

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:23,790

2  
00:00:23,790 --> 00:00:24,860  
Good morning.

3  
00:00:24,860 --> 00:00:29,040  
I am Joseph Preil, director of  
the Holocaust Resource Center

4  
00:00:29,040 --> 00:00:31,590  
here at King College  
of New Jersey.

5  
00:00:31,590 --> 00:00:36,030  
Today, Thursday,  
September 23, 1923--

6  
00:00:36,030 --> 00:00:40,890  
September 23, 1993, two  
days before Yom Kippur,

7  
00:00:40,890 --> 00:00:45,240  
we are privileged  
to have with us

8  
00:00:45,240 --> 00:00:50,970  
a guest, Mr. Jack Spiegel,  
who has been kind enough

9  
00:00:50,970 --> 00:00:55,890  
to volunteer to come down and  
tell us about his experiences

10  
00:00:55,890 --> 00:01:00,960  
during World War II,  
beginning in his home country,

11  
00:01:00,960 --> 00:01:02,790  
his native country, of Poland.

12  
00:01:02,790 --> 00:01:05,430  
At the outset, Mr.  
Spiegel, you were

13

00:01:05,430 --> 00:01:10,350  
able to get a picture of  
your family before the war.

14

00:01:10,350 --> 00:01:13,830  
You want to tell us  
about this picture?

15

00:01:13,830 --> 00:01:20,120  
This picture was made about 70  
years ago, almost 70 years ago.

16

00:01:20,120 --> 00:01:24,420  
70 years ago, in the 1920s?

17

00:01:24,420 --> 00:01:25,280  
In the '20s, yeah.

18

00:01:25,280 --> 00:01:31,320  
We was in a bungalow in  
[PLACE NAME],, in Poland.

19

00:01:31,320 --> 00:01:32,530  
We made that picture.

20

00:01:32,530 --> 00:01:35,910  
And it was sent to  
my grandparents,

21

00:01:35,910 --> 00:01:37,680  
to the United States.

22

00:01:37,680 --> 00:01:39,480  
That's why I have  
that picture now.

23

00:01:39,480 --> 00:01:40,830  
Which grandparents were here?

24

00:01:40,830 --> 00:01:42,360  
From my mother's side,  
my mother's parents.

25

00:01:42,360 --> 00:01:43,440

Your maternal  
grandparents were here.

26  
00:01:43,440 --> 00:01:44,100  
Yeah.

27  
00:01:44,100 --> 00:01:48,030  
And do you want to tell us who  
the people are in the picture?

28  
00:01:48,030 --> 00:01:49,060  
Yeah.

29  
00:01:49,060 --> 00:01:54,720  
The first is my older brothers  
from me, [PERSONAL NAME

30  
00:01:54,720 --> 00:01:55,470  
What should we do?

31  
00:01:55,470 --> 00:01:58,500  
Shall we go from  
my left to right?

32  
00:01:58,500 --> 00:01:59,978  
Yeah, from your left to right.

33  
00:01:59,978 --> 00:02:00,520  
Or we could--

34  
00:02:00,520 --> 00:02:01,740  
That would be over here.

35  
00:02:01,740 --> 00:02:02,870  
Yes.

36  
00:02:02,870 --> 00:02:06,270  
Then is my father sitting there.

37  
00:02:06,270 --> 00:02:11,680  
After that, standing,  
is my sister.

38  
00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:15,980

After my sister is  
the oldest sister.

39  
00:02:15,980 --> 00:02:18,730  
The first sister, her name was?

40  
00:02:18,730 --> 00:02:19,740  
Goldarifka.

41  
00:02:19,740 --> 00:02:20,530  
Goldarifka.

42  
00:02:20,530 --> 00:02:22,000  
And then the second sister?

43  
00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:22,680  
Manya.

44  
00:02:22,680 --> 00:02:23,430  
Manya.

45  
00:02:23,430 --> 00:02:25,360  
And how are they in age?

46  
00:02:25,360 --> 00:02:31,680  
The age, one was, at  
that time, four years.

47  
00:02:31,680 --> 00:02:34,700

48  
00:02:34,700 --> 00:02:40,860  
Manya was about eight  
years, nine years.

49  
00:02:40,860 --> 00:02:46,310  
After my mother, she  
was younger time.

50  
00:02:46,310 --> 00:02:49,030  
And my older brother was--

51  
00:02:49,030 --> 00:02:50,830  
What's his name?

52  
00:02:50,830 --> 00:02:51,940  
Haskel David.

53  
00:02:51,940 --> 00:02:52,590  
David.

54  
00:02:52,590 --> 00:02:53,205  
Haskel David.

55  
00:02:53,205 --> 00:02:59,710  
David, he was, at that time,  
12 years old, my figure.

56  
00:02:59,710 --> 00:03:00,760  
Was he the oldest?

57  
00:03:00,760 --> 00:03:02,410  
He was the oldest, yeah.

58  
00:03:02,410 --> 00:03:05,940  
And then my younger sister.

59  
00:03:05,940 --> 00:03:06,690  
What was her name?

60  
00:03:06,690 --> 00:03:09,720

61  
00:03:09,720 --> 00:03:11,040  
Her name was Goldarifka.

62  
00:03:11,040 --> 00:03:14,460  
But the other Goldarifka died.

63  
00:03:14,460 --> 00:03:15,750  
She was not there.

64  
00:03:15,750 --> 00:03:19,240  
But after that, in  
1931, was born another--

65  
00:03:19,240 --> 00:03:19,740

Girl.

66

00:03:19,740 --> 00:03:20,940  
--girl.

67

00:03:20,940 --> 00:03:26,050  
She was Esetova,  
Esetova in 1931.

68

00:03:26,050 --> 00:03:29,360  
So we was always six children--

69

00:03:29,360 --> 00:03:32,940  
three girls and three brothers.

70

00:03:32,940 --> 00:03:35,300  
So that's the picture.

71

00:03:35,300 --> 00:03:36,560  
All right.

72

00:03:36,560 --> 00:03:38,310  
It looks like a  
well-to-do family.

73

00:03:38,310 --> 00:03:39,130  
Am I correct?

74

00:03:39,130 --> 00:03:42,430  
Yeah, we was a  
middle-class family.

75

00:03:42,430 --> 00:03:44,640  
My father was in business--

76

00:03:44,640 --> 00:03:49,390  
import/export food from  
all over the world.

77

00:03:49,390 --> 00:03:50,990  
He was very well.

78

00:03:50,990 --> 00:03:54,493  
And it was offered

by my grandparents

79  
00:03:54,493 --> 00:03:56,160  
to come to the United  
States, immigrate,

80  
00:03:56,160 --> 00:03:58,220  
because the whole  
family was here.

81  
00:03:58,220 --> 00:04:02,130  
Brothers and sisters,  
my mother's, was here.

82  
00:04:02,130 --> 00:04:05,430  
He refused to come  
because he was well-off

83  
00:04:05,430 --> 00:04:08,830  
and said, what am I going  
to do in the United States?

84  
00:04:08,830 --> 00:04:09,940  
I don't know the language.

85  
00:04:09,940 --> 00:04:10,743  
I've no trade.

86  
00:04:10,743 --> 00:04:11,410  
I'm a business--

87  
00:04:11,410 --> 00:04:12,368  
You're moving us ahead.

88  
00:04:12,368 --> 00:04:16,170  
You're in the 1930s when  
this was going on, right?

89  
00:04:16,170 --> 00:04:18,510  
Should you come to the  
United States or not?

90  
00:04:18,510 --> 00:04:19,829  
No, that was--

91

00:04:19,829 --> 00:04:21,180

In the 1920s even?

92

00:04:21,180 --> 00:04:23,400

In the beginning  
of the 1930s, yeah.

93

00:04:23,400 --> 00:04:25,470

When did your  
grandparents come here?

94

00:04:25,470 --> 00:04:32,500

Oh, they come here about in  
the '10s, '15 or something

95

00:04:32,500 --> 00:04:33,000

like that.

96

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:33,740

Very early.

97

00:04:33,740 --> 00:04:35,520

They were one of the  
first one's to come.

98

00:04:35,520 --> 00:04:37,410

Yeah.

99

00:04:37,410 --> 00:04:42,550

Before them come a brother,  
a son, my mother's brother.

100

00:04:42,550 --> 00:04:44,670

He was very young.

101

00:04:44,670 --> 00:04:50,390

And a cantor came to  
Poland to have a concert.

102

00:04:50,390 --> 00:04:54,890

So he needed  
children in a choir.

103

00:04:54,890 --> 00:04:57,360



And my uncle, he was very good.

104

00:04:57,360 --> 00:04:59,640

He was at that  
time, 10, 12 years.

105

00:04:59,640 --> 00:05:01,150

He was very good to sing.

106

00:05:01,150 --> 00:05:04,000

And he fell in  
love with my uncle.

107

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:06,980

And there was nine children.

108

00:05:06,980 --> 00:05:09,690

And he convinced  
the grandparents

109

00:05:09,690 --> 00:05:14,720

to let them take that child  
with him to United States.

110

00:05:14,720 --> 00:05:16,220

So he come to the United States.

111

00:05:16,220 --> 00:05:20,520

And he was singing with him  
till he became a cantor.

112

00:05:20,520 --> 00:05:23,100

His name was Yossele Shlisky.

113

00:05:23,100 --> 00:05:24,000

He's very famous.

114

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:24,750

That's your uncle?

115

00:05:24,750 --> 00:05:25,403

Yeah, uncle.

116

00:05:25,403 --> 00:05:27,570

Now, what was the name of  
the cantor who brought him

117  
00:05:27,570 --> 00:05:28,445  
to the United States?

118  
00:05:28,445 --> 00:05:29,580  
Do you remember that?

119  
00:05:29,580 --> 00:05:31,380  
I don't know.

120  
00:05:31,380 --> 00:05:35,520  
But he was so well-off,  
he started bringing--

121  
00:05:35,520 --> 00:05:36,960  
The family.

122  
00:05:36,960 --> 00:05:41,010  
--the parents, then a  
brother, then sisters, and so.

123  
00:05:41,010 --> 00:05:44,130  
Only my mother, she was  
the oldest in the family,

124  
00:05:44,130 --> 00:05:46,797  
she was staying because  
my father didn't--

125  
00:05:46,797 --> 00:05:48,630  
he was not ready to go  
to the United States.

126  
00:05:48,630 --> 00:05:49,210  
I see.

127  
00:05:49,210 --> 00:05:50,730  
All right, we'll  
put this away now.

128  
00:05:50,730 --> 00:05:54,060  
I want to get some  
facts straight with you.

129  
00:05:54,060 --> 00:05:54,960  
Yeah.

130  
00:05:54,960 --> 00:05:59,350  
Firstly, where and  
when were you born?

131  
00:05:59,350 --> 00:06:00,510  
I born in Łódź.

132  
00:06:00,510 --> 00:06:01,150  
In Łódź.

133  
00:06:01,150 --> 00:06:03,060  
Yeah, in Poland.

134  
00:06:03,060 --> 00:06:03,560  
Yes.

135  
00:06:03,560 --> 00:06:04,560  
That's where I was born.

136  
00:06:04,560 --> 00:06:05,420  
When were you born?

137  
00:06:05,420 --> 00:06:08,040  
1918, March 1918.

138  
00:06:08,040 --> 00:06:10,410  
And your family  
consisted of, how many?

139  
00:06:10,410 --> 00:06:13,470  
Your immediate family  
consisted of how many people?

140  
00:06:13,470 --> 00:06:14,620  
Six children, we was.

141  
00:06:14,620 --> 00:06:16,610  
There were six children  
and two parents.

142

00:06:16,610 --> 00:06:17,590

Two parents, yeah.

143

00:06:17,590 --> 00:06:19,950

So there were eight people  
when the war broke out.

144

00:06:19,950 --> 00:06:21,360

Right.

145

00:06:21,360 --> 00:06:23,180

You have survived.

146

00:06:23,180 --> 00:06:26,760

What happened to the others?

147

00:06:26,760 --> 00:06:30,800

My father was sick in the  
ghetto, Warsaw ghetto,

148

00:06:30,800 --> 00:06:32,125

of typhoid.

149

00:06:32,125 --> 00:06:33,500

So they took him  
to the hospital.

150

00:06:33,500 --> 00:06:33,780

Typhoid.

151

00:06:33,780 --> 00:06:34,280

Typhoid.

152

00:06:34,280 --> 00:06:36,060

They took him to the hospital.

153

00:06:36,060 --> 00:06:38,070

Next day, he was dead.

154

00:06:38,070 --> 00:06:40,590

155

00:06:40,590 --> 00:06:42,870

What they was doing  
with older people,

156  
00:06:42,870 --> 00:06:47,500  
like euthanasia  
they call it here.

157  
00:06:47,500 --> 00:06:50,930  
It's like a mercy killing.

158  
00:06:50,930 --> 00:06:53,328  
They didn't bother with over 50.

159  
00:06:53,328 --> 00:06:54,120  
They didn't bother.

160  
00:06:54,120 --> 00:06:58,270  
Next day, I was notified, like,  
come and take your father.

161  
00:06:58,270 --> 00:07:00,330  
But nobody could  
be at his funeral

162  
00:07:00,330 --> 00:07:05,490  
because everybody was closed in  
that building in Warsaw ghetto

163  
00:07:05,490 --> 00:07:07,580  
because there was  
typhoid in that building.

164  
00:07:07,580 --> 00:07:08,670  
So they were locked down.

165  
00:07:08,670 --> 00:07:10,390  
And nobody could go out.

166  
00:07:10,390 --> 00:07:12,990  
I was the only one  
who was out because I

167  
00:07:12,990 --> 00:07:17,370  
was living in another place  
because I was smuggling.

168  
00:07:17,370 --> 00:07:19,600  
That I come later.

169  
00:07:19,600 --> 00:07:23,400  
And I went, and I took  
my father and buried him

170  
00:07:23,400 --> 00:07:25,330  
in that cemetery.

171  
00:07:25,330 --> 00:07:28,440  
One thing that I couldn't  
forget bothered me.

172  
00:07:28,440 --> 00:07:34,510  
My father used to have a golden  
bridge, a bridge of teeth.

173  
00:07:34,510 --> 00:07:35,630  
Yeah.

174  
00:07:35,630 --> 00:07:39,107  
And I took them out on  
the cemetery, that bridge,

175  
00:07:39,107 --> 00:07:39,690  
took them out.

176  
00:07:39,690 --> 00:07:41,649  
And that bothers me up to now.

177  
00:07:41,649 --> 00:07:44,144  
[CRYING]

178  
00:07:44,144 --> 00:07:47,138

179  
00:07:47,138 --> 00:07:49,160  
He could --

180  
00:07:49,160 --> 00:07:56,550  
Excuse me-- because I needed it  
for bread because my parents,

181  
00:07:56,550 --> 00:08:00,490  
my mother and three  
sisters was together there.

182  
00:08:00,490 --> 00:08:05,590  
So that I figure I  
could sell it and buy

183  
00:08:05,590 --> 00:08:06,910  
some bread, some for my--

184  
00:08:06,910 --> 00:08:08,080  
Yeah.

