

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:24,470

2

00:00:24,470 --> 00:00:25,770

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:25,770 --> 00:00:30,110

I'm Bernard Weinstein, director
of the Kean College Holocaust

4

00:00:30,110 --> 00:00:32,000

Oral Testimonies Project.

5

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:34,370

Assisting me is Jody Frank.

6

00:00:34,370 --> 00:00:36,840

We welcome Gertrude Sonnenberg.

7

00:00:36,840 --> 00:00:38,060

Mrs. Sonnenberg.

8

00:00:38,060 --> 00:00:40,190

Thank you very much.

9

00:00:40,190 --> 00:00:45,780

And my story here which
I have to tell you today,

10

00:00:45,780 --> 00:00:47,330

it's not a very happy one.

11

00:00:47,330 --> 00:00:56,260

And before I begin, I would
like to show you some pictures.

12

00:00:56,260 --> 00:00:58,710

Here I was a young
girl of 19 years.

13

00:00:58,710 --> 00:01:00,530

A long time ago.

14

00:01:00,530 --> 00:01:01,250

That's you?

15

00:01:01,250 --> 00:01:01,940

That's me.

16

00:01:01,940 --> 00:01:04,830

Supposed to be me, but it is me.

17

00:01:04,830 --> 00:01:11,870

And also I have some
pictures of my parents.

18

00:01:11,870 --> 00:01:15,620

My mother has a stamp
behind her picture

19

00:01:15,620 --> 00:01:20,160

that was taken by the
police, because all Jews

20

00:01:20,160 --> 00:01:23,630

had to have a Kennkarte.

21

00:01:23,630 --> 00:01:28,670

This was like a passport
and they put the stamp on.

22

00:01:28,670 --> 00:01:30,650

My father was just
a regular picture

23

00:01:30,650 --> 00:01:33,450

because my sister has it.

24

00:01:33,450 --> 00:01:38,660

Another thing of
the few things which

25

00:01:38,660 --> 00:01:42,440
survived with me, two rings.

26
00:01:42,440 --> 00:01:49,990
I had a friend in the ghetto
in Riga and he was a goldsmith.

27
00:01:49,990 --> 00:01:56,420
And he made one
ring out of a screw,

28
00:01:56,420 --> 00:02:00,020
while the other one
was a silver spoon.

29
00:02:00,020 --> 00:02:02,780
And it really is
miraculous how I

30
00:02:02,780 --> 00:02:07,790
got it through all those years
without being taking away.

31
00:02:07,790 --> 00:02:11,220

32
00:02:11,220 --> 00:02:13,580
I think that was all.

33
00:02:13,580 --> 00:02:15,180
Oh, there is one
more picture in--

34
00:02:15,180 --> 00:02:15,680
Yes.

35
00:02:15,680 --> 00:02:21,800

36
00:02:21,800 --> 00:02:28,300
This has to do with my parents,
when they were taken away.

37

00:02:28,300 --> 00:02:30,240

And they were detained.

38

00:02:30,240 --> 00:02:31,730

Yes.

39

00:02:31,730 --> 00:02:38,560

And they were taken away and
before the train was locked up,

40

00:02:38,560 --> 00:02:45,410

they had a little piece of paper
and gave it to Jewish policemen

41

00:02:45,410 --> 00:02:48,410

and through him I got it.

42

00:02:48,410 --> 00:02:50,930

And I speak about it later on.

43

00:02:50,930 --> 00:02:52,220

I think that's about it.

44

00:02:52,220 --> 00:02:53,780

OK, all right.

45

00:02:53,780 --> 00:02:56,760

46

00:02:56,760 --> 00:02:58,690

I think the easiest
way is to start

47

00:02:58,690 --> 00:03:05,880

with a little bit of
Germany, where I was born,

48

00:03:05,880 --> 00:03:08,310

and I tell you about--

49

00:03:08,310 --> 00:03:12,200

I had a very normal
childhood like anybody else.

50
00:03:12,200 --> 00:03:14,580
My sister and I, we
had friends there.

51
00:03:14,580 --> 00:03:17,190
We had relatives.

52
00:03:17,190 --> 00:03:21,810
And we went to school
and we were quite happy.

53
00:03:21,810 --> 00:03:28,540
And it all changed when
I was about 13 years old.

54
00:03:28,540 --> 00:03:35,640
Was a time where
Hitler got known

55
00:03:35,640 --> 00:03:42,450
and at that very
same moment, we had

56
00:03:42,450 --> 00:03:44,230
to go to school like always.

57
00:03:44,230 --> 00:03:47,600
But, we were only
there physically.

58
00:03:47,600 --> 00:03:50,140
We never were allowed to talk.

59
00:03:50,140 --> 00:03:52,770
We never were allowed to answer.

60
00:03:52,770 --> 00:03:55,290
We just had to be there.

61

00:03:55,290 --> 00:04:01,320

And at the same
time, all our friends

62

00:04:01,320 --> 00:04:04,200

didn't want to
know of us anymore.

63

00:04:04,200 --> 00:04:06,910

They didn't even saw us anymore.

64

00:04:06,910 --> 00:04:09,090

They looked through us.

65

00:04:09,090 --> 00:04:11,260

They didn't talk to us.

66

00:04:11,260 --> 00:04:12,670

We didn't exist.

67

00:04:12,670 --> 00:04:16,500

The only thing when we exist
when they called us, you.

68

00:04:16,500 --> 00:04:22,019

And it was a very
hard experience

69

00:04:22,019 --> 00:04:25,950

because from that little
place we went to--

70

00:04:25,950 --> 00:04:31,710

in that little place where
we went to school, we were--

71

00:04:31,710 --> 00:04:35,050

you know what
everybody was cooking.

72

00:04:35,050 --> 00:04:38,520

What was going on in the
households and everything

73
00:04:38,520 --> 00:04:40,140
and then that was cut off.

74
00:04:40,140 --> 00:04:42,540
That was terrible.

75
00:04:42,540 --> 00:04:46,110
But it was just the beginning.

76
00:04:46,110 --> 00:04:52,860
We lived in another
town where I was born.

77
00:04:52,860 --> 00:04:57,300
It was Hausberge an
der Porte Westfalica.

78
00:04:57,300 --> 00:05:02,910
And it was very nice and pretty
and we had a little house

79
00:05:02,910 --> 00:05:05,500
there with a garden.

80
00:05:05,500 --> 00:05:08,940
And in the garden was a
synagogue which my, I think,

81
00:05:08,940 --> 00:05:12,560
it was my great-grandfather
built. My father--

82
00:05:12,560 --> 00:05:15,750
my whole family had, from
generation to generation,

83
00:05:15,750 --> 00:05:20,220
had quarries.

84
00:05:20,220 --> 00:05:25,970
We can go back in the

family corner to 1700 about.

85

00:05:25,970 --> 00:05:33,030

And there was a fire and that
destroyed all the papers.

86

00:05:33,030 --> 00:05:34,410

But so far about--

87

00:05:34,410 --> 00:05:35,040

I have it.

88

00:05:35,040 --> 00:05:39,590

I had a relative who
lived, not long ago died.

89

00:05:39,590 --> 00:05:41,260

He gave us this chronic.

90

00:05:41,260 --> 00:05:41,760

Excuse me.

91

00:05:41,760 --> 00:05:44,190

Your family lived in
Hausberge from the 1700?

92

00:05:44,190 --> 00:05:46,230

My father was born there.

93

00:05:46,230 --> 00:05:48,810

It's so far it goes back, yeah.

94

00:05:48,810 --> 00:05:52,120

But we were not German,
of course, later on.

95

00:05:52,120 --> 00:05:57,870

And my father's brothers
as well as my father

96

00:05:57,870 --> 00:06:03,110

fought in World War I

and had decorations,

97

00:06:03,110 --> 00:06:06,540

but that didn't mean
anything, of course.

98

00:06:06,540 --> 00:06:12,660

So through my father's business,
we moved from Hausberge

99

00:06:12,660 --> 00:06:15,580

to [Place name] That is
where I went to school.

100

00:06:15,580 --> 00:06:19,810

It's also a very tiny
town in the Hessen.

101

00:06:19,810 --> 00:06:22,380

102

00:06:22,380 --> 00:06:25,320

It was very anti-Semitic.

103

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

Anti-Semitic before even
Hitler came to power.

104

00:06:29,820 --> 00:06:34,420

105

00:06:34,420 --> 00:06:39,300

It was also at that time when
my father had a friend who

106

00:06:39,300 --> 00:06:42,700

was a businessman, who asked--

107

00:06:42,700 --> 00:06:46,950

who had also quarries and
he asked for some loan

108

00:06:46,950 --> 00:06:48,750
for one time.

109
00:06:48,750 --> 00:06:50,290
And my father didn't--

110
00:06:50,290 --> 00:06:54,420
wanted to give him but my mother
said no but my father went

111
00:06:54,420 --> 00:06:58,320
ahead with it When it came the
time to pay back, of course,

112
00:06:58,320 --> 00:06:59,400
he never paid back.

113
00:06:59,400 --> 00:07:01,890
He doesn't have
to pay Jews back.

114
00:07:01,890 --> 00:07:05,360
And that made us pretty poor.

115
00:07:05,360 --> 00:07:09,030

116
00:07:09,030 --> 00:07:13,480
The Jews couldn't do much of
profession anymore, anyhow.

117
00:07:13,480 --> 00:07:16,660
And my mother who
was a dressmaker

118
00:07:16,660 --> 00:07:21,410
before she got married took
up that profession again.

119
00:07:21,410 --> 00:07:25,910
While my father I tried
to look for a job,

120

00:07:25,910 --> 00:07:28,360

which was not very
successful, because who

121

00:07:28,360 --> 00:07:31,960

want to give a Jew
something to work with?

122

00:07:31,960 --> 00:07:35,970

123

00:07:35,970 --> 00:07:40,910

A place in [Place
name] was too small

124

00:07:40,910 --> 00:07:43,700

for business for my mother.

125

00:07:43,700 --> 00:07:48,620

And she had a sister
who lived in Hannover.

126

00:07:48,620 --> 00:07:54,350

And we moved to Hannover and
found an apartment there.

127

00:07:54,350 --> 00:07:58,190

My mother took a course,
a refresher course,

128

00:07:58,190 --> 00:08:02,730

and started to
really make a living.

129

00:08:02,730 --> 00:08:06,680

And we had lots of
Jewish customers

130

00:08:06,680 --> 00:08:08,280

and it worked out very well.

131

00:08:08,280 --> 00:08:13,050

132
00:08:13,050 --> 00:08:19,060
By that time I was
about 13, 14 years.

133
00:08:19,060 --> 00:08:21,390
Yeah, that was at
the time when I

134
00:08:21,390 --> 00:08:23,030
was 14 years old
when I didn't have

135
00:08:23,030 --> 00:08:24,440
to go to school any longer.

