

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:27,608

2

00:00:27,608 --> 00:00:30,630

I'm Bernard Weinstein, Director
of the Kean College Oral

3

00:00:30,630 --> 00:00:32,309

Testimonies Project.

4

00:00:32,309 --> 00:00:36,900

I'm Sister Rose Thering, a
friend that Mr. Weinstein.

5

00:00:36,900 --> 00:00:39,240

My name is Morris Rubell.

6

00:00:39,240 --> 00:00:42,100

I live in Verona.

7

00:00:42,100 --> 00:00:44,440

Would you tell us something
about your background?

8

00:00:44,440 --> 00:00:46,790

Yes.

9

00:00:46,790 --> 00:00:49,910

I am 59 years old.

10

00:00:49,910 --> 00:00:52,600

I'm a survivor of the Holocaust.

11

00:00:52,600 --> 00:00:59,250

When the war broke out,
I was nine years old,

12

00:00:59,250 --> 00:01:02,380

and the Germans
marched in Poland.

13

00:01:02,380 --> 00:01:03,340

Where were you living?

14

00:01:03,340 --> 00:01:08,380

We were living in a small
village near Krasno in Barycz.

15

00:01:08,380 --> 00:01:16,000

And I'm the youngest child
of a family of five children.

16

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:21,580

My parents had a little inn,
and we also had a small farm.

17

00:01:21,580 --> 00:01:32,260

And after the Germans marched
in, a few months later,

18

00:01:32,260 --> 00:01:37,420

they started to
congregate all the Jews.

19

00:01:37,420 --> 00:01:43,480

Little signs went up
for [NON-ENGLISH]..

20

00:01:43,480 --> 00:01:47,200

That means for
Jews and children.

21

00:01:47,200 --> 00:01:50,260

For dogs and Jews,
there is no school.

22

00:01:50,260 --> 00:01:51,610

It's verboten.

23

00:01:51,610 --> 00:01:55,220

That means it's not permissible.

24

00:01:55,220 --> 00:01:57,960

So obviously, school started.

25

00:01:57,960 --> 00:02:00,460

We were eight years old, and
I had very little schooling,

26

00:02:00,460 --> 00:02:04,750

maybe six months, when I was a
child before the war broke out.

27

00:02:04,750 --> 00:02:15,830

And then a few months later,
they congregated all the Jews

28

00:02:15,830 --> 00:02:21,010

in the villages and they
put us into a ghetto called

29

00:02:21,010 --> 00:02:27,020

Krasno, which was roughly
about 40 kilometers away

30

00:02:27,020 --> 00:02:28,880

from my home.

31

00:02:28,880 --> 00:02:32,750

And there, there was
a airport, and we

32

00:02:32,750 --> 00:02:36,530

worked on the airport
for various services

33

00:02:36,530 --> 00:02:40,310

for a support system
for the Germans.

34

00:02:40,310 --> 00:02:45,530

35

00:02:45,530 --> 00:02:48,500

The family was intact.

36

00:02:48,500 --> 00:02:55,730

My father, on the
way to the ghetto,

37

00:02:55,730 --> 00:03:05,030

was beaten and tortured, and
then he died a few weeks later.

38

00:03:05,030 --> 00:03:06,860

The only ones that
were in the ghetto

39

00:03:06,860 --> 00:03:12,430

from the immediate
family was my two sisters

40

00:03:12,430 --> 00:03:21,720

and my mother and I.

41

00:03:21,720 --> 00:03:24,000

If I can look back
with you a little bit

42

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:27,750

at the period
before the war, what

43

00:03:27,750 --> 00:03:33,270

do you remember of your town
and the community in which you

44

00:03:33,270 --> 00:03:35,340

lived?

45

00:03:35,340 --> 00:03:38,460

We were a loving family.

46

00:03:38,460 --> 00:03:42,270

47

00:03:42,270 --> 00:03:45,990

There was a lot of

love and respect

48

00:03:45,990 --> 00:03:50,340
and caring for the family unit.

49

00:03:50,340 --> 00:03:54,330
My parents worked in the inn.

50

00:03:54,330 --> 00:03:59,160
There was a community, which
was rather small, maybe like 20

51

00:03:59,160 --> 00:04:01,110
families of Jewish people.

52

00:04:01,110 --> 00:04:03,510
We pretty much
kept to ourselves.

53

00:04:03,510 --> 00:04:05,450
But we did have services.

54

00:04:05,450 --> 00:04:10,580
We had a small shtiebel,
which means little services,

55

00:04:10,580 --> 00:04:13,050
like a temple, a shul.

56

00:04:13,050 --> 00:04:17,640
We did not have a rabbi, but we
did have elders who taught us.

57

00:04:17,640 --> 00:04:20,740

58

00:04:20,740 --> 00:04:27,250
The life was very
normal, very caring,

59

00:04:27,250 --> 00:04:29,200
almost like you have it here.

60
00:04:29,200 --> 00:04:32,570
Did you go to a public
school or a private school?

61
00:04:32,570 --> 00:04:34,810
You said you went
about six months.

62
00:04:34,810 --> 00:04:37,620
Yes, it was a public school.

63
00:04:37,620 --> 00:04:40,570
The public school, only
six months because school,

64
00:04:40,570 --> 00:04:43,420
we did not have the kindergarten
and pre-kindergartens

65
00:04:43,420 --> 00:04:44,560
like we have here.

66
00:04:44,560 --> 00:04:50,300
Children started school usually
when they were eight years old.

67
00:04:50,300 --> 00:04:54,402
And when then the war
broke out about six

68
00:04:54,402 --> 00:04:55,360
months or a year later.

69
00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:59,500
So I did personally did
not have much schooling.

70
00:04:59,500 --> 00:05:03,130
But it was a public school.

71
00:05:03,130 --> 00:05:06,460

And to be frank
with you, I dreaded

72
00:05:06,460 --> 00:05:11,260
going to school because
I was in the minority,

73
00:05:11,260 --> 00:05:18,550
and I wasn't really
liked so much.

74
00:05:18,550 --> 00:05:24,820
I didn't feel that I was
accepted in the school.

75
00:05:24,820 --> 00:05:28,530
How was this
non-acceptance manifested?

76
00:05:28,530 --> 00:05:33,660
Name-calling, as being a Jew.

77
00:05:33,660 --> 00:05:38,660

78
00:05:38,660 --> 00:05:40,520
Throwing rocks at Jews.

79
00:05:40,520 --> 00:05:43,148

80
00:05:43,148 --> 00:05:45,740
But by and large, we pretty
much kept to ourselves

81
00:05:45,740 --> 00:05:47,870
in the small
community, and we were

82
00:05:47,870 --> 00:05:49,400
with our own little friends.

83

00:05:49,400 --> 00:05:54,920

There were a few in between,
but we had some friends.

84

00:05:54,920 --> 00:05:56,930

Were there are many
Jews where you were?

85

00:05:56,930 --> 00:06:01,400

The family in our area was
only about 20 families.

86

00:06:01,400 --> 00:06:05,090

You must remember that ours was
not the usual case because we

87

00:06:05,090 --> 00:06:06,320

were in a small village.

88

00:06:06,320 --> 00:06:08,240

We were not in a large city.

89

00:06:08,240 --> 00:06:11,360

Later on in Krasno,
there was much more

90

00:06:11,360 --> 00:06:16,370

of a larger community,
but unfortunately, this

91

00:06:16,370 --> 00:06:18,380

was not under normal
circumstances for me.

92

00:06:18,380 --> 00:06:21,570

This was more because
I was in the ghetto.

93

00:06:21,570 --> 00:06:29,490

Do you remember the clientele
that your inn served?

94

00:06:29,490 --> 00:06:31,430

Our inn served
more of a transient

95
00:06:31,430 --> 00:06:32,900
because we were in
a small village.

96
00:06:32,900 --> 00:06:35,130
It was passing from one
large city to the other,

97
00:06:35,130 --> 00:06:37,730
so people stayed overnight.

98
00:06:37,730 --> 00:06:42,080

99
00:06:42,080 --> 00:06:46,564
My parents, we cooked for them
and we had lodging for them.

100
00:06:46,564 --> 00:06:50,022

101
00:06:50,022 --> 00:06:53,280
What are your memories of the
actual outbreak of the war?

102
00:06:53,280 --> 00:06:55,950
Can you reconstruct
some of that for us?

103
00:06:55,950 --> 00:06:57,300
It all happened so fast.

104
00:06:57,300 --> 00:07:00,000

105
00:07:00,000 --> 00:07:01,590
I do remember the bombs.

106
00:07:01,590 --> 00:07:05,820

107
00:07:05,820 --> 00:07:10,980
It was in the
latter part of 1939

108
00:07:10,980 --> 00:07:13,080
when the war broke
out in Poland.

109
00:07:13,080 --> 00:07:17,010
And I remember the fear.

110
00:07:17,010 --> 00:07:20,010
We were hidden in the cellars,
and then when we walked out,

111
00:07:20,010 --> 00:07:27,210
we saw fire and bombs falling
and soldiers all around us.

112
00:07:27,210 --> 00:07:28,440
It's like a war.

113
00:07:28,440 --> 00:07:30,000
It's like anything.

114
00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:32,030
Really, I remember.

115
00:07:32,030 --> 00:07:35,020
It's all vivid, but I try to
block it all out, in a sense.

116
00:07:35,020 --> 00:07:37,230
But I do remember that
there were a lot of death

117
00:07:37,230 --> 00:07:43,496
all around us, and the Germans
marched in a few days later.

118

00:07:43,496 --> 00:07:46,890
And were the Jewish people
rounded up almost immediately

119
00:07:46,890 --> 00:07:48,060
then?