185  
00:08:08,080 --> 00:08:12,580  
But so what happened,  
when I went back

186  
00:08:12,580 --> 00:08:16,220  
to the house to call  
them [? thing, ?]

187  
00:08:16,220 --> 00:08:17,880  
they caught me on the street.

188  
00:08:17,880 --> 00:08:20,170  
They took me on  
their Umschlagplatz

189  
00:08:20,170 --> 00:08:23,620  
That was a place where  
everybody, the Germans--

190  
00:08:23,620 --> 00:08:29,340  
they're took there  
first in Warsaw ghetto.

191  
00:08:29,340 --> 00:08:31,450  
How I come there,  
there's a lot of stories.

192  
00:08:31,450 --> 00:08:32,299  
We'll get to it.

193

00:08:32,299 --> 00:08:37,169

194

00:08:37,169 --> 00:08:39,840

And I have it in  
my pocket, that.

195

00:08:39,840 --> 00:08:43,700

When we come to the  
camp in Bobruisk,

196

00:08:43,700 --> 00:08:47,470

there was then, the Germans,  
and asked if somebody had

197

00:08:47,470 --> 00:08:50,350

money, jewelry, anything-- out.

198

00:08:50,350 --> 00:08:52,510

Otherwise you'd get shot.

199

00:08:52,510 --> 00:08:54,676

So I took out that,  
where I have it.

200

00:08:54,676 --> 00:08:56,080

And I put this away.

201

00:08:56,080 --> 00:08:58,195

And that was the  
end of that bridge.

202

00:08:58,195 --> 00:09:03,430

203

00:09:03,430 --> 00:09:06,400

It bothered me.

204

00:09:06,400 --> 00:09:08,380

[CRYING]

205

00:09:08,380 --> 00:09:10,870



206

00:09:10,870 --> 00:09:15,560

Then I went to the camps.

207

00:09:15,560 --> 00:09:16,060

I was--

208

00:09:16,060 --> 00:09:18,370

Before we get there,  
I just want to know

209

00:09:18,370 --> 00:09:20,400

what happened with your family.

210

00:09:20,400 --> 00:09:23,500

So your father died  
of typhoid and what

211

00:09:23,500 --> 00:09:25,480

you call a mercy killing.

212

00:09:25,480 --> 00:09:26,150

Yeah.

213

00:09:26,150 --> 00:09:29,703

If your permission,  
Doc, let's go back here,

214

00:09:29,703 --> 00:09:31,120

what you want to  
know, the family.

215

00:09:31,120 --> 00:09:31,828

The family, yeah.

216

00:09:31,828 --> 00:09:32,620

Your mother.

217

00:09:32,620 --> 00:09:33,120

Yeah.

218

00:09:33,120 --> 00:09:35,860

219

00:09:35,860 --> 00:09:40,880  
You stopped me 1939, when  
the German occupied Łódź.

220  
00:09:40,880 --> 00:09:43,700  
They give us the  
name Litzmannstadt

221  
00:09:43,700 --> 00:09:50,690  
because they took it as a  
territory, German territory.

222  
00:09:50,690 --> 00:09:53,630  
Hold on.

223  
00:09:53,630 --> 00:09:55,290  
What's Litzmannstadt?

224  
00:09:55,290 --> 00:09:56,370  
Litzmannstadt.

225  
00:09:56,370 --> 00:09:57,600  
Litzmannstadt.

226  
00:09:57,600 --> 00:09:58,640  
It's a city.

227  
00:09:58,640 --> 00:09:59,590  
"Litzmann" is "city."

228  
00:09:59,590 --> 00:10:00,090  
Yeah.

229  
00:10:00,090 --> 00:10:00,757  
What's Litzmann?

230  
00:10:00,757 --> 00:10:01,490  
Łódź.

231  
00:10:01,490 --> 00:10:02,385  
No, it was a German--

232  
00:10:02,385 --> 00:10:03,530  
German, German.

233

00:10:03,530 --> 00:10:05,370

Oh, they changed the name--

234

00:10:05,370 --> 00:10:07,480

They changed the name of  
Łódź to Litzmannstadt.

235

00:10:07,480 --> 00:10:08,560

All right.

236

00:10:08,560 --> 00:10:11,760

And they give an  
order, all the Jews,

237

00:10:11,760 --> 00:10:17,150

to where a band with  
the star, yellow star.

238

00:10:17,150 --> 00:10:21,360

And every Jew would  
see a German soldier,

239

00:10:21,360 --> 00:10:26,017

have to go down from the  
thing and take down the--

240

00:10:26,017 --> 00:10:27,100

Go down from the sidewalk?

241

00:10:27,100 --> 00:10:28,770

The sidewalk.

242

00:10:28,770 --> 00:10:29,270

I was--

243

00:10:29,270 --> 00:10:29,670

Into the gutter.

244

00:10:29,670 --> 00:10:30,180

--gutter.

245

00:10:30,180 --> 00:10:32,760

Yeah, I was a wise guy.

246

00:10:32,760 --> 00:10:33,840

I figured I'm a wise guy.

247

00:10:33,840 --> 00:10:35,250

I didn't do that.

248

00:10:35,250 --> 00:10:39,195

So a German caught me, took  
me in, and beat me up to hell

249

00:10:39,195 --> 00:10:41,100

and let me go by luck.

250

00:10:41,100 --> 00:10:41,850

He didn't kill me.

251

00:10:41,850 --> 00:10:44,070

That time was not a killing.

252

00:10:44,070 --> 00:10:46,090

And I come home.

253

00:10:46,090 --> 00:10:49,470

It was a time that a  
lot of Jews had ran out

254

00:10:49,470 --> 00:10:55,230

to the Russian's side because  
the Russians, if you remember--

255

00:10:55,230 --> 00:10:56,310

you have to remember--

256

00:10:56,310 --> 00:11:00,990

Molotov and  
Ribbentrop made a pact

257

00:11:00,990 --> 00:11:06,770

that the Russians take the  
East side and the Germans

258

00:11:06,770 --> 00:11:09,220

to the East side.

259

00:11:09,220 --> 00:11:16,000

And all lot of the Jews run over  
to the Russians at that time.

260

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:21,900

So I say to my  
parents, let's go.

261

00:11:21,900 --> 00:11:22,740

Everybody's going.

262

00:11:22,740 --> 00:11:24,142

Let's go there.

263

00:11:24,142 --> 00:11:27,700

So my mother said, no.

264

00:11:27,700 --> 00:11:30,690

Let's send somebody there  
and see when we could

265

00:11:30,690 --> 00:11:32,850

find a place where they be.

266

00:11:32,850 --> 00:11:34,090

We go.

267

00:11:34,090 --> 00:11:36,830

So I was always a volunteer.

268

00:11:36,830 --> 00:11:39,530

So I'd say, I go.

269

00:11:39,530 --> 00:11:41,870

But that's also  
my brother-in-law.

270

00:11:41,870 --> 00:11:43,762

He married Manya.

271

00:11:43,762 --> 00:11:47,320

So we decide that we  
both go to Russia,

272

00:11:47,320 --> 00:11:50,960

we find a place, the Pole  
territory where Russia's

273

00:11:50,960 --> 00:11:54,180

occupying the East side.

274

00:11:54,180 --> 00:11:54,930

We went.

275

00:11:54,930 --> 00:12:04,295

We find a shack, like a  
block, where one big room.

276

00:12:04,295 --> 00:12:05,670

That time, we  
figured the war was

277

00:12:05,670 --> 00:12:07,590

going to keep three  
months, six months.

278

00:12:07,590 --> 00:12:10,200

Who figured it's  
going to take so long?

279

00:12:10,200 --> 00:12:12,810

And my brother stayed there.

280

00:12:12,810 --> 00:12:14,100

He paid for the rooms.

281

00:12:14,100 --> 00:12:18,980

And I'm supposed to go back to  
tell my parents we have a room.

282

00:12:18,980 --> 00:12:20,340

We have a place.

283

00:12:20,340 --> 00:12:23,850

In the mean time, we have  
to smuggle from one place

284

00:12:23,850 --> 00:12:24,580

to the other.

285

00:12:24,580 --> 00:12:30,460  
The Russians shot me in my leg,  
my right leg, shot two things.

286

00:12:30,460 --> 00:12:31,840  
And I fell.

287

00:12:31,840 --> 00:12:34,380  
And when they come to  
me-- where are you going?

288

00:12:34,380 --> 00:12:37,230  
I said, I want to go  
to you, to Russia.

289

00:12:37,230 --> 00:12:41,315  
But actually I want  
to go back to Warsaw.

290

00:12:41,315 --> 00:12:42,860  
So they said, no.

291

00:12:42,860 --> 00:12:45,650  
In Russia, you  
caught two people,

292

00:12:45,650 --> 00:12:51,830  
take me, and carry me  
back to the Polish side,

293

00:12:51,830 --> 00:12:55,610  
to the government  
side, the German side.

294

00:12:55,610 --> 00:12:57,530  
Down there, it was a train.

295

00:12:57,530 --> 00:12:59,540  
I went back with the train.

296

00:12:59,540 --> 00:13:00,950  
It was cold.

297

00:13:00,950 --> 00:13:04,550

My leg was, like, frozen  
from blood and everything.

298

00:13:04,550 --> 00:13:06,360

I come to Russia.

299

00:13:06,360 --> 00:13:09,910

I had another, my  
parents' customer,

300

00:13:09,910 --> 00:13:12,890

they were buying  
food for my parents.

301

00:13:12,890 --> 00:13:17,790

Before the war, I went,  
and they keep me very well.

302

00:13:17,790 --> 00:13:20,040

And they said, you better  
go home when you go and tell

303

00:13:20,040 --> 00:13:22,460

your parents to come here  
because Łódź is going to be

304

00:13:22,460 --> 00:13:24,356

a mess.

305

00:13:24,356 --> 00:13:25,520

So I feel better.

306

00:13:25,520 --> 00:13:27,530

And I went to Łódź.

307

00:13:27,530 --> 00:13:29,850

And I told that to everybody.

308

00:13:29,850 --> 00:13:30,910

Went to Warsaw.

309

00:13:30,910 --> 00:13:33,750

But one sister--



310  
00:13:33,750 --> 00:13:38,000  
You went to Warsaw  
by train that time?

311  
00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:41,410  
That story, that you were  
at the friend's house.

312  
00:13:41,410 --> 00:13:42,900  
Friend's house, from Warsaw.

313  
00:13:42,900 --> 00:13:43,710  
That was in Warsaw.

314  
00:13:43,710 --> 00:13:44,210  
Warsaw.

315  
00:13:44,210 --> 00:13:47,190  
From Warsaw, I went by train--

316  
00:13:47,190 --> 00:13:47,790  
To Łódź.

317  
00:13:47,790 --> 00:13:49,780  
--to Łódź.

318  
00:13:49,780 --> 00:13:53,680  
And I told my parents what  
the friends say from Warsaw,

319  
00:13:53,680 --> 00:13:57,250  
to leave Łódź and come  
here, that they're making

320  
00:13:57,250 --> 00:13:59,740  
an apartment for them.

321  
00:13:59,740 --> 00:14:01,120  
And that's what I explained.

322  
00:14:01,120 --> 00:14:05,520  
But my parents had a beautiful  
apartment and furniture,

323  
00:14:05,520 --> 00:14:06,430  
at that time a radio.

324  
00:14:06,430 --> 00:14:07,920  
We had a beautiful radio.

325  
00:14:07,920 --> 00:14:10,550  
Not everybody had a  
radio at that time.

326  
00:14:10,550 --> 00:14:12,220  
So they left my sister.

327  
00:14:12,220 --> 00:14:14,680  
She was 18 years old--

328  
00:14:14,680 --> 00:14:15,910  
left her.

329  
00:14:15,910 --> 00:14:18,160  
And then they make the ghetto.

330  
00:14:18,160 --> 00:14:21,220  
So my friend's  
brother and family

331  
00:14:21,220 --> 00:14:24,220  
come in to our  
apartment, our house,

332  
00:14:24,220 --> 00:14:31,710  
because it was about 25,000  
Jews, already room for 25.

333  
00:14:31,710 --> 00:14:35,230  
It was over 100,000  
Jews to bring in.

334  
00:14:35,230 --> 00:14:38,980  
So it was about six,  
seven people in our room.

335  
00:14:38,980 --> 00:14:42,040

So I bring my friend's brother  
and sister at my house.

336  
00:14:42,040 --> 00:14:43,535  
And my sister was there.

337  
00:14:43,535 --> 00:14:47,050  
They promised that they're  
going to take care of my sister.

338  
00:14:47,050 --> 00:14:49,450  
But in the meantime, my  
sister couldn't stay there.

339  
00:14:49,450 --> 00:14:52,600  
She wanted to see  
my grandparents.

340  
00:14:52,600 --> 00:14:53,920  
Your father's parents.

341  
00:14:53,920 --> 00:14:55,412  
No, my-- my father's parents.

342  
00:14:55,412 --> 00:14:57,745  
Because your mother's parents  
were in the United States.

343  
00:14:57,745 --> 00:14:59,230  
Right.

344  
00:14:59,230 --> 00:15:04,900  
So from in there, make a ghetto.

345  
00:15:04,900 --> 00:15:07,730  
It was a ghetto,  
the Łódź ghetto.

346  
00:15:07,730 --> 00:15:09,540  
You couldn't write letters.

347  
00:15:09,540 --> 00:15:12,960  
Only allowed to write postcards.

348

00:15:12,960 --> 00:15:18,140

So my sister would write,  
I am very comfortable here.

349

00:15:18,140 --> 00:15:19,760

I am with Yom Kippur.

350

00:15:19,760 --> 00:15:21,320

And [PERSONAL NAME]] is with me.

351

00:15:21,320 --> 00:15:23,600

We enjoy it very much with them.

352

00:15:23,600 --> 00:15:26,300

We understand "Yom Kippur"  
and [PERSONAL NAME]],,

353

00:15:26,300 --> 00:15:29,750

because you couldn't  
write different.

354

00:15:29,750 --> 00:15:35,710

So we learned like that, they  
wrote us a postcard like that.

355

00:15:35,710 --> 00:15:41,030

So my mother was busy with  
the woman organization.

356

00:15:41,030 --> 00:15:46,230

So they decide to go  
to the camp, POW camp,

357

00:15:46,230 --> 00:15:50,460

where the Jewish prisoners  
there only Jewish.

358

00:15:50,460 --> 00:15:51,470

She went there.

359

00:15:51,470 --> 00:15:52,220

Who she find?

360

00:15:52,220 --> 00:15:54,770

My brother.

