

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,425

2
00:00:07,425 --> 00:00:11,385
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:11,385 --> 00:00:53,050

4
00:00:53,050 --> 00:00:53,560
Hello.

5
00:00:53,560 --> 00:00:56,560
My name is Carole Shaffer-Koros,
professor of English

6
00:00:56,560 --> 00:01:00,430
and a member of the Kean College
Holocaust Oral Testimonies

7
00:01:00,430 --> 00:01:01,720
Project.

8
00:01:01,720 --> 00:01:05,080
We're affiliated with the Kean
College Holocaust Resource

9
00:01:05,080 --> 00:01:08,170
Center and the Holocaust
Archival Project

10
00:01:08,170 --> 00:01:12,100
at the Sterling Library
at Yale University.

11
00:01:12,100 --> 00:01:15,310
With me today is Professor
Bernard Weinstein,

12
00:01:15,310 --> 00:01:19,150
director of the Oral Testimonies

Project here at Kean.

13

00:01:19,150 --> 00:01:22,930

We're pleased to welcome
Mrs. Sally Chase of Edison,

14

00:01:22,930 --> 00:01:26,710

a survivor of the Holocaust,
who will share with us today

15

00:01:26,710 --> 00:01:31,390

her experiences before, during,
and after the Holocaust.

16

00:01:31,390 --> 00:01:35,020

It's a privilege to welcome
you to share with us.

17

00:01:35,020 --> 00:01:37,870

I'm pleased to be
here and be of help

18

00:01:37,870 --> 00:01:42,100

and give my experiences
and testimony

19

00:01:42,100 --> 00:01:45,220

as a witness to the Holocaust

20

00:01:45,220 --> 00:01:47,230

Mrs. Chase, would
you like to tell us

21

00:01:47,230 --> 00:01:48,970

a little bit about
what your town was

22

00:01:48,970 --> 00:01:51,970

like in the early years
of your childhood?

23

00:01:51,970 --> 00:01:54,520

Yes.

24
00:01:54,520 --> 00:01:57,790
I was born in Radom, Poland.

25
00:01:57,790 --> 00:02:01,420
I was the youngest
of eight children.

26
00:02:01,420 --> 00:02:06,430
The population in
Radom was 150,000,

27
00:02:06,430 --> 00:02:11,230
out of which 30,000 were Jews.

28
00:02:11,230 --> 00:02:14,200
My childhood began--

29
00:02:14,200 --> 00:02:15,760
I was the youngest of eight.

30
00:02:15,760 --> 00:02:17,830
My childhood was a joyous one.

31
00:02:17,830 --> 00:02:24,010
Our home was filled
with love and fervor

32
00:02:24,010 --> 00:02:29,980
and intellectual inspiration.

33
00:02:29,980 --> 00:02:34,490
Tradition was an integral
part of our lives.

34
00:02:34,490 --> 00:02:38,920
I remember the festivities
during the holidays and the way

35
00:02:38,920 --> 00:02:39,790
we spend them.

36

00:02:39,790 --> 00:02:42,010

And I never forgot them.

37

00:02:42,010 --> 00:02:46,240

And this really gave me the
strength during the hard times

38

00:02:46,240 --> 00:02:47,330

to go on living.

39

00:02:47,330 --> 00:02:50,500

40

00:02:50,500 --> 00:02:55,240

I was only eight years old
when the war broke out.

41

00:02:55,240 --> 00:02:58,120

I was told that I was different
than the other children.

42

00:02:58,120 --> 00:03:00,580

I could no longer attend school.

43

00:03:00,580 --> 00:03:02,740

I could no longer
play and be free.

44

00:03:02,740 --> 00:03:05,470

45

00:03:05,470 --> 00:03:08,380

We weren't as sophisticated
as the children of today.

46

00:03:08,380 --> 00:03:12,070

I really fully did not
understand the differences

47

00:03:12,070 --> 00:03:13,600

in the religion.

48

00:03:13,600 --> 00:03:15,670

Although there was a
certain way I lived,

49

00:03:15,670 --> 00:03:18,590

I thought everybody
else live the same way.

50

00:03:18,590 --> 00:03:20,770

But when I was told
that I no longer was

51

00:03:20,770 --> 00:03:24,850

allowed to attend school because
my birthright was a crime.

52

00:03:24,850 --> 00:03:28,150

I was born Jewish.

53

00:03:28,150 --> 00:03:31,060

We grew up very fast.

54

00:03:31,060 --> 00:03:32,920

And this happened suddenly?

55

00:03:32,920 --> 00:03:37,990

Or did you sense
a gradual change?

56

00:03:37,990 --> 00:03:39,730

That happened suddenly.

57

00:03:39,730 --> 00:03:44,290

As soon as the occupying
forces entered Radom,

58

00:03:44,290 --> 00:03:47,620

it took 88 days
to conquer Poland.

59

00:03:47,620 --> 00:03:49,810

And when they came

through the city,

60

00:03:49,810 --> 00:03:53,110

they were marching with
the tanks day and night

61

00:03:53,110 --> 00:03:57,850

and artillery, we
thought that no one ever

62

00:03:57,850 --> 00:03:59,480

could conquer this might.

63

00:03:59,480 --> 00:04:02,830

It took a week, day
and night for them

64

00:04:02,830 --> 00:04:05,470

to go through the city of Radom.

65

00:04:05,470 --> 00:04:12,820

And when they stopped,
immediately they

66

00:04:12,820 --> 00:04:19,180

enforced their orders for the
Jews to move into a ghetto.

67

00:04:19,180 --> 00:04:22,990

This ghetto at first was
not really that strict.

68

00:04:22,990 --> 00:04:26,930

We were able to sneak
out to obtain some food.

69

00:04:26,930 --> 00:04:29,770

But I remember
very, very vividly

70

00:04:29,770 --> 00:04:32,800

that my mother send me out being
that I was a little girl to get

71
00:04:32,800 --> 00:04:34,840
some bread outside the ghetto.

72
00:04:34,840 --> 00:04:39,350
A little boy, maybe my age, was
able to tell that I was Jewish.

73
00:04:39,350 --> 00:04:41,890
He was pointing, here
is a Jewish girl.

74
00:04:41,890 --> 00:04:45,070
She just snuck out
to get some food.

75
00:04:45,070 --> 00:04:48,760
Now, here in America, I
couldn't tell the difference

76
00:04:48,760 --> 00:04:50,620
from a Jew or non-Jew.

77
00:04:50,620 --> 00:04:52,390
But there, for some reason--

78
00:04:52,390 --> 00:04:55,330
I had brown eyes
and very dark hair.

79
00:04:55,330 --> 00:04:58,330
They were able to tell
because the Polish people had

80
00:04:58,330 --> 00:05:01,900
a very distinctive pugged
nose and perhaps blond

81
00:05:01,900 --> 00:05:03,220
and blue-eyed.

82
00:05:03,220 --> 00:05:04,300

And I looked different.

83

00:05:04,300 --> 00:05:06,880

So anybody that looked
different was Jewish.

84

00:05:06,880 --> 00:05:09,280

I assume at this time you
weren't forced to wear a star

85

00:05:09,280 --> 00:05:09,947

or to identify--

86

00:05:09,947 --> 00:05:10,630

Not yet.

87

00:05:10,630 --> 00:05:12,730

Not yet.

88

00:05:12,730 --> 00:05:17,620

But the orders were
issued for all the Jews

89

00:05:17,620 --> 00:05:21,160

to move into the ghetto.

90

00:05:21,160 --> 00:05:25,620

And they formed a
Jewish police force.

91

00:05:25,620 --> 00:05:28,260

What really the Jewish
police force was

92

00:05:28,260 --> 00:05:30,000

didn't have any
weapons or anything.

93

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:33,340

They just were supposed
to control the order

94

00:05:33,340 --> 00:05:37,300
and make sure that no one
goes out of the ghetto gate.

95
00:05:37,300 --> 00:05:42,670
And they had some power
as far as controlling us.

96
00:05:42,670 --> 00:05:45,820
But they didn't have any
powers with the Germans.

97
00:05:45,820 --> 00:05:49,390
And later on, they
issued an order

98
00:05:49,390 --> 00:05:52,910
that all the Jews were
to wear the white armband

99
00:05:52,910 --> 00:05:59,180
with the Jewish star,
the Star of David.

100
00:05:59,180 --> 00:06:04,220
And things were getting
tougher as time went on.

101
00:06:04,220 --> 00:06:10,550
And the worst part of it
was that periodically, they

102
00:06:10,550 --> 00:06:12,770
would come in to the ghetto.

103
00:06:12,770 --> 00:06:17,080
They called it actions,
in German, Aktionen.

104
00:06:17,080 --> 00:06:20,270
And they would come in at
dawn, 5:00 in the morning.

105

00:06:20,270 --> 00:06:21,560
And we heard the shooting.

106
00:06:21,560 --> 00:06:25,250
And everybody automatically
got out of bed and waiting

107
00:06:25,250 --> 00:06:27,950
to see what was coming next.

108
00:06:27,950 --> 00:06:33,620
We never knew who was
on the list to be taken.

109
00:06:33,620 --> 00:06:35,720
And, of course, they
tried to get rid

110
00:06:35,720 --> 00:06:40,250
of all the intellectuals
and all the professionals.

111
00:06:40,250 --> 00:06:45,710
And they would come in with
a list, which was given

112
00:06:45,710 --> 00:06:47,700
to them by the German spies.

113
00:06:47,700 --> 00:06:53,300
They even planted some
spies to tell them

114
00:06:53,300 --> 00:06:57,660
who is of any intellect
or who has the money.

115
00:06:57,660 --> 00:07:01,440
And they would come with a list
to actually get these people.

116
00:07:01,440 --> 00:07:04,880
Why do you think they went

after these people first?