136
00:08:24,440 --> 00:08:27,680
I couldn't go further,
anyhow, because they only

137
00:08:27,680 --> 00:08:32,360
allowed us elementary
school, not going further

138
00:08:32,360 --> 00:08:34,289
like high school
and college and on.

139
00:08:34,289 --> 00:08:36,049
That was out.

140
00:08:36,049 --> 00:08:39,110
And we were also very
limited with profession,

141
00:08:39,110 --> 00:08:40,039
what we could do.

142
00:08:40,039 --> 00:08:44,039

143

00:08:44,039 --> 00:08:46,190
You could become a nurse.

144
00:08:46,190 --> 00:08:48,890
You could become
a cleaning woman.

145
00:08:48,890 --> 00:08:52,160
And you could also
become a dressmaker.

146
00:08:52,160 --> 00:08:58,820
They had no objection to
those professions, so called.

147
00:08:58,820 --> 00:09:00,420
And my sister became a nurse.

148
00:09:00,420 --> 00:09:01,870
She went to Cologne.

149
00:09:01,870 --> 00:09:05,300
And there was a Jewish
hospital and she

150
00:09:05,300 --> 00:09:07,430
learned to become a nurse.

151
00:09:07,430 --> 00:09:15,230
While I went to an
apprentice about maybe two,

152
00:09:15,230 --> 00:09:19,520
three hours away by
train in Dortmund.

153
00:09:19,520 --> 00:09:24,350
And I didn't learn
much, I must say.

154
00:09:24,350 --> 00:09:33,590
Because at that time the
apprentice, the kid--

155

00:09:33,590 --> 00:09:37,130

let's say, the people who
learned to become a dressmaker.

156

00:09:37,130 --> 00:09:43,100

They had to perform everything
but the [INAUDIBLE]..

157

00:09:43,100 --> 00:09:45,860

You had to take care of their
dog, let him in and out.

158

00:09:45,860 --> 00:09:48,620

And you had to go
grocery shopping.

159

00:09:48,620 --> 00:09:56,340

And if you had time,
you had to even heat

160

00:09:56,340 --> 00:09:57,900

the oven in the morning.

161

00:09:57,900 --> 00:10:01,380

Then they come when they get up,
so you had to be there at 7:00.

162

00:10:01,380 --> 00:10:05,360

And so when you had time in
between they taught you sewing.

163

00:10:05,360 --> 00:10:08,060

So after three years
I was finished,

164

00:10:08,060 --> 00:10:11,435

I barely made my
exam, like you have

165

00:10:11,435 --> 00:10:14,390

to do in Germany for
dressmaking exam.

166
00:10:14,390 --> 00:10:16,880
And I came home and I
said, now I go to my mother

167
00:10:16,880 --> 00:10:18,230
and I helped her.

168
00:10:18,230 --> 00:10:21,360
And she had a couple
girls working for her.

169
00:10:21,360 --> 00:10:26,120
And when I came there, my mother
thought I don't know anything.

170
00:10:26,120 --> 00:10:28,240
And I started from
the beginning.

171
00:10:28,240 --> 00:10:30,950
She said, if you want
to become a dressmaker

172
00:10:30,950 --> 00:10:32,570
and you want to work
with me, then you

173
00:10:32,570 --> 00:10:35,600
sit down and become
an apprentice with me

174
00:10:35,600 --> 00:10:37,400
and I guarantee
you will learn it.

175
00:10:37,400 --> 00:10:39,200
And I learned it.

176
00:10:39,200 --> 00:10:47,780
In the meantime, the time
went on and around 1939,

177

00:10:47,780 --> 00:10:54,860
I think, it was when the war was
declared with Poland started,

178

00:10:54,860 --> 00:10:58,670
September 1st 1939.

179

00:10:58,670 --> 00:11:01,100
I remember that because
my mother and I,

180

00:11:01,100 --> 00:11:04,610
we were working and all
of a sudden we heard over

181

00:11:04,610 --> 00:11:07,010
the loudspeaker-- that
was in Hannover already--

182

00:11:07,010 --> 00:11:12,470
that there was declared
Hitler invaded Poland.

183

00:11:12,470 --> 00:11:19,460
And from then on it really
starts to go down, down, down.

184

00:11:19,460 --> 00:11:22,850

185

00:11:22,850 --> 00:11:26,810
I forgot one to mention,
the Kristallnacht.

186

00:11:26,810 --> 00:11:30,560
When we lived in
that small town, yet.

187

00:11:30,560 --> 00:11:40,220
The stores were demolished of
those used to had business.

188

00:11:40,220 --> 00:11:42,500

There were butcher--
they were two butcher.

189

00:11:42,500 --> 00:11:48,350

There were store with
material and clothes.

190

00:11:48,350 --> 00:11:50,840

And there was a dress--

191

00:11:50,840 --> 00:11:55,190

not a dressmaker,
a store sold hats.

192

00:11:55,190 --> 00:11:58,850

And I think altogether were not
more than six, seven stores,

193

00:11:58,850 --> 00:12:02,480

and they were
completely destroyed.

194

00:12:02,480 --> 00:12:06,110

And written in this big
letters [INAUDIBLE]..

195

00:12:06,110 --> 00:12:12,680

And they took that one person
who was a dentist to the woods

196

00:12:12,680 --> 00:12:14,450

and beat him up merciless.

197

00:12:14,450 --> 00:12:17,000

And when he came home--

198

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:18,410

maybe it was a good thing.

199

00:12:18,410 --> 00:12:24,570

But when he came home he decided
he's going and leave Germany.

200
00:12:24,570 --> 00:12:28,430
And he left pretty soon.

201
00:12:28,430 --> 00:12:33,440
He was just married and
had two small children

202
00:12:33,440 --> 00:12:36,590
and he's still living.

203
00:12:36,590 --> 00:12:41,720
I met him in America again
and we became friendly again.

204
00:12:41,720 --> 00:12:45,290
And he's still living
in Florida now.

205
00:12:45,290 --> 00:12:48,660
And tonight we will
speak to each other.

206
00:12:48,660 --> 00:12:50,600
He's high in the 80s.

207
00:12:50,600 --> 00:12:53,420
He must be almost 90.

208
00:12:53,420 --> 00:12:55,970
What happened to the synagogue
that your grandfather built?

209
00:12:55,970 --> 00:13:00,440
That was at that time
when we were children

210
00:13:00,440 --> 00:13:01,870
was not occupied anymore.

211
00:13:01,870 --> 00:13:05,980
It was just standing there and

it was a charming little place.

212

00:13:05,980 --> 00:13:10,830

It was all surrounded with
ivy and the benches were in

213

00:13:10,830 --> 00:13:13,010

and the Torah were in
and my sister and I we

214

00:13:13,010 --> 00:13:14,100

used to play with it.

215

00:13:14,100 --> 00:13:16,910

216

00:13:16,910 --> 00:13:24,620

After the war 1980, we went back
to Germany for the first time.

217

00:13:24,620 --> 00:13:29,000

And we were invited from
the city of Hannover who

218

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:33,850

wanted to show their
goodwill and we were guests

219

00:13:33,850 --> 00:13:37,370

of the city for two weeks.

220

00:13:37,370 --> 00:13:42,500

And we refused for at least--
we moved already 12, 13 years

221

00:13:42,500 --> 00:13:43,490

and we never went.

222

00:13:43,490 --> 00:13:43,990

We refused.

223

00:13:43,990 --> 00:13:45,970

And I'm not going back.

224

00:13:45,970 --> 00:13:49,340

But we went back because
everybody said, you're foolish.

225

00:13:49,340 --> 00:13:50,510

They did it I already.

226

00:13:50,510 --> 00:13:52,760

There was in Berlin,
they did the same thing.

227

00:13:52,760 --> 00:13:55,160

And they said, you're
foolish not to go.

228

00:13:55,160 --> 00:13:56,210

It's coming to you.

229

00:13:56,210 --> 00:13:58,040

So we finally went.

230

00:13:58,040 --> 00:14:01,800

And I visit that place
where I was born.

231

00:14:01,800 --> 00:14:07,530

Where the little synagogue stand
and it wasn't there anymore.

232

00:14:07,530 --> 00:14:10,550

And when I asked--

233

00:14:10,550 --> 00:14:13,400

my sister gave me a push and
said, well, just ask for it.

234

00:14:13,400 --> 00:14:14,820

Can't you speak?

235

00:14:14,820 --> 00:14:20,600

It was naturally vandalism.

236

00:14:20,600 --> 00:14:23,680

It completely disappeared.

237

00:14:23,680 --> 00:14:27,470

It was a strange feeling to come
back and go to the same house

238

00:14:27,470 --> 00:14:28,710

where we lived so long.

239

00:14:28,710 --> 00:14:36,120

That my parents and my
father's sisters and brothers,

240

00:14:36,120 --> 00:14:40,090

they own that house and
they had to sell it.

241

00:14:40,090 --> 00:14:43,340

And at first we just used--

242

00:14:43,340 --> 00:14:45,530

we couldn't have the
house so they needed,

243

00:14:45,530 --> 00:14:48,560

and they made a bank
out of it first.

244

00:14:48,560 --> 00:14:53,660

And when we came
back, I just wanted

245

00:14:53,660 --> 00:14:55,600

to see what it looks like.

246

00:14:55,600 --> 00:15:04,030

And I also wanted to have
my birth certificate.

247

00:15:04,030 --> 00:15:07,860

And so I went into
house and said,

248

00:15:07,860 --> 00:15:09,620

my name is Gertrude Sonnenberg.

249

00:15:09,620 --> 00:15:12,160

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

250

00:15:12,160 --> 00:15:15,780

My sister, my husband,
we come from America.

251

00:15:15,780 --> 00:15:19,600

And I would like to get my
birth certificate it's possible.

252

00:15:19,600 --> 00:15:20,860

How much does it cost?

253

00:15:20,860 --> 00:15:22,380

\$2.

254

00:15:22,380 --> 00:15:23,410

2 marks or whatever.

255

00:15:23,410 --> 00:15:25,720

Fine, I want two.

256

00:15:25,720 --> 00:15:29,290

And I said by the way,
is there somebody here

257

00:15:29,290 --> 00:15:30,970

who is a little
bit older than you.

258

00:15:30,970 --> 00:15:33,080

I used to live in this house.

259

00:15:33,080 --> 00:15:35,770

And maybe there's
somebody we still know.

260
00:15:35,770 --> 00:15:38,900
And so they said that
the gentleman who

261
00:15:38,900 --> 00:15:46,060
was about middle age is not here
today, but we will arrange it.

262
00:15:46,060 --> 00:15:49,050
And I said, can we
go to the garden?

263
00:15:49,050 --> 00:15:51,080
That house was also
created that when

264
00:15:51,080 --> 00:15:55,240
you go from the bedroom out,
there was like a bridge.

