was
a shoe department.

299
00:15:16,250 --> 00:15:22,710
They were sewing and making
the warm boots for the army

300
00:15:22,710 --> 00:15:24,470
with the lining.

301
00:15:24,470 --> 00:15:27,550
OK, they planned
already the invasion

302
00:15:27,550 --> 00:15:29,320
to go to the Soviet
Union, you know?

303
00:15:29,320 --> 00:15:33,160
Because over there, you need
warm clothes, and for winter

304
00:15:33,160 --> 00:15:34,890
to prepare the army.

305
00:15:34,890 --> 00:15:39,820
And this is why they
closed this ghetto.

306
00:15:39,820 --> 00:15:42,130
Because they needed us again.

307

00:15:42,130 --> 00:15:44,930

They needed working hands.

308

00:15:44,930 --> 00:15:46,630

And so all the women--

309

00:15:46,630 --> 00:15:48,430

the ladies and whoever--

310

00:15:48,430 --> 00:15:53,130

so everybody was working
and sewing these boots.

311

00:15:53,130 --> 00:15:55,750

Because you had to do it
by hand, also, because it

312

00:15:55,750 --> 00:15:57,250

was so thick.

313

00:15:57,250 --> 00:15:59,085

And we did it.

314

00:15:59,085 --> 00:15:59,710

We were hungry.

315

00:15:59,710 --> 00:16:01,960

We were sick.

316

00:16:01,960 --> 00:16:04,480

We were everything,
and we did it.

317

00:16:04,480 --> 00:16:10,600

And was cold, and
humiliated, and we're beaten.

318

00:16:10,600 --> 00:16:16,900

Once also, there was a man that
he was a very elderly man that

319

00:16:16,900 --> 00:16:17,950
was sick.

320
00:16:17,950 --> 00:16:21,640
He came to work his
whole life, you know?

321
00:16:21,640 --> 00:16:25,630
And he used to make these
wool-- these same boots.

322
00:16:25,630 --> 00:16:27,610
And he was very good.

323
00:16:27,610 --> 00:16:30,640
But one day, he
couldn't come to work.

324
00:16:30,640 --> 00:16:32,690
He didn't feel
good, he was sick.

325
00:16:32,690 --> 00:16:34,390
So the German-- one
of the soldiers,

326
00:16:34,390 --> 00:16:37,630
they took him out and they
hanged him in the middle

327
00:16:37,630 --> 00:16:39,120
of that--

328
00:16:39,120 --> 00:16:42,377
[INAUDIBLE] on a cross.

329
00:16:42,377 --> 00:16:43,960
That's right, and
they hanged the man,

330
00:16:43,960 --> 00:16:49,990
because he couldn't
work anymore, OK?

331
00:16:49,990 --> 00:16:54,922
And that's how it was,
the life over there.

332
00:16:54,922 --> 00:16:58,360
What year was this second
concentration camp established?

333
00:16:58,360 --> 00:16:59,490
They started in '42--

334
00:16:59,490 --> 00:17:00,310
'42?

335
00:17:00,310 --> 00:17:02,050
--until '43.

336
00:17:02,050 --> 00:17:06,369
This was, as I said,
the last place where

337
00:17:06,369 --> 00:17:10,630
we were living and staying.

338
00:17:10,630 --> 00:17:12,790
And this was the
last stage already.

339
00:17:12,790 --> 00:17:15,760
I mean, there was no--

340
00:17:15,760 --> 00:17:17,640
also, what they said--

341
00:17:17,640 --> 00:17:19,400
they said, as a matter
of fact, you know,

342
00:17:19,400 --> 00:17:22,079
there was some German soldiers--

343

00:17:22,079 --> 00:17:24,700

that they were standing
and watching us around.

344

00:17:24,700 --> 00:17:28,960

And of course, not
everybody has a terrible --

345

00:17:28,960 --> 00:17:34,220

I mean, is a terrible
man and like an animal.

346

00:17:34,220 --> 00:17:37,960

But he told us, you're not
going to stay too long here.

347

00:17:37,960 --> 00:17:40,717

Eventually, they're going
to kill you until --

348

00:17:40,717 --> 00:17:42,550

In other words, this
was the terminal point.

349

00:17:42,550 --> 00:17:44,700

The terminal point, exactly.

350

00:17:44,700 --> 00:17:45,610

It's be last point.

351

00:17:45,610 --> 00:17:46,610

This was the plan, yeah.

352

00:17:46,610 --> 00:17:48,107

And here would be the end.

353

00:17:48,107 --> 00:17:49,568

Yeah.

354

00:17:49,568 --> 00:17:51,030

Yeah.

355

00:17:51,030 --> 00:17:54,200

And my father was working
there as an mechanic.

356

00:17:54,200 --> 00:17:57,710

He was a very capable
man, my father.

357

00:17:57,710 --> 00:17:58,920

He had golden hands.

358

00:17:58,920 --> 00:18:01,440

He could do anything
what you tell him.

359

00:18:01,440 --> 00:18:09,690

Since he had his business
with all the appliances

360

00:18:09,690 --> 00:18:11,580

and everything,
and also, he knew

361

00:18:11,580 --> 00:18:14,080

how to do beautiful
things with his hands.

362

00:18:14,080 --> 00:18:15,280

He learned.

363

00:18:15,280 --> 00:18:17,310

So he worked as a mechanic.

364

00:18:17,310 --> 00:18:18,330

Now my other brother--

365

00:18:18,330 --> 00:18:21,560

366

00:18:21,560 --> 00:18:25,050

the two brothers, they
worked next to their father.

367

00:18:25,050 --> 00:18:27,840

Because my father kept
them and showed them,

368

00:18:27,840 --> 00:18:30,420

and they did exactly
what my father did.

369

00:18:30,420 --> 00:18:31,900

And there weren't
too many people

370

00:18:31,900 --> 00:18:35,020

like that, because he was
really full of skills,

371

00:18:35,020 --> 00:18:38,510

my father, and also, my brothers
alone for this short time.

372

00:18:38,510 --> 00:18:42,870

And circumstances-- what
they're doing to you,

373

00:18:42,870 --> 00:18:44,770

you could do the impossible.

374

00:18:44,770 --> 00:18:46,670

Sometimes, it happened to me.

375

00:18:46,670 --> 00:18:51,150

[INAUDIBLE] started when I did
something really impossible.

376

00:18:51,150 --> 00:18:53,880

I wouldn't do it again,
what was impossible.

377

00:18:53,880 --> 00:18:57,480

Anyway, my father stayed there,
and my mother also was going,

378

00:18:57,480 --> 00:18:59,283

and we were working
around the woods.

379

00:18:59,283 --> 00:19:00,700

And my sister, she
was a big girl,

380

00:19:00,700 --> 00:19:02,283

and didn't know that
she's [INAUDIBLE]

381

00:19:02,283 --> 00:19:03,790

that I was 10 years old.

382

00:19:03,790 --> 00:19:05,550

But she was taller than I was.

383

00:19:05,550 --> 00:19:09,750

I was not a big one, a petite
kind, but she was a big girl.

384

00:19:09,750 --> 00:19:12,380

And she could get away
like for 16 years even,

385

00:19:12,380 --> 00:19:15,180

and she stayed with us and
going every day to work.

386

00:19:15,180 --> 00:19:18,100

387

00:19:18,100 --> 00:19:23,220

OK, in meantime, the
situation was terrible.

388

00:19:23,220 --> 00:19:26,870

We were tired and
sick and disgusted.

389

00:19:26,870 --> 00:19:30,140

And I could tell
you something-- even

390
00:19:30,140 --> 00:19:33,820
you didn't want to survive
anymore, it was too much

391
00:19:33,820 --> 00:19:34,910
of everything, you know?

392
00:19:34,910 --> 00:19:35,780
You gave up.

393
00:19:35,780 --> 00:19:38,420
There were times when
you really felt--

394
00:19:38,420 --> 00:19:41,330
well, that's enough, you
can't take it anymore.

395
00:19:41,330 --> 00:19:42,700
What is there to fight for?

396
00:19:42,700 --> 00:19:44,200
Anyway, you can't
fight for-- things

397
00:19:44,200 --> 00:19:46,070
they don't look so beautiful.

398
00:19:46,070 --> 00:19:48,280
Who knows when --
how could I survive?

399
00:19:48,280 --> 00:19:50,277
Sometimes, I think
things about it.

400
00:19:50,277 --> 00:19:51,110
How could I survive?

401

00:19:51,110 --> 00:19:54,160
Look, the Germans, they are so
strong, they're going to fight,

402
00:19:54,160 --> 00:19:55,965
and they're go and
fight the Russians.

