

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:23,270

2
00:00:23,270 --> 00:00:24,530
Good morning.

3
00:00:24,530 --> 00:00:26,990
I'm Bernard Weinstein,
director of the Kean College

4
00:00:26,990 --> 00:00:30,130
oral history project
on the Holocaust.

5
00:00:30,130 --> 00:00:33,230
Assisting me is [? Freda ?]
[? Rimmers. ?] We welcome

6
00:00:33,230 --> 00:00:34,550
Joseph Weinbuch.

7
00:00:34,550 --> 00:00:36,600
Mr. Weinbuch?

8
00:00:36,600 --> 00:00:44,170
Yes, I'd like to tell
my part of my life,

9
00:00:44,170 --> 00:00:49,630
being in the '30s, as I
remember as a young man.

10
00:00:49,630 --> 00:01:02,400
And coming up, I experienced
my Holocaust not--

11
00:01:02,400 --> 00:01:06,090
and in 1939, when
Hitler came in,

12
00:01:06,090 --> 00:01:08,250

I experienced my
Holocaust in the '30s.

13
00:01:08,250 --> 00:01:10,230
Where were you born?

14
00:01:10,230 --> 00:01:10,730
KurÅ³w.

15
00:01:10,730 --> 00:01:13,680

16
00:01:13,680 --> 00:01:18,960
I was born in a
small town, KurÅ³w.

17
00:01:18,960 --> 00:01:20,250
In what country?

18
00:01:20,250 --> 00:01:21,260
Poland.

19
00:01:21,260 --> 00:01:23,130
And where was it near?

20
00:01:23,130 --> 00:01:28,710
That's near Lublin, PuÅawy.

21
00:01:28,710 --> 00:01:37,350
And I was very
disturbed in my youth.

22
00:01:37,350 --> 00:01:41,970
Still people are disturbed
from the Holocaust.

23
00:01:41,970 --> 00:01:46,680
I was disturbed in the
'30s as a youngster.

24
00:01:46,680 --> 00:01:53,610
I couldn't accept the

treatment as a Jew what

25

00:01:53,610 --> 00:01:57,600

I got in them years as a child.

26

00:01:57,600 --> 00:02:02,160

Not that I had anything against
the inhabitants of the Polish

27

00:02:02,160 --> 00:02:05,850

or the different people.

28

00:02:05,850 --> 00:02:08,970

I couldn't accept it
when I used to see

29

00:02:08,970 --> 00:02:14,010

the beatings, the disturbances
we used to go through--

30

00:02:14,010 --> 00:02:14,910

not necessary.

31

00:02:14,910 --> 00:02:21,360

My mother used to
say, Joseph, come in,

32

00:02:21,360 --> 00:02:24,470

you can't hang around outside.

33

00:02:24,470 --> 00:02:29,090

You'll get hit with a rock,
or you're going to get kicked.

34

00:02:29,090 --> 00:02:32,040

They used to close
up the shutters.

35

00:02:32,040 --> 00:02:34,950

At home, they used to close
the shutters when they

36

00:02:34,950 --> 00:02:37,170
were throwing rocks and things.

37
00:02:37,170 --> 00:02:41,020
After a while, naturally,
it subsided, it went away.

38
00:02:41,020 --> 00:02:45,300
But that was the
first experience

39
00:02:45,300 --> 00:02:49,260
I used to have as a young kid.

40
00:02:49,260 --> 00:02:51,365
Were you ever
personally threatened?

41
00:02:51,365 --> 00:02:52,560
Threatened?

42
00:02:52,560 --> 00:02:54,300
Yes, or beaten, or--

43
00:02:54,300 --> 00:02:55,370
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

44
00:02:55,370 --> 00:02:57,780
I was beaten in school.

45
00:02:57,780 --> 00:03:00,730
As I remember, as a youngster,
I was sitting in the back.

46
00:03:00,730 --> 00:03:04,800
There used to be like farm boys.

47
00:03:04,800 --> 00:03:07,350
They used to come in
for no reason at all

48
00:03:07,350 --> 00:03:12,920

and just give you a knock in
the head, a bang in the head.

49
00:03:12,920 --> 00:03:15,780
And for instance, I
remember one episode,

50
00:03:15,780 --> 00:03:18,320
my mother wanted me to
take up an instrument.

51
00:03:18,320 --> 00:03:21,780
I said to my mother, fine.

52
00:03:21,780 --> 00:03:23,210
I had my teacher--

53
00:03:23,210 --> 00:03:24,210
and I was in the chorus.

54
00:03:24,210 --> 00:03:27,510

55
00:03:27,510 --> 00:03:32,250
There must have been very
few Jewish kids or something.

56
00:03:32,250 --> 00:03:33,930
The teacher wasn't Jewish.

57
00:03:33,930 --> 00:03:37,410
What I remember outstanding
today, I came home,

58
00:03:37,410 --> 00:03:40,320
and my mother bought
me a violin and she

59
00:03:40,320 --> 00:03:42,710
wanted me to play the violin.

60
00:03:42,710 --> 00:03:46,170

Oh, I must have hit the
wrong note or something.

61
00:03:46,170 --> 00:03:48,900
The teacher came
down with his bow,

62
00:03:48,900 --> 00:03:52,890
hit me right here in the
head, knocking me in the head.

63
00:03:52,890 --> 00:03:55,410
Not talking to me, listen,
you made a mistake,

64
00:03:55,410 --> 00:03:58,650
or you did something wrong,
or you hit the wrong note.

65
00:03:58,650 --> 00:04:00,590
Hit me in the front
of the forehead.

66
00:04:00,590 --> 00:04:05,400
When I came home and my mother
said, what happened to you?

67
00:04:05,400 --> 00:04:07,440
As a kid, I didn't notice it.

68
00:04:07,440 --> 00:04:08,820
She saw a red mark.

69
00:04:08,820 --> 00:04:10,830
I told her the story.

70
00:04:10,830 --> 00:04:15,180
She says to me, you
know what, Joseph?

71
00:04:15,180 --> 00:04:16,050
That's enough.

72

00:04:16,050 --> 00:04:18,810

You're not going through
with this anymore.

73

00:04:18,810 --> 00:04:21,209

You put the violin away
and put everything away.

74

00:04:21,209 --> 00:04:24,081

75

00:04:24,081 --> 00:04:27,690

You don't need that extra thing.

76

00:04:27,690 --> 00:04:29,580

That was an extracurricular,
they would say,

77

00:04:29,580 --> 00:04:31,780

like music, you
know what I mean?

78

00:04:31,780 --> 00:04:33,290

And I stopped.

79

00:04:33,290 --> 00:04:34,040

I stopped at that.

80

00:04:34,040 --> 00:04:39,355

But that was the thing I used
to go through in them years.

81

00:04:39,355 --> 00:04:41,730

Do you think this teacher did
it because you were Jewish?

82

00:04:41,730 --> 00:04:44,880

83

00:04:44,880 --> 00:04:52,090

As a grown up man,
I will not say

84

00:04:52,090 --> 00:04:54,870
that he did it why I was a Jew.

85

00:04:54,870 --> 00:04:58,050
But he didn't do it
to any other kids.

86

00:04:58,050 --> 00:05:03,210

87

00:05:03,210 --> 00:05:10,800
As I remember it, I
wasn't so non-cooperative.

88

00:05:10,800 --> 00:05:15,260
My mother was-- in them years,
was a very educated person.

89

00:05:15,260 --> 00:05:19,090
You know, them years
going back 65 years ago.

90

00:05:19,090 --> 00:05:24,450
She was a nurse, a
very educated person.

91

00:05:24,450 --> 00:05:26,255
She brought up three children.

92

00:05:26,255 --> 00:05:29,770
And I think my brother and I--

93

00:05:29,770 --> 00:05:34,560
the education we got is minimal.

94

00:05:34,560 --> 00:05:40,980
But I think she put something
into the kids, where--

95

00:05:40,980 --> 00:05:44,530
I don't know whoever

meets me wherever I go,

96

00:05:44,530 --> 00:05:55,890

I try to not put myself as a
show-off, but that's my nature.

97

00:05:55,890 --> 00:06:02,930

My mother said to me, I
remember, be good to people,

98

00:06:02,930 --> 00:06:06,360

and that's what
going to do you good.

99

00:06:06,360 --> 00:06:11,670

And always not in
a rough position.

100

00:06:11,670 --> 00:06:14,190

Even my kids today,
they say to me--

101

00:06:14,190 --> 00:06:16,680

Lorraine says to me--

102

00:06:16,680 --> 00:06:22,320

Dad, how come I have to
always forget and forgive?

103

00:06:22,320 --> 00:06:26,820

And I have some people that come
down to me very rough to me.

104

00:06:26,820 --> 00:06:32,880

She says to me, you always told
us always step away from people

105

00:06:32,880 --> 00:06:37,440

who are abusing you, or who
try to be rough with you.

106

00:06:37,440 --> 00:06:38,680

Don't answer them.

107
00:06:38,680 --> 00:06:44,740
Don't try to be rough with them.

108
00:06:44,740 --> 00:06:47,620
If they would know what
they're saying to you

109
00:06:47,620 --> 00:06:53,890
or what they're going to say,
they will not do this thing.

110
00:06:53,890 --> 00:06:55,900
They will not say them things.

111
00:06:55,900 --> 00:06:58,180
And she always complains
about it to me.

112
00:06:58,180 --> 00:06:59,800
Oh, Dad, you must be wrong.

113
00:06:59,800 --> 00:07:02,710
I said, Lorraine,
I am not wrong.

114
00:07:02,710 --> 00:07:04,120
I'm on the right path.

115
00:07:04,120 --> 00:07:05,200
You be nice.

116
00:07:05,200 --> 00:07:09,650
Look, I came here to the
United States without one cent.

117
00:07:09,650 --> 00:07:11,970
I had \$35.

118
00:07:11,970 --> 00:07:14,050
I got a gorgeous home.

119

00:07:14,050 --> 00:07:15,710

I had some business.

120

00:07:15,710 --> 00:07:19,130

I've been respected
in my community.

121

00:07:19,130 --> 00:07:22,300

I did a lot of things
for the neighborhood.

122

00:07:22,300 --> 00:07:23,920

I used to every year--

123

00:07:23,920 --> 00:07:27,160

you can ask the B'nai
B'rith, and this,

124

00:07:27,160 --> 00:07:29,640

I put it on the
record on this tape.

125

00:07:29,640 --> 00:07:30,640

You're going to have it.

126

00:07:30,640 --> 00:07:33,100

You can ask the
Springfield B'nai B'rith.

127

00:07:33,100 --> 00:07:39,955

I contribute every
year for Thanksgiving

128

00:07:39,955 --> 00:07:46,560

for 10 people, 10 dinners,
from turkeys to the food.

129

00:07:46,560 --> 00:07:49,780

Whatever was necessary
with the turkey.