- 361  
00:15:54,770 --> 00:15:56,390  
She paid five hundred zlotys.
- 362  
00:15:56,390 --> 00:15:58,980  
I don't know who she  
paid, a German, whoever.
- 363  
00:15:58,980 --> 00:16:04,834  
And he get a pass,  
[NON-ENGLISH],, direction home.
- 364  
00:16:04,834 --> 00:16:07,580  
And they let him go.
- 365  
00:16:07,580 --> 00:16:09,996  
And he come to Warsaw.
- 366  
00:16:09,996 --> 00:16:14,580  
Then starts the story, what are  
you going to do with my sister?
- 367  
00:16:14,580 --> 00:16:16,780  
How do we get out  
from the ghetto?
- 368  
00:16:16,780 --> 00:16:17,890  
In Łódź?
- 369  
00:16:17,890 --> 00:16:18,390  
Łódź.
- 370  
00:16:18,390 --> 00:16:22,160  
I say to my mother,  
Ma, don't worry.
- 371  
00:16:22,160 --> 00:16:24,520  
I get out.
- 372  
00:16:24,520 --> 00:16:25,950  
'You're looking for the devil.
- 373  
00:16:25,950 --> 00:16:28,140  
You're looking for the dead.

374

00:16:28,140 --> 00:16:32,910

Everything, you're the  
volunteer.' 'Ma, let me go.'

375

00:16:32,910 --> 00:16:33,810

You see?

376

00:16:33,810 --> 00:16:36,555

I took the only form  
from my brother.

377

00:16:36,555 --> 00:16:41,470

And the only form was  
his paper, [NON-ENGLISH]..

378

00:16:41,470 --> 00:16:45,110

And he told me how to behave  
when I see German soldier--

379

00:16:45,110 --> 00:16:46,250

salute.

380

00:16:46,250 --> 00:16:48,480

And I go, and I speak a  
little German at that time

381

00:16:48,480 --> 00:16:52,210

because we deal  
with German people.

382

00:16:52,210 --> 00:16:54,930

Łódź was a lot of Germans.

383

00:16:54,930 --> 00:16:58,500

So that helped me a lot.

384

00:16:58,500 --> 00:17:02,548

And I went there.

385

00:17:02,548 --> 00:17:03,090

I went there.

386

00:17:03,090 --> 00:17:05,270

I couldn't go into the ghetto.

387

00:17:05,270 --> 00:17:07,040

But I come with my passport.

388

00:17:07,040 --> 00:17:09,152

And they say, Don't make hell.

389

00:17:09,152 --> 00:17:09,819

Don't make hell.

390

00:17:09,819 --> 00:17:10,790

are you stupid?

391

00:17:10,790 --> 00:17:11,770

You come here to go--

392

00:17:11,770 --> 00:17:13,160

and he kicked me.

393

00:17:13,160 --> 00:17:15,385

The Nazi pushed  
me in the ghetto.

394

00:17:15,385 --> 00:17:16,010

I was in there.

395

00:17:16,010 --> 00:17:17,611

The whole ghetto was after me.

396

00:17:17,611 --> 00:17:18,319

What's happening?

397

00:17:18,319 --> 00:17:19,790

Why you come here?

398

00:17:19,790 --> 00:17:21,050

Everybody wants out.

399

00:17:21,050 --> 00:17:22,890

I said, I have to come.

400

00:17:22,890 --> 00:17:24,490

I have a sister here.

401

00:17:24,490 --> 00:17:26,990  
And I bring with me some food--

402

00:17:26,990 --> 00:17:30,300

403

00:17:30,300 --> 00:17:32,160  
cold cuts, you know?

404

00:17:32,160 --> 00:17:35,600  
It was very expensive  
in the ghetto.

405

00:17:35,600 --> 00:17:42,870  
And in the short time I  
was there, my sister--

406

00:17:42,870 --> 00:17:45,190  
my brain worked overtime.

407

00:17:45,190 --> 00:17:48,530  
I see that we  
couldn't survive here.

408

00:17:48,530 --> 00:17:49,880  
It's impossible.

409

00:17:49,880 --> 00:17:52,650

410

00:17:52,650 --> 00:17:56,600  
So it happened that my  
grandpa get a heart attack

411

00:17:56,600 --> 00:17:58,570  
and passed away.

412

00:17:58,570 --> 00:17:59,600  
Where was he?

413

00:17:59,600 --> 00:18:00,477  
In Łódź ghetto.



414  
00:18:00,477 --> 00:18:01,060  
In the ghetto.

415  
00:18:01,060 --> 00:18:03,630

416  
00:18:03,630 --> 00:18:07,162  
So now the ghetto was--

417  
00:18:07,162 --> 00:18:08,370  
here's the end of the ghetto.

418  
00:18:08,370 --> 00:18:10,926  
And after that was the cemetery.

419  
00:18:10,926 --> 00:18:13,958  
And that was in the  
territory outside--

420  
00:18:13,958 --> 00:18:14,750  
Outside the ghetto.

421  
00:18:14,750 --> 00:18:17,000  
--outside the ghetto.

422  
00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:20,120  
So you couldn't go on the  
cemetery if you have no reason.

423  
00:18:20,120 --> 00:18:23,078

424  
00:18:23,078 --> 00:18:28,110  
So at that point,  
I figure that now

425  
00:18:28,110 --> 00:18:33,060  
is the time I have a reason,  
and I could get out my sister,

426  
00:18:33,060 --> 00:18:34,590  
smuggle out from the ghetto.

427

00:18:34,590 --> 00:18:40,240

428

00:18:40,240 --> 00:18:41,440

We took my grandpa away.

429

00:18:41,440 --> 00:18:44,070

We took my grandpa  
because that time,

430

00:18:44,070 --> 00:18:47,040

it was not a funeral like today.

431

00:18:47,040 --> 00:18:48,000

There was a wagon.

432

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:50,770

And people was carrying it.

433

00:18:50,770 --> 00:18:52,260

And I buried him.

434

00:18:52,260 --> 00:18:54,130

And I took my sister.

435

00:18:54,130 --> 00:18:56,250

We dressed the way  
it's supposed to be.

436

00:18:56,250 --> 00:18:56,860

We were ready.

437

00:18:56,860 --> 00:18:59,360

We told my grandma.

438

00:18:59,360 --> 00:19:03,290

She was the second  
wife of my grandpa.

439

00:19:03,290 --> 00:19:07,686

We told her that we  
left everything we had.

440

00:19:07,686 --> 00:19:10,440  
And we come in the cemetery.

441  
00:19:10,440 --> 00:19:15,810  
After the funeral, we hide where  
dead people was living there.

442  
00:19:15,810 --> 00:19:18,640  
So we were hiding in the night.

443  
00:19:18,640 --> 00:19:20,650  
And I fell asleep.

444  
00:19:20,650 --> 00:19:24,380  
When the night come,  
there was a rain.

445  
00:19:24,380 --> 00:19:26,630  
The storm was cold.

446  
00:19:26,630 --> 00:19:27,960  
And that was my luck.

447  
00:19:27,960 --> 00:19:30,510  
I said to my sister,  
now, let's go.

448  
00:19:30,510 --> 00:19:37,200  
We went over the  
gate, went over.

449  
00:19:37,200 --> 00:19:38,260  
And we--

450  
00:19:38,260 --> 00:19:38,940  
Over the fence.

451  
00:19:38,940 --> 00:19:39,630  
Over the fence.

452  
00:19:39,630 --> 00:19:46,840  
We run from Łódź to  
Brzeziny, from Brzeziny--

453

00:19:46,840 --> 00:19:47,680  
Where's Brzeziny?

454  
00:19:47,680 --> 00:19:53,657  
Brzeziny is about 10,  
12 miles from the Łódź,

455  
00:19:53,657 --> 00:19:54,490  
direction of Warsaw.

456  
00:19:54,490 --> 00:19:57,170

457  
00:19:57,170 --> 00:20:00,970  
And from Brzeziny to  
Koluszki is about five miles.

458  
00:20:00,970 --> 00:20:05,390

459  
00:20:05,390 --> 00:20:06,750  
And then you went to Koluszki?

460  
00:20:06,750 --> 00:20:14,010  
Koluszki, Koluszki--  
K-O-L-U-S-Z-K-I.

461  
00:20:14,010 --> 00:20:14,510  
All right.

462  
00:20:14,510 --> 00:20:15,800  
Koluszki.

463  
00:20:15,800 --> 00:20:21,720  
From there, we have a customer.

464  
00:20:21,720 --> 00:20:22,920  
My father had a customer.

465  
00:20:22,920 --> 00:20:24,790  
I know him.

466  
00:20:24,790 --> 00:20:28,930  
He used to buy from us food

and bring it to the city.

467

00:20:28,930 --> 00:20:30,910

So I find him.

468

00:20:30,910 --> 00:20:33,330

And he took us in very good.

469

00:20:33,330 --> 00:20:36,300

Now, telling him the  
story, we have to go--

470

00:20:36,300 --> 00:20:36,800

To Warsaw.

471

00:20:36,800 --> 00:20:37,850

To Warsaw.

472

00:20:37,850 --> 00:20:39,570

They say, don't worry.

473

00:20:39,570 --> 00:20:43,780

My brother-in-law, he  
works on the train.

474

00:20:43,780 --> 00:20:45,205

He is going to go with you.

475

00:20:45,205 --> 00:20:48,618

And we stayed overnight by him.

476

00:20:48,618 --> 00:20:50,410

And the brother-in-law  
come in the morning.

477

00:20:50,410 --> 00:20:52,170

We eat breakfast.

478

00:20:52,170 --> 00:20:55,250

And I was in a uniform, soldier.

479

00:20:55,250 --> 00:20:58,220

He say to me, your sister's  
going to be with me.

480  
00:20:58,220 --> 00:20:59,420  
She's my wife.

481  
00:20:59,420 --> 00:21:00,440  
You're a soldier.

482  
00:21:00,440 --> 00:21:02,102  
You will take care of yourself.

483  
00:21:02,102 --> 00:21:03,790  
I said, very good.

484  
00:21:03,790 --> 00:21:05,670  
And nobody was bothering me.

485  
00:21:05,670 --> 00:21:07,768  
I was in uniform.

486  
00:21:07,768 --> 00:21:08,810  
And nobody was bothering.

487  
00:21:08,810 --> 00:21:11,000  
And we come to Warsaw.

488  
00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:11,500  
He took--

489  
00:21:11,500 --> 00:21:12,390  
What year is this?

490  
00:21:12,390 --> 00:21:15,110  
That is 1940.

491  
00:21:15,110 --> 00:21:16,720  
There was no ghetto in Warsaw.

492  
00:21:16,720 --> 00:21:17,820  
In Łódź was the ghetto.

493  
00:21:17,820 --> 00:21:20,640

494

00:21:20,640 --> 00:21:25,790

He took a coach.

495

00:21:25,790 --> 00:21:28,470

We call it a coach

with a horse, you know?

496

00:21:28,470 --> 00:21:29,170

A coach.

497

00:21:29,170 --> 00:21:29,670

A coach.

498

00:21:29,670 --> 00:21:31,170

You call it a coach.

499

00:21:31,170 --> 00:21:34,590

And he took us to my house.

500

00:21:34,590 --> 00:21:39,220

My mother was in bed sick, very,  
because while we smuggle out

501

00:21:39,220 --> 00:21:44,520

the things, in that night  
before or the night after they

502

00:21:44,520 --> 00:21:48,510

were killing about 20-something  
people that smuggled out.

503

00:21:48,510 --> 00:21:51,780

My mother figured out  
because I wrote her

504

00:21:51,780 --> 00:21:56,320

that I was going  
to see her soon.

505

00:21:56,320 --> 00:21:59,390

So she figured that way  
we were dead already.

506

00:21:59,390 --> 00:22:00,260

Why?

507

00:22:00,260 --> 00:22:02,430  
Because there was dead--

508

00:22:02,430 --> 00:22:03,750  
23 people had died.

509

00:22:03,750 --> 00:22:05,280  
Oh, because you said you  
were going to see her soon.

510

00:22:05,280 --> 00:22:06,447  
And you didn't come so soon.

511

00:22:06,447 --> 00:22:08,000  
Yeah, we didn't come so soon.

512

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:12,950  
And 23 people were dying,  
was killed by the Germans.

513

00:22:12,950 --> 00:22:16,310  
So she figured we  
were in that group.

514

00:22:16,310 --> 00:22:18,700  
But we come.

515

00:22:18,700 --> 00:22:19,900  
What can I say?

516

00:22:19,900 --> 00:22:24,580  
It was a holiday,  
like somebody died

517

00:22:24,580 --> 00:22:26,800  
or somebody is  
born at that time.

518

00:22:26,800 --> 00:22:33,950  
It was very active in our house.

519

00:22:33,950 --> 00:22:36,380



So I was there.

520  
00:22:36,380 --> 00:22:44,310  
We were together-- my  
brothers, my sisters, and me.

521  
00:22:44,310 --> 00:22:46,470  
So we were the six  
children together,

522  
00:22:46,470 --> 00:22:49,540  
and my father and my mother.

523  
00:22:49,540 --> 00:22:53,010  
Now we were in a place--

524  
00:22:53,010 --> 00:22:58,090  
All I want to know now  
is, of the eight people

525  
00:22:58,090 --> 00:23:00,250  
who were living in  
your family in Warsaw--

526  
00:23:00,250 --> 00:23:01,410  
Now, we come in.

527  
00:23:01,410 --> 00:23:02,540  
--who survived?

528  
00:23:02,540 --> 00:23:03,310  
Only me.

529  
00:23:03,310 --> 00:23:03,830  
Only you.

530  
00:23:03,830 --> 00:23:04,420  
Only me.

531  
00:23:04,420 --> 00:23:06,230  
Do you know what  
happened to the others?

532  
00:23:06,230 --> 00:23:08,340

To my father, I know  
because he died.

533  
00:23:08,340 --> 00:23:09,340  
He died in the hospital.

534  
00:23:09,340 --> 00:23:11,285  
He died in the hospital.

535  
00:23:11,285 --> 00:23:12,660  
Where they killed  
him, you think?

536  
00:23:12,660 --> 00:23:13,795  
Yeah, they killed him.

537  
00:23:13,795 --> 00:23:15,670  
But the others, you  
don't know what happened.

538  
00:23:15,670 --> 00:23:16,180  
No.

539  
00:23:16,180 --> 00:23:17,770  
Your story we're going to get.

540  
00:23:17,770 --> 00:23:21,580  
Now, this is your  
immediate family.

541  
00:23:21,580 --> 00:23:25,600  
Your father's parents,  
also, what happened to them?

542  
00:23:25,600 --> 00:23:27,590  
My grandpa died.

543  
00:23:27,590 --> 00:23:29,950  
Yeah, in Łódź.

544  
00:23:29,950 --> 00:23:30,450  
In Lodz.

545  
00:23:30,450 --> 00:23:31,240

A heart attack.

546

00:23:31,240 --> 00:23:32,430

Heart-- yeah.

547

00:23:32,430 --> 00:23:34,230

And my grandma died  
before the war.

548

00:23:34,230 --> 00:23:34,730

OK.

549

00:23:34,730 --> 00:23:36,215

So he remarried.

550

00:23:36,215 --> 00:23:37,665

He remarried.

551

00:23:37,665 --> 00:23:39,110

She was a very nice lady.

552

00:23:39,110 --> 00:23:39,760

All right.

553

00:23:39,760 --> 00:23:43,680

And now the extended  
family, that means your--

554

00:23:43,680 --> 00:23:44,230

Uncles.