117

00:07:04,880 --> 00:07:07,187

Because they might have
some effect or influence

118

00:07:07,187 --> 00:07:08,270

over the others, is that--

119

00:07:08,270 --> 00:07:14,120

Because they didn't want
anybody really with brains.

120

00:07:14,120 --> 00:07:16,520

They were afraid perhaps
that they might organize

121

00:07:16,520 --> 00:07:18,950

some sort of resistance.

122

00:07:18,950 --> 00:07:24,530

But we were really helpless,
because they put 30,000 Jews

123

00:07:24,530 --> 00:07:26,030

into several streets.

124

00:07:26,030 --> 00:07:28,190

We had no ammunitions,
no weapons.

125

00:07:28,190 --> 00:07:29,600

We had no way of getting out.

126

00:07:29,600 --> 00:07:34,910

We had no way of getting
anything into the ghetto.

127

00:07:34,910 --> 00:07:37,880

And everything was so
harsh and bewildering

128

00:07:37,880 --> 00:07:41,930
in the beginning that we didn't
know what was coming next.

129
00:07:41,930 --> 00:07:46,140
And we didn't really
believe what was happening.

130
00:07:46,140 --> 00:07:50,450
And it was really hard to
perceive that things like that

131
00:07:50,450 --> 00:07:53,390
are done to another human being.

132
00:07:53,390 --> 00:07:57,200
And so they would
come in with the list

133
00:07:57,200 --> 00:07:59,450
and take out 300 people.

134
00:07:59,450 --> 00:08:01,550
Some of them were shot
right on the streets

135
00:08:01,550 --> 00:08:04,190
and then make the other
Jews clean up the bodies.

136
00:08:04,190 --> 00:08:07,760
And most of the time they
came in and put them on trucks

137
00:08:07,760 --> 00:08:10,820
and send them out to
the woods, the trucks,

138
00:08:10,820 --> 00:08:15,050
and shoot them in
outskirts of Radom.

139
00:08:15,050 --> 00:08:20,990

This was going on every few days, sometimes every week.

140
00:08:20,990 --> 00:08:24,710
And we never knew when the next Aktion would come.

141
00:08:24,710 --> 00:08:26,600
It was horrible.

142
00:08:26,600 --> 00:08:29,480
And one of the specific ones that I personally

143
00:08:29,480 --> 00:08:34,530
was involved in was they came and knocked at our door.

144
00:08:34,530 --> 00:08:40,140
And as I said before, each family lived in one room.

145
00:08:40,140 --> 00:08:41,630
We were nine in our room.

146
00:08:41,630 --> 00:08:44,550
And each room was occupied by different family.

147
00:08:44,550 --> 00:08:49,550
So our room, in order for Mrs. Finkelstein to go to her room,

148
00:08:49,550 --> 00:08:51,590
she had to go through our room.

149
00:08:51,590 --> 00:08:53,930
And they were knocking at the door, the three SS

150
00:08:53,930 --> 00:08:58,580
men with the black uniforms and the red swastikas and machine

151
00:08:58,580 --> 00:09:00,530
guns, knocked at our door.

152
00:09:00,530 --> 00:09:01,210
They came.

153
00:09:01,210 --> 00:09:03,290
And we didn't know who
they were going to get.

154
00:09:03,290 --> 00:09:05,810
And they asked for
Mr Finkelstein.

155
00:09:05,810 --> 00:09:08,690
So naturally, we had to
say he lived next door.

156
00:09:08,690 --> 00:09:10,580
They knew exactly to come there.

157
00:09:10,580 --> 00:09:12,650
So probably they knew.

158
00:09:12,650 --> 00:09:15,530
And this is all
going on in our room.

159
00:09:15,530 --> 00:09:20,480
Mrs. Finkelstein had two little
children, a little boy of three

160
00:09:20,480 --> 00:09:23,120
and a baby of nine
months old in her arms.

161
00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:25,760
And her mother was with her.

162
00:09:25,760 --> 00:09:28,280
And they asked where

Mr Finkelstein was.

163
00:09:28,280 --> 00:09:30,680
And she said she
really didn't know.

164
00:09:30,680 --> 00:09:32,900
He did not come home.

165
00:09:32,900 --> 00:09:35,180
And she didn't
know where he was.

166
00:09:35,180 --> 00:09:38,540
So this is all going
on, and we are all

167
00:09:38,540 --> 00:09:43,940
standing in our nightgowns
out of bed and shivering.

168
00:09:43,940 --> 00:09:45,860
If somebody had a
weak heart, I think

169
00:09:45,860 --> 00:09:48,350
they could have just had a
heart attack just watching

170
00:09:48,350 --> 00:09:50,120
this whole scene.

171
00:09:50,120 --> 00:09:53,600
And Mrs. Frankenstein
said she doesn't

172
00:09:53,600 --> 00:09:54,830
know where her husband is.

173
00:09:54,830 --> 00:09:57,440
And if she knew,
she would tell them.

174

00:09:57,440 --> 00:10:01,070

And back and forth, they kept
saying, if you don't tell us,

175

00:10:01,070 --> 00:10:02,960

we're going to take
you and the baby

176

00:10:02,960 --> 00:10:05,940

and we're going to shoot you.

177

00:10:05,940 --> 00:10:09,840

So the mother went over
to one of the SS men.

178

00:10:09,840 --> 00:10:12,320

She was sleeping over
that night with her.

179

00:10:12,320 --> 00:10:15,590

And she pleaded
with them, take me,

180

00:10:15,590 --> 00:10:18,200

I've already lived
most of my life.

181

00:10:18,200 --> 00:10:22,220

But leave this young
woman with the baby.

182

00:10:22,220 --> 00:10:24,800

He pushed away with
the machine gun.

183

00:10:24,800 --> 00:10:28,160

And he said, no, we're
going to take her

184

00:10:28,160 --> 00:10:31,790

and subsequently took
her out with the baby

185

00:10:31,790 --> 00:10:35,550
and shot her right on the steps.

186

00:10:35,550 --> 00:10:38,040
I never forget
this, because I used

187

00:10:38,040 --> 00:10:41,340
to dream about this
particular experience.

188

00:10:41,340 --> 00:10:43,260
How old were you at
the time you saw this?

189

00:10:43,260 --> 00:10:50,790
This was in 1942, in
the beginning of 1942.

190

00:10:50,790 --> 00:10:53,070
I was 11 years old.

191

00:10:53,070 --> 00:10:54,780
So you were already
in the ghetto for--

192

00:10:54,780 --> 00:10:56,850
I was already in the ghetto.

193

00:10:56,850 --> 00:11:00,830
And every day was
another thing going on.

194

00:11:00,830 --> 00:11:04,470
And we never knew what the
next day was going to bring.

195

00:11:04,470 --> 00:11:07,860
We lived with terrible fear.

196

00:11:07,860 --> 00:11:12,420
And then suddenly we

found out that people

197

00:11:12,420 --> 00:11:16,440
that had gone in some
capacity occupied and worked

198

00:11:16,440 --> 00:11:20,610
for the German army on any
different capacity that

199

00:11:20,610 --> 00:11:23,700
is connected with
German industry,

200

00:11:23,700 --> 00:11:28,720
because all the factories
were confiscated.

201

00:11:28,720 --> 00:11:31,830
So the people that worked
there before remained there,

202

00:11:31,830 --> 00:11:37,050
would remain in the city because
they had a quota to fill.

203

00:11:37,050 --> 00:11:43,270
And the others will be resettled
into to a different city.

204

00:11:43,270 --> 00:11:47,310
So I went to the Jewish
police headquarters.

205

00:11:47,310 --> 00:11:50,970
And I found out that there was
a track came from the Wehrmacht

206

00:11:50,970 --> 00:11:53,320
and they want some
people to work.

207

00:11:53,320 --> 00:11:54,750

So I actually volunteered.

208

00:11:54,750 --> 00:11:57,180

My mother pushed me to go.

209

00:11:57,180 --> 00:11:58,710

So I actually volunteered.

210

00:11:58,710 --> 00:12:03,420

And that was the Wehrmacht.

211

00:12:03,420 --> 00:12:05,757

And they took me.

212

00:12:05,757 --> 00:12:07,590

They looked at me. they
thought I was young.

213

00:12:07,590 --> 00:12:09,720

And I told them I was older.

214

00:12:09,720 --> 00:12:10,650

And they took me.

215

00:12:10,650 --> 00:12:15,900

And it was called Alpha
L, the labor camp,

216

00:12:15,900 --> 00:12:22,680

where we were loading blankets
and dishes and bunk beds

217

00:12:22,680 --> 00:12:27,180

for the army and trains
to go all over Europe.

218

00:12:27,180 --> 00:12:30,030

And I really didn't want to go,
but my mother really pushed me.

219

00:12:30,030 --> 00:12:34,230

She says, you have to go because

at least maybe for the time

220
00:12:34,230 --> 00:12:36,750
being you'll be
saved, because there

221
00:12:36,750 --> 00:12:38,250
were rumors of
people that are going

222
00:12:38,250 --> 00:12:41,880
to work or at least remain,
we didn't know for how long,

223
00:12:41,880 --> 00:12:46,330
but have a chance to survive,
perhaps for the time being.

224
00:12:46,330 --> 00:12:49,590
And so I went.

225
00:12:49,590 --> 00:12:51,720
It was three miles
out of the city.

226
00:12:51,720 --> 00:12:57,180
It was called Alpha L. We were
25 girls in one room, the bunk

227
00:12:57,180 --> 00:13:00,630
beds, two levels.

228
00:13:00,630 --> 00:13:05,700
And we worked 12 hour shifts.

229
00:13:05,700 --> 00:13:11,340
And this was controlled
by the Wehrmacht.

230
00:13:11,340 --> 00:13:12,300
We got food.

231

00:13:12,300 --> 00:13:14,820
It wasn't too good.

232
00:13:14,820 --> 00:13:18,330
But we were managing to survive.