130

00:07:49,780 --> 00:07:53,920

And people in Springfield
can verify that.

131
00:07:53,920 --> 00:07:57,280
I did it for a
reason as a person,

132
00:07:57,280 --> 00:08:02,560
as I like to be a humanitarian
and be good to people.

133
00:08:02,560 --> 00:08:05,890
I did it-- when I
was hungry years ago.

134
00:08:05,890 --> 00:08:13,990
I used to hang around in
the fields, in the marshes.

135
00:08:13,990 --> 00:08:20,000
I was hungry, cold, without
shoes, without anything.

136
00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:32,049
And I used to think to
myself, if I ever survive,

137
00:08:32,049 --> 00:08:36,200
I have to see better
things for humans.

138
00:08:36,200 --> 00:08:42,220
And actually, I usually
didn't ask people

139
00:08:42,220 --> 00:08:43,780
whom they give the packages.

140
00:08:43,780 --> 00:08:49,960
Well, I was to a close friend
who picked up the packages,

141
00:08:49,960 --> 00:08:55,120

he said once to me,
you know, Joseph,

142
00:08:55,120 --> 00:08:58,150
very few of our Jewish people
in our town getting this.

143
00:08:58,150 --> 00:09:03,370
I think they're mostly poor
people as non-Jews, maybe

144
00:09:03,370 --> 00:09:04,360
very few Jews.

145
00:09:04,360 --> 00:09:07,610
But none of the Jews were picked
together all kind of stuff.

146
00:09:07,610 --> 00:09:11,900
And I used to contribute
for years and years.

147
00:09:11,900 --> 00:09:14,770
They used to come down
to me, I used to give it,

148
00:09:14,770 --> 00:09:18,730
from eggs, to every little
thing I used to give them.

149
00:09:18,730 --> 00:09:22,600
And even now I'm
out of business,

150
00:09:22,600 --> 00:09:28,640
I still contribute monetary
contributions with things.

151
00:09:28,640 --> 00:09:31,660
But I remember when
I was a youngster,

152
00:09:31,660 --> 00:09:38,620

and I used to beg for a
bottle of some little milk

153
00:09:38,620 --> 00:09:40,930
or a slice of bread.

154
00:09:40,930 --> 00:09:44,410
And that was my main thing.

155
00:09:44,410 --> 00:09:47,740
If I trusted the people
that worked near that area.

156
00:09:47,740 --> 00:09:55,430
Most of the time, I was eating
like sugar beets, carrots.

157
00:09:55,430 --> 00:10:01,381
And one time, a
farmer caught me.

158
00:10:01,381 --> 00:10:05,580
He was somehow a fine man.

159
00:10:05,580 --> 00:10:08,690
Another thing is
he knew my father.

160
00:10:08,690 --> 00:10:12,670
He knew me, my family.

161
00:10:12,670 --> 00:10:15,220
He says to me, you
know, there is not

162
00:10:15,220 --> 00:10:16,630
a difference from carrots.

163
00:10:16,630 --> 00:10:21,910
The top from the
carrots, they call it--

164

00:10:21,910 --> 00:10:22,440
it's not.

165
00:10:22,440 --> 00:10:23,982
It's a white stuff, a long one.

166
00:10:23,982 --> 00:10:24,940
They look like carrots.

167
00:10:24,940 --> 00:10:26,232
I don't know what they call it.

168
00:10:26,232 --> 00:10:28,300
They put it in the soup.

169
00:10:28,300 --> 00:10:31,820
He said to me, you know,
that's not good to eat.

170
00:10:31,820 --> 00:10:34,510
But the carrots are good to eat.

171
00:10:34,510 --> 00:10:37,090
But if you want some
carrots, don't go down

172
00:10:37,090 --> 00:10:39,577
where you're spoiling-- well,
you know, I used to be a kid,

173
00:10:39,577 --> 00:10:40,660
I used to push it back in.

174
00:10:40,660 --> 00:10:43,780
I used to see a white end,
I used to put it back in.

175
00:10:43,780 --> 00:10:46,930
And then he used to say to
me, if you want some carrots,

176
00:10:46,930 --> 00:10:49,180

I'll give you some carrots.

177
00:10:49,180 --> 00:10:50,730
Don't go down to the fields.

178
00:10:50,730 --> 00:10:52,940
But it was a distance
from his house.

179
00:10:52,940 --> 00:10:54,850
I could never trust
myself to go in.

180
00:10:54,850 --> 00:11:00,070
And somehow, he must have
waited for me somewhere hidden,

181
00:11:00,070 --> 00:11:04,300
where he somehow
said to himself,

182
00:11:04,300 --> 00:11:08,500
I must catch that
guy, or somebody who--

183
00:11:08,500 --> 00:11:12,940
and things like this, and
I remember them things very

184
00:11:12,940 --> 00:11:16,540
precisely that I went through.

185
00:11:16,540 --> 00:11:18,770
It was a horrible thing.

186
00:11:18,770 --> 00:11:29,440
So that's why I took up, and
I give now as much as I can

187
00:11:29,440 --> 00:11:31,120
for charitable things.

188

00:11:31,120 --> 00:11:38,670
And if I can help anyone,
if I can do something-- not

189
00:11:38,670 --> 00:11:41,990
I'm trying to--
that's my nature.

190
00:11:41,990 --> 00:11:52,270
I understand you can't
go through your life

191
00:11:52,270 --> 00:11:59,980
being a nasty individual.

192
00:11:59,980 --> 00:12:05,810
My kids, my family ask me
a lot of time questions.

193
00:12:05,810 --> 00:12:08,000
I give them an answer.

194
00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:10,600
And they say to
me, Dad, how do you

195
00:12:10,600 --> 00:12:12,850
know it's going to work out?

196
00:12:12,850 --> 00:12:15,070
I say to them, listen,
how do you know

197
00:12:15,070 --> 00:12:17,170
it's not going to work out?

198
00:12:17,170 --> 00:12:22,010
I think positive.

199
00:12:22,010 --> 00:12:25,060
You can't keep on
going and thinking

200

00:12:25,060 --> 00:12:27,620

about things that's
not going to work,

201

00:12:27,620 --> 00:12:28,870

and this is not going to work.

202

00:12:28,870 --> 00:12:30,700

It must work.

203

00:12:30,700 --> 00:12:35,290

It must not work,
but you could try.

204

00:12:35,290 --> 00:12:40,180

You could do things your best.

205

00:12:40,180 --> 00:12:50,210

And that's my way of expressing
as long as I'm going to live.

206

00:12:50,210 --> 00:12:59,410

Even in a business way, I
used to be nice to the people,

207

00:12:59,410 --> 00:13:00,800

always nice.

208

00:13:00,800 --> 00:13:03,540

And what happened?

209

00:13:03,540 --> 00:13:08,080

I always can go back the way
I am not right now that I

210

00:13:08,080 --> 00:13:09,410

didn't do the wrong thing.

211

00:13:09,410 --> 00:13:11,060

That's why I'm telling my kids.

212

00:13:11,060 --> 00:13:11,977

I didn't do the wrong.

213

00:13:11,977 --> 00:13:13,150

I was nice to the people.

214

00:13:13,150 --> 00:13:18,640

And that's what got
me where I am today.

215

00:13:18,640 --> 00:13:22,400

If we could go back, what
was your father's occupation?

216

00:13:22,400 --> 00:13:22,900

My father--

217

00:13:22,900 --> 00:13:25,360

And would you describe the
rest of your family before?

218

00:13:25,360 --> 00:13:29,430

My father's occupation
was like, for instance,

219

00:13:29,430 --> 00:13:32,050

he had like a small--

220

00:13:32,050 --> 00:13:45,060

but in that time, it was a big
enough to have a family supply.

221

00:13:45,060 --> 00:13:48,000

I mean, he could
afford the family

222

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:51,410

in well standard, not
luxurious, well standard.

223

00:13:51,410 --> 00:13:57,980

He used to have like a general
store, like grocery, meats,

224
00:13:57,980 --> 00:13:58,500
I think.

225
00:13:58,500 --> 00:14:02,050
But actually, he
used to do more.

226
00:14:02,050 --> 00:14:04,110
Let's say, for
instance, my father

227
00:14:04,110 --> 00:14:05,610
used to go on the market.

228
00:14:05,610 --> 00:14:10,290
He used to be more towards
like the meat business

229
00:14:10,290 --> 00:14:12,300
and the grocery business.

230
00:14:12,300 --> 00:14:14,670
But the major thing
is my father used

231
00:14:14,670 --> 00:14:17,330
to buy for somebody, like a--

232
00:14:17,330 --> 00:14:20,890
I don't know how you call this.

233
00:14:20,890 --> 00:14:25,860
He used to be a supplier
for certain people.

234
00:14:25,860 --> 00:14:30,930
[INAUDIBLE] biggest task is to
buy things and ship them over.

235
00:14:30,930 --> 00:14:34,770
Like Warsaw, I

remember even my father

236

00:14:34,770 --> 00:14:38,850

used to mention them
people, big people

237

00:14:38,850 --> 00:14:40,860

in the capital of Warsaw.

238

00:14:40,860 --> 00:14:43,170

It used to be one of
the wholesalers used

239

00:14:43,170 --> 00:14:47,920

to come down to my father
and give him some money.

240

00:14:47,920 --> 00:14:50,640

My father was a very
trustworthy man.

241

00:14:50,640 --> 00:14:55,020

Why, in them years, if you
hand somebody some money,

242

00:14:55,020 --> 00:15:00,090

that you had to hand it to
somebody money who's reliable.

243

00:15:00,090 --> 00:15:01,830

So my father used to--

244

00:15:01,830 --> 00:15:08,590

that person in Warsaw I
remember called him a name,

245

00:15:08,590 --> 00:15:13,260

[? Benham ?] [? Prajan. ?]

And he used to come down

246

00:15:13,260 --> 00:15:14,240

to our home.

247

00:15:14,240 --> 00:15:17,040

He used to hand my
father X amount of money.

248

00:15:17,040 --> 00:15:18,933

He used to say, you buy me that.

249

00:15:18,933 --> 00:15:20,100

And he used to send them in.

250

00:15:20,100 --> 00:15:30,740

He used to get like a certain
percentage of whatever he

251

00:15:30,740 --> 00:15:31,770

sent in.

252

00:15:31,770 --> 00:15:34,370

If it was the market
good, he used to get more.

253

00:15:34,370 --> 00:15:37,290

If less-- and that's
what we used to carry on.

254

00:15:37,290 --> 00:15:40,440

We had a nice family and
nice home, not luxurious,

255

00:15:40,440 --> 00:15:45,270

but in the standard
going back 70 years ago,

256

00:15:45,270 --> 00:15:50,940

I would say it was a very
nice setup for our family.

257

00:15:50,940 --> 00:15:52,890

How many brothers and
sisters did you have?

258

00:15:52,890 --> 00:15:57,420

I had one sister
and one brother.