403
00:19:55,965 --> 00:19:57,590
Who knows how long
it's going to go on?

404
00:19:57,590 --> 00:19:58,810
Who will survive?

405
00:19:58,810 --> 00:19:59,770
It's ridiculous.

406
00:19:59,770 --> 00:20:04,610
Why not to die right now in some
way like a hero or something

407
00:20:04,610 --> 00:20:06,800
to do?

408
00:20:06,800 --> 00:20:08,990
I did think about it.

409
00:20:08,990 --> 00:20:10,910
I had a brother that
was a year younger

410
00:20:10,910 --> 00:20:14,300
than I was, a tall fellow.

411
00:20:14,300 --> 00:20:18,490
But you see, he
was very delicate.

412
00:20:18,490 --> 00:20:21,944
His body couldn't
take all this abuse.

413
00:20:21,944 --> 00:20:22,790
See?

414
00:20:22,790 --> 00:20:25,000
Sometimes, you could
take hunger, and abuse,

415
00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:26,290
and all these things--

416
00:20:26,290 --> 00:20:28,760
cold, no clothes.

417
00:20:28,760 --> 00:20:32,695
They send their clothes
that we wore, never washed

418
00:20:32,695 --> 00:20:33,850
and whatever it is.

419
00:20:33,850 --> 00:20:37,130

420
00:20:37,130 --> 00:20:39,900
He didn't feel so
very good lately.

421
00:20:39,900 --> 00:20:41,795
I saw that he is caving in.

422
00:20:41,795 --> 00:20:45,690
A young boy, he was 16.

423
00:20:45,690 --> 00:20:46,950
No, maybe 15 at that time.

424
00:20:46,950 --> 00:20:52,130
No, 1942, he was about 16
or something like that.

425
00:20:52,130 --> 00:20:53,100

No, why do I say 16?

426
00:20:53,100 --> 00:20:53,870
More than that.

427
00:20:53,870 --> 00:21:00,010
He was 1923, and this was '32.

428
00:21:00,010 --> 00:21:01,540
About 20.

429
00:21:01,540 --> 00:21:02,040
Yeah.

430
00:21:02,040 --> 00:21:06,830
So when I saw that he
caved-- and my mother also--

431
00:21:06,830 --> 00:21:08,990
that he was not going
to be able to do it.

432
00:21:08,990 --> 00:21:12,630
He lost lots of weight.

433
00:21:12,630 --> 00:21:14,930
He looked so pale.

434
00:21:14,930 --> 00:21:18,860
And I'll tell you something,
that God was so good to him.

435
00:21:18,860 --> 00:21:21,860
One morning, the whole family--

436
00:21:21,860 --> 00:21:24,080
we're getting up, and
we went to go to work.

437
00:21:24,080 --> 00:21:26,990

438

00:21:26,990 --> 00:21:30,260

And my mother was saying to him,
Shlomo, why don't you wake up?

439

00:21:30,260 --> 00:21:33,170

It's late.

440

00:21:33,170 --> 00:21:37,070

Because they're going to come,
and it's going to be your end.

441

00:21:37,070 --> 00:21:37,850

Nobody wants it.

442

00:21:37,850 --> 00:21:40,100

You'll get a bullet
in your head.

443

00:21:40,100 --> 00:21:42,060

He didn't end so.

444

00:21:42,060 --> 00:21:43,280

He was dead.

445

00:21:43,280 --> 00:21:46,760

He died from hunger.

446

00:21:46,760 --> 00:21:49,300

And then the doctor said
that he couldn't take it,

447

00:21:49,300 --> 00:21:52,670

and my brother died from hunger.

448

00:21:52,670 --> 00:21:55,160

They buried him in the ghetto.

449

00:21:55,160 --> 00:21:59,210

As a matter of fact,
there was near the gate--

450

00:21:59,210 --> 00:22:00,910
there were a couple graves.

451
00:22:00,910 --> 00:22:03,290
They were about 10 graves
of people that they died--

452
00:22:03,290 --> 00:22:05,940
or were killed and died.

453
00:22:05,940 --> 00:22:08,660
And one of the graves is
my brother laying there.

454
00:22:08,660 --> 00:22:13,370
He died in the
sleep, a lucky one.

455
00:22:13,370 --> 00:22:15,780
We were crying and everything.

456
00:22:15,780 --> 00:22:20,360
But then I said to my mother,
Mom, maybe he's a lucky one.

457
00:22:20,360 --> 00:22:23,420
The went like a
saint, because he was.

458
00:22:23,420 --> 00:22:26,450
He didn't do anything
wrong to anybody.

459
00:22:26,450 --> 00:22:29,820
Then my father died.

460
00:22:29,820 --> 00:22:34,510
This was in January 1943.

461
00:22:34,510 --> 00:22:37,740
And then good
enough, the Germans,

462

00:22:37,740 --> 00:22:41,850

they realized that they
don't need anymore.

463

00:22:41,850 --> 00:22:45,640

I mean, there are too many
people in this ghetto.

464

00:22:45,640 --> 00:22:49,880

There are too many, and
they don't need us anymore.

465

00:22:49,880 --> 00:22:53,070

And again, one morning--

466

00:22:53,070 --> 00:22:59,910

this was in end of May, 1943.

467

00:22:59,910 --> 00:23:02,727

They told everybody to get out.

468

00:23:02,727 --> 00:23:05,860

The gates they opened up.

469

00:23:05,860 --> 00:23:11,120

And here a whole army
of black dressed people

470

00:23:11,120 --> 00:23:15,800

from the militia,
from the population.

471

00:23:15,800 --> 00:23:18,950

They came in with
the rifles like that.

472

00:23:18,950 --> 00:23:24,820

And there were maybe about five
German soldiers, and the rest,

473

00:23:24,820 --> 00:23:26,960

all the population.

474
00:23:26,960 --> 00:23:28,260
Everybody out.

475
00:23:28,260 --> 00:23:29,390
Well, we had to get out.

476
00:23:29,390 --> 00:23:32,090
If you wouldn't get out,
they're going to pull you out.

477
00:23:32,090 --> 00:23:34,130
They'll kill you immediately.

478
00:23:34,130 --> 00:23:36,942
And I'll tell you what happened.

479
00:23:36,942 --> 00:23:40,670
At that time, when they
told everybody to get out,

480
00:23:40,670 --> 00:23:42,630
I felt very sick this morning.

481
00:23:42,630 --> 00:23:45,250

482
00:23:45,250 --> 00:23:49,960
I felt very ill and sick, and
I didn't have enough strength.

483
00:23:49,960 --> 00:23:56,620
So I said to my mother, I
said, Mom, I'm not going.

484
00:23:56,620 --> 00:23:58,750
So my mother started to cry.

485
00:23:58,750 --> 00:24:00,820
She says to me, what?

486

00:24:00,820 --> 00:24:02,080
You're not going to go?

487
00:24:02,080 --> 00:24:03,580
They're going to
walk in and they're

488
00:24:03,580 --> 00:24:05,160
going to kill you instantly.

489
00:24:05,160 --> 00:24:06,640
I say, you know what, Mom?

490
00:24:06,640 --> 00:24:08,170
Let them do it.

491
00:24:08,170 --> 00:24:09,740
Let them do it.

492
00:24:09,740 --> 00:24:12,320
So she started crying,
and my sister also.

493
00:24:12,320 --> 00:24:13,840
They insisted.

494
00:24:13,840 --> 00:24:16,180
So with all my might, I got up.

495
00:24:16,180 --> 00:24:16,900
[INAUDIBLE]

496
00:24:16,900 --> 00:24:17,540
I was sick.

497
00:24:17,540 --> 00:24:18,110
I had a cold.

498
00:24:18,110 --> 00:24:20,580
I [INAUDIBLE] was very weak.

499

00:24:20,580 --> 00:24:22,070
And I got out.

500
00:24:22,070 --> 00:24:28,640
OK, then all of a sudden, Reiter--

501
00:24:28,640 --> 00:24:32,950
he was the chief commander from the German army that

502
00:24:32,950 --> 00:24:36,100
was stationed in Novogrudok all the time since they

503
00:24:36,100 --> 00:24:37,100
took over the city.

504
00:24:37,100 --> 00:24:39,780

505
00:24:39,780 --> 00:24:40,440
He showed up.

506
00:24:40,440 --> 00:24:43,290

507
00:24:43,290 --> 00:24:49,820
In the middle of that place, of the [INAUDIBLE]

508
00:24:49,820 --> 00:24:52,530
of the back [INAUDIBLE].