265
00:15:55,240 --> 00:15:58,720
You go right into the
garden from the bedroom out.

266
00:15:58,720 --> 00:16:00,760
And that was--
everything was the same

267
00:16:00,760 --> 00:16:03,040
and I picked up some flowers.

268
00:16:03,040 --> 00:16:05,710
It was an unbelievable feeling.

269
00:16:05,710 --> 00:16:09,350
And then we went from there,
we went to the cemetery.

270
00:16:09,350 --> 00:16:11,900
There is a Jewish cemetery.

271
00:16:11,900 --> 00:16:19,250
And we walked there and
it was not destroyed.

272
00:16:19,250 --> 00:16:26,370
I think it's one shot
by on one gravestone,

273
00:16:26,370 --> 00:16:29,050
but everything else
was the way it was.

274
00:16:29,050 --> 00:16:31,100
And it was very
well taken care of.

275
00:16:31,100 --> 00:16:35,020
And they had a big sign on
it that this is a monument.

276
00:16:35,020 --> 00:16:39,160
And I mean, a landmark, more
or less, and you could go in

277
00:16:39,160 --> 00:16:42,340
and you can go through from
there to the other cemeteries

278
00:16:42,340 --> 00:16:44,440
and everything.

279
00:16:44,440 --> 00:16:47,040
It was incredible.

280
00:16:47,040 --> 00:16:51,220
And it's about 90% for the
whole cemetery was always

281
00:16:51,220 --> 00:16:54,240
the name of Michelson.

282

00:16:54,240 --> 00:16:56,050
Of course, we lived a long--

283
00:16:56,050 --> 00:16:58,190
from generation to generation.

284
00:16:58,190 --> 00:17:01,900
How large a family did you have?

285
00:17:01,900 --> 00:17:07,420
Well, my father had two
sisters, one brother.

286
00:17:07,420 --> 00:17:13,380
My mother had, I
think, six or seven--

287
00:17:13,380 --> 00:17:16,710
six brothers and
a sister, I think.

288
00:17:16,710 --> 00:17:21,500
And then we had lots of cousins.

289
00:17:21,500 --> 00:17:27,230
And oh, I would think all
together must be probably

290
00:17:27,230 --> 00:17:30,860
in the 20s or so.

291
00:17:30,860 --> 00:17:34,130
So we were always
surrounded with family

292
00:17:34,130 --> 00:17:36,120
and we were always also
very close, especially

293
00:17:36,120 --> 00:17:41,440
with my father's sisters
and the one brother,

294

00:17:41,440 --> 00:17:45,110

and with my mother's
sister we are very close.

295

00:17:45,110 --> 00:17:50,110

296

00:17:50,110 --> 00:17:53,050

We spent our vacation-- when we
lived in [Place name] we spend

297

00:17:53,050 --> 00:17:57,880

our vacation in Hausberge.

298

00:17:57,880 --> 00:18:03,420

Our relatives expected us
and it was a lovely time.

299

00:18:03,420 --> 00:18:06,360

But I could talk
about it forever.

300

00:18:06,360 --> 00:18:07,280

But, no.

301

00:18:07,280 --> 00:18:10,090

What you really want to know is
about the concentration camp.

302

00:18:10,090 --> 00:18:14,180

303

00:18:14,180 --> 00:18:18,140

I think when the war was
declared, not long after

304

00:18:18,140 --> 00:18:21,470

that we were all
called to the police

305

00:18:21,470 --> 00:18:26,570

and we had to get this picture

taken with a Kennkarte.

306
00:18:26,570 --> 00:18:29,450
It is a passport.

307
00:18:29,450 --> 00:18:33,910
And from now on when you had
to buy something, want to shop,

308
00:18:33,910 --> 00:18:35,780
you had to show that.

309
00:18:35,780 --> 00:18:41,010
Because since the war started,
the rations in Germany

310
00:18:41,010 --> 00:18:43,490
were not generous anymore.

311
00:18:43,490 --> 00:18:46,610
You couldn't get as much
coffee as you want, as much tea

312
00:18:46,610 --> 00:18:47,360
as you want.

313
00:18:47,360 --> 00:18:49,400
It was rationed.

314
00:18:49,400 --> 00:18:55,140
And we had to wait with our
Kennkarte and everybody was

315
00:18:55,140 --> 00:18:55,850
done--

316
00:18:55,850 --> 00:18:57,620
out of the store.

317
00:18:57,620 --> 00:19:00,220
And then we could buy.

318

00:19:00,220 --> 00:19:04,040

But you could not have
certain items like butter.

319

00:19:04,040 --> 00:19:05,630

You couldn't have--

320

00:19:05,630 --> 00:19:08,120

I don't think you could
have coffee either.

321

00:19:08,120 --> 00:19:12,950

All which things which
are, more or less,

322

00:19:12,950 --> 00:19:18,340

luxury item during the
war was not for us,

323

00:19:18,340 --> 00:19:21,470

only the bare necessities.

324

00:19:21,470 --> 00:19:25,790

Then came the time where you
had to walk in the street

325

00:19:25,790 --> 00:19:28,210

because you've
got a Jewish star.

326

00:19:28,210 --> 00:19:32,060

It's a bit bright yellow
star written Jude in German

327

00:19:32,060 --> 00:19:37,270

on it, but like Hebrew
symbols, more or less.

328

00:19:37,270 --> 00:19:44,315

And they told you exactly how
high, from the shoulder down

329

00:19:44,315 --> 00:19:45,950
on the left side.

330
00:19:45,950 --> 00:19:50,460
The first point of
the star has to sit--

331
00:19:50,460 --> 00:19:51,770
and we had to buy it.

332
00:19:51,770 --> 00:19:54,410
The first month was free
and rest you had to buy it.

333
00:19:54,410 --> 00:19:57,850
It wasn't expensive but--

334
00:19:57,850 --> 00:20:01,790
they had to make a couple
of dollars on us, I guess.

335
00:20:01,790 --> 00:20:06,080
And I remember then when my
mother and I had it sewn on

336
00:20:06,080 --> 00:20:10,970
and we went out, it was a
terrible feeling to be mocked.

337
00:20:10,970 --> 00:20:12,300
It's not as a Jude.

338
00:20:12,300 --> 00:20:15,320
You will just be mocked.

339
00:20:15,320 --> 00:20:21,770
And it was apparently
not sewn exactly

340
00:20:21,770 --> 00:20:23,450
as it should because
somebody come

341

00:20:23,450 --> 00:20:27,740
from the other side, some
Christian people and they said,

342

00:20:27,740 --> 00:20:29,000
look at them.

343

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:30,740
Look at those Jews there.

344

00:20:30,740 --> 00:20:34,770
That doesn't sit the
right way, the star.

345

00:20:34,770 --> 00:20:39,710
So when we went home we start
measuring and wasn't far off

346

00:20:39,710 --> 00:20:43,440
but it wasn't exactly
where it should have sit.

347

00:20:43,440 --> 00:20:49,310
That was-- you didn't feel
like going out anymore.

348

00:20:49,310 --> 00:20:51,830
But we were allowed.

349

00:20:51,830 --> 00:20:52,890
We had a curfew.

350

00:20:52,890 --> 00:20:55,380
We were allowed in
summer until 8 o'clock.

351

00:20:55,380 --> 00:20:58,335
And in winter we had
to be home at 7:00.

352

00:20:58,335 --> 00:21:01,080

353
00:21:01,080 --> 00:21:03,810
The times get worse.

354
00:21:03,810 --> 00:21:05,560
Oh, and then another thing.

355
00:21:05,560 --> 00:21:10,980
When you went to the
trolley car, or bus.

356
00:21:10,980 --> 00:21:16,800
Even if either, both was
empty and nobody was in,

357
00:21:16,800 --> 00:21:18,390
we had to stand in the back.

358
00:21:18,390 --> 00:21:20,760
You could not sit.

359
00:21:20,760 --> 00:21:24,480
When you where in
the street walking,

360
00:21:24,480 --> 00:21:27,090
you could not go
on the sidewalk.

361
00:21:27,090 --> 00:21:29,970
You had to walk in the gutter.

362
00:21:29,970 --> 00:21:34,560
This were all the outer
signs of being a Jew.

363
00:21:34,560 --> 00:21:40,660

364
00:21:40,660 --> 00:21:45,590
We had still quite some culture.

365

00:21:45,590 --> 00:21:48,290

We had the Jewish Kulturbund.

366

00:21:48,290 --> 00:21:52,760

That mean were Jewish-- where
activities and performance

367

00:21:52,760 --> 00:21:58,790

and music it was held--

368

00:21:58,790 --> 00:22:00,710

first it was held
in the synagogue--

369

00:22:00,710 --> 00:22:04,070

in the old synagogue before
they were burned done.

370

00:22:04,070 --> 00:22:06,490

The old synagogue,
they were not touched.

371

00:22:06,490 --> 00:22:08,150

The new one was burned down.

372

00:22:08,150 --> 00:22:12,110

And there the
activities took place.

373

00:22:12,110 --> 00:22:14,630

And we even had gym.

374

00:22:14,630 --> 00:22:18,680

We had parallel bars and
horse and everything.

375

00:22:18,680 --> 00:22:20,700

We had somebody, a
friend which I had,

376

00:22:20,700 --> 00:22:24,230

who is still living in Sweden.

377
00:22:24,230 --> 00:22:27,500
He was a teacher and we
went once a week there.

378
00:22:27,500 --> 00:22:30,040

379
00:22:30,040 --> 00:22:33,700
Otherwise, activity--
yeah, we could go.

380
00:22:33,700 --> 00:22:38,830
There was a family who lived
right in town in Hannover.

381
00:22:38,830 --> 00:22:41,480
And they had a big apartment.

382
00:22:41,480 --> 00:22:47,900
And they emptied it out and
they had activities there.

383
00:22:47,900 --> 00:22:51,260
We met there on Friday
nights, Saturday nights.

384
00:22:51,260 --> 00:22:52,910
We danced.

385
00:22:52,910 --> 00:22:55,640
Somebody played a record
player and we danced

386
00:22:55,640 --> 00:22:57,020
and you could buy coffee.

387
00:22:57,020 --> 00:22:59,810
And you were sitting like
you always do in Europe.

388
00:22:59,810 --> 00:23:02,270

You could sit for hours
over a cup of coffee

389
00:23:02,270 --> 00:23:03,470
with a little piece of cake.

390
00:23:03,470 --> 00:23:05,370
That is the way they do it.

391
00:23:05,370 --> 00:23:10,520
And even if you go back today,
you can sit that long there.

392
00:23:10,520 --> 00:23:14,020
And that is the way we met also.

393
00:23:14,020 --> 00:23:19,910
When that was forbidden
later on, we did it at home.

394
00:23:19,910 --> 00:23:22,340
We met young people.

395
00:23:22,340 --> 00:23:25,370
We met at everybody's home.