259
00:15:57,420 --> 00:16:03,480
My sister-- I was in the line.

260
00:16:03,480 --> 00:16:07,170
I was going away with my mother
and my sister and my brother.

261
00:16:07,170 --> 00:16:08,880
My father didn't join us.

262
00:16:08,880 --> 00:16:11,730

263
00:16:11,730 --> 00:16:15,180
He wasn't at home, and then
later on, he saw what happened,

264
00:16:15,180 --> 00:16:16,260
and he didn't join us.

265
00:16:16,260 --> 00:16:20,190
But I went away with my
mother and brother and sister.

266
00:16:20,190 --> 00:16:25,200
In that line, we were
driven with these people--

267
00:16:25,200 --> 00:16:27,040
with all our town drive out.

268
00:16:27,040 --> 00:16:30,270
It was like Easter time,
second day of Easter.

269
00:16:30,270 --> 00:16:34,320
This was this was after
the war began, or before?

270

00:16:34,320 --> 00:16:38,457

No, that that was during
the wartime, during the war.

271

00:16:38,457 --> 00:16:39,290

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

272

00:16:39,290 --> 00:16:40,800

It was 1941.

273

00:16:40,800 --> 00:16:41,300

Yeah.

274

00:16:41,300 --> 00:16:43,890

They come in in 1939.

275

00:16:43,890 --> 00:16:49,110

So I went away with that line.

276

00:16:49,110 --> 00:16:51,270

We supposed to go into a train.

277

00:16:51,270 --> 00:16:54,330

Before they come into the train,
we couldn't get the train,

278

00:16:54,330 --> 00:16:59,400

and they put us into a barn,
a few thousand people, women

279

00:16:59,400 --> 00:17:01,300

and children and sick people.

280

00:17:01,300 --> 00:17:02,160

And I was there.

281

00:17:02,160 --> 00:17:04,900

I said to my mother, I can't
stay in that building inside.

282

00:17:04,900 --> 00:17:09,089

But it was like with wire

around that building,

283

00:17:09,089 --> 00:17:10,680
and partially wood.

284

00:17:10,680 --> 00:17:13,099
And my mother said to me--

285

00:17:13,099 --> 00:17:16,770
not every mother to the--

286

00:17:16,770 --> 00:17:20,280
every child thinks that
their mother is the best.

287

00:17:20,280 --> 00:17:24,420
But I think my mother was the
best and the smartest one,

288

00:17:24,420 --> 00:17:30,450
already going back 50
years ago, I would say.

289

00:17:30,450 --> 00:17:35,160
She said to me and my brother,
we are going on our death.

290

00:17:35,160 --> 00:17:36,750
We are going to be all killed.

291

00:17:36,750 --> 00:17:38,820
You know what you do, Joseph?

292

00:17:38,820 --> 00:17:39,940
Get out of here.

293

00:17:39,940 --> 00:17:41,250
Run out of here.

294

00:17:41,250 --> 00:17:44,160
David-- to my brother--
run out of here.

295
00:17:44,160 --> 00:17:48,180
And she even said to my
sister, get out you too.

296
00:17:48,180 --> 00:17:50,220
But my sister wouldn't go.

297
00:17:50,220 --> 00:17:55,140
She's hung on like a girl,
she hanged on to my--

298
00:17:55,140 --> 00:17:56,730
she was with my mother.

299
00:17:56,730 --> 00:17:58,740
But I took my mother's--

300
00:17:58,740 --> 00:18:03,420
I was very alert as a
young man, you know?

301
00:18:03,420 --> 00:18:05,670
As a kid, I was very alert.

302
00:18:05,670 --> 00:18:09,390
And I said to my mother,
I'm going to get out.

303
00:18:09,390 --> 00:18:11,150
And so my brother went after me.

304
00:18:11,150 --> 00:18:15,870
And somehow, I sneaked
through that fence,

305
00:18:15,870 --> 00:18:20,157
and I ran away
back into the town.

306
00:18:20,157 --> 00:18:22,490
What was the age difference

between you and your brother

307

00:18:22,490 --> 00:18:22,640
and your sister?

308

00:18:22,640 --> 00:18:24,380
Five years, four
and a half years.

309

00:18:24,380 --> 00:18:25,630
You were the oldest?

310

00:18:25,630 --> 00:18:27,810
I was the oldest, yes.

311

00:18:27,810 --> 00:18:30,720
And I went back into the town.

312

00:18:30,720 --> 00:18:33,300
It's another thing,
because as I ran out

313

00:18:33,300 --> 00:18:37,740
of this camp that was where
all the people were held,

314

00:18:37,740 --> 00:18:41,960
that town, Konskowola was
still intact with the Jews.

315

00:18:41,960 --> 00:18:43,370
They didn't drive them out.

316

00:18:43,370 --> 00:18:46,430
They thought they're going
to take them out on the end.

317

00:18:46,430 --> 00:18:49,640
So I had my aunt living there.

318

00:18:49,640 --> 00:18:52,460
And I said to her--

319
00:18:52,460 --> 00:18:54,850
I went in the house I
know where she lives.

320
00:18:54,850 --> 00:18:57,050
And she says to me, you
know, Joseph run away.

321
00:18:57,050 --> 00:19:00,290
Don't stay here, where
there's horrible things.

322
00:19:00,290 --> 00:19:04,550
There used to be some of the--

323
00:19:04,550 --> 00:19:08,620
so to say some
Jewish young people.

324
00:19:08,620 --> 00:19:11,850
I would call them hoods.

325
00:19:11,850 --> 00:19:19,490
And they were somehow
cooperating with the Germans

326
00:19:19,490 --> 00:19:20,230
and the Ukraines.

327
00:19:20,230 --> 00:19:23,130

328
00:19:23,130 --> 00:19:26,100
And the somehow, she
said to me, run away.

329
00:19:26,100 --> 00:19:27,810
They might take you
in if they know.

330
00:19:27,810 --> 00:19:29,040

They'll take you back.

331
00:19:29,040 --> 00:19:29,940
And I took her word.

332
00:19:29,940 --> 00:19:32,880
And it must have been
around 4:00 in the morning.

333
00:19:32,880 --> 00:19:34,860
I was there during the day.

334
00:19:34,860 --> 00:19:39,320
At 4:00 in the morning, I
ran away back to my town.

335
00:19:39,320 --> 00:19:44,430
I was enough alert that
I didn't go into the--

336
00:19:44,430 --> 00:19:45,970
it was like little villages.

337
00:19:45,970 --> 00:19:49,500
And I didn't go in there,
but I went a distance

338
00:19:49,500 --> 00:19:52,790
away from the main road,
and away from the--

339
00:19:52,790 --> 00:19:55,340
I went cutting through the area.

340
00:19:55,340 --> 00:19:57,720
And I came into my town,
but no one was there.

341
00:19:57,720 --> 00:19:59,350
Everything is disturbed.

342
00:19:59,350 --> 00:20:00,965

Everybody was hidden.

343
00:20:00,965 --> 00:20:02,340
I didn't know
where my father is.

344
00:20:02,340 --> 00:20:04,590
The only thing, I had
my brother with me.

345
00:20:04,590 --> 00:20:09,750
But finally, I know the
ways my father went by.

346
00:20:09,750 --> 00:20:12,610
He used to go on
certain farm areas

347
00:20:12,610 --> 00:20:14,220
to certain people and all.

348
00:20:14,220 --> 00:20:18,180
And somehow, someone
came down and said to me,

349
00:20:18,180 --> 00:20:22,080
you know, your father's here
and there, and then I find him.

350
00:20:22,080 --> 00:20:24,870
But we couldn't stay together.

351
00:20:24,870 --> 00:20:28,510
And my father took my
younger brother with him.

352
00:20:28,510 --> 00:20:30,300
He went into a farm.

353
00:20:30,300 --> 00:20:33,300
But I was, as a young
man, not noticeable.

354

00:20:33,300 --> 00:20:34,850

I worked in the fields.

355

00:20:34,850 --> 00:20:36,600

Let's say I could
work in the fields.

356

00:20:36,600 --> 00:20:39,180

357

00:20:39,180 --> 00:20:44,040

Sometimes, I was very alert.

358

00:20:44,040 --> 00:20:47,110

I didn't trust anybody.

359

00:20:47,110 --> 00:20:48,400

I couldn't trust anybody.

360

00:20:48,400 --> 00:20:50,910

Whatever I saw, I
couldn't trust anybody.

361

00:20:50,910 --> 00:20:54,400

And I saw on the
field some shepherds.

362

00:20:54,400 --> 00:20:57,340

They had the cows there, and
their used to [? thing. ?]

363

00:20:57,340 --> 00:20:59,020

So they were younger than I am.

364

00:20:59,020 --> 00:21:01,680

I knew I could master to--

365

00:21:01,680 --> 00:21:04,090

they couldn't put me into the--

366

00:21:04,090 --> 00:21:06,340

hold me to-- put me into the--

367
00:21:06,340 --> 00:21:07,740
young kids.

368
00:21:07,740 --> 00:21:08,870
And I went over down there.

369
00:21:08,870 --> 00:21:12,180
I was sitting around with
them, or a distance away.

370
00:21:12,180 --> 00:21:13,730
But sometimes, I
used to get hungry.

371
00:21:13,730 --> 00:21:15,500
I used to ask them
for some food.

372
00:21:15,500 --> 00:21:21,130
But one guy-- he was
like a hunchback.

373
00:21:21,130 --> 00:21:23,080
He had a hunch on his back.

374
00:21:23,080 --> 00:21:27,310
And he drove the cows
out for that farm,

375
00:21:27,310 --> 00:21:30,430
and I knew that farmer for
whom he was working as a kid.

376
00:21:30,430 --> 00:21:32,890
It's not far away.

377
00:21:32,890 --> 00:21:36,230
And I said to him, do you
have something to eat?

378

00:21:36,230 --> 00:21:40,840
And I was a very particular
guy in my young years.

379
00:21:40,840 --> 00:21:42,790
I wouldn't eat just anything.

380
00:21:42,790 --> 00:21:49,600
I'd rather eat carrots
or the sugar beets.

381
00:21:49,600 --> 00:21:50,770
I'll eat a potato.

382
00:21:50,770 --> 00:21:54,070
But I'm going to go down and
eat something non-familiar

383
00:21:54,070 --> 00:21:57,020
to me [INAUDIBLE].

384
00:21:57,020 --> 00:21:58,810
So he says, I got something.

385
00:21:58,810 --> 00:22:01,480
I got a sandwich where
I'll give you a half.

386
00:22:01,480 --> 00:22:04,780
I said fine, I appreciate it.

387
00:22:04,780 --> 00:22:10,100
So finally, I ate that sandwich,
like a pumpernickel bread,

388
00:22:10,100 --> 00:22:10,640
I remember.

389
00:22:10,640 --> 00:22:14,760
And I was sitting with him,
and I felt sorry for him.