233
00:13:18,330 --> 00:13:27,600
August, the bitter day,
soon came, August 28, 1942.

234
00:13:27,600 --> 00:13:29,760
They came into the ghetto.

235
00:13:29,760 --> 00:13:32,410
And they lit up
the ghetto streets.

236
00:13:32,410 --> 00:13:38,940
They installed big
lights all day long.

237
00:13:38,940 --> 00:13:42,750
And they said,
people should pack up

238
00:13:42,750 --> 00:13:46,050
whatever they can
take with them and be

239
00:13:46,050 --> 00:13:49,980
ready to go to be
resettled to another city.

240
00:13:49,980 --> 00:13:53,430
That day, I had a
chance to get permission

241
00:13:53,430 --> 00:13:57,210
to go into the ghetto
to see my parents.

242
00:13:57,210 --> 00:14:00,000
And I said I didn't

want to go back.

243

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:01,050

I want to stay with them.

244

00:14:01,050 --> 00:14:06,570

My parents physically
pushed me out to go back.

245

00:14:06,570 --> 00:14:09,075

And that was the last
time I saw my parents.

246

00:14:09,075 --> 00:14:19,340

247

00:14:19,340 --> 00:14:22,150

The rest of your family was
with your parents at that time?

248

00:14:22,150 --> 00:14:23,490

No.

249

00:14:23,490 --> 00:14:24,340

They were alone.

250

00:14:24,340 --> 00:14:27,480

Everybody worked elsewhere.

251

00:14:27,480 --> 00:14:30,150

The only ones that were
not working for the Germans

252

00:14:30,150 --> 00:14:32,300

were my parents.

253

00:14:32,300 --> 00:14:37,230

One of my brothers
escaped to eastern Poland

254

00:14:37,230 --> 00:14:43,200

when the war broke out near the

Russian border, in Stanislaw.

255

00:14:43,200 --> 00:14:47,010

He was the youngest
of the five brothers.

256

00:14:47,010 --> 00:14:51,270

That night, they came in.

257

00:14:51,270 --> 00:14:53,830

And they lit up the
streets with those lights.

258

00:14:53,830 --> 00:14:55,530

It was like broad daylight.

259

00:14:55,530 --> 00:15:00,150

Took everybody out of their
quarters, living quarters.

260

00:15:00,150 --> 00:15:04,800

Searched the rooms to make
sure no one was in hiding.

261

00:15:04,800 --> 00:15:12,330

And 28,000 Jews were
shipped out to Treblinka

262

00:15:12,330 --> 00:15:13,350

to the death camps.

263

00:15:13,350 --> 00:15:17,700

264

00:15:17,700 --> 00:15:20,850

They told them they were going
to be in a different city.

265

00:15:20,850 --> 00:15:23,160

Of course, a few days
later, we found out

266

00:15:23,160 --> 00:15:26,190
that the destination
was Treblinka.

267
00:15:26,190 --> 00:15:28,230
When they arrived
in Treblinka, they

268
00:15:28,230 --> 00:15:33,150
told them to get undressed,
go into the showers,

269
00:15:33,150 --> 00:15:36,750
and leave all their
belongings behind them.

270
00:15:36,750 --> 00:15:41,850
And these showers, instead of
water, actually gas came down.

271
00:15:41,850 --> 00:15:46,500
Many, many people died
in the train cattles.

272
00:15:46,500 --> 00:15:48,960
They herded them
into train cattles.

273
00:15:48,960 --> 00:15:50,820
That night we were all up.

274
00:15:50,820 --> 00:15:54,480
We heard the cries
and the screams

275
00:15:54,480 --> 00:15:59,040
three miles away from the
train stations where we worked.

276
00:15:59,040 --> 00:16:01,310
And we knew.

277
00:16:01,310 --> 00:16:04,650

I will never forget the cries
from the babies and children

278
00:16:04,650 --> 00:16:07,680
and women so far away.

279
00:16:07,680 --> 00:16:13,590
That we heard they were
herded into cattle trains.

280
00:16:13,590 --> 00:16:16,470
And a lot of them never
made it even to Treblinka.

281
00:16:16,470 --> 00:16:20,412
They died during the ride.

282
00:16:20,412 --> 00:16:21,870
When they arrived
there, everything

283
00:16:21,870 --> 00:16:24,580
was taken away from them.

284
00:16:24,580 --> 00:16:28,500
They were supposedly going
into the showers and gas came.

285
00:16:28,500 --> 00:16:32,370
And then all the bodies
were burned in the ovens.

286
00:16:32,370 --> 00:16:34,440
They didn't have
enough ovens to burn.

287
00:16:34,440 --> 00:16:39,840
So some of them, they made
the Jews dig the graves

288
00:16:39,840 --> 00:16:42,240
and throw them into the pits.

289

00:16:42,240 --> 00:16:45,870

And the children,
they threw in alive.

290

00:16:45,870 --> 00:16:48,840

291

00:16:48,840 --> 00:16:51,900

And they didn't even
want to use the bullets.

292

00:16:51,900 --> 00:16:55,518

They figured they
will die eventually.

293

00:16:55,518 --> 00:17:00,240

An average of 100,000
people were burned barely

294

00:17:00,240 --> 00:17:03,450

in Treblinka.

295

00:17:03,450 --> 00:17:07,560

It was no accident
that all these camps

296

00:17:07,560 --> 00:17:09,770

were built in Poland.

297

00:17:09,770 --> 00:17:13,349

Poland was the cradle
of antisemitism.

298

00:17:13,349 --> 00:17:21,270

The Catholic Church for years
had taught and ingrained

299

00:17:21,270 --> 00:17:26,010

a hatred for the Jews and
all the ills of the world

300

00:17:26,010 --> 00:17:29,790

were due to the fact that
the Jews were responsible.

301
00:17:29,790 --> 00:17:35,385
And they really hated the
Jews with their hearts.

302
00:17:35,385 --> 00:17:38,040

303
00:17:38,040 --> 00:17:40,530
They did not help us.

304
00:17:40,530 --> 00:17:46,380
When they issued the declaration
in Denmark that the Jews were

305
00:17:46,380 --> 00:17:50,700
going to put on the yellow
star, the king went on the radio

306
00:17:50,700 --> 00:17:54,420
and announced that all the Danes
should put on the yellow star,

307
00:17:54,420 --> 00:17:58,460
so they had no way of telling
who was a Jew or who wasn't.

308
00:17:58,460 --> 00:18:03,480
And as a result of it, 99% of
the Danish Jews were saved.

309
00:18:03,480 --> 00:18:06,270
During the night, they
took them out with trips

310
00:18:06,270 --> 00:18:07,920
to Norway, who was neutral.

311
00:18:07,920 --> 00:18:10,950
It was not at war with Germany.

312

00:18:10,950 --> 00:18:12,280

We had no help.

313

00:18:12,280 --> 00:18:14,220

We had no cooperation.

314

00:18:14,220 --> 00:18:21,915

The Poles were really happy
what was happening to the Jews.

315

00:18:21,915 --> 00:18:23,340

They did not help us.

316

00:18:23,340 --> 00:18:24,540

They did not hide us.

317

00:18:24,540 --> 00:18:28,350

They did not hand
out a helping hand.

318

00:18:28,350 --> 00:18:30,960

319

00:18:30,960 --> 00:18:33,840

And so 28,000 Jews--

320

00:18:33,840 --> 00:18:35,940

just to give you a sample
of one of the ghettos,

321

00:18:35,940 --> 00:18:40,180

because that was going on
in every ghetto in Poland--

322

00:18:40,180 --> 00:18:43,770

we went to the death.

323

00:18:43,770 --> 00:18:46,680

Now, 2,000 Jews
remained in the ghetto.

324

00:18:46,680 --> 00:18:51,120

They were going out daily
to work and coming back.

325

00:18:51,120 --> 00:18:53,670

A year later, I was
still with the Alpha L

326

00:18:53,670 --> 00:18:56,790

on the outskirts of Radom.

327

00:18:56,790 --> 00:19:02,280

January, a year
later, January 1943,

328

00:19:02,280 --> 00:19:06,270

they declared again that
they were going to--

329

00:19:06,270 --> 00:19:08,220

first, they said
that the Jews who

330

00:19:08,220 --> 00:19:12,090

want to immigrate to
Palestine should register.

331

00:19:12,090 --> 00:19:15,780

So my two brothers were working
for wrought iron factory.

332

00:19:15,780 --> 00:19:18,760

And one of my brothers
had a lot of influence.

333

00:19:18,760 --> 00:19:20,740

They liked him,
and he would have

334

00:19:20,740 --> 00:19:23,710

been able to register
to go to Palestine.

335

00:19:23,710 --> 00:19:27,760
But he decided that was a trick,
because in the other cities,

336
00:19:27,760 --> 00:19:30,430
the people that registered
to go to Palestine

337
00:19:30,430 --> 00:19:33,520
were the ones that they
were taken to Treblinka.

338
00:19:33,520 --> 00:19:38,770
As fate wanted it, this time in
Radom, the ones that registered

339
00:19:38,770 --> 00:19:39,340
remained.

340
00:19:39,340 --> 00:19:42,560
The ones that were not on
the list were shipped out.

341
00:19:42,560 --> 00:19:45,580
So in other words, they crafted
this deception to confuse--

342
00:19:45,580 --> 00:19:48,250
To confuse the issue, so
you didn't know how to act

343
00:19:48,250 --> 00:19:49,210
and what to do.

344
00:19:49,210 --> 00:19:53,470
So if you weren't on the list,
then they were shipped out.

345
00:19:53,470 --> 00:19:57,370
At this point, we knew already
that the people are not

346
00:19:57,370 --> 00:19:58,360

being resettled.

347

00:19:58,360 --> 00:20:01,750

When they were taken, they
were taken to Treblinka.