120
00:07:48,060 --> 00:07:52,750
Within a month or so, we were
rounded up and we were taken

121
00:07:52,750 --> 00:07:53,270
to the--

122
00:07:53,270 --> 00:07:53,770
Ghettos.

123
00:07:53,770 --> 00:07:56,460
--to the ghetto,
which was Krasno,

124
00:07:56,460 --> 00:07:59,160
which was roughly
about 40 miles,

125
00:07:59,160 --> 00:08:01,490
30, 40 miles away from our town.

126
00:08:01,490 --> 00:08:03,370
You said your two
sisters were with you?

127
00:08:03,370 --> 00:08:03,870
Yes.

128
00:08:03,870 --> 00:08:05,220
And your mother.

129
00:08:05,220 --> 00:08:07,140
And your brother?

130
00:08:07,140 --> 00:08:08,160

No, my brother was not.

131

00:08:08,160 --> 00:08:09,330

He was in another area.

132

00:08:09,330 --> 00:08:11,148

He was not living with us.

133

00:08:11,148 --> 00:08:12,690

But he was affected,
too, by the war.

134

00:08:12,690 --> 00:08:13,460

He was affected.

135

00:08:13,460 --> 00:08:15,480

The whole family
was affected, but he

136

00:08:15,480 --> 00:08:18,660

was in another town
in Warsaw or Krakow.

137

00:08:18,660 --> 00:08:24,750

I don't remember which,
and he went to Russia.

138

00:08:24,750 --> 00:08:26,970

But we were all fragmented.

139

00:08:26,970 --> 00:08:30,480

We were all torn apart, and
the whole family was uprooted.

140

00:08:30,480 --> 00:08:33,510

And we wound up in the
ghetto, like I said before,

141

00:08:33,510 --> 00:08:41,220

and we were there
till 1941, I believe.

142

00:08:41,220 --> 00:08:44,230

It was about a year and
a half in the ghetto.

143

00:08:44,230 --> 00:08:48,510

And from there, they
took us on trucks

144

00:08:48,510 --> 00:08:50,300

because there were
those segregations.

145

00:08:50,300 --> 00:08:54,810

They came, and when they saw
young people and old people,

146

00:08:54,810 --> 00:08:58,110

they immediately tried to put
them away in different places.

147

00:08:58,110 --> 00:09:02,220

At that time we didn't know
exactly what the reason was.

148

00:09:02,220 --> 00:09:06,840

But they took us to Rzeszow,
which was another death camp.

149

00:09:06,840 --> 00:09:12,630

150

00:09:12,630 --> 00:09:19,050

My mother and I were
sweeping streets

151

00:09:19,050 --> 00:09:23,190

outside that particular
camp in the town of Rzeszow,

152

00:09:23,190 --> 00:09:25,860

and we ran away.

153

00:09:25,860 --> 00:09:28,690

And we tried to get back into
the ghetto, because there

154
00:09:28,690 --> 00:09:32,220
was only one way of getting
back and to survive,

155
00:09:32,220 --> 00:09:38,280
is being in a living place,
where you could work.

156
00:09:38,280 --> 00:09:43,080
So we waited in a
ditch overnight,

157
00:09:43,080 --> 00:09:46,620
and then we tried to
get back into the lines

158
00:09:46,620 --> 00:09:49,590
of the marching people from
the camp to the ghetto.

159
00:09:49,590 --> 00:09:53,130

160
00:09:53,130 --> 00:09:55,320
We went back and they
put us back on the roster

161
00:09:55,320 --> 00:09:57,440
and we were happy to
stay in the ghetto again.

162
00:09:57,440 --> 00:10:01,230
Can you describe how
you got out of Rzeszow?

163
00:10:01,230 --> 00:10:04,653
Well, we were sweeping
the floors in town.

164
00:10:04,653 --> 00:10:05,820

You were ordered to do that?

165

00:10:05,820 --> 00:10:08,280

Ordered to do that
by the Germans.

166

00:10:08,280 --> 00:10:09,450

We were on the guard.

167

00:10:09,450 --> 00:10:13,260

But there were people in
the middle of the street,

168

00:10:13,260 --> 00:10:15,690

and we sort of
swept on the side.

169

00:10:15,690 --> 00:10:21,580

And my mother gave me a signal
and we snuck out behind them,

170

00:10:21,580 --> 00:10:23,800

and it was late
in the afternoon.

171

00:10:23,800 --> 00:10:26,040

And then we hid behind
one of the buildings,

172

00:10:26,040 --> 00:10:27,930

and then we ran into the woods.

173

00:10:27,930 --> 00:10:30,960

And from then on, we asked
questions how to get back,

174

00:10:30,960 --> 00:10:35,730

and we went back to Krasno,
which is to the ghetto again.

175

00:10:35,730 --> 00:10:39,110

What were your living conditions
like in these ghettos?

176
00:10:39,110 --> 00:10:39,980
In the ghetto?

177
00:10:39,980 --> 00:10:42,960
Yeah, in both
Krasno and Rzeszow?

178
00:10:42,960 --> 00:10:47,500
Well, there were barracks.

179
00:10:47,500 --> 00:10:50,800

180
00:10:50,800 --> 00:10:53,440
They did not have regular beds.

181
00:10:53,440 --> 00:10:59,090
They had shelvings, roughly
enough room to slide in

182
00:10:59,090 --> 00:11:00,820
and to sleep.

183
00:11:00,820 --> 00:11:04,550
You didn't have any straw
or anything like that.

184
00:11:04,550 --> 00:11:09,743
It was really blank,
planks, rather.

185
00:11:09,743 --> 00:11:11,410
Could you stay with
your mother, though?

186
00:11:11,410 --> 00:11:11,910
No.

187
00:11:11,910 --> 00:11:15,760
My mother was in a separate area
and I was in a separate area.

188
00:11:15,760 --> 00:11:18,520
Working, we would meet
in the appellplatz, which

189
00:11:18,520 --> 00:11:22,960
is like a place that they
would call out names,

190
00:11:22,960 --> 00:11:28,020
and then later on that we
would separate at night.

191
00:11:28,020 --> 00:11:34,420
And then the conditions, the
rations, were very meager.

192
00:11:34,420 --> 00:11:41,870
We would get served
just a ladleful of soup,

193
00:11:41,870 --> 00:11:45,190
just soup for lunch,
and a piece of bread

194
00:11:45,190 --> 00:11:48,910
in the morning and a
piece of bread at night.

195
00:11:48,910 --> 00:11:56,200
And weekends we used to
get margarine and marmalade

196
00:11:56,200 --> 00:12:02,410
with that, and this was our
diet for a long period of time.

197
00:12:02,410 --> 00:12:04,880
Did you have to stand in
line a long time to get food?

198
00:12:04,880 --> 00:12:05,380
Always.

199

00:12:05,380 --> 00:12:07,870

The lines were-- always lines.

200

00:12:07,870 --> 00:12:16,290

Lines to get the food,
lines to go to work.

201

00:12:16,290 --> 00:12:17,680

For everything there were lines.

202

00:12:17,680 --> 00:12:21,790

When you left the ghetto, when
they took you from the ghetto

203

00:12:21,790 --> 00:12:24,160

to the death camp, did you
know that the other place

204

00:12:24,160 --> 00:12:25,720

was a death camp?

205

00:12:25,720 --> 00:12:27,220

We did not know.

206

00:12:27,220 --> 00:12:29,050

I don't think we wanted to know.

207

00:12:29,050 --> 00:12:29,590

No.

208

00:12:29,590 --> 00:12:31,690

I think that somehow,
rather, we just

209

00:12:31,690 --> 00:12:34,810

could not believe that
such a thing could be.

210

00:12:34,810 --> 00:12:39,100

211

00:12:39,100 --> 00:12:40,890

How did you find out?

212

00:12:40,890 --> 00:12:44,770

You found out by seeing it.

213

00:12:44,770 --> 00:12:54,960

They used to pull up trucks
to back up like garbage dumps,

214

00:12:54,960 --> 00:12:58,950

and they would push
them out and they

215

00:12:58,950 --> 00:13:03,180

would fall into the ditches.

216

00:13:03,180 --> 00:13:08,520

And there was a constant
burning of firewood in there,

217

00:13:08,520 --> 00:13:11,100

and people were falling in.

218

00:13:11,100 --> 00:13:13,710

And maybe some of them
were shot, some of them

219

00:13:13,710 --> 00:13:14,820

were not shot.

220

00:13:14,820 --> 00:13:17,580

Some people were burning alive.

221

00:13:17,580 --> 00:13:20,863

And things like this,
people don't really

222

00:13:20,863 --> 00:13:22,530

want to believe that
these things exist,

223

00:13:22,530 --> 00:13:24,450
that this is an isolated case.

224

00:13:24,450 --> 00:13:28,470
You can't possibly
believe that humanity

225

00:13:28,470 --> 00:13:30,540
would allow such a thing.

226

00:13:30,540 --> 00:13:35,370
So you try not to see it.

227

00:13:35,370 --> 00:13:36,720
You try not to feel it.

228

00:13:36,720 --> 00:13:45,500
You try to think that this is
just a dream or an isolated

229

00:13:45,500 --> 00:13:47,930
situation.

230

00:13:47,930 --> 00:13:50,770
But this came a bit later?

231

00:13:50,770 --> 00:13:53,940
In Rzeszow, it did
not happen later.

232

00:13:53,940 --> 00:14:00,250
Rzeszow was in 1941.

233

00:14:00,250 --> 00:14:03,490
There were those things
that were happening.

234

00:14:03,490 --> 00:14:06,670
They were happening,
but they did not have--

235

00:14:06,670 --> 00:14:08,890

I did not know that
there were crematoriums.

236

00:14:08,890 --> 00:14:12,880

I did not know that they
were extermination camps.