555

00:23:44,230 --> 00:23:46,570

--uncles, aunts,  
cousins, how many

556

00:23:46,570 --> 00:23:48,790

do you think you had  
in Poland at the time?

557

00:23:48,790 --> 00:23:51,850

In Poland, no less  
than 50 people.

558

00:23:51,850 --> 00:23:53,210

No less than 50 people.

559

00:23:53,210 --> 00:23:53,710

Yeah.

560

00:23:53,710 --> 00:23:55,710

How many survived?

561

00:23:55,710 --> 00:23:58,390

As far I know, I  
didn't see no one.

562

00:23:58,390 --> 00:24:00,130

I'm the only one.

563

00:24:00,130 --> 00:24:02,583

And if any of them  
would've survived,

564

00:24:02,583 --> 00:24:04,000

you think you would  
have met them?

565

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:07,380

Oh, yeah, because they know  
that we have all the family here

566

00:24:07,380 --> 00:24:10,190

in the United States  
on my mother's side.

567

00:24:10,190 --> 00:24:11,740

They would come here.

568

00:24:11,740 --> 00:24:13,060

Nobody showed up.

569

00:24:13,060 --> 00:24:14,380

I'm the only one.

570

00:24:14,380 --> 00:24:17,350

So as far as you know,  
you're the only survivor

571

00:24:17,350 --> 00:24:19,030  
of a family of at  
least 50 people.

572  
00:24:19,030 --> 00:24:21,280  
50 people.

573  
00:24:21,280 --> 00:24:22,850  
But you don't know  
what happened,

574  
00:24:22,850 --> 00:24:24,335  
how the others perished.

575  
00:24:24,335 --> 00:24:25,562  
No, no.

576  
00:24:25,562 --> 00:24:29,226  
All right, we're going to come  
to your story now, I believe.

577  
00:24:29,226 --> 00:24:29,726  
Yeah.

578  
00:24:29,726 --> 00:24:32,920

579  
00:24:32,920 --> 00:24:35,490  
So you are in Warsaw.

580  
00:24:35,490 --> 00:24:36,780  
You came to Warsaw, when?

581  
00:24:36,780 --> 00:24:37,670  
In 1940?

582  
00:24:37,670 --> 00:24:39,400  
1940, Warsaw ghetto--

583  
00:24:39,400 --> 00:24:40,350  
Warsaw, not ghetto.

584  
00:24:40,350 --> 00:24:43,410  
Because most people from Łódź

remained at Łódź and went

585

00:24:43,410 --> 00:24:44,590  
into the ghetto, I think.

586

00:24:44,590 --> 00:24:45,990  
Yeah, not most.

587

00:24:45,990 --> 00:24:52,380  
It was quite a lot of why  
people went to Russia.

588

00:24:52,380 --> 00:24:52,880  
Oh--

589

00:24:52,880 --> 00:24:53,610  
Bialystok, Bialystok.

590

00:24:53,610 --> 00:24:54,510  
If they didn't run to Russia--

591

00:24:54,510 --> 00:24:55,180  
Russia, yeah.

592

00:24:55,180 --> 00:24:55,850  
OK.

593

00:24:55,850 --> 00:24:58,200  
But you landed up in Warsaw.

594

00:24:58,200 --> 00:24:58,980  
Warsaw, yeah.

595

00:24:58,980 --> 00:25:01,950  
And you landed up in  
Warsaw, you said, because--

596

00:25:01,950 --> 00:25:03,990  
I was shot by the Russian.

597

00:25:03,990 --> 00:25:06,970  
And I went back to Warsaw.

598

00:25:06,970 --> 00:25:07,810  
And those friends--

599  
00:25:07,810 --> 00:25:08,310  
My friend--

600  
00:25:08,310 --> 00:25:08,852  
--said that--

601  
00:25:08,852 --> 00:25:09,768  
--my father's friend--

602  
00:25:09,768 --> 00:25:11,430  
--your family should  
come to Warsaw.

603  
00:25:11,430 --> 00:25:13,700  
Should come because  
Łódź is going to be bad.

604  
00:25:13,700 --> 00:25:15,120  
All right.

605  
00:25:15,120 --> 00:25:17,580  
When did you leave your family?

606  
00:25:17,580 --> 00:25:18,270  
I didn't leave.

607  
00:25:18,270 --> 00:25:20,980  
They caught me in 19--

608  
00:25:20,980 --> 00:25:26,653  
at that time October,  
November in 1942.

609  
00:25:26,653 --> 00:25:28,320  
So you were with your  
family until 1942?

610  
00:25:28,320 --> 00:25:30,620  
Till 1942, October--

611  
00:25:30,620 --> 00:25:31,610

October.

612

00:25:31,610 --> 00:25:33,570  
I was with my family, together.

613

00:25:33,570 --> 00:25:40,170  
Not together-- I was living in  
a different place but in ghetto.

614

00:25:40,170 --> 00:25:44,970  
So what happened  
in October 1942?

615

00:25:44,970 --> 00:25:51,030  
Before 1942, before  
October 1942,

616

00:25:51,030 --> 00:25:54,855  
my father passed away,  
who they killed him,

617

00:25:54,855 --> 00:25:56,670  
or euthanasia, whatever.

618

00:25:56,670 --> 00:25:58,920  
They killed him because they  
took him in the hospital.

619

00:25:58,920 --> 00:26:00,120  
I saw him.

620

00:26:00,120 --> 00:26:01,620  
He was OK.

621

00:26:01,620 --> 00:26:05,400  
Next day they say, they  
took him away from here.

622

00:26:05,400 --> 00:26:08,100  
And I don't know what  
they're going to do with him.

623

00:26:08,100 --> 00:26:10,530  
They took him to the hospital  
because he had typhus?



624

00:26:10,530 --> 00:26:11,820

Yeah, he had typhus.

625

00:26:11,820 --> 00:26:12,320

Yeah.

626

00:26:12,320 --> 00:26:16,310

But then people, younger  
people in the window,

627

00:26:16,310 --> 00:26:22,110

said, I don't know if they're  
going to let him live.

628

00:26:22,110 --> 00:26:26,220

So the next day,  
they notify me that--

629

00:26:26,220 --> 00:26:28,770

not me, my mother--

630

00:26:28,770 --> 00:26:32,070

that he died and I can  
come to take him out.

631

00:26:32,070 --> 00:26:36,735

So from 1940, when you came  
to Warsaw, till October 1942--

632

00:26:36,735 --> 00:26:37,427

'42.

633

00:26:37,427 --> 00:26:38,760

--you were in the Warsaw ghetto?

634

00:26:38,760 --> 00:26:41,560

Ghetto, yeah.

635

00:26:41,560 --> 00:26:44,780

And then what happened?

636

00:26:44,780 --> 00:26:45,330

To 19--

637  
00:26:45,330 --> 00:26:46,220  
To you.

638  
00:26:46,220 --> 00:26:47,570  
To me?

639  
00:26:47,570 --> 00:26:50,380  
You want to know to  
1942 what's happened?

640  
00:26:50,380 --> 00:26:52,080  
Well, you were in  
the Warsaw ghetto.

641  
00:26:52,080 --> 00:26:53,550  
Yeah, what happened  
in the ghetto,

642  
00:26:53,550 --> 00:26:54,883  
it was a lot of things happened.

643  
00:26:54,883 --> 00:26:56,810  
What happened in the ghetto?

644  
00:26:56,810 --> 00:27:00,170  
I met a guy by my girlfriend.

645  
00:27:00,170 --> 00:27:01,670  
I have a girlfriend--  
not girlfriend

646  
00:27:01,670 --> 00:27:04,040  
like you call here--  
a friend from school,

647  
00:27:04,040 --> 00:27:06,560  
from the neighborhood.

648  
00:27:06,560 --> 00:27:08,690  
She met me with that guy.

649  
00:27:08,690 --> 00:27:13,400  
He was taken in from the other

neighborhood to Warsaw ghetto

650

00:27:13,400 --> 00:27:15,340  
because there were Jews.

651

00:27:15,340 --> 00:27:19,340  
And that kid was  
very intelligent.

652

00:27:19,340 --> 00:27:24,070  
He mostly speak German  
because they come from Poznan.

653

00:27:24,070 --> 00:27:24,600  
Poznan.

654

00:27:24,600 --> 00:27:28,150  
Poznan-- and very wealthy.

655

00:27:28,150 --> 00:27:31,790  
He had a friend, Polish  
friend, who was together

656

00:27:31,790 --> 00:27:33,170  
in school with him.

657

00:27:33,170 --> 00:27:38,600  
They never figured out before  
the war that he is a Jew.

658

00:27:38,600 --> 00:27:41,690  
The Germans find out  
that he is a Jew.

659

00:27:41,690 --> 00:27:43,410  
And those friends  
went in Warsaw.

660

00:27:43,410 --> 00:27:46,980  
And they belong  
to [NON-ENGLISH]..

661

00:27:46,980 --> 00:27:49,300  
We call it [NON-ENGLISH].

662

00:27:49,300 --> 00:27:52,540

That's the partisan,  
Polish partisan.

663

00:27:52,540 --> 00:27:54,540

And they say, the ghetto come.

664

00:27:54,540 --> 00:27:55,390

Don't worry.

665

00:27:55,390 --> 00:27:57,970

We're going to  
help you with food,

666

00:27:57,970 --> 00:27:59,540

with everything they need.

667

00:27:59,540 --> 00:28:00,660

And I met them.

668

00:28:00,660 --> 00:28:05,000

And he was very friendly,  
very friendly with me.

669

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:12,650

When they put the ghetto in  
'41, we started smuggling food

670

00:28:12,650 --> 00:28:16,110

in the ghetto.

671

00:28:16,110 --> 00:28:20,503

So he couldn't sell.

672

00:28:20,503 --> 00:28:21,170

He couldn't buy.

673

00:28:21,170 --> 00:28:25,020

He didn't know I  
was the businessmen.

674

00:28:25,020 --> 00:28:28,610

So let's assume  
we bring in valise

675

00:28:28,610 --> 00:28:32,400  
have cow, butter, whatever.

676

00:28:32,400 --> 00:28:34,410  
And we sold it.

677

00:28:34,410 --> 00:28:35,870  
What's a-- oh, in a valise.

678

00:28:35,870 --> 00:28:40,580  
Valise, two or three  
valise, big valise.

679

00:28:40,580 --> 00:28:42,230  
And we sold it.

680

00:28:42,230 --> 00:28:44,840  
We had to sell to  
get our money back

681

00:28:44,840 --> 00:28:50,950  
that we could buy, next  
day, other stuff and enough

682

00:28:50,950 --> 00:28:55,780  
to be for our families, too,  
because the food was going up

683

00:28:55,780 --> 00:28:58,540  
and up and up because  
there was no income.

684

00:28:58,540 --> 00:29:02,310  
There was no business, was  
no nothing in the ghetto.

685

00:29:02,310 --> 00:29:03,740  
There was no work.

686

00:29:03,740 --> 00:29:07,050  
Only they come, they took out  
people to work in the camps.

687

00:29:07,050 --> 00:29:10,370  
They didn't pay for it.

688  
00:29:10,370 --> 00:29:18,800  
And that took about one year.

689  
00:29:18,800 --> 00:29:21,260  
I support the family--

690  
00:29:21,260 --> 00:29:25,180  
my father and my mother  
and three sisters.

691  
00:29:25,180 --> 00:29:29,190  
My one brother was married.

692  
00:29:29,190 --> 00:29:35,190  
And the other brother bring his  
girlfriend the Warsaw ghetto.

693  
00:29:35,190 --> 00:29:37,980  
And he married  
her in the ghetto.

694  
00:29:37,980 --> 00:29:41,716  
And they were living  
together, separate.

695  
00:29:41,716 --> 00:29:43,560  
They were living separate.

696  
00:29:43,560 --> 00:29:44,950  
Separate, not with us.

697  
00:29:44,950 --> 00:29:45,740  
Oh, you mean--

698  
00:29:45,740 --> 00:29:46,620  
Yeah.

699  
00:29:46,620 --> 00:29:49,780  
And my brother helped  
me, middle brother

700

00:29:49,780 --> 00:29:55,120  
helped me, to smuggle in some--

701  
00:29:55,120 --> 00:29:57,830  
because they were building.

702  
00:29:57,830 --> 00:30:00,410  
It was the border  
from the ghetto--

703  
00:30:00,410 --> 00:30:04,380  
big building-- the ghetto  
and the outer ghetto.

704  
00:30:04,380 --> 00:30:04,880  
Yeah.

705  
00:30:04,880 --> 00:30:06,420  
And guess what?

706  
00:30:06,420 --> 00:30:08,870  
Nobody was living  
in that building.

707  
00:30:08,870 --> 00:30:15,820  
So we go over the roof  
and we smuggled in things.

708  
00:30:15,820 --> 00:30:18,330  
And that's finished  
out because a German

709  
00:30:18,330 --> 00:30:20,420  
was looking on the thing over.

710  
00:30:20,420 --> 00:30:22,660  
And they caught us.

711  
00:30:22,660 --> 00:30:24,100  
And we run.

712  
00:30:24,100 --> 00:30:25,638  
And they didn't caught us.

713

00:30:25,638 --> 00:30:26,680  
They caught us smuggling.

714  
00:30:26,680 --> 00:30:29,260  
And that was always--

715  
00:30:29,260 --> 00:30:32,690  
it was a Polish policeman  
or a German policeman down.

716  
00:30:32,690 --> 00:30:34,590  
We couldn't smuggle.

717  
00:30:34,590 --> 00:30:41,330  
So I find a hole  
because the wood--

718  
00:30:41,330 --> 00:30:46,310  
it was not like here, that  
the sewers went under.

719  
00:30:46,310 --> 00:30:49,010  
There were sewers up.

720  
00:30:49,010 --> 00:30:50,180  
There was a hole.

721  
00:30:50,180 --> 00:30:53,380  
And I was very skinny.

722  
00:30:53,380 --> 00:30:56,100  
I fit to go through that hole.

723  
00:30:56,100 --> 00:31:00,290  
And I find a hole when  
no people lived there.

724  
00:31:00,290 --> 00:31:02,980  
And I was going out myself.

725  
00:31:02,980 --> 00:31:08,310  
I took big pants, my  
father's big pants.

726



00:31:08,310 --> 00:31:12,410  
And I organized potatoes,  
bread, whatever-- what I could--

727  
00:31:12,410 --> 00:31:13,345  
every time.

728  
00:31:13,345 --> 00:31:15,370  
And I go out early  
in the morning

729  
00:31:15,370 --> 00:31:17,380  
and come back when  
it's dark already,

730  
00:31:17,380 --> 00:31:19,046  
that they don't see me.

731  
00:31:19,046 --> 00:31:23,358  
And that's why I was  
smuggling quite a while

732  
00:31:23,358 --> 00:31:26,440  
till that stopped, too.

733  
00:31:26,440 --> 00:31:27,110  
That stopped?

734  
00:31:27,110 --> 00:31:27,820  
That stopped.

735  
00:31:27,820 --> 00:31:28,560  
Why did it stop?

736  
00:31:28,560 --> 00:31:34,060  
Because the Polish people,  
they find out about us.