348

00:20:01,750 --> 00:20:06,520

Thousands upon thousands of
Jews were brought into Treblinka

349

00:20:06,520 --> 00:20:09,320

from all over Europe, from
Hungary, from Romania,

350

00:20:09,320 --> 00:20:12,590

from France, from
Czechoslovakia,

351

00:20:12,590 --> 00:20:18,400

from Belgium,
Holland, et cetera.

352

00:20:18,400 --> 00:20:22,750

That's where all the executions,
all the final solution,

353

00:20:22,750 --> 00:20:25,570

was being instituted.

354

00:20:25,570 --> 00:20:30,100

January 13, 1943,
in the morning,

355

00:20:30,100 --> 00:20:33,610

they came in and took--
they had the quota to fill.

356

00:20:33,610 --> 00:20:38,350

Out of the 2000, only
1,000 was to remain.

357

00:20:38,350 --> 00:20:41,170

And my two brothers

were not on the list.

358

00:20:41,170 --> 00:20:42,100

And they went out.

359

00:20:42,100 --> 00:20:47,900

My older sister was in
that group to be taken out.

360

00:20:47,900 --> 00:20:49,420

But she escaped.

361

00:20:49,420 --> 00:20:54,490

And they were shooting after
her, but they didn't get her.

362

00:20:54,490 --> 00:20:57,520

And that night,
we found out where

363

00:20:57,520 --> 00:20:59,470

I was in Alpha L
on the outskirts

364

00:20:59,470 --> 00:21:02,110

that my two brothers were taken.

365

00:21:02,110 --> 00:21:07,120

And I was hysterical, because at
this point, we didn't already--

366

00:21:07,120 --> 00:21:08,920

we knew for sure
where they went.

367

00:21:08,920 --> 00:21:11,620

It wasn't resettlement at all.

368

00:21:11,620 --> 00:21:13,300

And I couldn't stop crying.

369

00:21:13,300 --> 00:21:15,640

The two German officers
came in from the Wehrmacht

370
00:21:15,640 --> 00:21:19,755
and they were asking some of
the girls why I'm so hysterical.

371
00:21:19,755 --> 00:21:22,370
And I couldn't stop crying.

372
00:21:22,370 --> 00:21:25,330
And so they told them that
my two brothers were taken.

373
00:21:25,330 --> 00:21:27,670
They were in their 20s.

374
00:21:27,670 --> 00:21:28,988
And I didn't want eat.

375
00:21:28,988 --> 00:21:30,280
I didn't want to get undressed.

376
00:21:30,280 --> 00:21:31,810
I wanted to sleep
in my clothing.

377
00:21:31,810 --> 00:21:34,180
And I didn't want to go
to work the next day.

378
00:21:34,180 --> 00:21:38,470
But, of course, I
was forced to go.

379
00:21:38,470 --> 00:21:42,190
And that also passed,
and I went on living.

380
00:21:42,190 --> 00:21:45,040
But every day,
there was no hope.

381

00:21:45,040 --> 00:21:49,190

It was hope against hope, and
what's going to happen next.

382

00:21:49,190 --> 00:21:51,430

We were always in fear.

383

00:21:51,430 --> 00:21:53,380

Never knew what
the next step was.

384

00:21:53,380 --> 00:21:56,350

What happened to your
sister, the one who escaped?

385

00:21:56,350 --> 00:21:58,750

The one that escape
remained in the ghetto.

386

00:21:58,750 --> 00:22:02,710

But the others and
went out daily to work.

387

00:22:02,710 --> 00:22:05,380

They made them dig turf.

388

00:22:05,380 --> 00:22:09,160

Turf was an ersatz, which
is substitution for coal.

389

00:22:09,160 --> 00:22:12,730

And they're actually
digging it and lining up.

390

00:22:12,730 --> 00:22:16,970

So that was used
to heat the homes.

391

00:22:16,970 --> 00:22:19,020

So they used to go
out in the morning

392

00:22:19,020 --> 00:22:22,360
and come back 6 o'clock
or 7 o'clock at night.

393
00:22:22,360 --> 00:22:24,130
And she was working there.

394
00:22:24,130 --> 00:22:27,940
My other sister, my
middle one, was with me

395
00:22:27,940 --> 00:22:31,790
in another department,
the food supply.

396
00:22:31,790 --> 00:22:34,450
And so she was with me
on outskirts of Radom

397
00:22:34,450 --> 00:22:38,560
too in Alpha L
with the Wehrmacht.

398
00:22:38,560 --> 00:22:41,830
My eldest brother remained.

399
00:22:41,830 --> 00:22:45,730
His wife and child--

400
00:22:45,730 --> 00:22:49,690
now, during the 1942,
I forgot to mention

401
00:22:49,690 --> 00:22:52,120
that, my eldest
brother, Abraham,

402
00:22:52,120 --> 00:22:53,800
his wife and four
children were taken

403
00:22:53,800 --> 00:22:57,940
away too, in August of 1942.

404

00:22:57,940 --> 00:23:03,040

This time, my second oldest
to the oldest brother, Jacob,

405

00:23:03,040 --> 00:23:09,160

had a little girl who was
a year old and a wife.

406

00:23:09,160 --> 00:23:13,300

And they remained in the ghetto,
at least for the time being.

407

00:23:13,300 --> 00:23:17,290

408

00:23:17,290 --> 00:23:26,140

In the middle of 1943, Hitler
broke the treaty with Russia.

409

00:23:26,140 --> 00:23:29,050

The Russian armies
were being defeated.

410

00:23:29,050 --> 00:23:31,450

And all of a sudden,
it took a turn

411

00:23:31,450 --> 00:23:34,580

that the Russians
started succeeding.

412

00:23:34,580 --> 00:23:40,720

So they started thinking of
how to liquidate the remaining

413

00:23:40,720 --> 00:23:42,645

Jews in the ghettos.

414

00:23:42,645 --> 00:23:44,020

So they announced
that the ghetto

415

00:23:44,020 --> 00:23:47,290

is going to be
liquidated and we all

416

00:23:47,290 --> 00:23:50,500

were to go outside to the
outskirts of the ghetto.

417

00:23:50,500 --> 00:23:54,310

They had an ammunition
factory in Radom too.

418

00:23:54,310 --> 00:23:56,920

And we all gathered there.

419

00:23:56,920 --> 00:23:59,260

And there were 1,000 left.

420

00:23:59,260 --> 00:24:03,590

300 remained in the
ammunition factory

421

00:24:03,590 --> 00:24:08,530

in the outskirts of Radom
in the ammunition factory,

422

00:24:08,530 --> 00:24:13,330

and 300 were sent to Ostrowiec,
which I was shipped to.

423

00:24:13,330 --> 00:24:15,910

And another group was
shipped to Pionki, also

424

00:24:15,910 --> 00:24:20,590

an ammunition factory.

425

00:24:20,590 --> 00:24:22,180

Excuse me.

426

00:24:22,180 --> 00:24:23,503

My brother and--

427
00:24:23,503 --> 00:24:24,670
How far was this from Radom?

428
00:24:24,670 --> 00:24:28,780
That was about three
miles outskirts of Radom.

429
00:24:28,780 --> 00:24:32,170
All the women with
little children

430
00:24:32,170 --> 00:24:35,050
were taken into a separate room.

431
00:24:35,050 --> 00:24:39,820
And my little niece was one
year old, a little over one.

432
00:24:39,820 --> 00:24:45,730
And just to show you how even
a child could feel and become

433
00:24:45,730 --> 00:24:48,160
almost grown up,
she turned around

434
00:24:48,160 --> 00:24:50,230
to her mother and she said--

435
00:24:50,230 --> 00:24:52,660
she wasn't even fully
1 and 1/2 years old,

436
00:24:52,660 --> 00:24:55,270
but she spoke fully
with sentences--

437
00:24:55,270 --> 00:24:56,020
she turned around.

438
00:24:56,020 --> 00:25:01,330

She says mommy, what's
going to happen to the baby?

439
00:25:01,330 --> 00:25:04,930
That night, they took all
the women and the children

440
00:25:04,930 --> 00:25:07,060
to a separate room.

441
00:25:07,060 --> 00:25:09,910
And at the end of the day,
they took them into the woods

442
00:25:09,910 --> 00:25:11,800
and they shot them all.

443
00:25:11,800 --> 00:25:16,630
My little niece was saved
by a Jewish policeman,

444
00:25:16,630 --> 00:25:18,250
because she was a little baby.

445
00:25:18,250 --> 00:25:20,900
And he was related
to my sister-in-law.

446
00:25:20,900 --> 00:25:22,630
So he took her out
through the window.

447
00:25:22,630 --> 00:25:25,040
But he couldn't save
my sister-in-law.

448
00:25:25,040 --> 00:25:25,990
So she was shot.

449
00:25:25,990 --> 00:25:29,290
And all the women and the
children were shot that night.

450

00:25:29,290 --> 00:25:31,760

This little baby, over
a year and a half,

451

00:25:31,760 --> 00:25:34,630

was now in the
ammunition factory

452

00:25:34,630 --> 00:25:38,080

with two aunts, two
sisters of her mother, who

453

00:25:38,080 --> 00:25:40,420

took care of her.

454

00:25:40,420 --> 00:25:45,412

And one day, they had
communal bathrooms.

455

00:25:45,412 --> 00:25:46,870

And she was sitting
in one of them.

456

00:25:46,870 --> 00:25:48,580

Nobody even realized
she was there.

457

00:25:48,580 --> 00:25:52,510

And one woman came and she said
that she had this diamond ring.

458

00:25:52,510 --> 00:25:55,000

And she handed it to
one of the guards.

459

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:59,200

But she couldn't save her
child, but she saved herself.

460

00:25:59,200 --> 00:26:02,410

So this little child, a year
and a half old, turned around,

461

00:26:02,410 --> 00:26:06,280
and she came out and she says,
and I couldn't save my mommy,

462

00:26:06,280 --> 00:26:08,620
but I saved myself,
and I came out of it.

