

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,290

2

00:00:09,290 --> 00:00:16,640

When Yanek came over to  
me and he interrogated me,

3

00:00:16,640 --> 00:00:21,960

and he found out, he  
said, I'm proud of you.

4

00:00:21,960 --> 00:00:26,180

5

00:00:26,180 --> 00:00:30,450

We will be happy to have you  
as a part of our organization.

6

00:00:30,450 --> 00:00:35,070

I found out that he is a  
man who was arrested and was

7

00:00:35,070 --> 00:00:38,700

in the hospital for  
political activities,

8

00:00:38,700 --> 00:00:45,320

and that he is a part of the  
Polish underground, [PPS] Armia

9

00:00:45,320 --> 00:00:49,190

Krajowa, Armia  
Ludowa, I'm sorry.

10

00:00:49,190 --> 00:00:52,020

There was AK and there was AL.

11

00:00:52,020 --> 00:00:54,720

Was AL anti-Semitic too?

12

00:00:54,720 --> 00:01:00,570

Yes, but not in a form  
like I found out later.

13  
00:01:00,570 --> 00:01:03,300  
Not as much as the AK was.

14  
00:01:03,300 --> 00:01:05,790  
However, I understand also  
that the Armia Krajowa

15  
00:01:05,790 --> 00:01:08,640  
had some Jews among them too.

16  
00:01:08,640 --> 00:01:11,310  
So there are always  
some talented people

17  
00:01:11,310 --> 00:01:14,240  
who will probably accept.

18  
00:01:14,240 --> 00:01:21,990  
And he said, look, if you by  
any chance will get out of here,

19  
00:01:21,990 --> 00:01:29,640  
I want you to go to Siemkowice,  
to a town not far from Bedzin,

20  
00:01:29,640 --> 00:01:31,200  
where I lived.

21  
00:01:31,200 --> 00:01:34,740  
And there's a fellow,  
his name is Staszek.

22  
00:01:34,740 --> 00:01:39,330

23  
00:01:39,330 --> 00:01:45,735  
And he will accept  
you to the underground

24

00:01:45,735 --> 00:01:46,860  
and you will fight with us.

25  
00:01:46,860 --> 00:01:49,950

26  
00:01:49,950 --> 00:01:55,910  
However, I thought perhaps  
the guy is just luring me

27  
00:01:55,910 --> 00:02:02,390  
in to say something or to make  
a mistake later on, because I

28  
00:02:02,390 --> 00:02:08,780  
heard many times that the  
Gestapo had tactics, had spies

29  
00:02:08,780 --> 00:02:13,250  
around to tell a guy, look  
here, I want to do this

30  
00:02:13,250 --> 00:02:18,890  
and this with you, later on,  
they catch him, you know?

31  
00:02:18,890 --> 00:02:22,940  
It's like that he's  
a spy for the Gestapo

32  
00:02:22,940 --> 00:02:25,210  
and wants to get  
me too involved.

33  
00:02:25,210 --> 00:02:25,910  
Entrap you.

34  
00:02:25,910 --> 00:02:26,600  
Entrap you.

35  
00:02:26,600 --> 00:02:29,390  
So I was just listening to him.

36

00:02:29,390 --> 00:02:37,780

But his face-- the manner he  
spoke to me was like an angel,

37

00:02:37,780 --> 00:02:42,230

like a person who shows  
compassion and love.

38

00:02:42,230 --> 00:02:48,990

And I was thinking all  
the time about him.

39

00:02:48,990 --> 00:02:51,950

And all the time when I was  
in there in the hospital,

40

00:02:51,950 --> 00:02:55,060

he was with me talking  
to me about other things,

41

00:02:55,060 --> 00:02:58,930

about Poland, about  
the way of life,

42

00:02:58,930 --> 00:03:03,310

and what kind of  
barbarism is happening now

43

00:03:03,310 --> 00:03:08,050

with the Nazis which came in,  
and the occupation of Poland.

44

00:03:08,050 --> 00:03:14,810

And he talked about poets  
and all kinds of things.

45

00:03:14,810 --> 00:03:18,530

After I was healed up  
from all my wounds,

46

00:03:18,530 --> 00:03:19,860

I was good to go home.

47

00:03:19,860 --> 00:03:22,890

48

00:03:22,890 --> 00:03:26,850

My director came to pick me up.

49

00:03:26,850 --> 00:03:30,370

50

00:03:30,370 --> 00:03:34,630

And when he took me  
out from the hospital--

51

00:03:34,630 --> 00:03:36,850

before he took that  
from the hospital--

52

00:03:36,850 --> 00:03:41,080

I was interrogated  
by Gestapo again,

53

00:03:41,080 --> 00:03:44,010

by the chief of the  
Gestapo especially.

54

00:03:44,010 --> 00:03:54,020

And he told me, look Monka,  
don't you ever say a word

55

00:03:54,020 --> 00:04:00,200

to your friends,  
or to your parents,

56

00:04:00,200 --> 00:04:03,710

or to your brothers  
or sisters, nobody.

57

00:04:03,710 --> 00:04:06,190

Nobody has to know  
what happened here.

58

00:04:06,190 --> 00:04:10,760

Because if we found out that  
you talked about this incident

59  
00:04:10,760 --> 00:04:14,270  
here, you will be  
immediately killed,

60  
00:04:14,270 --> 00:04:16,550  
and your whole family  
will go with you.

61  
00:04:16,550 --> 00:04:18,050  
The incident being the beating?

62  
00:04:18,050 --> 00:04:20,480  
Beating, yeah.

63  
00:04:20,480 --> 00:04:26,900  
I came home with that  
[? Pishniak ?] director.

64  
00:04:26,900 --> 00:04:29,720  
He took me by car home.

65  
00:04:29,720 --> 00:04:34,570  
I don't remember being  
in car for a long time--

66  
00:04:34,570 --> 00:04:35,810  
in a private car like that.

67  
00:04:35,810 --> 00:04:38,810

68  
00:04:38,810 --> 00:04:43,430  
He had tears in his  
eyes, that German.

69  
00:04:43,430 --> 00:04:46,670

70  
00:04:46,670 --> 00:04:52,070

He felt very bad for me,  
and he was very happy

71  
00:04:52,070 --> 00:04:53,640  
that I am coming back.

72  
00:04:53,640 --> 00:04:56,480  
But he told me one thing.

73  
00:04:56,480 --> 00:04:59,630  
Don't you ever run away from me.

74  
00:04:59,630 --> 00:05:01,730  
You stay with me.

75  
00:05:01,730 --> 00:05:05,330  
As long I'll have this  
factory, you'll be safe.

76  
00:05:05,330 --> 00:05:08,350

77  
00:05:08,350 --> 00:05:11,840  
He didn't elaborate.

78  
00:05:11,840 --> 00:05:15,980  
He told me, though, that he  
had to use great influence

79  
00:05:15,980 --> 00:05:18,450  
to get me out.

80  
00:05:18,450 --> 00:05:20,460  
And he said too  
that you're probably

81  
00:05:20,460 --> 00:05:26,120  
one of the very few in the  
whole area that ever got out

82  
00:05:26,120 --> 00:05:26,620  
of a prison.

83  
00:05:26,620 --> 00:05:29,410

84  
00:05:29,410 --> 00:05:33,370  
So I was grateful to him.

85  
00:05:33,370 --> 00:05:36,690  
I was happy that I'm  
going to see my family.

86  
00:05:36,690 --> 00:05:43,240  
The reunion was very  
dramatic, tears, anguish.

87  
00:05:43,240 --> 00:05:44,700  
They really didn't know.

88  
00:05:44,700 --> 00:05:48,600  
They thought that maybe  
I went to a labor camp,

89  
00:05:48,600 --> 00:05:51,960  
and nothing happened to me.

90  
00:05:51,960 --> 00:05:58,590  
It took me many,  
many months and years

91  
00:05:58,590 --> 00:06:03,560  
until I told them that story,  
when I was good and safe.

92  
00:06:03,560 --> 00:06:06,980  
Because I was really  
afraid that if one of them

93  
00:06:06,980 --> 00:06:09,410  
will just open their  
mouth and say something

94  
00:06:09,410 --> 00:06:13,330



what happened to me and  
how I got out, it will be--

95  
00:06:13,330 --> 00:06:13,830  
The end.

96  
00:06:13,830 --> 00:06:14,330  
--the end.

97  
00:06:14,330 --> 00:06:20,200

98  
00:06:20,200 --> 00:06:23,210  
This was very bad times.

99  
00:06:23,210 --> 00:06:25,870  
We're coming to times  
where the young people were

100  
00:06:25,870 --> 00:06:28,900  
almost all out of the city.

101  
00:06:28,900 --> 00:06:31,245  
The city didn't have  
any more 45,000,

102  
00:06:31,245 --> 00:06:35,680  
but had maybe like 25,000.

103  
00:06:35,680 --> 00:06:40,350  
All the young girls, all the  
young boys were sent to camps.

104  
00:06:40,350 --> 00:06:46,940  
Some went, some were shot, some  
were in prison, some ran away.