737  
00:31:34,060 --> 00:31:35,243  
And they--

738  
00:31:35,243 --> 00:31:36,160  
They told the Germans.

739

00:31:36,160 --> 00:31:38,890  
They told the Germans because if  
they told something like that,

740  
00:31:38,890 --> 00:31:42,480  
they get five pounds of sugar.

741  
00:31:42,480 --> 00:31:46,210  
When they caught a Jew, they  
get paid five pounds of sugar.

742  
00:31:46,210 --> 00:31:49,800  
At that time, sugar  
was very expensive,

743  
00:31:49,800 --> 00:31:53,030  
because the Germans took  
all the sugar for the army.

744  
00:31:53,030 --> 00:31:56,230  
So they caught me.

745  
00:31:56,230 --> 00:31:58,900  
But I ran.

746  
00:31:58,900 --> 00:31:59,940  
They couldn't cat--

747  
00:31:59,940 --> 00:32:00,795  
You escaped.

748  
00:32:00,795 --> 00:32:01,590  
I escaped.

749  
00:32:01,590 --> 00:32:03,592  
And they couldn't catch me.

750  
00:32:03,592 --> 00:32:08,100  
They were looking for me  
because they found my coat.

751  
00:32:08,100 --> 00:32:10,800  
In that coat was an  
address where I was living.

752

00:32:10,800 --> 00:32:12,820  
So my parents were living there.

753

00:32:12,820 --> 00:32:15,050  
So the Polish police went  
back and they come there

754

00:32:15,050 --> 00:32:15,940  
to my parents.

755

00:32:15,940 --> 00:32:17,820  
And I was not living  
there because I

756

00:32:17,820 --> 00:32:20,530  
know they were looking for me.

757

00:32:20,530 --> 00:32:27,605  
And that was the  
end of smuggling.

758

00:32:27,605 --> 00:32:31,890  
We start selling what we could.

759

00:32:31,890 --> 00:32:36,050  
And everybody was fine on  
the streets in Warsaw ghetto.

760

00:32:36,050 --> 00:32:41,020  
People dying on the  
street like cockroaches.

761

00:32:41,020 --> 00:32:46,450  
And every day was big wagons and  
people carrying dead people--

762

00:32:46,450 --> 00:32:48,550  
20 people, 10 people.

763

00:32:48,550 --> 00:32:50,330  
And in the cemetery,  
they make big hole.

764

00:32:50,330 --> 00:32:52,270

And they put everybody in.

765

00:32:52,270 --> 00:32:53,870

They were dying day by day.

766

00:32:53,870 --> 00:32:57,350

And every few months, they  
made the ghetto shorter.

767

00:32:57,350 --> 00:32:59,480

They take away streets.

768

00:32:59,480 --> 00:33:03,090

And they told those people  
that live here, go live there.

769

00:33:03,090 --> 00:33:04,790

And they made it  
shorter and shorter.

770

00:33:04,790 --> 00:33:09,670

And every week and every day,  
they come with big trucks.

771

00:33:09,670 --> 00:33:10,490

They caught people.

772

00:33:10,490 --> 00:33:14,020

They closed the buildings.

773

00:33:14,020 --> 00:33:18,850

Every man from 16 to whatever--

774

00:33:18,850 --> 00:33:19,790

out.

775

00:33:19,790 --> 00:33:23,440

And who stayed there and  
didn't come out get shot.

776

00:33:23,440 --> 00:33:26,300

Did you feel there was any  
leadership in the ghetto?

777

00:33:26,300 --> 00:33:27,485  
Yeah, there was leadership.

778  
00:33:27,485 --> 00:33:30,520  
It was a Jewish  
[NON-ENGLISH],, we call it.

779  
00:33:30,520 --> 00:33:31,260  
Yeah.

780  
00:33:31,260 --> 00:33:32,240  
Who was the leader?

781  
00:33:32,240 --> 00:33:35,290  
The leader was-- oh.

782  
00:33:35,290 --> 00:33:38,530

783  
00:33:38,530 --> 00:33:40,430  
Łódź, I remember Rumkowski.

784  
00:33:40,430 --> 00:33:43,815  
But in Warsaw, I  
was not involved.

785  
00:33:43,815 --> 00:33:45,740  
But I was a stranger.

786  
00:33:45,740 --> 00:33:48,560  
So whoever the leader was  
made no difference to you.

787  
00:33:48,560 --> 00:33:52,160  
No difference because I  
met the [? leader. ?] I

788  
00:33:52,160 --> 00:33:58,440  
go back a few months,  
a few years back,

789  
00:33:58,440 --> 00:34:01,410  
that they sent my  
father a letter

790

00:34:01,410 --> 00:34:07,640  
that they have to come volunteer  
to go to war in a camp.

791

00:34:07,640 --> 00:34:09,889  
Again, I was a volunteer.

792

00:34:09,889 --> 00:34:12,870  
I say to my mother, if my  
father's going to go there,

793

00:34:12,870 --> 00:34:14,330  
he's going to die.

794

00:34:14,330 --> 00:34:16,330  
I go for him.

795

00:34:16,330 --> 00:34:21,272  
Again, it was written to  
Joseph [INAUDIBLE] Spiegel,

796

00:34:21,272 --> 00:34:25,679  
but no age, no height or weight.

797

00:34:25,679 --> 00:34:29,730  
So I said to my mother,  
let me go for my father.

798

00:34:29,730 --> 00:34:31,300  
I get along.

799

00:34:31,300 --> 00:34:31,989  
So I went.

800

00:34:31,989 --> 00:34:34,070  
And they took me to Lublin.

801

00:34:34,070 --> 00:34:35,670  
What year was that?

802

00:34:35,670 --> 00:34:38,239  
1941.

803

00:34:38,239 --> 00:34:39,980  
Here you wrote 1940.

804  
00:34:39,980 --> 00:34:41,980  
So which is it?

805  
00:34:41,980 --> 00:34:42,980  
Lublin, Belzec.

806  
00:34:42,980 --> 00:34:45,800

807  
00:34:45,800 --> 00:34:47,049  
That was '40, 1940.

808  
00:34:47,049 --> 00:34:47,620  
1940.

809  
00:34:47,620 --> 00:34:49,139  
Lublin, Belzec, right.

810  
00:34:49,139 --> 00:34:49,880  
'40, and--

811  
00:34:49,880 --> 00:34:52,340  
So you weren't in  
the ghetto long?

812  
00:34:52,340 --> 00:34:53,179  
Yeah, I come back.

813  
00:34:53,179 --> 00:34:58,340  
Wait, wait-- and they  
took me to Lublin.

814  
00:34:58,340 --> 00:35:00,640  
From Lublin, they  
took us to Belzec

815  
00:35:00,640 --> 00:35:05,030  
to make for fortification  
on the border between Russia

816  
00:35:05,030 --> 00:35:05,990

and Germany.

817

00:35:05,990 --> 00:35:07,280  
To make the vacation?

818

00:35:07,280 --> 00:35:08,000  
Fortification.

819

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:08,750  
Oh, fortification.

820

00:35:08,750 --> 00:35:10,530  
Fortification.

821

00:35:10,530 --> 00:35:12,380  
And we finished those.

822

00:35:12,380 --> 00:35:15,940  
We come back to Lublin.

823

00:35:15,940 --> 00:35:24,450  
And they took me out to work  
to unload coal on the train.

824

00:35:24,450 --> 00:35:25,950  
One day, I called  
and I look around.

825

00:35:25,950 --> 00:35:28,170  
I said, a possibility to run.

826

00:35:28,170 --> 00:35:30,360  
Why am I staying here?

827

00:35:30,360 --> 00:35:31,200  
I went back.

828

00:35:31,200 --> 00:35:35,860  
And I say to my friend,  
tomorrow I go to work here.

829

00:35:35,860 --> 00:35:37,680  
And you don't see me no more.



830

00:35:37,680 --> 00:35:38,490

I don't come back.

831

00:35:38,490 --> 00:35:39,115

What do you do?

832

00:35:39,115 --> 00:35:39,900

I run.

833

00:35:39,900 --> 00:35:41,050

You run?

834

00:35:41,050 --> 00:35:42,030

Yeah.

835

00:35:42,030 --> 00:35:43,660

You know, you do me a favor?

836

00:35:43,660 --> 00:35:44,610

What favor?

837

00:35:44,610 --> 00:35:46,650

He was from Lublin.

838

00:35:46,650 --> 00:35:48,680

Here's the address  
of my parents.

839

00:35:48,680 --> 00:35:53,110

If you survive, please go up to  
my parents and say you saw me.

840

00:35:53,110 --> 00:35:53,920

I'm OK, everything.

841

00:35:53,920 --> 00:35:55,170

And they're going to help you.

842

00:35:55,170 --> 00:35:56,740

Don't worry about it.

843

00:35:56,740 --> 00:36:00,040

And that was when I run,

I run away the next day.

844

00:36:00,040 --> 00:36:02,140  
And I find the parents.

845

00:36:02,140 --> 00:36:02,640  
Yeah.

846

00:36:02,640 --> 00:36:04,880  
They took me in like a son.

847

00:36:04,880 --> 00:36:07,170  
And they wash me.

848

00:36:07,170 --> 00:36:09,220  
They give me new clothes.

849

00:36:09,220 --> 00:36:11,390  
And they gave me some money.

850

00:36:11,390 --> 00:36:14,580  
And they told me  
how I get to Warsaw.

851

00:36:14,580 --> 00:36:21,990  
So I went to a [NON-ENGLISH],,  
what made transportation like

852

00:36:21,990 --> 00:36:25,530  
a cab, to Opole.

853

00:36:25,530 --> 00:36:27,420  
From Opole, there is the --

854

00:36:27,420 --> 00:36:28,325  
What's Opole?

855

00:36:28,325 --> 00:36:29,010  
A city.

856

00:36:29,010 --> 00:36:34,790  
Opole is by a river.

857

00:36:34,790 --> 00:36:37,920  
And from that river,  
they go like a ferry--

858  
00:36:37,920 --> 00:36:42,570  
a ferry-- go back and forth to  
Warsaw, Opole, Warsaw, Opole,

859  
00:36:42,570 --> 00:36:43,990  
Modlin, Warsaw, Opole.

860  
00:36:43,990 --> 00:36:46,940

861  
00:36:46,940 --> 00:36:53,250  
And I took that ferry,  
that boat, and come back.

862  
00:36:53,250 --> 00:36:53,850  
To Warsaw.

863  
00:36:53,850 --> 00:36:56,090  
After four months-- it was  
four months after that--

864  
00:36:56,090 --> 00:36:57,840  
I come back to Warsaw.

865  
00:36:57,840 --> 00:36:59,740  
It was not a ghetto  
at that time.

866  
00:36:59,740 --> 00:37:01,050  
Still not a ghetto.

867  
00:37:01,050 --> 00:37:03,720  
Now, how long were  
you in Lublin?

868  
00:37:03,720 --> 00:37:04,510  
That time?

869  
00:37:04,510 --> 00:37:06,230  
Lublin and Belzec, four months.

870

00:37:06,230 --> 00:37:07,980

You know, I'm beginning  
to think this then

871

00:37:07,980 --> 00:37:12,270

should be 1941 because you said  
you came back to Warsaw in '42.

872

00:37:12,270 --> 00:37:14,500

Yeah.

873

00:37:14,500 --> 00:37:16,510

No, that was '41.

874

00:37:16,510 --> 00:37:18,876

Yeah, and here it says,  
umschlagplatz Warsaw, 1942.

875

00:37:18,876 --> 00:37:19,633

'42, right.

876

00:37:19,633 --> 00:37:20,550

So this must've been--

877

00:37:20,550 --> 00:37:21,092

This was '41.

878

00:37:21,092 --> 00:37:22,110

--the end of 1941.

879

00:37:22,110 --> 00:37:23,618

'41, right.

880

00:37:23,618 --> 00:37:24,536

All right.

881

00:37:24,536 --> 00:37:28,137

882

00:37:28,137 --> 00:37:29,720

That's probably what  
you meant to say.

883

00:37:29,720 --> 00:37:30,220  
Yeah.

884  
00:37:30,220 --> 00:37:32,930  
All right, so you  
came back to Warsaw.

885  
00:37:32,930 --> 00:37:33,620  
Wait a minute.

886  
00:37:33,620 --> 00:37:36,070  
Oh, you're in Warsaw here, 1942.

887  
00:37:36,070 --> 00:37:36,720  
OK.

888  
00:37:36,720 --> 00:37:37,860  
And you--

889  
00:37:37,860 --> 00:37:39,590  
Here make a '1'.

890  
00:37:39,590 --> 00:37:40,430  
It's also-- wait.

891  
00:37:40,430 --> 00:37:41,640  
Umschlagplatz Warsaw--

892  
00:37:41,640 --> 00:37:42,140  
Oh, no, '42.

893  
00:37:42,140 --> 00:37:42,390  
Right.

894  
00:37:42,390 --> 00:37:42,960  
--'42.

895  
00:37:42,960 --> 00:37:43,460  
Yeah.

896  
00:37:43,460 --> 00:37:45,118  
And you returned to your family.

897

00:37:45,118 --> 00:37:45,660  
To my family.

898  
00:37:45,660 --> 00:37:47,280  
And how long were you in Warsaw?

899  
00:37:47,280 --> 00:37:50,880  
I was in Warsaw  
up to October '42.

900  
00:37:50,880 --> 00:37:51,990  
Up to October 1942.

901  
00:37:51,990 --> 00:37:53,290  
What happened then?

902  
00:37:53,290 --> 00:37:57,500  
Then they caught me, when I told  
you before, that my father--

903  
00:37:57,500 --> 00:37:58,780  
When your father--

904  
00:37:58,780 --> 00:38:00,760  
I buried my father.

905  
00:38:00,760 --> 00:38:01,980  
I have his bridge.

906  
00:38:01,980 --> 00:38:03,020  
Yeah.

907  
00:38:03,020 --> 00:38:04,850  
I went looking to sell it.

908  
00:38:04,850 --> 00:38:05,350  
Yeah.

909  
00:38:05,350 --> 00:38:06,558  
They caught me on the street.

910  
00:38:06,558 --> 00:38:07,497  
And they took me--

911

00:38:07,497 --> 00:38:08,205

Right, all right.

912

00:38:08,205 --> 00:38:09,540

--at umschlagplatz.

913

00:38:09,540 --> 00:38:12,120

And then you were

shipped off to--

914

00:38:12,120 --> 00:38:13,390

To Bobruisk.

915

00:38:13,390 --> 00:38:14,685

No?

916

00:38:14,685 --> 00:38:15,810

What's Minsk?

917

00:38:15,810 --> 00:38:18,930

Yeah, the Minsk was like Lublin.

918

00:38:18,930 --> 00:38:22,283

In Poland, it was,

like, a transfer camp.

919

00:38:22,283 --> 00:38:23,700

Oh, so how long

were you in Minsk?

920

00:38:23,700 --> 00:38:26,237

Minsk was a couple weeks.

921

00:38:26,237 --> 00:38:29,340

All right, OK.

