

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:15,930

2

00:00:15,930 --> 00:00:18,700

My name is Dr.

Sidney Langer and I

3

00:00:18,700 --> 00:00:20,520

am the Director of

the Oral History

4

00:00:20,520 --> 00:00:23,070

Project of the Holocaust

Studies Resource Center

5

00:00:23,070 --> 00:00:24,630

at Kean College.

6

00:00:24,630 --> 00:00:28,920

I'm very pleased that Mrs.

Milly Zuckerman, who presently

7

00:00:28,920 --> 00:00:33,060

resides in Hillside, New Jersey,

has consented to come and talk

8

00:00:33,060 --> 00:00:35,640

to me today about some

of her experiences

9

00:00:35,640 --> 00:00:37,600

during the Holocaust period.

10

00:00:37,600 --> 00:00:41,910

Thank you, Mrs. Zuckerman,

very much for coming.

11

00:00:41,910 --> 00:00:45,000

Could you tell me a

little bit about when

12

00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:49,280  
you were born, the town  
that you were born in,

13  
00:00:49,280 --> 00:00:52,050  
a little bit about your family?

14  
00:00:52,050 --> 00:00:56,610  
I was born in September, 1925.

15  
00:00:56,610 --> 00:00:58,320  
1925.

16  
00:00:58,320 --> 00:01:02,010  
And I have one sister.

17  
00:01:02,010 --> 00:01:05,310  
And we were a  
family just of four.

18  
00:01:05,310 --> 00:01:07,240  
And I lived in a little town.

19  
00:01:07,240 --> 00:01:07,830  
Older sister?

20  
00:01:07,830 --> 00:01:10,620  
Yes, who is not any more here.

21  
00:01:10,620 --> 00:01:14,160  
We lived in a little town  
by the name Humniska.

22  
00:01:14,160 --> 00:01:17,305  
There was a little  
town next to--

23  
00:01:17,305 --> 00:01:19,930  
the name of the next town was--  
which was a little bit bigger--

24  
00:01:19,930 --> 00:01:20,500

25  
00:01:20,500 --> 00:01:23,130  
That was already a big town.

26  
00:01:23,130 --> 00:01:24,480  
How large was your town?

27  
00:01:24,480 --> 00:01:28,980  
My town was maybe  
about 2,000 people.

28  
00:01:28,980 --> 00:01:30,360  
2,000 people?

29  
00:01:30,360 --> 00:01:33,570  
Yeah, because when I'd  
been recently in Poland,

30  
00:01:33,570 --> 00:01:37,860  
they said about 500  
Jews were buried there.

31  
00:01:37,860 --> 00:01:41,608  
I would assume what happened  
to that I don't know,

32  
00:01:41,608 --> 00:01:43,400  
but the 500 was buried  
in that little town.

33  
00:01:43,400 --> 00:01:47,386  
2,000 was the total population  
of the town or the Jewish--

34  
00:01:47,386 --> 00:01:48,200  
Total.

35  
00:01:48,200 --> 00:01:50,970  
And what was the  
Jewish population?

36

00:01:50,970 --> 00:01:56,630  
I would think about 1,000  
in Brzozów, not in Humniska.

37  
00:01:56,630 --> 00:01:59,603  
Where I lived, it was  
a very small town.

38  
00:01:59,603 --> 00:02:04,080  
We were about maybe  
20 Jewish families.

39  
00:02:04,080 --> 00:02:06,696

40  
00:02:06,696 --> 00:02:09,330  
How many non-Jewish families?

41  
00:02:09,330 --> 00:02:10,949  
Like I say, about 2,000.

42  
00:02:10,949 --> 00:02:12,360  
No, in your town.

43  
00:02:12,360 --> 00:02:14,670  
Oh, in my town, maybe--

44  
00:02:14,670 --> 00:02:15,960  
I don't know-- 500.

45  
00:02:15,960 --> 00:02:17,310  
Very small town.

46  
00:02:17,310 --> 00:02:23,580  
It's like I live in Hillside  
and next to Hillside is Newark.

47  
00:02:23,580 --> 00:02:26,190  
We were there very [? long ?].

48  
00:02:26,190 --> 00:02:28,500  
My father had a little grocery.

49  
00:02:28,500 --> 00:02:30,330  
So of course, all  
the Polish people

50  
00:02:30,330 --> 00:02:32,380  
knew my father very well.

51  
00:02:32,380 --> 00:02:34,140  
They used to come to shop.

52  
00:02:34,140 --> 00:02:36,610  
There was like a  
little Jew in town.

53  
00:02:36,610 --> 00:02:38,260  
And we were liked.

54  
00:02:38,260 --> 00:02:40,900  
We were well liked  
by the Polish people.

55  
00:02:40,900 --> 00:02:42,470  
But we still were Jewish.

56  
00:02:42,470 --> 00:02:47,790  
And we lived with not  
a fear, because nobody

57  
00:02:47,790 --> 00:02:54,130  
knew until the times of 1939  
that we became known as Jews.

58  
00:02:54,130 --> 00:02:55,290  
We knew we were Jewish.

59  
00:02:55,290 --> 00:03:00,360  
We heard at the school, I  
knew that, oh, she's Jewish.

60  
00:03:00,360 --> 00:03:02,040  
They were pointing at us.

61

00:03:02,040 --> 00:03:09,000

But we didn't know to be  
scared as much as until 1939.

62

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:11,910

When you say you went to school,  
you went to a public school?

63

00:03:11,910 --> 00:03:13,490

Yes, I went to a public school.

64

00:03:13,490 --> 00:03:17,020

There was not just  
special school for Jews.

65

00:03:17,020 --> 00:03:19,560

And then I had a little  
teacher who came to the house

66

00:03:19,560 --> 00:03:23,520

and gave to me private Jewish  
lessons, actually Hebrew

67

00:03:23,520 --> 00:03:24,690

lessons.

68

00:03:24,690 --> 00:03:28,080

They were not giving  
Jewish lessons, but Hebrew.

69

00:03:28,080 --> 00:03:31,200

You learned how to read  
and write in Hebrew,

70

00:03:31,200 --> 00:03:34,530

how to pray in Hebrew.

71

00:03:34,530 --> 00:03:37,020

And there was just a  
teacher who came to--

72

00:03:37,020 --> 00:03:40,620  
a special teacher-- who can  
give us private lessons.

73  
00:03:40,620 --> 00:03:42,260  
Because I was young.

74  
00:03:42,260 --> 00:03:45,330  
Now of course, then--

75  
00:03:45,330 --> 00:03:47,910  
How much older was your sister?

76  
00:03:47,910 --> 00:03:50,070  
My sister was about  
eight years older.

77  
00:03:50,070 --> 00:03:50,820  
Eight years older?

78  
00:03:50,820 --> 00:03:52,740  
Yes.

79  
00:03:52,740 --> 00:03:56,400  
She was already going to Hebrew  
school, because she was older--

80  
00:03:56,400 --> 00:03:58,600  
I was still young--

81  
00:03:58,600 --> 00:04:00,780  
to Brzoz<sup>3</sup>w, which  
was the next town.

82  
00:04:00,780 --> 00:04:03,120  
She was going--  
after public school,

83  
00:04:03,120 --> 00:04:07,810  
she was going already to  
a cheder they call it,

84

00:04:07,810 --> 00:04:10,230  
where they teach them more.

85  
00:04:10,230 --> 00:04:12,920  
Not me, because like I  
say, I was still young.

86  
00:04:12,920 --> 00:04:15,690  
So I had a private teacher  
who came to her house

87  
00:04:15,690 --> 00:04:18,670  
and gave me private  
lessons in Hebrew.

88  
00:04:18,670 --> 00:04:21,720  
So the Jewish boys in your town  
also went to the public school.

89  
00:04:21,720 --> 00:04:23,070  
It was a co-educational school.

90  
00:04:23,070 --> 00:04:23,570  
Yes, it was.

91  
00:04:23,570 --> 00:04:25,112  
There was no cheder  
in your own town?

92  
00:04:25,112 --> 00:04:26,520  
No, there was no  
cheder No, there

93  
00:04:26,520 --> 00:04:31,820  
was no cheder in my little  
town, just the next town.

94  
00:04:31,820 --> 00:04:37,730  
Till 1939, like I say, I was  
brought up like a little girl.

95  
00:04:37,730 --> 00:04:41,340  
No, I didn't know



the different did I

96

00:04:41,340 --> 00:04:43,750  
should be afraid to be Jewish.

97

00:04:43,750 --> 00:04:47,280  
But I say, at times, I felt  
that I told me, oh, you

98

00:04:47,280 --> 00:04:49,030  
are little Jew like this.

99

00:04:49,030 --> 00:04:51,290  
But they didn't  
mean nothing to me.

100

00:04:51,290 --> 00:04:54,740  
So I'm Jewish, so what?

101

00:04:54,740 --> 00:04:58,500  
When did that begin when people  
started telling you this?

102

00:04:58,500 --> 00:05:02,090  
Actually, we always knew  
that these antisemitic

103

00:05:02,090 --> 00:05:06,420  
between the Poles, the  
Polish people and the Jews.

104

00:05:06,420 --> 00:05:08,910  
But not as much  
until Hitler came.

105

00:05:08,910 --> 00:05:13,840  
That's what I felt. In 1939  
when Hitler came, of course,

106

00:05:13,840 --> 00:05:18,450  
Jewish kids couldn't  
go any more to school.

107

00:05:18,450 --> 00:05:22,820

We were just cut off of school.

108

00:05:22,820 --> 00:05:24,470

When I was 14 years old--

109

00:05:24,470 --> 00:05:28,370

like you know, because

1939, I was 14 years old--

110

00:05:28,370 --> 00:05:30,350

I had to go to work.

111

00:05:30,350 --> 00:05:33,200

When you say work, they

took us, even little kids,

112

00:05:33,200 --> 00:05:35,360

they put armbands on us.

113

00:05:35,360 --> 00:05:37,040

And they told us we are Jewish.

114

00:05:37,040 --> 00:05:39,930

And then they took us

to work to Brzozów,

115

00:05:39,930 --> 00:05:41,720

which was that next town.

116

00:05:41,720 --> 00:05:46,940

And we used to work at the

streets putting stones.

117

00:05:46,940 --> 00:05:49,580

It was not a labor camp,

because we used to come home.

118

00:05:49,580 --> 00:05:52,370

But to do work, hard work.

119

00:05:52,370 --> 00:05:55,750  
And something like this--

120  
00:05:55,750 --> 00:05:59,450  
well, I still lived at  
home that time in '39.

121  
00:05:59,450 --> 00:06:03,140  
But we were going  
every day to work.

122  
00:06:03,140 --> 00:06:06,980  
Can I take you back just  
for a couple of seconds.

123  
00:06:06,980 --> 00:06:12,260  
Did you know what was going  
on in Germany 1933, '34, '35?

124  
00:06:12,260 --> 00:06:13,863  
I'm sure my parents knew.

125  
00:06:13,863 --> 00:06:15,530  
I know you were very  
young at that time.

126  
00:06:15,530 --> 00:06:16,700  
Yes, I was young.

127  
00:06:16,700 --> 00:06:20,360  
And like I would say  
probably that was in Germany.

128  
00:06:20,360 --> 00:06:22,550  
Never going to happen by us.

129  
00:06:22,550 --> 00:06:24,950  
You really didn't believe  
that things like this

130  
00:06:24,950 --> 00:06:26,190  
is going to happen.

131

00:06:26,190 --> 00:06:27,200

I give you an example.

132

00:06:27,200 --> 00:06:30,860

When already later  
in 1940, we heard

133

00:06:30,860 --> 00:06:32,840

that they liquidate this town.

134

00:06:32,840 --> 00:06:34,540

They kill Jews there.

135

00:06:34,540 --> 00:06:37,220

We in that little, little  
group of Jewish people,

136

00:06:37,220 --> 00:06:39,110

we didn't believe and that.

137

00:06:39,110 --> 00:06:42,170

My father said, no, that  
couldn't happen to us.

138

00:06:42,170 --> 00:06:43,700

You were always selfish.

139

00:06:43,700 --> 00:06:46,670

You felt it's nothing's  
going to happen to you.

140

00:06:46,670 --> 00:06:48,900

I don't know why  
we felt that way.

141

00:06:48,900 --> 00:06:51,680

But we always felt  
it happened there,

142

00:06:51,680 --> 00:06:54,000

but it's not going  
to happen here.

143

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:57,050

When we heard that there was the  
pogroms that there was already

144

00:06:57,050 --> 00:07:01,730

in Krakow, they killed  
Jews, they may get us.

145

00:07:01,730 --> 00:07:03,590

We heard those  
things, but we always

146

00:07:03,590 --> 00:07:05,420

felt it's not going  
to happen to us.

147

00:07:05,420 --> 00:07:08,660

I don't know why,  
but that was always

148

00:07:08,660 --> 00:07:12,500

my parents' feeling that they  
protected their children.

149

00:07:12,500 --> 00:07:14,910

It couldn't happen to us.

150

00:07:14,910 --> 00:07:17,840

We just didn't believe  
in that it will happen.

151

00:07:17,840 --> 00:07:19,460

Did you remember  
some discussions

152

00:07:19,460 --> 00:07:23,630

with your family in  
1933, or '34, '35?

153

00:07:23,630 --> 00:07:24,250

Not really?

154

00:07:24,250 --> 00:07:25,640

Not really.

155

00:07:25,640 --> 00:07:31,270

No, my father-- to us, we never  
felt that it's going to happen,

156

00:07:31,270 --> 00:07:32,990

it's going to come to Poland.

157

00:07:32,990 --> 00:07:35,720

I don't remember my  
parents ever discuss things

158

00:07:35,720 --> 00:07:40,190

like this about Germany.

159

00:07:40,190 --> 00:07:46,250

Yes, we did hear that the German  
Jews, they let him-- in 1937,

160

00:07:46,250 --> 00:07:50,150

they throw them  
out from Germany.

161

00:07:50,150 --> 00:07:51,470

But that happened in Germany.

162

00:07:51,470 --> 00:07:53,100

It did not happen in Poland.

163

00:07:53,100 --> 00:07:57,230

know I wish some people  
would be prepared for it.

