

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:25,220

2
00:00:25,220 --> 00:00:26,580
Good afternoon.

3
00:00:26,580 --> 00:00:30,410
I'm Bernard Weinstein, director
of the Kean College Holocaust

4
00:00:30,410 --> 00:00:32,390
Oral Histories Project.

5
00:00:32,390 --> 00:00:35,230
Assisting me today
is Ruth Harris.

6
00:00:35,230 --> 00:00:39,710
We would like to
welcome Ida Schwarz.

7
00:00:39,710 --> 00:00:42,170
My name is Ida Hirsch-Schwarz.

8
00:00:42,170 --> 00:00:46,350
I was born and raised
in Tarnow, Poland.

9
00:00:46,350 --> 00:00:50,590
My father was a rabbi and
their ritual slaughterer.

10
00:00:50,590 --> 00:00:53,495
We were 10 children,
five boys and five girls.

11
00:00:53,495 --> 00:00:56,300

12
00:00:56,300 --> 00:01:00,660
I was raised in a

very comfortable home

13

00:01:00,660 --> 00:01:05,470

and when I was growing
up, I was looking for ways

14

00:01:05,470 --> 00:01:12,550

to go and emigrate to
Palestine as my sister did.

15

00:01:12,550 --> 00:01:16,210

16

00:01:16,210 --> 00:01:26,570

Unfortunately, the war broke
out in September 1, 1939.

17

00:01:26,570 --> 00:01:31,340

The German army came and
took Tarnow three days later.

18

00:01:31,340 --> 00:01:34,540

19

00:01:34,540 --> 00:01:39,310

In the beginning,
it wasn't so bad.

20

00:01:39,310 --> 00:01:46,650

We had to give away all
the personal belongings

21

00:01:46,650 --> 00:01:58,570

like jewelry, money, foreign
currency, silver, gold, and fur

22

00:01:58,570 --> 00:01:59,070

coats.

23

00:01:59,070 --> 00:02:04,700

24

00:02:04,700 --> 00:02:14,640
The Germans slowly
began to liquidate the--

25
00:02:14,640 --> 00:02:18,750
not liquidate, but
they took away the--

26
00:02:18,750 --> 00:02:19,730
Business?

27
00:02:19,730 --> 00:02:21,350
--businesses, the
large businesses.

28
00:02:21,350 --> 00:02:23,870
Right away, the factories
were right away taken away.

29
00:02:23,870 --> 00:02:26,690

30
00:02:26,690 --> 00:02:31,340
But life wasn't too bad
because they did not kill.

31
00:02:31,340 --> 00:02:34,040
They took-- they started
to work for the Germans.

32
00:02:34,040 --> 00:02:40,500

33
00:02:40,500 --> 00:02:42,555
A few months later--

34
00:02:42,555 --> 00:02:45,600
Excuse me, was your father's
business taken away right away

35
00:02:45,600 --> 00:02:46,620
also?

36

00:02:46,620 --> 00:02:48,600

Was your father's
business taken away?

37

00:02:48,600 --> 00:02:50,400

Oh, everything.

38

00:02:50,400 --> 00:02:54,440

The slaughter, the kosher
slaughter was forbidden

39

00:02:54,440 --> 00:03:02,040

were to use, but we had
to eat so everything

40

00:03:02,040 --> 00:03:05,700

was done secretly.

41

00:03:05,700 --> 00:03:08,190

It was very hard
because it was just

42

00:03:08,190 --> 00:03:11,345

before the holidays, the
Rosh Hashanah holidays,

43

00:03:11,345 --> 00:03:13,890

the new year.

44

00:03:13,890 --> 00:03:18,570

And the people still-- the
Jews still were keeping up

45

00:03:18,570 --> 00:03:22,410

the religious--

46

00:03:22,410 --> 00:03:27,450

So they used to bring the
chickens to our apartment.

47

00:03:27,450 --> 00:03:30,180

My father used to

slaughter it only at night.

48

00:03:30,180 --> 00:03:33,690

It was very dangerous,
but you had to do it.

49

00:03:33,690 --> 00:03:34,770

There was no other way.

50

00:03:34,770 --> 00:03:39,470

51

00:03:39,470 --> 00:03:48,060

My father used to go and
slaughter some calves of cows.

52

00:03:48,060 --> 00:03:52,970

This already involved
much greater risk.

53

00:03:52,970 --> 00:03:58,820

He used to go it was about a
half a mile to those butchers--

54

00:03:58,820 --> 00:04:01,560

the butcher's house,
not in our house--

55

00:04:01,560 --> 00:04:08,060

and I used to go and carry
the knives because it

56

00:04:08,060 --> 00:04:12,360

was dangerous for a Jew.

57

00:04:12,360 --> 00:04:15,240

My father was in the
house for eight months.

58

00:04:15,240 --> 00:04:19,320

He didn't go outside because
they had to shave the beard,

59

00:04:19,320 --> 00:04:23,900
and of course he was very
Orthodox and he didn't want to.

60

00:04:23,900 --> 00:04:29,210
Finally it was the case
that the Germans came in--

61

00:04:29,210 --> 00:04:32,720
they used to come in the
house whenever they wanted--

62

00:04:32,720 --> 00:04:36,150
and they caught some
other Jews with a beard

63

00:04:36,150 --> 00:04:39,360
and they shot them
right on the spot.

64

00:04:39,360 --> 00:04:42,020
So my brother said to
my father, that's all,

65

00:04:42,020 --> 00:04:43,520
you are not going
to wear the beard,

66

00:04:43,520 --> 00:04:47,180
you have to get used to it,
you have to shave it off.

67

00:04:47,180 --> 00:04:52,550
So he shaved off the beard,
and then he used to go out.

68

00:04:52,550 --> 00:04:58,630
Of course, we had to wear the
armband with the Jewish star.

69

00:04:58,630 --> 00:05:04,590

70

00:05:04,590 --> 00:05:09,040

What kind of a town was Tarnow?

71

00:05:09,040 --> 00:05:13,050

What were relations like
before and in the early days

72

00:05:13,050 --> 00:05:14,800

of the war between the
Jews and the Poles?

73

00:05:14,800 --> 00:05:17,520

Tarnow was a very--

74

00:05:17,520 --> 00:05:18,760

it was a--

75

00:05:18,760 --> 00:05:23,530

I think 90,000 people
were living over there.

76

00:05:23,530 --> 00:05:26,290

The Jewish population was 40%.

77

00:05:26,290 --> 00:05:32,950

It was a very large Zionist
organization in the town.

78

00:05:32,950 --> 00:05:35,560

All Zionist organizations
were over there in town,

79

00:05:35,560 --> 00:05:39,210

and the Jewish used
to belong there

80

00:05:39,210 --> 00:05:42,970

because we saw that there
was no future really

81

00:05:42,970 --> 00:05:52,210

for the Jews in Poland because

the antisemitic was very large.

82

00:05:52,210 --> 00:05:56,970

83

00:05:56,970 --> 00:06:00,480

And of course, in the
large larger towns

84

00:06:00,480 --> 00:06:02,850

they didn't bother us,
but in the smaller towns

85

00:06:02,850 --> 00:06:07,200

a Jew could feel that
he is discriminated.

86

00:06:07,200 --> 00:06:10,940

Beside that, there
was a workman circle.

87

00:06:10,940 --> 00:06:14,990

There there was a socialist--

88

00:06:14,990 --> 00:06:16,270

Group?

89

00:06:16,270 --> 00:06:17,490

--socialist organization.

90

00:06:17,490 --> 00:06:20,743

The Jews belonged over there
to a social organization,

91

00:06:20,743 --> 00:06:21,660

and they were working.

92

00:06:21,660 --> 00:06:24,120

Of course, they were
against going to Palestine.

93

00:06:24,120 --> 00:06:25,320

They wanted to have--

94

00:06:25,320 --> 00:06:29,820

Jews should be able to live
in Poland like Polish Jew,

95

00:06:29,820 --> 00:06:31,770

not to run away.

96

00:06:31,770 --> 00:06:35,700

And it was-- there were
in our town about--

97

00:06:35,700 --> 00:06:36,900

I don't know.

98

00:06:36,900 --> 00:06:42,180

I will guess about 30 synagogues
and temples, at least.

99

00:06:42,180 --> 00:06:46,860

And it was really a
Jewish place and very--

100

00:06:46,860 --> 00:06:51,780

we had the cinemas,
we had theaters,

101

00:06:51,780 --> 00:06:53,250

we had the Jewish theaters.

102

00:06:53,250 --> 00:06:56,241

It was a cultured city.

103

00:06:56,241 --> 00:06:59,320

Did you go to a regular
school or a Jewish school?

104

00:06:59,320 --> 00:07:01,200

No, I went to public school.

105

00:07:01,200 --> 00:07:02,850

We had a Hebrew school, too.

106
00:07:02,850 --> 00:07:04,240
But I went to public school.

107
00:07:04,240 --> 00:07:07,380
I finished public school, and
then I went to a trade school.

108
00:07:07,380 --> 00:07:10,800
Because of that, I wanted
to go to Palestine.

109
00:07:10,800 --> 00:07:13,740
I'd rather have a trade.

110
00:07:13,740 --> 00:07:15,340
So I learned how to sew.

111
00:07:15,340 --> 00:07:17,220
I was a seamstress.

112
00:07:17,220 --> 00:07:23,910
And my sister-- she
left Poland in 1937.

113
00:07:23,910 --> 00:07:24,990
She went to Palestine.

114
00:07:24,990 --> 00:07:30,240

115
00:07:30,240 --> 00:07:36,730
And now, I'm going
back with the Germans.

116
00:07:36,730 --> 00:07:40,430
In November 7, there
was the Crystal Night.

117
00:07:40,430 --> 00:07:43,970
You probably know

already what it is.

118

00:07:43,970 --> 00:07:48,290

One night, they
announced that nobody

119

00:07:48,290 --> 00:07:50,730

should go out in the evening.

120

00:07:50,730 --> 00:07:53,120

Everybody has to be inside.

121

00:07:53,120 --> 00:07:57,140

And when it got dark,
we heard all the--

122

00:07:57,140 --> 00:08:00,050

123

00:08:00,050 --> 00:08:03,800

we heard that they were bombing.

124

00:08:03,800 --> 00:08:06,050

They were bombing the
synagogues, that one

125

00:08:06,050 --> 00:08:08,030

that couldn't be burnt--

126

00:08:08,030 --> 00:08:13,460

and all the synagogues in
one night were all burned.

127

00:08:13,460 --> 00:08:15,050

And there was one--

128

00:08:15,050 --> 00:08:19,610

there was a new, very large
synagogue with a silver cupola,

129

00:08:19,610 --> 00:08:21,980

just like in Israel--

they have it.