390

00:22:14,760 --> 00:22:17,330

In a way, I didn't feel sorry.

391

00:22:17,330 --> 00:22:20,550

He was a very small little man.

392

00:22:20,550 --> 00:22:25,040

And I looked at him, and
then I finished eating.

393

00:22:25,040 --> 00:22:28,488

He says, you know
what you ate just now?

394

00:22:28,488 --> 00:22:31,850

I said no-- in
Polish, he says to me.

395

00:22:31,850 --> 00:22:33,160

I said, what did I eat now?

396

00:22:33,160 --> 00:22:35,180

I was pretty tasteful and good.

397

00:22:35,180 --> 00:22:37,890

I saw some meat in it--
very lean meat in it.

398

00:22:37,890 --> 00:22:42,510

And he says, you just
ate some horse meat.

399

00:22:42,510 --> 00:22:45,810

I says to him, how did
you get horse meat?

400

00:22:45,810 --> 00:22:50,340

He says, my farmer--

401

00:22:50,340 --> 00:22:53,220

a horse broke a leg.

402

00:22:53,220 --> 00:22:57,690
And they killed it, and
they put it in a pickle,

403
00:22:57,690 --> 00:23:00,510
and taking each
time a piece of--

404
00:23:00,510 --> 00:23:05,400
they must-- I don't
think they ate it.

405
00:23:05,400 --> 00:23:11,490
They must have given to the
laborers who worked there.

406
00:23:11,490 --> 00:23:15,570
And I ate that sandwich
up, and somehow,

407
00:23:15,570 --> 00:23:20,370
I filled up by my needs, my
stomach, and I was all right.

408
00:23:20,370 --> 00:23:25,697
But I was still outstanding with
me in my mind the way it was.

409
00:23:25,697 --> 00:23:27,030
That time, it didn't bother you.

410
00:23:27,030 --> 00:23:28,260
It didn't bother me as much.

411
00:23:28,260 --> 00:23:31,050
I was hungry.

412
00:23:31,050 --> 00:23:34,530
One episode I remember
was in the summertime.

413
00:23:34,530 --> 00:23:36,180
I went up on a cherry tree.

414
00:23:36,180 --> 00:23:38,110
I saw a cherry tree
during the daytime,

415
00:23:38,110 --> 00:23:42,150
but I couldn't get to
it during the daytime.

416
00:23:42,150 --> 00:23:46,140
And I was very
hungry, so I went up.

417
00:23:46,140 --> 00:23:48,120
I thought I'm going
to go down around 5,

418
00:23:48,120 --> 00:23:51,240
6 o'clock in the morning,
and I'll get on that tree,

419
00:23:51,240 --> 00:23:54,120
and I'm going to eat
some of the cherries.

420
00:23:54,120 --> 00:23:55,570
I went up.

421
00:23:55,570 --> 00:23:56,930
And I ate some of the cherries.

422
00:23:56,930 --> 00:24:00,500
They were so sour cherries,
that I ate so many,

423
00:24:00,500 --> 00:24:02,130
that I didn't feel my gums.

424
00:24:02,130 --> 00:24:05,920
After a while, I
didn't feel my gums.

425

00:24:05,920 --> 00:24:07,860
And that was things like this.

426
00:24:07,860 --> 00:24:10,800

427
00:24:10,800 --> 00:24:23,650
And the most horrible thing for
me was during the wintertime.

428
00:24:23,650 --> 00:24:26,540
I had to go in the barns that
the farmers shouldn't know.

429
00:24:26,540 --> 00:24:29,740
I was sleeping into
certain amount of--

430
00:24:29,740 --> 00:24:35,040
I was sleeping till, let's say,
9:30 at night, 10:00 at night.

431
00:24:35,040 --> 00:24:38,970
And I had to get to a farm
where they didn't have no dogs.

432
00:24:38,970 --> 00:24:43,720
Otherwise, they would
be aware that someone

433
00:24:43,720 --> 00:24:46,390
is in the back of their barn.

434
00:24:46,390 --> 00:24:49,510
So I used to know the area
that didn't have none.

435
00:24:49,510 --> 00:24:51,250
So I had a couple
of barns where I

436
00:24:51,250 --> 00:24:55,390
used to get into

during the nighttime.

437

00:24:55,390 --> 00:24:59,740

But early in the
morning, I was out,

438

00:24:59,740 --> 00:25:04,540

except it was very bad hurricane
weather, I didn't go out.

439

00:25:04,540 --> 00:25:08,190

One reason is the farmers
couldn't get out of their house

440

00:25:08,190 --> 00:25:10,180

either.

441

00:25:10,180 --> 00:25:11,810

They had to stay with all.

442

00:25:11,810 --> 00:25:14,230

The only thing
what I did is I was

443

00:25:14,230 --> 00:25:17,650

upstairs in the barn
between the straw and hay

444

00:25:17,650 --> 00:25:18,850

down there lying there.

445

00:25:18,850 --> 00:25:22,170

446

00:25:22,170 --> 00:25:25,480

I was up there, so I used
to listen downstairs.

447

00:25:25,480 --> 00:25:30,220

They used to come in and
feed the cows, the pigs,

448

00:25:30,220 --> 00:25:31,720
and the chickens.

449
00:25:31,720 --> 00:25:33,340
And I used to lie upstairs.

450
00:25:33,340 --> 00:25:37,450
He didn't know that I was up
there, but I know he's there.

451
00:25:37,450 --> 00:25:44,620
But the reason is I usually
choose older people.

452
00:25:44,620 --> 00:25:49,450
If they're young, they were
a little bit more turned on

453
00:25:49,450 --> 00:25:51,520
against the Jews.

454
00:25:51,520 --> 00:25:54,490
The older people
were more timid,

455
00:25:54,490 --> 00:25:57,320
more relaxed a little bit.

456
00:25:57,320 --> 00:25:59,050
Even if they would catch me.

457
00:25:59,050 --> 00:26:01,690
You knew whose house you
were going to, whose farm you

458
00:26:01,690 --> 00:26:03,040
were going to every time?

459
00:26:03,040 --> 00:26:04,210
Yes, I knew.

460
00:26:04,210 --> 00:26:06,230

I didn't know them
exact, but I know

461
00:26:06,230 --> 00:26:09,135
my father used to
deal with them, see?

462
00:26:09,135 --> 00:26:10,510
My father used to
deal with them.

463
00:26:10,510 --> 00:26:12,230
They used to come
into our business.

464
00:26:12,230 --> 00:26:14,550
So you were mainly in the
area around your town?

465
00:26:14,550 --> 00:26:16,150
Around my town, yes.

466
00:26:16,150 --> 00:26:22,810
Most of the time, I was around
my town, and not near my town.

467
00:26:22,810 --> 00:26:25,750
I was away from the town,
let's say, certain areas

468
00:26:25,750 --> 00:26:35,760
where the farmers couldn't catch
me, or they didn't know me.

469
00:26:35,760 --> 00:26:39,810
In the summertime, I chose
not to be near my house.

470
00:26:39,810 --> 00:26:42,930
I went away to certain areas
where I was all a distance

471
00:26:42,930 --> 00:26:43,830

from all the people.

472

00:26:43,830 --> 00:26:45,870

I couldn't be with them.

473

00:26:45,870 --> 00:26:50,533

But otherwise-- for
two pound of sugar--

474

00:26:50,533 --> 00:26:52,700

if they would catch me,
they get two pounds of sugar

475

00:26:52,700 --> 00:26:55,760

from the German, they
used to give me away.

476

00:26:55,760 --> 00:27:00,100

There is no-- or they
used to just be afraid.

477

00:27:00,100 --> 00:27:02,950

They used to just turn me in.

478

00:27:02,950 --> 00:27:06,290

But some hid you willingly?

479

00:27:06,290 --> 00:27:08,420

No.

480

00:27:08,420 --> 00:27:16,370

My father was hid
willingly for money

481

00:27:16,370 --> 00:27:18,725

and that's with my brother.

482

00:27:18,725 --> 00:27:19,870

What the reason is--

483

00:27:19,870 --> 00:27:21,270

Was your brother

was your father?

484

00:27:21,270 --> 00:27:23,480

My father, but I couldn't
be with him for a reason.

485

00:27:23,480 --> 00:27:27,770

It's when they find out the
whole family was with him--

486

00:27:27,770 --> 00:27:30,647

let's say, they find-- they'll
know already who is alive

487

00:27:30,647 --> 00:27:31,230

and who isn't.

488

00:27:31,230 --> 00:27:36,560

This they know about my
father's family, let's say.

489

00:27:36,560 --> 00:27:39,020

I was left, with my
brother and my father.

490

00:27:39,020 --> 00:27:41,550

If I would have stayed
with my father there,

491

00:27:41,550 --> 00:27:45,440

we could have been killed
all three together.

492

00:27:45,440 --> 00:27:52,500

This way, the farmer
had a thinking, hey,

493

00:27:52,500 --> 00:27:53,530

one guy is missing.

494

00:27:53,530 --> 00:27:55,700

He might come back
and take revenge.

495
00:27:55,700 --> 00:27:56,860
I see.

496
00:27:56,860 --> 00:27:57,360
See?

497
00:27:57,360 --> 00:27:59,490
That was the whole catch to it.

498
00:27:59,490 --> 00:28:00,990
So it was better to scatter?

499
00:28:00,990 --> 00:28:03,870
Scatter, but my brother
was a young kid.

500
00:28:03,870 --> 00:28:06,720
My father was of
age at that time.

501
00:28:06,720 --> 00:28:10,110
He was not young, but
he wasn't as vigorous

502
00:28:10,110 --> 00:28:13,110
as I was as a young man.

503
00:28:13,110 --> 00:28:18,872
I was sleeping sometimes
nights in a stack of hay.

504
00:28:18,872 --> 00:28:21,580

505
00:28:21,580 --> 00:28:25,720
The thing is, I used to push
myself in the stack of hay

506
00:28:25,720 --> 00:28:32,650
with my back, make
myself pull out the straw

507

00:28:32,650 --> 00:28:39,085
and cover my front, and lay back
and stay there for the night.

508

00:28:39,085 --> 00:28:40,960
Was this during the
summertime or the winter?

509

00:28:40,960 --> 00:28:42,418
No, that was during
the wintertime.

510

00:28:42,418 --> 00:28:48,120
But I always used to try to
manage not to in the wintertime

511

00:28:48,120 --> 00:28:54,640
in the harsh weather not to be--

512

00:28:54,640 --> 00:28:57,730
I used to go in the barn
where it was not heated,

513

00:28:57,730 --> 00:29:01,060
there was no animals, but
I was under four walls.

514

00:29:01,060 --> 00:29:03,560
The wind didn't hit me.

515

00:29:03,560 --> 00:29:07,750
It's a very bad
winters down there.