164

00:07:57,230 --> 00:08:01,580

I guess, they would make all  
their homes for themselves.

165

00:08:01,580 --> 00:08:04,440

But somehow, I think Jewish  
people never believed

166  
00:08:04,440 --> 00:08:07,670  
it's going to happen so fast.

167  
00:08:07,670 --> 00:08:09,290  
So your childhood then was--

168  
00:08:09,290 --> 00:08:12,170  
My childhood was pretty good.

169  
00:08:12,170 --> 00:08:19,370  
I really can tell you that  
I was growing up in fear.

170  
00:08:19,370 --> 00:08:20,920  
No, not till '39.

171  
00:08:20,920 --> 00:08:25,400  
Then in '39, I realized  
that it's that good.

172  
00:08:25,400 --> 00:08:28,630  
This already-- we  
already lived in fear.

173  
00:08:28,630 --> 00:08:32,330

174  
00:08:32,330 --> 00:08:34,262  
Do you remember when in '39?

175  
00:08:34,262 --> 00:08:34,970  
Do you remember--

176  
00:08:34,970 --> 00:08:35,940  
September.

177  
00:08:35,940 --> 00:08:37,520  
September of '39?

178  
00:08:37,520 --> 00:08:39,860

When the Germans--  
when I remember it

179  
00:08:39,860 --> 00:08:41,429  
was on a Friday morning.

180  
00:08:41,429 --> 00:08:45,630  
And my mother was making  
prepared for Shabbos.

181  
00:08:45,630 --> 00:08:49,970  
And all of a sudden, I heard  
that the planes were coming.

182  
00:08:49,970 --> 00:08:51,890  
And we lived in a  
town where they have

183  
00:08:51,890 --> 00:08:56,990  
a lot of refineries the oil.

184  
00:08:56,990 --> 00:08:59,795  
So they were bombarding  
already near us.

185  
00:08:59,795 --> 00:09:00,920  
How close was this?

186  
00:09:00,920 --> 00:09:04,580  
Very close, maybe three  
kilometers from my little town.

187  
00:09:04,580 --> 00:09:06,920  
Until that day, you didn't  
really have too much warning?

188  
00:09:06,920 --> 00:09:09,260  
No.

189  
00:09:09,260 --> 00:09:10,340  
No.

190



00:09:10,340 --> 00:09:11,210

No, not really.

191

00:09:11,210 --> 00:09:13,760

Not that I remember really.

192

00:09:13,760 --> 00:09:16,950

Maybe there was so much  
to do that I don't--

193

00:09:16,950 --> 00:09:20,210

we children weren't  
afraid of it maybe.

194

00:09:20,210 --> 00:09:21,290

I really don't remember.

195

00:09:21,290 --> 00:09:24,320

In '39, then I  
start to really feel

196

00:09:24,320 --> 00:09:26,400

that this is going  
to be-- already

197

00:09:26,400 --> 00:09:28,460

we couldn't go to school.

198

00:09:28,460 --> 00:09:30,667

The Jews couldn't go  
to school already.

199

00:09:30,667 --> 00:09:32,750

Was your sister still  
living with you at the time?

200

00:09:32,750 --> 00:09:33,260

Yes.

201

00:09:33,260 --> 00:09:33,830

In '39?

202

00:09:33,830 --> 00:09:36,930  
So she was 22 years old?

203  
00:09:36,930 --> 00:09:38,270  
Yes, approximately.

204  
00:09:38,270 --> 00:09:40,760  
Approximately about 21.

205  
00:09:40,760 --> 00:09:42,800  
Yes, she lived with us.

206  
00:09:42,800 --> 00:09:47,710  
And so like we were  
from '39 to '42,

207  
00:09:47,710 --> 00:09:51,980  
we were still in our  
little town at my home.

208  
00:09:51,980 --> 00:09:57,520  
In '42, they decided that all  
the little towns nearby, they

209  
00:09:57,520 --> 00:10:00,500  
would made like a Juden clear.

210  
00:10:00,500 --> 00:10:03,880  
They took all the Jews and  
they put them for the next town

211  
00:10:03,880 --> 00:10:04,910  
in Brzozów.

212  
00:10:04,910 --> 00:10:07,460  
They tell us that we're  
going to go there to work.

213  
00:10:07,460 --> 00:10:10,070  
We're going to live there.

214  
00:10:10,070 --> 00:10:12,020

We're going to  
improve ourselves,

215  
00:10:12,020 --> 00:10:15,800  
but we cannot come back to  
live in our little homes.

216  
00:10:15,800 --> 00:10:23,160  
They put us in scores, 10  
families like in a school.

217  
00:10:23,160 --> 00:10:26,960  
And from then they told us  
that we've got to work here.

218  
00:10:26,960 --> 00:10:29,900  
Then we knew that this is  
going to be something worse.

219  
00:10:29,900 --> 00:10:31,700  
We didn't believe it.

220  
00:10:31,700 --> 00:10:35,510  
Even between '39 and '42, you  
started telling me before you

221  
00:10:35,510 --> 00:10:41,270  
actually remember the day  
in 1939 when you cannot go

222  
00:10:41,270 --> 00:10:42,980  
to school anymore.

223  
00:10:42,980 --> 00:10:46,890  
Now you said you were told  
to put an armband on--

224  
00:10:46,890 --> 00:10:47,390  
Yes.

225  
00:10:47,390 --> 00:10:48,265  
--with a Jewish star.

226

00:10:48,265 --> 00:10:51,970

And they took us to work every  
day by bus, I think I remember,

227

00:10:51,970 --> 00:10:55,310

or we walked, snow or not snow.

228

00:10:55,310 --> 00:10:56,630

Who went to work?

229

00:10:56,630 --> 00:10:57,320

Me, my father.

230

00:10:57,320 --> 00:10:58,280

Not my mother.

231

00:10:58,280 --> 00:10:59,340

And my sister.

232

00:10:59,340 --> 00:11:00,470

No.

233

00:11:00,470 --> 00:11:03,260

No, just my sister,  
and me, and my father.

234

00:11:03,260 --> 00:11:05,030

Somehow my mother  
they didn't take.

235

00:11:05,030 --> 00:11:06,380

The women they didn't take.

236

00:11:06,380 --> 00:11:09,790

Just take two of the younger  
children and my father.

237

00:11:09,790 --> 00:11:14,030

And we all worked at the stones.

238

00:11:14,030 --> 00:11:15,230

How did they transport you?

239

00:11:15,230 --> 00:11:17,070

I think by bus.

240

00:11:17,070 --> 00:11:19,670

I think it was by bus.

241

00:11:19,670 --> 00:11:21,830

So most of the people  
in your town then--

242

00:11:21,830 --> 00:11:22,700

Went to work.

243

00:11:22,700 --> 00:11:23,990

Went to work.

244

00:11:23,990 --> 00:11:27,320

Yeah, Zwangsarbeit  
they called it.

245

00:11:27,320 --> 00:11:31,590

And like this, we  
worked till '42.

246

00:11:31,590 --> 00:11:33,440

Can you describe those  
years a little bit?

247

00:11:33,440 --> 00:11:35,510

Yeah, they were painful.

248

00:11:35,510 --> 00:11:39,100

Because I remember we  
couldn't do anything else.

249

00:11:39,100 --> 00:11:40,610

We couldn't go with the armband.

250

00:11:40,610 --> 00:11:42,470

And we were ashamed to wear it.

251  
00:11:42,470 --> 00:11:43,940  
Like look what happened to us.

252  
00:11:43,940 --> 00:11:47,270  
All of a sudden, we're known  
to everybody we're Jewish

253  
00:11:47,270 --> 00:11:50,510  
and they were pointing at us.

254  
00:11:50,510 --> 00:11:53,210  
Those years were very  
painful, very painful

255  
00:11:53,210 --> 00:11:55,490  
growing up as a little girl.

256  
00:11:55,490 --> 00:11:57,670  
I couldn't go to school anymore.

257  
00:11:57,670 --> 00:12:00,450  
So my education was gone.

258  
00:12:00,450 --> 00:12:03,530  
And my parents always  
thought it's going to get

259  
00:12:03,530 --> 00:12:07,790  
better tomorrow,  
tomorrow, maybe next week.

260  
00:12:07,790 --> 00:12:10,820  
The Germans are not going  
to be forever with us.

261  
00:12:10,820 --> 00:12:13,310  
That's what they  
explained to me.

262  
00:12:13,310 --> 00:12:15,440  
Someday, they're

going to go away.

263

00:12:15,440 --> 00:12:16,580

War is going to finish.

264

00:12:16,580 --> 00:12:17,750

Maybe in a week.

265

00:12:17,750 --> 00:12:19,340

Maybe in two weeks.

266

00:12:19,340 --> 00:12:22,290

Nobody thought it's going  
to take so many years.

267

00:12:22,290 --> 00:12:24,290

Can you describe some of  
the working conditions?

268

00:12:24,290 --> 00:12:27,460

Did you work in the same  
place with your father?

269

00:12:27,460 --> 00:12:27,960

No.

270

00:12:27,960 --> 00:12:29,840

No, the children  
worked separate.

271

00:12:29,840 --> 00:12:32,320

The young people worked harder.

272

00:12:32,320 --> 00:12:34,820

We were carrying stones.

273

00:12:34,820 --> 00:12:36,860

And the stones were--

274

00:12:36,860 --> 00:12:41,420

we used to take stones from here  
to there just to make us work.

275  
00:12:41,420 --> 00:12:45,720  
Nothing really and  
we made the streets.

276  
00:12:45,720 --> 00:12:49,160  
Like you would see  
asphalt. My father

277  
00:12:49,160 --> 00:12:52,110  
would work the same  
way, maybe harder.

278  
00:12:52,110 --> 00:12:53,910  
So when did you leave  
home in the morning?

279  
00:12:53,910 --> 00:12:56,420  
We used to leave 8:00.

280  
00:12:56,420 --> 00:12:58,940  
And then this I don't remember.

281  
00:12:58,940 --> 00:13:00,210  
They gave us--

282  
00:13:00,210 --> 00:13:02,480  
I'm sure they gave  
us to eat there.

283  
00:13:02,480 --> 00:13:04,640  
Because we used to  
come home like at two,

284  
00:13:04,640 --> 00:13:07,440  
three o'clock after work.

285  
00:13:07,440 --> 00:13:11,580  
And we worked like this for  
day after day, day after day,

286  
00:13:11,580 --> 00:13:15,380



hoping that tomorrow  
the war will finish.

287  
00:13:15,380 --> 00:13:18,080  
Unfortunately, it didn't.

288  
00:13:18,080 --> 00:13:20,840  
It was very hard on us children.

289  
00:13:20,840 --> 00:13:22,520  
Because there is no education.

290  
00:13:22,520 --> 00:13:24,430  
You couldn't go any place.

291  
00:13:24,430 --> 00:13:25,880  
You couldn't go to a movie.

292  
00:13:25,880 --> 00:13:28,820  
Everything finished  
for me, stopped.

293  
00:13:28,820 --> 00:13:32,222  
And that was like this to '42.

294  
00:13:32,222 --> 00:13:34,180  
Would you say that all  
the years were the same?

295  
00:13:34,180 --> 00:13:38,290  
Was there anything  
significant between 1940

296  
00:13:38,290 --> 00:13:43,900  
and '41 as compared to '39  
and '40, or '41 and '42?

297  
00:13:43,900 --> 00:13:48,040  
Since we were so made  
towards to ourselves,

298  
00:13:48,040 --> 00:13:49,540

we didn't know any better.

299

00:13:49,540 --> 00:13:52,870

I guess, every day was  
the same as the next day.

300

00:13:52,870 --> 00:13:53,980

I don't remember.

301

00:13:53,980 --> 00:13:56,030

I don't recall.

302

00:13:56,030 --> 00:13:59,590

I'm sure it must have  
been worse by progressing,

303

00:13:59,590 --> 00:14:01,720

like we thought there  
was no end to it.

304

00:14:01,720 --> 00:14:03,880

It must've been.

305

00:14:03,880 --> 00:14:06,010

Every day, I said, when  
is it going to finish?

306

00:14:06,010 --> 00:14:08,540

When are we going to be free?

307

00:14:08,540 --> 00:14:12,400

But my father always was  
a good attitude he had.

308

00:14:12,400 --> 00:14:13,030

Don't worry.

309

00:14:13,030 --> 00:14:14,020

That's going to finish.

310

00:14:14,020 --> 00:14:16,010

It can't be forever.

311  
00:14:16,010 --> 00:14:18,040  
But it was forever.

312  
00:14:18,040 --> 00:14:20,650  
Because three years,  
it sound not long.

313  
00:14:20,650 --> 00:14:22,180  
But it was forever.

314  
00:14:22,180 --> 00:14:22,840  
Forever.

315  
00:14:22,840 --> 00:14:25,930  
Did you work seven days a week?

316  
00:14:25,930 --> 00:14:31,030  
They probably at the beginning,  
I think they respected Shabbos.

317  
00:14:31,030 --> 00:14:32,380  
I didn't work on Shabbat.

318  
00:14:32,380 --> 00:14:33,610  
Your family was observant?

319  
00:14:33,610 --> 00:14:34,690  
Observant, yes.

320  
00:14:34,690 --> 00:14:37,340  
We didn't work on  
Shabbat until it

321  
00:14:37,340 --> 00:14:39,160  
became later worse and worse.

322  
00:14:39,160 --> 00:14:42,730  
Because this was like  
work, not like we were not

323

00:14:42,730 --> 00:14:44,260  
in a concentration camp.

324  
00:14:44,260 --> 00:14:45,400  
It was like free work.

325  
00:14:45,400 --> 00:14:46,540  
That's what we had to do.

326  
00:14:46,540 --> 00:14:49,455

327  
00:14:49,455 --> 00:14:52,470  
In 1942-- this I remember--

328  
00:14:52,470 --> 00:14:55,010  
Were you paid at all for  
the work that you did?

329  
00:14:55,010 --> 00:14:55,510  
Excuse me?

330  
00:14:55,510 --> 00:14:57,606  
Were you paid at all for  
the work that you did?

331  
00:14:57,606 --> 00:14:58,540  
No.