130
00:08:21,980 --> 00:08:25,130
The Germans could
not burn that down,

131
00:08:25,130 --> 00:08:31,190
because this was just iron
and steel and concrete.

132
00:08:31,190 --> 00:08:36,770
So they brought in engineers,
and it took them two weeks

133
00:08:36,770 --> 00:08:40,520
to knock down the walls
of that synagogue.

134
00:08:40,520 --> 00:08:47,510
But right after that night,
a lot of Jews left Tarnow.

135
00:08:47,510 --> 00:08:51,200
And they were afraid to stay,
because of what happened.

136
00:08:51,200 --> 00:08:53,930
They said, I don't know
what's going to be tomorrow.

137
00:08:53,930 --> 00:08:59,390
So my sister and
her husband left--

138
00:08:59,390 --> 00:09:03,650
left Tarnow, and they went
east to the Russian border.

139
00:09:03,650 --> 00:09:08,300
They crossed the Russian border,
and so did my oldest brother.

140
00:09:08,300 --> 00:09:10,250

They were over there.

141

00:09:10,250 --> 00:09:14,840

Poland was divided, half by
Germans, and half by Russia.

142

00:09:14,840 --> 00:09:18,940

143

00:09:18,940 --> 00:09:28,300

It was the-- it developed
that we had to wear the--

144

00:09:28,300 --> 00:09:29,260

Yellow star.

145

00:09:29,260 --> 00:09:30,520

--arm bands.

146

00:09:30,520 --> 00:09:33,190

There was another decree.

147

00:09:33,190 --> 00:09:35,860

On the streets, we couldn't
walk on the same side

148

00:09:35,860 --> 00:09:37,450

of the street as the Germans.

149

00:09:37,450 --> 00:09:40,540

There were side-- the
streets were designated.

150

00:09:40,540 --> 00:09:42,610

On that street, you can
walk on the right side,

151

00:09:42,610 --> 00:09:44,693

and on that street, you
can walk on the left side.

152

00:09:44,693 --> 00:09:47,710

153
00:09:47,710 --> 00:09:50,920
But all of this wasn't too
bad, because you could live

154
00:09:50,920 --> 00:09:53,380
as long as they did not kill.

155
00:09:53,380 --> 00:09:55,300
Of course, they were rationed.

156
00:09:55,300 --> 00:09:58,720
Every week was less
and less to eat,

157
00:09:58,720 --> 00:10:03,695
but still somehow, you still
managed, because everybody--

158
00:10:03,695 --> 00:10:05,320
not everybody, but
most of the people--

159
00:10:05,320 --> 00:10:06,570
they had some money left over.

160
00:10:06,570 --> 00:10:08,800
They had some jewelry,
some business,

161
00:10:08,800 --> 00:10:16,750
so they sold it and
were able just to exist.

162
00:10:16,750 --> 00:10:23,770
When the American government
declared the war, at that time

163
00:10:23,770 --> 00:10:27,820
started the real shooting.

164

00:10:27,820 --> 00:10:30,100
The Germans came in, and they--

165
00:10:30,100 --> 00:10:31,900
on the street, at random.

166
00:10:31,900 --> 00:10:36,010
They used to shoot
people who just

167
00:10:36,010 --> 00:10:39,700
happened to be on the wrong
time at the wrong place.

168
00:10:39,700 --> 00:10:47,110
They used to shoot them, or they
took them away on the tracks,

169
00:10:47,110 --> 00:10:49,060
and they sent them to Auschwitz.

170
00:10:49,060 --> 00:10:51,820
A few weeks later, the
families from those people

171
00:10:51,820 --> 00:10:53,620
used to get in the box.

172
00:10:53,620 --> 00:11:00,331
Those are the ashes from your
husband or the father or son.

173
00:11:00,331 --> 00:11:03,010

174
00:11:03,010 --> 00:11:07,956
And from December 1941, it
started the shooting, they--

175
00:11:07,956 --> 00:11:14,350

176

00:11:14,350 --> 00:11:18,880
they just at random used
to go and kill people.

177
00:11:18,880 --> 00:11:25,840
But the real extermination
started in June, 1942.

178
00:11:25,840 --> 00:11:29,260
I had at the time three
brothers at home--

179
00:11:29,260 --> 00:11:31,900
two older and one younger.

180
00:11:31,900 --> 00:11:37,390
And they announced-- we did
not have the radio, because we

181
00:11:37,390 --> 00:11:39,160
had to give away the radio.

182
00:11:39,160 --> 00:11:44,110
They had signs placed
on the streets,

183
00:11:44,110 --> 00:11:48,730
on the houses, that
those who did not

184
00:11:48,730 --> 00:11:52,252
have any working papers--

185
00:11:52,252 --> 00:11:53,710
they didn't put
the working papers,

186
00:11:53,710 --> 00:12:00,270
but they sent in the
names of the people

187
00:12:00,270 --> 00:12:03,850
that they had to come and

gather them on one place.

188

00:12:03,850 --> 00:12:05,690

This was the market place.

189

00:12:05,690 --> 00:12:09,010

And at that time, my brothers--

190

00:12:09,010 --> 00:12:13,240

one had a stamp that

he could go to work,

191

00:12:13,240 --> 00:12:16,030

and the older brother could

have saved himself, too.

192

00:12:16,030 --> 00:12:17,620

But the youngest one--

193

00:12:17,620 --> 00:12:20,310

they didn't want the

youngest one to go along,

194

00:12:20,310 --> 00:12:21,938

so they all three went.

195

00:12:21,938 --> 00:12:23,230

And they went on the first day.

196

00:12:23,230 --> 00:12:24,850

We didn't know what it was.

197

00:12:24,850 --> 00:12:29,020

We figured that when

three young boys were

198

00:12:29,020 --> 00:12:33,400

called to come on a place, they

will probably send them out

199

00:12:33,400 --> 00:12:36,190

to work.

200
00:12:36,190 --> 00:12:39,760
And we were told that we
cannot go out the doors.

201
00:12:39,760 --> 00:12:45,100
The houses have to be locked,
and we cannot look out from

202
00:12:45,100 --> 00:12:48,640
the windows at what's
going on in the streets.

203
00:12:48,640 --> 00:12:51,750
See, our town did not have
one-family houses or two-family

204
00:12:51,750 --> 00:12:52,250
houses--

205
00:12:52,250 --> 00:12:59,520
all apartment houses that were
connected, one to the other.

206
00:12:59,520 --> 00:13:01,440
My three brothers
went over there.

207
00:13:01,440 --> 00:13:04,990
And we didn't know where
they went, but so went

208
00:13:04,990 --> 00:13:09,760
hundreds of people that
had to go over there.

209
00:13:09,760 --> 00:13:15,100
And I was left
alone in the house.

210
00:13:15,100 --> 00:13:21,240
My father at that time went
into hiding in the attic.

211
00:13:21,240 --> 00:13:24,132
And all the other people were
afraid to stay in the house,

212
00:13:24,132 --> 00:13:25,840
because we didn't know
what was going on.

213
00:13:25,840 --> 00:13:27,820
This was the first day.

214
00:13:27,820 --> 00:13:31,100
And I was alone in
the apartment house.

215
00:13:31,100 --> 00:13:34,750
And they even said, you are not
allowed to go to any neighbors.

216
00:13:34,750 --> 00:13:36,340
You have to be--

217
00:13:36,340 --> 00:13:44,440
and at about 11:00, they came
into the courthouse, the SS.

218
00:13:44,440 --> 00:13:49,700
And there were three
apartments on the first floor.

219
00:13:49,700 --> 00:13:52,070
They went over there, and
they took out the people,

220
00:13:52,070 --> 00:13:54,280
whoever were over there.

221
00:13:54,280 --> 00:13:59,590
And they shot, I know they
started to shoot in the air.

222

00:13:59,590 --> 00:14:03,460
They went on the second floor,
and they took out over there

223
00:14:03,460 --> 00:14:05,403
whoever they wanted.

224
00:14:05,403 --> 00:14:06,820
We were living on
the third floor.

225
00:14:06,820 --> 00:14:08,920
Luckily, they didn't
come, because they

226
00:14:08,920 --> 00:14:11,050
would have taken me, too.

227
00:14:11,050 --> 00:14:16,800
They went out, and we
could see from our house

228
00:14:16,800 --> 00:14:19,750
that the next apartment
house in the courtyard-- they

229
00:14:19,750 --> 00:14:28,660
took out almost all old
people, and the youngsters,

230
00:14:28,660 --> 00:14:30,250
and the women.

231
00:14:30,250 --> 00:14:38,110
The able men, bodies
who had work papers--

232
00:14:38,110 --> 00:14:38,890
they left.

233
00:14:38,890 --> 00:14:42,050

234

00:14:42,050 --> 00:14:44,240

It was going-- there
on the market place,

235

00:14:44,240 --> 00:14:48,530

there was about 2000
people gathered over there.

236

00:14:48,530 --> 00:14:55,641

And they killed them on the
spot, over there a couple

237

00:14:55,641 --> 00:14:56,141

hundred.

238

00:14:56,141 --> 00:14:59,270

239

00:14:59,270 --> 00:15:04,040

Part of them, they took
on wagons on the trucks

240

00:15:04,040 --> 00:15:07,740

to the cemetery and killed
over there on the cemetery.

241

00:15:07,740 --> 00:15:16,460

And the rest, they took in
their school until it was dark.

242

00:15:16,460 --> 00:15:22,280

And the marketplace
was on an incline.

243

00:15:22,280 --> 00:15:24,050

And we were living
on the main road,

244

00:15:24,050 --> 00:15:28,500

that was the main road going
through Germany to Russia.

245

00:15:28,500 --> 00:15:32,320
It was like a highway.

246
00:15:32,320 --> 00:15:35,190
And we could see from
the window-- of course,

247
00:15:35,190 --> 00:15:38,340
we looked at what was
going on the street.

248
00:15:38,340 --> 00:15:45,470
And we saw hundreds of
those Jews were running.

249
00:15:45,470 --> 00:15:47,450
They were not
walking, but they just

250
00:15:47,450 --> 00:15:52,250
told them to run to the
school, about half a mile

251
00:15:52,250 --> 00:15:54,890
from where we
live, and the blood

252
00:15:54,890 --> 00:15:57,530
was running from the
marketplace right

253
00:15:57,530 --> 00:16:00,290
in the gutters on the street.

254
00:16:00,290 --> 00:16:05,590
And by the end of
the day, we already

255
00:16:05,590 --> 00:16:08,010
knew what was happening.

256
00:16:08,010 --> 00:16:14,240
I didn't know if my brothers

were killed on the marketplace.