922

00:38:29,340 --> 00:38:33,195

And then from Minsk--

923

00:38:33,195 --> 00:38:35,350

in Minsk you were in

a ghetto or in a camp?

924

00:38:35,350 --> 00:38:36,000  
A camp.

925  
00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:36,500  
In a camp.

926  
00:38:36,500 --> 00:38:37,290  
Camp.

927  
00:38:37,290 --> 00:38:38,790  
So you've now been in two camps.

928  
00:38:38,790 --> 00:38:39,900  
You've been in Belzec.

929  
00:38:39,900 --> 00:38:41,220  
You've been in Minsk.

930  
00:38:41,220 --> 00:38:41,910  
And Minsk.

931  
00:38:41,910 --> 00:38:44,340  
There's also Lublin.

932  
00:38:44,340 --> 00:38:45,890  
Oh, so you were in three camps?

933  
00:38:45,890 --> 00:38:47,450  
Yeah, Lublin, Belzec.

934  
00:38:47,450 --> 00:38:48,600  
And then--

935  
00:38:48,600 --> 00:38:51,550  
What kind of a camp was it  
at Lublin before Majdanek?

936  
00:38:51,550 --> 00:38:52,207  
Lublin.

937  
00:38:52,207 --> 00:38:53,290  
That's what it was called?

938



00:38:53,290 --> 00:38:54,123  
[Both talking]

939  
00:38:54,123 --> 00:38:55,810  
How big a camp was it?

940  
00:38:55,810 --> 00:38:56,460  
Very big.

941  
00:38:56,460 --> 00:38:58,020  
It was about 20,000 people.

942  
00:38:58,020 --> 00:38:58,770  
Uh-huh.

943  
00:38:58,770 --> 00:38:59,790  
And Belzec?

944  
00:38:59,790 --> 00:39:01,610  
Belzec was a small one.

945  
00:39:01,610 --> 00:39:04,190  
We were there, like a kommando.

946  
00:39:04,190 --> 00:39:07,590  
They took us, about 500  
people, 400 people there

947  
00:39:07,590 --> 00:39:09,310  
to work on the--

948  
00:39:09,310 --> 00:39:09,930  
Fortification.

949  
00:39:09,930 --> 00:39:11,670  
--fortification, yeah.

950  
00:39:11,670 --> 00:39:13,462  
So you were in Minsk  
for a couple of weeks.

951  
00:39:13,462 --> 00:39:13,962  
Yeah.

952

00:39:13,962 --> 00:39:15,600

And then you were  
sent to Bobruisk.

953

00:39:15,600 --> 00:39:16,680

Bobruisk.

954

00:39:16,680 --> 00:39:18,510

And how long were  
you in Bobruisk?

955

00:39:18,510 --> 00:39:20,850

Bobruisk, I have  
a year and a half.

956

00:39:20,850 --> 00:39:22,650

Uh-huh.

957

00:39:22,650 --> 00:39:24,640

That might have been  
the camp that you

958

00:39:24,640 --> 00:39:26,642

were in for the  
longest period of time.

959

00:39:26,642 --> 00:39:27,600

You were in many camps.

960

00:39:27,600 --> 00:39:27,780

Many camps.

961

00:39:27,780 --> 00:39:28,960

But that one was  
a year and a half.

962

00:39:28,960 --> 00:39:29,635

Yeah, that was--

963

00:39:29,635 --> 00:39:32,480

What did you do in Bobruisk?

964

00:39:32,480 --> 00:39:38,400

Bobruisk was-- a big story

I have from Bobruisk.

965

00:39:38,400 --> 00:39:41,670

We come there, 1,500 people.

966

00:39:41,670 --> 00:39:42,770

In your shipment.

967

00:39:42,770 --> 00:39:44,280

In my shipment, 50.

968

00:39:44,280 --> 00:39:45,200

Before us--

969

00:39:45,200 --> 00:39:47,720

Bobruisk had about  
20,000 people, you think?

970

00:39:47,720 --> 00:39:48,690

No, no, no, no, no.

971

00:39:48,690 --> 00:39:50,040

Oh, how big a camp was it?

972

00:39:50,040 --> 00:39:53,970

Big, but it was not much.

973

00:39:53,970 --> 00:39:56,490

Before us, it was  
1,500 people there.

974

00:39:56,490 --> 00:39:58,680

They shipped 1,500 people.

975

00:39:58,680 --> 00:40:03,030

But left over, maybe 100  
from the 1,500 that we come--

976

00:40:03,030 --> 00:40:03,530

Yeah.

977

00:40:03,530 --> 00:40:05,760

--because they need--

978

00:40:05,760 --> 00:40:08,090  
[INAUDIBLE], bonus like you say.

979

00:40:08,090 --> 00:40:09,970  
So they bring us there.

980

00:40:09,970 --> 00:40:13,640  
When we come there,  
we're standing.

981

00:40:13,640 --> 00:40:17,550  
And the big officers,  
SS, start talking.

982

00:40:17,550 --> 00:40:21,200  
If you want to be good  
treated, you have to work.

983

00:40:21,200 --> 00:40:23,910  
And work [NON-ENGLISH].

984

00:40:23,910 --> 00:40:28,020  
Work, he said, makes life sweet.

985

00:40:28,020 --> 00:40:30,690  
But if people didn't work--

986

00:40:30,690 --> 00:40:34,650  
he took out his pistol,  
shot them and everything,

987

00:40:34,650 --> 00:40:38,250  
and killed somebody-- it's  
going to happen this way.

988

00:40:38,250 --> 00:40:40,000  
He actually killed  
somebody then?

989

00:40:40,000 --> 00:40:40,760  
Right away.

990

00:40:40,760 --> 00:40:42,330  
He killed somebody

and said, that's

991

00:40:42,330 --> 00:40:45,230

going to happen  
to who don't work.

992

00:40:45,230 --> 00:40:49,094

That was the beginning, that  
part, the welcome at that camp.

993

00:40:49,094 --> 00:40:50,886

We start looking at  
each other. (MURMURING)

994

00:40:50,886 --> 00:40:52,510

What are we going to do?

995

00:40:52,510 --> 00:40:54,000

Problems.

996

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:58,070

Then they took us one by  
one who have jewelry, who

997

00:40:58,070 --> 00:40:59,750

have money, who have things.

998

00:40:59,750 --> 00:41:01,140

Here, put it here.

999

00:41:01,140 --> 00:41:04,143

Otherwise you get shot right  
away if we find something.

1000

00:41:04,143 --> 00:41:06,310

I'm thinking, (MURMURING)  
what are they going to do?

1001

00:41:06,310 --> 00:41:09,400

What am I going to  
do with that bridge?

1002

00:41:09,400 --> 00:41:11,300

Here, I put this away.

1003

00:41:11,300 --> 00:41:13,910

And they gave us clothes  
like in a concentration

1004

00:41:13,910 --> 00:41:15,840

camp, like pajamas, you know?

1005

00:41:15,840 --> 00:41:17,000

Mm, striped ones.

1006

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:18,660

Striped ones.

1007

00:41:18,660 --> 00:41:29,730

So what we're doing, so they're  
starting bringing lumber

1008

00:41:29,730 --> 00:41:35,380

to build bungalows.

1009

00:41:35,380 --> 00:41:41,380

So they build five bungalows  
for 300 people, but bunk beds,

1010

00:41:41,380 --> 00:41:42,025

you know?

1011

00:41:42,025 --> 00:41:42,735

Bunk beds.

1012

00:41:42,735 --> 00:41:44,180

Bunk beds,  
three-story bunk beds.

1013

00:41:44,180 --> 00:41:50,250

1014

00:41:50,250 --> 00:41:58,250

I was number five, bungalow  
number five, about two months.

1015

00:41:58,250 --> 00:42:01,130

And from the 300, maybe  
there was 100 left of them.

1016  
00:42:01,130 --> 00:42:02,490  
What happened to the other 200?

1017  
00:42:02,490 --> 00:42:03,630  
Killed.

1018  
00:42:03,630 --> 00:42:06,750  
Every Sunday-- every Sunday--

1019  
00:42:06,750 --> 00:42:10,910  
the unter shaf fuhrer the  
commander from the SS,

1020  
00:42:10,910 --> 00:42:13,626  
with his helpers come in.

1021  
00:42:13,626 --> 00:42:17,080  
'Everybody out!' We're out.

1022  
00:42:17,080 --> 00:42:18,760  
Come, come, come.

1023  
00:42:18,760 --> 00:42:23,760  
And the rest were laying on  
the floor sick or beaten up

1024  
00:42:23,760 --> 00:42:25,532  
and couldn't go out.

1025  
00:42:25,532 --> 00:42:28,620  
They say to them, you're  
going [NON-ENGLISH]..

1026  
00:42:28,620 --> 00:42:31,036  
That's the direction home.

1027  
00:42:31,036 --> 00:42:35,910  
And there was a tod  
commander from the Jewish.

1028  
00:42:35,910 --> 00:42:37,580  
But there was from  
the beginning, the--

1029  
00:42:37,580 --> 00:42:38,413  
What are you saying?

1030  
00:42:38,413 --> 00:42:41,140  
Tod, tod commander,  
Tod Death commander.

1031  
00:42:41,140 --> 00:42:41,890  
Yeah.

1032  
00:42:41,890 --> 00:42:45,730  
They were burying people.

1033  
00:42:45,730 --> 00:42:47,070  
That was their job.

1034  
00:42:47,070 --> 00:42:48,820  
Their job.

1035  
00:42:48,820 --> 00:42:52,730  
And he took the five  
people with a wagon.

1036  
00:42:52,730 --> 00:42:54,370  
The five people  
took those people

1037  
00:42:54,370 --> 00:42:58,355  
who were sick underground  
and say, they're going home.

1038  
00:42:58,355 --> 00:42:59,552  
[NON-ENGLISH].

1039  
00:42:59,552 --> 00:43:00,760  
They took them after he came.

1040  
00:43:00,760 --> 00:43:02,430  
There was a big hole.

1041  
00:43:02,430 --> 00:43:04,160  
They shot everybody in the hole.



1042  
00:43:04,160 --> 00:43:07,180  
And they pile up.

1043  
00:43:07,180 --> 00:43:10,330  
So every mound was less, less.

1044  
00:43:10,330 --> 00:43:13,600  
From the five bungalows  
was one bungalow.

1045  
00:43:13,600 --> 00:43:22,070

1046  
00:43:22,070 --> 00:43:26,100  
Now I come back  
from the beginning.

1047  
00:43:26,100 --> 00:43:28,390  
When we come, I have--

1048  
00:43:28,390 --> 00:43:29,110  
excuse me.

1049  
00:43:29,110 --> 00:43:35,596  
I have near me a boy about  
five years younger than me.

1050  
00:43:35,596 --> 00:43:37,740  
And he was a name.

1051  
00:43:37,740 --> 00:43:44,785  
But my cousin-- my girlfriend  
from Warsaw was his cousin.

1052  
00:43:44,785 --> 00:43:46,495  
I say, oh, you're  
name is [INAUDIBLE]..

1053  
00:43:46,495 --> 00:43:48,233  
You know Sarah?

1054  
00:43:48,233 --> 00:43:49,150  
Yes, that's my cousin.

1055

00:43:49,150 --> 00:43:51,160

Their father and my father.

1056

00:43:51,160 --> 00:43:57,450

I tell you because that has to  
do a lot with that story here.

1057

00:43:57,450 --> 00:43:59,680

And then he was my cousin.

1058

00:43:59,680 --> 00:44:02,060

Everybody knows that  
he is my cousin.

1059

00:44:02,060 --> 00:44:03,560

They would say,  
where's your cousin?

1060

00:44:03,560 --> 00:44:04,930

He's there.

1061

00:44:04,930 --> 00:44:05,920

Where's your cousin?

1062

00:44:05,920 --> 00:44:06,720

Here.

1063

00:44:06,720 --> 00:44:09,460

Cousin-- no name.

1064

00:44:09,460 --> 00:44:11,080

The first day,  
when we stand out,

1065

00:44:11,080 --> 00:44:15,660

when we are still about  
the over a thousand, 1,500,

1066

00:44:15,660 --> 00:44:18,790

the SS man chief-- we  
call him the chief--

1067

00:44:18,790 --> 00:44:23,950

he was responsible for food, for

us, for the German, everything.

1068

00:44:23,950 --> 00:44:25,330  
He goes over.

1069

00:44:25,330 --> 00:44:26,790  
Look, look, look to my cousin.

1070

00:44:26,790 --> 00:44:28,586  
You, come out.

1071

00:44:28,586 --> 00:44:30,901  
He come out.

1072

00:44:30,901 --> 00:44:35,240  
And he walked with  
him, walked away.

1073

00:44:35,240 --> 00:44:43,090  
He took that kid with  
him to his storage.

1074

00:44:43,090 --> 00:44:47,850  
And he's going to help him  
work, get him out, cleaning--

1075

00:44:47,850 --> 00:44:49,800  
perfect job.

1076

00:44:49,800 --> 00:44:50,500  
So happy.

1077

00:44:50,500 --> 00:44:51,860  
Everybody's jealous.

1078

00:44:51,860 --> 00:44:54,140  
That's such a beautiful job.

1079

00:44:54,140 --> 00:44:55,270  
But I don't know.

1080

00:44:55,270 --> 00:44:59,450  
It's like somebody  
told me something--

1081  
00:44:59,450 --> 00:45:00,350  
be careful.

1082  
00:45:00,350 --> 00:45:04,130  
Like my mother, my  
grandmother, or God, whoever--

1083  
00:45:04,130 --> 00:45:06,780  
be careful.

1084  
00:45:06,780 --> 00:45:10,280  
Even he come from that  
job, he bring me bread.

1085  
00:45:10,280 --> 00:45:12,865  
I say, Jacob?

1086  
00:45:12,865 --> 00:45:14,820  
What job?

1087  
00:45:14,820 --> 00:45:15,480  
What's the job?

1088  
00:45:15,480 --> 00:45:17,445  
He told me the job.

1089  
00:45:17,445 --> 00:45:18,920  
We go after food.

1090  
00:45:18,920 --> 00:45:20,470  
How much you want?

1091  
00:45:20,470 --> 00:45:21,560  
Here's a bread for you.

1092  
00:45:21,560 --> 00:45:22,143  
I'll bring it.

1093  
00:45:22,143 --> 00:45:23,642  
I said, hold your horses.

1094  
00:45:23,642 --> 00:45:24,545

Wait a minute.

1095

00:45:24,545 --> 00:45:27,700

I said, it's [INAUDIBLE] please.

1096

00:45:27,700 --> 00:45:30,330

1097

00:45:30,330 --> 00:45:31,470

You're stealing.

1098

00:45:31,470 --> 00:45:33,160

I think I don't want it.

1099

00:45:33,160 --> 00:45:36,060

I know what's going  
to happen one day.

1100

00:45:36,060 --> 00:45:39,120

How long is it going to take,  
you steal, till they caught him

1101

00:45:39,120 --> 00:45:40,360

and shoot him and me?

1102

00:45:40,360 --> 00:45:41,230

Forget it.

1103

00:45:41,230 --> 00:45:42,450

And I got scared.