332  
00:14:58,540 --> 00:15:01,210  
How did your father support--

333  
00:15:01,210 --> 00:15:01,840  
how was he--

334  
00:15:01,840 --> 00:15:04,720  
I told you, we had  
a little grocery.

335  
00:15:04,720 --> 00:15:06,850  
But the grocery,  
they closed at us.

336  
00:15:06,850 --> 00:15:09,010  
They took it away.

337  
00:15:09,010 --> 00:15:13,030  
We probably-- I don't  
remember exactly,

338  
00:15:13,030 --> 00:15:16,630  
but we probably had  
something still.

339  
00:15:16,630 --> 00:15:18,260  
It wasn't easy.

340  
00:15:18,260 --> 00:15:20,050  
It was really not easy.

341  
00:15:20,050 --> 00:15:23,440  
During those years, did  
anybody help you in the town

342  
00:15:23,440 --> 00:15:24,820  
that you lived in?

343  
00:15:24,820 --> 00:15:26,160  
No.

344  
00:15:26,160 --> 00:15:27,043  
No.

345  
00:15:27,043 --> 00:15:28,210  
In terms of giving you food?

346  
00:15:28,210 --> 00:15:28,770  
No.

347  
00:15:28,770 --> 00:15:31,030  
No, that was not necessary then.

348  
00:15:31,030 --> 00:15:33,160

It wasn't necessary.

349

00:15:33,160 --> 00:15:36,130

Because we were  
still at our home.

350

00:15:36,130 --> 00:15:39,250

The only thing which I remember  
very good-- this I remember--

351

00:15:39,250 --> 00:15:43,210

when they came-- one day they  
came and all the Jews from

352

00:15:43,210 --> 00:15:46,210

the little town to the next  
town, which was Brzozów.

353

00:15:46,210 --> 00:15:47,670

This is in 1942?

354

00:15:47,670 --> 00:15:49,150

It's in 1942, right.

355

00:15:49,150 --> 00:15:53,170

In Brzozów, my mother  
had the whole family,

356

00:15:53,170 --> 00:15:55,360

my mother's lived in Brzozów.

357

00:15:55,360 --> 00:15:59,318

So she said, OK, so we're  
going to live with Grandma.

358

00:15:59,318 --> 00:16:00,610

My mother's sister lived there.

359

00:16:00,610 --> 00:16:02,770

And my mother's  
mother lived there.

360

00:16:02,770 --> 00:16:03,640  
Her whole family.

361  
00:16:03,640 --> 00:16:06,447  
She says, nothing happened.

362  
00:16:06,447 --> 00:16:08,530  
We're going to live there  
and we're going to work.

363  
00:16:08,530 --> 00:16:12,580  
And again, we're going to  
wait until the war finish.

364  
00:16:12,580 --> 00:16:15,540  
This is not your own decision  
to move to the next town.

365  
00:16:15,540 --> 00:16:16,750  
We had to.

366  
00:16:16,750 --> 00:16:17,290  
We had to.

367  
00:16:17,290 --> 00:16:19,290  
Moved the entire Jewish  
identity from your town?

368  
00:16:19,290 --> 00:16:21,700  
The entire Jewish, 20  
families or whatever

369  
00:16:21,700 --> 00:16:25,600  
it was, had to move, move out.

370  
00:16:25,600 --> 00:16:29,260  
They made a Juden clean.

371  
00:16:29,260 --> 00:16:30,700  
We all had to move.

372  
00:16:30,700 --> 00:16:34,000

Where they took with the  
others, I don't know exactly.

373

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:37,000

Because they took us to Brzozów.

374

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:40,000

In Brzozów, which  
was the next town,

375

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:41,830

they told us we have to go--

376

00:16:41,830 --> 00:16:44,770

this town has already  
too many Jews.

377

00:16:44,770 --> 00:16:49,300

They took us to another town,  
Rymanow, to another school.

378

00:16:49,300 --> 00:16:52,735

And there we weren't  
too long, maybe a week.

379

00:16:52,735 --> 00:16:54,610

And you were still  
together with your family?

380

00:16:54,610 --> 00:16:57,510

Still together with my father  
and mother, with my parents.

381

00:16:57,510 --> 00:16:58,300

And your sister?

382

00:16:58,300 --> 00:16:59,710

And my sister, right.

383

00:16:59,710 --> 00:17:03,610

They took us to the  
other town also working.



384

00:17:03,610 --> 00:17:07,200

There I don't remember exactly  
how long, but not too long.

385

00:17:07,200 --> 00:17:10,810

Maybe a week or maybe  
two we were there.

386

00:17:10,810 --> 00:17:12,819

And they were working.

387

00:17:12,819 --> 00:17:15,970

And then they already  
started liquidating.

388

00:17:15,970 --> 00:17:19,030

The young people they  
took to labor camps.

389

00:17:19,030 --> 00:17:21,849

And the older people, I don't  
know where they took them.

390

00:17:21,849 --> 00:17:22,930

So my father--

391

00:17:22,930 --> 00:17:26,170

I didn't know-- got to  
talk to somebody there.

392

00:17:26,170 --> 00:17:29,060

He says, let us go  
back to Brzoz<sup>3</sup>w,

393

00:17:29,060 --> 00:17:31,000

which is the next town.

394

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:34,600

And we're going to  
stay with my family.

395

00:17:34,600 --> 00:17:36,220

And they told us that we can go.

396

00:17:36,220 --> 00:17:38,630

We went back to Brzoza<sup>3</sup>w.

397

00:17:38,630 --> 00:17:41,080

And we stayed with  
my mother's family.

398

00:17:41,080 --> 00:17:44,050

But very short, maybe  
two or three days.

399

00:17:44,050 --> 00:17:46,520

Because the same thing  
happened to Brzoza<sup>3</sup>w,

400

00:17:46,520 --> 00:17:49,000

to the little town  
which was next.

401

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:52,810

They liquidate all the  
town, the whole town.

402

00:17:52,810 --> 00:17:55,940

They put everybody in a stadium.

403

00:17:55,940 --> 00:17:57,850

Did you know what a stadium is?

404

00:17:57,850 --> 00:18:00,270

It's the place where  
they go playing.

405

00:18:00,270 --> 00:18:02,950

And they put everybody there.

406

00:18:02,950 --> 00:18:05,290

Suddenly, they make  
rules that everybody

407

00:18:05,290 --> 00:18:06,790  
should leave their home.

408  
00:18:06,790 --> 00:18:09,570  
Whatever you have, you take.

409  
00:18:09,570 --> 00:18:11,560  
As little as possible.

410  
00:18:11,560 --> 00:18:17,770  
Just one or two pair of shoes  
and something to change.

411  
00:18:17,770 --> 00:18:21,010  
Because they're going to  
send us to labor camps now.

412  
00:18:21,010 --> 00:18:22,620  
Now we're going to labor camps.

413  
00:18:22,620 --> 00:18:24,060  
And we're going to work there.

414  
00:18:24,060 --> 00:18:25,810  
So we don't need too  
much, because they're

415  
00:18:25,810 --> 00:18:27,850  
going to pay us money there.

416  
00:18:27,850 --> 00:18:30,430  
And we're going to  
make a living there.

417  
00:18:30,430 --> 00:18:34,360  
That's what we had, because  
they took already away from us

418  
00:18:34,360 --> 00:18:36,160  
from the first liquidation.

419  
00:18:36,160 --> 00:18:39,680

So my father said,  
it's not good.

420  
00:18:39,680 --> 00:18:40,540  
This is not good.

421  
00:18:40,540 --> 00:18:42,180  
I don't believe him now.

422  
00:18:42,180 --> 00:18:46,180  
Now we have to find where  
we're going to run away.

423  
00:18:46,180 --> 00:18:47,780  
So my mother said  
she's not going

424  
00:18:47,780 --> 00:18:51,240  
to leave her mother, which  
is only understandable.

425  
00:18:51,240 --> 00:18:55,420  
She was a woman maybe  
in her 60s her mother.

426  
00:18:55,420 --> 00:18:57,880  
I'm sure maybe in  
the 70s, I think.

427  
00:18:57,880 --> 00:18:59,140  
And her father was--

428  
00:18:59,140 --> 00:19:01,000  
No, my grandfather  
was not alive.

429  
00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:04,360  
And my father said, now  
we have to think serious.

430  
00:19:04,360 --> 00:19:06,190  
We have to run away.

431

00:19:06,190 --> 00:19:08,110

So where we're going to run?

432

00:19:08,110 --> 00:19:10,840

So my mother says  
she's not going.

433

00:19:10,840 --> 00:19:14,490

She's not going to leave  
her mother and her sister.

434

00:19:14,490 --> 00:19:17,740

But my father said, we've  
got to become selfish now.

435

00:19:17,740 --> 00:19:19,120

We have to run.

436

00:19:19,120 --> 00:19:22,850

Because tomorrow, which is I  
think was Monday, that I think,

437

00:19:22,850 --> 00:19:24,970

but it was a Monday.

438

00:19:24,970 --> 00:19:27,160

He says, they are  
going to do something,

439

00:19:27,160 --> 00:19:33,670

which my foresight tells me  
that it's not going to be good.

440

00:19:33,670 --> 00:19:36,790

And so at night, we decide.

441

00:19:36,790 --> 00:19:39,250

And my mother's  
mother said she's not

442

00:19:39,250 --> 00:19:41,670

going to leave her daughter,

which was my mother's

443

00:19:41,670 --> 00:19:43,570

sister, with her children.

444

00:19:43,570 --> 00:19:48,440

So that meant that we can't

wait for everybody to run.

445

00:19:48,440 --> 00:19:49,790

We became selfish.

446

00:19:49,790 --> 00:19:52,060

And we said, OK, so

we're going to run.

447

00:19:52,060 --> 00:19:56,140

And that night, we took

what we had and we went away

448

00:19:56,140 --> 00:19:57,660

from my mother--

449

00:19:57,660 --> 00:20:02,650

from my grandmother, excuse

me, to that Mrs. Bocon

450

00:20:02,650 --> 00:20:04,930

who is now here.

451

00:20:04,930 --> 00:20:09,780

But her name was Mrs. Kedra,

because that was her mother.

452

00:20:09,780 --> 00:20:13,080

OK, so the date, you remember?

453

00:20:13,080 --> 00:20:16,300

The date, I remember

it was in September.

454

00:20:16,300 --> 00:20:18,100

I don't remember exactly.

455  
00:20:18,100 --> 00:20:19,680  
1942.

456  
00:20:19,680 --> 00:20:22,120  
It was like already fall.

457  
00:20:22,120 --> 00:20:24,870  
It was already--  
the grass was wet.

458  
00:20:24,870 --> 00:20:28,180  
How you say it?

459  
00:20:28,180 --> 00:20:30,530  
My English is going.

460  
00:20:30,530 --> 00:20:33,070  
When you get up in the fall  
where the grass is white.

461  
00:20:33,070 --> 00:20:33,700  
Dew.

462  
00:20:33,700 --> 00:20:34,930  
Dew, right.

463  
00:20:34,930 --> 00:20:37,360  
So it was in September.

464  
00:20:37,360 --> 00:20:39,400  
So you had said that  
your father knew--

465  
00:20:39,400 --> 00:20:43,900  
He had a feeling that  
it's not going to be good.

466  
00:20:43,900 --> 00:20:45,670  
And matter of fact,  
that day, they

467

00:20:45,670 --> 00:20:50,570

make a big, big  
grave, tremendous.

468

00:20:50,570 --> 00:20:54,820

And they killed five or  
maybe more hundred Jews.

469

00:20:54,820 --> 00:20:57,760

What happened to the  
rest, I cannot tell you.

470

00:20:57,760 --> 00:20:59,360

I don't know.

471

00:20:59,360 --> 00:21:02,620

We never find out where  
they took the rest Jews.

472

00:21:02,620 --> 00:21:08,230

But I know about 500, which was  
my grandmother, and my mother's

473

00:21:08,230 --> 00:21:15,570

sister, and my uncle who lived  
in this town, they all went.

474

00:21:15,570 --> 00:21:16,630

They all went.

475

00:21:16,630 --> 00:21:19,250

So what day then did  
you leave the town?

476

00:21:19,250 --> 00:21:19,750

Excuse me?

477

00:21:19,750 --> 00:21:20,890

What day did you leave?

478

00:21:20,890 --> 00:21:21,920



It was on Monday.

479

00:21:21,920 --> 00:21:22,760

It was on Monday.

480

00:21:22,760 --> 00:21:24,052

In the morning, in other words?

481

00:21:24,052 --> 00:21:25,450

Yeah.

482

00:21:25,450 --> 00:21:27,020

It was must have  
been Sunday night,

483

00:21:27,020 --> 00:21:30,520

like four or five  
o'clock in the morning.

484

00:21:30,520 --> 00:21:33,130

So you left yourself,  
your sister--

485

00:21:33,130 --> 00:21:34,570

My mother, father,  
and my mother.

486

00:21:34,570 --> 00:21:35,740

Four of us, yes.

487

00:21:35,740 --> 00:21:36,760

And you went back?

488

00:21:36,760 --> 00:21:40,180

And we went back wondering and  
now so where we're going to go.

489

00:21:40,180 --> 00:21:43,750

So my father said, when  
we had the little grocery

490

00:21:43,750 --> 00:21:46,180

in that little town, there  
was a widow always coming

491  
00:21:46,180 --> 00:21:47,440  
to my store.

492  
00:21:47,440 --> 00:21:50,560  
Her name was Mrs.  
Michalina Kedra.

493  
00:21:50,560 --> 00:21:52,510  
She always was so nice.

494  
00:21:52,510 --> 00:21:55,120  
But when already the time  
was where she said once

495  
00:21:55,120 --> 00:21:59,080  
to my father, if any time  
you would have some trouble,

496  
00:21:59,080 --> 00:22:00,630  
call on me.

497  
00:22:00,630 --> 00:22:02,230  
And he remembered that.

498  
00:22:02,230 --> 00:22:04,870  
And he said, we're going  
to knock on her window

499  
00:22:04,870 --> 00:22:06,630  
and we're going to see.

500  
00:22:06,630 --> 00:22:09,810  
Nobody thought it's  
going to take forever.

501  
00:22:09,810 --> 00:22:13,360  
We thought it's going  
to take another week.