237

00:14:12,880 --> 00:14:15,340

They had crematoriums in
Rzeszow, or they had--

238

00:14:15,340 --> 00:14:17,260

Not in Rzeszow, no.

239

00:14:17,260 --> 00:14:19,330

They had them in Treblinka.

240

00:14:19,330 --> 00:14:29,130

They had them in other places,
like the big one in Poland,

241

00:14:29,130 --> 00:14:29,860

right near Krak--

242

00:14:29,860 --> 00:14:30,360

Auschwitz.

243

00:14:30,360 --> 00:14:31,320

Auschwitz.

244

00:14:31,320 --> 00:14:37,000

But at that time, we personally
did not know of these places.

245

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:38,430

And when you got
to these places,

246

00:14:38,430 --> 00:14:40,980

it was too late for
most of the people

247

00:14:40,980 --> 00:14:43,920

to realize that
these things existed.

248

00:14:43,920 --> 00:14:46,040

In the ghettos,
were there killings?

249

00:14:46,040 --> 00:14:49,560

There weren't killings, per se.

250

00:14:49,560 --> 00:14:52,500

They took away people.

251

00:14:52,500 --> 00:14:55,060

There were hangings.

252

00:14:55,060 --> 00:15:00,750

There were tortures
in isolated cases.

253

00:15:00,750 --> 00:15:06,440

But mass murders,
you did not see that.

254

00:15:06,440 --> 00:15:10,730

You did not see it
because they used

255

00:15:10,730 --> 00:15:14,960

to come out and take 10 people
or 20 people or 30 people.

256

00:15:14,960 --> 00:15:17,570

They would ask the
elders, that they want

257

00:15:17,570 --> 00:15:19,640

a certain amount of people.

258

00:15:19,640 --> 00:15:21,710

And we did not

know where exactly,

259

00:15:21,710 --> 00:15:26,280
or maybe we didn't want to know,
where these people are going.

260

00:15:26,280 --> 00:15:30,890
But I remember in Rzeszow,
Rzeszow was a place

261

00:15:30,890 --> 00:15:34,820
that really, they took,
literally, people and trucks

262

00:15:34,820 --> 00:15:40,460
and just backed them up and
just throw them overboard

263

00:15:40,460 --> 00:15:43,640
like they were really garbage.

264

00:15:43,640 --> 00:15:50,330
And when we escaped, we
realized that those things

265

00:15:50,330 --> 00:15:55,560
are happening, but we did
not know to what extent.

266

00:15:55,560 --> 00:15:58,290
What happened to your
farm and your inn?

267

00:15:58,290 --> 00:15:59,300
I don't know.

268

00:15:59,300 --> 00:15:59,948
You don't know.

269

00:15:59,948 --> 00:16:00,490
I don't know.

270

00:16:00,490 --> 00:16:01,360
I never went back.

271
00:16:01,360 --> 00:16:03,240
No.

272
00:16:03,240 --> 00:16:07,710
Till now, I never had any
desire to go back to Poland.

273
00:16:07,710 --> 00:16:10,350
But now I think that I
would like to go back,

274
00:16:10,350 --> 00:16:15,020
possibly, take my children,
maybe someday my grandchildren.

275
00:16:15,020 --> 00:16:17,460
I'd like them to know
where our roots are

276
00:16:17,460 --> 00:16:23,440
and where their
grandparents lived.

277
00:16:23,440 --> 00:16:26,740
But that remains to be seen.

278
00:16:26,740 --> 00:16:28,230
Then-- I'm sorry.

279
00:16:28,230 --> 00:16:30,010
Oh, go ahead.

280
00:16:30,010 --> 00:16:37,750
Then in 1942, I believe,
we were in Plaszow,

281
00:16:37,750 --> 00:16:41,950
which was a concentration
camp right outside Krakow.

282

00:16:41,950 --> 00:16:45,640

For there we were
there for over a year.

283

00:16:45,640 --> 00:16:47,740

And this was a camp
that we are also

284

00:16:47,740 --> 00:16:50,260

working in shoe factories
and various service

285

00:16:50,260 --> 00:16:53,035

companies, service centers.

286

00:16:53,035 --> 00:16:59,260

287

00:16:59,260 --> 00:17:00,230

I was there alone.

288

00:17:00,230 --> 00:17:02,350

My mother was not there anymore.

289

00:17:02,350 --> 00:17:03,860

They shipped her
off someplace else,

290

00:17:03,860 --> 00:17:04,985

which I don't know exactly.

291

00:17:04,985 --> 00:17:06,498

Prior to you going to Krakow?

292

00:17:06,498 --> 00:17:07,540

Prior to going to Krakow.

293

00:17:07,540 --> 00:17:08,240

To Plaszow?

294

00:17:08,240 --> 00:17:08,740

To Plaszow.

295

00:17:08,740 --> 00:17:12,880

296

00:17:12,880 --> 00:17:14,560

How old were you then?

297

00:17:14,560 --> 00:17:19,510

At that time I was 12 years old.

298

00:17:19,510 --> 00:17:30,970

And then they had always
these different segregations,

299

00:17:30,970 --> 00:17:34,540

and we had a hard time
remaining in Plaszow

300

00:17:34,540 --> 00:17:40,950

because they were taking,
again, the old and the meek

301

00:17:40,950 --> 00:17:42,780

and the young.

302

00:17:42,780 --> 00:17:46,530

And for some reason,
I always found myself

303

00:17:46,530 --> 00:17:51,210

among the non-productive people,
but I was fortunate enough

304

00:17:51,210 --> 00:17:52,560

to hide myself once.

305

00:17:52,560 --> 00:17:55,830

And then a second time I was
put back on the roster again,

306

00:17:55,830 --> 00:18:04,370

and I remained in
Plaszow until 1943.

307
00:18:04,370 --> 00:18:05,780
At that time--

308
00:18:05,780 --> 00:18:07,520
Where were your
sisters at this time?

309
00:18:07,520 --> 00:18:10,400
I have no idea.

310
00:18:10,400 --> 00:18:14,750
I know that my sisters
wound up in Auschwitz,

311
00:18:14,750 --> 00:18:17,720
but I did not know at
that time where they went,

312
00:18:17,720 --> 00:18:19,130
whether they were alive.

313
00:18:19,130 --> 00:18:22,785
As far as I was
concerned, we were just--

314
00:18:22,785 --> 00:18:24,410
I thought that I was
the only survivor.

315
00:18:24,410 --> 00:18:28,880

316
00:18:28,880 --> 00:18:32,540
But after the war, when
we found each other,

317
00:18:32,540 --> 00:18:36,200
they told me that they were in
Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen.

318

00:18:36,200 --> 00:18:39,200

319

00:18:39,200 --> 00:18:42,920

We found each other
after the war in 1946.

320

00:18:42,920 --> 00:18:43,860

Took a year.

321

00:18:43,860 --> 00:18:47,370

So your mother was just
taken and your father was--

322

00:18:47,370 --> 00:18:51,350

My father passed away in 1940.

323

00:18:51,350 --> 00:18:52,280

After being beaten?

324

00:18:52,280 --> 00:18:53,240

Beaten and tortured.

325

00:18:53,240 --> 00:18:57,140

326

00:18:57,140 --> 00:19:04,390

My mother, we were together, and
then in 1941 we were separated,

327

00:19:04,390 --> 00:19:08,980

and from then on I never
saw my mother again.

328

00:19:08,980 --> 00:19:11,330

What was Plaszow like?

329

00:19:11,330 --> 00:19:17,140

Plaszow was a camp on a hill.

330

00:19:17,140 --> 00:19:20,950

331
00:19:20,950 --> 00:19:30,810
There were terrible beatings
by the kapos and the SS people.

332
00:19:30,810 --> 00:19:34,300
The SS had a lot of help
because they had the--

333
00:19:34,300 --> 00:19:38,300

334
00:19:38,300 --> 00:19:39,740
we call them the Blackshirts.

335
00:19:39,740 --> 00:19:42,800

336
00:19:42,800 --> 00:19:44,240
They weren't regular Germans.

337
00:19:44,240 --> 00:19:53,570
They were more from Ukraine,
and they took their job

338
00:19:53,570 --> 00:19:55,820
with a lot of pleasure.

339
00:19:55,820 --> 00:19:59,770
They beat us constantly
by marching, by walking,

340
00:19:59,770 --> 00:20:01,880
by working.

341
00:20:01,880 --> 00:20:03,140
There was never any peace.

342
00:20:03,140 --> 00:20:07,108

343

00:20:07,108 --> 00:20:08,936

It was hell.

344

00:20:08,936 --> 00:20:12,320

It was hell, but we were
alive and we had hope.

345

00:20:12,320 --> 00:20:18,822

We always had hope, and
that kept us somewhat alive.

346

00:20:18,822 --> 00:20:20,030

Where did the hope come from?

347

00:20:20,030 --> 00:20:26,850

348

00:20:26,850 --> 00:20:27,850

That's a tough question.

349

00:20:27,850 --> 00:20:31,680

350

00:20:31,680 --> 00:20:36,760

We, as Jews, always
depended on hope.

351

00:20:36,760 --> 00:20:39,670

Did you help one
another or talk it over?

352

00:20:39,670 --> 00:20:40,990

In some cases, there was.

353

00:20:40,990 --> 00:20:42,130

There was a sense of humor.

354

00:20:42,130 --> 00:20:47,020

355

00:20:47,020 --> 00:20:49,210

I don't know whether
we helped each other.

356
00:20:49,210 --> 00:20:53,140
I don't think that we
had this camaraderie.

357
00:20:53,140 --> 00:20:54,850
I think everybody
was preoccupied

358
00:20:54,850 --> 00:21:03,190
by their own survival, by their
own misery, their own sorrows.

359
00:21:03,190 --> 00:21:08,500
But down deep, you
wanted to live.