257

00:16:14,240 --> 00:16:16,550

Probably not, because
those people who buried

258

00:16:16,550 --> 00:16:19,460

would have known--

259

00:16:19,460 --> 00:16:21,720

people knew who they were.

260

00:16:21,720 --> 00:16:23,300

They probably went--
they took them

261

00:16:23,300 --> 00:16:32,090

to Belzec, because this
was on a Monday, June 11.

262

00:16:32,090 --> 00:16:38,630

And it took them three days
to bury those killed people.

263

00:16:38,630 --> 00:16:41,270

By Thursday, it was
the same thing again.

264

00:16:41,270 --> 00:16:44,200

265

00:16:44,200 --> 00:16:53,620

And another 3,000 Jews were
either killed or deported.

266

00:16:53,620 --> 00:16:55,870

And it took another-- until--

267

00:16:55,870 --> 00:16:59,860

took to clean everything
and to bury the people.

268

00:16:59,860 --> 00:17:05,119
They buried in a massive grave
in the cemetery in Tarnow.

269
00:17:05,119 --> 00:17:08,650
And the following Monday
was the third time.

270
00:17:08,650 --> 00:17:12,430
In these three days,
they killed 12,000 Jews,

271
00:17:12,430 --> 00:17:14,574
killed or deported.

272
00:17:14,574 --> 00:17:18,650
Of course, I lost in one
day all my three brothers.

273
00:17:18,650 --> 00:17:21,160

274
00:17:21,160 --> 00:17:31,245
A week later, they
opened a ghetto.

275
00:17:31,245 --> 00:17:34,140
They started a ghetto.

276
00:17:34,140 --> 00:17:40,780
They took about
eight square blocks

277
00:17:40,780 --> 00:17:44,740
and boarded with high fences--

278
00:17:44,740 --> 00:17:49,600
about 10-feet-high fence
between the streets.

279
00:17:49,600 --> 00:17:53,680
And the apartment houses--

280

00:17:53,680 --> 00:17:55,390
but it was the courtyard.

281

00:17:55,390 --> 00:17:59,780
But you had to go to the ghetto.

282

00:17:59,780 --> 00:18:05,810
They used to make an opening
in the wall from an apartment.

283

00:18:05,810 --> 00:18:09,310
And from each apartment
house from the courtyard,

284

00:18:09,310 --> 00:18:11,980
they used to open a
wall so that people

285

00:18:11,980 --> 00:18:16,770
could get in from one
house to the other,

286

00:18:16,770 --> 00:18:19,930
to the other streets.

287

00:18:19,930 --> 00:18:22,753
There was only one
entrance and one exit

288

00:18:22,753 --> 00:18:24,295
that they made from
the whole ghetto.

289

00:18:24,295 --> 00:18:26,230

290

00:18:26,230 --> 00:18:33,280
The windows had to be
closed with black paper.

291

00:18:33,280 --> 00:18:37,630
We were not allowed to

look out at what was

292

00:18:37,630 --> 00:18:41,230
going on outside of the ghetto.

293

00:18:41,230 --> 00:18:50,610
And we were-- my
father and I were left,

294

00:18:50,610 --> 00:18:54,150
and we had to leave
our apartment.

295

00:18:54,150 --> 00:18:57,450
We were assigned to
another apartment--

296

00:18:57,450 --> 00:19:01,170
another apartment with four
families in one apartment.

297

00:19:01,170 --> 00:19:03,900
So we were in the kitchen.

298

00:19:03,900 --> 00:19:07,480
My father and I were
living in the kitchen,

299

00:19:07,480 --> 00:19:10,410
with four families who were
cooking in the kitchen.

300

00:19:10,410 --> 00:19:20,100
So we had just folding beds,
for the day to fold them up,

301

00:19:20,100 --> 00:19:21,870
and at night.

302

00:19:21,870 --> 00:19:24,600
It was one bathroom.

303

00:19:24,600 --> 00:19:29,050

They had three rooms and
a kitchen, and one bath.

304

00:19:29,050 --> 00:19:31,080

And we had four
families in that ghetto.

305

00:19:31,080 --> 00:19:34,950

306

00:19:34,950 --> 00:19:38,700

Then after a few months,
they divided that ghetto--

307

00:19:38,700 --> 00:19:41,220

the working ghetto and
the non-working ghetto.

308

00:19:41,220 --> 00:19:45,510

In the non-working ghetto
were the older people,

309

00:19:45,510 --> 00:19:49,290

the women and children
who were still left.

310

00:19:49,290 --> 00:19:54,310

And the working ghetto were
those people who went to work.

311

00:19:54,310 --> 00:19:58,560

So it was a fence between the
working ghetto and non-working

312

00:19:58,560 --> 00:19:59,280

ghetto.

313

00:19:59,280 --> 00:20:02,370

At that time, there was still
quite a few thousand people

314

00:20:02,370 --> 00:20:08,700

that were gathered
in that small ghetto.

315

00:20:08,700 --> 00:20:21,930
And when we were in the ghetto
in August, it came again--

316

00:20:21,930 --> 00:20:27,870
they were putting out a notice
on the streets that everybody

317

00:20:27,870 --> 00:20:29,850
has to be in the house.

318

00:20:29,850 --> 00:20:34,410
You are not to go out,
and people are not

319

00:20:34,410 --> 00:20:36,100
going to go to work.

320

00:20:36,100 --> 00:20:40,950
So we know right away that
something was going on again.

321

00:20:40,950 --> 00:20:47,270
At that time, I was still--

322

00:20:47,270 --> 00:20:49,680
no, at that time, there
was not a working ghetto.

323

00:20:49,680 --> 00:20:50,970
We're still one ghetto.

324

00:20:50,970 --> 00:20:54,820

325

00:20:54,820 --> 00:20:57,010
We knew already
what was going on.

326

00:20:57,010 --> 00:21:01,060

So two girls who lived
in the same apartment

327

00:21:01,060 --> 00:21:05,460

the ghetto where I was were
planning to go in hiding.

328

00:21:05,460 --> 00:21:09,060

Because we knew they were going
to come and take us out or kill

329

00:21:09,060 --> 00:21:10,560

us on the spot,
because we didn't

330

00:21:10,560 --> 00:21:14,400

have yet working papers--

331

00:21:14,400 --> 00:21:15,920

not the real working papers.

332

00:21:15,920 --> 00:21:18,540

We had false working papers.

333

00:21:18,540 --> 00:21:23,040

So a friend, a man who
was living in that house--

334

00:21:23,040 --> 00:21:26,250

he said, I can find only
one place in hiding.

335

00:21:26,250 --> 00:21:32,520

If you want to go
into a sewer pipe,

336

00:21:32,520 --> 00:21:34,350

I will tell you how
to get over there.

337

00:21:34,350 --> 00:21:38,130

But you must have put on

a raincoat and rain hats,

338

00:21:38,130 --> 00:21:41,350

and I will show you how
to get to the sewer pipe.

339

00:21:41,350 --> 00:21:45,870

We went down in the basement,
and before the sewer pipe,

340

00:21:45,870 --> 00:21:51,670

it was already damp
and wet from dirt.

341

00:21:51,670 --> 00:21:56,370

But we knew it was very--

342

00:21:56,370 --> 00:21:57,270

it was not pleasant.

343

00:21:57,270 --> 00:22:00,970

It was smelly already, but we
knew we had no other choice.

344

00:22:00,970 --> 00:22:01,470

We decided.

345

00:22:01,470 --> 00:22:03,190

We said, we are going to go.

346

00:22:03,190 --> 00:22:06,930

We went to the sewer pipe, and
we had to crawl underneath.

347

00:22:06,930 --> 00:22:08,550

We got all dirty already.

348

00:22:08,550 --> 00:22:10,470

349

00:22:10,470 --> 00:22:12,540

But when we came

in the sewer pipe,

350

00:22:12,540 --> 00:22:15,120

we could at least stand
up, because it was--

351

00:22:15,120 --> 00:22:16,770

we were short girls.

352

00:22:16,770 --> 00:22:19,800

It was about maybe a foot--

353

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

still placed here.

354

00:22:22,800 --> 00:22:25,320

And over there, we looked
up at the sewer pipe.

355

00:22:25,320 --> 00:22:26,340

We didn't know.

356

00:22:26,340 --> 00:22:30,780

So we saw there were
openings from the toilets

357

00:22:30,780 --> 00:22:35,480

and from the sinks that were
coming from the apartment.

358

00:22:35,480 --> 00:22:38,940

It was a whole apartment house.

359

00:22:38,940 --> 00:22:41,550

We were in that
sewer, and we could

360

00:22:41,550 --> 00:22:43,980

hear everything
that was going on,

361

00:22:43,980 --> 00:22:46,600

because this was the courtyard.

362

00:22:46,600 --> 00:22:50,010

It was the grates, where
the water from the rain

363

00:22:50,010 --> 00:22:53,530

used to go in that sewer, too.

364

00:22:53,530 --> 00:22:59,220

And at about 11:00,
maybe earlier,

365

00:22:59,220 --> 00:23:04,050

we had the Germans come
in, and they took out

366

00:23:04,050 --> 00:23:05,100

over there the people.

367

00:23:05,100 --> 00:23:07,200

There was one who was--

368

00:23:07,200 --> 00:23:12,120

he was an amputee, and they
just shot him on the spot,

369

00:23:12,120 --> 00:23:13,470

because he couldn't walk.

370

00:23:13,470 --> 00:23:18,640

The other ones-- mostly women,
older people, and children--

371

00:23:18,640 --> 00:23:19,610

they took out.

372

00:23:19,610 --> 00:23:24,330

And those who didn't want to
go, we could hear the shooting.

373

00:23:24,330 --> 00:23:27,300

And we, of course-- we heard
the crying and the shouts

374
00:23:27,300 --> 00:23:30,510
and everything, the
shouts from the Germans.

375
00:23:30,510 --> 00:23:35,670
We were in the sewer, and
it took about four hours.

376
00:23:35,670 --> 00:23:41,160
And of course, the man who
told us to go into hiding

377
00:23:41,160 --> 00:23:46,020
couldn't go out to talk,
because he was inside the house.

378
00:23:46,020 --> 00:23:49,530
About 3:00, it
was quiet already.

379
00:23:49,530 --> 00:23:54,180
And he came and he said,
everything is quiet over there.

380
00:23:54,180 --> 00:23:56,250
They already took
all the people.

381
00:23:56,250 --> 00:23:59,520
And we could hear the shooting
from the other houses,

382
00:23:59,520 --> 00:24:03,180
because everything
was connected.

383
00:24:03,180 --> 00:24:09,750
By 5:00, my sister was living in
the other side of the ghetto--

384

00:24:09,750 --> 00:24:12,510
came to the courtyard,
and she called on me.