516

00:29:07,750 --> 00:29:09,670
What kind of clothes
did you wear?

517

00:29:09,670 --> 00:29:11,320
I didn't have no clothes.

518

00:29:11,320 --> 00:29:15,760

I had some very
bad shoes of mine.

519

00:29:15,760 --> 00:29:18,700

I didn't have no right shoes.

520

00:29:18,700 --> 00:29:22,540

For instance, at
times, I used to wear--

521

00:29:22,540 --> 00:29:28,810

the farmers used to have them
bags with the fertilizer.

522

00:29:28,810 --> 00:29:31,170

So they used to come
in, the fertilizer bags.

523

00:29:31,170 --> 00:29:33,490

They used to spread
it on the fields.

524

00:29:33,490 --> 00:29:38,285

But see, I got to be
a little bit more--

525

00:29:38,285 --> 00:29:42,430

when needs come,
you get innovative.

526

00:29:42,430 --> 00:29:46,380

So I took the bags
from that fertilizer.

527

00:29:46,380 --> 00:29:50,380

528

00:29:50,380 --> 00:29:53,050

I didn't know at that time
about carcinogenic things,

529

00:29:53,050 --> 00:29:54,750

about chemicals.

530

00:29:54,750 --> 00:29:56,730

Who knew at that time?

531

00:29:56,730 --> 00:29:59,350

But for the [INAUDIBLE]

not to be dirty,

532

00:29:59,350 --> 00:30:01,620

I peeled off the

inside the first.

533

00:30:01,620 --> 00:30:03,730

They used to come in

three layers, them bags.

534

00:30:03,730 --> 00:30:06,410

It was like three layers.

535

00:30:06,410 --> 00:30:08,890

So I used to pick off the

first layer, throw it away.

536

00:30:08,890 --> 00:30:13,840

And the middle layer, I

used to put around my feet

537

00:30:13,840 --> 00:30:16,850

and tie it around, you know?

538

00:30:16,850 --> 00:30:21,220

And that's the way I used to

a lot of times sleep at night.

539

00:30:21,220 --> 00:30:22,660

How old were you at this time?

540

00:30:22,660 --> 00:30:30,955

At that time, I was 15, 16.

541

00:30:30,955 --> 00:30:33,770

542
00:30:33,770 --> 00:30:38,770
And I used to survive
this way in the time.

543
00:30:38,770 --> 00:30:41,120
And I used to
[INAUDIBLE] every time.

544
00:30:41,120 --> 00:30:43,250
And another thing
what happened--

545
00:30:43,250 --> 00:30:45,830

546
00:30:45,830 --> 00:30:51,340
in my town, I'm going to--

547
00:30:51,340 --> 00:30:54,410
that's the way I
went through usually

548
00:30:54,410 --> 00:30:56,330
my things the wintertime.

549
00:30:56,330 --> 00:30:59,480
The summertime, I
was a free bird.

550
00:30:59,480 --> 00:31:02,090
The summertime,
when the sun shined,

551
00:31:02,090 --> 00:31:03,960
even the rain time
didn't bother me.

552
00:31:03,960 --> 00:31:06,590
It was raining, it
didn't bother me.

553

00:31:06,590 --> 00:31:10,670

I used to get wet, and the sun
come out or things like this,

554

00:31:10,670 --> 00:31:15,440

I used to take my clothes
off, and I used to dry it out.

555

00:31:15,440 --> 00:31:22,970

And I used to be happy with it,
as long as I had a little sun

556

00:31:22,970 --> 00:31:24,793

and I had a little food.

557

00:31:24,793 --> 00:31:25,710

That's the main thing.

558

00:31:25,710 --> 00:31:29,540

And another problem what
it was was the water.

559

00:31:29,540 --> 00:31:34,100

I used to be in areas where
I could get a drink of water.

560

00:31:34,100 --> 00:31:36,740

And there used to
be very dirty water.

561

00:31:36,740 --> 00:31:41,080

Well, I got during the
years, you learn things,

562

00:31:41,080 --> 00:31:44,600

and you see things.

563

00:31:44,600 --> 00:31:45,560

I used to take a--

564

00:31:45,560 --> 00:31:48,250

565
00:31:48,250 --> 00:31:51,580
didn't have no clean clothes.

566
00:31:51,580 --> 00:31:52,263
I was clean.

567
00:31:52,263 --> 00:31:53,680
I used to wash
them in the brooks.

568
00:31:53,680 --> 00:31:56,290
When I get to a brook,
I wash out my things.

569
00:31:56,290 --> 00:31:59,560
And I was sitting there
until they got dry.

570
00:31:59,560 --> 00:32:02,320
But I used to come
down to a creek.

571
00:32:02,320 --> 00:32:06,100
And I used to see bugs
running around inside

572
00:32:06,100 --> 00:32:08,510
and things like this.

573
00:32:08,510 --> 00:32:10,600
And I was very thirsty.

574
00:32:10,600 --> 00:32:16,080
So I came at a thing where
I used to take a shirt--

575
00:32:16,080 --> 00:32:19,480
a clean thing, whatever
I had was clean--

576
00:32:19,480 --> 00:32:22,220

I used to put on
top of the water.

577
00:32:22,220 --> 00:32:25,150
And I used to sip
through that cloth.

578
00:32:25,150 --> 00:32:27,867

579
00:32:27,867 --> 00:32:29,200
You know what I'm talking about?

580
00:32:29,200 --> 00:32:29,790
Yes, I know.

581
00:32:29,790 --> 00:32:30,290
You know?

582
00:32:30,290 --> 00:32:30,900
Yeah.

583
00:32:30,900 --> 00:32:33,700
And I used to sip the
water coming through.

584
00:32:33,700 --> 00:32:35,870
At least, I had some clean.

585
00:32:35,870 --> 00:32:38,120
I was-- maybe I shouldn't be.

586
00:32:38,120 --> 00:32:42,770
Even today, maybe I shouldn't be
that way, but that's my nature.

587
00:32:42,770 --> 00:32:44,400
You can't change it.

588
00:32:44,400 --> 00:32:46,140
I can't be changed.

589

00:32:46,140 --> 00:32:49,430

I was very, I mean--

590

00:32:49,430 --> 00:32:51,680

I like cleanliness,
clean, you know?

591

00:32:51,680 --> 00:32:53,630

Doesn't matter what it is.

592

00:32:53,630 --> 00:32:56,780

Like today, I will not
eat if it's anything

593

00:32:56,780 --> 00:32:59,095

being covered by things.

594

00:32:59,095 --> 00:33:00,930

And that's the way I carried on.

595

00:33:00,930 --> 00:33:04,820

And I was drinking out
of that creek that water,

596

00:33:04,820 --> 00:33:07,550

or washing myself sometimes.

597

00:33:07,550 --> 00:33:09,920

And then I used to go further.

598

00:33:09,920 --> 00:33:21,710

But a lot of times, I used
to be in crevasses, you know?

599

00:33:21,710 --> 00:33:23,126

Why was I in a crevasse?

600

00:33:23,126 --> 00:33:25,640

601

00:33:25,640 --> 00:33:27,740

Like there used to
be a hole inside.

602
00:33:27,740 --> 00:33:31,250
I used this put my back
in, and a lot of time,

603
00:33:31,250 --> 00:33:36,830
I used to cover up in the
front, and you couldn't see me.

604
00:33:36,830 --> 00:33:38,705
But one day, I was
sitting in a crevasse,

605
00:33:38,705 --> 00:33:46,280
and down there was a big area
of fields, like not marshes,

606
00:33:46,280 --> 00:33:52,910
but it there was
marshes like a tundra.

607
00:33:52,910 --> 00:33:56,360
You could walk on it, but
you got to be careful.

608
00:33:56,360 --> 00:33:57,230
I seen certain--

609
00:33:57,230 --> 00:33:57,820
A swamp?

610
00:33:57,820 --> 00:33:59,170
Yeah, a swamp in certain areas.

611
00:33:59,170 --> 00:34:01,940
So one day, I was
sitting at crevasse--

612
00:34:01,940 --> 00:34:02,895
raining.

613

00:34:02,895 --> 00:34:03,770

That's what happened.

614

00:34:03,770 --> 00:34:04,730

I was sitting there.

615

00:34:04,730 --> 00:34:09,080

Raining coming down,
must have been like in--

616

00:34:09,080 --> 00:34:12,500

I don't know, so much rain.

617

00:34:12,500 --> 00:34:15,699

Started up for a couple
of days, but I didn't

618

00:34:15,699 --> 00:34:17,130

want to go away from that area.

619

00:34:17,130 --> 00:34:18,782

There was some
dangerous [INAUDIBLE]

620

00:34:18,782 --> 00:34:19,699

going on at that time.

621

00:34:19,699 --> 00:34:23,620

The Germans were going
towards Russia with the tanks.

622

00:34:23,620 --> 00:34:24,590

And that was right--

623

00:34:24,590 --> 00:34:25,460

I was sitting--

624

00:34:25,460 --> 00:34:29,659

I could see them from
the distance, the tanks,

625

00:34:29,659 --> 00:34:37,190
and all of the guns and all of
them vehicles going through.

626
00:34:37,190 --> 00:34:39,090
I could see very distance away.

627
00:34:39,090 --> 00:34:40,570
But I could see guns.

628
00:34:40,570 --> 00:34:44,719
And you could hear
the noises from guns.

629
00:34:44,719 --> 00:34:49,330
And all of a sudden, I
see one person running.

630
00:34:49,330 --> 00:34:52,460
And I know that
one guy was hiding.

631
00:34:52,460 --> 00:34:58,820
A farmer was hiding
a Jewish family.

632
00:34:58,820 --> 00:35:06,250
His name was-- they call at
that time in Jewish language

633
00:35:06,250 --> 00:35:09,500
a [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] Abraham.

634
00:35:09,500 --> 00:35:13,580
He had some metal business.

635
00:35:13,580 --> 00:35:17,150
He hid down there
with his daughter.

636
00:35:17,150 --> 00:35:18,830
He was left in the whole family.

637

00:35:18,830 --> 00:35:21,820

He'd given away-- that
farmer used to come down,

638

00:35:21,820 --> 00:35:24,410

and he used to probably
give him away a fortune.

639

00:35:24,410 --> 00:35:25,470

He hid him down there.

640

00:35:25,470 --> 00:35:32,270

He was on e house in the
whole area single house.

641

00:35:32,270 --> 00:35:35,890

And not far away
from the marshes.

642

00:35:35,890 --> 00:35:37,480

And he was running.

643

00:35:37,480 --> 00:35:38,620

I didn't know that was him.

644

00:35:38,620 --> 00:35:41,110

But as I looked out,
I thought to myself,

645

00:35:41,110 --> 00:35:44,890

if somebody runs, that must be
somebody who was running away

646

00:35:44,890 --> 00:35:46,090

from something.

647

00:35:46,090 --> 00:35:48,190

It was from a distance.