502

00:22:13,360 --> 00:22:15,560

The Jews were  
fooling themselves.

503

00:22:15,560 --> 00:22:19,820

They always thought it's going  
to take a day to a week, two.

504

00:22:19,820 --> 00:22:21,280

And it's going to pass.

505

00:22:21,280 --> 00:22:25,900

So we probably thought he  
said, we're going to go to her.

506

00:22:25,900 --> 00:22:28,420

And I'm sure she's  
going to help us.

507

00:22:28,420 --> 00:22:31,510

He said, maybe she's going  
to just take the children.

508

00:22:31,510 --> 00:22:35,770

He referred to me  
as me, maybe Millie,

509

00:22:35,770 --> 00:22:39,350

because Helen and they  
went to school together.

510

00:22:39,350 --> 00:22:41,198

So let's just have  
one someplace.

511

00:22:41,198 --> 00:22:42,740

You went to school  
with her daughter?

512

00:22:42,740 --> 00:22:46,990

With Mrs. Bocon, yes.

513

00:22:46,990 --> 00:22:48,460

OK, so my father--

514

00:22:48,460 --> 00:22:51,760

Did you have any trouble  
going back to that city?

515

00:22:51,760 --> 00:22:52,555

Did you have to--

516

00:22:52,555 --> 00:22:54,550

Who thought about that?

517

00:22:54,550 --> 00:22:57,550

You were so involved  
how to save yourself

518

00:22:57,550 --> 00:23:00,460

that they shouldn't  
find you that you really

519

00:23:00,460 --> 00:23:03,310

didn't think of anything.

520

00:23:03,310 --> 00:23:05,050

I don't remember  
thinking anything.

521

00:23:05,050 --> 00:23:07,403

Just that we should  
be hidden someplace,

522

00:23:07,403 --> 00:23:08,570

that they shouldn't find us.

523

00:23:08,570 --> 00:23:13,105

Physically you were able to  
leave to get back to the town?

524

00:23:13,105 --> 00:23:14,980

In other words, they  
would have prevented you

525

00:23:14,980 --> 00:23:17,520  
from going from the town had  
they known you were going?

526  
00:23:17,520 --> 00:23:18,850  
Oh, definitely.

527  
00:23:18,850 --> 00:23:21,580  
I was just wondering what may  
have happened which allowed

528  
00:23:21,580 --> 00:23:22,803  
you to get out of the town.

529  
00:23:22,803 --> 00:23:24,970  
What would have happened,  
they would have killed us.

530  
00:23:24,970 --> 00:23:25,960  
No, I understand.

531  
00:23:25,960 --> 00:23:29,572  
But how was it that you were  
able to escape from the town?

532  
00:23:29,572 --> 00:23:32,190  
It was just one of those things.

533  
00:23:32,190 --> 00:23:35,430  
You just didn't think  
about it, I guess.

534  
00:23:35,430 --> 00:23:38,270  
We just said, we're  
leaving, we're going.

535  
00:23:38,270 --> 00:23:41,590  
We left everything behind and  
we just started running away.

536  
00:23:41,590 --> 00:23:44,280  
You run away, because we  
did go during the night.

537  
00:23:44,280 --> 00:23:45,728  
Because during the day--

538  
00:23:45,728 --> 00:23:47,520  
first of all, you had  
to wear the armbands,

539  
00:23:47,520 --> 00:23:48,937  
so they knew right  
away that we're

540  
00:23:48,937 --> 00:23:54,310  
running away from whatever  
is going to happen tomorrow.

541  
00:23:54,310 --> 00:23:57,290  
So we knocked at her door  
and she said, who is it?

542  
00:23:57,290 --> 00:23:59,870  
And my father said, my  
maiden name is Mark.

543  
00:23:59,870 --> 00:24:03,140  
He said, this is Mark.

544  
00:24:03,140 --> 00:24:04,995  
She said, shh, don't say loud.

545  
00:24:04,995 --> 00:24:06,120  
And she opened up the door.

546  
00:24:06,120 --> 00:24:09,150  
And she says, what do you want?

547  
00:24:09,150 --> 00:24:12,670  
So my father said,  
I would like to--

548  
00:24:12,670 --> 00:24:14,490  
where he came from Brzozów.

549

00:24:14,490 --> 00:24:18,150

And I think tomorrow, it's going  
to be the liquidation of Jews.

550

00:24:18,150 --> 00:24:20,940

Can you hold us  
for a day or two?

551

00:24:20,940 --> 00:24:24,750

She says, OK, let me  
see what I can do.

552

00:24:24,750 --> 00:24:26,860

She was quiet, very quiet.

553

00:24:26,860 --> 00:24:29,560

She put us all in the attic.

554

00:24:29,560 --> 00:24:30,540

And it was true.

555

00:24:30,540 --> 00:24:34,290

The next day, she came up  
and she says, you were lucky.

556

00:24:34,290 --> 00:24:35,400

You escaped.

557

00:24:35,400 --> 00:24:38,910

They did liquidate  
the whole town.

558

00:24:38,910 --> 00:24:40,690

Of course, my mother was crying.

559

00:24:40,690 --> 00:24:43,080

We were all crying,  
because we lost--

560

00:24:43,080 --> 00:24:46,090

we figured we lost everybody.

561  
00:24:46,090 --> 00:24:49,540  
So now we said to her, what  
are you going to do with us?

562  
00:24:49,540 --> 00:24:51,420  
She says, what can I do?

563  
00:24:51,420 --> 00:24:53,340  
I have four of my own children.

564  
00:24:53,340 --> 00:24:57,300  
I'm going to try to see if  
I can keep you all here.

565  
00:24:57,300 --> 00:25:00,090  
It wasn't easy for her,  
because she-- like I told you,

566  
00:25:00,090 --> 00:25:01,380  
she was a widow.

567  
00:25:01,380 --> 00:25:03,000  
She had no husband.

568  
00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:05,112  
She had those four children.

569  
00:25:05,112 --> 00:25:05,820  
And we were four.

570  
00:25:05,820 --> 00:25:08,250  
There were all eight of us.

571  
00:25:08,250 --> 00:25:14,160  
And from day to day, it was  
very dangerous to live there.

572  
00:25:14,160 --> 00:25:16,440  
Because she probably was scared.

573



00:25:16,440 --> 00:25:20,760  
Because in the beginning,  
they were looking for Jews.

574  
00:25:20,760 --> 00:25:22,770  
They were looking not  
particular for us,

575  
00:25:22,770 --> 00:25:25,620  
but they were looking for Jews.

576  
00:25:25,620 --> 00:25:28,230  
So you were not able to ever  
go outside of the house?

577  
00:25:28,230 --> 00:25:29,820  
Not at all.

578  
00:25:29,820 --> 00:25:31,410  
Not at all.

579  
00:25:31,410 --> 00:25:34,350  
But that was going go on and on.

580  
00:25:34,350 --> 00:25:40,350  
And finally, my father had  
some money to give her.

581  
00:25:40,350 --> 00:25:42,300  
We needed a bread,  
we needed milk.

582  
00:25:42,300 --> 00:25:43,920  
She had nothing.

583  
00:25:43,920 --> 00:25:46,930  
So my father was able  
to give her some money.

584  
00:25:46,930 --> 00:25:50,670  
And the money finished.

585

00:25:50,670 --> 00:25:53,370  
So my father knew another--

586  
00:25:53,370 --> 00:25:56,100  
How long were you  
with that family?

587  
00:25:56,100 --> 00:25:56,730  
Three years.

588  
00:25:56,730 --> 00:26:00,350  
Before, you're saying  
that your father's money--

589  
00:26:00,350 --> 00:26:01,390  
Well, I don't know--

590  
00:26:01,390 --> 00:26:02,760  
I don't remember exactly.

591  
00:26:02,760 --> 00:26:04,150  
Not too long.

592  
00:26:04,150 --> 00:26:05,140  
Not too long.

593  
00:26:05,140 --> 00:26:06,330  
Maybe a couple of months.

594  
00:26:06,330 --> 00:26:08,820  
How much did we have?

595  
00:26:08,820 --> 00:26:15,660  
But my father had in the same  
town, a little man who had--

596  
00:26:15,660 --> 00:26:17,040  
how do you call it--

597  
00:26:17,040 --> 00:26:19,890  
he was a mill.

598

00:26:19,890 --> 00:26:20,460

Is it?

599

00:26:20,460 --> 00:26:23,078

They made flour?

600

00:26:23,078 --> 00:26:23,895

OK?

601

00:26:23,895 --> 00:26:25,755

Mm-hmm.

602

00:26:25,755 --> 00:26:26,755

I don't know the right--

603

00:26:26,755 --> 00:26:27,400

I don't know the word either.

604

00:26:27,400 --> 00:26:27,900

Yeah.

605

00:26:27,900 --> 00:26:31,660

Well, he was a well-to-do--  
but he was not Jewish.

606

00:26:31,660 --> 00:26:34,970

And again, my father  
said that someday, he's

607

00:26:34,970 --> 00:26:38,040

going to go over  
to him at night.

608

00:26:38,040 --> 00:26:41,950

And he is going to ask  
him maybe he can help us.

609

00:26:41,950 --> 00:26:43,170

You wouldn't believe it.

610

00:26:43,170 --> 00:26:44,250

He did help us.

611

00:26:44,250 --> 00:26:45,450

This was after how long?

612

00:26:45,450 --> 00:26:46,470

This was after--

613

00:26:46,470 --> 00:26:50,260

A couple of months,  
in 1943 already.

614

00:26:50,260 --> 00:26:52,890

Well, let me just ask you--  
let's come back for one second.

615

00:26:52,890 --> 00:26:54,960

For all those months  
that you initially

616

00:26:54,960 --> 00:26:58,230

spent in this house, what  
did you do during the day?

617

00:26:58,230 --> 00:26:58,860

Nothing.

618

00:26:58,860 --> 00:27:00,390

Just sat.

619

00:27:00,390 --> 00:27:01,620

You couldn't stand up.

620

00:27:01,620 --> 00:27:04,110

Because In the  
winter, it was good

621

00:27:04,110 --> 00:27:06,360

because it was  
cool in the attic.

622

00:27:06,360 --> 00:27:09,420

But in the summer,  
it was awful hard,

623  
00:27:09,420 --> 00:27:13,830  
because her roof  
was very narrow.

624  
00:27:13,830 --> 00:27:16,140  
And when we get up,  
we hit the roof.

625  
00:27:16,140 --> 00:27:18,780  
And the roof had not slate--

626  
00:27:18,780 --> 00:27:20,340  
I don't remember  
how you call it.

627  
00:27:20,340 --> 00:27:25,170  
And the heat was so hot  
that we were so hot.

628  
00:27:25,170 --> 00:27:29,470  
We were just sitting,  
sitting, praying, nothing.

629  
00:27:29,470 --> 00:27:31,230  
You slept on the floor?

630  
00:27:31,230 --> 00:27:32,340  
It was not on the floor.

631  
00:27:32,340 --> 00:27:33,950  
It was on hay.

632  
00:27:33,950 --> 00:27:36,460  
On hay.

633  
00:27:36,460 --> 00:27:38,070  
We did everything up there.

634  
00:27:38,070 --> 00:27:39,820

I can't even tell you what.

635  
00:27:39,820 --> 00:27:42,400  
You have to imagine.

636  
00:27:42,400 --> 00:27:44,100  
It's hard to imagine.

637  
00:27:44,100 --> 00:27:45,420  
Yes, I know it's hard.

638  
00:27:45,420 --> 00:27:46,515  
Did you come downstairs?

639  
00:27:46,515 --> 00:27:47,890  
That's what I  
wanted to tell you.

640  
00:27:47,890 --> 00:27:50,850  
Sometimes at night,  
she felt sorry for us.

641  
00:27:50,850 --> 00:27:52,860  
So she put us to the stable.

642  
00:27:52,860 --> 00:27:55,320  
She let us go to the stable.

643  
00:27:55,320 --> 00:27:56,910  
She had a cow.

644  
00:27:56,910 --> 00:27:58,710  
And then they took  
away the cow from her,

645  
00:27:58,710 --> 00:28:01,000  
so the stable was empty.

646  
00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:03,600  
Stable, you know where  
the cow was standing.

647

00:28:03,600 --> 00:28:06,600

So sometimes at night,  
she took us downstairs.

648

00:28:06,600 --> 00:28:08,090

We had to make flour.

649

00:28:08,090 --> 00:28:10,560

So the old fashioned  
mill, we used

650

00:28:10,560 --> 00:28:12,720

to help her make the flour.

651

00:28:12,720 --> 00:28:14,910

So she took me and  
my sister downstairs.

652

00:28:14,910 --> 00:28:17,040

She was very good to us.

653

00:28:17,040 --> 00:28:19,470

She took us downstairs  
to help her mill.

654

00:28:19,470 --> 00:28:22,950

And by the same token, to  
straighten out our feet.

655

00:28:22,950 --> 00:28:26,070

Because the feet were  
growing together.

656

00:28:26,070 --> 00:28:27,195

We couldn't straighten out.

657

00:28:27,195 --> 00:28:28,930

We couldn't walk.

658

00:28:28,930 --> 00:28:30,090

Did anybody else know?

659

00:28:30,090 --> 00:28:32,007

Any of the neighbors  
know that you were there?

660

00:28:32,007 --> 00:28:32,750

No, No.

661

00:28:32,750 --> 00:28:33,250

Nobody.

662

00:28:33,250 --> 00:28:34,540

Nobody knew.

663

00:28:34,540 --> 00:28:36,370

Matter of fact, one time--

664

00:28:36,370 --> 00:28:38,260

they were constantly looking.

665

00:28:38,260 --> 00:28:40,340

They figured that we're alive.

666

00:28:40,340 --> 00:28:44,107

One not Jewish fellow  
said to the other one,

667

00:28:44,107 --> 00:28:45,440

they wonder where the Marks are.

668

00:28:45,440 --> 00:28:50,290

And every time she heard  
that they talk, that somebody

669

00:28:50,290 --> 00:28:52,540

[? squealed ?] that  
we live someplace,

670

00:28:52,540 --> 00:28:54,010

but they didn't know where.