396
00:23:25,370 --> 00:23:28,730
We took turns and
with the record player

397
00:23:28,730 --> 00:23:29,950
and we played and we talked.

398
00:23:29,950 --> 00:23:31,610
It was our only entertainment.

399
00:23:31,610 --> 00:23:35,150
And then the Kulturbund
had to stop too.

400
00:23:35,150 --> 00:23:38,420
There was nothing anymore.

401
00:23:38,420 --> 00:23:46,910
And that went on for a few
years until one day-- oh,

402
00:23:46,910 --> 00:23:49,490
then the war.

403
00:23:49,490 --> 00:23:52,130
It started to show--

404
00:23:52,130 --> 00:23:53,600
the bombs were coming down.

405
00:23:53,600 --> 00:23:58,460
I think it was the English who
started to come over Germany,

406
00:23:58,460 --> 00:24:00,590
if I'm not mistaken.

407
00:24:00,590 --> 00:24:04,475
And we had to sit in
the cellar, of course.

408
00:24:04,475 --> 00:24:07,490

409
00:24:07,490 --> 00:24:12,520
Before that I went to
Munich and from there I --

410
00:24:12,520 --> 00:24:15,160
up to Bavaria because we
had some relatives there.

411
00:24:15,160 --> 00:24:16,740
And I spent a lovely time there.

412
00:24:16,740 --> 00:24:21,490
And one day I got a call
from the Jewish organization

413
00:24:21,490 --> 00:24:28,130
in Munich to come home,
so I said, what happened?

414
00:24:28,130 --> 00:24:31,300
They said nothing bad but
we wanted you to come home.

415
00:24:31,300 --> 00:24:35,440
Oh, I forgot to mention
that-- before I continue this.

416
00:24:35,440 --> 00:24:41,900
There came a time where
nobody could live in a house

417
00:24:41,900 --> 00:24:44,390
or apartment anymore.

418
00:24:44,390 --> 00:24:48,970
And you had to go to some
place like Jewish school.

419
00:24:48,970 --> 00:24:53,710
They closed the school and
took all the benches out

420
00:24:53,710 --> 00:24:58,240
and you lived there
with hundreds of people.

421
00:24:58,240 --> 00:25:00,910
And also that the
synagogue which-- where

422
00:25:00,910 --> 00:25:02,980
we had all the activities.

423
00:25:02,980 --> 00:25:05,170
That was for the Jews.

424

00:25:05,170 --> 00:25:08,590
You had to-- they all had
to give up their houses

425
00:25:08,590 --> 00:25:10,960
and apartments and they
lived together probably

426
00:25:10,960 --> 00:25:14,380
to get us all together
faster instead

427
00:25:14,380 --> 00:25:17,230
of going from house to house.

428
00:25:17,230 --> 00:25:18,490
And it was very hard.

429
00:25:18,490 --> 00:25:21,835
You could only take very
little with you already.

430
00:25:21,835 --> 00:25:24,670

431
00:25:24,670 --> 00:25:26,440
So when I came.

432
00:25:26,440 --> 00:25:28,780
When I heard from
Munich that I have

433
00:25:28,780 --> 00:25:33,470
to come home, my parents
and I, we lived already

434
00:25:33,470 --> 00:25:36,700
in the building in the school.

435
00:25:36,700 --> 00:25:39,810
And we lived downstairs
and had a big room

436

00:25:39,810 --> 00:25:44,260
with two beds and a couch.

437

00:25:44,260 --> 00:25:50,080
And that pretty much-- and a
closet and that was about it.

438

00:25:50,080 --> 00:25:54,700
The rest was just left in
the apartment where we lived

439

00:25:54,700 --> 00:25:57,970
and we had no
access to go there.

440

00:25:57,970 --> 00:25:59,950
The four of you were
together during this time?

441

00:25:59,950 --> 00:26:02,890
My sister was in Cologne.

442

00:26:02,890 --> 00:26:07,045
But she came later on when it
was about time that we thought

443

00:26:07,045 --> 00:26:10,300
we will probably transport--

444

00:26:10,300 --> 00:26:11,480
transported somewhere.

445

00:26:11,480 --> 00:26:14,050
She asked to come for a visit.

446

00:26:14,050 --> 00:26:18,640
You had to go to the police
to get permission to travel.

447

00:26:18,640 --> 00:26:22,700
And you could not travel
without permission.

448
00:26:22,700 --> 00:26:25,130
So my sister got the
permission and she came

449
00:26:25,130 --> 00:26:26,290
and she never went back.

450
00:26:26,290 --> 00:26:31,510
She went to-- in Hannover
to a Jewish hospital there.

451
00:26:31,510 --> 00:26:38,510
And a relative of my parent's
was the chief doctor there

452
00:26:38,510 --> 00:26:42,280
and it was no problem
to get in, of course.

453
00:26:42,280 --> 00:26:45,490
And then she stayed
with us, of course,

454
00:26:45,490 --> 00:26:49,000
until we all came away together.

455
00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:50,950
What happened to your
house when you left it?

456
00:26:50,950 --> 00:26:53,130
Was it occupied by someone else?

457
00:26:53,130 --> 00:26:57,250
In Hausberge where we
had owned our house.

458
00:26:57,250 --> 00:26:59,230
There the town took over.

459
00:26:59,230 --> 00:27:01,420

They made a bank out of it.

460

00:27:01,420 --> 00:27:05,260

And then later on
when we came back

461

00:27:05,260 --> 00:27:12,490

after so many years in 1980,
it was actually like an office.

462

00:27:12,490 --> 00:27:16,640

You could go apply
for a marriage license

463

00:27:16,640 --> 00:27:18,160

and front of town.

464

00:27:18,160 --> 00:27:20,110

It's like a city hall.

465

00:27:20,110 --> 00:27:22,785

But all those places.

466

00:27:22,785 --> 00:27:26,490

So if you want to
go for a divorce

467

00:27:26,490 --> 00:27:30,920

and have to go there or
something, or whatever it was.

468

00:27:30,920 --> 00:27:32,760

And it wasn't unchanged.

469

00:27:32,760 --> 00:27:37,580

They made the stairs wider
but the rooms were untouched.

470

00:27:37,580 --> 00:27:42,180

They made it more modern because
it was an old house already.

471

00:27:42,180 --> 00:27:46,340
But was a strange feeling.

472
00:27:46,340 --> 00:27:47,170
Yeah.

473
00:27:47,170 --> 00:27:50,170
So anyhow Where was I?

474
00:27:50,170 --> 00:27:55,404

475
00:27:55,404 --> 00:27:58,600
You were in these
rooms with your parents

476
00:27:58,600 --> 00:28:00,970
in this place where--

477
00:28:00,970 --> 00:28:01,850
In a temple.

478
00:28:01,850 --> 00:28:02,350
Oh, yeah.

479
00:28:02,350 --> 00:28:03,220
That's right.

480
00:28:03,220 --> 00:28:05,980
So when I finally
traveled through the night

481
00:28:05,980 --> 00:28:09,960
and arrived in the next morning
and I went home to Hannover

482
00:28:09,960 --> 00:28:12,455
and I went to the house where--

483
00:28:12,455 --> 00:28:14,580
to the school there--

484

00:28:14,580 --> 00:28:16,750

and go to that room
where we lived.

485

00:28:16,750 --> 00:28:19,360

And nobody was
there of my parents.

486

00:28:19,360 --> 00:28:22,450

Somebody else was there and they
didn't even know my parents.

487

00:28:22,450 --> 00:28:25,000

So I got a little
bit panic stricken.

488

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:26,760

and I went from room to room.

489

00:28:26,760 --> 00:28:29,180

Until I came up on the attic.

490

00:28:29,180 --> 00:28:33,060

And there was a little
tiny weensy little room

491

00:28:33,060 --> 00:28:35,170

and there were my parents.

492

00:28:35,170 --> 00:28:38,410

The reason was, they
brought more people

493

00:28:38,410 --> 00:28:41,270

in this school building.

494

00:28:41,270 --> 00:28:45,650

So in order that we
could be together,

495

00:28:45,650 --> 00:28:47,890

they put us all up in the

attic and we didn't have

496

00:28:47,890 --> 00:28:50,240
anybody else to share with.

497

00:28:50,240 --> 00:28:51,510
This was an attic.

498

00:28:51,510 --> 00:28:54,040
That was an attic already.

499

00:28:54,040 --> 00:28:57,310
And then the bombs are
falling and we had to get down

500

00:28:57,310 --> 00:28:59,410
and then we were
all in the basement.

501

00:28:59,410 --> 00:29:07,960
And the SS came around
and nobody should escape.

502

00:29:07,960 --> 00:29:11,800
Nobody can escape if the bombs
are falling down, believe me.

503

00:29:11,800 --> 00:29:16,840
So they could saved the trouble.

504

00:29:16,840 --> 00:29:23,400
Some people were
very smart thinking

505

00:29:23,400 --> 00:29:26,320
by going to other countries.

506

00:29:26,320 --> 00:29:30,720
Tried in good time
to get the visa

507

00:29:30,720 --> 00:29:33,780

and to get out of the country.

508

00:29:33,780 --> 00:29:38,020

Some people-- and I have
to include my father too--

509

00:29:38,020 --> 00:29:43,680

felt that we were more
Germans than Jude.

510

00:29:43,680 --> 00:29:49,140

And felt well for one,
this may blow over.

511

00:29:49,140 --> 00:29:53,810

Nobody will throw us out.

512

00:29:53,810 --> 00:29:59,940

And unfortunate by the time we
saw the light, it was too late.

513

00:29:59,940 --> 00:30:05,670

I know we go to Stuttgart
where the consulate was.

514

00:30:05,670 --> 00:30:10,510

And the quota was so
high, there was no way.

515

00:30:10,510 --> 00:30:12,650

And then you needed also money.

516

00:30:12,650 --> 00:30:15,420

Some people went illegal out.

517

00:30:15,420 --> 00:30:16,280

Many to Sweden.

518

00:30:16,280 --> 00:30:20,100

519

00:30:20,100 --> 00:30:21,870

I don't know.

520

00:30:21,870 --> 00:30:23,130

Maybe Argentina, I don't know.

521

00:30:23,130 --> 00:30:26,580

Many countries where
they could find.

522

00:30:26,580 --> 00:30:27,330

Well, we couldn't.

523

00:30:27,330 --> 00:30:29,340

We didn't have the money.

524

00:30:29,340 --> 00:30:35,490

And the only other thing was
I wanted to go to England.

525

00:30:35,490 --> 00:30:40,860

I figured that if I
go there as a maid--

526

00:30:40,860 --> 00:30:41,860

many people did it.

527

00:30:41,860 --> 00:30:46,170

And there's a chance you can
get your family also out.

528

00:30:46,170 --> 00:30:48,435

So I applied for that.