385
00:24:12,510 --> 00:24:15,300
She said, get out of the sewer.

386
00:24:15,300 --> 00:24:18,810
You are going to go into hiding
where my husband is in hiding.

387
00:24:18,810 --> 00:24:21,120
At least we will be together.

388
00:24:21,120 --> 00:24:24,180
We will be all together.

389
00:24:24,180 --> 00:24:26,940
The two girls who
remained in that sewer--

390
00:24:26,940 --> 00:24:29,100
later on, she told
me, at night--

391
00:24:29,100 --> 00:24:31,300
they were over there
still at night.

392
00:24:31,300 --> 00:24:34,540
It was just awful, because
the rats came in the sewer,

393
00:24:34,540 --> 00:24:36,420
and there were two
girls over there.

394
00:24:36,420 --> 00:24:38,942
But they just survived.

395
00:24:38,942 --> 00:24:40,650
The only thing-- you
wouldn't believe it,

396
00:24:40,650 --> 00:24:41,930
but we went through.

397
00:24:41,930 --> 00:24:44,580
When the people used
to use the toilet,

398
00:24:44,580 --> 00:24:49,860
we saw the water come in, so we
already knew from which toilet,

399
00:24:49,860 --> 00:24:50,770
where the water--

400
00:24:50,770 --> 00:24:54,450
and we had to watch that
we should not get all wet.

401
00:24:54,450 --> 00:24:58,770
It was not a pleasant
sight or feeling.

402
00:24:58,770 --> 00:25:04,680
But the will to live for so
great that-- you're young.

403
00:25:04,680 --> 00:25:06,740
You wanted-- so--

404
00:25:06,740 --> 00:25:08,230
How old were you at this time?

405
00:25:08,230 --> 00:25:09,870
At that time, I was 20.

406
00:25:09,870 --> 00:25:15,090

407
00:25:15,090 --> 00:25:17,400
My sister came and
said, get out of there.

408
00:25:17,400 --> 00:25:21,010
I got out, and my father was--

409
00:25:21,010 --> 00:25:23,160
he remained in that
ghetto over there.

410
00:25:23,160 --> 00:25:24,780
And I went to my sister.

411
00:25:24,780 --> 00:25:27,770

412
00:25:27,770 --> 00:25:29,980
And my brother-in-law
was in hiding

413
00:25:29,980 --> 00:25:34,050
in the cellar over there.

414
00:25:34,050 --> 00:25:37,770
And it was a hiding place.

415
00:25:37,770 --> 00:25:42,450
It was a cellar into a cellar.

416
00:25:42,450 --> 00:25:46,380
My brother-in-law's brothers
took out bricks from

417
00:25:46,380 --> 00:25:51,900
the foundation, and we
crawled through in that hole,

418
00:25:51,900 --> 00:25:53,370
and after we were inside--

419
00:25:53,370 --> 00:25:56,070
of course, they
gave us some food.

420

00:25:56,070 --> 00:25:58,740

He put back the bricks in
case-- because they were coming.

421

00:25:58,740 --> 00:26:00,540

The Germans were coming
into the basement

422

00:26:00,540 --> 00:26:03,270

to see if the Jews
are not hiding.

423

00:26:03,270 --> 00:26:06,360

And they put the bricks.

424

00:26:06,360 --> 00:26:10,560

And once a day, they used to
come and bring us some water

425

00:26:10,560 --> 00:26:12,060

to drink or some food.

426

00:26:12,060 --> 00:26:16,860

We were about four days
in the hiding place.

427

00:26:16,860 --> 00:26:21,390

Later, we went out,
and a week later, they

428

00:26:21,390 --> 00:26:25,630

formed the working ghetto
and the non-working ghetto.

429

00:26:25,630 --> 00:26:32,580

Well, finally, I got
a place to go to work.

430

00:26:32,580 --> 00:26:37,080

And we were going out
from the ghetto every day.

431

00:26:37,080 --> 00:26:40,920

In the morning,
we were going out.

432

00:26:40,920 --> 00:26:44,850

They used to count
us, how many went out,

433

00:26:44,850 --> 00:26:48,670

and at night, we used to
come back to the ghetto.

434

00:26:48,670 --> 00:26:54,910

And this was going on from
the end of August, September,

435

00:26:54,910 --> 00:26:56,080

October.

436

00:26:56,080 --> 00:27:00,760

By November, we hear we
have to go Sunday to work.

437

00:27:00,760 --> 00:27:01,810

We didn't know why.

438

00:27:01,810 --> 00:27:03,550

But if you have to
go, you have to go.

439

00:27:03,550 --> 00:27:05,290

We went to work.

440

00:27:05,290 --> 00:27:09,450

And everybody who used to go
to work used to take with--

441

00:27:09,450 --> 00:27:14,485

we used to take with us the
coats and the remaining dresses

442

00:27:14,485 --> 00:27:16,480

and shoes-- whatever we had--

443
00:27:16,480 --> 00:27:18,340
in case we wouldn't come back.

444
00:27:18,340 --> 00:27:22,220
Because we never know where
we are going to wind up.

445
00:27:22,220 --> 00:27:25,510
So we took and went to work.

446
00:27:25,510 --> 00:27:28,630
And it was a Sunday
morning, we didn't know why.

447
00:27:28,630 --> 00:27:34,780
And suddenly, about 10:00, the
SS came to our place of work

448
00:27:34,780 --> 00:27:37,840
and took out about
60 people, because I

449
00:27:37,840 --> 00:27:41,470
didn't have the original
stamp that I was

450
00:27:41,470 --> 00:27:43,210
working from the first time.

451
00:27:43,210 --> 00:27:45,460
I got later the
papers I can work.

452
00:27:45,460 --> 00:27:49,270
They took us out
from work, and they

453
00:27:49,270 --> 00:27:50,830
went to other
places of work where

454

00:27:50,830 --> 00:27:52,780
they took out other people.

455
00:27:52,780 --> 00:27:55,050
And we were gathered on the--

456
00:27:55,050 --> 00:28:00,830
the ghetto was
called Appell place.

457
00:28:00,830 --> 00:28:01,450
Appell.

458
00:28:01,450 --> 00:28:01,990
Appell.

459
00:28:01,990 --> 00:28:02,490
Appell.

460
00:28:02,490 --> 00:28:03,840
Roll call.

461
00:28:03,840 --> 00:28:04,657
Roll call.

462
00:28:04,657 --> 00:28:07,240
We used to-- over there, we used
to stay every day-- before we

463
00:28:07,240 --> 00:28:08,960
went to work and
after we came to work,

464
00:28:08,960 --> 00:28:10,440
we used to stay over there.

465
00:28:10,440 --> 00:28:16,070
We went over there,
and we were told.

466
00:28:16,070 --> 00:28:20,140
I know there were a

few Jewish policemen.

467

00:28:20,140 --> 00:28:23,740

They told us that
they took out--

468

00:28:23,740 --> 00:28:26,410

and we could see on the place
they were sitting already

469

00:28:26,410 --> 00:28:27,760

on the ground--

470

00:28:27,760 --> 00:28:30,580

about 2000 people.

471

00:28:30,580 --> 00:28:32,650

And I asked them why
couldn't you take me out?

472

00:28:32,650 --> 00:28:34,358

He said, I'm sorry,
I can't take you out,

473

00:28:34,358 --> 00:28:36,090

because I took out
my brother-in-law,

474

00:28:36,090 --> 00:28:38,460

and they were afraid
themselves to take out.

475

00:28:38,460 --> 00:28:39,835

They were afraid
for the Gestapo.

476

00:28:39,835 --> 00:28:43,070

477

00:28:43,070 --> 00:28:45,520

Finally, we got back.

478

00:28:45,520 --> 00:28:47,660

They took us out
from the ghetto,

479

00:28:47,660 --> 00:28:49,435

and we walked to
the train station.

480

00:28:49,435 --> 00:28:52,050

481

00:28:52,050 --> 00:28:58,520

They loaded us to
the cattle cars.

482

00:28:58,520 --> 00:29:07,040

Before they closed up, the
guard came in and says,

483

00:29:07,040 --> 00:29:12,710

whoever has money,
gold, jewelry,

484

00:29:12,710 --> 00:29:13,880

you have to give everything.

485

00:29:13,880 --> 00:29:15,380

And he came with a bucket.

486

00:29:15,380 --> 00:29:17,330

There was a dish.

487

00:29:17,330 --> 00:29:20,840

And people gave the
man with the money.

488

00:29:20,840 --> 00:29:23,540

And I had a watch.

489

00:29:23,540 --> 00:29:28,320

490

00:29:28,320 --> 00:29:29,520
My father gave me.

491
00:29:29,520 --> 00:29:32,210

492
00:29:32,210 --> 00:29:38,850
That watch he gave to my
mother when she was engaged.

493
00:29:38,850 --> 00:29:40,610
This is not the wristwatch.

494
00:29:40,610 --> 00:29:43,900
This is a chain watch.

495
00:29:43,900 --> 00:29:46,160
And he gave it to me.

496
00:29:46,160 --> 00:29:52,360
And I had it, and
I did not give it.

497
00:29:52,360 --> 00:29:57,550
I had some money, too, because
I said, I am not going to go--

498
00:29:57,550 --> 00:30:00,220
at that time, we knew
already where we are going.

499
00:30:00,220 --> 00:30:03,250

500
00:30:03,250 --> 00:30:09,850
We presumed, because
in that transport,

501
00:30:09,850 --> 00:30:12,280
there were not only
people who work.

502

00:30:12,280 --> 00:30:16,150
There were all the people and
children and the mothers--

503
00:30:16,150 --> 00:30:17,500
mothers with children.

504
00:30:17,500 --> 00:30:20,110
So we were skeptical if
we are going to go to work

505
00:30:20,110 --> 00:30:23,700
or we are going to go
to be a guest in Belzec.

506
00:30:23,700 --> 00:30:26,170
We were going to go east.

507
00:30:26,170 --> 00:30:27,340
So I didn't give this.

508
00:30:27,340 --> 00:30:30,430
I said, we're going
to be killed anyhow.

509
00:30:30,430 --> 00:30:32,810
So I took a chance,
and I didn't give that.

510
00:30:32,810 --> 00:30:35,620

511
00:30:35,620 --> 00:30:46,350
When they closed the
wagons, and it got dark,

512
00:30:46,350 --> 00:30:50,160
I was talking to
a man over there.

513
00:30:50,160 --> 00:30:53,310
And I said to him, I
would like to escape,

514
00:30:53,310 --> 00:30:59,820
because I have hidden in my
under garment papers that

515
00:30:59,820 --> 00:31:06,850
say gentile girl in
case I would escape

516
00:31:06,850 --> 00:31:14,920
or I would have a chance to
go to work as a gentile girl,

517
00:31:14,920 --> 00:31:17,770
maybe I will save myself.