509
00:24:52,530 --> 00:24:54,560
And he said like that.

510
00:24:54,560 --> 00:24:57,300
He said like that.

511
00:24:57,300 --> 00:25:00,390
I'm going to divide

you, he said.

512

00:25:00,390 --> 00:25:06,012

One people, they'll go here,
and the other people over there.

513

00:25:06,012 --> 00:25:07,420

OK?

514

00:25:07,420 --> 00:25:09,960

Exactly what they do always.

515

00:25:09,960 --> 00:25:12,990

So we knew already,
it's nothing new.

516

00:25:12,990 --> 00:25:15,360

But what could you do?

517

00:25:15,360 --> 00:25:16,807

Stand up against it?

518

00:25:16,807 --> 00:25:18,090

Can't.

519

00:25:18,090 --> 00:25:21,270

Maybe it will be better,
or maybe not, who knows?

520

00:25:21,270 --> 00:25:25,350

Anyway, so he divided us in two.

521

00:25:25,350 --> 00:25:29,730

All the women-- most of
us-- most of the ladies.

522

00:25:29,730 --> 00:25:31,080

There were some ladies.

523

00:25:31,080 --> 00:25:31,700

Why?

524

00:25:31,700 --> 00:25:34,140

Because they needed the
ladies for this shoe work.

525

00:25:34,140 --> 00:25:39,470

For the boots, they
needed sewing by hand.

526

00:25:39,470 --> 00:25:42,910

But I understand that they
didn't need it anymore.

527

00:25:42,910 --> 00:25:44,430

So all these people--

528

00:25:44,430 --> 00:25:46,400

most of the ladies--

529

00:25:46,400 --> 00:25:49,260

so they divide it in half.

530

00:25:49,260 --> 00:25:52,950

So they said, this on the right
side, and this one on the left.

531

00:25:52,950 --> 00:25:59,480

And be surprised that myself,
my mother, and my sister,

532

00:25:59,480 --> 00:26:03,420

we're all left to
the right to die.

533

00:26:03,420 --> 00:26:05,700

And I was left to die.

534

00:26:05,700 --> 00:26:09,120

Now my father with one of
my brothers that was left--

535

00:26:09,120 --> 00:26:11,820

the two others, we lost them--

536
00:26:11,820 --> 00:26:13,620
so they were put on this side.

537
00:26:13,620 --> 00:26:16,550
You could do nothing.

538
00:26:16,550 --> 00:26:17,980
So that's what they said.

539
00:26:17,980 --> 00:26:21,130
All these people on
the left, mostly men,

540
00:26:21,130 --> 00:26:24,600
they told them to get
into the house there.

541
00:26:24,600 --> 00:26:28,170
When they entered in the
building where they worked.

542
00:26:28,170 --> 00:26:29,940
It was a workshop there.

543
00:26:29,940 --> 00:26:33,120
I mean, that's always where
they did all their work.

544
00:26:33,120 --> 00:26:35,760
And now the rest
should stay outside.

545
00:26:35,760 --> 00:26:38,970
And I will remain there.

546
00:26:38,970 --> 00:26:40,800
When they walked
in, I just followed

547
00:26:40,800 --> 00:26:42,207
my father and my brother.

548

00:26:42,207 --> 00:26:44,040

And the same thing, my
mother and my sister.

549

00:26:44,040 --> 00:26:46,110

We knew.

550

00:26:46,110 --> 00:26:48,780

They were crying, and everybody
was crying, but what could

551

00:26:48,780 --> 00:26:50,810

you do, you know?

552

00:26:50,810 --> 00:26:52,430

And they left.

553

00:26:52,430 --> 00:26:56,650

And until the last ones
walked into this building--

554

00:26:56,650 --> 00:26:59,040

and there was like
a little gate that

555

00:26:59,040 --> 00:27:02,280

separated the
building where people

556

00:27:02,280 --> 00:27:05,380

walked from the quarters--

557

00:27:05,380 --> 00:27:13,210

from the barrack, you know,
the stables where we slept.

558

00:27:13,210 --> 00:27:17,640

And so there was like a little
gate, and it was locked.

559

00:27:17,640 --> 00:27:21,630

And the people, they
were left to live,

560
00:27:21,630 --> 00:27:24,540
so they were in the
building, and we were all--

561
00:27:24,540 --> 00:27:30,150
no one left in this place,
surrounded by these militia

562
00:27:30,150 --> 00:27:33,290
and with the Germans.

563
00:27:33,290 --> 00:27:36,890

564
00:27:36,890 --> 00:27:39,500
And we were to die, of course.

565
00:27:39,500 --> 00:27:44,570
I mean, we understood
it and we knew it.

566
00:27:44,570 --> 00:27:48,490
But I'll tell you what, it's
a funny thing, isn't it?

567
00:27:48,490 --> 00:27:51,550
It's psychologically
understanding,

568
00:27:51,550 --> 00:27:53,540
but this happens sometimes.

569
00:27:53,540 --> 00:27:54,570
I don't know.

570
00:27:54,570 --> 00:27:57,140
It sometimes [INAUDIBLE]
can happen or whatever.

571

00:27:57,140 --> 00:28:01,880
I stayed, and I remained with
my mother and sister, OK?

572
00:28:01,880 --> 00:28:04,130
And each time in the
morning, when we used to

573
00:28:04,130 --> 00:28:06,530
come for counting--

574
00:28:06,530 --> 00:28:09,050
so we used to do like
that-- that I was the first,

575
00:28:09,050 --> 00:28:12,575
that we used to put our sister
between me and my mother,

576
00:28:12,575 --> 00:28:14,450
that they shouldn't see
that she's too small,

577
00:28:14,450 --> 00:28:17,060
that she is too young, they
shouldn't-- just that she

578
00:28:17,060 --> 00:28:18,530
should be counted.

579
00:28:18,530 --> 00:28:21,470
And this time, I was
standing next to them,

580
00:28:21,470 --> 00:28:26,780
and they came, and they
surrounded all these people.

581
00:28:26,780 --> 00:28:31,280
We were-- at that time,
there were left about 500

582
00:28:31,280 --> 00:28:35,440

in the building who will be--

583

00:28:35,440 --> 00:28:36,530
they were to live.

584

00:28:36,530 --> 00:28:39,100
And these people that they
left outside to die, of course.

585

00:28:39,100 --> 00:28:42,450
There were maybe about
700 or 800 people.

586

00:28:42,450 --> 00:28:46,990
And between them, I was there
and my mother and sister.

587

00:28:46,990 --> 00:28:53,810
But you know, that strength, and
that impact some kind, when I

588

00:28:53,810 --> 00:28:58,730
[? seen ?] you, everybody
was running while they walked

589

00:28:58,730 --> 00:29:01,340
around and they approached you.

590

00:29:01,340 --> 00:29:02,962
And they were
actually-- people, they

591

00:29:02,962 --> 00:29:04,670
were running here and
there, and chasing,

592

00:29:04,670 --> 00:29:06,590
whatever, which was silly.

593

00:29:06,590 --> 00:29:10,120
So everybody tried to
run in the direction

594

00:29:10,120 --> 00:29:14,110

where the building was,
and where was the gate.

595

00:29:14,110 --> 00:29:18,410

And around there was wiring.

596

00:29:18,410 --> 00:29:21,770

And believe it or not,
the wiring was round,

597

00:29:21,770 --> 00:29:25,910

not just plain flat, but was
round like that in circles,

598

00:29:25,910 --> 00:29:28,070

that if you would
like to go over

599

00:29:28,070 --> 00:29:31,580

from this side to the
other one, you had to be--

600

00:29:31,580 --> 00:29:35,810

I don't know-- a Superman
in order to jump over.

601

00:29:35,810 --> 00:29:37,760

And everybody started to run.

602

00:29:37,760 --> 00:29:41,030

And I was running also.

603

00:29:41,030 --> 00:29:44,450

I was next to my mother,
and I started to run also.

604

00:29:44,450 --> 00:29:47,810

It's like everybody was pushing
everybody in same direction.

605

00:29:47,810 --> 00:29:50,510

I was running also.

606
00:29:50,510 --> 00:29:55,460
I was the only one to
jump over the fence.

607
00:29:55,460 --> 00:29:58,140

608
00:29:58,140 --> 00:30:00,630
Would you believe it or not?

609
00:30:00,630 --> 00:30:02,710
You had to be a Superman.

610
00:30:02,710 --> 00:30:07,260
Cause if I-- then later
on, when I was looking

611
00:30:07,260 --> 00:30:09,570
and everybody was
watching the way I did,

612
00:30:09,570 --> 00:30:11,160
just nobody could believe it.