529

00:30:48,435 --> 00:30:52,380

And the woman who was
in charge had a sister

530

00:30:52,380 --> 00:30:54,060

and she lived in the country.

531

00:30:54,060 --> 00:30:55,750

And she said, well, Gertrude.

532
00:30:55,750 --> 00:30:56,790
I can't send you there.

533
00:30:56,790 --> 00:31:00,090
You don't understand anything
from house cleaning yet.

534
00:31:00,090 --> 00:31:03,410
You're much too young for
that but you have to learn it.

535
00:31:03,410 --> 00:31:06,420
And I send you to my sister.

536
00:31:06,420 --> 00:31:08,790
She will teach you.

537
00:31:08,790 --> 00:31:12,090
Which was the end of that.

538
00:31:12,090 --> 00:31:14,680
She wanted probably that her
sister get her house cleaned.

539
00:31:14,680 --> 00:31:16,262
It was very filthy.

540
00:31:16,262 --> 00:31:17,220
She couldn't work hard.

541
00:31:17,220 --> 00:31:19,710
She wasn't feeling
well and so on.

542
00:31:19,710 --> 00:31:20,730
And here I was.

543
00:31:20,730 --> 00:31:23,570
And maybe, just maybe,
I lost the chance

544

00:31:23,570 --> 00:31:25,650

that I could have gotten
out and maybe could

545

00:31:25,650 --> 00:31:27,600

have gotten my family out.

546

00:31:27,600 --> 00:31:31,610

But it is just a maybe.

547

00:31:31,610 --> 00:31:36,790

So instead we were
collected in Hannover.

548

00:31:36,790 --> 00:31:40,530

There was a Jewish
garden [INAUDIBLE]..

549

00:31:40,530 --> 00:31:45,510

A Jewish school for
teaching gardening

550

00:31:45,510 --> 00:31:50,970

and sewing and
housework for young kids

551

00:31:50,970 --> 00:31:54,900

who want to go to Israel
to the kibbutz and so on.

552

00:31:54,900 --> 00:31:58,070

That was preparation and they
went in order to schools there.

553

00:31:58,070 --> 00:32:01,830

Yeah, there they could go to
school in the Jewish school.

554

00:32:01,830 --> 00:32:03,870

So they emptied that out.

555

00:32:03,870 --> 00:32:06,840

And all those people who
were living in the synagogues

556
00:32:06,840 --> 00:32:09,422
and in the schools and
so on were collected

557
00:32:09,422 --> 00:32:12,720
with the police station--

558
00:32:12,720 --> 00:32:16,350
by the police, with
a police wagon, cart.

559
00:32:16,350 --> 00:32:18,630
Let's call it here.

560
00:32:18,630 --> 00:32:21,630
And we were picked
up alphabetically

561
00:32:21,630 --> 00:32:24,940
and we were brought
to that school.

562
00:32:24,940 --> 00:32:29,290
It was Hannover
[INAUDIBLE],, and we

563
00:32:29,290 --> 00:32:33,090
were told we should take a
knapsack with [INAUDIBLE]

564
00:32:33,090 --> 00:32:35,180
of clothes and that's it.

565
00:32:35,180 --> 00:32:37,970

566
00:32:37,970 --> 00:32:42,910
When our time came,
they picked us up.

567

00:32:42,910 --> 00:32:44,920

Before they picked us up--

568

00:32:44,920 --> 00:32:48,250

my father had a business

friend in Hausberge,

569

00:32:48,250 --> 00:32:50,740

where we have come from.

570

00:32:50,740 --> 00:32:54,910

And all of a sudden he appeared.

571

00:32:54,910 --> 00:32:58,300

And up to this day, I don't

know how he managed that.

572

00:32:58,300 --> 00:33:03,280

Because the whole school

was so surrounded by SS

573

00:33:03,280 --> 00:33:06,430

that nobody could

come in or out.

574

00:33:06,430 --> 00:33:10,970

And he was there.

575

00:33:10,970 --> 00:33:14,180

He said, do you have anything

what you cannot take along

576

00:33:14,180 --> 00:33:16,260

and what is precious to you?

577

00:33:16,260 --> 00:33:21,420

I take it and you will get

it back when you survive.

578

00:33:21,420 --> 00:33:25,200

I gave the little what's there.

579

00:33:25,200 --> 00:33:28,540

Very little jewelry, because
they picked everything up.

580

00:33:28,540 --> 00:33:32,780

They came just knocking
on the doors, the SS,

581

00:33:32,780 --> 00:33:34,710

collecting jewelries.

582

00:33:34,710 --> 00:33:37,120

Coming on that--
you have radios.

583

00:33:37,120 --> 00:33:40,350

Another time they
came you have liquor.

584

00:33:40,350 --> 00:33:43,620

Any time that the door--

585

00:33:43,620 --> 00:33:46,170

there was a knock on the
door, you got already scared.

586

00:33:46,170 --> 00:33:47,790

So there wasn't so much left.

587

00:33:47,790 --> 00:33:51,090

And what was left was
in the school building,

588

00:33:51,090 --> 00:33:54,870

before in the apartment where
you lived, or in the house.

589

00:33:54,870 --> 00:33:58,530

So you really had only 100
pounds what they allowed you,

590

00:33:58,530 --> 00:34:00,780

more or less.

591

00:34:00,780 --> 00:34:08,650

And so he gave it whatever
we had a few spoons,

592

00:34:08,650 --> 00:34:12,460

a few tablecloths.

593

00:34:12,460 --> 00:34:16,560

And believe it or not, we got
it back after we were rescued.

594

00:34:16,560 --> 00:34:20,600

595

00:34:20,600 --> 00:34:23,449

Unfortunately little
later he died.

596

00:34:23,449 --> 00:34:25,639

But he sent it back to us.

597

00:34:25,639 --> 00:34:27,760

He sent it-- our
names, we are all

598

00:34:27,760 --> 00:34:31,600

mentioned in the Jewish
papers, the Aufbau.

599

00:34:31,600 --> 00:34:39,469

And the people got that
to see who survived or not

600

00:34:39,469 --> 00:34:44,130

and he found our
name and he sent it.

601

00:34:44,130 --> 00:34:47,739

That was a decent
Christian person.

602

00:34:47,739 --> 00:34:51,580

There were a couple among them.

603

00:34:51,580 --> 00:34:53,530

Unfortunately, I
made a big mistake.

604

00:34:53,530 --> 00:34:56,100

I also had-- my mother
had a little locket

605

00:34:56,100 --> 00:34:57,670

and I always admired it.

606

00:34:57,670 --> 00:35:03,100

And I put it on and the lock
was not tight and I lost it.

607

00:35:03,100 --> 00:35:04,750

And I never forgave myself.

608

00:35:04,750 --> 00:35:10,510

I should have brought it to the
jeweler and should have done.

609

00:35:10,510 --> 00:35:13,670

But I couldn't wait to wear
it and unfortunate that

610

00:35:13,670 --> 00:35:15,310

was what happened.

611

00:35:15,310 --> 00:35:18,150

But we lost more than that.

612

00:35:18,150 --> 00:35:23,010

So then when we came to that--

613

00:35:23,010 --> 00:35:26,115

they called it auf--

614

00:35:26,115 --> 00:35:27,050
what did the call it?

615
00:35:27,050 --> 00:35:27,978
I forgot the name.

616
00:35:27,978 --> 00:35:29,020
It will come to me later.

617
00:35:29,020 --> 00:35:30,250
Anyhow, we were collected.

618
00:35:30,250 --> 00:35:33,100
1,000 Jews 1,000
ones from Hannover.

619
00:35:33,100 --> 00:35:38,260
Each transport would goes
out with 1,000 people.

620
00:35:38,260 --> 00:35:45,970
And we came to that place and
we stood there all night in line

621
00:35:45,970 --> 00:35:51,040
because they had to check us
out, if we had some jewelry.

622
00:35:51,040 --> 00:35:54,400
The women in one section and
the men to the other section.

623
00:35:54,400 --> 00:35:57,040
And we had to go to
the bathroom and there

624
00:35:57,040 --> 00:35:59,120
they undressed us
and they checked

625
00:35:59,120 --> 00:36:02,350
all over, under your arms,
under your legs, under your--

626
00:36:02,350 --> 00:36:06,950
they went in everywhere where
they could find jewelry.

627
00:36:06,950 --> 00:36:09,080
And when you were
through that night,

628
00:36:09,080 --> 00:36:10,810
you thought the end
was there already,

629
00:36:10,810 --> 00:36:13,660
then they say you can go in
that room and can lie down.

630
00:36:13,660 --> 00:36:18,190
It was just carpet--

631
00:36:18,190 --> 00:36:20,620
not carpet, straw.

632
00:36:20,620 --> 00:36:23,800
Was laying on the floor
and lay where you want to.

633
00:36:23,800 --> 00:36:26,070
And they gave you
something to eat.

634
00:36:26,070 --> 00:36:27,730
That took about
three days until we

635
00:36:27,730 --> 00:36:30,920
are all through, 1,000 people.

636
00:36:30,920 --> 00:36:36,400
Then again came the
police and said,

637

00:36:36,400 --> 00:36:40,270
we're going on the train--

638
00:36:40,270 --> 00:36:41,740
we bring you to the train.

639
00:36:41,740 --> 00:36:44,090
Where to, naturally.

640
00:36:44,090 --> 00:36:47,060
We were not been told.

641
00:36:47,060 --> 00:36:53,260
And I must say, we were one
of the few lucky transports

642
00:36:53,260 --> 00:36:57,700
who are sitting in a regular
train, not in a freight train.

643
00:36:57,700 --> 00:37:02,800
So there were eight
people in one [INAUDIBLE]..

644
00:37:02,800 --> 00:37:03,620
Yeah.

645
00:37:03,620 --> 00:37:04,480
Compartment?

646
00:37:04,480 --> 00:37:06,120
Compartment, yeah.

647
00:37:06,120 --> 00:37:09,080
And we got something to eat.

648
00:37:09,080 --> 00:37:13,970
They gave us some bread and
some cold cuts and other--

649
00:37:13,970 --> 00:37:18,090
I think some water we had

in a container as least.

650
00:37:18,090 --> 00:37:20,770
And where's our knapsack?

651
00:37:20,770 --> 00:37:22,510
Oh, that's already sent out.

652
00:37:22,510 --> 00:37:24,740
You will get it
wherever you arrive.

653
00:37:24,740 --> 00:37:27,300
Naturally we never saw it again.

654
00:37:27,300 --> 00:37:29,736
We really had only what
we had on our body.

655
00:37:29,736 --> 00:37:31,630
That was all.

656
00:37:31,630 --> 00:37:38,230
So we traveled for three
days and three nights.

657
00:37:38,230 --> 00:37:41,540
And the next first
morning we got out--

658
00:37:41,540 --> 00:37:48,490
two days-- three days,
two nights, I think.