360
00:21:08,500 --> 00:21:10,840
I know that in my
case, I always had

361
00:21:10,840 --> 00:21:15,190
that feeling that says tomorrow
they'll kill me, but not today.

362
00:21:15,190 --> 00:21:17,500
I will survive today.

363
00:21:17,500 --> 00:21:20,150
And you kept on repeating,
repeating every day.

364
00:21:20,150 --> 00:21:24,730
It wasn't your doing, because
everybody had the same feeling.

365
00:21:24,730 --> 00:21:31,050
I was just very
fortunate, and I believe

366
00:21:31,050 --> 00:21:34,020

there was some faith
involved, because there really

367
00:21:34,020 --> 00:21:36,750
was no reason, for
all the accounts,

368
00:21:36,750 --> 00:21:39,300
that a young person or an
old person would survive,

369
00:21:39,300 --> 00:21:44,150
because they were targeted,
the first ones to be killed.

370
00:21:44,150 --> 00:21:46,920
They made you work
all day, and at night,

371
00:21:46,920 --> 00:21:52,390
did you have any time to
do a little schooling?

372
00:21:52,390 --> 00:21:52,890
No.

373
00:21:52,890 --> 00:21:53,760
None?

374
00:21:53,760 --> 00:21:54,510
No.

375
00:21:54,510 --> 00:21:58,890
I don't think that we really had
concentrated on work like that,

376
00:21:58,890 --> 00:22:00,450
as far as school.

377
00:22:00,450 --> 00:22:03,810
This was not a normal
type lifestyle.

378

00:22:03,810 --> 00:22:12,080

This was a matter of
totally devoted to survival

379

00:22:12,080 --> 00:22:16,120

for one more day, in
many cases just an hour.

380

00:22:16,120 --> 00:22:18,400

And when you finished work--

381

00:22:18,400 --> 00:22:22,970

382

00:22:22,970 --> 00:22:24,170

everything was regimented.

383

00:22:24,170 --> 00:22:27,890

I mean, you were led,
beaten, pushed here.

384

00:22:27,890 --> 00:22:31,490

Everything was within this
minute, you had to be here.

385

00:22:31,490 --> 00:22:35,150

Another half hour
you had to be there.

386

00:22:35,150 --> 00:22:40,670

This was not a place conducive
for study or for normal living

387

00:22:40,670 --> 00:22:42,840

like we know it today.

388

00:22:42,840 --> 00:22:45,140

Who ordered you about?

389

00:22:45,140 --> 00:22:48,290

Was it kapos or was it the SS?

390

00:22:48,290 --> 00:22:49,610

It was both.

391

00:22:49,610 --> 00:22:51,020

It was both.

392

00:22:51,020 --> 00:22:52,880

It was a chain of command.

393

00:22:52,880 --> 00:22:54,830

Men, women?

394

00:22:54,830 --> 00:23:02,900

Well, what happened was the men
was separated from the women.

395

00:23:02,900 --> 00:23:06,650

The only time that
there was some contact,

396

00:23:06,650 --> 00:23:10,820

in the early years of
the war, in the camps,

397

00:23:10,820 --> 00:23:15,800

was in Plaszow, in the ghetto.

398

00:23:15,800 --> 00:23:19,460

But during living conditions,
they were totally separate.

399

00:23:19,460 --> 00:23:23,420

There were the women's quarters
and the men's quarters.

400

00:23:23,420 --> 00:23:25,790

And I'm sorry, I didn't
get your question.

401

00:23:25,790 --> 00:23:27,440

I don't remember what.

402

00:23:27,440 --> 00:23:32,270

I asked you who
administered the orders.

403

00:23:32,270 --> 00:23:34,640

The orders were through
a chain of command.

404

00:23:34,640 --> 00:23:39,830

The SS would issue an order,
and then the kapo would take it.

405

00:23:39,830 --> 00:23:41,780

The kapos would take over.

406

00:23:41,780 --> 00:23:45,110

However, the kapos used to
come in and take part, and that

407

00:23:45,110 --> 00:23:47,510

would be more the
overriding factor,

408

00:23:47,510 --> 00:23:49,850

and they would be the
one who would administer

409

00:23:49,850 --> 00:23:51,650

most of the beatings.

410

00:23:51,650 --> 00:23:54,450

When there were beatings,
they were done by both,

411

00:23:54,450 --> 00:23:57,260

but when there were killings,
they were done by the Gestapo--

412

00:23:57,260 --> 00:24:00,250

413

00:24:00,250 --> 00:24:03,390

hangings-- and the Blackshirts.

414

00:24:03,390 --> 00:24:05,710

About how many were
you at Plaszow?

415

00:24:05,710 --> 00:24:06,520

Thousands.

416

00:24:06,520 --> 00:24:07,120

I don't know.

417

00:24:07,120 --> 00:24:09,640

At that time I really did
not concentrate on numbers,

418

00:24:09,640 --> 00:24:12,580

but I know that we
were a lot of people.

419

00:24:12,580 --> 00:24:15,130

And they kept on bringing
more and shipping out more.

420

00:24:15,130 --> 00:24:17,220

The transiency was tremendous.

421

00:24:17,220 --> 00:24:20,380

I mean, you just kept
getting different people

422

00:24:20,380 --> 00:24:22,620

and getting out people.

423

00:24:22,620 --> 00:24:28,010

So it wasn't A family unit,
that you got to know people.

424

00:24:28,010 --> 00:24:30,670

I was going to ask you if there
was anyone you were close to.

425

00:24:30,670 --> 00:24:35,170

426

00:24:35,170 --> 00:24:35,670

No.

427

00:24:35,670 --> 00:24:37,570

Unfortunately, I
can't say that I was.

428

00:24:37,570 --> 00:24:43,110

429

00:24:43,110 --> 00:24:49,980

When the family was taken
away, when we were separated,

430

00:24:49,980 --> 00:24:52,380

I don't know, trust sort
of went out the window.

431

00:24:52,380 --> 00:24:55,600

432

00:24:55,600 --> 00:24:58,380

They were, out of
sheer, necessity

433

00:24:58,380 --> 00:25:03,150

usually a few friends of people
that we would be together.

434

00:25:03,150 --> 00:25:06,930

And there was a little
bit of a support system.

435

00:25:06,930 --> 00:25:11,400

But everybody was
always looking behind.

436

00:25:11,400 --> 00:25:14,590

Everybody was
always looking where

437
00:25:14,590 --> 00:25:21,600
the butt of a rifle or a
gun or a bullet or a whip

438
00:25:21,600 --> 00:25:22,470
was coming from.

439
00:25:22,470 --> 00:25:24,420
We were scared squirrels.

440
00:25:24,420 --> 00:25:25,800
We were really always scared.

441
00:25:25,800 --> 00:25:30,490

442
00:25:30,490 --> 00:25:34,795
You must understand that this
whole process did not happen--

443
00:25:34,795 --> 00:25:37,840

444
00:25:37,840 --> 00:25:43,650
it was systematically
done by first they

445
00:25:43,650 --> 00:25:45,900
would separate your family.

446
00:25:45,900 --> 00:25:48,240
They would cut
down your rations.

447
00:25:48,240 --> 00:25:52,940
They would make you weak
physically, mentally,

448
00:25:52,940 --> 00:25:56,000
psychologically.

449

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:00,690

You just become a
very weak human being.

450

00:26:00,690 --> 00:26:05,710

451

00:26:05,710 --> 00:26:09,670

They were very clever
in the way they

452

00:26:09,670 --> 00:26:11,800

handled this whole process.

453

00:26:11,800 --> 00:26:15,280

454

00:26:15,280 --> 00:26:18,290

They took away your dignity.

455

00:26:18,290 --> 00:26:19,860

They stripped you
little by little.

456

00:26:19,860 --> 00:26:21,350

They stripped more and more.

457

00:26:21,350 --> 00:26:23,930

And after a while, there
was very little left,

458

00:26:23,930 --> 00:26:26,930

except maybe some breath.

459

00:26:26,930 --> 00:26:29,810

The soul was still
there and there

460

00:26:29,810 --> 00:26:34,400

was that inkling of hope
in surviving another day.

461

00:26:34,400 --> 00:26:39,800

I do remember in the later
years, which I'll come to,

462

00:26:39,800 --> 00:26:45,560

when we went to Austria,
we knew that we are not

463

00:26:45,560 --> 00:26:47,240

going to survive.

464

00:26:47,240 --> 00:26:51,660

It was sort of hopeless.

465

00:26:51,660 --> 00:26:54,800

It was that would hurt more.

466

00:26:54,800 --> 00:26:58,250

After a while, the pain
was not your survival.

467

00:26:58,250 --> 00:27:01,340

The pain wasn't a
question of your life.

468

00:27:01,340 --> 00:27:04,820

The pain was more of
the non-caring people

469

00:27:04,820 --> 00:27:09,770

on the outside world,
that nobody really cared.

470

00:27:09,770 --> 00:27:14,840

I remember, in retrospect,
when we were in the trains

471

00:27:14,840 --> 00:27:21,260

and we looked out and we were
passing by fields in Poland

472

00:27:21,260 --> 00:27:28,130

and then in Austria, women,
children passing by towns,

473
00:27:28,130 --> 00:27:29,600
they saw it.

474
00:27:29,600 --> 00:27:32,090
They saw us.

475
00:27:32,090 --> 00:27:37,080
They saw the hopeless
bodies, the crippled bodies,

476
00:27:37,080 --> 00:27:40,940
the emaciated bodies,
the beaten bodies,

477
00:27:40,940 --> 00:27:43,760
and they just turned away.

478
00:27:43,760 --> 00:27:47,050
In some cases there
was almost a smile.