613
00:30:11,160 --> 00:30:15,610
And I didn't believe it
even that I did it, OK?

614
00:30:15,610 --> 00:30:18,240
So I remained.

615
00:30:18,240 --> 00:30:23,190
Since I jumped over the
wiring, I remained on that side

616
00:30:23,190 --> 00:30:25,760
where the buildings
were where the men there

617
00:30:25,760 --> 00:30:27,960

were inside to work.

618
00:30:27,960 --> 00:30:32,320
And I was the only one
standing on that sidewalk,

619
00:30:32,320 --> 00:30:34,780
and didn't know what to do.

620
00:30:34,780 --> 00:30:36,150
There was no way back.

621
00:30:36,150 --> 00:30:39,240

622
00:30:39,240 --> 00:30:40,950
I couldn't go back,
because I couldn't

623
00:30:40,950 --> 00:30:43,170
make the wiring over there.

624
00:30:43,170 --> 00:30:45,850
Now at the gate, I couldn't go,
because there was a policeman.

625
00:30:45,850 --> 00:30:48,300
He would kill me.

626
00:30:48,300 --> 00:30:51,340
And over there, -- somehow,
he didn't touch me.

627
00:30:51,340 --> 00:30:54,570
And I was standing in the
corner and waiting, for what,

628
00:30:54,570 --> 00:30:56,020
I don't know.

629
00:30:56,020 --> 00:30:57,120
I don't know.

630

00:30:57,120 --> 00:30:59,370

And here I saw I was
waiting like that--

631

00:30:59,370 --> 00:31:02,780

I'm not exaggerating-- maybe
an hour or maybe an hour

632

00:31:02,780 --> 00:31:04,050

and a half.

633

00:31:04,050 --> 00:31:08,180

And here I saw how they put
all these people together,

634

00:31:08,180 --> 00:31:14,250

how they took them about 200
miles from this courthouse.

635

00:31:14,250 --> 00:31:17,040

It was over the road.

636

00:31:17,040 --> 00:31:19,800

The graves, they
were there, and they

637

00:31:19,800 --> 00:31:22,090

told them to get
into the graves,

638

00:31:22,090 --> 00:31:24,600

and they shot them to death.

639

00:31:24,600 --> 00:31:29,050

And over there was my
mother and my sister,

640

00:31:29,050 --> 00:31:33,480

and all the rest of the people
that they didn't need anymore.

641

00:31:33,480 --> 00:31:40,320
So all that was left just the
500 people from the 18,000

642
00:31:40,320 --> 00:31:42,570
from this Novogradok.

643
00:31:42,570 --> 00:31:46,450
And they were all
here in that building.

644
00:31:46,450 --> 00:31:49,710
And I was the only one
standing on the corner,

645
00:31:49,710 --> 00:31:53,410
not knowing what to do, OK?

646
00:31:53,410 --> 00:31:54,970
And here.

647
00:31:54,970 --> 00:31:57,780
So I know that there is an
entrance to this building

648
00:31:57,780 --> 00:31:59,680
from the other side.

649
00:31:59,680 --> 00:32:02,640
That's the door where all the
working people are going in.

650
00:32:02,640 --> 00:32:06,462
So I tried to get
into this building.

651
00:32:06,462 --> 00:32:09,180
So the two policemen,
they were standing--

652
00:32:09,180 --> 00:32:10,650
they didn't let me get in.

653

00:32:10,650 --> 00:32:12,540

They said, oh no, you're
not going to get in.

654

00:32:12,540 --> 00:32:14,580

And they were who?

655

00:32:14,580 --> 00:32:17,960

Friends that I went
to school together.

656

00:32:17,960 --> 00:32:19,980

Not Germans.

657

00:32:19,980 --> 00:32:23,280

Two friends that I went to
school together with them.

658

00:32:23,280 --> 00:32:25,710

And the two of them, they
pointed down the guns,

659

00:32:25,710 --> 00:32:28,677

but they're not going
to let me in, OK?

660

00:32:28,677 --> 00:32:30,760

I said to them, OK, you're
not going to let me in,

661

00:32:30,760 --> 00:32:32,710

so I'm going back.

662

00:32:32,710 --> 00:32:34,072

They didn't care.

663

00:32:34,072 --> 00:32:37,340

And I'm walking back.

664

00:32:37,340 --> 00:32:41,090

While I was walking back, and I
see from the other side coming,

665
00:32:41,090 --> 00:32:45,220
Reiter, this German that
is in charge of everything

666
00:32:45,220 --> 00:32:50,460
of the whole affair,
walking with another friend,

667
00:32:50,460 --> 00:32:54,010
a Polish guy, his advisor.

668
00:32:54,010 --> 00:32:58,830
That he also helped him
with all liquidation

669
00:32:58,830 --> 00:33:00,355
of the Jewish population.

670
00:33:00,355 --> 00:33:02,070
He was my friend.

671
00:33:02,070 --> 00:33:03,840
We were brought up together.

672
00:33:03,840 --> 00:33:06,510
And this is the friend
that I before told you

673
00:33:06,510 --> 00:33:09,510
that he used to live
across the way from me,

674
00:33:09,510 --> 00:33:11,830
and we used to play together,
climb trees together.

675
00:33:11,830 --> 00:33:14,240
He used to eat at my
house and everything,

676
00:33:14,240 --> 00:33:15,910

and I ate there and everything.

677

00:33:15,910 --> 00:33:18,480

He used to tell me that he
likes Jewish girls, but not

678

00:33:18,480 --> 00:33:21,350

the Jewish boys.

679

00:33:21,350 --> 00:33:26,820

And he works with
this Reiter facing me.

680

00:33:26,820 --> 00:33:31,140

And when he saw
me, he said to me--

681

00:33:31,140 --> 00:33:33,390

you're not going to believe
me what I'll tell you.

682

00:33:33,390 --> 00:33:35,290

He saved my life.

683

00:33:35,290 --> 00:33:39,840

He said to me, what
are you doing here?

684

00:33:39,840 --> 00:33:43,470

And so I said-- and
the German was there.

685

00:33:43,470 --> 00:33:47,370

I mean, Reiter was-- he
was-- who knows what--

686

00:33:47,370 --> 00:33:53,280

he had the highest I mean,
highest rank that he had.

687

00:33:53,280 --> 00:33:56,130

I mean, from the
German officers.

688
00:33:56,130 --> 00:33:59,130
So he says to me, what
are you doing here, Sonya?

689
00:33:59,130 --> 00:34:00,460
I said, what am I doing?

690
00:34:00,460 --> 00:34:04,230
I wanted to get in, and
they did not let me in.

691
00:34:04,230 --> 00:34:09,659
So he said, tell them that
I told you to get inside,

692
00:34:09,659 --> 00:34:11,730
and I knew his name.

693
00:34:11,730 --> 00:34:15,000
And then they walked
outside, the two of them,

694
00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:17,210
to take care of the
other people there,

695
00:34:17,210 --> 00:34:20,800
take care of how is working
there with the killings.

696
00:34:20,800 --> 00:34:27,900
So I'm walking back, and
asking these two Polish boys

697
00:34:27,900 --> 00:34:29,969
they should let me inside.

698
00:34:29,969 --> 00:34:32,810
So one did let me.

699
00:34:32,810 --> 00:34:34,540

The other one didn't.

700
00:34:34,540 --> 00:34:36,239
And he hit me over the head.

701
00:34:36,239 --> 00:34:39,150
He didn't shoot me, but
he hit me over the head.

702
00:34:39,150 --> 00:34:41,880
One of my friends.

703
00:34:41,880 --> 00:34:50,250
So when he did it, so I fell
down, and I was bleeding.

704
00:34:50,250 --> 00:34:52,530
So since I was
bleeding, some people,

705
00:34:52,530 --> 00:34:54,510
they saw it from inside.

706
00:34:54,510 --> 00:34:57,660
So they came out with water,
and they pulled me inside.

707
00:34:57,660 --> 00:35:01,362
And this was my miracle,
that I survived.

708
00:35:01,362 --> 00:35:05,330
Oh yeah, by the way,
until I got in there--

709
00:35:05,330 --> 00:35:10,870
so then, this friend of mine
that went with this Reiter

710
00:35:10,870 --> 00:35:12,370
came over to me,
and he said to me--

711

00:35:12,370 --> 00:35:13,890

I was still standing there.

712

00:35:13,890 --> 00:35:15,790

He said to me, why
don't you go inside?

713

00:35:15,790 --> 00:35:17,070

I say, they don't let me in.

714

00:35:17,070 --> 00:35:18,480

What do you mean,
they don't let you in?