1104

00:45:42,450 --> 00:45:43,773

I said, don't bring me bread.

1105

00:45:43,773 --> 00:45:44,690

I don't want to have--

1106

00:45:44,690 --> 00:45:45,820

I'll have what they have.

1107

00:45:45,820 --> 00:45:49,030

I don't want to  
eat and everybody's

1108  
00:45:49,030 --> 00:45:50,710  
going to look on me.

1109  
00:45:50,710 --> 00:45:52,150  
That's not nice.

1110  
00:45:52,150 --> 00:45:54,028  
You eat there, and don't  
bring nothing here.

1111  
00:45:54,028 --> 00:45:55,570  
Eat what you want  
and don't bring it.

1112  
00:45:55,570 --> 00:46:00,640  
And the next day,  
he told the chef

1113  
00:46:00,640 --> 00:46:03,280  
to give him a  
bread for a cousin.

1114  
00:46:03,280 --> 00:46:06,480  
He said, no, chef, my  
cousin didn't want it.

1115  
00:46:06,480 --> 00:46:07,690  
Why didn't he want it?

1116  
00:46:07,690 --> 00:46:09,210  
He thinks that I  
steal or whatever.

1117  
00:46:09,210 --> 00:46:10,040  
He didn't want it.

1118  
00:46:10,040 --> 00:46:10,690  
What?

1119  
00:46:10,690 --> 00:46:11,950  
Come with me.

1120  
00:46:11,950 --> 00:46:13,286  
Where's your cousin?

1121  
00:46:13,286 --> 00:46:15,140  
He called me out.

1122  
00:46:15,140 --> 00:46:16,720  
I figure--

1123  
00:46:16,720 --> 00:46:17,650  
The chef was--

1124  
00:46:17,650 --> 00:46:19,320  
The chef-- an SS man.

1125  
00:46:19,320 --> 00:46:20,280  
A German?

1126  
00:46:20,280 --> 00:46:21,710  
German.

1127  
00:46:21,710 --> 00:46:23,530  
And that German  
was very educated--

1128  
00:46:23,530 --> 00:46:26,035  
Polish, French, German.

1129  
00:46:26,035 --> 00:46:28,680

1130  
00:46:28,680 --> 00:46:30,440  
He called me out.

1131  
00:46:30,440 --> 00:46:34,600  
He said to me, you  
[INAUDIBLE] do stupid--

1132  
00:46:34,600 --> 00:46:35,770  
You stupid guy?

1133  
00:46:35,770 --> 00:46:36,820  
Stupid guy.

1134  
00:46:36,820 --> 00:46:37,960

He don't steal.

1135  
00:46:37,960 --> 00:46:39,600  
I give it to you.

1136  
00:46:39,600 --> 00:46:41,530  
So I, chef-- in German--

1137  
00:46:41,530 --> 00:46:44,360  
chef, it's not that he's--

1138  
00:46:44,360 --> 00:46:46,120  
I know that he's an honest kid.

1139  
00:46:46,120 --> 00:46:47,560  
He won't steal.

1140  
00:46:47,560 --> 00:46:50,350  
But I didn't want to  
take that bread and eat

1141  
00:46:50,350 --> 00:46:52,040  
and everybody's looking on me.

1142  
00:46:52,040 --> 00:46:54,580  
It doesn't look nice.

1143  
00:46:54,580 --> 00:46:57,970  
I couldn't follow  
this and take bread

1144  
00:46:57,970 --> 00:47:03,146  
all the time and margarine  
and jam and whatever.

1145  
00:47:03,146 --> 00:47:06,050  
It doesn't-- so he  
said, you're stupid,

1146  
00:47:06,050 --> 00:47:07,750  
and left me and went away.

1147  
00:47:07,750 --> 00:47:10,495



1148  
00:47:10,495 --> 00:47:12,300  
Then I go back.

1149  
00:47:12,300 --> 00:47:15,740  
There was one bungalow  
we have left of it.

1150  
00:47:15,740 --> 00:47:18,760  
It was about 300 people.

1151  
00:47:18,760 --> 00:47:25,500  
So a Sunday I went  
out walking a little.

1152  
00:47:25,500 --> 00:47:28,770  
We had a place  
where we could walk

1153  
00:47:28,770 --> 00:47:30,470  
Yeah.

1154  
00:47:30,470 --> 00:47:35,110  
So the leader from  
us walk over here.

1155  
00:47:35,110 --> 00:47:36,110  
What are you doing here?

1156  
00:47:36,110 --> 00:47:37,350  
I said I'm walking.

1157  
00:47:37,350 --> 00:47:39,010  
He hit me in the face.

1158  
00:47:39,010 --> 00:47:41,620  
When he hit me in the  
face, I hit him back.

1159  
00:47:41,620 --> 00:47:42,590  
He didn't say nothing.

1160  
00:47:42,590 --> 00:47:43,090  
All right.

1161  
00:47:43,090 --> 00:47:44,230  
The leader was, what?

1162  
00:47:44,230 --> 00:47:48,780  
A Jew, also from  
us, was a leader.

1163  
00:47:48,780 --> 00:47:51,410  
A kapo, we call him.

1164  
00:47:51,410 --> 00:47:54,060  
When I hit him back-- and  
I was sorry after that.

1165  
00:47:54,060 --> 00:47:57,810  
I saw that I do the wrong thing.

1166  
00:47:57,810 --> 00:47:59,070  
He didn't say nothing.

1167  
00:47:59,070 --> 00:48:03,330  
He went into German--  
two Germans come out.

1168  
00:48:03,330 --> 00:48:07,610  
He called me out in the  
middle of the field.

1169  
00:48:07,610 --> 00:48:12,460  
And he said, what  
were you doing?

1170  
00:48:12,460 --> 00:48:15,095  
You hit your general?

1171  
00:48:15,095 --> 00:48:22,310  
I said-- obergruppenfuhrer;  
he was an obergruppenfuhrer--

1172  
00:48:22,310 --> 00:48:23,690  
I'm sorry, but in German.

1173  
00:48:23,690 --> 00:48:25,080

I'm sorry.

1174  
00:48:25,080 --> 00:48:27,030  
I don't know what's come to me.

1175  
00:48:27,030 --> 00:48:28,160  
I'm really sorry.

1176  
00:48:28,160 --> 00:48:29,800  
I apologize for it.

1177  
00:48:29,800 --> 00:48:31,740  
So they don't take that apology.

1178  
00:48:31,740 --> 00:48:32,320  
Yeah.

1179  
00:48:32,320 --> 00:48:35,900  
And they have, like  
you go on a hose

1180  
00:48:35,900 --> 00:48:39,200  
and you see in cowboys, a hose.

1181  
00:48:39,200 --> 00:48:44,090  
But at the end of that  
thing was a totenkopf.

1182  
00:48:44,090 --> 00:48:46,280  
You know, the SS have  
a totenkopf here?

1183  
00:48:46,280 --> 00:48:47,680  
Yeah, death head.

1184  
00:48:47,680 --> 00:48:51,190  
A death head from  
steel on the end.

1185  
00:48:51,190 --> 00:48:52,580  
And I have to stay still.

1186  
00:48:52,580 --> 00:48:54,280  
And then, boom.

1187  
00:48:54,280 --> 00:48:56,280  
That's what, zz-zz, boom.

1188  
00:48:56,280 --> 00:48:57,770  
The end would come.

1189  
00:48:57,770 --> 00:49:00,810  
That was a joke for them, play.

1190  
00:49:00,810 --> 00:49:04,230  
And I was going like that.

1191  
00:49:04,230 --> 00:49:08,287  
And my head become like  
a watermelon, you know?

1192  
00:49:08,287 --> 00:49:09,720  
Swollen.

1193  
00:49:09,720 --> 00:49:11,747  
Swollen up.

1194  
00:49:11,747 --> 00:49:12,830  
There was no satisfaction.

1195  
00:49:12,830 --> 00:49:14,300  
They took me.

1196  
00:49:14,300 --> 00:49:19,920  
And by the kitchen was a tree,  
a tree going out this way.

1197  
00:49:19,920 --> 00:49:26,710  
They took out from the  
kitchen a chair, belts.

1198  
00:49:26,710 --> 00:49:30,960  
And they want to  
hang me by the hands.

1199  
00:49:30,960 --> 00:49:32,060  
Yeah.

1200

00:49:32,060 --> 00:49:38,040

And when they kick  
the chair and I hang,

1201

00:49:38,040 --> 00:49:41,230

I feel that somebody  
is cutting me.

1202

00:49:41,230 --> 00:49:44,070

That chef cut me down.

1203

00:49:44,070 --> 00:49:47,240

He said to those thing,  
you [NON-ENGLISH],,

1204

00:49:47,240 --> 00:49:50,390

he is not 100% a Jew.

1205

00:49:50,390 --> 00:49:53,090

This way, this way

1206

00:49:53,090 --> 00:49:54,910

So he told them-- ba, ba, ba--

1207

00:49:54,910 --> 00:49:57,670

I don't know what he told them.

1208

00:49:57,670 --> 00:49:59,640

And they let me go.

1209

00:49:59,640 --> 00:50:03,160

And he called two people to take  
me-- because I couldn't move--

1210

00:50:03,160 --> 00:50:06,000

take me in to the block.

1211

00:50:06,000 --> 00:50:09,430

And he said the guy who was  
responsible for cleaning

1212

00:50:09,430 --> 00:50:11,140

to take care of me.

1213

00:50:11,140 --> 00:50:15,580

And if in a week I'm not back  
in my situation I used to be,

1214

00:50:15,580 --> 00:50:19,057

you're going to  
take care of him.

1215

00:50:19,057 --> 00:50:20,140

He said, I'm not a doctor.

1216

00:50:20,140 --> 00:50:20,720

What to do?

1217

00:50:20,720 --> 00:50:24,000

I said, do nothing and  
bring me water, cold water.

1218

00:50:24,000 --> 00:50:25,910

He would put cold water.

1219

00:50:25,910 --> 00:50:29,290

And I started coming to myself.

1220

00:50:29,290 --> 00:50:31,280

And I start walking out.

1221

00:50:31,280 --> 00:50:32,410

Walking, walking.

1222

00:50:32,410 --> 00:50:35,473

People going out to work,  
and I don't go out to work.

1223

00:50:35,473 --> 00:50:36,160

People go out.

1224

00:50:36,160 --> 00:50:39,050

I don't go out to work.

1225

00:50:39,050 --> 00:50:41,560

He didn't let me go  
out to work, the chef.

1226  
00:50:41,560 --> 00:50:42,956  
Yeah.

1227  
00:50:42,956 --> 00:50:44,800  
I said, what is this?

1228  
00:50:44,800 --> 00:50:46,830  
Why I don't go out to work?

1229  
00:50:46,830 --> 00:50:50,740  
But a week later, he come to me  
and said, I have for you work,

1230  
00:50:50,740 --> 00:50:51,820  
a job.

1231  
00:50:51,820 --> 00:50:53,790  
What's the job?

1232  
00:50:53,790 --> 00:50:56,770  
The guy who would  
wash the clothes--

1233  
00:50:56,770 --> 00:51:04,050  
in the kitchen there was a  
pot to boil food for us--

1234  
00:51:04,050 --> 00:51:05,040  
coffee.

1235  
00:51:05,040 --> 00:51:06,150  
Coffee, it was not coffee.

1236  
00:51:06,150 --> 00:51:09,710  
It was, eh, [NON-ENGLISH].

1237  
00:51:09,710 --> 00:51:10,960  
I don't know how you call it--

1238  
00:51:10,960 --> 00:51:11,500  
chicory.

1239  
00:51:11,500 --> 00:51:12,000

Chicory.

1240  
00:51:12,000 --> 00:51:13,490  
It was black.

1241  
00:51:13,490 --> 00:51:15,610  
How would you call  
this in English?

1242  
00:51:15,610 --> 00:51:16,380  
Maybe chicory.

1243  
00:51:16,380 --> 00:51:18,910  
Chicory, or something, that  
would make coffee for us--

1244  
00:51:18,910 --> 00:51:19,410  
Yeah.

1245  
00:51:19,410 --> 00:51:22,160  
--and soup.

1246  
00:51:22,160 --> 00:51:25,950  
But you could see  
potato running around.

1247  
00:51:25,950 --> 00:51:27,500  
So that's what the kitchen was.

1248  
00:51:27,500 --> 00:51:30,190  
But it was not too many people.

1249  
00:51:30,190 --> 00:51:34,960  
They don't need all  
the bowls to boil.

1250  
00:51:34,960 --> 00:51:43,420  
So he give me two bowls to  
boil clothes for the leftover

1251  
00:51:43,420 --> 00:51:44,500  
people.

1252  
00:51:44,500 --> 00:51:48,310



Boys died out and changed  
it-- every Sunday,

1253  
00:51:48,310 --> 00:51:53,432  
changed the clothes for  
the leftover people.

1254  
00:51:53,432 --> 00:51:59,940  
So I said to the chef, chef,  
can I take somebody to help?

1255  
00:51:59,940 --> 00:52:01,185  
Of course.

1256  
00:52:01,185 --> 00:52:04,140  
So I took one buddy  
to help me out.

1257  
00:52:04,140 --> 00:52:06,330  
He still needs help--

1258  
00:52:06,330 --> 00:52:08,310  
from our camp.

1259  
00:52:08,310 --> 00:52:10,440  
You haven't talked  
about him yet.

1260  
00:52:10,440 --> 00:52:10,940  
No.

1261  
00:52:10,940 --> 00:52:11,470  
Just now?

1262  
00:52:11,470 --> 00:52:11,790  
OK.

1263  
00:52:11,790 --> 00:52:12,290  
Just now.

1264  
00:52:12,290 --> 00:52:12,900  
A new person.

1265  
00:52:12,900 --> 00:52:14,370

A new person come in.

1266

00:52:14,370 --> 00:52:18,540

And he said, you could  
take a helper to help.

1267

00:52:18,540 --> 00:52:20,310

So I took that kid.

1268

00:52:20,310 --> 00:52:25,570

And he was helping  
me chop wood to cook.

1269

00:52:25,570 --> 00:52:29,592

1270

00:52:29,592 --> 00:52:30,550

We were in the kitchen.

1271

00:52:30,550 --> 00:52:33,100

So when you're in  
the kitchen, you eat.

1272

00:52:33,100 --> 00:52:33,760

You have food.

1273

00:52:33,760 --> 00:52:34,826

You eat.

1274

00:52:34,826 --> 00:52:36,850

It was leftovers and  
before leftovers.

1275

00:52:36,850 --> 00:52:38,990

Also, we were cooking--

1276

00:52:38,990 --> 00:52:42,760

our cooks were  
cooking for the dogs.

1277

00:52:42,760 --> 00:52:44,810

It was a camp,  
German, with dogs.

1278

00:52:44,810 --> 00:52:45,370  
Yeah.

1279  
00:52:45,370 --> 00:52:47,370  
And that for the dogs--

1280  
00:52:47,370 --> 00:52:48,160  
delicious.

1281  
00:52:48,160 --> 00:52:50,520  
It was better than  
they gave the people.