671

00:28:54,010 --> 00:28:56,410



So once in a while,  
she would come up to us

672  
00:28:56,410 --> 00:29:00,730  
and she would say, they're  
looking for you today.

673  
00:29:00,730 --> 00:29:03,900  
Then we became really scared.

674  
00:29:03,900 --> 00:29:06,130  
She had a boyfriend.

675  
00:29:06,130 --> 00:29:09,130  
Then the boyfriend built  
for us like a wall,

676  
00:29:09,130 --> 00:29:13,480  
like a double wall.

677  
00:29:13,480 --> 00:29:14,170  
A fake wall.

678  
00:29:14,170 --> 00:29:17,050  
A fake wall that when  
it was really dangerous,

679  
00:29:17,050 --> 00:29:20,950  
we used to slide  
down to that wall.

680  
00:29:20,950 --> 00:29:23,610  
You can just stand  
up and go down.

681  
00:29:23,610 --> 00:29:27,190  
And there was a door on  
top that they covered that

682  
00:29:27,190 --> 00:29:30,490  
up later if there was a  
really hot in town that we

683

00:29:30,490 --> 00:29:32,450

heard that they're  
going to look for us.

684

00:29:32,450 --> 00:29:35,590

And you never know,  
maybe she was on the list

685

00:29:35,590 --> 00:29:37,850

too that they should  
look for us there.

686

00:29:37,850 --> 00:29:39,842

So every time she heard  
that it's hot in town,

687

00:29:39,842 --> 00:29:41,550

that they're going to  
look for the Marks,

688

00:29:41,550 --> 00:29:46,240

or they're looking for the  
Marks, we went to that wall.

689

00:29:46,240 --> 00:29:50,980

And it's like in Holland, you  
heard about what's her name?

690

00:29:50,980 --> 00:29:52,800

Help me out, what's her name?

691

00:29:52,800 --> 00:29:53,760

Anne Frank.

692

00:29:53,760 --> 00:29:55,330

Anne Frank, exactly.

693

00:29:55,330 --> 00:29:59,560

Because when I visit that  
in Holland, it remind me--

694

00:29:59,560 --> 00:30:01,510

So you had slipped down--

695

00:30:01,510 --> 00:30:04,780

Slipped down standing  
up, just standing up.

696

00:30:04,780 --> 00:30:08,060

It was narrow like  
the person that way.

697

00:30:08,060 --> 00:30:11,260

We slipped down and  
we were there hidden.

698

00:30:11,260 --> 00:30:13,990

And that wall was  
in that stable.

699

00:30:13,990 --> 00:30:17,470

And in the stable, she had  
still hay and potatoes.

700

00:30:17,470 --> 00:30:19,702

But because she didn't  
have the cow anymore.

701

00:30:19,702 --> 00:30:20,410

Oh, I understand.

702

00:30:20,410 --> 00:30:22,830

I thought the fake wall  
was built in the house.

703

00:30:22,830 --> 00:30:25,270

No, it was in the stable,  
which the stable was

704

00:30:25,270 --> 00:30:26,800

connected with the house.

705

00:30:26,800 --> 00:30:28,390

It's not like here.

706

00:30:28,390 --> 00:30:32,180

The stable was connected  
with the house.

707

00:30:32,180 --> 00:30:38,140

So she had-- and that's where we  
stayed sometimes in that wall.

708

00:30:38,140 --> 00:30:41,460

But then at night  
when everything pass,

709

00:30:41,460 --> 00:30:43,838

we went again up to the attic.

710

00:30:43,838 --> 00:30:45,880

What was the longest period  
of time, for example,

711

00:30:45,880 --> 00:30:47,020

that you were in the wall?

712

00:30:47,020 --> 00:30:48,620

Could be a day too  
standing like that.

713

00:30:48,620 --> 00:30:49,240

A full day?

714

00:30:49,240 --> 00:30:52,840

Yes, it could be, if they  
were looking good for us.

715

00:30:52,840 --> 00:30:56,740

Because they would sometimes--

716

00:30:56,740 --> 00:30:59,370

the post didn't help either.

717

00:30:59,370 --> 00:31:02,000

They used to say,  
I saw Mark walking.

718  
00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:05,450  
I saw the children walking.

719  
00:31:05,450 --> 00:31:06,310  
No, they didn't.

720  
00:31:06,310 --> 00:31:09,040  
They just made up stories  
to help the German.

721  
00:31:09,040 --> 00:31:11,500  
They weren't good,  
actually, later, the post.

722  
00:31:11,500 --> 00:31:13,000  
They weren't.

723  
00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:18,340  
They tried to do to kill even--

724  
00:31:18,340 --> 00:31:22,000  
matter of fact, my  
mother's, another sister.

725  
00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:25,390  
And somehow, that  
woman was lucky.

726  
00:31:25,390 --> 00:31:28,780  
They all came to her,  
because my father probably

727  
00:31:28,780 --> 00:31:33,100  
must say sometimes that if  
it's something going to be bad,

728  
00:31:33,100 --> 00:31:34,930  
I'm going to run to Kedra.

729  
00:31:34,930 --> 00:31:40,240  
So my mother's sister with

two children came once to her.

730  
00:31:40,240 --> 00:31:43,810  
That was still in '42  
right after when we came.

731  
00:31:43,810 --> 00:31:47,500  
And she says, look, I  
would love to help you.

732  
00:31:47,500 --> 00:31:48,580  
I cannot help you.

733  
00:31:48,580 --> 00:31:51,280  
I have already four  
living with us.

734  
00:31:51,280 --> 00:31:53,440  
How can I have more people?

735  
00:31:53,440 --> 00:31:54,370  
It's dangerous.

736  
00:31:54,370 --> 00:31:55,540  
Look what I'm doing.

737  
00:31:55,540 --> 00:31:58,030  
She says, I really  
would like to help you.

738  
00:31:58,030 --> 00:32:01,480  
And she told them the guy  
who brought her there, she

739  
00:32:01,480 --> 00:32:05,140  
said to the guy, take him,  
let's say, to about 10 houses

740  
00:32:05,140 --> 00:32:06,190  
away from here.

741  
00:32:06,190 --> 00:32:08,590

Maybe they would keep her there.

742

00:32:08,590 --> 00:32:10,590

That night, they killed them.

743

00:32:10,590 --> 00:32:13,780

744

00:32:13,780 --> 00:32:17,560

The post, they killed her  
with the help of the Germans,

745

00:32:17,560 --> 00:32:18,420

of course.

746

00:32:18,420 --> 00:32:19,090

Where are we?

747

00:32:19,090 --> 00:32:23,320

I've forgotten what I  
did when I wanted to say.

748

00:32:23,320 --> 00:32:24,850

It was a dangerous life.

749

00:32:24,850 --> 00:32:27,650

You were saying that your father  
knew somebody else in the town.

750

00:32:27,650 --> 00:32:28,740

Right, I forgot.

751

00:32:28,740 --> 00:32:31,010

So my father, when the money  
was already finishing--

752

00:32:31,010 --> 00:32:32,650

This was after a few months?

753

00:32:32,650 --> 00:32:34,610

About, I would say, already '43.

754

00:32:34,610 --> 00:32:37,270

755

00:32:37,270 --> 00:32:40,210

My father said, one  
night-- only at night,

756

00:32:40,210 --> 00:32:42,490

you couldn't do anything  
during the day-- at night

757

00:32:42,490 --> 00:32:45,080

at 12, one o' clock,  
he says, I'm going

758

00:32:45,080 --> 00:32:48,380

to go to that Polish fellow.

759

00:32:48,380 --> 00:32:51,000

And I'm going to--

760

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:53,500

listen, you can help  
with those things.

761

00:32:53,500 --> 00:32:57,032

Either he's going to  
say that I am alive

762

00:32:57,032 --> 00:32:58,240

and they're going to kill me.

763

00:32:58,240 --> 00:33:00,050

Or I'm going to try to help us.

764

00:33:00,050 --> 00:33:02,890

He went to that man and  
he knocked on the door--

765

00:33:02,890 --> 00:33:05,110

on the window, excuse  
me-- on the window.



766  
00:33:05,110 --> 00:33:07,150  
And he said to him,  
Mr. Keirkowski?

767  
00:33:07,150 --> 00:33:08,290  
He says, yes?

768  
00:33:08,290 --> 00:33:11,620  
He says, he is Mark.

769  
00:33:11,620 --> 00:33:13,120  
He says, what are  
you doing here?

770  
00:33:13,120 --> 00:33:13,900  
Why did you came?

771  
00:33:13,900 --> 00:33:15,010  
What do you want?

772  
00:33:15,010 --> 00:33:16,520  
He says, do me a favor.

773  
00:33:16,520 --> 00:33:18,410  
Just open the window.

774  
00:33:18,410 --> 00:33:20,270  
Please let me in.

775  
00:33:20,270 --> 00:33:21,560  
He says, let you in?

776  
00:33:21,560 --> 00:33:23,230  
He's afraid.

777  
00:33:23,230 --> 00:33:24,410  
He got dressed.

778  
00:33:24,410 --> 00:33:27,610  
And he came out to him he says,

what do you want, Mr. Mark?

779

00:33:27,610 --> 00:33:30,210

He says, what I want  
you should help me.

780

00:33:30,210 --> 00:33:31,290

He says, help you?

781

00:33:31,290 --> 00:33:32,780

What can I help you with?

782

00:33:32,780 --> 00:33:35,030

He says, just give me money.

783

00:33:35,030 --> 00:33:39,060

And my mother had still  
with her a ring, a chain.

784

00:33:39,060 --> 00:33:40,960

He says, here is the ring.

785

00:33:40,960 --> 00:33:42,170

Give me as much money.

786

00:33:42,170 --> 00:33:44,970

He says, no, no,  
don't give me this.

787

00:33:44,970 --> 00:33:46,520

But I'm going to  
try to help you.

788

00:33:46,520 --> 00:33:48,500

Well, to the end,  
he took the ring.

789

00:33:48,500 --> 00:33:50,360

He gave us some money.

790

00:33:50,360 --> 00:33:53,180

So he says, can I come

back if you know--

791

00:33:53,180 --> 00:33:55,310

I think my father  
didn't tell him

792

00:33:55,310 --> 00:33:56,750

that time where we're staying.

793

00:33:56,750 --> 00:33:58,260

Because he was afraid.

794

00:33:58,260 --> 00:33:59,300

He says, don't worry.

795

00:33:59,300 --> 00:34:01,340

I'm never going to give you out.

796

00:34:01,340 --> 00:34:03,980

But whatever you do,  
don't give me out.

797

00:34:03,980 --> 00:34:06,110

Because the same danger  
what you're going to have,

798

00:34:06,110 --> 00:34:08,150

I'm going to have.

799

00:34:08,150 --> 00:34:12,139

And like this, we used  
to go every couple months

800

00:34:12,139 --> 00:34:13,100

at the night.

801

00:34:13,100 --> 00:34:17,150

And then me and my sister  
used to go at night.

802

00:34:17,150 --> 00:34:19,850

And he used to give

us some money then

803

00:34:19,850 --> 00:34:23,120

we should be able to give that  
widow that she should have

804

00:34:23,120 --> 00:34:27,480

something to buy for  
us, a piece of bread,

805

00:34:27,480 --> 00:34:31,350

a little bit of something to  
make a soup, or a borscht,

806

00:34:31,350 --> 00:34:34,520

to give us that  
we should survive.

807

00:34:34,520 --> 00:34:36,302

And you say-- I'm  
sorry, did you say

808

00:34:36,302 --> 00:34:37,469

you'd go to him every night?

809

00:34:37,469 --> 00:34:38,540

Not every night.

810

00:34:38,540 --> 00:34:39,230

At night.

811

00:34:39,230 --> 00:34:40,510

We just used to go at night.

812

00:34:40,510 --> 00:34:41,510

Occasionally, you'd go--

813

00:34:41,510 --> 00:34:43,429

Occasionally, but  
everything was at night.

814

00:34:43,429 --> 00:34:46,070

Because during the  
day, you couldn't go.

815  
00:34:46,070 --> 00:34:47,210  
It was dangerous.

816  
00:34:47,210 --> 00:34:50,090  
It was really dangerous.

817  
00:34:50,090 --> 00:34:51,630  
It wasn't easy.

818  
00:34:51,630 --> 00:34:53,780  
What shall I tell you?

819  
00:34:53,780 --> 00:34:56,870  
It was very dangerous.

820  
00:34:56,870 --> 00:34:59,100  
Really, maybe  
because I was young,

821  
00:34:59,100 --> 00:35:02,810  
so I don't remember  
as much the danger.

822  
00:35:02,810 --> 00:35:06,840  
But if I think about  
now, how could we do it?

823  
00:35:06,840 --> 00:35:08,060  
How could we?

824  
00:35:08,060 --> 00:35:12,010  
When I went back now and  
I look at those places,

825  
00:35:12,010 --> 00:35:13,670  
and I looked at  
that distance, how

826  
00:35:13,670 --> 00:35:17,540

we've walked for that  
money, it wasn't so near.

827  
00:35:17,540 --> 00:35:19,530  
It was pretty far away.

828  
00:35:19,530 --> 00:35:22,400  
And at night, how would  
I know where to go,

829  
00:35:22,400 --> 00:35:28,300  
how dangerous that was, it's  
unbelievable how we survived.

830  
00:35:28,300 --> 00:35:31,910  
I guess, somebody up there  
wanted us to survive.

831  
00:35:31,910 --> 00:35:35,610  
This is the only thing  
I can say really.

832  
00:35:35,610 --> 00:35:37,320  
You spent how long  
with this family?

833  
00:35:37,320 --> 00:35:37,820  
Two years.

834  
00:35:37,820 --> 00:35:40,240  
Two years until 1944.

835  
00:35:40,240 --> 00:35:41,310  
In August.

836  
00:35:41,310 --> 00:35:43,310  
And you knew it was  
happening throughout Poland?

837  
00:35:43,310 --> 00:35:44,210  
A little bit.

838

00:35:44,210 --> 00:35:46,130  
A little bit.

839  
00:35:46,130 --> 00:35:50,180  
She had the radio, shortwave  
radio, they called it.

840  
00:35:50,180 --> 00:35:51,950  
They had the radio.