463

00:26:08,620 --> 00:26:11,800
A year had and a half old.

464

00:26:11,800 --> 00:26:14,110
We went to Ostrowiec.

465

00:26:14,110 --> 00:26:19,810
We worked there for almost a
full year until 1944, June.

466

00:26:19,810 --> 00:26:25,600
In 1944, they liquidated
all the labor camps

467

00:26:25,600 --> 00:26:28,210
and shipped us further
and further away

468

00:26:28,210 --> 00:26:32,740
going towards the German
border into Germany.

469

00:26:32,740 --> 00:26:37,870
June of '44, we were
herded into cattle train

470

00:26:37,870 --> 00:26:42,040
and we were taken to Auschwitz.

471

00:26:42,040 --> 00:26:48,250
Upon arrival, they told us
we're going to take showers.

472

00:26:48,250 --> 00:26:50,170

Of course, we never
believed them.

473
00:26:50,170 --> 00:26:53,200
We thought that the same
fate was awaiting us,

474
00:26:53,200 --> 00:26:57,460
what they did to our
parents and to my brothers.

475
00:26:57,460 --> 00:26:59,800
The only thing that we were
allowed to take with us

476
00:26:59,800 --> 00:27:01,240
is the shoes.

477
00:27:01,240 --> 00:27:05,080
And everything else we
had to leave behind us.

478
00:27:05,080 --> 00:27:08,320
I was holding two pictures
in my hands of my parents.

479
00:27:08,320 --> 00:27:10,850
What I wouldn't give
to have them now.

480
00:27:10,850 --> 00:27:14,170
And the SS woman told me,
what do you have in your hand?

481
00:27:14,170 --> 00:27:16,150
And I said pictures
of my parents.

482
00:27:16,150 --> 00:27:17,470
She pulled it out of my hand.

483
00:27:17,470 --> 00:27:20,005
She tore it to pieces and

slapped me in the face.

484

00:27:20,005 --> 00:27:23,890

485

00:27:23,890 --> 00:27:26,860

And then we were going
into the showers.

486

00:27:26,860 --> 00:27:30,020

We left all our clothing,
all our belongings behind.

487

00:27:30,020 --> 00:27:33,100

And as I said, the shoes
we're allowed to take.

488

00:27:33,100 --> 00:27:36,340

This time, actually
water came down, not gas.

489

00:27:36,340 --> 00:27:38,350

We took the showers.

490

00:27:38,350 --> 00:27:41,110

And afterwards,
when we came out,

491

00:27:41,110 --> 00:27:44,830

they started shaving
the hair off women.

492

00:27:44,830 --> 00:27:49,030

We were 300 women in that
particular transport.

493

00:27:49,030 --> 00:27:51,310

And I turned around, and
I said to my two older

494

00:27:51,310 --> 00:27:57,820

sisters, if they shave my hair
off completely-- because I

495
00:27:57,820 --> 00:28:02,350
looked at my friend that we
were raised in the same building

496
00:28:02,350 --> 00:28:04,660
and she's not present
living in Fairmount,

497
00:28:04,660 --> 00:28:07,480
and her hair was shaved off.

498
00:28:07,480 --> 00:28:08,620
And she was crying.

499
00:28:08,620 --> 00:28:11,890
She was hysterical, laughing.

500
00:28:11,890 --> 00:28:15,040
And I looked at her, I took one
look, and I said to my sister,

501
00:28:15,040 --> 00:28:18,850
when this happens
to me, I will not--

502
00:28:18,850 --> 00:28:21,010
not the hair means
anything-- but just

503
00:28:21,010 --> 00:28:25,120
they took away the last
ounce of pride or dignity

504
00:28:25,120 --> 00:28:27,580
from a woman or girl.

505
00:28:27,580 --> 00:28:30,820
And I said I'll go to through
the electric barbed wire

506
00:28:30,820 --> 00:28:32,740

and I'll finish it all.

507

00:28:32,740 --> 00:28:38,530

As fate wanted it, out of
300, women maybe 20 remained

508

00:28:38,530 --> 00:28:41,980

with hair just cut short.

509

00:28:41,980 --> 00:28:45,460

I and my two sisters
came out with a hair cut

510

00:28:45,460 --> 00:28:47,530

short, not shaved off.

511

00:28:47,530 --> 00:28:52,180

I really would have done
it, because there was like--

512

00:28:52,180 --> 00:28:54,010

I know I'm very determined.

513

00:28:54,010 --> 00:28:54,845

I know myself.

514

00:28:54,845 --> 00:28:55,720

I would have done it.

515

00:28:55,720 --> 00:29:00,160

But as fate wanted it, I
guess I was meant to survive.

516

00:29:00,160 --> 00:29:01,340

They did not do that.

517

00:29:01,340 --> 00:29:06,730

And then they handed as
a dress, no underwear--

518

00:29:06,730 --> 00:29:10,540

that was probably staunched

from somebody else that already

519

00:29:10,540 --> 00:29:14,200

was gassed and cremated--

520

00:29:14,200 --> 00:29:18,800

and no underwear, no stockings.

521

00:29:18,800 --> 00:29:22,280

And the shoes, when

we held the shoes,

522

00:29:22,280 --> 00:29:23,960

they looked into the

shoes to make sure

523

00:29:23,960 --> 00:29:27,020

that no one was hiding

anything in them.

524

00:29:27,020 --> 00:29:29,310

They emerged it in the water.

525

00:29:29,310 --> 00:29:32,180

So in case if you were hiding

in the inner sole pictures,

526

00:29:32,180 --> 00:29:34,070

it would get ruined.

527

00:29:34,070 --> 00:29:35,525

And they gave us back the shoes.

528

00:29:35,525 --> 00:29:38,300

529

00:29:38,300 --> 00:29:42,230

Then they tattooed us.

530

00:29:42,230 --> 00:29:45,800

And they used ballpoint pens.

531

00:29:45,800 --> 00:29:48,420
Under the skin was very painful.

532

00:29:48,420 --> 00:29:49,470
I have a scar here.

533

00:29:49,470 --> 00:29:50,690
I don't have my number.

534

00:29:50,690 --> 00:29:53,840
I'll explain how this happened.

535

00:29:53,840 --> 00:29:56,990
They tattooed us with the
ballpoints under the skin.

536

00:29:56,990 --> 00:29:59,150
It was very, very
painful, little dots.

537

00:29:59,150 --> 00:30:00,560
With a needle?

538

00:30:00,560 --> 00:30:01,580
With a ballpoint.

539

00:30:01,580 --> 00:30:05,330
With a very pointy
pen under the skin.

540

00:30:05,330 --> 00:30:08,570
And the arm was swollen
like for days and red.

541

00:30:08,570 --> 00:30:11,120
And we were divested
of all humanity.

542

00:30:11,120 --> 00:30:12,590
We no longer had names.

543

00:30:12,590 --> 00:30:13,685

Now, we were numbers.

544

00:30:13,685 --> 00:30:18,290

545

00:30:18,290 --> 00:30:22,550

The daily intake was one
slice of bread in Auschwitz

546

00:30:22,550 --> 00:30:27,150

and one bowl of soup
made of potato peels.

547

00:30:27,150 --> 00:30:30,710

We were 1,000 girls
in one barrack.

548

00:30:30,710 --> 00:30:35,720

The barracks were built
with three levels of bunks.

549

00:30:35,720 --> 00:30:39,590

There were about 15
girls on each level.

550

00:30:39,590 --> 00:30:44,510

Luckily, I was on the top level,
because the sanitary conditions

551

00:30:44,510 --> 00:30:45,980

were horrible.

552

00:30:45,980 --> 00:30:48,290

We only were allowed
to go out once

553

00:30:48,290 --> 00:30:53,240

in a blue moon to go and wash in
the communal big sinks made out

554

00:30:53,240 --> 00:30:57,620

of wood with cold

water and no soap.

555

00:30:57,620 --> 00:31:01,190

But we used to sneak out
anyway to get washed,

556

00:31:01,190 --> 00:31:04,010

even though it meant
sometimes to be

557

00:31:04,010 --> 00:31:07,610

taken in and taken and gassed.

558

00:31:07,610 --> 00:31:09,980

And the lice were
crawling all over.

559

00:31:09,980 --> 00:31:11,630

And people were hungry.

560

00:31:11,630 --> 00:31:14,000

And mothers were
stealing a piece of bread

561

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:17,240

from their daughters
and sister from sister.

562

00:31:17,240 --> 00:31:20,180

And I just feel very
proud that I never really

563

00:31:20,180 --> 00:31:23,420

stooped to that level.

564

00:31:23,420 --> 00:31:25,280

We didn't work in Auschwitz.

565

00:31:25,280 --> 00:31:27,020

We were counted every day.

566

00:31:27,020 --> 00:31:30,590

5:00 in the morning, they
made us get up to be counted.

567
00:31:30,590 --> 00:31:34,040
And in the evening at 5:00,
we would stand for hours.

568
00:31:34,040 --> 00:31:38,120
If somebody didn't appear, if
there was one person missing

569
00:31:38,120 --> 00:31:39,740
because they were
sick and they didn't

570
00:31:39,740 --> 00:31:42,230
want to appear for
the counting, they

571
00:31:42,230 --> 00:31:44,570
were hiding on the
bunk beds, they

572
00:31:44,570 --> 00:31:47,780
would let us stand there
until that person appeared

573
00:31:47,780 --> 00:31:50,390
and the count was right.

574
00:31:50,390 --> 00:31:53,660

575
00:31:53,660 --> 00:31:56,090
This was going on
every single day.

576
00:31:56,090 --> 00:32:01,310
And every few days, Dr. Mengele
would come in to the camp

577
00:32:01,310 --> 00:32:03,410
and do the selections.