479
00:27:47,050 --> 00:27:49,890
And when you are in a
situation like this,

480
00:27:49,890 --> 00:27:53,630
and when you see that
there is this kind

481
00:27:53,630 --> 00:27:59,960
of a feeling of non-caring,
you just lose total hope.

482
00:27:59,960 --> 00:28:01,520
You just don't care.

483
00:28:01,520 --> 00:28:05,450
You just don't
feel, I don't know.

484

00:28:05,450 --> 00:28:12,530

But yet, there is that desire
to survive one more day,

485

00:28:12,530 --> 00:28:17,360

because you really can't
believe what you're seeing,

486

00:28:17,360 --> 00:28:21,290

the indifference of
the outside world.

487

00:28:21,290 --> 00:28:24,440

That, I think, was the
most painful thing,

488

00:28:24,440 --> 00:28:27,990

the indifference.

489

00:28:27,990 --> 00:28:33,600

That is something that will
stay with me a long time,

490

00:28:33,600 --> 00:28:37,130

and I'm sure with all
the other survivors.

491

00:28:37,130 --> 00:28:43,130

Did the indifferent spur
you on to want to live more

492

00:28:43,130 --> 00:28:45,350

or did it demoralize you?

493

00:28:45,350 --> 00:28:47,102

Both.

494

00:28:47,102 --> 00:28:47,810

That's the irony.

495

00:28:47,810 --> 00:28:56,580

496
00:28:56,580 --> 00:29:04,020
What it does, first you
want to hide and die,

497
00:29:04,020 --> 00:29:07,380
because you really don't want
to see that nobody cares.

498
00:29:07,380 --> 00:29:09,300
But on the other
hand, you get mad.

499
00:29:09,300 --> 00:29:11,850
You get angry.

500
00:29:11,850 --> 00:29:13,950
It's like you have
nobody to depend on,

501
00:29:13,950 --> 00:29:16,680
and yet you know that
there is something there,

502
00:29:16,680 --> 00:29:19,650
that there must be
somebody that cares.

503
00:29:19,650 --> 00:29:21,670
Maybe not these people.

504
00:29:21,670 --> 00:29:26,160
Maybe for the past,
maybe for the future.

505
00:29:26,160 --> 00:29:28,770
So you try one more shot.

506
00:29:28,770 --> 00:29:30,150
You try one more time.

507
00:29:30,150 --> 00:29:33,100

508
00:29:33,100 --> 00:29:46,510
Like I've spoke before, there's
this feeling of hopelessness,

509
00:29:46,510 --> 00:29:49,570
and yet there is
this feeling of hope.

510
00:29:49,570 --> 00:30:00,420

511
00:30:00,420 --> 00:30:05,150
When there is nothing
left anymore physically,

512
00:30:05,150 --> 00:30:11,270
you just want to let it
all out and just die,

513
00:30:11,270 --> 00:30:14,150
but yet, there is something
that tells you you've

514
00:30:14,150 --> 00:30:16,400
got to go on one more day.

515
00:30:16,400 --> 00:30:18,890
Don't let them get
you, kill you today.

516
00:30:18,890 --> 00:30:22,030

517
00:30:22,030 --> 00:30:26,480
In Plaszow, were beatings
and killings random

518
00:30:26,480 --> 00:30:33,840
or were they usually for
particular, what the Germans

519

00:30:33,840 --> 00:30:36,840
considered particular, acts?

520

00:30:36,840 --> 00:30:45,260
The beatings, there were
always particular acts.

521

00:30:45,260 --> 00:30:48,230
If you walk too slow,
there was a particular act.

522

00:30:48,230 --> 00:30:51,260
If you did not keep
up with the running,

523

00:30:51,260 --> 00:30:53,360
it was a particular act.

524

00:30:53,360 --> 00:30:56,240
You could always
look for a reason.

525

00:30:56,240 --> 00:30:59,330
I have not any reasons created.

526

00:30:59,330 --> 00:31:03,890
There were certainly certain
people that were sadistic,

527

00:31:03,890 --> 00:31:06,740
and they got a lot of pleasure
out of beating and hurting

528

00:31:06,740 --> 00:31:07,910
and annihilating people.

529

00:31:07,910 --> 00:31:11,860

530

00:31:11,860 --> 00:31:16,000
But those things happened,
most of the time,

531
00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:17,425
during segregation periods.

532
00:31:17,425 --> 00:31:20,260

533
00:31:20,260 --> 00:31:24,160
Every now and then, I would
say every month or two,

534
00:31:24,160 --> 00:31:28,360
they would strip us naked
on this appellplatz.

535
00:31:28,360 --> 00:31:32,020
They would ask us, tell us, to
come out on the appellplatz.

536
00:31:32,020 --> 00:31:35,470
The appellplatz,
multiply a football field

537
00:31:35,470 --> 00:31:37,870
by 10 times or more.

538
00:31:37,870 --> 00:31:40,330
And everybody would
have to come out

539
00:31:40,330 --> 00:31:45,040
naked on the field, regimented,
as far as your blocks are

540
00:31:45,040 --> 00:31:50,080
concerned, where you
come from, your barracks.

541
00:31:50,080 --> 00:31:55,480
And you would pass by in
front of certain guards

542

00:31:55,480 --> 00:31:58,258
or certain doctors, and they
would go this way, that way,

543
00:31:58,258 --> 00:31:59,050
this way, that way.

544
00:31:59,050 --> 00:32:02,530
That is what we call
the segregation.

545
00:32:02,530 --> 00:32:03,760
This way, you went to work.

546
00:32:03,760 --> 00:32:05,410
This way, you went
to the shipment.

547
00:32:05,410 --> 00:32:07,690
We didn't know at that
time where we were going.

548
00:32:07,690 --> 00:32:10,300
But obviously, now we
know that the people that

549
00:32:10,300 --> 00:32:12,580
were segregated that
went to this side

550
00:32:12,580 --> 00:32:16,390
went directed to the death
camp, to the crematoriums.

551
00:32:16,390 --> 00:32:19,060
In Plaszow, we did
not have crematoriums.

552
00:32:19,060 --> 00:32:21,218
They put people on trains
and they shipped them

553
00:32:21,218 --> 00:32:22,510

in the various different thing.

554

00:32:22,510 --> 00:32:25,030

Auschwitz was a
perfect situation

555

00:32:25,030 --> 00:32:32,680

because Plaszow was maybe 20,
30 miles, what I know now,

556

00:32:32,680 --> 00:32:35,380

from Krakow.

557

00:32:35,380 --> 00:32:35,980

Not far.

558

00:32:35,980 --> 00:32:40,450

Were they trying to see
who would be good for work?

559

00:32:40,450 --> 00:32:43,450

Yes, the strong ones
they would leave.

560

00:32:43,450 --> 00:32:46,570

The meek ones and the
children and the old,

561

00:32:46,570 --> 00:32:51,040

they would always take away.

562

00:32:51,040 --> 00:32:54,960

It didn't take too long,
with the hard work that

563

00:32:54,960 --> 00:32:58,270

had to be performed
and the meager rations,

564

00:32:58,270 --> 00:33:00,990

to become old in a period of
two months or three months.

565

00:33:00,990 --> 00:33:04,210

So you had a lot of
very meek, old people

566

00:33:04,210 --> 00:33:06,070

in a short period of time.

567

00:33:06,070 --> 00:33:09,490

And they kept constantly
segregating and sending

568

00:33:09,490 --> 00:33:10,060

these people.

569

00:33:10,060 --> 00:33:12,010

But during the course
of segregation,

570

00:33:12,010 --> 00:33:13,930

during that period
of time, there

571

00:33:13,930 --> 00:33:17,770

were an awful lot of
beatings, and they didn't

572

00:33:17,770 --> 00:33:20,830

have to have reasons to do so.

573

00:33:20,830 --> 00:33:24,620

Was every appell followed
by a shipment of people?

574

00:33:24,620 --> 00:33:28,090

Well, no, not really, because
every day we had appells.

575

00:33:28,090 --> 00:33:30,370

Every day we had to
meet on the thing,

576

00:33:30,370 --> 00:33:33,510

and they had counting whether
they were all present.

577
00:33:33,510 --> 00:33:36,427
So how many people died
and how many people

578
00:33:36,427 --> 00:33:37,510
were taken off the roster.

579
00:33:37,510 --> 00:33:41,620
There was always an
accounting of every block.

580
00:33:41,620 --> 00:33:44,620
The block was
considered not a block,

581
00:33:44,620 --> 00:33:45,940
as far as block is concerned.

582
00:33:45,940 --> 00:33:50,980
A block was considered a
barrack, x amount of people

583
00:33:50,980 --> 00:33:52,310
that were living in there.

584
00:33:52,310 --> 00:33:57,340
And there were always kapos who
are responsible for counting

585
00:33:57,340 --> 00:34:01,300
their own block,
and they had to give

586
00:34:01,300 --> 00:34:03,520
an accounting of
how many are missing

587
00:34:03,520 --> 00:34:06,340
and where they are and
whether they are dead,

588
00:34:06,340 --> 00:34:07,840
these are the ones
that are present.

589
00:34:07,840 --> 00:34:09,670
It's almost like an
army that was run.

590
00:34:09,670 --> 00:34:15,290

591
00:34:15,290 --> 00:34:20,580
And where did you go after
Plaszow was liquidated,

592
00:34:20,580 --> 00:34:24,330
or after the time
came for you to leave?

593
00:34:24,330 --> 00:34:35,670
I believe this was in 1943 or
towards the end of '43, when

594
00:34:35,670 --> 00:34:41,219
the Russians started to make
headway and the Americans,

595
00:34:41,219 --> 00:34:43,350
they were--

596
00:34:43,350 --> 00:34:46,050
the Russians were
starting to fight

597
00:34:46,050 --> 00:34:48,040
and coming towards Poland.