841  
00:35:51,950 --> 00:35:53,900  
Once in a while, she  
used to come to us.

842  
00:35:53,900 --> 00:35:57,240  
And she says, oh,  
it's not long anymore.

843  
00:35:57,240 --> 00:36:00,620  
The Russians-- we were at the  
side where the Russians were.

844  
00:36:00,620 --> 00:36:02,080  
The Russians already fighting.

845  
00:36:02,080 --> 00:36:03,170  
They're nearby.

846  
00:36:03,170 --> 00:36:05,660  
Soon you're going to be free.

847  
00:36:05,660 --> 00:36:07,010  
Soon, soon, soon.

848  
00:36:07,010 --> 00:36:10,120  
And that soon still  
took another year.

849  
00:36:10,120 --> 00:36:16,430  
And '44 in August, we got  
liberated through the Russians.

850

00:36:16,430 --> 00:36:19,010  
Not as much as we liked  
them, but they did

851  
00:36:19,010 --> 00:36:22,245  
liberated us in August in '44.

852  
00:36:22,245 --> 00:36:25,860

853  
00:36:25,860 --> 00:36:30,210  
Did you ever think about why  
this particular woman actually

854  
00:36:30,210 --> 00:36:31,110  
took you in?

855  
00:36:31,110 --> 00:36:32,880  
I always think why.

856  
00:36:32,880 --> 00:36:33,510  
Always.

857  
00:36:33,510 --> 00:36:35,220  
Why did she do it?

858  
00:36:35,220 --> 00:36:36,720  
And I even talked  
to her daughter.

859  
00:36:36,720 --> 00:36:38,870  
Why did your mother do it?

860  
00:36:38,870 --> 00:36:40,950  
We really didn't  
give you nothing.

861  
00:36:40,950 --> 00:36:42,780  
She says, I don't know.

862  
00:36:42,780 --> 00:36:46,740  
She just felt that she



was a religious woman.

863

00:36:46,740 --> 00:36:50,640

She always said, God is  
going to pay me back.

864

00:36:50,640 --> 00:36:51,600

I don't know why.

865

00:36:51,600 --> 00:36:55,980

We always ask why, why her?

866

00:36:55,980 --> 00:36:57,630

I really don't know.

867

00:36:57,630 --> 00:37:00,330

Did you said you also had been  
friendly with her daughter.

868

00:37:00,330 --> 00:37:02,010

Right, we went to  
school together.

869

00:37:02,010 --> 00:37:02,790

Right.

870

00:37:02,790 --> 00:37:04,230

She is a year younger.

871

00:37:04,230 --> 00:37:07,110

So I remember she always says--

872

00:37:07,110 --> 00:37:09,180

she just said to  
me the other day

873

00:37:09,180 --> 00:37:12,240

that when it came to  
religion, I used the walk out,

874

00:37:12,240 --> 00:37:15,825

because Jewish kids walked

out when they took religion.

875

00:37:15,825 --> 00:37:18,460

876

00:37:18,460 --> 00:37:19,950

We didn't stay in class.

877

00:37:19,950 --> 00:37:22,660

She said she always  
wondered why I walked out.

878

00:37:22,660 --> 00:37:25,680

She didn't understand that  
we had a different religion.

879

00:37:25,680 --> 00:37:29,610

But we always were friendly.

880

00:37:29,610 --> 00:37:31,530

Don't forget like I  
mentioned to you, Doctor,

881

00:37:31,530 --> 00:37:35,190

she was the oldest child  
and her mother was a widow.

882

00:37:35,190 --> 00:37:38,280

When I came to school  
and I brought good lunch,

883

00:37:38,280 --> 00:37:42,750

I shared with her, because  
she didn't have any lunch.

884

00:37:42,750 --> 00:37:45,630

There were times I  
brought an apple.

885

00:37:45,630 --> 00:37:47,760

She didn't have any apple.

886

00:37:47,760 --> 00:37:49,510

There were things  
that they didn't have.

887

00:37:49,510 --> 00:37:52,800

And I guess, but that didn't--

888

00:37:52,800 --> 00:37:54,270

this, I remembered that.

889

00:37:54,270 --> 00:37:56,460

And she remembers that.

890

00:37:56,460 --> 00:37:58,910

Do you think that was  
an important factor

891

00:37:58,910 --> 00:37:59,140

in her mother taking you in?

892

00:37:59,140 --> 00:38:00,960

I don't know, Doctor,  
I really don't know.

893

00:38:00,960 --> 00:38:02,490

It must have been something.

894

00:38:02,490 --> 00:38:06,690

She always said my father always  
gave her credit in the store.

895

00:38:06,690 --> 00:38:10,740

Because she became a widow  
by very young, I think 34.

896

00:38:10,740 --> 00:38:12,120

She was 34.

897

00:38:12,120 --> 00:38:13,710

And my father  
always said to her,

898

00:38:13,710 --> 00:38:15,850  
Michalina, when you  
have money, you pay me.

899  
00:38:15,850 --> 00:38:16,740  
Don't worry.

900  
00:38:16,740 --> 00:38:19,050  
Your children have to live.

901  
00:38:19,050 --> 00:38:22,440  
And that was very  
big for somebody.

902  
00:38:22,440 --> 00:38:24,380  
I guess, she remembered that.

903  
00:38:24,380 --> 00:38:27,180  
This what we can  
only-- we always

904  
00:38:27,180 --> 00:38:30,060  
used to discuss with my  
father, with my mother,

905  
00:38:30,060 --> 00:38:31,380  
why did she do it?

906  
00:38:31,380 --> 00:38:33,510  
We really didn't  
give her too much.

907  
00:38:33,510 --> 00:38:36,370  
We didn't have too much with us.

908  
00:38:36,370 --> 00:38:38,870  
And whatever we  
had, we gave her.

909  
00:38:38,870 --> 00:38:41,880  
But that was not enough.

910

00:38:41,880 --> 00:38:44,970

Because really, we  
didn't eat meat there.

911

00:38:44,970 --> 00:38:47,070

She didn't have to give us.

912

00:38:47,070 --> 00:38:48,810

Forget about kosher  
or not kosher.

913

00:38:48,810 --> 00:38:50,120

Who would remember that time?

914

00:38:50,120 --> 00:38:52,950

If you were kosher, you were  
thankful to get something.

915

00:38:52,950 --> 00:38:55,090

But she didn't have to give us.

916

00:38:55,090 --> 00:38:57,840

So I really don't  
know why she did it.

917

00:38:57,840 --> 00:39:01,170

She was just a good person.

918

00:39:01,170 --> 00:39:02,510

Good.

919

00:39:02,510 --> 00:39:05,670

And there's another thing,  
maybe she didn't know herself

920

00:39:05,670 --> 00:39:07,680

how long it's going to take.

921

00:39:07,680 --> 00:39:10,980

She probably thought a month,  
two, two weeks, three weeks,

922

00:39:10,980 --> 00:39:12,935  
a month.

923  
00:39:12,935 --> 00:39:14,810  
She never thought it's  
going to take so long.

924  
00:39:14,810 --> 00:39:18,640  
Two years, three  
years is a long time.

925  
00:39:18,640 --> 00:39:22,380  
So it's really-- it's  
beyond me why she did it.

926  
00:39:22,380 --> 00:39:23,130  
It is.

927  
00:39:23,130 --> 00:39:27,900  
During those two years,  
were you able to read books?

928  
00:39:27,900 --> 00:39:29,000  
To read books?

929  
00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:30,980  
Yeah, she brought  
us the newspaper.

930  
00:39:30,980 --> 00:39:31,570  
A book.

931  
00:39:31,570 --> 00:39:33,510  
Yes, so I knew how  
to read poetry.

932  
00:39:33,510 --> 00:39:35,320  
So I would read the newspaper.

933  
00:39:35,320 --> 00:39:37,810  
We read the books, yes.

934

00:39:37,810 --> 00:39:38,430  
That's all.

935  
00:39:38,430 --> 00:39:39,530  
That's all.

936  
00:39:39,530 --> 00:39:43,440  
We lived a very lonely  
life, very lonely.

937  
00:39:43,440 --> 00:39:45,610  
It's like from hour  
to hour whatever

938  
00:39:45,610 --> 00:39:46,770  
it's going to happen to us.

939  
00:39:46,770 --> 00:39:49,050  
We really didn't know.

940  
00:39:49,050 --> 00:39:50,740  
It must have been terrible.

941  
00:39:50,740 --> 00:39:54,570  
If I think now back, I  
can't remember myself

942  
00:39:54,570 --> 00:39:58,280  
how in the world  
we could do that.

943  
00:39:58,280 --> 00:39:59,490  
We didn't take a bath.

944  
00:39:59,490 --> 00:40:01,320  
We didn't wash our hair.

945  
00:40:01,320 --> 00:40:03,480  
Once in a while--

946  
00:40:03,480 --> 00:40:04,900  
there was no running water.

947  
00:40:04,900 --> 00:40:07,830  
So I assume we didn't take.

948  
00:40:07,830 --> 00:40:08,740  
I assume.

949  
00:40:08,740 --> 00:40:10,530  
We didn't.

950  
00:40:10,530 --> 00:40:14,180  
I myself am thinking now,  
how could we survive that?

951  
00:40:14,180 --> 00:40:17,530

952  
00:40:17,530 --> 00:40:19,590  
I can't even tell you how--

953  
00:40:19,590 --> 00:40:21,660  
it must have been terrible.

954  
00:40:21,660 --> 00:40:24,360  
It was terrible.

955  
00:40:24,360 --> 00:40:29,100  
And this I remember, which  
was already in August,

956  
00:40:29,100 --> 00:40:32,040  
the front was very close was.

957  
00:40:32,040 --> 00:40:35,250  
The German were here and  
the Russian were coming.

958  
00:40:35,250 --> 00:40:39,990  
And we can hear the  
[NON-ENGLISH] running over

959



00:40:39,990 --> 00:40:41,700  
the places.

960  
00:40:41,700 --> 00:40:47,940  
And they had to leave  
the town, everybody.

961  
00:40:47,940 --> 00:40:50,550  
So her a mother,  
took her children.

962  
00:40:50,550 --> 00:40:52,750  
And she had to get a cow.

963  
00:40:52,750 --> 00:40:54,240  
She took the cow.

964  
00:40:54,240 --> 00:40:56,250  
And they run away to the woods.

965  
00:40:56,250 --> 00:40:59,100  
They left us all in the house.

966  
00:40:59,100 --> 00:41:01,370  
She couldn't take us.

967  
00:41:01,370 --> 00:41:04,710  
Oh, then we thought,  
this is going to be end.

968  
00:41:04,710 --> 00:41:05,490  
We're all here.

969  
00:41:05,490 --> 00:41:08,670  
No food, no water, nothing.

970  
00:41:08,670 --> 00:41:09,750  
We cannot get out.

971  
00:41:09,750 --> 00:41:11,610  
Because if we're  
going to go out,

972  
00:41:11,610 --> 00:41:14,190  
the Germans are  
going to kill us.

973  
00:41:14,190 --> 00:41:16,030  
The front wasn't too long.

974  
00:41:16,030 --> 00:41:19,410  
It was maybe four or five days.

975  
00:41:19,410 --> 00:41:22,470  
And her mother took her life.

976  
00:41:22,470 --> 00:41:25,830  
And she said to her  
children, I don't

977  
00:41:25,830 --> 00:41:28,650  
care if they're going  
to kill us or what.

978  
00:41:28,650 --> 00:41:32,970  
Through the front, she came back  
to bring us something to eat.

979  
00:41:32,970 --> 00:41:34,140  
After those four days?

980  
00:41:34,140 --> 00:41:35,190  
After those four days.

981  
00:41:35,190 --> 00:41:37,710  
Because she thought,  
we're going to die anyhow.

982  
00:41:37,710 --> 00:41:40,410  
She says, if the Germans  
didn't kill us, the front is--

983  
00:41:40,410 --> 00:41:42,150  
we're going to die.

984  
00:41:42,150 --> 00:41:44,100  
She came back.

985  
00:41:44,100 --> 00:41:45,420  
And the front finished.

986  
00:41:45,420 --> 00:41:46,030  
It's finished.

987  
00:41:46,030 --> 00:41:51,290  
The German moved back  
and the Russians came in.

988  
00:41:51,290 --> 00:41:54,110  
Those four days I never forget.

989  
00:41:54,110 --> 00:41:58,330  
Because that was the  
most tragic days.

990  
00:41:58,330 --> 00:42:02,360  
We thought this is going to be  
our end, because we're going

991  
00:42:02,360 --> 00:42:04,880  
to die from not having food.

992  
00:42:04,880 --> 00:42:06,950  
But you see, we didn't die.

993  
00:42:06,950 --> 00:42:11,280  
She came back with a  
cow, with the children.

994  
00:42:11,280 --> 00:42:13,970  
She brought us some milk.

995  
00:42:13,970 --> 00:42:16,430  
She was a remarkable woman.

996

00:42:16,430 --> 00:42:19,550

She brought us a piece  
of bread with flour

997

00:42:19,550 --> 00:42:20,630

that I still remember.

998

00:42:20,630 --> 00:42:24,080

The throat hurts you, because if  
you done it for a couple days,

999

00:42:24,080 --> 00:42:26,330

you cannot even swallow.

1000

00:42:26,330 --> 00:42:30,200

And she came back and  
she brought us the food.

1001

00:42:30,200 --> 00:42:32,780

And this I never  
forget, she says,

1002

00:42:32,780 --> 00:42:37,040

now you're going to be free,  
because the Russians are here.

1003

00:42:37,040 --> 00:42:38,170

And she came out.

1004

00:42:38,170 --> 00:42:39,920

I remember like today.

1005

00:42:39,920 --> 00:42:44,270

She lived in the  
back of her house.

1006

00:42:44,270 --> 00:42:46,320

Not far from the house  
there were woods.

1007

00:42:46,320 --> 00:42:50,510

There was order the woods,  
not homes, but woods.

1008  
00:42:50,510 --> 00:42:54,260  
And we heard the Russians  
on the horses, clap, clap,

1009  
00:42:54,260 --> 00:42:55,610  
clap, coming.

1010  
00:42:55,610 --> 00:42:59,360  
So my father said, I hope  
we're going to be free now.