578

00:32:03,410 --> 00:32:07,580

He selected people that looked
emaciated, that looked sickly,

579

00:32:07,580 --> 00:32:12,020

because not everybody could
withstand this kind of diet.

580

00:32:12,020 --> 00:32:16,580

And some people really
completely fell apart.

581

00:32:16,580 --> 00:32:20,780

And I don't know
what strength I had

582

00:32:20,780 --> 00:32:26,270

or my two sisters that we
were able to really withstand

583

00:32:26,270 --> 00:32:27,650

all this.

584

00:32:27,650 --> 00:32:31,160

And every few days,
they would declare

585

00:32:31,160 --> 00:32:36,080

Blocksperre, which meant
the locking of the barracks.

586

00:32:36,080 --> 00:32:38,390

You were not allowed to
even go to the bathroom.

587

00:32:38,390 --> 00:32:41,480

We had no bathrooms inside.

588

00:32:41,480 --> 00:32:44,040

We knew every time they
declared Blocksperre

589

00:32:44,040 --> 00:32:46,160
that there was gassing going on.

590

00:32:46,160 --> 00:32:53,300
They gassed about 150,000 daily.

591

00:32:53,300 --> 00:32:56,690
And the roofs were made
out-- we had like skylights

592

00:32:56,690 --> 00:33:00,080
with glass roofs.

593

00:33:00,080 --> 00:33:04,220
When they were burning the
people in the crematorium,

594

00:33:04,220 --> 00:33:06,680
the whole sky was as
red as broad daylight.

595

00:33:06,680 --> 00:33:09,740
We knew exactly when
they were burning.

596

00:33:09,740 --> 00:33:13,160
Aside from the fact that they
were not allowed to go out,

597

00:33:13,160 --> 00:33:16,700
we saw the skies were red
and we saw the flames.

598

00:33:16,700 --> 00:33:21,600
The next so you could smell the
stench of the burning bodies.

599

00:33:21,600 --> 00:33:23,090
This was going on daily.

600

00:33:23,090 --> 00:33:27,410
Not only that Dr.

Mengele do that.

601

00:33:27,410 --> 00:33:30,740

But my sister-- at this
point, a day later,

602

00:33:30,740 --> 00:33:36,650

the transport from Radom came
in because we were in Ostrowiec.

603

00:33:36,650 --> 00:33:39,650

And my little niece
arrived with the two aunts.

604

00:33:39,650 --> 00:33:43,460

And two sisters are
fighting who is going

605

00:33:43,460 --> 00:33:45,170

to go with the little girl.

606

00:33:45,170 --> 00:33:48,890

At this point, she's
2 and 1/2 years old.

607

00:33:48,890 --> 00:33:51,800

And she was very bright
and very beautiful.

608

00:33:51,800 --> 00:33:53,960

As a matter of fact, the
Germans sometimes came

609

00:33:53,960 --> 00:33:57,110

from different camps to just
talk to her and look at her

610

00:33:57,110 --> 00:34:00,290

when she was in
Radom, I was told.

611

00:34:00,290 --> 00:34:02,210

And the two sisters

were fighting

612

00:34:02,210 --> 00:34:03,410

who's going to go with her.

613

00:34:03,410 --> 00:34:06,650

They wouldn't leave

little Rachel alone.

614

00:34:06,650 --> 00:34:09,679

Some mothers knowing that

it wouldn't help them,

615

00:34:09,679 --> 00:34:13,250

they would abandon the

child And save themselves.

616

00:34:13,250 --> 00:34:14,499

But not these two.

617

00:34:14,499 --> 00:34:17,690

These two were fighting

who's going to go with her.

618

00:34:17,690 --> 00:34:22,030

And the oldest one who had a

little boy with her husband

619

00:34:22,030 --> 00:34:24,790

knew that probably they

were taking him away.

620

00:34:24,790 --> 00:34:25,810

So she won.

621

00:34:25,810 --> 00:34:28,630

And she went with my niece.

622

00:34:28,630 --> 00:34:33,520

So with the two victims now

because of that one child.

623

00:34:33,520 --> 00:34:37,060
And the other sister survived.

624
00:34:37,060 --> 00:34:41,500
And she was in the
infirmary in Auschwitz,

625
00:34:41,500 --> 00:34:45,550
because she got scarlet fever.

626
00:34:45,550 --> 00:34:47,440
So she was taken
to the infirmary.

627
00:34:47,440 --> 00:34:49,900
Nobody would like to
go into the infirmary

628
00:34:49,900 --> 00:34:53,889
unless it was absolutely
necessary, forced upon them--

629
00:34:53,889 --> 00:34:56,739
she had such high fever,
she had no choice--

630
00:34:56,739 --> 00:35:00,430
because the chances of being
selected in the infirmary

631
00:35:00,430 --> 00:35:04,780
were much greater than
the regular barracks.

632
00:35:04,780 --> 00:35:07,630
So Dr. Mengele came
in to the infirmary.

633
00:35:07,630 --> 00:35:14,380
And he was selecting everybody
to be taken to the crematory.

634
00:35:14,380 --> 00:35:16,420

And while she was
there, there was

635
00:35:16,420 --> 00:35:18,320
a little girl from my hometown.

636
00:35:18,320 --> 00:35:19,660
She was a doctor's little girl.

637
00:35:19,660 --> 00:35:22,300
She was our neighbor
from across the street.

638
00:35:22,300 --> 00:35:23,650
Why was she still there?

639
00:35:23,650 --> 00:35:25,840
She was five years old.

640
00:35:25,840 --> 00:35:31,040
They always left a handful of
children for the Kinderheim.

641
00:35:31,040 --> 00:35:34,180
So if the international
inspection from Geneva

642
00:35:34,180 --> 00:35:36,670
would come from Red
Cross, they would show--

643
00:35:36,670 --> 00:35:38,140
there was a handful
of children--

644
00:35:38,140 --> 00:35:40,840
how well they were treated
with the beautiful clothing

645
00:35:40,840 --> 00:35:42,190
and the toys.

646

00:35:42,190 --> 00:35:44,740

And then when the next
transport would come,

647

00:35:44,740 --> 00:35:47,740

they would take these children
and burn them and replace them

648

00:35:47,740 --> 00:35:49,240

with a new transport.

649

00:35:49,240 --> 00:35:51,350

So there was always a
handful of children.

650

00:35:51,350 --> 00:35:53,680

So this little girl
is in the infirmary

651

00:35:53,680 --> 00:35:55,660

with my sister-in-law.

652

00:35:55,660 --> 00:35:56,810

Mengele came in.

653

00:35:56,810 --> 00:35:58,870

She was very beautiful
and very bright.

654

00:35:58,870 --> 00:36:00,880

And he played with her.

655

00:36:00,880 --> 00:36:02,260

He handed her candy.

656

00:36:02,260 --> 00:36:03,820

He talked with her.

657

00:36:03,820 --> 00:36:06,990

And then he sent it
to the crematorium.

658

00:36:06,990 --> 00:36:08,680
When he passed my sister-in-law.

659
00:36:08,680 --> 00:36:10,780
He looked at her, and
he couldn't decide.

660
00:36:10,780 --> 00:36:12,280
And then he left her.

661
00:36:12,280 --> 00:36:14,200
If he would have
chosen her then,

662
00:36:14,200 --> 00:36:15,760
she wouldn't have
been alive today.

663
00:36:15,760 --> 00:36:19,400

664
00:36:19,400 --> 00:36:25,060
We were in Auschwitz
for six months waiting.

665
00:36:25,060 --> 00:36:28,940
We didn't know what for, what
the next day would bring.

666
00:36:28,940 --> 00:36:32,650
And when the selections
were being conducted,

667
00:36:32,650 --> 00:36:35,620
one group was to the
right and one to the left.

668
00:36:35,620 --> 00:36:40,250
We never knew which one was
life and which one was death.

669
00:36:40,250 --> 00:36:45,500
We were just following orders to

go to the right or to the left.

670

00:36:45,500 --> 00:36:50,350

And as I started saying, the
men used to pass by our camps.

671

00:36:50,350 --> 00:36:51,280

They were working.

672

00:36:51,280 --> 00:36:54,850

Somehow they were able to get
a little more food sometimes.

673

00:36:54,850 --> 00:36:56,230

I don't know how.

674

00:36:56,230 --> 00:36:58,780

But because they were working,
they were going from one place

675

00:36:58,780 --> 00:36:59,660

to another.

676

00:36:59,660 --> 00:37:01,540

They were able to get
some honey or to get

677

00:37:01,540 --> 00:37:03,820

a little extra piece of bread.

678

00:37:03,820 --> 00:37:07,870

There was one man, who was
a friend of the family.

679

00:37:07,870 --> 00:37:10,857

We knew what time all this
when he was going to pass.

680

00:37:10,857 --> 00:37:11,815

We used to stand there.

681

00:37:11,815 --> 00:37:13,900

And he would just
throw it to us.

682
00:37:13,900 --> 00:37:17,380
So I had an extra
little piece of bread.

683
00:37:17,380 --> 00:37:20,710
And whatever I got, I shared
it with my two sisters,

684
00:37:20,710 --> 00:37:22,690
every bite.

685
00:37:22,690 --> 00:37:26,410
And I have to say, I'm
proud of myself to say--

686
00:37:26,410 --> 00:37:28,720
and I didn't remember
this incident.

687
00:37:28,720 --> 00:37:32,170
A friend of my
sister-in-law's passed by.

688
00:37:32,170 --> 00:37:34,300
And she knew I had
a little drive honey

689
00:37:34,300 --> 00:37:35,830
that this man had given me.

690
00:37:35,830 --> 00:37:39,010
And we treasured
it like God knows.

691
00:37:39,010 --> 00:37:40,810
So she had a cold,
and she asked me,

692
00:37:40,810 --> 00:37:43,690
would I give a spoon of

honey and she gave me

693

00:37:43,690 --> 00:37:45,760

her portion of bread?