518
00:31:17,770 --> 00:31:19,750
So I told him, I
would like to escape.

519
00:31:19,750 --> 00:31:21,400
He said he wants to escape, too.

520
00:31:21,400 --> 00:31:25,210
And he announced, whoever wants
to escape, please come close

521
00:31:25,210 --> 00:31:26,770
to the window.

522
00:31:26,770 --> 00:31:29,850
This was-- it had a small--

523
00:31:29,850 --> 00:31:38,970
it has no window pane, just an
open space with barbed wire.

524
00:31:38,970 --> 00:31:42,910
But the barbed wire,
they took away,

525
00:31:42,910 --> 00:31:46,000

and we gathered at the window.

526

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:48,730

And he said, whoever wants
to go first, go first.

527

00:31:48,730 --> 00:31:51,850

And the man said,
if you jump, jump

528

00:31:51,850 --> 00:31:54,100

in the direction of the train.

529

00:31:54,100 --> 00:31:59,770

Don't jump backwards, because
you can fall under the wheels.

530

00:31:59,770 --> 00:32:01,200

I was the first one.

531

00:32:01,200 --> 00:32:03,700

I said I want to jump.

532

00:32:03,700 --> 00:32:08,880

And they pushed me up, and
I saw it was very high.

533

00:32:08,880 --> 00:32:11,810

The ground was very
high, and I said to him,

534

00:32:11,810 --> 00:32:13,090

I'm going to kill myself.

535

00:32:13,090 --> 00:32:14,850

I don't want to jump.

536

00:32:14,850 --> 00:32:23,080

Then, it took another
maybe a few hundred meters.

537

00:32:23,080 --> 00:32:29,110

And then, I saw a water
next to the tracks.

538
00:32:29,110 --> 00:32:30,970
And I said, I can't swim.

539
00:32:30,970 --> 00:32:32,440
I'm going to drown.

540
00:32:32,440 --> 00:32:35,530
And then, I said to
myself, Ida, if you

541
00:32:35,530 --> 00:32:38,630
are going to postpone it,
you are not going to do it.

542
00:32:38,630 --> 00:32:42,670
And I said to myself,
now, I am jumping.

543
00:32:42,670 --> 00:32:43,960
And I knew it.

544
00:32:43,960 --> 00:32:46,660
I'm going to talk to delay it.

545
00:32:46,660 --> 00:32:49,880
I'm not going to have
the courage to do it.

546
00:32:49,880 --> 00:32:54,040
They pushed me up, and
I jumped from the train.

547
00:32:54,040 --> 00:32:54,790
I fell.

548
00:32:54,790 --> 00:32:56,410
I scratched my--

549
00:32:56,410 --> 00:32:57,507

I wasn't hurt.

550
00:32:57,507 --> 00:32:58,840
I just scratched-- I don't know.

551
00:32:58,840 --> 00:33:02,770
Luckily, I wasn't
hurt, and I got up.

552
00:33:02,770 --> 00:33:06,460
And I knew before the
jump, and they said,

553
00:33:06,460 --> 00:33:09,690
we should gather all together
in one place and go back.

554
00:33:09,690 --> 00:33:12,832
I didn't want to go
together, because the men--

555
00:33:12,832 --> 00:33:14,290
I didn't want to
stay with the men,

556
00:33:14,290 --> 00:33:16,270
because the Jewish
men-- it would

557
00:33:16,270 --> 00:33:19,000
be very easy for the
Germans to find out

558
00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:22,330
that they are Jews or non-Jews,
because only the Jewish males

559
00:33:22,330 --> 00:33:26,040
were circumcised in Poland.

560
00:33:26,040 --> 00:33:28,540
So I didn't go with them.

561

00:33:28,540 --> 00:33:34,060

I was walking a little
bit until I found a shack.

562

00:33:34,060 --> 00:33:38,020

I was afraid to walk further,
because it was a curfew,

563

00:33:38,020 --> 00:33:39,970

and there were dogs barking.

564

00:33:39,970 --> 00:33:41,750

And I was afraid
that they would bark.

565

00:33:41,750 --> 00:33:44,020

They would come up and
see why the dogs are

566

00:33:44,020 --> 00:33:46,600

barking when there is a
curfew and nobody's supposed

567

00:33:46,600 --> 00:33:49,130

to be outside.

568

00:33:49,130 --> 00:33:52,750

I found the shack, and I was
very tired and very scared,

569

00:33:52,750 --> 00:33:55,150

and I fell asleep.

570

00:33:55,150 --> 00:33:56,240

In the morning, I woke up.

571

00:33:56,240 --> 00:33:57,230

I was shivering.

572

00:33:57,230 --> 00:34:00,220

I was very cold, because I
had nothing but the dress

573
00:34:00,220 --> 00:34:03,090
that I was wearing.

574
00:34:03,090 --> 00:34:04,885
And I took out my watch--

575
00:34:04,885 --> 00:34:07,390

576
00:34:07,390 --> 00:34:10,389
not the watch-- the
papers that I had,

577
00:34:10,389 --> 00:34:12,670
the papers and the
money that I had.

578
00:34:12,670 --> 00:34:13,630
And I was picking up--

579
00:34:13,630 --> 00:34:18,370
I'm going to go into a
peasant's house and ask him--

580
00:34:18,370 --> 00:34:23,050
I will pay him-- to
ask him to take me back

581
00:34:23,050 --> 00:34:28,219
to the town of the ghetto.

582
00:34:28,219 --> 00:34:32,750
I didn't know where I should
go in, because the Poles,

583
00:34:32,750 --> 00:34:35,929
they collaborated
with the Germans.

584
00:34:35,929 --> 00:34:37,790
Of course, I didn't

look too Jewish,

585

00:34:37,790 --> 00:34:41,510
but still, maybe they could
recognize me from my speech,

586

00:34:41,510 --> 00:34:44,179
from my dialect.

587

00:34:44,179 --> 00:34:47,989
I looked in the house, and I
saw a very nice, clean house,

588

00:34:47,989 --> 00:34:49,790
nice furniture.

589

00:34:49,790 --> 00:34:53,179
And I said, that is a rich
house, and I'm not going to go,

590

00:34:53,179 --> 00:34:57,620
because I didn't have
any faith in them.

591

00:34:57,620 --> 00:34:59,690
And there was a woman
who came over there.

592

00:34:59,690 --> 00:35:02,160
She said, can I help you?

593

00:35:02,160 --> 00:35:03,260
I said, no, I'm sorry.

594

00:35:03,260 --> 00:35:07,080
I missed the place.

595

00:35:07,080 --> 00:35:12,680
And I went further, and
I saw another house,

596

00:35:12,680 --> 00:35:14,970

and it looked too, too nice.

597

00:35:14,970 --> 00:35:16,850

Finally, I looked
in a house, and I

598

00:35:16,850 --> 00:35:21,740

saw it was a very poor,
shabby house, a peasant.

599

00:35:21,740 --> 00:35:26,030

I came in over there,
and I said to her that--

600

00:35:26,030 --> 00:35:29,450

I get her a story that
the Germans took me.

601

00:35:29,450 --> 00:35:31,070

They wanted to
take me to Germany,

602

00:35:31,070 --> 00:35:34,070

but I don't want
to go over there.

603

00:35:34,070 --> 00:35:38,420

And I would like to
go back to the city.

604

00:35:38,420 --> 00:35:40,370

If her husband would
take me, show me

605

00:35:40,370 --> 00:35:44,330

the way to go walk with
me, I would pay him.

606

00:35:44,330 --> 00:35:46,550

And she said, oh, my
husband is not home.

607

00:35:46,550 --> 00:35:54,070

There was just the peasants that
are going to the city with food

608
00:35:54,070 --> 00:35:55,190
and vegetables.

609
00:35:55,190 --> 00:35:58,190
Well, I didn't want to
go with too many people,

610
00:35:58,190 --> 00:36:01,520
because everyone was suspicious.

611
00:36:01,520 --> 00:36:04,280
I said, I'm going to wait
until your husband will come,

612
00:36:04,280 --> 00:36:06,620
and I gave her the money.

613
00:36:06,620 --> 00:36:09,470
And he came, and I told
them, I will pay you.

614
00:36:09,470 --> 00:36:11,780
Please, take me home,
because my parents are

615
00:36:11,780 --> 00:36:15,140
very about worried where I am.

616
00:36:15,140 --> 00:36:16,160
So he said, OK.

617
00:36:16,160 --> 00:36:19,550
I said to the woman,
could you lend me a coat?

618
00:36:19,550 --> 00:36:22,130
Because it was
suspicious to walk

619

00:36:22,130 --> 00:36:25,220
without a coat in November--

620
00:36:25,220 --> 00:36:26,510
16.

621
00:36:26,510 --> 00:36:27,950
It was cold already.

622
00:36:27,950 --> 00:36:29,600
She said, I don't
have a coat, but she

623
00:36:29,600 --> 00:36:33,060
had a woolen shawl, very old.

624
00:36:33,060 --> 00:36:36,950
She gave me that shawl,
and he went with me,

625
00:36:36,950 --> 00:36:40,910
and we walked about 3/4 of a--
half an hour, 3/4 of an hour.

626
00:36:40,910 --> 00:36:42,680
It started to snow.

627
00:36:42,680 --> 00:36:44,270
And he said, I don't
want to go there.

628
00:36:44,270 --> 00:36:44,820
It's snowing.

629
00:36:44,820 --> 00:36:45,830
And I begged him.

630
00:36:45,830 --> 00:36:46,640

631
00:36:46,640 --> 00:36:48,680
I just talked to his conscience.

632
00:36:48,680 --> 00:36:52,020
I say, you walked
already with me so far.

633
00:36:52,020 --> 00:36:53,780
And I started to cry.

634
00:36:53,780 --> 00:36:56,930
My parents will be worried.

635
00:36:56,930 --> 00:36:59,990
And he walked with me, because
I had no idea how to walk,

636
00:36:59,990 --> 00:37:05,270
and I was afraid to walk alone,
because they would catch me.

637
00:37:05,270 --> 00:37:06,950
We came to the ghetto.

638
00:37:06,950 --> 00:37:10,390
Just before the ghetto,
I gave him the shawl,

639
00:37:10,390 --> 00:37:13,670
and I gave him the money,
the rest of the money,

640
00:37:13,670 --> 00:37:15,740
and he went back.

641
00:37:15,740 --> 00:37:19,100
And I came to the
gate to the ghetto,

642
00:37:19,100 --> 00:37:22,850
and the policeman
opened the window,

643
00:37:22,850 --> 00:37:26,960

and he recognized me, because
they know what the people--

644

00:37:26,960 --> 00:37:31,430

my father was very
well-known in the town.