598
00:34:48,040 --> 00:34:51,120
So they evacuated all
the concentration camps

599

00:34:51,120 --> 00:34:54,600
from Poland, and
they were sending us

600
00:34:54,600 --> 00:34:56,969
to various different camps.

601
00:34:56,969 --> 00:35:01,530
Some of them went to
different-- in my case,

602
00:35:01,530 --> 00:35:05,040
they put us on trains,
on cattle trains.

603
00:35:05,040 --> 00:35:11,550
And they packed us
in, standing up.

604
00:35:11,550 --> 00:35:15,360
For weeks we were going to--

605
00:35:15,360 --> 00:35:16,860
I don't know how
long it took, but I

606
00:35:16,860 --> 00:35:22,320
know it took at least a week
or two weeks to Mauthausen,

607
00:35:22,320 --> 00:35:25,410
which was in Austria.

608
00:35:25,410 --> 00:35:30,420
In Austria, I was there
for about a month,

609
00:35:30,420 --> 00:35:33,430
and there was
another segregation.

610
00:35:33,430 --> 00:35:42,830
And they segregated a group and

they put us on trains again.

611
00:35:42,830 --> 00:35:45,080
Where were you in Austria
at the first stop?

612
00:35:45,080 --> 00:35:46,100
Mauthausen.

613
00:35:46,100 --> 00:35:48,650
Mauthausen.

614
00:35:48,650 --> 00:35:51,200
Is that a death camp?

615
00:35:51,200 --> 00:35:55,830
It was a death camp,
but we were not--

616
00:35:55,830 --> 00:35:58,380
they had segregation, but
I was fortunate enough

617
00:35:58,380 --> 00:36:01,970
to be in a group that
was in the working group.

618
00:36:01,970 --> 00:36:06,720

619
00:36:06,720 --> 00:36:11,730
We were in the barracks,
and we were waiting there

620
00:36:11,730 --> 00:36:13,590
for a shipment.

621
00:36:13,590 --> 00:36:15,250
Nobody knew exactly.

622
00:36:15,250 --> 00:36:18,770
There was no work, except

cleaning the street.

623

00:36:18,770 --> 00:36:23,400

At one camp, you had
Ukrainians that were kapos,

624

00:36:23,400 --> 00:36:26,340

and now in Mauthausen,
you had Austrians?

625

00:36:26,340 --> 00:36:26,960

Well, no.

626

00:36:26,960 --> 00:36:29,850

There was in Austria, but
they could be Austrians.

627

00:36:29,850 --> 00:36:32,730

The Austrians were
intermingled with the SS.

628

00:36:32,730 --> 00:36:33,600

OK.

629

00:36:33,600 --> 00:36:35,180

They were in
Germany and Austria.

630

00:36:35,180 --> 00:36:40,140

But in Austria, in
the camp, mostly they

631

00:36:40,140 --> 00:36:45,435

were all SS men and kapos.

632

00:36:45,435 --> 00:36:50,700

633

00:36:50,700 --> 00:36:57,230

I was there for a month, and
after that they shipped us out,

634

00:36:57,230 --> 00:37:00,870
and we went to a
concentration camp called

635
00:37:00,870 --> 00:37:05,940
Melk, which was a
work camp that was

636
00:37:05,940 --> 00:37:08,580
building ammunition
factories, tunnels,

637
00:37:08,580 --> 00:37:11,190
underneath the mountains.

638
00:37:11,190 --> 00:37:19,200
And every day we would
be traveling by train

639
00:37:19,200 --> 00:37:24,630
to these camps, very
early in the morning.

640
00:37:24,630 --> 00:37:26,810
It wasn't even light yet.

641
00:37:26,810 --> 00:37:30,210
And we would come home at night.

642
00:37:30,210 --> 00:37:34,380
We were building these
tunnels for factories,

643
00:37:34,380 --> 00:37:37,020
for ammunition, like
I stated before.

644
00:37:37,020 --> 00:37:41,250
And there, the rations
were very, very meager.

645
00:37:41,250 --> 00:37:49,215

646
00:37:49,215 --> 00:37:52,060
We hardly had any hot food.

647
00:37:52,060 --> 00:37:55,270
They just served us
in the field when

648
00:37:55,270 --> 00:38:00,550
we were working, for lunch,
in little huts, watery soup,

649
00:38:00,550 --> 00:38:05,250
and the rest of it was strictly
a piece of bread in the morning

650
00:38:05,250 --> 00:38:07,420
and a piece of bread at night.

651
00:38:07,420 --> 00:38:10,750
And this was our ration
for a very long time,

652
00:38:10,750 --> 00:38:13,600
till we were moved
to another camp.

653
00:38:13,600 --> 00:38:18,190
And this was
strictly a work camp.

654
00:38:18,190 --> 00:38:22,810
I don't know-- they did
not have too many killings,

655
00:38:22,810 --> 00:38:28,300
except that people died from
hunger and overwork, starvation

656
00:38:28,300 --> 00:38:29,440
and work.

657

00:38:29,440 --> 00:38:34,420
But the regular crematoriums
I was not aware of them.

658
00:38:34,420 --> 00:38:36,580
In Mauthausen were
exterminations?

659
00:38:36,580 --> 00:38:38,086
Yes.

660
00:38:38,086 --> 00:38:40,390
But I was not involved.

661
00:38:40,390 --> 00:38:42,060
I was in a different
section of it.

662
00:38:42,060 --> 00:38:42,560
Mm-hmm.

663
00:38:42,560 --> 00:38:48,985
Were you able to see or
smell anything, conscious?

664
00:38:48,985 --> 00:38:51,660

665
00:38:51,660 --> 00:38:55,110
We did not know that
these things existed.

666
00:38:55,110 --> 00:38:58,550

667
00:38:58,550 --> 00:39:05,730
But the stench of death was
so prevalent in every camp

668
00:39:05,730 --> 00:39:07,350
that we did not
know exactly where

669

00:39:07,350 --> 00:39:10,900

there was burning of live
people or dead people,

670

00:39:10,900 --> 00:39:12,910

but there was always a
fire and you could always

671

00:39:12,910 --> 00:39:16,990

smell the stench of death.

672

00:39:16,990 --> 00:39:20,110

But I did not know.

673

00:39:20,110 --> 00:39:21,370

I did not see the ovens.

674

00:39:21,370 --> 00:39:24,910

675

00:39:24,910 --> 00:39:35,220

And then in Melk, this was
really a very, very tough camp,

676

00:39:35,220 --> 00:39:41,405

and the starvation, really,
people were dying like flies.

677

00:39:41,405 --> 00:39:42,810

What year was this?

678

00:39:42,810 --> 00:39:47,510

That was in '44, till
the beginning of '45.

679

00:39:47,510 --> 00:40:03,450

In 1945, it was around March,
they shipped out to people

680

00:40:03,450 --> 00:40:04,080

from Melk.

681

00:40:04,080 --> 00:40:07,447

682

00:40:07,447 --> 00:40:08,280

They didn't ship us.

683

00:40:08,280 --> 00:40:10,350

In this case, it was a march.

684

00:40:10,350 --> 00:40:13,980

We marched to a
camp called Ebensee.

685

00:40:13,980 --> 00:40:20,130

I remember we felt that the
war was coming to an end

686

00:40:20,130 --> 00:40:23,850

because during that
period of the march,

687

00:40:23,850 --> 00:40:26,820

there was a lot of
bombing going on.

688

00:40:26,820 --> 00:40:29,910

And we were hoping
that we were going

689

00:40:29,910 --> 00:40:33,210

to be bombed so that
the guards can be dead

690

00:40:33,210 --> 00:40:36,060

as well, because when
the bombs were falling.

691

00:40:36,060 --> 00:40:39,600

692

00:40:39,600 --> 00:40:45,825

We walked for a week or

two from Melk to Ebensee.

693
00:40:45,825 --> 00:40:49,770
And in Ebensee, there was
another camp, a factory,

694
00:40:49,770 --> 00:40:51,900
underneath the mountains.

695
00:40:51,900 --> 00:40:59,430
And there was the
most crucial time

696
00:40:59,430 --> 00:41:06,200
that I remember as far,
because we did not receive food

697
00:41:06,200 --> 00:41:07,400
at all to speak of.

698
00:41:07,400 --> 00:41:12,530
I mean, we just got some
rations, but it was very mean,

699
00:41:12,530 --> 00:41:17,810
because this was already
towards the end of the war.

700
00:41:17,810 --> 00:41:23,560

701
00:41:23,560 --> 00:41:26,200
We waited.

702
00:41:26,200 --> 00:41:32,920
And the loss of weight,
the loss of desire to live,

703
00:41:32,920 --> 00:41:34,690
really, this was really
a desperate point.

704

00:41:34,690 --> 00:41:37,450

But yet, there was a
little ray of hope,

705

00:41:37,450 --> 00:41:46,610

when I think back, that
you saw the Germans not

706

00:41:46,610 --> 00:41:49,490

feeling so high and so great.

707

00:41:49,490 --> 00:41:55,840

And so they were beginning
to be demoralized.

708

00:41:55,840 --> 00:42:00,110

And in a way, we found a
little pleasure in that,

709

00:42:00,110 --> 00:42:03,770

even though we were going with
them and we were worse off than

710

00:42:03,770 --> 00:42:06,590

they were, and we knew that
we're not going to survive,

711

00:42:06,590 --> 00:42:07,810

because we couldn't.

712

00:42:07,810 --> 00:42:09,800

There were no rations.

713

00:42:09,800 --> 00:42:11,150

We just couldn't get up.

714

00:42:11,150 --> 00:42:15,200

All you saw is bones of people.

715

00:42:15,200 --> 00:42:20,240

But yet you saw that mighty
army, those polished boots,

716

00:42:20,240 --> 00:42:24,140

all of a sudden not being as
polished and not as mighty.