694

00:37:45,760 --> 00:37:47,590

And after the war,

she told me that I

695

00:37:47,590 --> 00:37:49,227

refused the portion of bread.

696

00:37:49,227 --> 00:37:50,560

And I gave her the honey anyway.

697

00:37:50,560 --> 00:37:53,110

And I was really proud of

myself that I did that.

698

00:37:53,110 --> 00:37:54,520

I didn't even remember it.

699

00:37:54,520 --> 00:37:58,450

700

00:37:58,450 --> 00:38:01,150

We stayed there like this.

701

00:38:01,150 --> 00:38:03,550

We lived with fear every

day, something else.

702

00:38:03,550 --> 00:38:06,410

And then we were told we

were going to be shipped out.

703

00:38:06,410 --> 00:38:08,710

We really didn't believe it.

704

00:38:08,710 --> 00:38:11,140

But I, my two sisters

decided we're going

705

00:38:11,140 --> 00:38:13,750
to go to the main kitchen.

706

00:38:13,750 --> 00:38:15,210
And we're going to
say that we were

707

00:38:15,210 --> 00:38:19,630
sent by the lady in
charge of our barrack

708

00:38:19,630 --> 00:38:21,640
for a barrel of soup.

709

00:38:21,640 --> 00:38:23,980
We couldn't lift the
whole big barrel.

710

00:38:23,980 --> 00:38:27,100
So we picked up a
little barrel of soup.

711

00:38:27,100 --> 00:38:30,850
And I said before we're going to
die, we shouldn't be starving.

712

00:38:30,850 --> 00:38:32,350
And we're going to
bring this barrel

713

00:38:32,350 --> 00:38:34,420
and we're going to eat
and fill ourselves up.

714

00:38:34,420 --> 00:38:38,020
Well, we never got to
the barracks with it.

715

00:38:38,020 --> 00:38:39,353
The women attacked us.

716

00:38:39,353 --> 00:38:40,270
We didn't have plates.

717
00:38:40,270 --> 00:38:41,590
But they had pots.

718
00:38:41,590 --> 00:38:42,820
They attacked us.

719
00:38:42,820 --> 00:38:44,770
And our whole soup
was spilled out.

720
00:38:44,770 --> 00:38:46,570
And no one had anything.

721
00:38:46,570 --> 00:38:48,520
That's how hungry people were.

722
00:38:48,520 --> 00:38:50,350
People were going
into the garbage,

723
00:38:50,350 --> 00:38:54,910
picking out the grind from
the coffee, the ersatz coffee

724
00:38:54,910 --> 00:38:56,740
that they called--

725
00:38:56,740 --> 00:38:58,120
ersatz coffee is a substitute.

726
00:38:58,120 --> 00:39:00,190
They used to the
grinds from the coffee,

727
00:39:00,190 --> 00:39:02,740
the peels, or whatever
they could find.

728
00:39:02,740 --> 00:39:04,880

I never did that.

729

00:39:04,880 --> 00:39:10,240

And actually, that winter--

730

00:39:10,240 --> 00:39:13,690

it was the end of December--

731

00:39:13,690 --> 00:39:16,090

we were told to go
into the showers again.

732

00:39:16,090 --> 00:39:18,320

Of course, we never
believed we were coming out.

733

00:39:18,320 --> 00:39:19,760

This time it was really showers.

734

00:39:19,760 --> 00:39:22,880

They handed us a coat
and another dress

735

00:39:22,880 --> 00:39:25,340

and some stockings.

736

00:39:25,340 --> 00:39:27,710

And we were actually
shipped to Germany

737

00:39:27,710 --> 00:39:35,330

to Georgenthal, which was
a plane parts factory.

738

00:39:35,330 --> 00:39:38,750

And I became a welder.

739

00:39:38,750 --> 00:39:42,530

And they taught me how to weld
a little screw to a little round

740

00:39:42,530 --> 00:39:44,270

wheel, a small one.

741

00:39:44,270 --> 00:39:45,650

And it was done with copper.

742

00:39:45,650 --> 00:39:48,470

And we worked shifts,

12 hour shifts,

743

00:39:48,470 --> 00:39:53,030

alternating from 8:00 to

8:00 at night and from 8:00

744

00:39:53,030 --> 00:39:56,420

at night to the next morning,

alternating each week.

745

00:39:56,420 --> 00:39:59,900

And the food was

a little better.

746

00:39:59,900 --> 00:40:03,350

We weren't guarded

with electrical wires.

747

00:40:03,350 --> 00:40:05,600

We were guarded by the SS.

748

00:40:05,600 --> 00:40:07,430

No one ever escaped

because there was not

749

00:40:07,430 --> 00:40:11,900

a place to run or to escape to.

750

00:40:11,900 --> 00:40:16,940

If anybody escaped, they

were apprehended instantly.

751

00:40:16,940 --> 00:40:18,245

And then--

752

00:40:18,245 --> 00:40:19,750

Were your sisters
still with you.

753

00:40:19,750 --> 00:40:21,980

We were always together luckily.

754

00:40:21,980 --> 00:40:23,690

There were two sisters.

755

00:40:23,690 --> 00:40:25,580

They were always separated.

756

00:40:25,580 --> 00:40:29,630

I really considered myself one
of the more fortunate ones.

757

00:40:29,630 --> 00:40:31,850

We were always together.

758

00:40:31,850 --> 00:40:34,250

At one point, they
wanted to separate us.

759

00:40:34,250 --> 00:40:38,630

And somehow my sister,
the middle sister,

760

00:40:38,630 --> 00:40:42,810

snuck out and got back to
the line where we were.

761

00:40:42,810 --> 00:40:46,400

And they evacuated us.

762

00:40:46,400 --> 00:40:50,720

This point, the Russians
are progressing into--

763

00:40:50,720 --> 00:40:53,660

you almost hear the
shooting from the front.

764

00:40:53,660 --> 00:40:55,850

And we hear that Russia
is really progressing,

765

00:40:55,850 --> 00:40:59,540

going westward.

766

00:40:59,540 --> 00:41:04,760

And they told us to get ready,
that we're going to walk.

767

00:41:04,760 --> 00:41:07,760

We walked for three
days and three nights

768

00:41:07,760 --> 00:41:12,350

in a bitter cold,
torn shoes with holes.

769

00:41:12,350 --> 00:41:13,790

The snow was high.

770

00:41:13,790 --> 00:41:18,080

The winters are much more severe
there than what we have here.

771

00:41:18,080 --> 00:41:20,630

And we walked day and
night without food.

772

00:41:20,630 --> 00:41:22,640

Two girls escaped
into the woods.

773

00:41:22,640 --> 00:41:27,530

They were apprehended
instantly by the SS and shot.

774

00:41:27,530 --> 00:41:28,640

I knew them very well.

775

00:41:28,640 --> 00:41:32,000

They were part of our group.

776

00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:36,260

And whoever couldn't
make it was left behind

777

00:41:36,260 --> 00:41:39,980

and shot because they
couldn't walk any longer.

778

00:41:39,980 --> 00:41:42,710

And we finally arrived
to the other place.

779

00:41:42,710 --> 00:41:45,290

780

00:41:45,290 --> 00:41:46,940

The first one was Gebhardsdorf.

781

00:41:46,940 --> 00:41:49,020

Correction, I think
I said Georgenthal.

782

00:41:49,020 --> 00:41:50,720

The first one was Gebhardsdorf.

783

00:41:50,720 --> 00:41:53,870

Now, we walk to
Georgenthal, which was also

784

00:41:53,870 --> 00:41:55,400

the same type of factory.

785

00:41:55,400 --> 00:41:57,440

How many miles or
kilometers did you walk?

786

00:41:57,440 --> 00:41:58,100

We don't know.

787

00:41:58,100 --> 00:42:00,470

It was three days
and three nights

788
00:42:00,470 --> 00:42:05,660
without food, very
cold, and no stops.

789
00:42:05,660 --> 00:42:07,550
And so we finally arrived here.

790
00:42:07,550 --> 00:42:11,510
And again, we worked shifts.

791
00:42:11,510 --> 00:42:16,460
And the food was a little
better than concentration camp.

792
00:42:16,460 --> 00:42:24,620
And a very interesting thing
happened to us personally.

793
00:42:24,620 --> 00:42:26,360
We heard the shooting
from the fronts.

794
00:42:26,360 --> 00:42:31,790
And we knew it was a question
of hours, perhaps a day.

795
00:42:31,790 --> 00:42:33,860
My two sisters and
two other girls

796
00:42:33,860 --> 00:42:37,610
decided we're going to sneak out
of the camp, because as I said,

797
00:42:37,610 --> 00:42:39,500
we were just
guarded with the SS.

798
00:42:39,500 --> 00:42:41,790
But we weren't really

near barbed wire.

799

00:42:41,790 --> 00:42:44,150

So you could really walk
out if you wanted to.

800

00:42:44,150 --> 00:42:44,870

It was very easy.

801

00:42:44,870 --> 00:42:47,810

But where were we to go?

802

00:42:47,810 --> 00:42:50,150

So we decided to
sneak out at 5 o'clock

803

00:42:50,150 --> 00:42:53,210

in the morning, that morning.

804

00:42:53,210 --> 00:42:57,320

And we walked in to
a wooden shack, which

805

00:42:57,320 --> 00:42:59,930

was attached to a private home.

806

00:42:59,930 --> 00:43:04,310

The people always stored
their coal and wood

807

00:43:04,310 --> 00:43:07,280

to be heated, because we didn't
have gas heat and electric heat

808

00:43:07,280 --> 00:43:10,430

like we have here,
to heat their ovens.

809

00:43:10,430 --> 00:43:11,750

And it was open.

810

00:43:11,750 --> 00:43:14,690

And we snuck in very quietly.