648

00:35:48,190 --> 00:35:52,175

But somehow, the rain subsided
as he came towards me,

649

00:35:52,175 --> 00:35:54,550

and I thought to myself, I'm
not going to let this go by.

650

00:35:54,550 --> 00:35:57,890

I was very not lazy,
and I thought to myself,

651

00:35:57,890 --> 00:35:59,070

let me go down and see this.

652

00:35:59,070 --> 00:36:00,520

I'm very curious.

653

00:36:00,520 --> 00:36:06,790

No one will run in
this area but a Jew.

654

00:36:06,790 --> 00:36:09,600

I kind of ran him
down and found him.

655

00:36:09,600 --> 00:36:12,610

I was faster than he was.

656

00:36:12,610 --> 00:36:15,920

But I come near him,
I was shouting to him,

657

00:36:15,920 --> 00:36:22,235

and he must have recognized me,
or he was out of steam to run.

658

00:36:22,235 --> 00:36:23,110

I caught up with him.

659

00:36:23,110 --> 00:36:26,380

I said to him, Abraham,
where are you running?

660

00:36:26,380 --> 00:36:28,750

He says, you know what happened?

661

00:36:28,750 --> 00:36:31,540

I was in that with a guy.

662

00:36:31,540 --> 00:36:37,150

I know his name, but I
right now, it's off my mind.

663

00:36:37,150 --> 00:36:45,190

He was very well-known in
the business with my father.

664

00:36:45,190 --> 00:36:48,730

He's a very nasty individual.

665

00:36:48,730 --> 00:36:50,650

Uneducated, nasty.

666

00:36:50,650 --> 00:36:54,765

And he was not just a
farmer, he was just a--

667

00:36:54,765 --> 00:36:57,340

668

00:36:57,340 --> 00:37:02,080

In Polish, they call him
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

669

00:37:02,080 --> 00:37:04,570

A dog catcher, they
call him, you know?

670

00:37:04,570 --> 00:37:07,360

I would call it very bad.

671

00:37:07,360 --> 00:37:09,200

And he says to
me-- that Abraham--

672

00:37:09,200 --> 00:37:11,860

you know, Joseph, what happened?

673

00:37:11,860 --> 00:37:16,250

That guy, I overhear
that with his sons

674

00:37:16,250 --> 00:37:18,950

talking that they're
going to kill us.

675

00:37:18,950 --> 00:37:20,235

Somehow, he was near.

676

00:37:20,235 --> 00:37:22,660

Was he a kind of bounty
hunter, that kind of a person?

677

00:37:22,660 --> 00:37:24,580

Yeah, something,
and they're going

678

00:37:24,580 --> 00:37:29,830

to kill us, me and my
daughter, and do away with us.

679

00:37:29,830 --> 00:37:33,640

And I somehow-- she
couldn't come over that--

680

00:37:33,640 --> 00:37:36,220

there was a big high fence.

681

00:37:36,220 --> 00:37:37,540

And he somehow--

682

00:37:37,540 --> 00:37:41,740

I don't know how he manipulated
himself, he ran out.

683

00:37:41,740 --> 00:37:45,130

And his daughter was left, so
he said to me, if I'm not there,

684

00:37:45,130 --> 00:37:48,380
they're going to kill my kid.

685

00:37:48,380 --> 00:37:54,400
After a while, I lost him.

686

00:37:54,400 --> 00:37:56,340
We were talking for a
while, and I lost him.

687

00:37:56,340 --> 00:37:58,280
And the way it sounds to me--

688

00:37:58,280 --> 00:38:04,880
after the war, he must
have gone back there

689

00:38:04,880 --> 00:38:07,430
for his daughter or something.

690

00:38:07,430 --> 00:38:09,090
He just disappeared.

691

00:38:09,090 --> 00:38:11,990
I never seen him after the war.

692

00:38:11,990 --> 00:38:15,240
And I've never seen
his kid after the war.

693

00:38:15,240 --> 00:38:19,340
Now he must have gone back,
or he must have done something

694

00:38:19,340 --> 00:38:22,140
there that both kids--

695

00:38:22,140 --> 00:38:25,910
his little girl with him
disappeared, like wiped out,

696

00:38:25,910 --> 00:38:26,820
didn't come back.

697
00:38:26,820 --> 00:38:28,490
But what happened?

698
00:38:28,490 --> 00:38:33,650
He didn't have no choice
but being to go into him.

699
00:38:33,650 --> 00:38:35,600
It was coming up--
the way I understood--

700
00:38:35,600 --> 00:38:39,540
like the wintertime, when it
was raining-- come up already

701
00:38:39,540 --> 00:38:40,040
the spring.

702
00:38:40,040 --> 00:38:42,243
Like April, it was
very hard rains.

703
00:38:42,243 --> 00:38:44,285
That must have been the
beginning of this summer.

704
00:38:44,285 --> 00:38:46,620
And I don't think
it was that time.

705
00:38:46,620 --> 00:38:49,850
He didn't-- guy in that place
didn't want to go through with

706
00:38:49,850 --> 00:38:51,710
him the whole
summer feeding him,

707
00:38:51,710 --> 00:38:54,880
being scared if the

Germans come in.

708

00:38:54,880 --> 00:38:57,500

And they catch you, they'll
kill the whole family.

709

00:38:57,500 --> 00:38:59,990

So he tried to do away with him.

710

00:38:59,990 --> 00:39:02,240

And somehow, he took off.

711

00:39:02,240 --> 00:39:04,595

And after that, he
must have been back in,

712

00:39:04,595 --> 00:39:09,570

and must have got killed
by the same people.

713

00:39:09,570 --> 00:39:11,270

And that's it.

714

00:39:11,270 --> 00:39:15,770

How many years did you
live in the fields?

715

00:39:15,770 --> 00:39:26,560

I would say from
1941 until 1944.

716

00:39:26,560 --> 00:39:28,280

And your mother and sister?

717

00:39:28,280 --> 00:39:29,210

Were killed.

718

00:39:29,210 --> 00:39:30,150

They're gone.

719

00:39:30,150 --> 00:39:35,090

You see, when I

didn't finish it up.

720

00:39:35,090 --> 00:39:35,690

I ran away.

721

00:39:35,690 --> 00:39:39,410

They took away my mother at
that time with the transport

722

00:39:39,410 --> 00:39:43,298

into Bergen-Belsen,
they called it.

723

00:39:43,298 --> 00:39:44,840

They took them away
to Bergen-Belsen.

724

00:39:44,840 --> 00:39:48,850

It was not far away from us.

725

00:39:48,850 --> 00:39:51,740

And they're gone.

726

00:39:51,740 --> 00:39:57,890

And since that time, I
went away out of the town.

727

00:39:57,890 --> 00:40:00,200

I never returned there.

728

00:40:00,200 --> 00:40:02,870

But actually, I didn't
come into my town.

729

00:40:02,870 --> 00:40:04,760

Can you go back a
little bit, Joseph,

730

00:40:04,760 --> 00:40:07,970

and talk about the ghetto
that you lived in before?

731

00:40:07,970 --> 00:40:09,460
I lived in that ghetto.

732
00:40:09,460 --> 00:40:16,890
I couldn't get out down there
from the area, for instance.

733
00:40:16,890 --> 00:40:22,520
If you went out of the area,
you're bound to be killed.

734
00:40:22,520 --> 00:40:30,650
It wasn't like a ghetto, but
we had the area designated

735
00:40:30,650 --> 00:40:34,190
for the Jewish community.

736
00:40:34,190 --> 00:40:36,500
You couldn't step
out of that boundary.

737
00:40:36,500 --> 00:40:39,160
And not enough--
what happened, they

738
00:40:39,160 --> 00:40:42,525
brought us in from different
countries, like from Belgium.

739
00:40:42,525 --> 00:40:46,020
I remember a child from
Belgium, from Germany.

740
00:40:46,020 --> 00:40:48,050
They brought in people.

741
00:40:48,050 --> 00:40:53,450
What that was-- for the reason
is, as I'm thinking now,

742
00:40:53,450 --> 00:40:58,942
when I was in this

Jewish ghetto,

743

00:40:58,942 --> 00:41:02,450
they must have had
a plan for that.

744

00:41:02,450 --> 00:41:08,420
For a reason is I
remember that Majdanek was

745

00:41:08,420 --> 00:41:12,330
35 miles away from our town.

746

00:41:12,330 --> 00:41:17,800
Majdanek-- that was the
outskirts of Lublin.

747

00:41:17,800 --> 00:41:26,410
And they prepared the Jews
like a station for them.

748

00:41:26,410 --> 00:41:30,760
From there on, they're going
to bring them in to Majdanek,

749

00:41:30,760 --> 00:41:33,850
where there was a death camp.

750

00:41:33,850 --> 00:41:36,690

751

00:41:36,690 --> 00:41:39,190
Is that where your mother
and sister were sent?

752

00:41:39,190 --> 00:41:45,640
I couldn't-- I think, why
should they take him into PuÅ,awy

753

00:41:45,640 --> 00:41:50,360
on the station from KoÅ,skowola
to PuÅ,awy, and then ship them?

754

00:41:50,360 --> 00:41:53,010

They could have taken them
in from KurÅ³w to Majdanek.

755

00:41:53,010 --> 00:41:55,150

It was near it, you know?

756

00:41:55,150 --> 00:42:00,610

But I think they went
in different direction.

757

00:42:00,610 --> 00:42:05,440

That's my-- well, the thing
is, I think our town was--

758

00:42:05,440 --> 00:42:08,110

you could go in different
directions towards Lublin

759

00:42:08,110 --> 00:42:11,230

and towards the
capital of Warsaw.

760

00:42:11,230 --> 00:42:14,205

You could go away
towards Pallavi.

761

00:42:14,205 --> 00:42:17,530

In different directions--
it was like an artery

762

00:42:17,530 --> 00:42:19,770

for different towns
to go through.

763

00:42:19,770 --> 00:42:22,570

And I think the Germans
brought in them Jews

764

00:42:22,570 --> 00:42:24,910

from different parts,
from France, from Belgium,

765

00:42:24,910 --> 00:42:26,020
from Germany.

766

00:42:26,020 --> 00:42:27,150
They just packed them in.

767

00:42:27,150 --> 00:42:28,840
They had no place for them.

768

00:42:28,840 --> 00:42:31,360
But our town was burned
down to the ground.

769

00:42:31,360 --> 00:42:38,240
In 1939, as a child, my
father was in the army.

770

00:42:38,240 --> 00:42:40,120
He was in the air force.

771

00:42:40,120 --> 00:42:46,310

772

00:42:46,310 --> 00:42:48,490
I mean, the town burned down.

773

00:42:48,490 --> 00:42:52,360
I remember, I took my
mother, and we had a horse.

774

00:42:52,360 --> 00:42:58,000
And I was a young kid,
though I was very helpful

775

00:42:58,000 --> 00:42:58,930
with my family.