717

00:42:24,140 --> 00:42:31,050

They were walking
around with bent heads,

718

00:42:31,050 --> 00:42:33,110

and it really felt good.

719

00:42:33,110 --> 00:42:37,160

720

00:42:37,160 --> 00:42:44,105

But the last few days,
thousands of Jews died there.

721

00:42:44,105 --> 00:42:45,770

Do you think they
did that purposely

722

00:42:45,770 --> 00:42:50,245

because they wanted them to
die before the end of the war?

723

00:42:50,245 --> 00:42:51,950

Oh, there's no
question about they

724

00:42:51,950 --> 00:42:59,000

wanted us to die because
they mined the shafts.

725

00:42:59,000 --> 00:43:04,940

An order came in that they
wanted to take us all in

726

00:43:04,940 --> 00:43:12,610

and to dynamite the
tunnels and kill us all.

727

00:43:12,610 --> 00:43:13,980
But we just couldn't move.

728
00:43:13,980 --> 00:43:15,080
We just wouldn't move.

729
00:43:15,080 --> 00:43:22,160
And we sat in our own filth,
in our own debris, so to speak,

730
00:43:22,160 --> 00:43:23,420
but we did not move.

731
00:43:23,420 --> 00:43:24,500
We just didn't care.

732
00:43:24,500 --> 00:43:27,320
Go ahead and do whatever,
and they didn't.

733
00:43:27,320 --> 00:43:31,040
And overnight, the
regular army came

734
00:43:31,040 --> 00:43:32,840
and they changed
guards with the SS,

735
00:43:32,840 --> 00:43:38,180
so we knew that this was really
good, because the SS fled.

736
00:43:38,180 --> 00:43:43,310
And the next day, we were
liberated by an American tank

737
00:43:43,310 --> 00:43:44,990
outfit.

738
00:43:44,990 --> 00:43:51,080
I'll never forget that
tank that came in and broke

739

00:43:51,080 --> 00:43:57,040

the gate, the entrance
of the camp of Ebensee.

740

00:43:57,040 --> 00:44:01,110

Did you ever get the names
of any of the Americans--

741

00:44:01,110 --> 00:44:01,940

No.

742

00:44:01,940 --> 00:44:02,880

--liberated?

743

00:44:02,880 --> 00:44:06,210

But I'll never
forget their faces.

744

00:44:06,210 --> 00:44:09,310

I'll never forget their faces.

745

00:44:09,310 --> 00:44:17,010

This was a long time ago,
almost a half a decade--

746

00:44:17,010 --> 00:44:18,990

a half a century--

747

00:44:18,990 --> 00:44:20,955

but I will not
forget their faces.

748

00:44:20,955 --> 00:44:22,520

What did their faces look like?

749

00:44:22,520 --> 00:44:25,440

750

00:44:25,440 --> 00:44:35,490

Happy, haggard, dusty, full
of love, caring, their eyes,

751

00:44:35,490 --> 00:44:40,560

throwing candy, fruits,
giving things to us.

752

00:44:40,560 --> 00:44:45,650

753

00:44:45,650 --> 00:44:46,970

And yet they were bewildered.

754

00:44:46,970 --> 00:44:51,372

755

00:44:51,372 --> 00:44:53,370

They never saw anything
like this before.

756

00:44:53,370 --> 00:44:55,930

757

00:44:55,930 --> 00:44:57,970

They wanted to help,
but yet they couldn't.

758

00:44:57,970 --> 00:45:00,160

They just weren't used
to something like this.

759

00:45:00,160 --> 00:45:04,430

760

00:45:04,430 --> 00:45:07,310

I guess we wanted
to see happiness.

761

00:45:07,310 --> 00:45:08,990

We saw what we wanted
to see in them,

762

00:45:08,990 --> 00:45:11,330

but they were
definitely bewildered

763
00:45:11,330 --> 00:45:14,880
and shocked and distraught
about this whole thing,

764
00:45:14,880 --> 00:45:16,670
because they didn't
see human beings.

765
00:45:16,670 --> 00:45:17,660
They saw flesh.

766
00:45:17,660 --> 00:45:21,230
They saw death all around them.

767
00:45:21,230 --> 00:45:24,470
We were used to this, but
they weren't used to something

768
00:45:24,470 --> 00:45:26,403
like that.

769
00:45:26,403 --> 00:45:28,070
But I tell you, it
was good to see them.

770
00:45:28,070 --> 00:45:35,080

771
00:45:35,080 --> 00:45:36,370
Did they feed you?

772
00:45:36,370 --> 00:45:39,040
Oh, that was the trouble.

773
00:45:39,040 --> 00:45:41,380
They fed us too well.

774
00:45:41,380 --> 00:45:45,160
Our stomachs, our bodies
couldn't handle it,

775

00:45:45,160 --> 00:45:47,740

until the doctors
and nurses came.

776

00:45:47,740 --> 00:45:51,520

777

00:45:51,520 --> 00:45:56,120

We really couldn't
absorb this kind of diet

778

00:45:56,120 --> 00:46:01,150

and a lot of people died.

779

00:46:01,150 --> 00:46:07,100

780

00:46:07,100 --> 00:46:13,580

But after a while, I mean,
they took us in their arms.

781

00:46:13,580 --> 00:46:15,890

When I think back, the
way they lifted us,

782

00:46:15,890 --> 00:46:18,500

the way they held us--

783

00:46:18,500 --> 00:46:21,710

How much did you
weigh at the time?

784

00:46:21,710 --> 00:46:31,590

I was told that I
weighed 65 pounds,

785

00:46:31,590 --> 00:46:33,680

But I weight a lot more now.

786

00:46:33,680 --> 00:46:38,190

Did they take you to
their own barracks?

787
00:46:38,190 --> 00:46:41,160
They didn't have barracks,
but they took us to the fields

788
00:46:41,160 --> 00:46:43,900
where they were, because
they just came in.

789
00:46:43,900 --> 00:46:44,670
It was tanks.

790
00:46:44,670 --> 00:46:47,900
So it was tanks, and
they lived in the fields.

791
00:46:47,900 --> 00:46:54,000
But later on, little hospitals
were set up in tents.

792
00:46:54,000 --> 00:46:56,592
And then the camps, they
told us they were free.

793
00:46:56,592 --> 00:46:58,800
A lot of the people didn't
believe that we were free.

794
00:46:58,800 --> 00:47:01,440

795
00:47:01,440 --> 00:47:05,490
We still felt that the Germans
are going to come back.

796
00:47:05,490 --> 00:47:09,930

797
00:47:09,930 --> 00:47:12,380
See, this was
going on for years.

798

00:47:12,380 --> 00:47:15,310

This didn't happen for
a month, or whatever.

799

00:47:15,310 --> 00:47:23,040

And when you take
away all the dignity

800

00:47:23,040 --> 00:47:25,680

from human beings for such
a long period of time,

801

00:47:25,680 --> 00:47:29,290

it takes an awful long
time to bring back

802

00:47:29,290 --> 00:47:32,340

your sense of self-worth.

803

00:47:32,340 --> 00:47:38,710

And we did not believe that only
good is going to come of this.

804

00:47:38,710 --> 00:47:41,620

We always thought that the
Germans are right behind there,

805

00:47:41,620 --> 00:47:45,900

and it took a long time until
we realized that they are gone,

806

00:47:45,900 --> 00:47:47,260

and hopefully forever.

807

00:47:47,260 --> 00:47:51,160

808

00:47:51,160 --> 00:47:53,950

When the Americans came in, were
there any Germans in the camp?

809

00:47:53,950 --> 00:47:58,060

810
00:47:58,060 --> 00:48:00,940
We did not see them.

811
00:48:00,940 --> 00:48:04,720
They tried to change
their uniforms,

812
00:48:04,720 --> 00:48:06,460
but they could not
pass as prisoners

813
00:48:06,460 --> 00:48:13,540
because they were too well fed
and too well in appearance.

814
00:48:13,540 --> 00:48:15,610
They ran away.

815
00:48:15,610 --> 00:48:18,900
I know that we caught
some of them later on,

816
00:48:18,900 --> 00:48:21,720
and we did not necessarily
treat them so kindly.

817
00:48:21,720 --> 00:48:24,728
But they were arrested
by the Americans

818
00:48:24,728 --> 00:48:26,020
and I don't know what happened.

819
00:48:26,020 --> 00:48:30,610

820
00:48:30,610 --> 00:48:36,400
No, I did not see
any in the camp.

821
00:48:36,400 --> 00:48:39,280

They ran away.

822

00:48:39,280 --> 00:48:43,120

The guards did not stay.

823

00:48:43,120 --> 00:48:45,070

They ran away.

824

00:48:45,070 --> 00:48:50,954

When the Americans came in,
they weren't there anymore.

825

00:48:50,954 --> 00:48:54,370

Do you know if any
of them were caught?

826

00:48:54,370 --> 00:48:54,870

Yes.

827

00:48:54,870 --> 00:49:02,430

Later on they were caught,
and the Americans, they

828

00:49:02,430 --> 00:49:06,540

tried very hard to
bring them to justice.

829

00:49:06,540 --> 00:49:09,342

But they took them
into camps, and we

830

00:49:09,342 --> 00:49:11,550

didn't know exactly what
happened to them, of course,

831

00:49:11,550 --> 00:49:17,700

because they would not let
the inmates close to them,

832

00:49:17,700 --> 00:49:19,980

because they knew that
the inmates, the survivors

833

00:49:19,980 --> 00:49:27,230
of the concentration camp,
would treat them not so nicely.

834

00:49:27,230 --> 00:49:29,360
So they took them
to different camps,

835

00:49:29,360 --> 00:49:31,010
and I don't know
exactly what happened.

836

00:49:31,010 --> 00:49:35,520
Was this camp near any
of the cities in Austria?