105  
00:06:46,940 --> 00:06:49,840  
But from 45,000 remained  
25,000, and they're

106  
00:06:49,840 --> 00:06:53,320

talking about a closed ghetto.

107

00:06:53,320 --> 00:07:00,570

And they picked Srodula and  
Kamienice as a closed ghetto.

108

00:07:00,570 --> 00:07:04,060

109

00:07:04,060 --> 00:07:15,220

Later on, we got all cards that  
we have to appear in front of--

110

00:07:15,220 --> 00:07:19,510

it's actually like a  
ball field, you know?

111

00:07:19,510 --> 00:07:23,370

One was called Sarmacja  
and one was called Hakoach.

112

00:07:23,370 --> 00:07:27,910

Hakoach was because  
we had our own team.

113

00:07:27,910 --> 00:07:31,690

We had a soccer club, and  
we had all kind of clubs.

114

00:07:31,690 --> 00:07:34,210

Because in a big  
town like this, you

115

00:07:34,210 --> 00:07:37,960

have all kinds of activities,  
sports especially.

116

00:07:37,960 --> 00:07:40,780

I went to Sarmacja,  
because I went immediately

117

00:07:40,780 --> 00:07:46,960

from work to Sarmacja,

not knowing my parents

118  
00:07:46,960 --> 00:07:49,870  
went to Hakoach.

119  
00:07:49,870 --> 00:07:53,710  
I went up to Sarmacja together  
with my younger brother,

120  
00:07:53,710 --> 00:07:59,110  
because my other brother  
was already away in camp.

121  
00:07:59,110 --> 00:08:04,960  
And maybe 20,000 people  
showed up, or maybe 22,000.

122  
00:08:04,960 --> 00:08:11,240  
The whole city was there,  
older people, younger people,

123  
00:08:11,240 --> 00:08:15,060  
children, babies.

124  
00:08:15,060 --> 00:08:19,980  
And we thought that this was  
just another registration.

125  
00:08:19,980 --> 00:08:23,040  
There were so many  
registrations going on.

126  
00:08:23,040 --> 00:08:26,825  
But somehow, when  
we came there, it

127  
00:08:26,825 --> 00:08:29,310  
was like 8:00 in the morning.

128  
00:08:29,310 --> 00:08:35,190  
When the time starts going,  
like it's 10:00-11:00 and no

129

00:08:35,190 --> 00:08:36,840  
movement.

130

00:08:36,840 --> 00:08:38,460  
I didn't like that.

131

00:08:38,460 --> 00:08:42,150  
And then I look out  
through the gates,

132

00:08:42,150 --> 00:08:45,630  
and I see German police around.

133

00:08:45,630 --> 00:08:48,910  
Before, there was  
only Jewish police.

134

00:08:48,910 --> 00:08:52,900  
And the Jewish police  
actually helped the population

135

00:08:52,900 --> 00:08:56,170  
to go to the ball fields.

136

00:08:56,170 --> 00:09:01,900  
So let's say in our ball  
field it was, let's say,

137

00:09:01,900 --> 00:09:05,070  
10,000 or 12,000, and the  
other ones were 12,000.

138

00:09:05,070 --> 00:09:09,100  
So it was two fields like that.

139

00:09:09,100 --> 00:09:12,820  
Towards the evening-- a  
whole day no food, nothing--

140

00:09:12,820 --> 00:09:18,060  
towards the evening,  
Gestapo men came,

141  
00:09:18,060 --> 00:09:21,570  
in uniforms and in civilian.

142  
00:09:21,570 --> 00:09:23,220  
Relatively young people.

143  
00:09:23,220 --> 00:09:27,960  
I would say in the  
30s, maybe early 40s.

144  
00:09:27,960 --> 00:09:34,560  
And they pushed the  
whole group of the people

145  
00:09:34,560 --> 00:09:35,730  
towards one corner.

146  
00:09:35,730 --> 00:09:38,870

147  
00:09:38,870 --> 00:09:40,740  
And we saw already  
it doesn't look good.

148  
00:09:40,740 --> 00:09:42,750  
And then they put some  
podiums like this,

149  
00:09:42,750 --> 00:09:46,530  
like these kind of situations.

150  
00:09:46,530 --> 00:09:51,210  
And they start  
pushing people front

151  
00:09:51,210 --> 00:09:54,360  
ways towards these stands.

152  
00:09:54,360 --> 00:09:57,540  
And there were several  
stands like this.

153  
00:09:57,540 --> 00:10:00,450  
And they start selecting people.

154  
00:10:00,450 --> 00:10:02,400  
This was the selection.

155  
00:10:02,400 --> 00:10:05,610  
This was a real selection.

156  
00:10:05,610 --> 00:10:07,740  
They fooled the people  
with registration,

157  
00:10:07,740 --> 00:10:11,470  
but there was a selection to  
be taken to concentration camps

158  
00:10:11,470 --> 00:10:12,930  
already.

159  
00:10:12,930 --> 00:10:15,090  
And one group of people--

160  
00:10:15,090 --> 00:10:16,770  
was about three or four groups--

161  
00:10:16,770 --> 00:10:20,250  
one group of people was  
composed of people who

162  
00:10:20,250 --> 00:10:24,650  
were young, had no children.

163  
00:10:24,650 --> 00:10:26,490  
They pushed to one side.

164  
00:10:26,490 --> 00:10:30,590  
Then there were the young  
ones, very young like 16, 17.

165

00:10:30,590 --> 00:10:33,430

166

00:10:33,430 --> 00:10:36,200

Pushed to another group.

167

00:10:36,200 --> 00:10:39,880

And later on, we  
found out this was

168

00:10:39,880 --> 00:10:43,300

designed to go to labor camp.

169

00:10:43,300 --> 00:10:51,670

And the third and fourth group  
was invalids, older people,

170

00:10:51,670 --> 00:10:55,510

and mothers and children.

171

00:10:55,510 --> 00:10:58,210

Later on, when  
mothers were taken

172

00:10:58,210 --> 00:11:01,090

in the first group  
with the children,

173

00:11:01,090 --> 00:11:05,470

some other mothers left  
the children on the grass

174

00:11:05,470 --> 00:11:08,080

and they went by themselves,  
because they wanted

175

00:11:08,080 --> 00:11:11,140

to save themselves first.

176

00:11:11,140 --> 00:11:20,930

I went through, and I was put to  
the group of the young people,

177

00:11:20,930 --> 00:11:23,870  
and my brother also.

178

00:11:23,870 --> 00:11:26,960

179

00:11:26,960 --> 00:11:33,650  
When we were sent  
out, me and my brother

180

00:11:33,650 --> 00:11:40,610  
managed to push ourselves to  
the group of women and men

181

00:11:40,610 --> 00:11:43,310  
who didn't have any children.

182

00:11:43,310 --> 00:11:45,550  
So it means these  
are working people,

183

00:11:45,550 --> 00:11:48,270  
and they will be  
free to go back home.

184

00:11:48,270 --> 00:11:52,700  
In this selection,  
5,000 people--

185

00:11:52,700 --> 00:11:53,200  
excuse me.

186

00:11:53,200 --> 00:11:57,350

187

00:11:57,350 --> 00:12:01,030  
5,000 or 6,000 people  
were sent back home,

188

00:12:01,030 --> 00:12:04,580  
and the rest remained there.



189

00:12:04,580 --> 00:12:06,720

I understand later on--

190

00:12:06,720 --> 00:12:09,230

when we went home,

it was evening--

191

00:12:09,230 --> 00:12:11,950

the whole group remained.

192

00:12:11,950 --> 00:12:14,890

The group who remained

stayed at night.

193

00:12:14,890 --> 00:12:17,940

194

00:12:17,940 --> 00:12:26,510

And next day, they were

again selected and sent

195

00:12:26,510 --> 00:12:29,615

by trains away to Auschwitz.

196

00:12:29,615 --> 00:12:33,340

197

00:12:33,340 --> 00:12:35,050

I went ahead a little bit.

198

00:12:35,050 --> 00:12:41,160

When I came home and I

didn't find my parents,

199

00:12:41,160 --> 00:12:43,680

somebody mentioned to me

that they are on Hakoach.

200

00:12:43,680 --> 00:12:46,590

So I went to Hakoach.

201

00:12:46,590 --> 00:12:48,720

My mother went through and  
my sister went through.

202

00:12:48,720 --> 00:12:52,170

203

00:12:52,170 --> 00:13:00,780

My father was pushed to the  
group to be sent to Auschwitz.

204

00:13:00,780 --> 00:13:05,830

When I heard this,  
my heart dropped.

205

00:13:05,830 --> 00:13:10,460

I loved my father dearly.

206

00:13:10,460 --> 00:13:15,470

I had not only respect  
for him, but the love

207

00:13:15,470 --> 00:13:19,300

to have a father  
with such good heart,

208

00:13:19,300 --> 00:13:22,370

with such compassion  
for the children.