659
00:37:48,490 --> 00:37:53,290
And we had even
heat in the train.

660
00:37:53,290 --> 00:37:58,300
We had a light in the train.

661
00:37:58,300 --> 00:38:03,115

They even stopped and got us
water couple time on the trip,

662
00:38:03,115 --> 00:38:05,430
so we thought we had it better.

663
00:38:05,430 --> 00:38:06,040
It was good.

664
00:38:06,040 --> 00:38:08,000
Do you have any idea
why they did that?

665
00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:08,745
No.

666
00:38:08,745 --> 00:38:09,550
I have no idea?

667
00:38:09,550 --> 00:38:10,360
Just random.

668
00:38:10,360 --> 00:38:17,840
Because the most other transport
came just in the freight train.

669
00:38:17,840 --> 00:38:20,320
So when we arrived,
naturally, they

670
00:38:20,320 --> 00:38:24,490
took the-- returned the
locomotive, dispatched it.

671
00:38:24,490 --> 00:38:28,920
And we had no heat,
no light, and nothing.

672
00:38:28,920 --> 00:38:30,130
And it was bitter cold.

673
00:38:30,130 --> 00:38:34,160

We were cold and we don't know
where we where, of course.

674
00:38:34,160 --> 00:38:38,690
And the next
morning, the SS came.

675
00:38:38,690 --> 00:38:42,520
And Juden raus.

676
00:38:42,520 --> 00:38:43,690
Hurry, hurry, hurry.

677
00:38:43,690 --> 00:38:47,650
And we came out
and we stood there.

678
00:38:47,650 --> 00:38:51,430
And then there was
a tall officer.

679
00:38:51,430 --> 00:38:55,700
Turned out to be
Langer was his name.

680
00:38:55,700 --> 00:38:57,740
I think he committed
suicide later on.

681
00:38:57,740 --> 00:39:01,560
I think I read it in some books.

682
00:39:01,560 --> 00:39:04,680
If there's anybody who
is sick and cannot walk,

683
00:39:04,680 --> 00:39:07,750
because we have a
long, long walk.

684
00:39:07,750 --> 00:39:12,910
And it was bitter cold, it
was freezing, it was snow.

685
00:39:12,910 --> 00:39:15,640
And he said, you
are in Skirotava.

686
00:39:15,640 --> 00:39:19,600
That is a suburb of Riga.

687
00:39:19,600 --> 00:39:21,910
That's all he said.

688
00:39:21,910 --> 00:39:23,950
My mother had terrible
asthma and I told her,

689
00:39:23,950 --> 00:39:27,870
why don't you go in the bus?

690
00:39:27,870 --> 00:39:29,410
Then you don't have to walk.

691
00:39:29,410 --> 00:39:30,580
Who knows where we'll be.

692
00:39:30,580 --> 00:39:32,110
She said, no.

693
00:39:32,110 --> 00:39:33,590
I'm walking with you all.

694
00:39:33,590 --> 00:39:39,190
And that was a blessing
because those bus were gassed.

695
00:39:39,190 --> 00:39:40,860
They never arrived together.

696
00:39:40,860 --> 00:39:44,770
So we walked for about
an hour and a half.

697

00:39:44,770 --> 00:39:50,680
And all over was the SS.

698
00:39:50,680 --> 00:39:54,280
And they pushed you with the gun
if you didn't go fast enough.

699
00:39:54,280 --> 00:39:57,730
And if you could manage
anymore, they shot.

700
00:39:57,730 --> 00:40:01,320
And that was all.

701
00:40:01,320 --> 00:40:05,560
But we didn't know at that
times the Latvian SS--

702
00:40:05,560 --> 00:40:07,850
they were worse
that the German SS.

703
00:40:07,850 --> 00:40:08,920
That is incredible.

704
00:40:08,920 --> 00:40:16,200
Most of the actions were
done by the Latvian SS.

705
00:40:16,200 --> 00:40:18,790
The German told them what
to do and they are only

706
00:40:18,790 --> 00:40:22,750
too willing to do it.

707
00:40:22,750 --> 00:40:26,770
And finally after
that long time,

708
00:40:26,770 --> 00:40:30,850
we matched in to the--
what to call-- ghetto.

709
00:40:30,850 --> 00:40:35,380
There was a cemetery right in
the beginning and we marched.

710
00:40:35,380 --> 00:40:38,680
And all of a sudden
the SS man said stop.

711
00:40:38,680 --> 00:40:43,240
There were a wall of
maybe four or five houses,

712
00:40:43,240 --> 00:40:45,070
something like that.

713
00:40:45,070 --> 00:40:48,970
He said, go in.

714
00:40:48,970 --> 00:40:52,480
So we went in.

715
00:40:52,480 --> 00:40:58,260
1,000 and one of us.

716
00:40:58,260 --> 00:41:00,570
Minus some people
who went on the bus

717
00:41:00,570 --> 00:41:03,020
and which were killed
already on the way

718
00:41:03,020 --> 00:41:06,270
because they couldn't
walk anymore.

719
00:41:06,270 --> 00:41:14,600
And it was incredible the
house were so dilapidated

720
00:41:14,600 --> 00:41:19,990

and on the table were food.

721

00:41:19,990 --> 00:41:22,180

Plates were filled fill.

722

00:41:22,180 --> 00:41:27,070

And spoons and knife still in
there and stuck in the food,

723

00:41:27,070 --> 00:41:30,160

as if some people would
have been there before

724

00:41:30,160 --> 00:41:33,940

and they were just forced to
get out the way they were.

725

00:41:33,940 --> 00:41:35,460

And that was really
what happened

726

00:41:35,460 --> 00:41:38,070

that we found out later on.

727

00:41:38,070 --> 00:41:47,710

They just killed the last
Jews there and there we come.

728

00:41:47,710 --> 00:41:50,640

So that was our only
food which we had.

729

00:41:50,640 --> 00:41:55,810

And on the walls, there
was still clothes hanging.

730

00:41:55,810 --> 00:41:57,590

But they couldn't take along.

731

00:41:57,590 --> 00:42:03,010

They say must have left right
from lunch or dinner table.

732

00:42:03,010 --> 00:42:06,130

And now find a bed.

733

00:42:06,130 --> 00:42:08,350

That was another problem.

734

00:42:08,350 --> 00:42:10,210

There were-- well

it's the one bedroom

735

00:42:10,210 --> 00:42:12,590

or two bedrooms the most.

736

00:42:12,590 --> 00:42:18,520

And the rest was the kitchen

and the, of course, living room.

737

00:42:18,520 --> 00:42:21,520

But was left unfurnished,

and there we slept.

738

00:42:21,520 --> 00:42:23,320

So you were billeted

in homes that

739

00:42:23,320 --> 00:42:24,940

had belonged to Latvian Jews.

740

00:42:24,940 --> 00:42:26,530

That's exactly.

741

00:42:26,530 --> 00:42:31,870

And the few Latvian Jews

who were not killed.

742

00:42:31,870 --> 00:42:38,340

I think there was a

group of about 300 Jews.

743

00:42:38,340 --> 00:42:40,310

Latvian Jews men.

744

00:42:40,310 --> 00:42:44,450

There was also a group
of a handful of women.

745

00:42:44,450 --> 00:42:45,550

But they were separated.

746

00:42:45,550 --> 00:42:47,575

They could not come together.

747

00:42:47,575 --> 00:42:54,857

748

00:42:54,857 --> 00:42:55,440

Wait a minute.

749

00:42:55,440 --> 00:42:57,910

[INAUDIBLE]

750

00:42:57,910 --> 00:42:59,150

You were looking for a bed.

751

00:42:59,150 --> 00:43:01,510

Yeah, we're looking for a bed.

752

00:43:01,510 --> 00:43:03,940

My sister and I, we slept--
my sister slept later

753

00:43:03,940 --> 00:43:06,970

on in the hospital as a nurse.

754

00:43:06,970 --> 00:43:08,460

But I slept on the floor.

755

00:43:08,460 --> 00:43:11,210

All the younger
generation like we

756

00:43:11,210 --> 00:43:15,110

were at that time, between

19, and 23 maybe, all

757

00:43:15,110 --> 00:43:16,910
the young people.

758

00:43:16,910 --> 00:43:19,550
We slept on the floor.

759

00:43:19,550 --> 00:43:23,890
Couple people slept
together in one bed.

760

00:43:23,890 --> 00:43:25,870
And I know my
parents-- there was

761

00:43:25,870 --> 00:43:29,020
a door which was
out of the hinges

762

00:43:29,020 --> 00:43:30,610
and there were two chairs.

763

00:43:30,610 --> 00:43:33,190
And they put the
door on the chair

764

00:43:33,190 --> 00:43:35,760
and that's where my
parents slept on.

765

00:43:35,760 --> 00:43:37,710
And what was there
on blankets were

766

00:43:37,710 --> 00:43:43,090
Jews, Who didn't get in fast
enough didn't have a blanket.

767

00:43:43,090 --> 00:43:46,750
So there we were sitting
and what will happen to us?

768

00:43:46,750 --> 00:43:49,170

Sitting and sitting.

769

00:43:49,170 --> 00:43:52,060

And the night came
and nothing happened.

770

00:43:52,060 --> 00:43:55,700

And then the next morning,
there was like an Appell.

771

00:43:55,700 --> 00:43:58,250

They let us come
out and told us,

772

00:43:58,250 --> 00:44:00,070

that this is where we will live.

773

00:44:00,070 --> 00:44:02,790

This is where we
were sent to work

774

00:44:02,790 --> 00:44:07,090

and this is where we get food
and they will get clothes.

775

00:44:07,090 --> 00:44:11,790

Well, we -- ask where's the
clothes which we took along.

776

00:44:11,790 --> 00:44:12,890

Supposed to be there.

777

00:44:12,890 --> 00:44:14,410

Well, we won't get that.

778

00:44:14,410 --> 00:44:18,340

From now on, the clothes
will be distributed.

779

00:44:18,340 --> 00:44:21,040

You can bring once a

week your dirty laundry

780

00:44:21,040 --> 00:44:24,830

and in exchange we
give you clean laundry.

781

00:44:24,830 --> 00:44:31,820

So the ghetto was
really a city in itself.

782

00:44:31,820 --> 00:44:39,560

They had Jewish
police was chosen.

783

00:44:39,560 --> 00:44:45,840

The Kommandant [Personal name]
[SPEAKING GERMAN] lager elder

784

00:44:45,840 --> 00:44:46,440

we called it.

785

00:44:46,440 --> 00:44:51,770

That the a man who has, a
Jew the say, over everything.

786

00:44:51,770 --> 00:44:54,880

And what he said, was the Bible.

787

00:44:54,880 --> 00:44:55,880

That had to be followed.

788

00:44:55,880 --> 00:44:58,750

789

00:44:58,750 --> 00:45:01,840

They built a shed
where clothes were.