715

00:35:18,480 --> 00:35:20,188

I say, look, maybe
you could do something

716

00:35:20,188 --> 00:35:21,670

for my mother and sister.

717

00:35:21,670 --> 00:35:23,370

He said to me, oh,
forget it, he said.

718

00:35:23,370 --> 00:35:25,290

I can do nothing for
your mother and sister.

719

00:35:25,290 --> 00:35:27,570

But with you, since you're
right here, he said,

720

00:35:27,570 --> 00:35:29,160

I could do something.

721

00:35:29,160 --> 00:35:31,500

He said, go ahead
and get inside.

722

00:35:31,500 --> 00:35:33,300

This was before I was hit.

723
00:35:33,300 --> 00:35:37,470
So they pulled me inside,
and I stayed there,

724
00:35:37,470 --> 00:35:40,150
and I was already
with the other people.

725
00:35:40,150 --> 00:35:44,100
OK, so now are 500
people working.

726
00:35:44,100 --> 00:35:45,220
Where was your father?

727
00:35:45,220 --> 00:35:45,720
Pardon me?

728
00:35:45,720 --> 00:35:46,780
Your father?

729
00:35:46,780 --> 00:35:50,010
My father was inside
with my brother,

730
00:35:50,010 --> 00:35:52,120
and I was the third
one to survive--

731
00:35:52,120 --> 00:35:53,470
the three of us from the family.

732
00:35:53,470 --> 00:35:56,030

733
00:35:56,030 --> 00:35:59,460
Couple weeks later,
we worked like that.

734
00:35:59,460 --> 00:36:01,820
They gave me some work,

because I wasn't appointed,

735

00:36:01,820 --> 00:36:03,650

but they did give
me some work there

736

00:36:03,650 --> 00:36:05,640

with sewing and this and that.

737

00:36:05,640 --> 00:36:07,820

Whatever, they told
me to clean things.

738

00:36:07,820 --> 00:36:12,500

So I mean, I did something.

739

00:36:12,500 --> 00:36:18,510

And then two weeks later-- not
even two weeks-- a week later,

740

00:36:18,510 --> 00:36:21,200

my father came to
me and says to me

741

00:36:21,200 --> 00:36:24,760

that came an order that
they have to take him away.

742

00:36:24,760 --> 00:36:34,110

743

00:36:34,110 --> 00:36:39,040

I mean, the guy that is in
charge of this department

744

00:36:39,040 --> 00:36:43,690

said that there came an
order they need a mechanic,

745

00:36:43,690 --> 00:36:48,020

and very skillful, that knows
how to do a lot of good things,

746

00:36:48,020 --> 00:36:51,640

like jewelry and watching and
mechanics and this and that.

747

00:36:51,640 --> 00:36:52,890

So they appointed my--

748

00:36:52,890 --> 00:36:57,270

I mean, they're sure that
my father is very capable.

749

00:36:57,270 --> 00:37:02,810

They need it for a place that
they called it Koldichevo.

750

00:37:02,810 --> 00:37:03,940

Koldichevo.

751

00:37:03,940 --> 00:37:05,590

What is Koldichevo?

752

00:37:05,590 --> 00:37:11,696

Koldichevo-- this was a real
concentration camp The worst

753

00:37:11,696 --> 00:37:15,410

kind. it was even
worse than a prison.

754

00:37:15,410 --> 00:37:16,960

And it's not true.

755

00:37:16,960 --> 00:37:19,450

They really didn't
need him there.

756

00:37:19,450 --> 00:37:22,330

But the supervisor
of my father's,

757

00:37:22,330 --> 00:37:33,280

he was my father's, I would

say you could call enemy--

758

00:37:33,280 --> 00:37:34,530
but he didn't like my father.

759

00:37:34,530 --> 00:37:37,270

760

00:37:37,270 --> 00:37:39,120
He wasn't Jewish.

761

00:37:39,120 --> 00:37:40,710
But he didn't like my father.

762

00:37:40,710 --> 00:37:45,595
It's from years-- it's some
kind of business or whatever,

763

00:37:45,595 --> 00:37:47,670
that my father was
very well loved.

764

00:37:47,670 --> 00:37:50,610
And then with some
things that he got--

765

00:37:50,610 --> 00:37:54,450
My father was doing things
that wasn't given to him.

766

00:37:54,450 --> 00:37:57,860
Well, this is a story that
has developed for years.

767

00:37:57,860 --> 00:38:00,360
So now he failed
since my father,

768

00:38:00,360 --> 00:38:02,760
and they really needed
my father very much.

769

00:38:02,760 --> 00:38:04,710

They couldn't do
anything like to get --

770

00:38:04,710 --> 00:38:07,050

He couldn't do anything
to get rid of him.

771

00:38:07,050 --> 00:38:12,510

So at least, he
felt maybe it came--

772

00:38:12,510 --> 00:38:16,710

there was an order that
came that they wanted

773

00:38:16,710 --> 00:38:19,290

somebody very skilled mechanic.

774

00:38:19,290 --> 00:38:23,320

But there were another couple of
people like my father working,

775

00:38:23,320 --> 00:38:25,050

but they picked my father.

776

00:38:25,050 --> 00:38:30,180

And my father told me that I
knew that he's going to do it.

777

00:38:30,180 --> 00:38:36,330

And of course, it came a truck,
and they took away my father.

778

00:38:36,330 --> 00:38:40,620

It was a week after when
my mother was killed.

779

00:38:40,620 --> 00:38:43,560

So our father wasn't
anymore with us.

780

00:38:43,560 --> 00:38:47,280

So I remained alone,
and my brother.

781
00:38:47,280 --> 00:38:50,050
And of course, they took
my father to Koldichevo,

782
00:38:50,050 --> 00:38:53,890
which I couldn't-- we
didn't have any contact.

783
00:38:53,890 --> 00:38:57,930
But then later on, I found
out that my father was

784
00:38:57,930 --> 00:39:02,460
killed over there,
that one day, he

785
00:39:02,460 --> 00:39:04,410
had to show up in the morning.

786
00:39:04,410 --> 00:39:07,110
And he was very ill,
and he couldn't do it.

787
00:39:07,110 --> 00:39:11,820
So they took him out in
the middle of the street

788
00:39:11,820 --> 00:39:12,820
and they killed him.

789
00:39:12,820 --> 00:39:14,570
As a matter of fact,
they didn't kill him.

790
00:39:14,570 --> 00:39:15,600
They beat him to death.

791
00:39:15,600 --> 00:39:18,410

792

00:39:18,410 --> 00:39:21,220

He didn't get a bullet.

793

00:39:21,220 --> 00:39:26,030

Took a long time by time
he died from beating.

794

00:39:26,030 --> 00:39:27,710

This was about my father.

795

00:39:27,710 --> 00:39:29,810

So I remained with my brother.

796

00:39:29,810 --> 00:39:34,880

Now the whole situation has
changed in the whole camp.

797

00:39:34,880 --> 00:39:38,840

We knew that we're not
going to be there forever.

798

00:39:38,840 --> 00:39:41,760

Our time is very limited.

799

00:39:41,760 --> 00:39:45,560

And we have-- since we
were left, like about--

800

00:39:45,560 --> 00:39:47,360

it was already a
couple people, they

801

00:39:47,360 --> 00:39:49,760

died, and a couple
people, they--

802

00:39:49,760 --> 00:39:50,720

we were about--

803

00:39:50,720 --> 00:39:56,130

I would say maybe remained about
350 or something like that.

804

00:39:56,130 --> 00:40:02,630

So we -- one night, we
used to have somebody,

805

00:40:02,630 --> 00:40:05,570

a messenger who used to go from
one place the other and contact

806

00:40:05,570 --> 00:40:07,100

everybody.

807

00:40:07,100 --> 00:40:10,850

So we had decided maybe
we should all together--

808

00:40:10,850 --> 00:40:13,670

we have that gate,
we should one day--

809

00:40:13,670 --> 00:40:15,080

morning or at night--

810

00:40:15,080 --> 00:40:19,530

open that gate and run out.

811

00:40:19,530 --> 00:40:22,650

Whoever will be able
to escape, fine.

812

00:40:22,650 --> 00:40:26,150

If not, we'll get a bullet in
the back, you know what I mean?

813

00:40:26,150 --> 00:40:29,930

Not to die just like a
[INAUDIBLE] or whatever it is,

814

00:40:29,930 --> 00:40:31,690

like everybody is.

815

00:40:31,690 --> 00:40:33,950

Yeah, we had decided to do that.