209

00:13:22,370 --> 00:13:25,320

210

00:13:25,320 --> 00:13:28,290

I said to myself, I  
have to do something

211

00:13:28,290 --> 00:13:31,260

to save the life of my father.

212

00:13:31,260 --> 00:13:33,480

I said, I'm planning  
something to do,

213  
00:13:33,480 --> 00:13:41,180  
and here if they'll take me  
away my father, I'll be lost.

214  
00:13:41,180 --> 00:13:47,170  
I couldn't get into the  
Hakoach field in the evening.

215  
00:13:47,170 --> 00:13:48,760  
It was night.

216  
00:13:48,760 --> 00:13:52,750  
I heard shots going  
around already.

217  
00:13:52,750 --> 00:13:56,830  
I went home and I  
said, in the morning,

218  
00:13:56,830 --> 00:14:00,830  
I'll come back and  
see what to do.

219  
00:14:00,830 --> 00:14:04,790  
That night, it's like  
God was punishing

220  
00:14:04,790 --> 00:14:08,386  
the Jewish people even worse.

221  
00:14:08,386 --> 00:14:13,520  
A rain fell down, a big rain.

222  
00:14:13,520 --> 00:14:17,880  
And the Germans played around.

223  
00:14:17,880 --> 00:14:19,866  
They told them all to lay down.

224  
00:14:19,866 --> 00:14:22,980  
And if somebody couldn't

lay down because it was wet

225

00:14:22,980 --> 00:14:25,770

and he got up his  
head, they shot him.

226

00:14:25,770 --> 00:14:30,278

On both fields, this  
one and that one.

227

00:14:30,278 --> 00:14:32,070

That night, I didn't  
sleep the whole night.

228

00:14:32,070 --> 00:14:33,930

I was dreaming what to do.

229

00:14:33,930 --> 00:14:36,660

I just didn't know.

230

00:14:36,660 --> 00:14:39,000

In the morning, I got up early.

231

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:40,920

I ran to Hakoach.

232

00:14:40,920 --> 00:14:43,800

I saw the whole  
field was surrounded

233

00:14:43,800 --> 00:14:52,340

with the German police  
and the Jewish police.

234

00:14:52,340 --> 00:15:00,110

I somehow managed to get  
an armband for male nurses.

235

00:15:00,110 --> 00:15:03,050

236

00:15:03,050 --> 00:15:05,570

And I saw some guys wearing  
it and going back and forth,

237  
00:15:05,570 --> 00:15:08,300  
and taking out people, and  
taking out dead people,

238  
00:15:08,300 --> 00:15:10,910  
and live, and stuff like that.

239  
00:15:10,910 --> 00:15:17,420  
I ran in and I said, let it  
be what it's going to be.

240  
00:15:17,420 --> 00:15:19,940  
I'm going to try  
to save my father.

241  
00:15:19,940 --> 00:15:24,950  
If not, I go with him,  
whatever's going to happen.

242  
00:15:24,950 --> 00:15:32,332  
I ran into the field  
with a band like that.

243  
00:15:32,332 --> 00:15:36,400  
The first thing I saw  
is a girl who I know.

244  
00:15:36,400 --> 00:15:39,240  
She was a neighbor of ours.

245  
00:15:39,240 --> 00:15:45,010  
And her name was RĀ<sup>3</sup>Ā<sup>3</sup>ka, too, and  
I said RĀ<sup>3</sup>Ā<sup>3</sup>ka-- she was a nurse.

246  
00:15:45,010 --> 00:15:50,200  
I say, I came here to take  
my father out, and tell him

247  
00:15:50,200 --> 00:15:53,320  
whenever I go for

him, he should get up,

248

00:15:53,320 --> 00:15:55,390  
and with all his strength--

249

00:15:55,390 --> 00:15:57,820  
he wasn't feeling good  
anymore, because after all

250

00:15:57,820 --> 00:16:02,020  
the incidents, he lost  
all his appetite to live.

251

00:16:02,020 --> 00:16:04,307  
Everything was not the same.

252

00:16:04,307 --> 00:16:05,890  
He was not the same  
[? Hiram ?] Monka.

253

00:16:05,890 --> 00:16:08,580

254

00:16:08,580 --> 00:16:12,260  
And she probably told him that.

255

00:16:12,260 --> 00:16:17,240  
And the people from the  
Jewish committee saw me,

256

00:16:17,240 --> 00:16:20,370  
and some say, hey, you have  
a nerve to come in here.

257

00:16:20,370 --> 00:16:21,870  
They'll shoot you.

258

00:16:21,870 --> 00:16:23,910  
You don't belong to this group.

259

00:16:23,910 --> 00:16:26,670  
I said to them,

look here, you don't

260

00:16:26,670 --> 00:16:29,760

dare to open up your big mouth.

261

00:16:29,760 --> 00:16:33,360

I have a gun on me, and

I didn't have nothing.

262

00:16:33,360 --> 00:16:36,750

I said, I will shoot

you first, and you all

263

00:16:36,750 --> 00:16:38,370

will go together with me.

264

00:16:38,370 --> 00:16:39,180

Don't say a word.

265

00:16:39,180 --> 00:16:42,240

I came here to save my father.

266

00:16:42,240 --> 00:16:46,280

So they became pale and stood.

267

00:16:46,280 --> 00:16:53,310

I ran over to my

father, and I told him,

268

00:16:53,310 --> 00:16:54,870

I'm going to do something.

269

00:16:54,870 --> 00:16:56,490

I don't know yet what.

270

00:16:56,490 --> 00:17:00,300

But when I give you a sign,

you come running towards me,

271

00:17:00,300 --> 00:17:02,710

and you get out with me.

272

00:17:02,710 --> 00:17:07,859

If not, it will be  
the end of both of us.

273

00:17:07,859 --> 00:17:10,220

I go over to the Gestapo man--

274

00:17:10,220 --> 00:17:16,290

a rough type-- and I told  
him, look, there's a mistake.

275

00:17:16,290 --> 00:17:20,099

I work here as a nurse.

276

00:17:20,099 --> 00:17:21,119

My father is there.

277

00:17:21,119 --> 00:17:23,849

He's a young man.

278

00:17:23,849 --> 00:17:25,980

Somehow, he got in  
there by mistake,

279

00:17:25,980 --> 00:17:28,500

and I want to take him home.

280

00:17:28,500 --> 00:17:30,990

He says, who is your father?

281

00:17:30,990 --> 00:17:34,800

So I say, you want  
me to call him in?

282

00:17:34,800 --> 00:17:36,600

He said yes.

283

00:17:36,600 --> 00:17:41,160

So I ran over there and  
I waved to him to come.

284



00:17:41,160 --> 00:17:46,750  
And he with all his strength  
ran towards the Gestapo man,

285  
00:17:46,750 --> 00:17:50,040  
towards where I stood.

286  
00:17:50,040 --> 00:17:53,010  
And he looked at my father--

287  
00:17:53,010 --> 00:17:55,320  
and I really don't  
know if he really

288  
00:17:55,320 --> 00:17:59,100  
believed that I told  
him the truth or not,

289  
00:17:59,100 --> 00:18:01,440  
but he says like this to me.

290  
00:18:01,440 --> 00:18:05,820  
He says, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]  
Jude to me.

291  
00:18:05,820 --> 00:18:10,520  
That means, you dirty Jew.

292  
00:18:10,520 --> 00:18:13,660  
Take your father.

293  
00:18:13,660 --> 00:18:17,290  
When I heard the words, I  
thought that God was with me.

294  
00:18:17,290 --> 00:18:20,530  
This was miracle number two.

295  
00:18:20,530 --> 00:18:26,045  
I took my father out,  
and I was crying.

296

00:18:26,045 --> 00:18:27,546  
(CRYING) I was crying bitterly.

297  
00:18:27,546 --> 00:18:32,010

298  
00:18:32,010 --> 00:18:35,020  
But I was so happy.

299  
00:18:35,020 --> 00:18:36,100  
I saved a life.

300  
00:18:36,100 --> 00:18:39,260

301  
00:18:39,260 --> 00:18:41,720  
And I ran out.

302  
00:18:41,720 --> 00:18:47,680  
When I saw the selection, when  
I saw the young children being

303  
00:18:47,680 --> 00:18:50,830  
taken away and  
driven to the trains,

304  
00:18:50,830 --> 00:18:56,480  
not to come back anymore,  
I said to myself, if I have

305  
00:18:56,480 --> 00:18:59,090  
the strength and I  
have the opportunity,

306  
00:18:59,090 --> 00:19:02,460  
why don't you take this  
opportunity in your hand?

307  
00:19:02,460 --> 00:19:04,280  
Are you going to  
allow your father

308

00:19:04,280 --> 00:19:09,670  
and mother, the whole  
family, to get killed?

309  
00:19:09,670 --> 00:19:13,170  
Aren't you a man enough?

310  
00:19:13,170 --> 00:19:14,700  
I told them myself.

311  
00:19:14,700 --> 00:19:17,130  
I said, how can I live with it?