645

00:37:31,430 --> 00:37:34,850

And he said, I cannot let you
in, because the Gestapo is here

646

00:37:34,850 --> 00:37:35,720

on the streets.

647

00:37:35,720 --> 00:37:39,740

He said, go over
there, three streets.

648

00:37:39,740 --> 00:37:42,380

There is a factory
where Jews were working.

649

00:37:42,380 --> 00:37:45,830

It was a clothes factory.

650

00:37:45,830 --> 00:37:48,380

Go over there, and stay there.

651

00:37:48,380 --> 00:37:50,640

It was very dangerous,
because all the factories

652

00:37:50,640 --> 00:37:52,600

were guarded, too.

653

00:37:52,600 --> 00:37:59,510

But I had no other way to go,
and there was a drug store that

654

00:37:59,510 --> 00:38:01,880

was connected to the ghetto.

655

00:38:01,880 --> 00:38:04,710
But from the outside, it was--

656
00:38:04,710 --> 00:38:05,960
So I went into the drug store.

657
00:38:05,960 --> 00:38:07,910
I thought maybe if I go
through the back door,

658
00:38:07,910 --> 00:38:10,100
I would be able to
get into the ghetto.

659
00:38:10,100 --> 00:38:12,440
But he questioned
me, so I was afraid.

660
00:38:12,440 --> 00:38:13,580
Because he wasn't Jewish.

661
00:38:13,580 --> 00:38:16,730
He was a Pole, a Polish man.

662
00:38:16,730 --> 00:38:19,310
I went out.

663
00:38:19,310 --> 00:38:22,190
I took the risk, and I
went to three blocks.

664
00:38:22,190 --> 00:38:25,040
And luckily, there was
no guards at the door.

665
00:38:25,040 --> 00:38:30,820
I went up to the factory, and I
came in, because they all know.

666
00:38:30,820 --> 00:38:35,450
And I said, I escaped
from the train.

667

00:38:35,450 --> 00:38:37,370

I was the first one to come.

668

00:38:37,370 --> 00:38:40,070

I escaped from the train,
and I said, go over there.

669

00:38:40,070 --> 00:38:42,890

He said, quiet down,
you are already with us.

670

00:38:42,890 --> 00:38:45,410

At that time, I was
still lucky, because they

671

00:38:45,410 --> 00:38:50,270

didn't count how many go out
to work and how many come in.

672

00:38:50,270 --> 00:38:51,940

So I was over there.

673

00:38:51,940 --> 00:38:56,690

Meanwhile, another four or five
people came the same place.

674

00:38:56,690 --> 00:38:58,760

And when they went
home, they gave me--

675

00:38:58,760 --> 00:39:01,070

they had additional arm bands.

676

00:39:01,070 --> 00:39:03,410

They came-- you know,
they came and I went back

677

00:39:03,410 --> 00:39:09,440

into the ghetto, back
to the old ghetto.

678

00:39:09,440 --> 00:39:12,300

This was November.

679

00:39:12,300 --> 00:39:12,800

And--

680

00:39:12,800 --> 00:39:15,410

681

00:39:15,410 --> 00:39:18,170

Were there any Jews still left
in the ghetto at that time?

682

00:39:18,170 --> 00:39:18,670

Yes.

683

00:39:18,670 --> 00:39:19,450

There were still--

684

00:39:19,450 --> 00:39:21,680

Were there any Jews
still left in the ghetto?

685

00:39:21,680 --> 00:39:22,180

Yes.

686

00:39:22,180 --> 00:39:25,960

There were quite a few-- there
were probably about 4,000

687

00:39:25,960 --> 00:39:28,780

people still left, because
there was a working ghetto--

688

00:39:28,780 --> 00:39:31,270

the people that were
working and non-working.

689

00:39:31,270 --> 00:39:34,100

My father was still there
over there in the ghetto.

690

00:39:34,100 --> 00:39:37,190

And there was some
woman left who

691
00:39:37,190 --> 00:39:40,240
was in hiding with her
children, and some older people,

692
00:39:40,240 --> 00:39:42,070
who just--

693
00:39:42,070 --> 00:39:44,830
they somehow managed to hide.

694
00:39:44,830 --> 00:39:47,500
So it was, I think,
at that time maybe

695
00:39:47,500 --> 00:39:51,220
about 3,000 or 4,000
Jews left in the ghetto.

696
00:39:51,220 --> 00:39:52,030
We were working.

697
00:39:52,030 --> 00:40:02,395
We were going down every day
to work until September 1943.

698
00:40:02,395 --> 00:40:08,940
1943, in the morning,
as we always go to work,

699
00:40:08,940 --> 00:40:10,060
we came to work.

700
00:40:10,060 --> 00:40:17,527
And they said, we are
going to leave here.

701
00:40:17,527 --> 00:40:19,860
We are not going to stay and
work anymore in the ghetto.

702

00:40:19,860 --> 00:40:23,210

They're going to
liquidate the ghetto.

703

00:40:23,210 --> 00:40:25,600

So when we were
standing-- and they

704

00:40:25,600 --> 00:40:28,130

used to count us every morning.

705

00:40:28,130 --> 00:40:32,110

So I was standing-- the
men used to be on one side,

706

00:40:32,110 --> 00:40:34,590

and the woman next stood them.

707

00:40:34,590 --> 00:40:36,400

So I was thinking,
I didn't want--

708

00:40:36,400 --> 00:40:40,300

I was standing next to
the last row of the men

709

00:40:40,300 --> 00:40:41,710

and the first
throw of the women.

710

00:40:41,710 --> 00:40:45,310

We had to stand five in a row.

711

00:40:45,310 --> 00:40:49,850

And we were looking
at what was going on,

712

00:40:49,850 --> 00:40:54,460

and I saw from the distance
that it took out probably

713

00:40:54,460 --> 00:40:57,220

about 60% of the
people who they didn't

714
00:40:57,220 --> 00:41:01,270
want to go in the
concentration camp for work.

715
00:41:01,270 --> 00:41:03,760
They put them over
there at the side,

716
00:41:03,760 --> 00:41:11,680
and they told them to go out of
the ghetto door, the outside.

717
00:41:11,680 --> 00:41:12,820

718
00:41:12,820 --> 00:41:17,210
And those-- we saw the
younger people, mostly men--

719
00:41:17,210 --> 00:41:22,270
they were sitting, told
to sit down on the ground.

720
00:41:22,270 --> 00:41:27,220
Then the manager, the
German, came over there,

721
00:41:27,220 --> 00:41:32,110
and he was picking up who
was going to go to work

722
00:41:32,110 --> 00:41:33,640
and who was not.

723
00:41:33,640 --> 00:41:39,530
And those men that were
working, they used to do the--

724
00:41:39,530 --> 00:41:40,945
for the soldiers, the uniforms.

725
00:41:40,945 --> 00:41:44,380
So it was important
to have the men.

726
00:41:44,380 --> 00:41:48,880
And I saw, he said,
everybody goes over there.

727
00:41:48,880 --> 00:41:51,210
I saw him motion with the hand.

728
00:41:51,210 --> 00:41:52,240
And I was short.

729
00:41:52,240 --> 00:41:57,160
I ran right in between the men,
and I ran with them over there.

730
00:41:57,160 --> 00:41:59,740
But I couldn't sit with
them, so I sat down where

731
00:41:59,740 --> 00:42:02,290
the other girls were sitting.

732
00:42:02,290 --> 00:42:03,860
The other girls said, move away.

733
00:42:03,860 --> 00:42:06,070
You know, they were
afraid, because they saw

734
00:42:06,070 --> 00:42:08,470
that I was not assigned to go.

735
00:42:08,470 --> 00:42:10,370
I said, what do you care?

736
00:42:10,370 --> 00:42:12,230
Well, anyhow, I was very lucky.

737

00:42:12,230 --> 00:42:13,570

I sat down over there.

738

00:42:13,570 --> 00:42:21,568

You had to be very
alert and to see.

739

00:42:21,568 --> 00:42:23,110

Of course, you had
to have luck, too.

740

00:42:23,110 --> 00:42:25,840

I wouldn't say that I was smart,
because there were smarter

741

00:42:25,840 --> 00:42:27,460

people than I was.

742

00:42:27,460 --> 00:42:30,580

But I urged my girlfriend.

743

00:42:30,580 --> 00:42:33,480

I said, stay here with
me and do what I do.

744

00:42:33,480 --> 00:42:36,370

She was-- she had money,
so she was afraid,

745

00:42:36,370 --> 00:42:39,940

I had no money, so I was not
afraid, you know, what to do,

746

00:42:39,940 --> 00:42:41,950

what to think with the money.

747

00:42:41,950 --> 00:42:47,740

And I sat down, and at
that time, they deported,

748

00:42:47,740 --> 00:42:53,410

I think, 3,000 people

who were at the--

749

00:42:53,410 --> 00:42:58,240
and 2,000 were sitting on
the ground until the evening,

750

00:42:58,240 --> 00:43:00,910
and we came for the
first concentration camp.

751

00:43:00,910 --> 00:43:04,870
They sent us to
Plaszow, over there.

752

00:43:04,870 --> 00:43:08,420
My father was still
hiding at that time, too.

753

00:43:08,420 --> 00:43:13,270
But the policemen-- mostly, the
Jewish policemen were butchers,

754

00:43:13,270 --> 00:43:16,150
and they all knew my father.

755

00:43:16,150 --> 00:43:17,470
So they saw him hiding.

756

00:43:17,470 --> 00:43:20,590
There were about 10 people
in their hiding place.

757

00:43:20,590 --> 00:43:24,380
They took out everybody,
but they left my father.

758

00:43:24,380 --> 00:43:27,100
They left him there.

759

00:43:27,100 --> 00:43:32,110
And he was still three
weeks until the end--

760

00:43:32,110 --> 00:43:38,560

the cleaning out of the ghetto,
the complete liquidation

761

00:43:38,560 --> 00:43:41,660

of the ghetto.

762

00:43:41,660 --> 00:43:46,030

And we came to Plaszow, the
first concentration camp.

763

00:43:46,030 --> 00:43:48,100

They took away--
at that time, they

764

00:43:48,100 --> 00:43:49,930

took away all our belongings.

765

00:43:49,930 --> 00:43:51,370

We had to give everything.

766

00:43:51,370 --> 00:43:54,370

Of course, that watch,
I didn't give back.

767

00:43:54,370 --> 00:43:55,840

I had some money.

768

00:43:55,840 --> 00:43:59,290

It counted to very little,
just to buy maybe two bread.

769

00:43:59,290 --> 00:44:01,160

That's all that I had.

770

00:44:01,160 --> 00:44:05,350

And we were assigned to work.