790

00:45:01,840 --> 00:45:04,220

Where you could
exchange your clothes.

791

00:45:04,220 --> 00:45:06,970
Then there was a room where
you could go once a week

792
00:45:06,970 --> 00:45:09,010
to collect your food.

793
00:45:09,010 --> 00:45:17,530
You got a little bit
sugar, salt, potatoes

794
00:45:17,530 --> 00:45:19,330
which were frozen of course.

795
00:45:19,330 --> 00:45:23,350
But it taste terrible but
we had at least something.

796
00:45:23,350 --> 00:45:28,210
I think each one got five pound
for a month which is nothing,

797
00:45:28,210 --> 00:45:29,580
of course.

798
00:45:29,580 --> 00:45:36,440
And we got fish
heads and fish eyes.

799
00:45:36,440 --> 00:45:38,650
That was our main food.

800
00:45:38,650 --> 00:45:40,970
And how do you cook with it?

801
00:45:40,970 --> 00:45:44,180
So finally we were
very inventive.

802
00:45:44,180 --> 00:45:47,030
We found a grinder where
you grind meat with.

803

00:45:47,030 --> 00:45:50,210

And with the fish eyes and
the head we'll grind it.

804

00:45:50,210 --> 00:45:52,640

A little bit pepper,
a little bit salt.

805

00:45:52,640 --> 00:45:54,490

put a little bit
water in the pan

806

00:45:54,490 --> 00:45:58,810

and then you fried
it or baked it.

807

00:45:58,810 --> 00:46:01,170

Now where did you
get the wood from?

808

00:46:01,170 --> 00:46:06,370

The wood you just took
the chair and destroyed it

809

00:46:06,370 --> 00:46:08,990

and you sat in the beginning.

810

00:46:08,990 --> 00:46:11,260

Later on when we
went on Kommandos,

811

00:46:11,260 --> 00:46:13,700

we could bring wood
that was one thing where

812

00:46:13,700 --> 00:46:16,510

we are not hanged for
is when you brought wood

813

00:46:16,510 --> 00:46:18,690

into the ghetto.

814

00:46:18,690 --> 00:46:22,755
But we could not afford
to have that oven

815
00:46:22,755 --> 00:46:26,830
lit because it was too little
wood what you could carry.

816
00:46:26,830 --> 00:46:30,130
Sometimes you walk
two hours to Kommando.

817
00:46:30,130 --> 00:46:34,330
So somebody else was
very inventive again

818
00:46:34,330 --> 00:46:39,010
and built a little stove oven.

819
00:46:39,010 --> 00:46:41,330
I don't think it was much
bigger than that book.

820
00:46:41,330 --> 00:46:47,050
Maybe so much bigger
and maybe so high.

821
00:46:47,050 --> 00:46:49,090
And it is all miniature.

822
00:46:49,090 --> 00:46:54,160
Like little miniature door and
miniature rings which you'll

823
00:46:54,160 --> 00:46:58,180
lift it up and you'll cut the
wood in tiny little pieces

824
00:46:58,180 --> 00:46:59,610
and put it in.

825
00:46:59,610 --> 00:47:02,170
And put the rings on

again and lit it up

826

00:47:02,170 --> 00:47:06,610

and that was your heat and
that was your rate of cooking.

827

00:47:06,610 --> 00:47:09,710

It cost you a couple
ration of potatoes

828

00:47:09,710 --> 00:47:12,570

or whatever the
men wanted for it.

829

00:47:12,570 --> 00:47:14,340

But that's the only
way that we could

830

00:47:14,340 --> 00:47:18,220

have some warm water, because
otherwise we couldn't even

831

00:47:18,220 --> 00:47:20,060

wash.

832

00:47:20,060 --> 00:47:25,480

So you learn that if you just--
or even for a slice of bread,

833

00:47:25,480 --> 00:47:29,110

because you get a loaf
of bread in a week

834

00:47:29,110 --> 00:47:33,030

and didn't [INAUDIBLE]
was all what you had.

835

00:47:33,030 --> 00:47:36,800

Then started about to
going on Kommandos.

836

00:47:36,800 --> 00:47:39,820

The Kommando meant

in the mornings

837

00:47:39,820 --> 00:47:45,940

you had to show up a
certain collection point

838

00:47:45,940 --> 00:47:47,620

and there was a SS.

839

00:47:47,620 --> 00:47:49,540

And that I need, let's
say for instance,

840

00:47:49,540 --> 00:47:52,780

50 men for this
and this Kommando,

841

00:47:52,780 --> 00:47:56,230

and they counted 50
people and go with them.

842

00:47:56,230 --> 00:47:59,240

So that's what we had to do.

843

00:47:59,240 --> 00:48:01,780

We marched usually an
hour, hour and a half.

844

00:48:01,780 --> 00:48:02,810

Sometimes two hour.

845

00:48:02,810 --> 00:48:08,710

When it was longer, they had an
open truck where they put us on

846

00:48:08,710 --> 00:48:12,860

and we were standing, of course.

847

00:48:12,860 --> 00:48:15,610

And it was cold and we
were not dressed properly

848

00:48:15,610 --> 00:48:17,900
because we didn't have anything.

849
00:48:17,900 --> 00:48:20,110
And the little
bit-- what we found

850
00:48:20,110 --> 00:48:24,640
in the houses from the
[INAUDIBLE] we used.

851
00:48:24,640 --> 00:48:27,980
We had to sell it.

852
00:48:27,980 --> 00:48:29,740
I mean, sell it--

853
00:48:29,740 --> 00:48:33,130
we called it
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

854
00:48:33,130 --> 00:48:37,720
This was declared if they found
out that when you came back

855
00:48:37,720 --> 00:48:42,280
and they spot checked that you
had even as much as a button,

856
00:48:42,280 --> 00:48:44,140
you'll be hanged.

857
00:48:44,140 --> 00:48:46,360
But the time was so bad.

858
00:48:46,360 --> 00:48:48,460
The hunger was so great.

859
00:48:48,460 --> 00:48:49,630
You just had to do it.

860
00:48:49,630 --> 00:48:53,791

861
00:48:53,791 --> 00:48:57,020
Were many people
willing to run the risk?

862
00:48:57,020 --> 00:48:59,630
The whole ghetto.

863
00:48:59,630 --> 00:49:03,710
Anybody who could go
on an outside Kommando

864
00:49:03,710 --> 00:49:05,300
had to take something with me.

865
00:49:05,300 --> 00:49:06,470
I did it.

866
00:49:06,470 --> 00:49:09,200
Once or twice, I couldn't do it.

867
00:49:09,200 --> 00:49:10,500
I was so afraid.

868
00:49:10,500 --> 00:49:13,760
For a little handkerchief,
I got a little bit butter.

869
00:49:13,760 --> 00:49:15,040
And where do you hide it?

870
00:49:15,040 --> 00:49:15,860
On your stomach.

871
00:49:15,860 --> 00:49:19,290
And thank god it was
cold outside because it

872
00:49:19,290 --> 00:49:22,220
was below 30, 40 degrees.

873

00:49:22,220 --> 00:49:24,690

And it frozen on you too.

874

00:49:24,690 --> 00:49:26,960

You had nothing,
no warm clothes.

875

00:49:26,960 --> 00:49:30,200

But otherwise, it
would just come down

876

00:49:30,200 --> 00:49:32,355

and you would have been
caught and that's it.

877

00:49:32,355 --> 00:49:33,380

You were hanged.

878

00:49:33,380 --> 00:49:34,480

And then you'll be hanged.

879

00:49:34,480 --> 00:49:38,280

If the Kommando came back
at night from work, tired,

880

00:49:38,280 --> 00:49:40,410

with a little piece of
wood then you were hanged.

881

00:49:40,410 --> 00:49:46,240

It had to go to that collection
point and there was a gallow.

882

00:49:46,240 --> 00:49:47,980

And there the
people were hanged.

883

00:49:47,980 --> 00:49:54,410

And we were forced to look up
and look at them for at least a

884

00:49:54,410 --> 00:49:59,135

half hour before
we could go home.

885
00:49:59,135 --> 00:50:00,290
This a warning.

886
00:50:00,290 --> 00:50:02,890
When we do that it
will be the same fate.

887
00:50:02,890 --> 00:50:04,870
They made you stand
in a formation and--

888
00:50:04,870 --> 00:50:07,230
Yeah, we had to stand
in the way we came.

889
00:50:07,230 --> 00:50:08,420
And we have to look up.

890
00:50:08,420 --> 00:50:11,510
And they made sure that we look
up and they're hanging there.

891
00:50:11,510 --> 00:50:14,380
And many times I
see people which

892
00:50:14,380 --> 00:50:17,780
I know from the same group.

893
00:50:17,780 --> 00:50:22,130
And you have-- know them from
the same town and everything

894
00:50:22,130 --> 00:50:25,070
and there they were hanging.

895
00:50:25,070 --> 00:50:26,900
So it was not a picnic.

896

00:50:26,900 --> 00:50:29,460

897

00:50:29,460 --> 00:50:35,010

My parents-- my mother worked
in a factory building inside.

898

00:50:35,010 --> 00:50:37,410

So that the older
people stayed inside

899

00:50:37,410 --> 00:50:40,500

who are not able to work--

900

00:50:40,500 --> 00:50:46,005

go to work everyday in
all kind of weather.

901

00:50:46,005 --> 00:50:50,020

There were good Kommanders
and bad Kommanders.

902

00:50:50,020 --> 00:50:54,990

Inside my mother worked in a
factory sewing, preparing--

903

00:50:54,990 --> 00:50:56,640

what do you call it--

904

00:50:56,640 --> 00:51:00,090

uniforms from the front.

905

00:51:00,090 --> 00:51:03,910

My father had to clean the--

906

00:51:03,910 --> 00:51:10,920

oh, once he tried to get some
food and we were so desperate.

907

00:51:10,920 --> 00:51:12,570

And he made a mistake.

908

00:51:12,570 --> 00:51:14,870

He didn't think
right at that time.

909

00:51:14,870 --> 00:51:20,420

Went to Latvian SS guy who
was surrounding the ghetto.

910

00:51:20,420 --> 00:51:23,760

There were hundreds of them
and offered him something.

911

00:51:23,760 --> 00:51:26,340

Naturally he was reported.

912

00:51:26,340 --> 00:51:31,830

And only because my sister
worked in the hospital

913

00:51:31,830 --> 00:51:36,850

and know a doctor who
persuaded the SS--

914

00:51:36,850 --> 00:51:41,010

that Latvian SS somehow,
I don't know how.

915

00:51:41,010 --> 00:51:44,130

He was not shot.

916

00:51:44,130 --> 00:51:47,460

But he had to go
and clean the toilet

917

00:51:47,460 --> 00:51:50,340

and there was only one toilet
for the whole house and he

918

00:51:50,340 --> 00:51:54,720

and another guy had to clean
it for the rest of his days.