312  
00:19:17,130 --> 00:19:20,590

313  
00:19:20,590 --> 00:19:30,100  
And I decided at that time that  
I have to go to that Staszek

314  
00:19:30,100 --> 00:19:32,790  
to Siemkowice.

315  
00:19:32,790 --> 00:19:39,970  
A few days later, I  
was going to work.

316  
00:19:39,970 --> 00:19:41,640  
And the weekend came.

317  
00:19:41,640 --> 00:19:46,530  
On Sunday morning, I got  
up early in the morning.

318  
00:19:46,530 --> 00:19:51,430  
I ripped the Star of David.

319  
00:19:51,430 --> 00:19:56,830  
And I walked 12 kilometers  
from my town through fields--

320  
00:19:56,830 --> 00:19:58,330

always through fields.

321  
00:19:58,330 --> 00:20:00,550  
I did not touch the town.

322  
00:20:00,550 --> 00:20:03,390  
And I knew the area.

323  
00:20:03,390 --> 00:20:07,420  
And I came with my  
heart pumping like--

324  
00:20:07,420 --> 00:20:11,713

325  
00:20:11,713 --> 00:20:14,960  
And I knocked the door.

326  
00:20:14,960 --> 00:20:17,240  
I was not sure.

327  
00:20:17,240 --> 00:20:20,150  
I didn't tell anything  
to my parents.

328  
00:20:20,150 --> 00:20:24,070  
If it's a trap, then  
I can't help it.

329  
00:20:24,070 --> 00:20:26,677

330  
00:20:26,677 --> 00:20:27,760  
I told my younger brother.

331  
00:20:27,760 --> 00:20:31,180  
I said, look, whatever  
it's going to be,

332  
00:20:31,180 --> 00:20:33,580  
whatever the time is going  
to come that you have

333  
00:20:33,580 --> 00:20:38,610  
to go in a ghetto, don't  
allow to take your parents

334  
00:20:38,610 --> 00:20:42,370  
to the closed ghetto.

335  
00:20:42,370 --> 00:20:45,940  
By the way, we had also  
my grandma with us.

336  
00:20:45,940 --> 00:20:48,840

337  
00:20:48,840 --> 00:20:53,840  
I then later-- when I  
knocked at the door,

338  
00:20:53,840 --> 00:20:57,830  
I didn't hear an  
answer fast enough.

339  
00:20:57,830 --> 00:21:01,940  
Later on, somebody comes  
to the door, and he says,

340  
00:21:01,940 --> 00:21:03,950  
who is this in Polish?

341  
00:21:03,950 --> 00:21:07,460  
So I say, this is PaveÅ, Monka.

342  
00:21:07,460 --> 00:21:09,380  
I was sent by Yanek.

343  
00:21:09,380 --> 00:21:14,550  
Immediately, the word Yanek  
opened up the doors for me.

344  
00:21:14,550 --> 00:21:21,040  
I walked into this room,

and he embraced me.

345

00:21:21,040 --> 00:21:26,820

And he said to me, in small  
words like this is PaveÅ,ku

346

00:21:26,820 --> 00:21:30,120

Instead of PaveÅ,,  
he said in a nice--

347

00:21:30,120 --> 00:21:35,030

PaveÅ,ku, we were  
waiting for you.

348

00:21:35,030 --> 00:21:36,580

We got news.

349

00:21:36,580 --> 00:21:39,083

They must have had  
contact with the prison

350

00:21:39,083 --> 00:21:40,000

and with the hospital.

351

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:42,890

352

00:21:42,890 --> 00:21:47,780

And he embraced me, and he  
asked me all kinds of questions.

353

00:21:47,780 --> 00:21:50,750

He brought in a  
couple other guys.

354

00:21:50,750 --> 00:21:54,140

And I said, I would like  
to join the underground.

355

00:21:54,140 --> 00:21:55,730

I cannot take it.

356

00:21:55,730 --> 00:21:59,850  
But under one condition.

357  
00:21:59,850 --> 00:22:09,210  
If you will save my family, my  
father, my mother, my brothers

358  
00:22:09,210 --> 00:22:11,225  
and sisters.

359  
00:22:11,225 --> 00:22:14,570

360  
00:22:14,570 --> 00:22:18,360  
I say, none of them look Jewish.

361  
00:22:18,360 --> 00:22:22,160  
They were really all  
blond, blue eyes.

362  
00:22:22,160 --> 00:22:25,190  
They all had the  
Irish look what Hitler

363  
00:22:25,190 --> 00:22:27,590  
wanted that all the  
Germans look like this.

364  
00:22:27,590 --> 00:22:29,600  
But unfortunately,  
a lot of Germans

365  
00:22:29,600 --> 00:22:33,350  
looked a million times  
worse than the Jews--

366  
00:22:33,350 --> 00:22:38,110  
what they portrayed  
the prototype of a Jew.

367  
00:22:38,110 --> 00:22:39,960  
Or stereotype, I'm sorry.

368

00:22:39,960 --> 00:22:43,720

369

00:22:43,720 --> 00:22:46,030

I was accepted with  
the idea that they were

370

00:22:46,030 --> 00:22:48,620

going to find a place for me.

371

00:22:48,620 --> 00:22:50,755

And they said they  
have safe places.

372

00:22:50,755 --> 00:23:07,930

373

00:23:07,930 --> 00:23:11,780

However, they gave  
me a function.

374

00:23:11,780 --> 00:23:14,070

Not a military function.

375

00:23:14,070 --> 00:23:16,780

They gave me a  
recruiting function.

376

00:23:16,780 --> 00:23:21,070

I was supposed to recruit people  
to the underground, but only

377

00:23:21,070 --> 00:23:27,137

good people, people who  
want to work and fight

378

00:23:27,137 --> 00:23:27,970

against the tyranny.

379

00:23:27,970 --> 00:23:31,490



380

00:23:31,490 --> 00:23:34,340

They told me, however,  
that I must go back

381

00:23:34,340 --> 00:23:37,430

to work and work in that place.

382

00:23:37,430 --> 00:23:42,770

Because this is a place  
where it's better for me

383

00:23:42,770 --> 00:23:44,450

to be able to recruit people.

384

00:23:44,450 --> 00:23:47,630

Otherwise, I am completely gone.

385

00:23:47,630 --> 00:23:56,120

Naturally, nobody knew about  
it, not my family, nobody.

386

00:23:56,120 --> 00:23:58,010

I came home.

387

00:23:58,010 --> 00:24:00,530

388

00:24:00,530 --> 00:24:04,100

I told my father and  
mother that they are not

389

00:24:04,100 --> 00:24:08,790

going to go to a  
ghetto, that it will

390

00:24:08,790 --> 00:24:13,750

be criminal to go to  
ghetto, because they'll

391

00:24:13,750 --> 00:24:14,740

be killed there.

392

00:24:14,740 --> 00:24:17,860

Eventually, they'll  
take the ghetto.

393

00:24:17,860 --> 00:24:22,320

They'll surround the ghetto  
and then destroy everyone.

394

00:24:22,320 --> 00:24:25,630

And I have a place for  
them, and we will manage

395

00:24:25,630 --> 00:24:28,270

to save the rest of the family.

396

00:24:28,270 --> 00:24:32,390

397

00:24:32,390 --> 00:24:38,350

I cannot explain to you  
how difficult it was for me

398

00:24:38,350 --> 00:24:41,745

to bring my father,  
who suddenly,

399

00:24:41,745 --> 00:24:43,120

after the incident  
what happened,

400

00:24:43,120 --> 00:24:44,375

couldn't walk anymore.

401

00:24:44,375 --> 00:24:47,150

He just couldn't walk.

402

00:24:47,150 --> 00:24:51,290

He was so much  
[INAUDIBLE] with fright

403

00:24:51,290 --> 00:24:55,230

and with things what happened

that he couldn't walk,

404

00:24:55,230 --> 00:24:59,260

and he was not a  
well person anymore.

405

00:24:59,260 --> 00:25:09,260

My brother, myself, and four  
people from the underground

406

00:25:09,260 --> 00:25:14,870

walked with us through the  
woods and through the fields,

407

00:25:14,870 --> 00:25:19,180

and carried my father  
most of the time.

408

00:25:19,180 --> 00:25:20,930

We actually changed  
around, and we carried

409

00:25:20,930 --> 00:25:22,910

our father, who couldn't walk.

410

00:25:22,910 --> 00:25:26,630

And we had to be careful  
nobody should see us too.

411

00:25:26,630 --> 00:25:30,630

Because you couldn't  
take any transportation.

412

00:25:30,630 --> 00:25:32,460

If we would take a trolley car--

413

00:25:32,460 --> 00:25:38,213

as a Jew, you were not permitted  
to go with a trolley car.

414

00:25:38,213 --> 00:25:38,880

You had to walk.

415

00:25:38,880 --> 00:25:45,860

416

00:25:45,860 --> 00:25:50,390

When we arrived to  
the farmer's, which

417

00:25:50,390 --> 00:25:53,060

was not far from Siemkowice.

418

00:25:53,060 --> 00:25:58,215

It was about 15 kilometers  
away from our hometown.