1011  
00:42:59,360 --> 00:43:04,610  
And she went out to a Russian  
soldier and she said, look,

1012  
00:43:04,610 --> 00:43:07,070  
I have Jews here.

1013  
00:43:07,070 --> 00:43:11,130  
And the guy, the Russian said,  
what do you mean you have Jews?

1014  
00:43:11,130 --> 00:43:14,450  
So she said, well, through  
the concentration camps,

1015  
00:43:14,450 --> 00:43:19,190  
through the times of Hitler's  
times, I kept those Jews.

1016  
00:43:19,190 --> 00:43:21,080  
Now they free, because you here.

1017  
00:43:21,080 --> 00:43:22,950  
She was such a smart woman.

1018  
00:43:22,950 --> 00:43:27,170  
She says, please take them  
and just give them a home.

1019  
00:43:27,170 --> 00:43:31,070

And that time, we came  
out from the attic.

1020  
00:43:31,070 --> 00:43:33,540  
And the Russians greeted us.

1021  
00:43:33,540 --> 00:43:35,120  
And they took us with them.

1022  
00:43:35,120 --> 00:43:37,070  
How many Russians were there?

1023  
00:43:37,070 --> 00:43:41,120  
There were maybe  
10 on the horses.

1024  
00:43:41,120 --> 00:43:45,400  
And then they took us to that  
little town which was Brzozów.

1025  
00:43:45,400 --> 00:43:48,340  
And already more Jews came out.

1026  
00:43:48,340 --> 00:43:49,040  
From hiding?

1027  
00:43:49,040 --> 00:43:50,920  
From hiding.

1028  
00:43:50,920 --> 00:43:52,280  
They were hidden in the woods.

1029  
00:43:52,280 --> 00:43:54,488  
They were hidden at  
more Polish families.

1030  
00:43:54,488 --> 00:43:55,280  
There weren't more.

1031  
00:43:55,280 --> 00:43:59,330  
There were maybe another  
six, so 10 of us.

1032  
00:43:59,330 --> 00:44:05,420  
And then we were free.

1033  
00:44:05,420 --> 00:44:07,130  
How did you feel then?

1034  
00:44:07,130 --> 00:44:08,420  
Mixed emotion.

1035  
00:44:08,420 --> 00:44:10,670  
Very mixed emotion.

1036  
00:44:10,670 --> 00:44:15,500  
Happy, but there was nobody  
left from the family.

1037  
00:44:15,500 --> 00:44:18,020  
Like I say, I don't know--  
with times like this,

1038  
00:44:18,020 --> 00:44:20,160  
people become very selfish.

1039  
00:44:20,160 --> 00:44:22,490  
We we're happy that we're alive.

1040  
00:44:22,490 --> 00:44:25,880  
We were thinking, so what  
we're going to do now?

1041  
00:44:25,880 --> 00:44:27,312  
There's no Jews.

1042  
00:44:27,312 --> 00:44:28,520  
And the Polacks used to say--

1043  
00:44:28,520 --> 00:44:32,330  
OK, when we came out,  
the first thing my father

1044

00:44:32,330 --> 00:44:35,420  
said, I want to go  
home to my house.

1045  
00:44:35,420 --> 00:44:39,610  
We came to our home and there  
was a Polack living there,

1046  
00:44:39,610 --> 00:44:40,810  
a Pole.

1047  
00:44:40,810 --> 00:44:42,780  
He says, you cannot--

1048  
00:44:42,780 --> 00:44:46,800  
he still was thinking, he  
says, get out from my house.

1049  
00:44:46,800 --> 00:44:49,180  
This is my house now, he says.

1050  
00:44:49,180 --> 00:44:51,560  
You have nothing  
what to look here.

1051  
00:44:51,560 --> 00:44:53,420  
He says, where were you?

1052  
00:44:53,420 --> 00:44:56,180  
He says, if you don't  
get out, I throw you out.

1053  
00:44:56,180 --> 00:44:56,840  
So we left.

1054  
00:44:56,840 --> 00:44:59,400  
We were afraid.

1055  
00:44:59,400 --> 00:45:02,465  
Could you believe it?

1056  
00:45:02,465 --> 00:45:03,950



So where did you go?

1057

00:45:03,950 --> 00:45:06,400

We went to Brzozów.

1058

00:45:06,400 --> 00:45:09,930

And to the next-- to that  
little town where we started.

1059

00:45:09,930 --> 00:45:13,850

And there was no anybody  
living, not my mother's sister,

1060

00:45:13,850 --> 00:45:18,640

not my grandmother, and my  
uncle, nobody from the family.

1061

00:45:18,640 --> 00:45:20,278

I remembered that--

1062

00:45:20,278 --> 00:45:21,820

Your father didn't  
go to the Russians

1063

00:45:21,820 --> 00:45:24,580

and say, well, this is my house?

1064

00:45:24,580 --> 00:45:25,360

No.

1065

00:45:25,360 --> 00:45:27,010

No, we didn't.

1066

00:45:27,010 --> 00:45:28,470

We were afraid.

1067

00:45:28,470 --> 00:45:29,890

We were really afraid.

1068

00:45:29,890 --> 00:45:32,140

We were very much afraid.

1069

00:45:32,140 --> 00:45:35,230

We didn't want anything anymore.

1070

00:45:35,230 --> 00:45:36,970

Nothing was important.

1071

00:45:36,970 --> 00:45:39,658

We just wanted to be free.

1072

00:45:39,658 --> 00:45:40,700

There was nothing for us.

1073

00:45:40,700 --> 00:45:42,220

We didn't want to  
even stay there.

1074

00:45:42,220 --> 00:45:43,690

We were afraid.

1075

00:45:43,690 --> 00:45:45,790

The minute we came  
out, we wanted

1076

00:45:45,790 --> 00:45:49,120

to be somebody  
should care for us.

1077

00:45:49,120 --> 00:45:50,530

Because we were afraid.

1078

00:45:50,530 --> 00:45:52,780

So we were with the  
Russians already.

1079

00:45:52,780 --> 00:45:54,430

And the front was  
like about three

1080

00:45:54,430 --> 00:45:56,760

or four kilometer from us.

1081

00:45:56,760 --> 00:45:58,542  
So it was close by.

1082  
00:45:58,542 --> 00:46:00,250  
We were really still  
scared, because they

1083  
00:46:00,250 --> 00:46:01,570  
could've come back.

1084  
00:46:01,570 --> 00:46:03,700  
But I remember that time,  
I guess, the Russians

1085  
00:46:03,700 --> 00:46:06,430  
must know what to do with us.

1086  
00:46:06,430 --> 00:46:09,310  
They said, you have  
to stay at our orders.

1087  
00:46:09,310 --> 00:46:12,220  
Whatever we tell you to  
do, you're going to do.

1088  
00:46:12,220 --> 00:46:14,470  
And the front was going further.

1089  
00:46:14,470 --> 00:46:17,440  
So we were safe and safe.

1090  
00:46:17,440 --> 00:46:18,760  
There was no danger.

1091  
00:46:18,760 --> 00:46:21,640  
They put us also in a house.

1092  
00:46:21,640 --> 00:46:23,140  
I was just wondering,  
you didn't you

1093  
00:46:23,140 --> 00:46:25,690

didn't feel totally  
safe or totally free?

1094  
00:46:25,690 --> 00:46:26,230  
Not yet.

1095  
00:46:26,230 --> 00:46:27,040  
Not yet.

1096  
00:46:27,040 --> 00:46:27,580  
Not yet.

1097  
00:46:27,580 --> 00:46:28,240  
Not really.

1098  
00:46:28,240 --> 00:46:29,380  
Not yet.

1099  
00:46:29,380 --> 00:46:31,700  
Because they told us  
that the minute the front

1100  
00:46:31,700 --> 00:46:34,640  
could come back, we  
have to move with them.

1101  
00:46:34,640 --> 00:46:36,280  
We cannot go ahead.

1102  
00:46:36,280 --> 00:46:38,080  
We had to move with them.

1103  
00:46:38,080 --> 00:46:38,810  
Not yet.

1104  
00:46:38,810 --> 00:46:41,050  
No, we weren't free yet, really.

1105  
00:46:41,050 --> 00:46:42,490  
We really weren't.

1106

00:46:42,490 --> 00:46:45,670

It's in the back of your  
mind, we were afraid

1107

00:46:45,670 --> 00:46:48,600

that the Germans could come back  
and they're going to kill us.

1108

00:46:48,600 --> 00:46:51,100

And if not the Germans  
going to kill us,

1109

00:46:51,100 --> 00:46:53,500

we thought the Poles  
are going to kill us.

1110

00:46:53,500 --> 00:46:58,160

So we had to be  
supervised by somebody.

1111

00:46:58,160 --> 00:47:00,250

That's what I remember.

1112

00:47:00,250 --> 00:47:02,210

And that's what happened.

1113

00:47:02,210 --> 00:47:03,070

We waited.

1114

00:47:03,070 --> 00:47:05,290

Whatever they told  
us to do, we did.

1115

00:47:05,290 --> 00:47:06,585

What did you do?

1116

00:47:06,585 --> 00:47:08,903

We again waited not too long.

1117

00:47:08,903 --> 00:47:09,820

Where were you living?

1118

00:47:09,820 --> 00:47:11,360  
You went back to  
back to the town.

1119  
00:47:11,360 --> 00:47:14,536  
To the town, they  
put us in homes.

1120  
00:47:14,536 --> 00:47:15,430  
With other families?

1121  
00:47:15,430 --> 00:47:19,480  
With other families, the ones  
that they came to live with--

1122  
00:47:19,480 --> 00:47:22,240  
I think it was  
another four people--

1123  
00:47:22,240 --> 00:47:25,540  
six people, 10 people all of us.

1124  
00:47:25,540 --> 00:47:26,300  
Jewish families?

1125  
00:47:26,300 --> 00:47:27,100  
Jewish.

1126  
00:47:27,100 --> 00:47:28,210  
They put us in--

1127  
00:47:28,210 --> 00:47:31,900  
somebody in another  
Jewish families in a home.

1128  
00:47:31,900 --> 00:47:36,160  
And they gave us  
clothes, I remember.

1129  
00:47:36,160 --> 00:47:37,960  
Because we had nothing.

1130

00:47:37,960 --> 00:47:39,970  
And they gave us food.

1131  
00:47:39,970 --> 00:47:42,040  
And they just told  
us to sit and wait

1132  
00:47:42,040 --> 00:47:44,490  
what's going to  
happen with the front.

1133  
00:47:44,490 --> 00:47:46,720  
Well, how far are  
we going to go?

1134  
00:47:46,720 --> 00:47:50,080  
If something will  
happen, then you know.

1135  
00:47:50,080 --> 00:47:55,370  
We weren't there too  
long, maybe a month.

1136  
00:47:55,370 --> 00:47:59,710  
And the best place for  
us was to go to Hungary.

1137  
00:47:59,710 --> 00:48:03,680  
Because Hungary at  
that time was free.

1138  
00:48:03,680 --> 00:48:05,800  
And I remember they send  
us-- it must have been

1139  
00:48:05,800 --> 00:48:10,450  
the Red Cross already came.

1140  
00:48:10,450 --> 00:48:11,020  
This was?

1141  
00:48:11,020 --> 00:48:13,720  
This was in '44 in August.

1142  
00:48:13,720 --> 00:48:16,600  
No, it must've been already  
September, October, about

1143  
00:48:16,600 --> 00:48:19,310  
a month or two months later.

1144  
00:48:19,310 --> 00:48:20,890  
But it was not cold yet.

1145  
00:48:20,890 --> 00:48:24,460  
And we went to Hungary.

1146  
00:48:24,460 --> 00:48:27,040  
And there, again, to Budapest.

1147  
00:48:27,040 --> 00:48:28,360  
How did you get to Hungary?

1148  
00:48:28,360 --> 00:48:30,040  
By train.

1149  
00:48:30,040 --> 00:48:30,970  
By trains.

1150  
00:48:30,970 --> 00:48:32,230  
Not by train.

1151  
00:48:32,230 --> 00:48:36,220  
For days, we were going there.

1152  
00:48:36,220 --> 00:48:37,120  
Why Hungary?

1153  
00:48:37,120 --> 00:48:38,197  
They told us to go there.

1154  
00:48:38,197 --> 00:48:39,280  
They told you to go there?



1155

00:48:39,280 --> 00:48:41,180

Yes, because that was--

1156

00:48:41,180 --> 00:48:43,960

Budapest, it took two places.

1157

00:48:43,960 --> 00:48:47,080

The past went to German.

1158

00:48:47,080 --> 00:48:49,000

And Buda was free.

1159

00:48:49,000 --> 00:48:52,210

So that's why they  
took us to Buda.

1160

00:48:52,210 --> 00:48:57,380

And there we stayed a year until  
1945 when the war finished.

1161

00:48:57,380 --> 00:48:58,810

Not quite a year.

1162

00:48:58,810 --> 00:48:59,980

Where did you stay there?

1163

00:48:59,980 --> 00:49:03,280

Again, they put all  
the Jews together.

1164

00:49:03,280 --> 00:49:07,010

They made like a camp, but  
not a concentration camp.

1165

00:49:07,010 --> 00:49:11,410

Like from all this sides,  
which Jews were free,

1166

00:49:11,410 --> 00:49:12,760

they took him there.

1167

00:49:12,760 --> 00:49:14,830

Because I think in  
Czechoslovakia--

1168

00:49:14,830 --> 00:49:17,380

not Czechoslovakia,  
they had more Jews

1169

00:49:17,380 --> 00:49:19,600

coming from all  
the countries which

1170

00:49:19,600 --> 00:49:22,310

were free through the Russians.

1171

00:49:22,310 --> 00:49:26,680

And they all had one  
place, which was Budapest.

1172

00:49:26,680 --> 00:49:28,390

Well, how large  
was the community

1173

00:49:28,390 --> 00:49:31,321

where you were living there, the  
Jewish community in Budapest?

1174

00:49:31,321 --> 00:49:33,070

It must have been  
large, because there

1175

00:49:33,070 --> 00:49:35,095

was a lot of Jewish families.