1282  
00:52:50,520 --> 00:52:53,418  
So I was waiting when  
they take out the food

1283  
00:52:53,418 --> 00:52:54,460  
to the dogs, the Germans.

1284  
00:52:54,460 --> 00:52:57,228  
The leftovers, we  
scrub it down--

1285  
00:52:57,228 --> 00:52:57,770  
What a story.

1286  
00:52:57,770 --> 00:53:00,940  
--and bring it in,  
what's leftover for me,

1287  
00:53:00,940 --> 00:53:04,620  
and bring it in for the other  
kids, that they have some food.

1288  
00:53:04,620 --> 00:53:06,652  
But working in the  
kitchen helped you

1289  
00:53:06,652 --> 00:53:08,110  
because you were  
able to have food.

1290  
00:53:08,110 --> 00:53:08,530  
The kitchen--

1291  
00:53:08,530 --> 00:53:09,130  
It saved you.

1292  
00:53:09,130 --> 00:53:12,190  
--helped me, saved me, and  
picked me up on my legs.

1293  
00:53:12,190 --> 00:53:14,990  
And it's because you  
didn't eat that bread.

1294  
00:53:14,990 --> 00:53:17,182  
That bread, what I  
didn't take from him.

1295  
00:53:17,182 --> 00:53:17,890  
I didn't want it.

1296  
00:53:17,890 --> 00:53:22,762  
I said, it was like  
burning but like poison.

1297  
00:53:22,762 --> 00:53:23,262  
Yeah.

1298  
00:53:23,262 --> 00:53:26,530

1299  
00:53:26,530 --> 00:53:29,540  
And then from that  
camp, we were, leftover

1300  
00:53:29,540 --> 00:53:35,440  
from both groups, from  
3,000 people, 91 people.

1301  
00:53:35,440 --> 00:53:36,710  
Ugh.

1302  
00:53:36,710 --> 00:53:38,750  
How do you know  
that it was just 91?

1303

00:53:38,750 --> 00:53:42,650  
Because we were-- every  
day they were counting us.

1304  
00:53:42,650 --> 00:53:43,610  
Oh.

1305  
00:53:43,610 --> 00:53:46,090  
Like counting money,  
they were counting us.

1306  
00:53:46,090 --> 00:53:48,030  
And why we're still alive?

1307  
00:53:48,030 --> 00:53:48,530  
Yeah.

1308  
00:53:48,530 --> 00:53:55,550  
Because the younger SS  
men that were watching us,

1309  
00:53:55,550 --> 00:53:56,690  
they took away.

1310  
00:53:56,690 --> 00:53:58,980  
They put in the tired people.

1311  
00:53:58,980 --> 00:54:01,958  
SS got tired, because  
they need the youngers--

1312  
00:54:01,958 --> 00:54:02,500  
At the front.

1313  
00:54:02,500 --> 00:54:03,580  
--at the front.

1314  
00:54:03,580 --> 00:54:07,790  
So those older people  
had pity on us.

1315  
00:54:07,790 --> 00:54:08,950  
They didn't kill us.

1316

00:54:08,950 --> 00:54:10,830  
But how long did you  
stay at Bobruisk?

1317  
00:54:10,830 --> 00:54:13,030  
Do you know when you  
came there in 1942?

1318  
00:54:13,030 --> 00:54:13,910  
What month?

1319  
00:54:13,910 --> 00:54:15,140  
What time of the year?

1320  
00:54:15,140 --> 00:54:16,710  
Oh, that's in October.

1321  
00:54:16,710 --> 00:54:18,950  
You came in October '42.

1322  
00:54:18,950 --> 00:54:20,450  
And how long did you stay?

1323  
00:54:20,450 --> 00:54:22,220  
I stayed two winters.

1324  
00:54:22,220 --> 00:54:28,960  
I stayed about March--

1325  
00:54:28,960 --> 00:54:30,560  
April, March '44.

1326  
00:54:30,560 --> 00:54:33,420

1327  
00:54:33,420 --> 00:54:35,240  
Here, it says--

1328  
00:54:35,240 --> 00:54:36,750  
'44.

1329  
00:54:36,750 --> 00:54:38,060  
Well, here's Bobruisk, right?

1330  
00:54:38,060 --> 00:54:38,560  
Yeah.

1331  
00:54:38,560 --> 00:54:40,270  
1942, '43.

1332  
00:54:40,270 --> 00:54:42,270  
And then Lublin, Majdanek.

1333  
00:54:42,270 --> 00:54:46,020  
No, that was the  
beginning of '44, here.

1334  
00:54:46,020 --> 00:54:47,190  
So this is--

1335  
00:54:47,190 --> 00:54:48,390  
'44, beginning.

1336  
00:54:48,390 --> 00:54:51,830  
So this was until October '42  
until March '44, you think?

1337  
00:54:51,830 --> 00:54:52,520  
'44, yeah.

1338  
00:54:52,520 --> 00:54:56,020

1339  
00:54:56,020 --> 00:54:58,560  
'44.

1340  
00:54:58,560 --> 00:55:02,026  
All right, now, March 1944,  
you go to Lublin, Majdanek.

1341  
00:55:02,026 --> 00:55:02,970  
Yeah.

1342  
00:55:02,970 --> 00:55:05,580  
They took us to Minsk.

1343  
00:55:05,580 --> 00:55:08,090

But Minsk was a week.

1344  
00:55:08,090 --> 00:55:09,510  
Took us back to Minsk.

1345  
00:55:09,510 --> 00:55:10,160  
Yeah.

1346  
00:55:10,160 --> 00:55:12,890  
And from Minsk, we  
took it back to--

1347  
00:55:12,890 --> 00:55:13,390  
Majdanek.

1348  
00:55:13,390 --> 00:55:15,540  
And you came here, when?

1349  
00:55:15,540 --> 00:55:18,170  
'44, April.

1350  
00:55:18,170 --> 00:55:19,340  
About April '44.

1351  
00:55:19,340 --> 00:55:20,250  
Yeah.

1352  
00:55:20,250 --> 00:55:22,740  
And how long did you  
stay in Majdanek now?

1353  
00:55:22,740 --> 00:55:25,230  
Majdanek, I stayed about a week.

1354  
00:55:25,230 --> 00:55:28,840  
Oh, for one week.

1355  
00:55:28,840 --> 00:55:29,360  
And then--

1356  
00:55:29,360 --> 00:55:30,780  
Then Budzin.

1357



00:55:30,780 --> 00:55:31,814  
Is that Budzin here?

1358  
00:55:31,814 --> 00:55:32,356  
Yeah, Budzin.

1359  
00:55:32,356 --> 00:55:33,830  
Yeah, Buzdin, '44, Yeah.

1360  
00:55:33,830 --> 00:55:35,320  
So you came here.

1361  
00:55:35,320 --> 00:55:36,640  
And you stayed for, how long?

1362  
00:55:36,640 --> 00:55:46,930  
In Budzin, I stayed about  
the end of '44, November

1363  
00:55:46,930 --> 00:55:48,150  
or December '44--

1364  
00:55:48,150 --> 00:55:51,430  
December '44.

1365  
00:55:51,430 --> 00:55:53,610  
Till November or December.

1366  
00:55:53,610 --> 00:55:54,570  
Yeah.

1367  
00:55:54,570 --> 00:55:55,620  
OK.

1368  
00:55:55,620 --> 00:55:58,610  
And then you went to--

1369  
00:55:58,610 --> 00:56:00,550  
Milec, Wieliczka--

1370  
00:56:00,550 --> 00:56:02,050  
That's-- how do you spell it?

1371

00:56:02,050 --> 00:56:03,420  
M-I--

1372  
00:56:03,420 --> 00:56:04,720  
L-E-C.

1373  
00:56:04,720 --> 00:56:05,290  
Milec.

1374  
00:56:05,290 --> 00:56:06,150  
Milec.

1375  
00:56:06,150 --> 00:56:07,132  
And then Wieliczka.

1376  
00:56:07,132 --> 00:56:07,840  
What's Wieliczka?

1377  
00:56:07,840 --> 00:56:08,470  
Another town?

1378  
00:56:08,470 --> 00:56:10,030  
Another town, yeah.

1379  
00:56:10,030 --> 00:56:12,350  
Here was a day.

1380  
00:56:12,350 --> 00:56:13,750  
We continue to go to Milec.

1381  
00:56:13,750 --> 00:56:15,270  
And how long were you here?

1382  
00:56:15,270 --> 00:56:19,080  
Here I was about a short time.

1383  
00:56:19,080 --> 00:56:21,220  
In Milec, about a couple weeks.

1384  
00:56:21,220 --> 00:56:23,520  
In each town, were you  
in a camp or in a--

1385

00:56:23,520 --> 00:56:24,020  
Camps.

1386  
00:56:24,020 --> 00:56:24,520  
Camps.

1387  
00:56:24,520 --> 00:56:26,470  
Camps.

1388  
00:56:26,470 --> 00:56:27,950  
Two weeks in each camp.

1389  
00:56:27,950 --> 00:56:28,850  
Yeah, each camp.

1390  
00:56:28,850 --> 00:56:30,250  
Don't go over--

1391  
00:56:30,250 --> 00:56:31,330  
Just a minute, yeah.

1392  
00:56:31,330 --> 00:56:33,070  
Two weeks in each camp.

1393  
00:56:33,070 --> 00:56:37,030

1394  
00:56:37,030 --> 00:56:38,390  
All right.

1395  
00:56:38,390 --> 00:56:41,085  
And you were in  
the middle of 1944.

1396  
00:56:41,085 --> 00:56:41,960  
What's happening now?

1397  
00:56:41,960 --> 00:56:43,877  
It's that the Russians  
are coming into Poland.

1398  
00:56:43,877 --> 00:56:46,220  
Go over, yeah.

1399

00:56:46,220 --> 00:56:48,320

So you're in--

1400

00:56:48,320 --> 00:56:52,550

Did I tell you how we went out  
from Bobruisk, how we went?

1401

00:56:52,550 --> 00:56:53,050

No.

1402

00:56:53,050 --> 00:56:57,590

OK, so if you want to know,  
they get an order to evacuate.

1403

00:56:57,590 --> 00:56:58,930

From Bobruisk?

1404

00:56:58,930 --> 00:56:59,700

Bobruisk.

1405

00:56:59,700 --> 00:57:00,200

Yeah.

1406

00:57:00,200 --> 00:57:03,410

They get an order  
to evacuate us.

1407

00:57:03,410 --> 00:57:05,740

They need us to  
help because they

1408

00:57:05,740 --> 00:57:11,800

have a big transport with  
cows, with all kinds of stuff.

1409

00:57:11,800 --> 00:57:15,895

So they need us to help  
unload it, load it.

1410

00:57:15,895 --> 00:57:19,390

So they evacuate the  
whole camp, the 91 people.

1411

00:57:19,390 --> 00:57:22,070

And we went with that  
transport because the army

1412  
00:57:22,070 --> 00:57:24,420  
started going back.

1413  
00:57:24,420 --> 00:57:26,110  
They had to evacuate.

1414  
00:57:26,110 --> 00:57:27,070  
So they evacuated.

1415  
00:57:27,070 --> 00:57:28,290  
They evacuated us.

1416  
00:57:28,290 --> 00:57:31,260

1417  
00:57:31,260 --> 00:57:35,335  
So we come with that  
transport till Minsk.

1418  
00:57:35,335 --> 00:57:38,470  
In Minsk, they let  
us go in a camp.

1419  
00:57:38,470 --> 00:57:40,020  
It was a short time.

1420  
00:57:40,020 --> 00:57:41,830  
Then we go to Lublin.

1421  
00:57:41,830 --> 00:57:44,090  
From Lublin--

1422  
00:57:44,090 --> 00:57:47,260  
It sounds like a confusing  
time for the Germans.

1423  
00:57:47,260 --> 00:57:49,740  
Yeah, they started  
going back already.

1424  
00:57:49,740 --> 00:57:50,760

Yeah.

1425  
00:57:50,760 --> 00:57:53,940  
Did you sense a change  
in their attitude?

1426  
00:57:53,940 --> 00:57:54,840  
Their attitude, yeah.

1427  
00:57:54,840 --> 00:57:55,980  
How did you sense it?

1428  
00:57:55,980 --> 00:57:59,310  
Because they were watching us.

1429  
00:57:59,310 --> 00:58:01,200  
That time watching  
us, they changed

1430  
00:58:01,200 --> 00:58:04,170  
from young kids  
that were killing us

1431  
00:58:04,170 --> 00:58:06,630  
to older people,  
the tired people.

1432  
00:58:06,630 --> 00:58:07,130  
They were--

1433  
00:58:07,130 --> 00:58:09,090  
And the older people  
were not as nasty.

1434  
00:58:09,090 --> 00:58:11,810  
No, they were not nasty at all.

1435  
00:58:11,810 --> 00:58:13,150  
They liked clean.

1436  
00:58:13,150 --> 00:58:14,520  
They took us to clean.

1437  
00:58:14,520 --> 00:58:17,880

They took us-- a piece of  
paper to pick up or this.

1438  
00:58:17,880 --> 00:58:24,640  
They didn't bother us  
to kill or do something.

1439  
00:58:24,640 --> 00:58:27,400  
I have a big story  
from Bobruisk,

1440  
00:58:27,400 --> 00:58:30,170  
a big story of how I survived.

1441  
00:58:30,170 --> 00:58:34,040  
If I didn't tell you  
that, 20% I told you

1442  
00:58:34,040 --> 00:58:39,590  
what happened to me there,  
because I have a lot to say.

1443  
00:58:39,590 --> 00:58:40,100  
We have--

1444  
00:58:40,100 --> 00:58:42,420  
Most of your stories  
are in Bobruisk?

1445  
00:58:42,420 --> 00:58:46,880  
No, I have another story,  
a very important story

1446  
00:58:46,880 --> 00:58:49,790  
before I get to Dachau.

1447  
00:58:49,790 --> 00:58:51,546  
Before you get to Dachau.

1448  
00:58:51,546 --> 00:58:52,420  
Dachau, yeah.

1449  
00:58:52,420 --> 00:58:53,470  
Dachau's your last camp.

1450  
00:58:53,470 --> 00:58:54,350  
Yeah, Hirschberg

1451  
00:58:54,350 --> 00:58:55,130  
And Hirschberg.

1452  
00:58:55,130 --> 00:58:56,390  
That was a big story, too.

1453  
00:58:56,390 --> 00:58:59,490  
So you have a story in  
Bobruisk and a story in--

1454  
00:58:59,490 --> 00:59:00,150  
In Hirschberg.

1455  
00:59:00,150 --> 00:59:00,990  
In Hirschberg.

1456  
00:59:00,990 --> 00:59:01,490  
All right.

1457  
00:59:01,490 --> 00:59:06,050  
We'll do that as  
soon as we turn--

1458  
00:59:06,050 --> 00:59:08,300  
as soon as we change the  
tape because this one is

1459  
00:59:08,300 --> 00:59:08,950  
almost over.

1460  
00:59:08,950 --> 00:59:10,500  
OK.

1461  
00:59:10,500 --> 00:59:21,000