419

00:25:58,215 --> 00:26:00,470

It wasn't too far  
away, but it was

420

00:26:00,470 --> 00:26:03,410

in an area which  
only farmers live.

421

00:26:03,410 --> 00:26:11,520

One house here, one house  
one kilometer further.

422

00:26:11,520 --> 00:26:15,870

So one couldn't see  
what's in another's house.

423

00:26:15,870 --> 00:26:23,710

And immediately, we built a  
bunker under the bedrooms.

424

00:26:23,710 --> 00:26:27,745

The farmhouses in  
Poland were one house.

425

00:26:27,745 --> 00:26:34,210

One big room consisted of  
everything, the sleeping

426

00:26:34,210 --> 00:26:39,110  
quarters, and where you ate,  
and the kitchen and everything.

427  
00:26:39,110 --> 00:26:42,500  
And also, was a stable near.

428  
00:26:42,500 --> 00:26:50,650  
We dug a bunker underneath the  
house from the bedroom itself

429  
00:26:50,650 --> 00:26:56,380  
by removing some  
boards from the floor,

430  
00:26:56,380 --> 00:27:00,940  
and covered it up with a bed.

431  
00:27:00,940 --> 00:27:02,470  
That means in case  
of danger, you

432  
00:27:02,470 --> 00:27:05,800  
could see a kilometer far away.

433  
00:27:05,800 --> 00:27:08,920  
If Germans come, they will  
all run into the bunker,

434  
00:27:08,920 --> 00:27:15,220  
and the farmer will  
push the bed over it.

435  
00:27:15,220 --> 00:27:17,420  
The bunker wasn't big,  
but it was good enough

436  
00:27:17,420 --> 00:27:22,220  
to take in maybe 10 people.

437  
00:27:22,220 --> 00:27:25,020  
Because we thought that we'd  
get the rest of the family

438  
00:27:25,020 --> 00:27:25,520  
there too.

439  
00:27:25,520 --> 00:27:30,160

440  
00:27:30,160 --> 00:27:32,530  
So we were prepared.

441  
00:27:32,530 --> 00:27:39,050  
I again was running around  
trying to recruit people.

442  
00:27:39,050 --> 00:27:43,240  
I succeeded to recruit  
my friend the Pole,

443  
00:27:43,240 --> 00:27:45,725  
[? Slusaweck, ?] who lived  
across the street from us

444  
00:27:45,725 --> 00:27:53,310  
[INAUDIBLE],, and  
also another fellow

445  
00:27:53,310 --> 00:28:00,570  
who used to be a boyfriend of  
my sister, who died in Italy.

446  
00:28:00,570 --> 00:28:04,485  
It wasn't an easy  
thing to recruit Jews,

447  
00:28:04,485 --> 00:28:06,610  
because there weren't too  
many young people anymore

448  
00:28:06,610 --> 00:28:08,100  
in the town.

449  
00:28:08,100 --> 00:28:13,390

The only young people who were  
in town were the Jewish Militz.

450

00:28:13,390 --> 00:28:18,510

And as God is a witness, I would  
never approach one of them,

451

00:28:18,510 --> 00:28:20,880

regardless if they were  
friends of mine or not.

452

00:28:20,880 --> 00:28:23,850

Because I really hated them.

453

00:28:23,850 --> 00:28:26,910

I thought that a Jew  
should not lower himself

454

00:28:26,910 --> 00:28:31,520

down to the point  
of helping an enemy.

455

00:28:31,520 --> 00:28:33,260

Because he may be saved.

456

00:28:33,260 --> 00:28:36,880

457

00:28:36,880 --> 00:28:43,920

This was my crazy thing,  
but that's how I felt.

458

00:28:43,920 --> 00:28:49,805

I worked for a couple  
months in Silesia,

459

00:28:49,805 --> 00:28:51,540

in the factory where  
I worked there.

460

00:28:51,540 --> 00:28:54,450

461

00:28:54,450 --> 00:29:02,110

And I recruited there another  
few guys, and they were Poles.

462

00:29:02,110 --> 00:29:04,660

Tough, tough guys.

463

00:29:04,660 --> 00:29:08,710

They were fed up with the  
whole thing what they saw.

464

00:29:08,710 --> 00:29:11,620

I know what my wife  
was telling, that some

465

00:29:11,620 --> 00:29:15,070

of the Poles over there  
were not some sympathetic

466

00:29:15,070 --> 00:29:19,910

with the plight of the Jewish  
people in the Russian side.

467

00:29:19,910 --> 00:29:25,460

But in our side, I'm not  
sure that they were not--

468

00:29:25,460 --> 00:29:27,860

maybe they were happy that  
things like this happened.

469

00:29:27,860 --> 00:29:30,910

But they didn't like  
what was going on.

470

00:29:30,910 --> 00:29:33,560

They were scared themselves too.

471

00:29:33,560 --> 00:29:35,280

Because rumors  
were going around,

472



00:29:35,280 --> 00:29:39,770  
and they and they used to say,  
that first will come the Jews.

473  
00:29:39,770 --> 00:29:41,510  
Then will come the slaves.

474  
00:29:41,510 --> 00:29:43,100  
The Slavs, I'm sorry.

475  
00:29:43,100 --> 00:29:44,540  
I made a mistake.

476  
00:29:44,540 --> 00:29:47,270  
I apologize for that.

477  
00:29:47,270 --> 00:29:49,280  
And I believed that.

478  
00:29:49,280 --> 00:29:51,820  
I believed that the  
Slavs would be--

479  
00:29:51,820 --> 00:29:54,320  
if they would have  
won the war, the Slavs

480  
00:29:54,320 --> 00:29:58,190  
probably would have  
been the second to go.

481  
00:29:58,190 --> 00:30:00,730  
Because they took a  
lot of Polish people

482  
00:30:00,730 --> 00:30:05,076  
in labor camps in  
Germany [INAUDIBLE]..

483  
00:30:05,076 --> 00:30:08,460

484

00:30:08,460 --> 00:30:21,410

I went back to the ghetto to  
get my aunt and the two girls,

485

00:30:21,410 --> 00:30:26,270

and two little children.

486

00:30:26,270 --> 00:30:32,870

And I wanted to take  
also my grandma.

487

00:30:32,870 --> 00:30:42,060

But my grandma broke her  
hip, and she could not walk.

488

00:30:42,060 --> 00:30:48,490

And it was a tremendous job to  
be able to carry a woman out

489

00:30:48,490 --> 00:30:50,860

of the closed ghetto to safety.

490

00:30:50,860 --> 00:30:53,890

491

00:30:53,890 --> 00:30:58,050

The first time, I  
took my little niece.

492

00:30:58,050 --> 00:31:01,630

The older one didn't want  
to go without the mother.

493

00:31:01,630 --> 00:31:04,890

And we located them  
together with the parents.

494

00:31:04,890 --> 00:31:06,840

But after a few weeks--

495

00:31:06,840 --> 00:31:11,010

or I think she was there  
months or something like that--

496

00:31:11,010 --> 00:31:20,020

she longed for her mother,  
and she wanted to go back.

497

00:31:20,020 --> 00:31:26,320

And I told my parents  
that Minna is not

498

00:31:26,320 --> 00:31:30,430

to be allowed to go back,  
no matter how she cries,

499

00:31:30,430 --> 00:31:32,270

no matter what she is doing.

500

00:31:32,270 --> 00:31:34,165

I think she was about  
six years old then.

501

00:31:34,165 --> 00:31:39,310

And the other girl was  
about nine years old.

502

00:31:39,310 --> 00:31:41,260

My aunt lost her husband.

503

00:31:41,260 --> 00:31:43,420

He escaped to Russia.

504

00:31:43,420 --> 00:31:49,890

And I understand  
he was a communist.

505

00:31:49,890 --> 00:31:53,080

And the communists  
didn't like him there,

506

00:31:53,080 --> 00:31:55,620

and I understand  
they got rid of him.

507

00:31:55,620 --> 00:31:58,510

So we found out  
this after the war.

508

00:31:58,510 --> 00:32:04,050

But my aunt was living  
with us during the war

509

00:32:04,050 --> 00:32:07,320

from the beginning.

510

00:32:07,320 --> 00:32:10,020

And I loved my aunt  
very much, and so I

511

00:32:10,020 --> 00:32:16,320

loved Eva, what this  
name would be in English.

512

00:32:16,320 --> 00:32:27,050

And also, I had a girlfriend  
in the closed ghetto.

513

00:32:27,050 --> 00:32:29,390

It was a girlfriend--

514

00:32:29,390 --> 00:32:34,160

she was an accomplished pianist.

515

00:32:34,160 --> 00:32:36,670

And I used to go  
there, because I myself

516

00:32:36,670 --> 00:32:39,600

liked to play the piano, and  
I learned a lot from her,

517

00:32:39,600 --> 00:32:40,630

you know?

518

00:32:40,630 --> 00:32:46,120

It was not anything of a love  
story like I had with my wife.

519  
00:32:46,120 --> 00:32:51,850  
But it was something that I  
felt very good in her company.