771

00:44:05,350 --> 00:44:06,490

We were working over there.

772

00:44:06,490 --> 00:44:10,090

773

00:44:10,090 --> 00:44:14,530

They were killing
a lot of people,

774

00:44:14,530 --> 00:44:18,505

because there were some Jews who
were working outside by stones.

775

00:44:18,505 --> 00:44:21,370

776

00:44:21,370 --> 00:44:26,230

When we came first to the
first concentration camp,

777

00:44:26,230 --> 00:44:29,440

we had to carry stones.

778

00:44:29,440 --> 00:44:33,790

This was a camp that
was built on a cemetery.

779

00:44:33,790 --> 00:44:40,870

So all the tombstones were
picked up and chopped.

780

00:44:40,870 --> 00:44:43,990

Make the largest stones
and smaller stones--

781

00:44:43,990 --> 00:44:46,210

and we used to make walks.

782

00:44:46,210 --> 00:44:51,320

Because this was a cemetery,
there were no pavements,

783

00:44:51,320 --> 00:44:53,260

no walks.

784

00:44:53,260 --> 00:44:56,620

We used to carry the stones,
and we made the walks.

785

00:44:56,620 --> 00:45:01,990

And whoever couldn't carry
used to get beaten or shot.

786

00:45:01,990 --> 00:45:07,810

And this was going on
about a couple of months.

787

00:45:07,810 --> 00:45:15,490

Later, they assigned us to
barracks where we went to sew.

788

00:45:15,490 --> 00:45:23,410

We were repairing the uniforms
from the German soldiers that

789

00:45:23,410 --> 00:45:27,910

had holes from the bullets.

790

00:45:27,910 --> 00:45:30,790

There were bullet holes.

791

00:45:30,790 --> 00:45:33,211

And of course, from the--

792

00:45:33,211 --> 00:45:35,250

they were all bloody.

793

00:45:35,250 --> 00:45:37,350

We used to cut it
out, have other--

794

00:45:37,350 --> 00:45:41,290

and we used to mend all the
suits that they could use it.

795

00:45:41,290 --> 00:45:45,190

Like the underwear from

the German soldiers,

796

00:45:45,190 --> 00:45:48,500

too-- they were torn.

797

00:45:48,500 --> 00:45:49,720

798

00:45:49,720 --> 00:45:56,255

And we used to work
over there in that work.

799

00:45:56,255 --> 00:46:01,780

We had one meal a day,
a little bit of soap.

800

00:46:01,780 --> 00:46:06,910

It was mostly water
and rotten potatoes,

801

00:46:06,910 --> 00:46:11,260

and one slice of bread a day.

802

00:46:11,260 --> 00:46:19,660

And the worst part was that we
had to work two weeks a day,

803

00:46:19,660 --> 00:46:21,380

day time--

804

00:46:21,380 --> 00:46:26,680

and I don't remember-- two
weeks or one week at night.

805

00:46:26,680 --> 00:46:29,810

When we worked at night,
we were very hungry.

806

00:46:29,810 --> 00:46:35,930

We were tired, because they
used to count us in the morning.

807

00:46:35,930 --> 00:46:40,460
We were standing at least an
hour and 1/2 in the morning

808
00:46:40,460 --> 00:46:42,590
and an hour 1/2 at night.

809
00:46:42,590 --> 00:46:46,280
Because the woman--
the German SS--

810
00:46:46,280 --> 00:46:48,320
they used to count us.

811
00:46:48,320 --> 00:46:51,320
Sometimes they made a
mistake, and they didn't have

812
00:46:51,320 --> 00:46:55,310
the right amount of persons.

813
00:46:55,310 --> 00:46:56,500
They used to count again.

814
00:46:56,500 --> 00:46:57,220

815
00:46:57,220 --> 00:46:59,720
Sometimes it took two
hours, three hours, too.

816
00:46:59,720 --> 00:47:03,290
Because they had-- the whole
amount of the Jews that worked

817
00:47:03,290 --> 00:47:05,580
was 2,000 people over there.

818
00:47:05,580 --> 00:47:07,350
They had-- the amounts--

819
00:47:07,350 --> 00:47:08,930

you know.

820
00:47:08,930 --> 00:47:13,200
So we used to stand over there.

821
00:47:13,200 --> 00:47:19,570
And of course, you
stood at daytime.

822
00:47:19,570 --> 00:47:20,910
You didn't eat much.

823
00:47:20,910 --> 00:47:22,800
You stood at night.

824
00:47:22,800 --> 00:47:29,680
And at night, when
you went to sleep,

825
00:47:29,680 --> 00:47:33,060
sometimes they used to go,
come in, and wake you up, too.

826
00:47:33,060 --> 00:47:35,910
But at day time, you
could still manage.

827
00:47:35,910 --> 00:47:38,970
But at night, you were hungry.

828
00:47:38,970 --> 00:47:40,890
You had to work.

829
00:47:40,890 --> 00:47:42,810
It was cold, too.

830
00:47:42,810 --> 00:47:50,620
It was because this was a wooden
make-shift, where we were.

831
00:47:50,620 --> 00:47:52,050
And we were sleepy.

832
00:47:52,050 --> 00:47:52,890
So what did we do?

833
00:47:52,890 --> 00:47:56,040
We used to go at night to the--

834
00:47:56,040 --> 00:47:57,750
the bathrooms were a latrine.

835
00:47:57,750 --> 00:48:01,380
It was a wooden shack, and
just the water was there.

836
00:48:01,380 --> 00:48:02,980
There was no heat, nothing.

837
00:48:02,980 --> 00:48:05,445
We used to go over
there and wash ourselves

838
00:48:05,445 --> 00:48:06,750
with cold waters.

839
00:48:06,750 --> 00:48:10,440
We should not fall asleep.

840
00:48:10,440 --> 00:48:13,080
But it happened many times.

841
00:48:13,080 --> 00:48:16,020
Some used to fall asleep.

842
00:48:16,020 --> 00:48:19,080
And the Germans, they used
to circle the barracks,

843
00:48:19,080 --> 00:48:21,990
and there were no
curtains at the windows.

844

00:48:21,990 --> 00:48:24,560

They used to look in and saw
that somebody was sleeping,

845

00:48:24,560 --> 00:48:26,640

and they used to come and shoot.

846

00:48:26,640 --> 00:48:29,890

So the worst part
was that sleep--

847

00:48:29,890 --> 00:48:31,710

working at night.

848

00:48:31,710 --> 00:48:36,480

And sometimes, we had
to sleep during the day.

849

00:48:36,480 --> 00:48:38,490

They used to come during
the day and take us out

850

00:48:38,490 --> 00:48:40,710

for other work, additional work.

851

00:48:40,710 --> 00:48:44,190

So it was so hectic, because
you didn't sleep at night.

852

00:48:44,190 --> 00:48:45,277

You were working.

853

00:48:45,277 --> 00:48:46,860

And you couldn't
sleep during the day,

854

00:48:46,860 --> 00:48:49,965

because they told you to wash
the latrine or something else

855

00:48:49,965 --> 00:48:51,120

or do something.

856

00:48:51,120 --> 00:48:54,930

But somehow, we somehow managed.

857

00:48:54,930 --> 00:48:59,505

As long as they did
not kill, we managed.

858

00:48:59,505 --> 00:49:02,400

859

00:49:02,400 --> 00:49:05,160

This was in August.

860

00:49:05,160 --> 00:49:07,440

We came-- yeah, and this was--

861

00:49:07,440 --> 00:49:10,860

quite a few times, they came
in and they took out people

862

00:49:10,860 --> 00:49:12,720

to take from our
concentration camp

863

00:49:12,720 --> 00:49:15,060

into other concentration camps.

864

00:49:15,060 --> 00:49:20,000

And you had to
watch, not to be--

865

00:49:20,000 --> 00:49:22,380

because if you have already
in one concentration--

866

00:49:22,380 --> 00:49:24,810

you know what you are doing.

867

00:49:24,810 --> 00:49:26,455

You know the people.

868

00:49:26,455 --> 00:49:28,170
You were not afraid anymore.

869
00:49:28,170 --> 00:49:31,080
You didn't know what was going
to be at another concentration

870
00:49:31,080 --> 00:49:31,650
camp.

871
00:49:31,650 --> 00:49:33,855
They took out--
one day, they came

872
00:49:33,855 --> 00:49:42,070
and took out about 100 women to
a munition factory in Poland.

873
00:49:42,070 --> 00:49:44,060
It was called Skarzysko.

874
00:49:44,060 --> 00:49:49,530
And then, another of the girls
was very sick because of the--

875
00:49:49,530 --> 00:49:50,160
what is this?

876
00:49:50,160 --> 00:49:51,930
The chemicals.

877
00:49:51,930 --> 00:49:53,490
Picric acid.

878
00:49:53,490 --> 00:49:55,860
That's right.

879
00:49:55,860 --> 00:50:00,610
So I always managed to
see, not to be taken.

880
00:50:00,610 --> 00:50:05,400

And it was in August, 1943.

881

00:50:05,400 --> 00:50:07,500

They took us.

882

00:50:07,500 --> 00:50:08,550

We are going out.

883

00:50:08,550 --> 00:50:13,420

They took from each
place, you know.

884

00:50:13,420 --> 00:50:16,270

885

00:50:16,270 --> 00:50:17,670

We didn't know
what was going on.

886

00:50:17,670 --> 00:50:18,830

But they are going.

887

00:50:18,830 --> 00:50:20,642

Where are we going?

888

00:50:20,642 --> 00:50:22,725

Somebody said, I think we
are going to the trains.

889

00:50:22,725 --> 00:50:24,610

890

00:50:24,610 --> 00:50:27,150

We didn't know where we
are going from the trains.

891

00:50:27,150 --> 00:50:32,460

Of course, the Russians
were coming closer.

892

00:50:32,460 --> 00:50:36,690

So we're taken out from Plaszow.

893
00:50:36,690 --> 00:50:38,790
And while we were standing,
we saw the trains,

894
00:50:38,790 --> 00:50:43,860
and we saw the people
loaded to the trains.

895
00:50:43,860 --> 00:50:47,490
And we had to stay in five.

896
00:50:47,490 --> 00:50:49,580
And I was moving to
the back of the row.

897
00:50:49,580 --> 00:50:52,380
There were about 200 girls.

898
00:50:52,380 --> 00:50:55,170
And when I moved to the
back, the other four

899
00:50:55,170 --> 00:50:57,725
had to move, too,
because they count.

900
00:50:57,725 --> 00:50:59,600
And so when one is
missing, they would have--

901
00:50:59,600 --> 00:51:03,000
they got a beating from the SS.

902
00:51:03,000 --> 00:51:03,690
They cursed me.