776

00:42:58,930 --> 00:43:03,850
When you grow up in
things like this,

777

00:43:03,850 --> 00:43:08,270
even if you don't want to
learn, you're forced into it.

778
00:43:08,270 --> 00:43:13,510
So I took the horse and buggy,
and put whatever I could in.

779
00:43:13,510 --> 00:43:14,860
We went out of the town.

780
00:43:14,860 --> 00:43:17,260
I saved that yet.

781
00:43:17,260 --> 00:43:21,280
As that town was burning
in a different direction.

782
00:43:21,280 --> 00:43:24,610
But they were not
just bombing our town.

783
00:43:24,610 --> 00:43:28,390
They were burning with
incinerator bombs throwing.

784
00:43:28,390 --> 00:43:32,600
Naturally, in Europe, them
houses, they were from wood.

785
00:43:32,600 --> 00:43:35,500
And just the only thing you
have to do-- not for a bomb--

786
00:43:35,500 --> 00:43:38,980
you can put a match to it, and
everything will be burning one

787
00:43:38,980 --> 00:43:42,700
alongside each other, you know?

788
00:43:42,700 --> 00:43:46,600
It's a terrible sight

when you see this.

789

00:43:46,600 --> 00:43:51,100

And I took my mother and
my sister and my brother,

790

00:43:51,100 --> 00:43:55,630

and somehow, made it
out of the outskirts.

791

00:43:55,630 --> 00:44:01,110

Then out of the
outskirts, I came down.

792

00:44:01,110 --> 00:44:03,480

And I didn't know
they were shooting.

793

00:44:03,480 --> 00:44:08,380

The planes had gone so
close we were between trees.

794

00:44:08,380 --> 00:44:12,960

And my mother said to me,
I hope we are safe here.

795

00:44:12,960 --> 00:44:14,180

I said, you know--

796

00:44:14,180 --> 00:44:19,560

I feel like as a youngster,
I was very somehow awakened.

797

00:44:19,560 --> 00:44:23,400

I saw wires, like you see
them poles, the wires.

798

00:44:23,400 --> 00:44:25,340

It used to be at
that time the name--

799

00:44:25,340 --> 00:44:27,930

I don't remember

certain things, but I

800

00:44:27,930 --> 00:44:31,830
remember the name-- it used to
be the name called [POLISH]..

801

00:44:31,830 --> 00:44:34,560
They used to-- like
here, the public service.

802

00:44:34,560 --> 00:44:38,580
They used to run the wiring
all from town to town.

803

00:44:38,580 --> 00:44:45,980
So was such a heavy
wires from this,

804

00:44:45,980 --> 00:44:50,100
in that area where I stopped
with my horse and buggy

805

00:44:50,100 --> 00:44:52,950
with my mother and my sister.

806

00:44:52,950 --> 00:44:57,505
And I said to my mother, if ever
they throw something down here.

807

00:44:57,505 --> 00:45:00,140
And my mother said,
they're going--

808

00:45:00,140 --> 00:45:03,540
if we're not going to
be killed by the planes,

809

00:45:03,540 --> 00:45:05,850
they're going to electrocute us.

810

00:45:05,850 --> 00:45:08,550
And I somehow took my
mother, took a chance,

811
00:45:08,550 --> 00:45:10,650
with the planes
going over our heads

812
00:45:10,650 --> 00:45:12,870
and I drove away a
distance, where there

813
00:45:12,870 --> 00:45:15,390
was some trees down there.

814
00:45:15,390 --> 00:45:17,490
And somehow I made
it out of the farm.

815
00:45:17,490 --> 00:45:19,320
Then we came back.

816
00:45:19,320 --> 00:45:20,430
We couldn't go back.

817
00:45:20,430 --> 00:45:22,740
Everything was-- you
couldn't walk in the street.

818
00:45:22,740 --> 00:45:27,720
Everything was burned
down, crisp to the ground.

819
00:45:27,720 --> 00:45:28,470
Nothing there.

820
00:45:28,470 --> 00:45:33,600
The only thing when I
came back to our home

821
00:45:33,600 --> 00:45:41,400
was a cellar where we could--

822
00:45:41,400 --> 00:45:44,010
the cellar was built somehow--

823
00:45:44,010 --> 00:45:45,510
the house was higher up.

824
00:45:45,510 --> 00:45:46,320
[INAUDIBLE]

825
00:45:46,320 --> 00:45:49,530
We could go into the
cellar from the outside.

826
00:45:49,530 --> 00:45:52,860
We could somehow
manage to clean out

827
00:45:52,860 --> 00:45:54,548
the cellar, clean off the top.

828
00:45:54,548 --> 00:45:56,340
I don't know what it
was, it must have been

829
00:45:56,340 --> 00:45:58,810
like a concrete or something.

830
00:45:58,810 --> 00:46:01,230
And we lived in
that cellar for--

831
00:46:01,230 --> 00:46:04,500
after we got back to our town.

832
00:46:04,500 --> 00:46:07,680
Maybe a week later
or more down there.

833
00:46:07,680 --> 00:46:10,690
And the family started
getting together.

834
00:46:10,690 --> 00:46:17,260
And then at that time, that

was right beginning of the war,

835

00:46:17,260 --> 00:46:21,550

we could see that
Poland lost the war.

836

00:46:21,550 --> 00:46:23,340

We could see it, smell it.

837

00:46:23,340 --> 00:46:26,880

The people-- the army
used to be disarranged.

838

00:46:26,880 --> 00:46:28,380

They used to go in
different places.

839

00:46:28,380 --> 00:46:31,710

They used to one soldier
here, and one, two over there.

840

00:46:31,710 --> 00:46:34,960

The army doesn't work that way.

841

00:46:34,960 --> 00:46:38,520

And all of a sudden, something
like two weeks later,

842

00:46:38,520 --> 00:46:40,340

my father made it back home.

843

00:46:40,340 --> 00:46:42,750

We didn't know if he's alive.

844

00:46:42,750 --> 00:46:45,120

Well, he was on the airfield.

845

00:46:45,120 --> 00:46:47,550

But somehow he made it
back with his rifle,

846

00:46:47,550 --> 00:46:49,140

with everything else.

847

00:46:49,140 --> 00:46:51,810

But you see, when you
went in a uniform,

848

00:46:51,810 --> 00:46:54,330

you couldn't walk
without a rifle.

849

00:46:54,330 --> 00:46:56,880

That means you're a deserter.

850

00:46:56,880 --> 00:46:59,190

But there was thinking
in time, that time,

851

00:46:59,190 --> 00:47:01,700

that they are still
going to reorganize.

852

00:47:01,700 --> 00:47:03,540

And my father know about it.

853

00:47:03,540 --> 00:47:10,580

He was in 1921, he was fighting
the Bolsheviks in them years.

854

00:47:10,580 --> 00:47:13,890

And he know a little
bit about the army.

855

00:47:13,890 --> 00:47:16,260

So he carried his
rifle with him.

856

00:47:16,260 --> 00:47:21,360

Otherwise, he could
be shot as a deserter.

857

00:47:21,360 --> 00:47:22,100

He came home.

858

00:47:22,100 --> 00:47:23,820

He took off his uniform.

859

00:47:23,820 --> 00:47:25,980

I remember he buried his rifle.

860

00:47:25,980 --> 00:47:27,780

That was finished.

861

00:47:27,780 --> 00:47:33,240

Then start up with
things, problems start up.

862

00:47:33,240 --> 00:47:35,470

But my father was
very innovative man.

863

00:47:35,470 --> 00:47:42,250

We built our home with scraps.

864

00:47:42,250 --> 00:47:47,090

One home was given us
from my grandfather.

865

00:47:47,090 --> 00:47:49,750

He had four daughters.

866

00:47:49,750 --> 00:47:52,840

My grandfather had
four daughters.

867

00:47:52,840 --> 00:47:56,590

So at that time, to
have children-- and we

868

00:47:56,590 --> 00:47:59,510

had a fine family.

869

00:47:59,510 --> 00:48:03,220

I could see it, the way some
people lived in Europe in them

870

00:48:03,220 --> 00:48:08,200

years, now when I'm
more come to my senses,

871

00:48:08,200 --> 00:48:13,360

I see that we were a little bit,
not richer, but more progressed

872

00:48:13,360 --> 00:48:14,310

a little bit.

873

00:48:14,310 --> 00:48:17,900

My grandfather had
four daughters.

874

00:48:17,900 --> 00:48:21,910

And he worked for-- he
gave everyone, as a dowry,

875

00:48:21,910 --> 00:48:24,610

he give each one a home,
a house to live in.

876

00:48:24,610 --> 00:48:28,460

That was a roof over your head.

877

00:48:28,460 --> 00:48:29,720

This was your mother's father?

878

00:48:29,720 --> 00:48:30,220

Yes.

879

00:48:30,220 --> 00:48:31,095

Your mother's father.

880

00:48:31,095 --> 00:48:32,410

Yes.

881

00:48:32,410 --> 00:48:42,740

And that's what happened.

882

00:48:42,740 --> 00:48:44,030
And my father, for instance--

883
00:48:44,030 --> 00:48:47,450
I'm going to bring this in--

884
00:48:47,450 --> 00:48:49,500
my father was very innovative.

885
00:48:49,500 --> 00:48:51,920
He would build this
home not in that place

886
00:48:51,920 --> 00:48:54,230
where my grandfather give him.

887
00:48:54,230 --> 00:48:57,950
But my father had a
business, this business.

888
00:48:57,950 --> 00:49:04,040
And he somehow made his
business with his home combined.

889
00:49:04,040 --> 00:49:07,070
In the back we lived.

890
00:49:07,070 --> 00:49:12,020
It was just like my father or
mother know it was temporarily

891
00:49:12,020 --> 00:49:14,280
or they know what's coming.

892
00:49:14,280 --> 00:49:16,100
Temporary-- we kind
of were cramped,

893
00:49:16,100 --> 00:49:18,180
but at least we had a roof.

894
00:49:18,180 --> 00:49:19,760

Some of them didn't have a roof.

895

00:49:19,760 --> 00:49:22,850

Matter of fact, some people
got our basement to live

896

00:49:22,850 --> 00:49:26,820

in, [INAUDIBLE] people,
the basement where we--

897

00:49:26,820 --> 00:49:33,680

And we-- somehow, my father
went back in business.

898

00:49:33,680 --> 00:49:36,600

899

00:49:36,600 --> 00:49:37,290

And we did.

900

00:49:37,290 --> 00:49:40,050

But then the Germans start up.

901

00:49:40,050 --> 00:49:41,370

It was 1941.

902

00:49:41,370 --> 00:49:42,960

They started up.

903

00:49:42,960 --> 00:49:46,140

They took me away to a camp.

904

00:49:46,140 --> 00:49:50,670

Everybody had to give a
certain amount of youngsters

905

00:49:50,670 --> 00:49:51,630

to go to work.