520  
00:32:51,850 --> 00:32:54,190  
We had something in common.

521  
00:32:54,190 --> 00:32:57,040  
Naturally, the piano  
was confiscated.

522  
00:32:57,040 --> 00:33:01,240  
And later on, she was  
sent to the closed ghetto.

523  
00:33:01,240 --> 00:33:05,330  
And I tried to give her  
a chance to survive.

524  
00:33:05,330 --> 00:33:09,000

525  
00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:15,900  
I walked into the ghetto, and  
I come to her house first.

526  
00:33:15,900 --> 00:33:20,820  
And I begged her  
to come with me.

527  
00:33:20,820 --> 00:33:23,410

528  
00:33:23,410 --> 00:33:24,250  
And she had an aunt.

529  
00:33:24,250 --> 00:33:33,710  
I said, I'll take your aunt  
too, and a little brother.

530  
00:33:33,710 --> 00:33:36,930

But this was an  
unfortunate night.

531  
00:33:36,930 --> 00:33:40,400  
I come into the  
ghetto, and here I

532  
00:33:40,400 --> 00:33:45,520  
have all these things  
arranged with my parents.

533  
00:33:45,520 --> 00:33:48,610  
And I myself are  
joining the underground.

534  
00:33:48,610 --> 00:33:52,870  
And here that night,  
I came in this ghetto

535  
00:33:52,870 --> 00:33:57,460  
to take my aunt and  
the other girl with me,

536  
00:33:57,460 --> 00:34:06,250  
and the girlfriend, Bronya,  
and her aunt and the brother.

537  
00:34:06,250 --> 00:34:13,710  
They surrounded the ghetto,  
and they broke everything,

538  
00:34:13,710 --> 00:34:16,600  
all the houses open.

539  
00:34:16,600 --> 00:34:25,199  
And I jumped together with  
them into a bunker like this.

540  
00:34:25,199 --> 00:34:34,080  
They had a big wardrobe, and  
they opened up one little part.

541  
00:34:34,080 --> 00:34:36,659

They pushed it away, and  
you walked into a bunker.

542  
00:34:36,659 --> 00:34:39,630

543  
00:34:39,630 --> 00:34:44,050  
And we all were there in this  
house with maybe 20 people.

544  
00:34:44,050 --> 00:34:48,699  
So all the 20 people found  
themselves in a bunker.

545  
00:34:48,699 --> 00:34:55,580  
But unfortunately, that  
bunker was ripped open,

546  
00:34:55,580 --> 00:34:59,160  
and they start taking out.

547  
00:34:59,160 --> 00:35:02,610  
In the meantime, I  
screamed to Bronya--

548  
00:35:02,610 --> 00:35:05,640  
I said, let's jump  
back into the house.

549  
00:35:05,640 --> 00:35:09,030  
Let's see, maybe somehow,  
we save ourselves--

550  
00:35:09,030 --> 00:35:12,310  
and to her brother.

551  
00:35:12,310 --> 00:35:13,500  
But it was too late.

552  
00:35:13,500 --> 00:35:16,070  
I jumped first.

553

00:35:16,070 --> 00:35:20,350

Because I opened up the  
door, and I jumped first in,

554

00:35:20,350 --> 00:35:22,730

and I found myself in the house.

555

00:35:22,730 --> 00:35:25,666

And a baby is crying in a crib.

556

00:35:25,666 --> 00:35:31,390

They left a little baby  
maybe six months old.

557

00:35:31,390 --> 00:35:33,860

And I didn't know what to do.

558

00:35:33,860 --> 00:35:37,880

And they took away all that rest  
of the people out of the bunker

559

00:35:37,880 --> 00:35:40,620

from the other side.

560

00:35:40,620 --> 00:35:43,880

So I jumped behind  
a big commode.

561

00:35:43,880 --> 00:35:46,050

There was another  
commode standing.

562

00:35:46,050 --> 00:35:50,580

And I covered myself  
up with pillows.

563

00:35:50,580 --> 00:35:54,120

And I said to myself,  
that's the end.

564

00:35:54,120 --> 00:35:57,860



565

00:35:57,860 --> 00:36:02,090

And somehow, the  
baby was crying.

566

00:36:02,090 --> 00:36:04,030

They took the people away.

567

00:36:04,030 --> 00:36:10,480

They were maybe so satisfied  
with taking 20 people away

568

00:36:10,480 --> 00:36:12,530

that they forgot about  
going into the house

569

00:36:12,530 --> 00:36:14,840

and checking it out.

570

00:36:14,840 --> 00:36:20,320

And I slowly got out  
from under the wardrobe,

571

00:36:20,320 --> 00:36:25,080

and I saw a big line of  
Jewish people standing--

572

00:36:25,080 --> 00:36:26,710

relatively young.

573

00:36:26,710 --> 00:36:31,720

And I watched them  
through the window,

574

00:36:31,720 --> 00:36:34,630

and then I sneaked  
out to the veranda.

575

00:36:34,630 --> 00:36:36,700

It was like a porch.

576

00:36:36,700 --> 00:36:39,550

And I pushed myself

into that line.

577

00:36:39,550 --> 00:36:41,745

I knew that this line must be--

578

00:36:41,745 --> 00:36:43,120

they make a  
selection either way.

579

00:36:43,120 --> 00:36:46,560

580

00:36:46,560 --> 00:36:56,760

Later on, Bronya came back with  
her aunt and with her brother,

581

00:36:56,760 --> 00:37:05,640

and another child of  
the aunt was taken away.

582

00:37:05,640 --> 00:37:09,850

583

00:37:09,850 --> 00:37:14,767

And I said to her,  
look, if we can get out

584

00:37:14,767 --> 00:37:16,350

of the whole thing--  
because we didn't

585

00:37:16,350 --> 00:37:20,160

know how long it would  
take till they will put

586

00:37:20,160 --> 00:37:21,700

all the people in the train.

587

00:37:21,700 --> 00:37:25,500

And that day, they  
shot the former mayor

588

00:37:25,500 --> 00:37:30,240  
of the city of Bedzin, which  
was Bendsburg in German.

589  
00:37:30,240 --> 00:37:33,540  
His name was [? Migrot. ?]  
He was the mayor there

590  
00:37:33,540 --> 00:37:35,230  
for at least 20 years.

591  
00:37:35,230 --> 00:37:38,230

592  
00:37:38,230 --> 00:37:40,730  
And they shot  
several other people.

593  
00:37:40,730 --> 00:37:44,980  
They put in the train  
another few thousand people.

594  
00:37:44,980 --> 00:37:47,450  
The rest remained in the ghetto.

595  
00:37:47,450 --> 00:37:53,800  
Luckily, at that time,  
my aunt and my grandma

596  
00:37:53,800 --> 00:37:57,880  
were spared, because they  
were hiding someplace there

597  
00:37:57,880 --> 00:37:59,910  
in their bunker,  
and they survived.

598  
00:37:59,910 --> 00:38:08,000

599  
00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:10,930  
It bothered me very much.

600

00:38:10,930 --> 00:38:11,910

I couldn't get away.

601

00:38:11,910 --> 00:38:13,830

I couldn't do anything.

602

00:38:13,830 --> 00:38:19,810

I said to myself, it's bad.

603

00:38:19,810 --> 00:38:25,600

And meanwhile, my  
little cousin, Minna,

604

00:38:25,600 --> 00:38:29,830

cried so much that my parents--

605

00:38:29,830 --> 00:38:36,790

we had a woman who worked for  
us since her teenage years.

606

00:38:36,790 --> 00:38:42,160

She brought us all up  
when we were growing up.

607

00:38:42,160 --> 00:38:46,500

And she was the contact for us.

608

00:38:46,500 --> 00:38:50,410

When we were supposed  
to leave this town,

609

00:38:50,410 --> 00:38:56,350

she took a small  
apartment someplace.

610

00:38:56,350 --> 00:38:59,770

And she went to  
visit my parents,

611

00:38:59,770 --> 00:39:03,940

because she was like  
a part of our family.

612  
00:39:03,940 --> 00:39:09,320  
And her name is [? Vanya. ?]

613  
00:39:09,320 --> 00:39:18,710  
And when I came to my parents,  
and my mother said, look,

614  
00:39:18,710 --> 00:39:24,440  
Minna is crying so horribly, we  
have to do something about it.

615  
00:39:24,440 --> 00:39:25,440  
I don't know what to do.

616  
00:39:25,440 --> 00:39:26,740  
She wants her mother.

617  
00:39:26,740 --> 00:39:30,050  
And she's afraid, in case  
the Germans will come in.

618  
00:39:30,050 --> 00:39:34,700  
So [? Vanya ?] said, I'll  
take her to my house,

619  
00:39:34,700 --> 00:39:41,512  
and I'll bring her to the  
ghetto and I will take her back,

620  
00:39:41,512 --> 00:39:42,470  
let her see the mother.

621  
00:39:42,470 --> 00:39:45,940

622  
00:39:45,940 --> 00:39:52,320  
The second time-- meanwhile,  
let's talk about what happened.