816

00:40:33,950 --> 00:40:36,530

And then somebody
came with an idea.

817

00:40:36,530 --> 00:40:42,890

It was a young man, and he
knew a little about carpentry.

818

00:40:42,890 --> 00:40:45,090

He came with an idea.

819

00:40:45,090 --> 00:40:48,950

Why shouldn't we-- since they
still need us for maybe another

820

00:40:48,950 --> 00:40:51,930

couple months--

821

00:40:51,930 --> 00:40:55,070

why shouldn't we decide
and do something else?

822

00:40:55,070 --> 00:41:01,370

Since from our place where
we slept until the fence is

823

00:41:01,370 --> 00:41:02,530

about 300 meters.

824

00:41:02,530 --> 00:41:05,210

825

00:41:05,210 --> 00:41:09,110

So why don't we maybe
try, if it's possible,

826

00:41:09,110 --> 00:41:11,540

to build maybe a tunnel--

827

00:41:11,540 --> 00:41:13,140

to dig one?

828

00:41:13,140 --> 00:41:16,430

And maybe we should-- it will
take us maybe a couple months--

829

00:41:16,430 --> 00:41:21,380

to start to dig this tunnel,
and then we're going to escape.

830

00:41:21,380 --> 00:41:22,880

We'll get out, maybe.

831

00:41:22,880 --> 00:41:24,260

Whoever will get out, fine.

832

00:41:24,260 --> 00:41:28,730

Because if we're going to jump
out from that gate, more likely

833

00:41:28,730 --> 00:41:30,830

there was a doubt
whether one will survive

834

00:41:30,830 --> 00:41:33,470

or maybe not even one.

835

00:41:33,470 --> 00:41:34,520

Because it's impossible.

836

00:41:34,520 --> 00:41:36,020

We don't have any arms.

837

00:41:36,020 --> 00:41:38,430

We don't have
nothing, just running.

838

00:41:38,430 --> 00:41:42,070

So you're now with a machine
gun that is right there,

839

00:41:42,070 --> 00:41:46,600

so it will kill us instantly
everybody, nobody will be left.

840
00:41:46,600 --> 00:41:48,272
OK.

841
00:41:48,272 --> 00:41:49,730
So we have decided
that we're going

842
00:41:49,730 --> 00:41:51,530
to start building a tunnel.

843
00:41:51,530 --> 00:41:54,990

844
00:41:54,990 --> 00:41:56,670
It's very hard work.

845
00:41:56,670 --> 00:41:58,320
How would we do it?

846
00:41:58,320 --> 00:41:59,740
It's really impossible.

847
00:41:59,740 --> 00:42:00,710
And it is impossible.

848
00:42:00,710 --> 00:42:02,610
It was impossible.

849
00:42:02,610 --> 00:42:05,717
But this was a master work,
all for the same thing.

850
00:42:05,717 --> 00:42:06,550
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

851
00:42:06,550 --> 00:42:08,260
How many of you were doing it?

852

00:42:08,260 --> 00:42:10,480

How many of you were
involved in building it?

853

00:42:10,480 --> 00:42:12,150

We were involved--

854

00:42:12,150 --> 00:42:16,740

I would say like
about 50 people.

855

00:42:16,740 --> 00:42:19,050

50 people from
the place where we

856

00:42:19,050 --> 00:42:22,650

started to build this tunnel.

857

00:42:22,650 --> 00:42:26,130

It was a place where we slept.

858

00:42:26,130 --> 00:42:29,040

Under the bunk-- we
had the bunk beds,

859

00:42:29,040 --> 00:42:31,290

you know, with everything.

860

00:42:31,290 --> 00:42:37,380

So we opened up one place,
and we started to dig, OK?

861

00:42:37,380 --> 00:42:41,520

And we were working like that--
since there were bunk beds,

862

00:42:41,520 --> 00:42:45,720

so we were standing like, one,
two, three, four, and handing

863

00:42:45,720 --> 00:42:51,060

in little bags with the dirt.

864

00:42:51,060 --> 00:42:55,140

There were men that started to
dig the dirt into the bag, one

865

00:42:55,140 --> 00:42:56,950

bag into the hand
of the other one,

866

00:42:56,950 --> 00:42:58,860

until it used to
go in the attic.

867

00:42:58,860 --> 00:43:02,150

Because see, this was barracks.

868

00:43:02,150 --> 00:43:04,350

The army used to
be stationed years

869

00:43:04,350 --> 00:43:07,530

ago in this place in
this courthouse-- not

870

00:43:07,530 --> 00:43:08,550

in the courthouse.

871

00:43:08,550 --> 00:43:11,910

It was an old
courthouse from years.

872

00:43:11,910 --> 00:43:14,490

But this place used to
stay the army there.

873

00:43:14,490 --> 00:43:16,140

So we were there.

874

00:43:16,140 --> 00:43:19,950

So we started to build, and
there was a little opening

875

00:43:19,950 --> 00:43:20,460

like.

876

00:43:20,460 --> 00:43:24,030

It was before an
opening to the attic.

877

00:43:24,030 --> 00:43:25,740

And it came you
know why should we

878

00:43:25,740 --> 00:43:32,190

put all this dirt
into the bags and put

879

00:43:32,190 --> 00:43:35,910

all the dirt in the
attic, into the walls,

880

00:43:35,910 --> 00:43:39,001

spreading around all around.

881

00:43:39,001 --> 00:43:42,660

And it took us a couple months.

882

00:43:42,660 --> 00:43:47,100

The idea started in May, and we
had finished it in September.

883

00:43:47,100 --> 00:43:50,330

884

00:43:50,330 --> 00:43:53,660

First of all, we
did it at night.

885

00:43:53,660 --> 00:43:56,990

Because you couldn't
do during the daytime.

886

00:43:56,990 --> 00:44:00,650

And at night, the soldiers, they
used to come and check on us.

887

00:44:00,650 --> 00:44:04,250

And they never spotted
a little bit of dirt.

888

00:44:04,250 --> 00:44:08,810

It was done so precisely,
it's just unbelievable.

889

00:44:08,810 --> 00:44:10,850

It is unbelievable.

890

00:44:10,850 --> 00:44:13,940

Because it is unbelievable.

891

00:44:13,940 --> 00:44:18,200

By the time we got half
the way, then the men--

892

00:44:18,200 --> 00:44:21,560

we got some pieces
of wood that we

893

00:44:21,560 --> 00:44:24,930

put underneath on the ground,
and then a little on the top

894

00:44:24,930 --> 00:44:26,420

it shouldn't fall on us.

895

00:44:26,420 --> 00:44:29,900

It was a size that a human
being could crawl through

896

00:44:29,900 --> 00:44:31,790

on your knees.

897

00:44:31,790 --> 00:44:36,420

898

00:44:36,420 --> 00:44:41,895

It was murder, and
very hard work.

899
00:44:41,895 --> 00:44:48,010
And wed were 50 people that
were working very hard.

900
00:44:48,010 --> 00:44:50,280
And finally, it was done.

901
00:44:50,280 --> 00:44:53,800

902
00:44:53,800 --> 00:44:59,410
During this work, we
needed an electrician.

903
00:44:59,410 --> 00:45:04,120
Because we had also electrical
wiring that went through.

904
00:45:04,120 --> 00:45:05,860
And why did we have it?

905
00:45:05,860 --> 00:45:10,360
Because we had electricians
working in the courthouse

906
00:45:10,360 --> 00:45:11,890
for the Germans.

907
00:45:11,890 --> 00:45:17,200
So they could steal
pieces of wiring, bulbs,

908
00:45:17,200 --> 00:45:19,280
and many other things.

909
00:45:19,280 --> 00:45:21,760
And also, there were carpenters.

910
00:45:21,760 --> 00:45:23,560
So they had all the tools.

911

00:45:23,560 --> 00:45:29,230

It was everything stolen in the
pockets nobody should see it.

912

00:45:29,230 --> 00:45:32,050

And we did it.

913

00:45:32,050 --> 00:45:34,010

We did it.

914

00:45:34,010 --> 00:45:37,060

It came until the last moment.

915

00:45:37,060 --> 00:45:37,560

Why?

916

00:45:37,560 --> 00:45:40,200

Because you open it--
where you get out?

917

00:45:40,200 --> 00:45:43,900

You couldn't open it,
because the German soldiers,

918

00:45:43,900 --> 00:45:46,860

they were walking on the
other side of the fence.

919

00:45:46,860 --> 00:45:54,240

See, this tunnel went from
our bunk bed until the fence.

920

00:45:54,240 --> 00:45:56,430

And then where you get out--

921

00:45:56,430 --> 00:45:59,361

so on the other side,
who do you think we had?