1176

00:49:35,095 --> 00:49:36,720

Little by little,  
they brought them in.

1177

00:49:36,720 --> 00:49:39,310

And maybe 1,000 of Jews.

1178

00:49:39,310 --> 00:49:42,580

Did your father-- did

he work for that year?

1179  
00:49:42,580 --> 00:49:44,810  
No, nobody worked.

1180  
00:49:44,810 --> 00:49:46,330  
We were already  
through the HIAS,

1181  
00:49:46,330 --> 00:49:48,310  
I think, the HIAS already.

1182  
00:49:48,310 --> 00:49:51,970  
I think either the HIAS or  
the Red Cross helped us.

1183  
00:49:51,970 --> 00:49:54,700

1184  
00:49:54,700 --> 00:49:55,860  
Yes.

1185  
00:49:55,860 --> 00:49:57,270  
And they provided you with food.

1186  
00:49:57,270 --> 00:49:58,995  
With food and clothing.

1187  
00:49:58,995 --> 00:50:02,650

1188  
00:50:02,650 --> 00:50:03,682  
Yes.

1189  
00:50:03,682 --> 00:50:04,890  
How old were you at the time?

1190  
00:50:04,890 --> 00:50:06,160  
You were?

1191  
00:50:06,160 --> 00:50:08,930

In '45?

1192

00:50:08,930 --> 00:50:10,740

I was 20--

1193

00:50:10,740 --> 00:50:13,170

What am I talking?

1194

00:50:13,170 --> 00:50:18,440

Yes, 20.

1195

00:50:18,440 --> 00:50:19,640

You're 20 years old.

1196

00:50:19,640 --> 00:50:20,556

Yeah, 20?

1197

00:50:20,556 --> 00:50:21,056

20.

1198

00:50:21,056 --> 00:50:25,723

1199

00:50:25,723 --> 00:50:27,140

I have forgotten  
how to count now.

1200

00:50:27,140 --> 00:50:30,300

20, I was 20.

1201

00:50:30,300 --> 00:50:32,760

OK, so you're therefore  
for about a year.

1202

00:50:32,760 --> 00:50:38,210

And as you recall, either  
the HIAS or the Red Cross?

1203

00:50:38,210 --> 00:50:41,425

Yes, I think that time was  
still, it was called already,

1204  
00:50:41,425 --> 00:50:42,175  
I think, the HIAS.

1205  
00:50:42,175 --> 00:50:46,188

1206  
00:50:46,188 --> 00:50:48,480  
Can you describe what you're  
feeling through that year?

1207  
00:50:48,480 --> 00:50:51,150

1208  
00:50:51,150 --> 00:50:53,800  
So here you're free, but--

1209  
00:50:53,800 --> 00:50:54,550  
You're not free.

1210  
00:50:54,550 --> 00:50:55,690  
But you're not free.

1211  
00:50:55,690 --> 00:50:58,120  
We were taken care by the HIAS.

1212  
00:50:58,120 --> 00:51:01,780  
Just live from day to day,  
hoping for better times,

1213  
00:51:01,780 --> 00:51:02,720  
like I say.

1214  
00:51:02,720 --> 00:51:03,580  
I don't know.

1215  
00:51:03,580 --> 00:51:05,590  
The feelings, we  
were happy that year.

1216  
00:51:05,590 --> 00:51:07,420  
What kept you going

all these years?

1217  
00:51:07,420 --> 00:51:09,160  
All these years of hiding?

1218  
00:51:09,160 --> 00:51:09,820  
Hiding?

1219  
00:51:09,820 --> 00:51:10,760  
Who knows.

1220  
00:51:10,760 --> 00:51:11,470  
I don't know.

1221  
00:51:11,470 --> 00:51:12,850  
It's unbelievable.

1222  
00:51:12,850 --> 00:51:15,390  
It's really unbelievable  
what kept us going.

1223  
00:51:15,390 --> 00:51:16,165  
Just hope.

1224  
00:51:16,165 --> 00:51:18,770  
You must have gotten tremendous  
support from your family?

1225  
00:51:18,770 --> 00:51:21,670  
Yes, my father always thought  
we're going to survive.

1226  
00:51:21,670 --> 00:51:22,870  
We're going to survive.

1227  
00:51:22,870 --> 00:51:23,828  
Was your mother strong?

1228  
00:51:23,828 --> 00:51:25,180  
My mother?

1229

00:51:25,180 --> 00:51:26,260

Yes, she was strong.

1230

00:51:26,260 --> 00:51:31,100

She always felt that  
we have to survive.

1231

00:51:31,100 --> 00:51:32,770

That's what kept us.

1232

00:51:32,770 --> 00:51:36,590

My mother always said she had a  
feeling we're going to survive.

1233

00:51:36,590 --> 00:51:38,680

So did my father.

1234

00:51:38,680 --> 00:51:40,270

And there was no--

1235

00:51:40,270 --> 00:51:44,200

whenever we want to say,  
forget it, nobody's alive.

1236

00:51:44,200 --> 00:51:48,130

Who knows if we're going to--  
no, we've got to keep it up.

1237

00:51:48,130 --> 00:51:49,600

Let's wait.

1238

00:51:49,600 --> 00:51:52,480

There were times we said,  
either we have to give us up.

1239

00:51:52,480 --> 00:51:54,010

There was no food.

1240

00:51:54,010 --> 00:51:55,190

We were hungry.

1241

00:51:55,190 --> 00:51:56,950

We were completely hungry.

1242  
00:51:56,950 --> 00:51:59,200  
So what we're living for?

1243  
00:51:59,200 --> 00:52:02,950  
But my father always said,  
let's hope that tomorrow it's

1244  
00:52:02,950 --> 00:52:05,270  
going to be better.

1245  
00:52:05,270 --> 00:52:08,830  
But there was never a time  
when you gave up hope?

1246  
00:52:08,830 --> 00:52:09,650  
No.

1247  
00:52:09,650 --> 00:52:10,440  
No.

1248  
00:52:10,440 --> 00:52:11,070  
No.

1249  
00:52:11,070 --> 00:52:12,350  
No.

1250  
00:52:12,350 --> 00:52:15,370  
But today's children  
are different.

1251  
00:52:15,370 --> 00:52:18,210  
Whatever my dad said,  
it's going to be.

1252  
00:52:18,210 --> 00:52:22,090  
If we have to survive,  
we're going to survive.

1253  
00:52:22,090 --> 00:52:23,320  
That's what we lived.



1254  
00:52:23,320 --> 00:52:25,840  
My father said that  
we're going to survive.

1255  
00:52:25,840 --> 00:52:27,440  
He hopes we're going to survive.

1256  
00:52:27,440 --> 00:52:29,663  
So we hoped.

1257  
00:52:29,663 --> 00:52:30,580  
So what happened then?

1258  
00:52:30,580 --> 00:52:33,430  
It was 1945, you spent  
a year in Budapest.

1259  
00:52:33,430 --> 00:52:34,300  
Budapest.

1260  
00:52:34,300 --> 00:52:38,590  
And then I think in May  
when the war finished,

1261  
00:52:38,590 --> 00:52:42,700  
they told us all to  
go wherever we want.

1262  
00:52:42,700 --> 00:52:44,180  
And we picked Austria.

1263  
00:52:44,180 --> 00:52:46,530  
I don't know why, but  
that's what we picked.

1264  
00:52:46,530 --> 00:52:49,420  
We thought-- no, they told us  
that they're going to have--

1265  
00:52:49,420 --> 00:52:50,800  
Who was they?

1266  
00:52:50,800 --> 00:52:52,450  
The HIAS.

1267  
00:52:52,450 --> 00:52:54,220  
That it's going to--  
the war will finish

1268  
00:52:54,220 --> 00:52:58,140  
and they're going to have  
places that we can go.

1269  
00:52:58,140 --> 00:52:59,470  
That time was Palestine.

1270  
00:52:59,470 --> 00:53:04,280  
So either you have to  
wait to get to Palestine

1271  
00:53:04,280 --> 00:53:06,410  
or if you have  
family in America.

1272  
00:53:06,410 --> 00:53:08,170  
So we're going to go to America.

1273  
00:53:08,170 --> 00:53:11,920  
So they tell us that they have  
in Italy camps that people

1274  
00:53:11,920 --> 00:53:13,720  
could go and Austria.

1275  
00:53:13,720 --> 00:53:14,770  
We picked Austria.

1276  
00:53:14,770 --> 00:53:16,090  
I don't know why.

1277  
00:53:16,090 --> 00:53:18,060  
When you say camps,  
you refer to DP camps?

1278  
00:53:18,060 --> 00:53:19,570  
To DP camps, right.

1279  
00:53:19,570 --> 00:53:20,110  
Yes.

1280  
00:53:20,110 --> 00:53:23,500  
So they told us that  
they have in Italy

1281  
00:53:23,500 --> 00:53:25,300  
or they have in Austria.

1282  
00:53:25,300 --> 00:53:26,570  
So we picked Austria.

1283  
00:53:26,570 --> 00:53:28,630  
And we went to Austria.

1284  
00:53:28,630 --> 00:53:30,940  
And that time we came to Wels.

1285  
00:53:30,940 --> 00:53:33,640  
It wasn't so easy to come there.

1286  
00:53:33,640 --> 00:53:37,030  
But they took us again by train.

1287  
00:53:37,030 --> 00:53:46,830  
And we came to Linz, which was  
in Austria and was a DP camp.

1288  
00:53:46,830 --> 00:53:49,570  
And again, we lived there.

1289  
00:53:49,570 --> 00:53:51,560  
The HIAS helped us.

1290  
00:53:51,560 --> 00:53:52,720  
We didn't work.

1291  
00:53:52,720 --> 00:53:56,590  
We just came there and  
all the Jews from little--

1292  
00:53:56,590 --> 00:53:58,550  
the people from the  
concentration camps

1293  
00:53:58,550 --> 00:54:00,430  
start to come together.

1294  
00:54:00,430 --> 00:54:04,000  
And this was our home.

1295  
00:54:04,000 --> 00:54:08,947  
And you going to say, again,  
what did I had in mind.

1296  
00:54:08,947 --> 00:54:09,780  
Again, I don't know.

1297  
00:54:09,780 --> 00:54:11,355  
I was a young girl.

1298  
00:54:11,355 --> 00:54:12,730  
Then I was probably  
thinking, how

1299  
00:54:12,730 --> 00:54:15,967  
to make my own  
family, what to do.

1300  
00:54:15,967 --> 00:54:18,300  
Probably, I don't know if I  
was thinking to get married,

1301  
00:54:18,300 --> 00:54:21,610  
but probably.

1302  
00:54:21,610 --> 00:54:22,910  
You met your husband there?

1303  
00:54:22,910 --> 00:54:25,900  
I met my husband in 1947, yes.

1304  
00:54:25,900 --> 00:54:26,690  
In the DP camp.

1305  
00:54:26,690 --> 00:54:28,163  
In the DP camp in Linz.

1306  
00:54:28,163 --> 00:54:31,340

1307  
00:54:31,340 --> 00:54:33,110  
What happened-- you  
say a lot of people

1308  
00:54:33,110 --> 00:54:35,710  
came from the concentration  
camps to this DP camps

1309  
00:54:35,710 --> 00:54:38,090  
and told you what had happened.

1310  
00:54:38,090 --> 00:54:41,780  
Did you realize  
before 1945 the extent

1311  
00:54:41,780 --> 00:54:45,930  
of what had happened in Europe  
to the Jewish community?

1312  
00:54:45,930 --> 00:54:48,410  
No.

1313  
00:54:48,410 --> 00:54:50,090  
What do you mean, Doctor?

1314  
00:54:50,090 --> 00:54:54,890  
I mean, until, for example,  
you came to the DP camp,

1315

00:54:54,890 --> 00:54:57,830

you were exposed to a number  
of individuals who had

1316

00:54:57,830 --> 00:54:59,540

been in concentration camps.

1317

00:54:59,540 --> 00:55:02,780

Did you realize how  
many millions of Jews

1318

00:55:02,780 --> 00:55:04,370

had been killed before then?

1319

00:55:04,370 --> 00:55:07,720

Did you realize  
the extent of the--

1320

00:55:07,720 --> 00:55:09,560

Of course, you-- maybe no.

1321

00:55:09,560 --> 00:55:11,390

Maybe we didn't  
realize how many,

1322

00:55:11,390 --> 00:55:13,520

because you still didn't  
know who was coming back.

1323

00:55:13,520 --> 00:55:16,220

Because constantly  
new people came in.

1324

00:55:16,220 --> 00:55:17,930

Maybe we didn't know how many.

1325

00:55:17,930 --> 00:55:19,010

But of course, we knew.

1326

00:55:19,010 --> 00:55:22,230

Because when we came back to my  
little town, like I mentioned,

1327  
00:55:22,230 --> 00:55:26,960  
Brzozowski, and we heard from the  
Polacks that nobody survived.

1328  
00:55:26,960 --> 00:55:28,760  
They took a massive--

1329  
00:55:28,760 --> 00:55:30,650  
one big grave.

1330  
00:55:30,650 --> 00:55:37,070  
And everybody went, got killed,  
tumbled over in that thing.

1331  
00:55:37,070 --> 00:55:42,230  
So we knew that this is it.

1332  
00:55:42,230 --> 00:55:46,860  
Hitler took it  
care of everybody.

1333  
00:55:46,860 --> 00:55:49,260  
So you were in the DP  
camp for two years.

1334  
00:55:49,260 --> 00:55:50,820  
I was there for two years, yes.

1335  
00:55:50,820 --> 00:55:53,320  
From 1945 the 1947.

1336  
00:55:53,320 --> 00:55:55,860  
No, we were there  
four years, to 1949.

1337  
00:55:55,860 --> 00:55:58,160  
I was married in 1947.

1338  
00:55:58,160 --> 00:55:58,990  
In the DP camp?

1339

00:55:58,990 --> 00:55:59,700

In the DP camps.

1340

00:55:59,700 --> 00:56:02,665

1341

00:56:02,665 --> 00:56:03,165

Yes.

1342

00:56:03,165 --> 00:56:06,140

1343

00:56:06,140 --> 00:56:08,470

OK, we're going to stop here.

1344

00:56:08,470 --> 00:56:11,000