623  
00:39:52,320 --> 00:39:55,610  
In the meantime, things

were getting worse.

624

00:39:55,610 --> 00:39:56,450

Trains are going.

625

00:39:56,450 --> 00:40:00,290

Every week, they  
decimate the people.

626

00:40:00,290 --> 00:40:02,210

They take them  
out from the shops

627

00:40:02,210 --> 00:40:04,760

where they work  
with the uniforms.

628

00:40:04,760 --> 00:40:08,150

And they were talking  
about Judenrein.

629

00:40:08,150 --> 00:40:12,530

Judenrein in German  
means clean of Jews.

630

00:40:12,530 --> 00:40:23,020

And one night, due with all  
respect to Mr. [? Pishniak, ?]

631

00:40:23,020 --> 00:40:27,550

I asked to be transferred  
for a night shift.

632

00:40:27,550 --> 00:40:31,790

I felt very uncomfortable  
to be working yet

633

00:40:31,790 --> 00:40:36,730

and to know that the ghetto is  
surrounded at nighttime most

634

00:40:36,730 --> 00:40:39,000

of the time.

635  
00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:45,110  
And I wanted to do something  
in the factories themselves.

636  
00:40:45,110 --> 00:40:48,200  
I worked one night  
in the office,

637  
00:40:48,200 --> 00:40:52,310  
because the offices  
were closed at night.

638  
00:40:52,310 --> 00:40:56,050  
And nobody searched me.

639  
00:40:56,050 --> 00:40:58,450  
The offices were inside  
the factory, which

640  
00:40:58,450 --> 00:41:01,140  
was surrounded by [INAUDIBLE].

641  
00:41:01,140 --> 00:41:15,120  
And I stole 500 documents, cards  
and the stamp, [NON-ENGLISH]..

642  
00:41:15,120 --> 00:41:21,290  
That a person-- let's say,  
[? Jiswaf ?] [? Yachinsky ?]

643  
00:41:21,290 --> 00:41:26,960  
works in Silesia for the  
Wehrmacht, for the Third Reich,

644  
00:41:26,960 --> 00:41:32,690  
and he should be helped in any  
occasion to go to his work.

645  
00:41:32,690 --> 00:41:35,900

646

00:41:35,900 --> 00:41:39,950  
When I had the 500  
documents, in the morning,

647  
00:41:39,950 --> 00:41:41,750  
I took them with  
me and the thing.

648  
00:41:41,750 --> 00:41:45,410  
My heart was going  
out, just in case,

649  
00:41:45,410 --> 00:41:53,150  
if the God would  
decide to check me.

650  
00:41:53,150 --> 00:41:58,430  
But I knew that I am  
carrying a treasure with me.

651  
00:41:58,430 --> 00:42:06,215  
Because 500 documents  
meant 500 lives.

652  
00:42:06,215 --> 00:42:11,780  
I managed to take these, and  
I gave it for safekeeping to

653  
00:42:11,780 --> 00:42:15,130  
[? Vanya, ?] to our girl.

654  
00:42:15,130 --> 00:42:16,435  
She became like a--

655  
00:42:16,435 --> 00:42:17,120  
Courier?

656  
00:42:17,120 --> 00:42:19,410  
Courier.

657  
00:42:19,410 --> 00:42:24,702  
And I said to her, the first  
thing, you go to the parents,



658  
00:42:24,702 --> 00:42:25,410  
bring it to them.

659  
00:42:25,410 --> 00:42:29,440

660  
00:42:29,440 --> 00:42:31,600  
And I went into the ghetto.

661  
00:42:31,600 --> 00:42:37,240  
At that time, I already  
had received a gun.

662  
00:42:37,240 --> 00:42:48,540  
I had a German Mauser  
with 50 bullets to spare.

663  
00:42:48,540 --> 00:42:50,550  
And I was already a mensch.

664  
00:42:50,550 --> 00:42:57,630  
I said to myself, now  
if I go against a patrol

665  
00:42:57,630 --> 00:43:02,470  
of German soldiers,  
I can defend myself.

666  
00:43:02,470 --> 00:43:03,840  
I'll be able to defend myself.

667  
00:43:03,840 --> 00:43:06,450

668  
00:43:06,450 --> 00:43:09,240  
And I walked into the  
ghetto for the last time,

669  
00:43:09,240 --> 00:43:13,570  
begging my aunts.

670

00:43:13,570 --> 00:43:18,230

And I see that Minna is there,  
and I didn't believe my eyes.

671

00:43:18,230 --> 00:43:20,980

I said, who gave  
anybody permission

672

00:43:20,980 --> 00:43:23,590

to remove her from  
the safe place?

673

00:43:23,590 --> 00:43:24,820

So my aunt jumped at me.

674

00:43:24,820 --> 00:43:26,380

She said, you are crazy.

675

00:43:26,380 --> 00:43:28,660

You want to kill us all.

676

00:43:28,660 --> 00:43:30,520

We don't want to go no place.

677

00:43:30,520 --> 00:43:31,780

Our place is here.

678

00:43:31,780 --> 00:43:34,520

We somehow will survive or not.

679

00:43:34,520 --> 00:43:38,260

And I begged her,  
trying to tell her

680

00:43:38,260 --> 00:43:41,570

that this the last  
chance you have,

681

00:43:41,570 --> 00:43:45,830

that it's better  
to die in a battle

682

00:43:45,830 --> 00:43:48,840

than be killed like that.

683

00:43:48,840 --> 00:43:51,630

684

00:43:51,630 --> 00:43:53,430

I went.

685

00:43:53,430 --> 00:43:55,770

She didn't want to go.

686

00:43:55,770 --> 00:43:59,040

I said goodbye, and I

said, I cannot stay.

687

00:43:59,040 --> 00:44:04,300

I cannot stay a

night in the ghetto.

688

00:44:04,300 --> 00:44:06,360

I feared it.

689

00:44:06,360 --> 00:44:11,120

I went over to my

girlfriend, Bronya,

690

00:44:11,120 --> 00:44:13,760

and begged her and her

aunt to go with me.

691

00:44:13,760 --> 00:44:16,880

I said, let somebody

want to go with me.

692

00:44:16,880 --> 00:44:20,110

She noticed my gun.

693

00:44:20,110 --> 00:44:24,550

Somehow, I must have

moved my jacket.

694

00:44:24,550 --> 00:44:26,040

This was not a jacket like this.

695

00:44:26,040 --> 00:44:29,728

We wore different clothes.

696

00:44:29,728 --> 00:44:32,230

And she chased me  
out of the house.

697

00:44:32,230 --> 00:44:35,730

698

00:44:35,730 --> 00:44:36,990

I know she did not survive.

699

00:44:36,990 --> 00:44:40,333

I know that her  
aunt didn't survive.

700

00:44:40,333 --> 00:44:42,750

They must have been taken to  
Auschwitz eventually and been

701

00:44:42,750 --> 00:44:44,200

killed.

702

00:44:44,200 --> 00:44:47,680

I always felt that for many  
years that I couldn't save her.

703

00:44:47,680 --> 00:44:48,970

Because it's a pity.

704

00:44:48,970 --> 00:44:52,060

This would have been something  
important, [INAUDIBLE]

705

00:44:52,060 --> 00:44:55,260

the people to have  
such a person.

706

00:44:55,260 --> 00:44:57,820

You never found out  
what happened to them?

707

00:44:57,820 --> 00:44:59,450

She never came back.

708

00:44:59,450 --> 00:45:00,620

Never found out.

709

00:45:00,620 --> 00:45:02,205

I inquired after the war.

710

00:45:02,205 --> 00:45:02,840

She didn't.

711

00:45:02,840 --> 00:45:06,870

I cannot find her cousin-- who,  
I know is alive-- from Warsaw.

712

00:45:06,870 --> 00:45:07,870

And she is in Australia.

713

00:45:07,870 --> 00:45:10,865

And I was in Australia, I  
still I couldn't find her,

714

00:45:10,865 --> 00:45:12,340

and I don't know where she is.

715

00:45:12,340 --> 00:45:14,810

It's so difficult, they  
changed their names.

716

00:45:14,810 --> 00:45:18,180

But I know that Bronya  
did not survive.

717

00:45:18,180 --> 00:45:21,320

And other of my friends  
did not survive.

718

00:45:21,320 --> 00:45:28,100

I went further on  
to do all I could.

719

00:45:28,100 --> 00:45:30,620

I was defeated, in a way.

720

00:45:30,620 --> 00:45:38,320

And I did certain things  
in the underground

721

00:45:38,320 --> 00:45:40,570

which were important for us.

722

00:45:40,570 --> 00:45:46,090

We wanted an underground to  
praise tremendously, you know?

723

00:45:46,090 --> 00:45:50,200

We could not even attack  
trains in this matter,

724

00:45:50,200 --> 00:45:52,570

but we tried to do damage.

725

00:45:52,570 --> 00:45:56,200

We tried to attack  
some police stations.

726

00:45:56,200 --> 00:45:58,960

We tried to do sabotage.