922

00:45:59,361 --> 00:46:03,293

We had the German
soldiers watching us.

923
00:46:03,293 --> 00:46:04,200
Yes.

924
00:46:04,200 --> 00:46:06,990
What you see-- and also,
we had the searching lights

925
00:46:06,990 --> 00:46:08,760
on four corners.

926
00:46:08,760 --> 00:46:10,460
With what?

927
00:46:10,460 --> 00:46:12,780
There weren't many soldiers.

928
00:46:12,780 --> 00:46:17,640
Sometimes, there was walking
one or two back and forth.

929
00:46:17,640 --> 00:46:20,490
And sometimes, there
were a lot of them.

930
00:46:20,490 --> 00:46:24,030
So we took a chance anyway.

931
00:46:24,030 --> 00:46:26,250
We picked a night.

932
00:46:26,250 --> 00:46:30,840
It was fall time in
Poland, September.

933
00:46:30,840 --> 00:46:33,390
It's raining.

934
00:46:33,390 --> 00:46:36,810
And the nights are very dark.

935

00:46:36,810 --> 00:46:39,330

And that's what
we decided to do.

936

00:46:39,330 --> 00:46:46,110

And this is September the
night we decided to get out.

937

00:46:46,110 --> 00:46:49,920

And of course, we did like
that that the elderly people--

938

00:46:49,920 --> 00:46:51,090

there was some elderly--

939

00:46:51,090 --> 00:46:55,560

the elderly, they worry about
in the '40s, you could imagine.

940

00:46:55,560 --> 00:46:58,810

So the elderly,
they'll go first, then

941

00:46:58,810 --> 00:47:00,400

as many women that are left.

942

00:47:00,400 --> 00:47:04,780

The women, and the
young people at the end.

943

00:47:04,780 --> 00:47:08,320

And also, if you didn't want
to get lost or whatever--

944

00:47:08,320 --> 00:47:11,880

say if one gets
out, hold your hand.

945

00:47:11,880 --> 00:47:15,500

I mean, point out your hand to
help the other guy to get out.

946

00:47:15,500 --> 00:47:19,410

So if I should get out--
so I'm pointing right away

947
00:47:19,410 --> 00:47:23,100
and giving my hand to the other
person that has to come out.

948
00:47:23,100 --> 00:47:25,680
And we did.

949
00:47:25,680 --> 00:47:27,840
We did it.

950
00:47:27,840 --> 00:47:28,800
We made it.

951
00:47:28,800 --> 00:47:31,600
But what happened?

952
00:47:31,600 --> 00:47:34,620
When we did it--
first of all, we

953
00:47:34,620 --> 00:47:37,230
couldn't have any lights, OK?

954
00:47:37,230 --> 00:47:39,010
We couldn't have any lights.

955
00:47:39,010 --> 00:47:42,310
So the electricians--
what they did--

956
00:47:42,310 --> 00:47:45,600
they disconnected all the
lights in all the buildings.

957
00:47:45,600 --> 00:47:48,950

958
00:47:48,950 --> 00:47:50,190
OK?

959

00:47:50,190 --> 00:47:53,820

And at that moment-- because
there were the lights before--

960

00:47:53,820 --> 00:47:55,840

but the moment when
we had to get out--

961

00:47:55,840 --> 00:47:59,500

so the last person that had
to be out from the tunnel,

962

00:47:59,500 --> 00:48:02,640

he was the guy that had to
disconnect all the lights.

963

00:48:02,640 --> 00:48:05,790

964

00:48:05,790 --> 00:48:08,640

And he did it.

965

00:48:08,640 --> 00:48:12,840

He disconnected all the
lights, and we all got out.

966

00:48:12,840 --> 00:48:14,320

But what happened?

967

00:48:14,320 --> 00:48:16,590

Well, we disconnected
the lights,

968

00:48:16,590 --> 00:48:19,440

so they started screaming.

969

00:48:19,440 --> 00:48:21,850

They didn't have their
lights, the Germans around.

970

00:48:21,850 --> 00:48:24,090

You know searching
lights, nothing.

971
00:48:24,090 --> 00:48:27,480
And they started to jump,
and run on the motorcycles,

972
00:48:27,480 --> 00:48:30,390
and shooting and this and that.

973
00:48:30,390 --> 00:48:33,940
And of course, the lots
of us, we survived.

974
00:48:33,940 --> 00:48:35,460
How?

975
00:48:35,460 --> 00:48:37,710
When I got out, it
was so really dark

976
00:48:37,710 --> 00:48:40,770
that I really didn't see
and didn't know where I am.

977
00:48:40,770 --> 00:48:42,660
The road was very dark.

978
00:48:42,660 --> 00:48:44,850
And it was everything
round around me.

979
00:48:44,850 --> 00:48:46,140
Which way should I go?

980
00:48:46,140 --> 00:48:49,790
I really didn't know, regardless
that I was born there,

981
00:48:49,790 --> 00:48:52,620
and I knew this
territory very well.

982

00:48:52,620 --> 00:48:54,990

Because I used to
ride on bicycles,

983

00:48:54,990 --> 00:48:58,290

very often through the roads
over there with my friends.

984

00:48:58,290 --> 00:49:00,930

So I knew the territory,
but when I got out,

985

00:49:00,930 --> 00:49:04,470

I couldn't figure where I am.

986

00:49:04,470 --> 00:49:11,870

And so we started to walk.

987

00:49:11,870 --> 00:49:13,850

It was dark.

988

00:49:13,850 --> 00:49:16,970

But then we heard
motorcycles across the roads,

989

00:49:16,970 --> 00:49:20,990

running back and forth,
and Germans screaming.

990

00:49:20,990 --> 00:49:24,260

They were furious, because they
couldn't replace the lights.

991

00:49:24,260 --> 00:49:26,880

And by that time, we had time--

992

00:49:26,880 --> 00:49:28,100

I say at least--

993

00:49:28,100 --> 00:49:31,820

to get out from this territory.

994

00:49:31,820 --> 00:49:34,220

And again, miracles.

995

00:49:34,220 --> 00:49:36,690

And miracles, they happen.

996

00:49:36,690 --> 00:49:39,800

Some people-- it was
very dark, and they

997

00:49:39,800 --> 00:49:41,660

couldn't see their way.

998

00:49:41,660 --> 00:49:45,710

They were circling
around that whole area.

999

00:49:45,710 --> 00:49:48,040

And in the morning, when
the light was there already,

1000

00:49:48,040 --> 00:49:50,720

and the Germans,
they could spot them,

1001

00:49:50,720 --> 00:49:54,890

they were right there in
the mouth of the enemy.

1002

00:49:54,890 --> 00:49:56,850

And of course, they were
executed immediately.

1003

00:49:56,850 --> 00:50:01,250

it They were all killed,
all of these people.

1004

00:50:01,250 --> 00:50:02,930

And how many were there?

1005

00:50:02,930 --> 00:50:07,220

There were 300 people, so

we survived 150 people.

1006

00:50:07,220 --> 00:50:10,430

And again, a miracle happened.

1007

00:50:10,430 --> 00:50:14,330

Am I smarter than
everybody else or whatever?

1008

00:50:14,330 --> 00:50:19,180

It was my destiny to be alive
today and tell that story.

1009

00:50:19,180 --> 00:50:21,110

And I survived.

1010

00:50:21,110 --> 00:50:21,640

Why?

1011

00:50:21,640 --> 00:50:25,880

I went in a direction that
they couldn't spot me, OK?

1012

00:50:25,880 --> 00:50:28,200

So immediately, when I got out--

1013

00:50:28,200 --> 00:50:30,230

so I was very disciplined.

1014

00:50:30,230 --> 00:50:33,352

And I just-- my
husband was after--

1015

00:50:33,352 --> 00:50:35,060

he wasn't my husband
at that time-- well,

1016

00:50:35,060 --> 00:50:36,590

he was next after me.

1017

00:50:36,590 --> 00:50:40,430

And he was after me,

so I gave him my hand,

1018
00:50:40,430 --> 00:50:42,030
and he was out immediately.

1019
00:50:42,030 --> 00:50:45,980
And then we were holding
hands walking all the way.

1020
00:50:45,980 --> 00:50:49,220
And there were another
three, four people with us,

1021
00:50:49,220 --> 00:50:50,870
that we walked together.

1022
00:50:50,870 --> 00:50:54,080
And we walked together
in the darkness.

1023
00:50:54,080 --> 00:50:55,300
I know one thing that--

1024
00:50:55,300 --> 00:50:58,070
Where was your brother?