903
00:51:03,690 --> 00:51:05,100
What are you doing?

904
00:51:05,100 --> 00:51:07,710
Why do you do that?

905

00:51:07,710 --> 00:51:10,680

I said, why are you rushing
to be the first one?

906

00:51:10,680 --> 00:51:11,950

Let's say, in the back.

907

00:51:11,950 --> 00:51:15,480

Let's say, what
is going on here?

908

00:51:15,480 --> 00:51:20,760

And every time was, I was
moving in the back, in the back.

909

00:51:20,760 --> 00:51:22,770

They were so mad at
me, the other four.

910

00:51:22,770 --> 00:51:26,220

They all survived,
the other four.

911

00:51:26,220 --> 00:51:31,420

And until we came to the
trains, the trains were filled.

912

00:51:31,420 --> 00:51:34,510

And we went back to the first--

913

00:51:34,510 --> 00:51:36,300

you know, the
concentration camp.

914

00:51:36,300 --> 00:51:39,810

They shipped those to Auschwitz.

915

00:51:39,810 --> 00:51:43,300

So at that time, those
were the best two months

916

00:51:43,300 --> 00:51:46,140
that it was in Plaszow.

917
00:51:46,140 --> 00:51:49,570
Because there were quite a
few thousand people left,

918
00:51:49,570 --> 00:51:51,990
so we had some better--

919
00:51:51,990 --> 00:51:53,940
a little more food.

920
00:51:53,940 --> 00:51:55,500
But it didn't take long.

921
00:51:55,500 --> 00:51:59,190
In October, we were
loaded, and we were going--

922
00:51:59,190 --> 00:52:01,530
they shipped us to Auschwitz.

923
00:52:01,530 --> 00:52:03,980
We came to Bergen-Belsen.

924
00:52:03,980 --> 00:52:06,870
They stripped us
completely naked.

925
00:52:06,870 --> 00:52:10,900
We had to take
everything what we had.

926
00:52:10,900 --> 00:52:11,400
Yeah.

927
00:52:11,400 --> 00:52:16,320
And that time, not only
did I smuggle my watch,

928
00:52:16,320 --> 00:52:18,660

I still had pictures
of my father,

929
00:52:18,660 --> 00:52:21,360
my brothers, my sister--

930
00:52:21,360 --> 00:52:26,460
just the heads, because I
couldn't carry too much.

931
00:52:26,460 --> 00:52:31,410
And I still smuggled
through with my watch,

932
00:52:31,410 --> 00:52:36,550
and I put them in something,
and put them in the side.

933
00:52:36,550 --> 00:52:42,700
And I put the pictures,
but not the watch.

934
00:52:42,700 --> 00:52:44,630
The watch, I was
holding in my hands.

935
00:52:44,630 --> 00:52:45,650
We were stripped.

936
00:52:45,650 --> 00:52:47,800
We were shaped.

937
00:52:47,800 --> 00:52:51,230
Not completely-- at that
time, it was a little bit lax

938
00:52:51,230 --> 00:52:51,730
already.

939
00:52:51,730 --> 00:52:54,940
They didn't do-- before
that, all the girls

940

00:52:54,940 --> 00:52:57,220
were shaped completely.

941

00:52:57,220 --> 00:53:00,280
They used to do
mattresses from the hair,

942

00:53:00,280 --> 00:53:04,550
that they used to cut
it from the people.

943

00:53:04,550 --> 00:53:09,980
We were given dresses,
schmatters to put on.

944

00:53:09,980 --> 00:53:12,280
And there were
girls who gave it.

945

00:53:12,280 --> 00:53:14,620
For the tall girls,
they get short dresses,

946

00:53:14,620 --> 00:53:18,460
and for the short girls,
they gave long dresses.

947

00:53:18,460 --> 00:53:24,460
And we did have-- shoes were
some kind of wooden shoes.

948

00:53:24,460 --> 00:53:26,950
By the time we got
dressed, we looked

949

00:53:26,950 --> 00:53:30,963
at each other, the girls, and
you know, we were laughing.

950

00:53:30,963 --> 00:53:31,630
How they looked.

951

00:53:31,630 --> 00:53:32,350
You know?

952
00:53:32,350 --> 00:53:34,000
What can you do?

953
00:53:34,000 --> 00:53:35,560
Some, we couldn't
even recognize.

954
00:53:35,560 --> 00:53:39,730
And there were a few girls
who had beautiful curly

955
00:53:39,730 --> 00:53:41,870
hair, blond hair.

956
00:53:41,870 --> 00:53:43,870
Those, they used to
shave completely,

957
00:53:43,870 --> 00:53:47,380
because they didn't want them--

958
00:53:47,380 --> 00:53:51,370
this was a woman.

959
00:53:51,370 --> 00:53:56,210
They didn't want nice
good-looking girls to be left.

960
00:53:56,210 --> 00:54:00,010
Well, we went to the Birkenau.

961
00:54:00,010 --> 00:54:01,770
They put us in the barracks.

962
00:54:01,770 --> 00:54:05,670
We were on the one bunk bed.

963
00:54:05,670 --> 00:54:06,435
It was not a bed.

964
00:54:06,435 --> 00:54:08,890
It was just a wooden plank.

965
00:54:08,890 --> 00:54:15,880
Ten in one-- so we
were like sardines.

966
00:54:15,880 --> 00:54:18,070
Leg, one on top of the other.

967
00:54:18,070 --> 00:54:21,940
Two days later,
they took us-- yeah.

968
00:54:21,940 --> 00:54:24,460
We were in Birkenau,
I think, two weeks.

969
00:54:24,460 --> 00:54:25,930
One day, they took
us out, and they

970
00:54:25,930 --> 00:54:28,430
were calling about 50 girls.

971
00:54:28,430 --> 00:54:29,372
I don't remember.

972
00:54:29,372 --> 00:54:30,580
We're walking, we're walking.

973
00:54:30,580 --> 00:54:34,422
And we saw-- from the distance,
we saw the crematorium.

974
00:54:34,422 --> 00:54:40,030
We were already maybe 50
feet from the crematorium.

975
00:54:40,030 --> 00:54:43,970
And somebody came and

said, take them back.

976

00:54:43,970 --> 00:54:45,440

We went thrice.

977

00:54:45,440 --> 00:54:47,440

Was this the first time
you saw the crematorium?

978

00:54:47,440 --> 00:54:48,107

Beg your pardon?

979

00:54:48,107 --> 00:54:50,190

Was this the first time
you saw the crematorium?

980

00:54:50,190 --> 00:54:50,440

Yes.

981

00:54:50,440 --> 00:54:52,607

This was the first time,
because the crematorium was

982

00:54:52,607 --> 00:54:53,970

in Birkenau, not in Auschwitz.

983

00:54:53,970 --> 00:54:56,230

This was just next to it.

984

00:54:56,230 --> 00:54:58,960

We saw that, but by that
time, we knew all of that,

985

00:54:58,960 --> 00:55:01,660

because the others--

986

00:55:01,660 --> 00:55:04,480

we didn't know
exactly, but you know--

987

00:55:04,480 --> 00:55:07,360

we first-- you know,

we said, funny smell

988

00:55:07,360 --> 00:55:09,420
in the air, what it was.

989

00:55:09,420 --> 00:55:11,590
So you know, those who
were long over there,

990

00:55:11,590 --> 00:55:13,540
we knew already what was it.

991

00:55:13,540 --> 00:55:16,940
So twice, I was very lucky.

992

00:55:16,940 --> 00:55:18,670
We went back.

993

00:55:18,670 --> 00:55:21,820
And two weeks later,
they took us up,

994

00:55:21,820 --> 00:55:25,396
and they gave us the tattoos.

995

00:55:25,396 --> 00:55:30,520
Those who had the tattoo
went to Auschwitz to work.

996

00:55:30,520 --> 00:55:33,080
This was good already.

997

00:55:33,080 --> 00:55:34,240
We went to Auschwitz.

998

00:55:34,240 --> 00:55:39,670
We were already in buildings,
in brick buildings.

999

00:55:39,670 --> 00:55:42,720
And we were assigned
here, and we got dressed.

1000
00:55:42,720 --> 00:55:46,800

1001
00:55:46,800 --> 00:55:49,500
And another thing-- they
used to come over there.

1002
00:55:49,500 --> 00:55:56,925
We used to go to public showers,
and the German used to come

1003
00:55:56,925 --> 00:56:02,410
and we were naked.

1004
00:56:02,410 --> 00:56:07,780
Can you imagine how
embarrassed we were?

1005
00:56:07,780 --> 00:56:13,180
We were all, at that time, very
modest girls who were never

1006
00:56:13,180 --> 00:56:16,030
exposed naked to anybody.

1007
00:56:16,030 --> 00:56:20,500
Only to a sister, probably, but
not to a brother or, you know.

1008
00:56:20,500 --> 00:56:23,270
And they used to
come in and watch.

1009
00:56:23,270 --> 00:56:29,770
If there was somebody who had
not clean skin or were not nice

1010
00:56:29,770 --> 00:56:34,910
or had some pimples or whatever,
or didn't like the figure

1011

00:56:34,910 --> 00:56:38,020
or what, they took them
out from the showers.

1012
00:56:38,020 --> 00:56:43,540

1013
00:56:43,540 --> 00:56:45,680
It was quite a while--

1014
00:56:45,680 --> 00:56:47,650
What did you do with watch?

1015
00:56:47,650 --> 00:56:50,540
Where did you hide the
watch when you did that?

1016
00:56:50,540 --> 00:56:51,040
You didn't.

1017
00:56:51,040 --> 00:56:52,538
You couldn't hide your breasts.

1018
00:56:52,538 --> 00:56:53,830
What did you do with the watch?

1019
00:56:53,830 --> 00:56:54,430
Oh, the watch?

1020
00:56:54,430 --> 00:56:55,720
Yeah, I was holding my hands.

1021
00:56:55,720 --> 00:56:57,845
And when we had to go like
this, I put in my mouth.

1022
00:56:57,845 --> 00:57:00,850
Or I put it under my arm,
and I hid in a small piece

1023
00:57:00,850 --> 00:57:03,970
of clothes tied up.

1024
00:57:03,970 --> 00:57:05,770
And then, we came
already to Auschwitz,

1025
00:57:05,770 --> 00:57:07,780
and we started to work.

1026
00:57:07,780 --> 00:57:08,890
And--

1027
00:57:08,890 --> 00:57:10,390
Can we pause at this point?

1028
00:57:10,390 --> 00:57:12,760
Because we have to
change the tape.

1029
00:57:12,760 --> 00:57:13,570
OK.

1030
00:57:13,570 --> 00:57:17,280
We'll continue with working in
Auschwitz when we come back.

1031
00:57:17,280 --> 00:57:22,000