837

00:49:35,520 --> 00:49:38,240
I was thinking of, was
there a possibility

838

00:49:38,240 --> 00:49:42,780
that they could have you
housed or roomed or fed

839

00:49:42,780 --> 00:49:45,916
in any other place
except out in the fields,

840

00:49:45,916 --> 00:49:48,800
or was out just
in an open place?

841

00:49:48,800 --> 00:49:50,900
They had barracks,
the same barracks,

842

00:49:50,900 --> 00:49:57,110
but later on, they took
to a camp called Linz.

843

00:49:57,110 --> 00:49:58,310
I did not go there.

844

00:49:58,310 --> 00:49:59,240

I went to Italy.

845

00:49:59,240 --> 00:50:02,690

846

00:50:02,690 --> 00:50:06,050

I heard that from Italy,
you could go to Israel.

847

00:50:06,050 --> 00:50:11,150

And so we jumped a train,
and about a month later, we

848

00:50:11,150 --> 00:50:13,070

went to Italy.

849

00:50:13,070 --> 00:50:15,440

But there were
camps of displaced--

850

00:50:15,440 --> 00:50:16,820

DP camps they called them.

851

00:50:16,820 --> 00:50:19,665

852

00:50:19,665 --> 00:50:23,240

They took all the people
that survived and nursed

853

00:50:23,240 --> 00:50:28,460

them and helped them to
get over this nightmare.

854

00:50:28,460 --> 00:50:32,247

And the Americans helped
them, and of course,

855

00:50:32,247 --> 00:50:33,830

a lot of people from
the United States

856
00:50:33,830 --> 00:50:38,510
came, from nurses and civilians.

857
00:50:38,510 --> 00:50:42,260
They did tried to
find out who survived

858
00:50:42,260 --> 00:50:44,990
and they tried to set up
like the Joint Distribution

859
00:50:44,990 --> 00:50:46,595
Committee and the HIAS.

860
00:50:46,595 --> 00:50:52,640

861
00:50:52,640 --> 00:50:55,160
They would have a radio
program every night

862
00:50:55,160 --> 00:50:57,620
to find out who
survived, and then they

863
00:50:57,620 --> 00:51:00,605
would read off names from
various places, various camps.

864
00:51:00,605 --> 00:51:03,450

865
00:51:03,450 --> 00:51:05,690
As a matter of fact,
that's how I found out

866
00:51:05,690 --> 00:51:09,890
that my sisters were
alive, or they found out

867
00:51:09,890 --> 00:51:12,890

that I was alive in Italy.

868
00:51:12,890 --> 00:51:16,430
And I was there with
the Israeli brigade,

869
00:51:16,430 --> 00:51:20,390
which I found them to be
fighting during the Second

870
00:51:20,390 --> 00:51:20,900
World War.

871
00:51:20,900 --> 00:51:24,010
Which sisters were alive?

872
00:51:24,010 --> 00:51:27,370
Frances, she was alive.

873
00:51:27,370 --> 00:51:29,770
My sister Frances survived.

874
00:51:29,770 --> 00:51:32,980
She was in Sweden.

875
00:51:32,980 --> 00:51:36,950
And my sister Lucy
and Clara survived,

876
00:51:36,950 --> 00:51:42,080
and they were in
Linz in this camp.

877
00:51:42,080 --> 00:51:42,580
The DP camp.

878
00:51:42,580 --> 00:51:43,540
The DP camp.

879
00:51:43,540 --> 00:51:44,890
How did Frances get to Sweden?

880

00:51:44,890 --> 00:51:47,950

881

00:51:47,950 --> 00:51:52,872

She was liberated
in Belsen-Bergen--

882

00:51:52,872 --> 00:51:56,570

883

00:51:56,570 --> 00:51:58,520

Belsen, rather.

884

00:51:58,520 --> 00:52:00,800

And she had typhoid.

885

00:52:00,800 --> 00:52:01,670

She was almost dead.

886

00:52:01,670 --> 00:52:08,000

887

00:52:08,000 --> 00:52:12,680

The Swedish people took in
quite a few of the sick people,

888

00:52:12,680 --> 00:52:15,260

and my sister Frances
was one of them,

889

00:52:15,260 --> 00:52:17,370

and they nursed
her back to life.

890

00:52:17,370 --> 00:52:22,400

And she stayed there till 1948.

891

00:52:22,400 --> 00:52:25,220

Was that through
Raoul Wallenberg?

892

00:52:25,220 --> 00:52:28,940

I don't know exactly
whether it was through him,

893

00:52:28,940 --> 00:52:34,580

but I don't think that they
found him after the war.

894

00:52:34,580 --> 00:52:35,423

I really don't know.

895

00:52:35,423 --> 00:52:37,340

I know that there were
a lot of Swedish people

896

00:52:37,340 --> 00:52:40,700

that helped a lot of the
sick people that brought them

897

00:52:40,700 --> 00:52:45,110

into Sweden, and she
became better, thank God.

898

00:52:45,110 --> 00:52:48,740

And then she came here in 1949.

899

00:52:48,740 --> 00:52:50,820

What about your brother?

900

00:52:50,820 --> 00:52:56,030

My brother Mark, he was
in Russia during the war,

901

00:52:56,030 --> 00:53:05,280

and he, too, came
to Linz in 1945.

902

00:53:05,280 --> 00:53:11,810

And he met my sister, Lucy and
Clara, and the three of them

903

00:53:11,810 --> 00:53:14,490

were in Linz.

904
00:53:14,490 --> 00:53:16,590
And they found out that
I was alive in Italy,

905
00:53:16,590 --> 00:53:20,310
and they asked me
to come to Linz.

906
00:53:20,310 --> 00:53:30,000
I came there in 1946, and we
were together for about a year,

907
00:53:30,000 --> 00:53:32,800
till '47.

908
00:53:32,800 --> 00:53:38,290
What was that
displaced camp like?

909
00:53:38,290 --> 00:53:45,620
The displaced camp was a place
that it was the families.

910
00:53:45,620 --> 00:53:48,750
They tried to keep
the families together.

911
00:53:48,750 --> 00:53:53,100
It was a camp.

912
00:53:53,100 --> 00:53:54,330
Of course we had freedom.

913
00:53:54,330 --> 00:53:57,120
I wouldn't call it a camp
because the word camp has

914
00:53:57,120 --> 00:53:58,440
a different connotation for me.

915
00:53:58,440 --> 00:53:59,280

That's right.

916

00:53:59,280 --> 00:54:04,410

It was a place to
live, a place to live

917

00:54:04,410 --> 00:54:09,180

while you wait that you go
to a place more permanently.

918

00:54:09,180 --> 00:54:18,390

This was like a temporary
place, and we had freedom.

919

00:54:18,390 --> 00:54:21,450

We could come and go
whenever we pleased.

920

00:54:21,450 --> 00:54:22,650

We could go to the villages.

921

00:54:22,650 --> 00:54:24,330

We could go to town.

922

00:54:24,330 --> 00:54:25,440

We didn't have gates.

923

00:54:25,440 --> 00:54:27,280

We did not have kapos.

924

00:54:27,280 --> 00:54:28,530

We did not have an assessment.

925

00:54:28,530 --> 00:54:29,820

We did not have Gestapo.

926

00:54:29,820 --> 00:54:33,570

We did not have death
surrounding us all around.

927

00:54:33,570 --> 00:54:36,180

And this was paradise.

928
00:54:36,180 --> 00:54:39,270
This was something,
a beginning of life.

929
00:54:39,270 --> 00:54:43,560
But we knew that this is
not a place that we wanted

930
00:54:43,560 --> 00:54:44,970
to be the rest of our lives.

931
00:54:44,970 --> 00:54:48,030
We wanted to have our
own private homes,

932
00:54:48,030 --> 00:54:51,330
lives, and be able to do
something with our lives

933
00:54:51,330 --> 00:54:53,170
and to be productive
human beings.

934
00:54:53,170 --> 00:54:56,130

935
00:54:56,130 --> 00:54:58,350
I don't know how much we
thought about how much we

936
00:54:58,350 --> 00:55:00,060
owed to society,
because at that time

937
00:55:00,060 --> 00:55:02,340
we didn't think how
much we owed to society.

938
00:55:02,340 --> 00:55:03,825
We thought we owed
it to ourselves

939

00:55:03,825 --> 00:55:06,390

and to our families,
whoever survived,

940

00:55:06,390 --> 00:55:08,180

to make something of ourselves.

941

00:55:08,180 --> 00:55:12,310

942

00:55:12,310 --> 00:55:23,650

Then in 1947, I went to
France, because the visas

943

00:55:23,650 --> 00:55:25,810

to come to the United
States were exhausted,

944

00:55:25,810 --> 00:55:28,510

as far as the Polish
quota was concerned.

945

00:55:28,510 --> 00:55:35,507

Regardless whether we were Jews
or Poles, the Polish quota--

946

00:55:35,507 --> 00:55:37,090

even though we went
through that much,

947

00:55:37,090 --> 00:55:38,710

we could not come
to the United States

948

00:55:38,710 --> 00:55:40,660

because we had to
wait for the quota,

949

00:55:40,660 --> 00:55:41,850

and the quota was exhausted.

950

00:55:41,850 --> 00:55:46,640

We would have to wait 50 years
for us to be able to come here.

951

00:55:46,640 --> 00:55:51,220

So I went to France,
and from France,

952

00:55:51,220 --> 00:55:54,580

my cousin brought me over
to the United States.

953

00:55:54,580 --> 00:55:57,050

This is a good point which
to pause for a few minutes.

954

00:55:57,050 --> 00:55:57,550

Sure.

955

00:55:57,550 --> 00:56:00,360

We have to change the tape.

956

00:56:00,360 --> 00:56:03,060