1025
00:50:58,070 --> 00:50:59,337
My brother also got out.

1026
00:50:59,337 --> 00:51:00,170
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1027
00:51:00,170 --> 00:51:03,200
I don't know, we got lost.

1028
00:51:03,200 --> 00:51:07,340
And so I think my brother
was in front of me.

1029
00:51:07,340 --> 00:51:14,000
But you see, he was so excited,
he had to hold my hands.

1030
00:51:14,000 --> 00:51:17,910
But they started to shoot, the
Germans, because the lights

1031
00:51:17,910 --> 00:51:19,030
they weren't there.

1032
00:51:19,030 --> 00:51:21,380
So he got very upset,
and he started to run,

1033
00:51:21,380 --> 00:51:23,990
and I didn't know even
where he disappeared to.

1034
00:51:23,990 --> 00:51:27,290
So I lost him
immediately, my brother.

1035
00:51:27,290 --> 00:51:30,470
And the only thing what happened
that my husband came out,

1036
00:51:30,470 --> 00:51:33,960
and I remembered that
I had to hold his hand.

1037
00:51:33,960 --> 00:51:35,998
He had to hold
somebody else's hand.

1038
00:51:35,998 --> 00:51:37,040
And that's what happened.

1039
00:51:37,040 --> 00:51:39,900
So these couple of people
who were going together.

1040
00:51:39,900 --> 00:51:41,150
Now the other party--

1041

00:51:41,150 --> 00:51:43,730
again, they didn't do it.

1042
00:51:43,730 --> 00:51:47,970
So some people, they remained,
they went somewhere else.

1043
00:51:47,970 --> 00:51:48,870
So what did we do?

1044
00:51:48,870 --> 00:51:50,030
I do remember one thing.

1045
00:51:50,030 --> 00:51:54,910
I did I remember one thing,
that we went across the road.

1046
00:51:54,910 --> 00:51:56,420
This I remember at night.

1047
00:51:56,420 --> 00:51:59,570
It was very dark, and
we went across the road.

1048
00:51:59,570 --> 00:52:02,420
And we did not succeed
to go very far.

1049
00:52:02,420 --> 00:52:04,970
We were walking and
walking and walking.

1050
00:52:04,970 --> 00:52:09,660
And again, somehow, we came.

1051
00:52:09,660 --> 00:52:14,210
We were walking, and then
maybe about a couple of miles,

1052
00:52:14,210 --> 00:52:15,780
we did.

1053

00:52:15,780 --> 00:52:17,900
And then we came to a place.

1054
00:52:17,900 --> 00:52:20,990
It was already daytime.

1055
00:52:20,990 --> 00:52:23,430
And what shall we do?

1056
00:52:23,430 --> 00:52:24,440
How could we be here?

1057
00:52:24,440 --> 00:52:25,070
No.

1058
00:52:25,070 --> 00:52:28,070
So what was our policy?

1059
00:52:28,070 --> 00:52:32,080
We decided that daytime,
we're going to hide,

1060
00:52:32,080 --> 00:52:33,950
and night time, we'll walk.

1061
00:52:33,950 --> 00:52:36,740
And we should see
while we're going

1062
00:52:36,740 --> 00:52:41,930
that we should hide in
bushes, bushes or forests,

1063
00:52:41,930 --> 00:52:44,165
or something, or in the fields.

1064
00:52:44,165 --> 00:52:47,010

1065
00:52:47,010 --> 00:52:48,980
We should cover us
up that we shouldn't

1066
00:52:48,980 --> 00:52:50,690
be seen by the Germans.

1067
00:52:50,690 --> 00:52:53,870
Because they were
looking for us.

1068
00:52:53,870 --> 00:53:01,070
The following day, the
roads, they were full.

1069
00:53:01,070 --> 00:53:03,700
The whole army was
practically involved,

1070
00:53:03,700 --> 00:53:08,960
looking for the couple
people that were half-dead.

1071
00:53:08,960 --> 00:53:13,910
But they were still looking
for us, because we escaped.

1072
00:53:13,910 --> 00:53:16,650
So half of the people,
they remained around.

1073
00:53:16,650 --> 00:53:17,600
They were circling.

1074
00:53:17,600 --> 00:53:19,250
They couldn't find their way.

1075
00:53:19,250 --> 00:53:20,540
And they died.

1076
00:53:20,540 --> 00:53:24,050
Now we were walking like that.

1077
00:53:24,050 --> 00:53:25,345
We survived.

1078
00:53:25,345 --> 00:53:25,930
How?

1079
00:53:25,930 --> 00:53:29,450
Just somehow it was
our destiny again,

1080
00:53:29,450 --> 00:53:32,460
because there was
no other reason.

1081
00:53:32,460 --> 00:53:36,850
So we walked at night, and
daytime, again, we rested.

1082
00:53:36,850 --> 00:53:45,950
Until we came-- we were
five people together, OK?

1083
00:53:45,950 --> 00:53:49,610
Then we came to a little
forest, not a thick one.

1084
00:53:49,610 --> 00:53:53,990
There were small bushes,
and it was already daylight.

1085
00:53:53,990 --> 00:53:57,860
So we couldn't go forward again.

1086
00:53:57,860 --> 00:54:00,460
So we were hiding
in these bushes.

1087
00:54:00,460 --> 00:54:06,170

1088
00:54:06,170 --> 00:54:11,750
And then that-- he did
exactly the same thing.

1089

00:54:11,750 --> 00:54:15,510
We were hiding and covering
up ourselves with the leaves.

1090
00:54:15,510 --> 00:54:19,980
But one of his boots
was not covered.

1091
00:54:19,980 --> 00:54:23,578
And this was not far
away from a farm.

1092
00:54:23,578 --> 00:54:29,450
And there were children
playing, little children.

1093
00:54:29,450 --> 00:54:32,750
And they were playing ball.

1094
00:54:32,750 --> 00:54:34,760
And it happened to
be that this ball--

1095
00:54:34,760 --> 00:54:39,050
they were throwing the ball, and
it landed next to this fence,

1096
00:54:39,050 --> 00:54:43,280
but a shoe, whatever he wore.

1097
00:54:43,280 --> 00:54:46,670
So this kid ran to
pick up the ball.

1098
00:54:46,670 --> 00:54:52,610
When he came to pick up the
ball, he spotted a human foot.

1099
00:54:52,610 --> 00:54:57,320
So he became so very hysterical,
and he started to cry,

1100
00:54:57,320 --> 00:55:02,720

and started to run back,
crying and screaming.

1101
00:55:02,720 --> 00:55:06,940
Ma and Dad, there is a
human body laying there.

1102
00:55:06,940 --> 00:55:11,360
There is a human
foot that is laying.

1103
00:55:11,360 --> 00:55:13,330
And he was screaming like that.

1104
00:55:13,330 --> 00:55:16,400
Definitely, they would come
and get us, or whatever.

1105
00:55:16,400 --> 00:55:19,580
Maybe they would, who knows?

1106
00:55:19,580 --> 00:55:21,920
We have to think about
it, whatever it is.

1107
00:55:21,920 --> 00:55:24,410
Anyway, you're not
going to believe it.

1108
00:55:24,410 --> 00:55:28,110
All of a sudden,
it started to rain,

1109
00:55:28,110 --> 00:55:33,780
and so heavily that
they never came back.

1110
00:55:33,780 --> 00:55:35,470
And this was another miracle.

1111
00:55:35,470 --> 00:55:38,330
Mrs. Oshman, this is
a magnificent story.

1112
00:55:38,330 --> 00:55:40,820
We're going to have to
stop here at this point,

1113
00:55:40,820 --> 00:55:43,180
because we've run
out of the two hours.

1114
00:55:43,180 --> 00:55:44,420
Oh yeah?

1115
00:55:44,420 --> 00:55:47,870
We would like you very much to
come back another time in order

1116
00:55:47,870 --> 00:55:49,820
to finish this tape.

1117
00:55:49,820 --> 00:55:52,220
So we're going to
leave it at this point.

1118
00:55:52,220 --> 00:55:54,068
It's a very important milestone.

1119
00:55:54,068 --> 00:55:55,610
We have still lots
of things to tell.

1120
00:55:55,610 --> 00:55:57,017
We have plenty to
talk about yet,

1121
00:55:57,017 --> 00:55:58,850
and we can't talk about
them in two minutes.

1122
00:55:58,850 --> 00:56:02,060
Well, you'll add the
next available time.

1123

00:56:02,060 --> 00:56:03,610

The next available time.

1124

00:56:03,610 --> 00:56:06,570

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1125

00:56:06,570 --> 00:56:16,000