906

00:49:51,630 --> 00:49:56,130

So I was working at a--

907

00:49:56,130 --> 00:49:58,050
they call it [NON-ENGLISH].

908

00:49:58,050 --> 00:50:00,560
That was Yanishov--

909

00:50:00,560 --> 00:50:03,900
I even remember the
name of that area--

910

00:50:03,900 --> 00:50:11,890
Yanishov, where that was like
a-- we were building trenches.

911

00:50:11,890 --> 00:50:15,780
Like the trenches were like
this, high up, way high up.

912

00:50:15,780 --> 00:50:18,290
And they wanted to
make a watershed going

913

00:50:18,290 --> 00:50:21,380
through them trenches into--

914

00:50:21,380 --> 00:50:23,530
I don't know where they
they're planning it--

915

00:50:23,530 --> 00:50:26,060
it was a very big project--

916

00:50:26,060 --> 00:50:28,160
from the [NON-ENGLISH]
out someplace.

917

00:50:28,160 --> 00:50:31,040
And I was with a
group of them people.

918

00:50:31,040 --> 00:50:33,370
And I've seen down there--

919
00:50:33,370 --> 00:50:34,880
I was young.

920
00:50:34,880 --> 00:50:36,540
They didn't feed us.

921
00:50:36,540 --> 00:50:37,760
They give us a little soup.

922
00:50:37,760 --> 00:50:39,260
But I was strong.

923
00:50:39,260 --> 00:50:42,380
My mother gave us a
very good background.

924
00:50:42,380 --> 00:50:44,620
The reason is, she give us a--

925
00:50:44,620 --> 00:50:50,420
we always were enough fed,
enough clothes, enough--

926
00:50:50,420 --> 00:50:55,400
not luxurious,
but enough to call

927
00:50:55,400 --> 00:50:59,860
ourself middle class, so to say.

928
00:50:59,860 --> 00:51:08,240
And I was in that camp
for like for four months.

929
00:51:08,240 --> 00:51:10,780
It was in the fall
I went back home--

930
00:51:10,780 --> 00:51:12,020
in the fall.

931

00:51:12,020 --> 00:51:13,240

They send us back home.

932

00:51:13,240 --> 00:51:15,130

And they were bringing--

933

00:51:15,130 --> 00:51:17,790

and that was operated not by
the Germans, that was operated

934

00:51:17,790 --> 00:51:20,026

by the Jewish Committee.

935

00:51:20,026 --> 00:51:20,850

The Judenrat.

936

00:51:20,850 --> 00:51:21,350

Huh?

937

00:51:21,350 --> 00:51:23,480

Judenrat, right.

938

00:51:23,480 --> 00:51:28,100

And I had a very bad
taste, because the guy I

939

00:51:28,100 --> 00:51:31,070

was explaining you,
with his daughter,

940

00:51:31,070 --> 00:51:33,920

who was running that
time on the fields.

941

00:51:33,920 --> 00:51:35,930

I always tell you
about that episode.

942

00:51:35,930 --> 00:51:37,520

He was the head of the Judenrat.

943

00:51:37,520 --> 00:51:39,410
He was a well-to-do man.

944
00:51:39,410 --> 00:51:44,100
And the Germans usually
picked the well-to-do

945
00:51:44,100 --> 00:51:45,350
in the Jewish community.

946
00:51:45,350 --> 00:51:53,840

947
00:51:53,840 --> 00:52:04,750
And at that time, it was--

948
00:52:04,750 --> 00:52:11,680
my father-- but then I
came home in the fall

949
00:52:11,680 --> 00:52:14,890
from that camp Yanishov.

950
00:52:14,890 --> 00:52:20,230
And that's near-- they call it--
the [INAUDIBLE] was near them.

951
00:52:20,230 --> 00:52:23,110
Some people will not
recall the episode.

952
00:52:23,110 --> 00:52:30,490
It's near Jǎ³zefǎ³w, Zaklikǎ³w,
[PLACE NAME],, all that area.

953
00:52:30,490 --> 00:52:36,670
It's more towards-- they call
it more towards Zakarpacki

954
00:52:36,670 --> 00:52:38,680
Ukraine, and they call it--

955

00:52:38,680 --> 00:52:40,218
more towards the Carpathian.

956
00:52:40,218 --> 00:52:41,260
The Carpathian Mountains.

957
00:52:41,260 --> 00:52:41,720
Yes.

958
00:52:41,720 --> 00:52:42,220
Yes.

959
00:52:42,220 --> 00:52:48,610
So I was sent back home.

960
00:52:48,610 --> 00:52:50,940
And I came home.

961
00:52:50,940 --> 00:52:52,660
It was in the fall.

962
00:52:52,660 --> 00:52:54,940
And I got sick on typhus.

963
00:52:54,940 --> 00:52:57,810

964
00:52:57,810 --> 00:53:00,660
It was a epidemic of typhus.

965
00:53:00,660 --> 00:53:05,500
And the Germans, wherever
was typhus, as soon as you

966
00:53:05,500 --> 00:53:09,350
were registered with a
doctor, or they know about it,

967
00:53:09,350 --> 00:53:14,510
or some of the Christian
people in the community who

968

00:53:14,510 --> 00:53:17,910

were against us, they
used to give it out

969

00:53:17,910 --> 00:53:20,720

that you're sick of it.

970

00:53:20,720 --> 00:53:24,720

So they used to go around to the
homes and take out the people

971

00:53:24,720 --> 00:53:27,920

and just dispose of them.

972

00:53:27,920 --> 00:53:28,880

They shoot them?

973

00:53:28,880 --> 00:53:30,640

They shoot them,
yeah, shoot them.

974

00:53:30,640 --> 00:53:35,000

But my mother with my
father, built a house.

975

00:53:35,000 --> 00:53:37,960

We had a little basement.

976

00:53:37,960 --> 00:53:41,670

And my mother says,
as I came home--

977

00:53:41,670 --> 00:53:43,670

I had very high fever.

978

00:53:43,670 --> 00:53:46,210

And she was a nurse.

979

00:53:46,210 --> 00:53:48,120

She was not a
finished nurse, but I

980

00:53:48,120 --> 00:53:52,500

remember they used to knock
on our door at night time.

981

00:53:52,500 --> 00:53:54,780

She used to help families.

982

00:53:54,780 --> 00:54:02,880

Let's say, like some poor
people, their kids were sick,

983

00:54:02,880 --> 00:54:08,860

or my mother, she was like a--

984

00:54:08,860 --> 00:54:10,828

they were bearing a baby.

985

00:54:10,828 --> 00:54:11,370

She used to--

986

00:54:11,370 --> 00:54:11,880

Midwife.

987

00:54:11,880 --> 00:54:14,070

Midwife-- she used
to be woken up.

988

00:54:14,070 --> 00:54:18,300

She used to not
prescribe medicine,

989

00:54:18,300 --> 00:54:20,460

but she used to have
like a home, things

990

00:54:20,460 --> 00:54:21,670

what was good for you.

991

00:54:21,670 --> 00:54:24,060

And somehow, we used to
have a doctor in town.

992

00:54:24,060 --> 00:54:29,750

He somehow didn't-- he nudged to
her that she's doing the right

993

00:54:29,750 --> 00:54:30,650

thing.

994

00:54:30,650 --> 00:54:33,412

And people used to come to her.

995

00:54:33,412 --> 00:54:36,940

What I'm trying to bring out, at
that time, my mother, she was--

996

00:54:36,940 --> 00:54:40,290

I recall it now, I didn't
even have a picture of her.

997

00:54:40,290 --> 00:54:41,790

I don't have a
picture of my sister.

998

00:54:41,790 --> 00:54:43,410

I don't have a picture of my--

999

00:54:43,410 --> 00:54:45,970

none of my family,
have pictures.

1000

00:54:45,970 --> 00:54:48,180

The only thing I got is
a picture of my father.

1001

00:54:48,180 --> 00:55:02,650

1002

00:55:02,650 --> 00:55:07,180

And then, what I'm
trying to bring out,

1003

00:55:07,180 --> 00:55:10,810

my mother throw

down some pillows

1004

00:55:10,810 --> 00:55:15,160

and some defense,
like certain things,

1005

00:55:15,160 --> 00:55:19,330

like whatever she had to
throw down to the basement.

1006

00:55:19,330 --> 00:55:20,290

And she threw me--

1007

00:55:20,290 --> 00:55:24,610

put me down to the basement
and covered the basement up.

1008

00:55:24,610 --> 00:55:28,020

They came in, but they couldn't
find anybody sick in the bed.

1009

00:55:28,020 --> 00:55:30,497

You had to be in
the bed [INAUDIBLE]..

1010

00:55:30,497 --> 00:55:31,580

So I was in that basement.

1011

00:55:31,580 --> 00:55:37,760

Then my mother, after
they, like they went over--

1012

00:55:37,760 --> 00:55:41,620

each time it used to be
like storms for them things,

1013

00:55:41,620 --> 00:55:44,770

a storm of the Germans,
a storm of the Ukraines,

1014

00:55:44,770 --> 00:55:48,130

or beatings or things,
or taken away to camps.

1015
00:55:48,130 --> 00:55:50,780
It was a turmoil
at all the time.

1016
00:55:50,780 --> 00:55:53,800
So my mother brought me up.

1017
00:55:53,800 --> 00:55:57,640
And she kind of nursed me back.

1018
00:55:57,640 --> 00:56:00,670
I don't know what she did,
what medicine she got,

1019
00:56:00,670 --> 00:56:02,320
how she's done it.

1020
00:56:02,320 --> 00:56:06,640
Typhus, it's a deadly disease.

1021
00:56:06,640 --> 00:56:08,890
And I got back somehow.

1022
00:56:08,890 --> 00:56:14,240
And from there on, we
stayed in this house.

1023
00:56:14,240 --> 00:56:19,910
And then in 1941,
or was it in '42?

1024
00:56:19,910 --> 00:56:26,060
Dates, I'm very-- it was
like before Easter they've

1025
00:56:26,060 --> 00:56:27,570
driven out all the Jews.

1026
00:56:27,570 --> 00:56:30,040
We left this house.

1027

00:56:30,040 --> 00:56:31,540

Whatever we had
that was down there,

1028

00:56:31,540 --> 00:56:34,960

we just took the
barely belonging to us.

1029

00:56:34,960 --> 00:56:39,010

My mother locked the
doors, locked the shudders.

1030

00:56:39,010 --> 00:56:41,395

But we left
everything down there.

1031

00:56:41,395 --> 00:56:43,270

We're going to have to
stop for a few minutes

1032

00:56:43,270 --> 00:56:45,200

to change the tape.

1033

00:56:45,200 --> 00:56:45,700

Yes.

1034

00:56:45,700 --> 00:56:48,440

We'll continue the
story momentarily.

1035

00:56:48,440 --> 00:56:55,000