919

00:51:54,720 --> 00:51:55,820

And believe me.

920

00:51:55,820 --> 00:51:57,840

It would run over, constantly.

921

00:51:57,840 --> 00:51:59,120

It's was no pleasure.

922

00:51:59,120 --> 00:52:01,680

And you had no rubber
gloves or nothing.

923

00:52:01,680 --> 00:52:06,840

I mean, you were down
to the nitty gritty.

924

00:52:06,840 --> 00:52:10,840

And my sister worked
in the hospital.

925

00:52:10,840 --> 00:52:13,430

926

00:52:13,430 --> 00:52:17,340

And I went on the
outside Kommando.

927

00:52:17,340 --> 00:52:21,110

Usually you had to be there
by 5:00 6:00 in the morning

928

00:52:21,110 --> 00:52:23,060

with a slice of bread.

929

00:52:23,060 --> 00:52:24,890

And we were shoveling snow--

930

00:52:24,890 --> 00:52:33,180

I would say out of 12 months of
the year, at least five months

931

00:52:33,180 --> 00:52:34,880

there was snow on the ground.

932

00:52:34,880 --> 00:52:36,920

It's bitter cold.

933

00:52:36,920 --> 00:52:43,240

And sometimes it was so frozen
that even the locomotives

934

00:52:43,240 --> 00:52:46,760

with the soldiers who go to the
front, couldn't go anywhere.

935

00:52:46,760 --> 00:52:48,020

They were stuck.

936

00:52:48,020 --> 00:52:50,960

And who got to get them loose?

937

00:52:50,960 --> 00:52:51,870

We.

938

00:52:51,870 --> 00:52:56,930

We used to take this ice pick
and had to get the train loose.

939

00:52:56,930 --> 00:52:59,080

That took days
and days and days.

940

00:52:59,080 --> 00:53:00,810

They were sitting
nice in the rooms.

941

00:53:00,810 --> 00:53:04,250

942

00:53:04,250 --> 00:53:06,430

What kind of sleeping
quarters did you have?

943

00:53:06,430 --> 00:53:08,460

We were still in the houses.

944

00:53:08,460 --> 00:53:09,810

You came back at night.

945

00:53:09,810 --> 00:53:10,310

Huh?

946

00:53:10,310 --> 00:53:11,360

You came back at night.

947

00:53:11,360 --> 00:53:13,520

Yes, we came back at night.

948

00:53:13,520 --> 00:53:21,020

And eventually the
houses emptied out

949

00:53:21,020 --> 00:53:25,140

because there was one
execution after another.

950

00:53:25,140 --> 00:53:26,770

They need new Kommandos.

951

00:53:26,770 --> 00:53:27,900

They lied constantly.

952

00:53:27,900 --> 00:53:30,450

For instance they said
there's a Kommando Dunamunde.

953

00:53:30,450 --> 00:53:33,920

954

00:53:33,920 --> 00:53:36,220

That is a fish factory.

955

00:53:36,220 --> 00:53:39,890

Who wants to work
in fish factory?

956

00:53:39,890 --> 00:53:40,910

You can volunteer.

957

00:53:40,910 --> 00:53:41,780

It's beautiful.

958

00:53:41,780 --> 00:53:43,640

Then well something to eat.

959

00:53:43,640 --> 00:53:44,540

Fish factory.

960

00:53:44,540 --> 00:53:45,470

Sounds great.

961

00:53:45,470 --> 00:53:47,900

You put sardines in the cans.

962

00:53:47,900 --> 00:53:50,730

Oh, so many went.

963

00:53:50,730 --> 00:53:52,520

I think, how many?

964

00:53:52,520 --> 00:53:54,390

I think I have it
somewhere in the book.

965

00:53:54,390 --> 00:53:55,820

Maybe I have it here.

966

00:53:55,820 --> 00:53:56,610

Dunamunde.

967

00:53:56,610 --> 00:53:58,130

It was called Dunamunde.

968

00:53:58,130 --> 00:54:10,630

969

00:54:10,630 --> 00:54:12,410
It must be here somewhere.

970
00:54:12,410 --> 00:54:27,270
Oh, on the 30th of March
to first of April 1942.

971
00:54:27,270 --> 00:54:32,140
2000 people-- most
of them volunteered.

972
00:54:32,140 --> 00:54:35,640
That Kommando
never ever existed.

973
00:54:35,640 --> 00:54:37,972
They were just sent to the--

974
00:54:37,972 --> 00:54:39,430
they called it,
[SPEAKING GERMAN],,

975
00:54:39,430 --> 00:54:40,882
through the wood.

976
00:54:40,882 --> 00:54:44,230
Where they had to
dig their own graves

977
00:54:44,230 --> 00:54:47,280
and then take their
clothes off and they'll

978
00:54:47,280 --> 00:54:49,110
be shot from the back.

979
00:54:49,110 --> 00:54:50,680
That was the Kommando.

980
00:54:50,680 --> 00:54:54,970
So any Kommando where you
went to, it was a lie.

981

00:54:54,970 --> 00:54:59,380

And that was the fish factory.

982

00:54:59,380 --> 00:55:01,630

How did you find out that
these things happened?

983

00:55:01,630 --> 00:55:05,840

Because we had Jewish police.

984

00:55:05,840 --> 00:55:09,970

Our ghetto was a city, like
a city, we have policemen,

985

00:55:09,970 --> 00:55:13,710

we have stores.

986

00:55:13,710 --> 00:55:17,650

I mean, stores where you
get your food every week

987

00:55:17,650 --> 00:55:20,660

and you stood in line.

988

00:55:20,660 --> 00:55:24,020

There was a hospital
when we were sick.

989

00:55:24,020 --> 00:55:27,310

And there were Jewish
policemen chosen

990

00:55:27,310 --> 00:55:29,950

and they had to go
with the transports

991

00:55:29,950 --> 00:55:32,890

and then they came
back, they told you.

992

00:55:32,890 --> 00:55:35,140

And sometimes they

never came back

993

00:55:35,140 --> 00:55:37,300

because they were right
away killed with it.

994

00:55:37,300 --> 00:55:39,530

They depend on the Kommando.

995

00:55:39,530 --> 00:55:40,585

There was Kommando.

996

00:55:40,585 --> 00:55:43,290

It was called [INAUDIBLE].

997

00:55:43,290 --> 00:55:44,470

That must have been awful.

998

00:55:44,470 --> 00:55:48,400

999

00:55:48,400 --> 00:55:51,400

The first time that
was all the volunteer.

1000

00:55:51,400 --> 00:55:53,800

And I know I had a friend
I know him from Hannover

1001

00:55:53,800 --> 00:55:55,720

and he lived in the
same building with us

1002

00:55:55,720 --> 00:55:58,420

and his parents lived in
the same building with us.

1003

00:55:58,420 --> 00:56:02,150

And he said, you
know Gertrude, I go.

1004

00:56:02,150 --> 00:56:07,180

Then I can build barracks and we
will get a decent room to live,

1005
00:56:07,180 --> 00:56:09,370
your parents and my parents.

1006
00:56:09,370 --> 00:56:10,900
I said to him, don't go.

1007
00:56:10,900 --> 00:56:12,370
I have a feeling.

1008
00:56:12,370 --> 00:56:16,240
Something told me
always never volunteer.

1009
00:56:16,240 --> 00:56:17,800
What happens, happens.

1010
00:56:17,800 --> 00:56:19,790
But don't volunteer.

1011
00:56:19,790 --> 00:56:22,720
But he felt different
and he never came back.

1012
00:56:22,720 --> 00:56:28,000
And when he saw the light,
he escaped from work

1013
00:56:28,000 --> 00:56:32,140
from the truck
and they shot him.

1014
00:56:32,140 --> 00:56:37,160
And that was [INAUDIBLE].

1015
00:56:37,160 --> 00:56:39,110
And it says here
also how many people

1016
00:56:39,110 --> 00:56:42,790

were shot at with [? food. ?]
And one day, 14 men were shot

1017
00:56:42,790 --> 00:56:44,620
and I bet he was among those.

1018
00:56:44,620 --> 00:56:49,020

1019
00:56:49,020 --> 00:57:00,950
Another tragic thing happened
was Latvian Jewish police.

1020
00:57:00,950 --> 00:57:03,680
They were some
special elite people,

1021
00:57:03,680 --> 00:57:07,880
tall and healthy and young.

1022
00:57:07,880 --> 00:57:10,420
They had everything
going for him.

1023
00:57:10,420 --> 00:57:13,870
They spoke Latvian.

1024
00:57:13,870 --> 00:57:18,500
They even could speak
to the Latish people.

1025
00:57:18,500 --> 00:57:19,700
They had no problems.

1026
00:57:19,700 --> 00:57:20,570
They got things.

1027
00:57:20,570 --> 00:57:23,030
They got food how
and they found way

1028
00:57:23,030 --> 00:57:25,040

where they could
always somehow escape.

1029
00:57:25,040 --> 00:57:29,420
They came always back and
brought food along and so on.

1030
00:57:29,420 --> 00:57:31,400
And many benefited from them.

1031
00:57:31,400 --> 00:57:35,570
And one day it was
so bad they decided

1032
00:57:35,570 --> 00:57:39,040
that they will make an uproar.

1033
00:57:39,040 --> 00:57:41,270
They will not take
it any longer.

1034
00:57:41,270 --> 00:57:56,150
And that was on the 30th
of October, November?

1035
00:57:56,150 --> 00:58:03,070
Yeah, 30th of October 1942,
all 41 of these people--

1036
00:58:03,070 --> 00:58:06,040
somebody must've
given the secret away.

1037
00:58:06,040 --> 00:58:08,470
I don't know how.

1038
00:58:08,470 --> 00:58:14,440
They built in the big
stove, in the regular stove,

1039
00:58:14,440 --> 00:58:17,330
they took the
rings out and built

1040
00:58:17,330 --> 00:58:22,630
a walk that came underneath
the ghetto out into town.

1041
00:58:22,630 --> 00:58:25,580
And they brought
all the weapons in.

1042
00:58:25,580 --> 00:58:30,070
They wanted to kill the
SS and cause an uproar.

1043
00:58:30,070 --> 00:58:31,720
And that was found out.

1044
00:58:31,720 --> 00:58:35,500
So they had to come and they
had to run in the ghetto.

1045
00:58:35,500 --> 00:58:37,000
And then while
they're running, they

1046
00:58:37,000 --> 00:58:41,167
shot all the 41 men like that.

1047
00:58:41,167 --> 00:58:42,625
We have to pause
for a few minutes.

1048
00:58:42,625 --> 00:58:44,100
Is that one hour already?

1049
00:58:44,100 --> 00:58:45,250
Yeah.

1050
00:58:45,250 --> 00:58:46,800
Good.

1051
00:58:46,800 --> 00:58:52,000