727

00:45:58,960 --> 00:46:02,280

In one of these actions,  
well, we went to Udetfeld.

728

00:46:02,280 --> 00:46:06,088

729

00:46:06,088 --> 00:46:06,588

What time?

730

00:46:06,588 --> 00:46:08,180  
25 to 9.

731

00:46:08,180 --> 00:46:11,670  
We went to Udetfeld in a air  
force base for the Germans,

732

00:46:11,670 --> 00:46:14,790  
and we wanted to mine  
the whole air force base.

733

00:46:14,790 --> 00:46:18,060  
We went in as workers  
with old carts.

734

00:46:18,060 --> 00:46:21,620  
We had artists to  
do the kind of work.

735

00:46:21,620 --> 00:46:27,680  
And my sister went with  
us, RÅ<sup>3</sup>Å>ka And consequently,

736

00:46:27,680 --> 00:46:34,210  
one of the Poles thought  
that he knows her and that

737

00:46:34,210 --> 00:46:35,470  
she's Jewish.

738

00:46:35,470 --> 00:46:38,860  
He told the Gestapo.

739

00:46:38,860 --> 00:46:43,870  
And the Gestapo beat  
her up tremendously,

740

00:46:43,870 --> 00:46:47,110  
collapsed a lung on her.

741

00:46:47,110 --> 00:46:53,680  
Somehow, we all escaped, but

we came back with two people

742

00:46:53,680 --> 00:46:56,140

with a bicycle,  
and she lay down.

743

00:46:56,140 --> 00:46:57,850

When the chief of  
the Gestapo came in,

744

00:46:57,850 --> 00:47:03,610

he did not believe  
that she is Jewish.

745

00:47:03,610 --> 00:47:07,060

He let her stay there  
under house arrest.

746

00:47:07,060 --> 00:47:12,520

And she escaped on the bicycle.

747

00:47:12,520 --> 00:47:15,100

Her lung was no good.

748

00:47:15,100 --> 00:47:19,350

She contracted TB from  
this lung, somehow.

749

00:47:19,350 --> 00:47:21,520

It went to the other lung.

750

00:47:21,520 --> 00:47:25,610

And she died in Italy in '46.

751

00:47:25,610 --> 00:47:28,030

And of course--

752

00:47:28,030 --> 00:47:29,620

I will make this a  
little bit shorter

753

00:47:29,620 --> 00:47:32,420



now to cover up that story.

754

00:47:32,420 --> 00:47:39,660

In short, my father  
got very sick.

755

00:47:39,660 --> 00:47:48,150

And he was saying the Psalms  
of Solomon, the tillim.

756

00:47:48,150 --> 00:47:51,050

757

00:47:51,050 --> 00:47:56,950

And he says he would  
like to see my son,

758

00:47:56,950 --> 00:48:00,940

[? Oisa. ?] [? Oisa ?]  
was Alexander Alek.

759

00:48:00,940 --> 00:48:02,180

That was the oldest brother?

760

00:48:02,180 --> 00:48:02,680

Yeah.

761

00:48:02,680 --> 00:48:09,970

We decided to send a group  
of guys in German uniforms

762

00:48:09,970 --> 00:48:11,140

to Markstadt.

763

00:48:11,140 --> 00:48:12,710

He was in a camp.

764

00:48:12,710 --> 00:48:15,250

We knew that he's Markstadt,  
because in the beginning,

765

00:48:15,250 --> 00:48:18,430

he was letting us know.

766

00:48:18,430 --> 00:48:20,110

It was not a concentration camp.

767

00:48:20,110 --> 00:48:23,680

It was a heavy labor camp.

768

00:48:23,680 --> 00:48:25,930

After we got him  
out of there, it

769

00:48:25,930 --> 00:48:27,730

was changed into [INAUDIBLE].

770

00:48:27,730 --> 00:48:34,850

We sent four uniformed  
guys, and they came in

771

00:48:34,850 --> 00:48:39,520

with a recommendation  
to take out

772

00:48:39,520 --> 00:48:41,110

Aleksander Monka  
for interrogation,

773

00:48:41,110 --> 00:48:43,750

because his brother's  
in the underground.

774

00:48:43,750 --> 00:48:50,100

And the stupid commander,  
instead of calling up Katowice,

775

00:48:50,100 --> 00:48:53,170

believed them, because  
they looked real.

776

00:48:53,170 --> 00:48:56,860

They spoke German beautifully,  
the same like Germans do.

777

00:48:56,860 --> 00:49:00,640

By the way, we spoke German  
and Polish in our area.

778

00:49:00,640 --> 00:49:03,190

779

00:49:03,190 --> 00:49:04,150

They looked Nordic?

780

00:49:04,150 --> 00:49:05,620

Nordic.

781

00:49:05,620 --> 00:49:09,770

My brother is still very  
blonde and blue eyes.

782

00:49:09,770 --> 00:49:14,070

And the brother who was in  
camp was also Nordic-looking.

783

00:49:14,070 --> 00:49:16,890

And they got  
permission to take him.

784

00:49:16,890 --> 00:49:18,640

They said they're going  
to bring him back.

785

00:49:18,640 --> 00:49:20,701

They want to find out.

786

00:49:20,701 --> 00:49:25,120

When they came close  
to him, they hit him.

787

00:49:25,120 --> 00:49:29,980

The four Gestapo men, the ones  
who we sent, hit my brother

788

00:49:29,980 --> 00:49:34,700

and let blood come out

a little bit, you know?

789

00:49:34,700 --> 00:49:36,080

He was shocked.

790

00:49:36,080 --> 00:49:37,820

He did not recognize my brother.

791

00:49:37,820 --> 00:49:39,290

He did not recognize anybody.

792

00:49:39,290 --> 00:49:41,870

The others, he didn't know.

793

00:49:41,870 --> 00:49:44,150

When they got out,  
my brother says

794

00:49:44,150 --> 00:49:49,730

to him, don't you know that  
I'm your brother, [? Mark? ?]

795

00:49:49,730 --> 00:49:53,330

And he couldn't believe it.

796

00:49:53,330 --> 00:49:55,430

He was in shock.

797

00:49:55,430 --> 00:49:58,700

When they brought him  
back, it was just two days

798

00:49:58,700 --> 00:50:02,170

before my father died.

799

00:50:02,170 --> 00:50:06,387

He got gangrene in his leg,  
and it traveled all around.

800

00:50:06,387 --> 00:50:07,720

We couldn't get him to a doctor.

801

00:50:07,720 --> 00:50:09,550

We didn't have any doctors.

802

00:50:09,550 --> 00:50:12,460

And the only thing we had  
sulfa, it didn't help.

803

00:50:12,460 --> 00:50:16,450

He died in my arms on a Sunday--

804

00:50:16,450 --> 00:50:19,120

a Saturday, actually.

805

00:50:19,120 --> 00:50:22,010

Before he died, he said  
the prayer of the death.

806

00:50:22,010 --> 00:50:27,280

They call it Vidui in Hebrew.

807

00:50:27,280 --> 00:50:30,070

He knew he was dying.

808

00:50:30,070 --> 00:50:33,250

Many times, he wanted a  
cigarette before he died.

809

00:50:33,250 --> 00:50:37,420

We had to bury him  
Sunday at 12:00 at night,

810

00:50:37,420 --> 00:50:40,720

because we were afraid that  
no one should, God forbid,

811

00:50:40,720 --> 00:50:42,550

see from far away.

812

00:50:42,550 --> 00:50:48,460

We took him from the  
house to a wooded area,

813

00:50:48,460 --> 00:50:50,500  
and we marked a tree.

814

00:50:50,500 --> 00:50:55,120  
We dug the grave, and we put  
him in there, and we say a few--

815

00:50:55,120 --> 00:50:58,690  
whatever I knew to say by heart.

816

00:50:58,690 --> 00:51:04,000  
After the war, we brought him  
back to the cemetery in Bedzin.

817

00:51:04,000 --> 00:51:08,110  
And later on, when my mother  
died in the United States,

818

00:51:08,110 --> 00:51:09,660  
we brought him to  
the cemetery here

819

00:51:09,660 --> 00:51:11,380  
in Woodbridge, New Jersey--

820

00:51:11,380 --> 00:51:12,040  
his remains.

821

00:51:12,040 --> 00:51:17,100

822

00:51:17,100 --> 00:51:18,930  
There's so much to tell.

823

00:51:18,930 --> 00:51:20,830  
I know that your time is--

824

00:51:20,830 --> 00:51:24,453  
Do you want stop now, and  
we'll continue another time?

825

00:51:24,453 --> 00:51:25,620  
You want me to finish later?

826  
00:51:25,620 --> 00:51:31,610

827  
00:51:31,610 --> 00:51:32,252  
OK.

828  
00:51:32,252 --> 00:51:33,460  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

829  
00:51:33,460 --> 00:51:34,420  
OK.

830  
00:51:34,420 --> 00:51:35,420  
OK.

831  
00:51:35,420 --> 00:51:38,880  
Then we're going to stop now.

832  
00:51:38,880 --> 00:51:49,000