811

00:43:14,690 --> 00:43:16,490

We didn't utter a word.

812

00:43:16,490 --> 00:43:19,370

We were sitting there.

813

00:43:19,370 --> 00:43:25,070

I don't know how, 8 o'clock
in the morning, three SS

814

00:43:25,070 --> 00:43:26,300

opened up the door.

815

00:43:26,300 --> 00:43:28,880

She must have realized
that we were hiding there.

816

00:43:28,880 --> 00:43:31,040

I don't know how.

817

00:43:31,040 --> 00:43:32,600

And she called them up.

818

00:43:32,600 --> 00:43:35,450

And they came to get us.

819

00:43:35,450 --> 00:43:38,750

They came in, opened the door,
and they told us to come out.

820

00:43:38,750 --> 00:43:42,470

Now, in the history of the whole
Holocaust, this was unheard of.

821

00:43:42,470 --> 00:43:44,930

Somebody escaped or somebody--

822

00:43:44,930 --> 00:43:47,990

they would instantly
kill the person.

823
00:43:47,990 --> 00:43:51,200
They took us-- they asked
where we came from, which camp.

824
00:43:51,200 --> 00:43:53,420
They took us back, and
they said, don't you

825
00:43:53,420 --> 00:43:56,330
ever do that again.

826
00:43:56,330 --> 00:43:58,310
I wouldn't be here
to tell the story

827
00:43:58,310 --> 00:44:02,780
if they would have done what
they did with all the others.

828
00:44:02,780 --> 00:44:07,310
That night, the SS disappeared.

829
00:44:07,310 --> 00:44:09,860
They change guards with
the Wehrmacht, which

830
00:44:09,860 --> 00:44:12,980
was the regular army units.

831
00:44:12,980 --> 00:44:14,990
And we didn't go
to sleep all night.

832
00:44:14,990 --> 00:44:18,370
We heard the shooting from
the fronts and everything.

833
00:44:18,370 --> 00:44:22,390
And 5 o'clock in the
morning, we looked out

834

00:44:22,390 --> 00:44:24,470
and they were all gone.

835
00:44:24,470 --> 00:44:25,420
They left us free.

836
00:44:25,420 --> 00:44:27,500
We couldn't believe it.

837
00:44:27,500 --> 00:44:29,650
They waited for orders
what to do with us.

838
00:44:29,650 --> 00:44:32,050
All the communication
lines were broken.

839
00:44:32,050 --> 00:44:33,560
There was such consternation.

840
00:44:33,560 --> 00:44:35,810
They didn't know
what to do with us.

841
00:44:35,810 --> 00:44:39,220
And they just went for
their own lives, I guess.

842
00:44:39,220 --> 00:44:40,420
And they left us free.

843
00:44:40,420 --> 00:44:42,130
We ran out of the streets.

844
00:44:42,130 --> 00:44:45,340
We couldn't believe that
we were actually free.

845
00:44:45,340 --> 00:44:47,140
And all we dreamt
about is to get

846

00:44:47,140 --> 00:44:50,500
a loaf of bread, that slice,
just bite into it for once,

847
00:44:50,500 --> 00:44:52,240
not to be hungry.

848
00:44:52,240 --> 00:44:54,520
And we reverberated.

849
00:44:54,520 --> 00:44:56,860
Where were you
exactly at that point.

850
00:44:56,860 --> 00:44:59,320
At this point we
were in Georgenthal.

851
00:44:59,320 --> 00:45:03,370
And then we were shipped
to [PLACE NAME] Dachau.

852
00:45:03,370 --> 00:45:06,250
Who were the liberators?

853
00:45:06,250 --> 00:45:09,790
Over there were the
Russians in Georgenthal.

854
00:45:09,790 --> 00:45:12,580
And then we were
shipped with trains.

855
00:45:12,580 --> 00:45:13,510
Then after the war--

856
00:45:13,510 --> 00:45:16,180

857
00:45:16,180 --> 00:45:20,080
actually, at some
point, we went back

858

00:45:20,080 --> 00:45:22,360

to Poland, I and my
two sisters, hoping

859

00:45:22,360 --> 00:45:25,420

to find somebody in Radom.

860

00:45:25,420 --> 00:45:29,140

We knew that for sure
there was no one there,

861

00:45:29,140 --> 00:45:31,220

but we went anyway.

862

00:45:31,220 --> 00:45:36,820

And all the new survivors
came to a certain center.

863

00:45:36,820 --> 00:45:38,290

We all met together.

864

00:45:38,290 --> 00:45:42,700

And they knew more
or less who was who.

865

00:45:42,700 --> 00:45:44,620

And we knew each other.

866

00:45:44,620 --> 00:45:45,865

And we couldn't find anybody.

867

00:45:45,865 --> 00:45:48,430

And we heard that a lot
of people who returned,

868

00:45:48,430 --> 00:45:50,800

the Poles would kill them.

869

00:45:50,800 --> 00:45:55,563

And so we got on a train two
days later and just went back.

870

00:45:55,563 --> 00:45:57,730

They were being killed even
though the war was over?

871

00:45:57,730 --> 00:45:59,440

After the war, sure.

872

00:45:59,440 --> 00:46:02,210

They didn't want the Jews back.

873

00:46:02,210 --> 00:46:04,300

They didn't want the
Jews back at all.

874

00:46:04,300 --> 00:46:07,750

And a cousin of my
friend went back,

875

00:46:07,750 --> 00:46:12,010

and he had some gold and
money buried in the ground.

876

00:46:12,010 --> 00:46:14,530

And when he arrived in that
town, they beheaded him.

877

00:46:14,530 --> 00:46:17,500

878

00:46:17,500 --> 00:46:19,150

It's terrible.

879

00:46:19,150 --> 00:46:20,950

The Poles were our
friends of ours.

880

00:46:20,950 --> 00:46:22,750

They really weren't.

881

00:46:22,750 --> 00:46:27,340

Now they say that they
really had no choice.

882
00:46:27,340 --> 00:46:28,780
And the war was
against them too.

883
00:46:28,780 --> 00:46:30,130
Of course, it was.

884
00:46:30,130 --> 00:46:32,710
They only took the Poles
for political reasons.

885
00:46:32,710 --> 00:46:35,950
If they were in the
underground or resistance.

886
00:46:35,950 --> 00:46:37,810
But they didn't take
the Poles because they

887
00:46:37,810 --> 00:46:41,260
were born of a certain faith.

888
00:46:41,260 --> 00:46:48,760
And I think the pope dispersed
his Christian love and unity

889
00:46:48,760 --> 00:46:51,040
by being silent.

890
00:46:51,040 --> 00:46:53,620
And the least he
could have done,

891
00:46:53,620 --> 00:46:58,510
90% of the Christian
world of Germany, where

892
00:46:58,510 --> 00:47:00,990
answering to the pope.

893
00:47:00,990 --> 00:47:03,490

The least he could have
done is threatened them

894
00:47:03,490 --> 00:47:04,960
with excommunication.

895
00:47:04,960 --> 00:47:08,480
But he didn't even do that.

896
00:47:08,480 --> 00:47:10,750
So when you got on the
train to leave Radom,

897
00:47:10,750 --> 00:47:12,260
then where did you go?

898
00:47:12,260 --> 00:47:14,350
We went back to Czechoslovakia.

899
00:47:14,350 --> 00:47:16,750
We went back to
[PLACE NAME] There

900
00:47:16,750 --> 00:47:24,190
was a engineer in Ostrowiec,
who was a private person.

901
00:47:24,190 --> 00:47:25,330
He wasn't in the army.

902
00:47:25,330 --> 00:47:27,790
But they did bring
some forced labor

903
00:47:27,790 --> 00:47:29,590
in from different countries.

904
00:47:29,590 --> 00:47:31,060
And he wasn't Jewish.

905
00:47:31,060 --> 00:47:32,710
He was an engineer

by profession.

906

00:47:32,710 --> 00:47:35,440

He said, if you ever live
through, why don't you come?

907

00:47:35,440 --> 00:47:36,770

Maybe I can help you.

908

00:47:36,770 --> 00:47:41,290

So we arrived in [PLACE NAME]
And we found him,

909

00:47:41,290 --> 00:47:45,490

because my sister remembered
his name, my oldest sister.

910

00:47:45,490 --> 00:47:48,340

And as it was in
the train station,

911

00:47:48,340 --> 00:47:50,320

they had the Red
Cross was set up.

912

00:47:50,320 --> 00:47:53,590

And every train station,
all the trains for free.

913

00:47:53,590 --> 00:47:55,780

We didn't have any
money or anything.

914

00:47:55,780 --> 00:47:58,750

But we could travel from
city to city freely.

915

00:47:58,750 --> 00:48:00,370

And there was a
young doctor there

916

00:48:00,370 --> 00:48:04,630

and he said, how about

settling here and I'll give you

917

00:48:04,630 --> 00:48:06,130

a job as assistant nurse?

918

00:48:06,130 --> 00:48:09,280

So all three of us started
working in the hospital.

919

00:48:09,280 --> 00:48:15,340

And somebody came and told us
that, my brother is in Dachau.

920

00:48:15,340 --> 00:48:17,120

He survived.

921

00:48:17,120 --> 00:48:19,600

So we packed up
after three months

922

00:48:19,600 --> 00:48:23,080

and went to meet my
brother who survived.

923

00:48:23,080 --> 00:48:25,090

My brother
subsequently found out

924

00:48:25,090 --> 00:48:28,840

that his sister-in-law,
one of the three

925

00:48:28,840 --> 00:48:33,640

sisters, his first
wife's sister, was alive.

926

00:48:33,640 --> 00:48:35,890

So she was a single woman.

927

00:48:35,890 --> 00:48:39,790

And he picked her up and brought
her back and he married her.

928

00:48:39,790 --> 00:48:44,530

So actually, he married
his first wife's sister.

929

00:48:44,530 --> 00:48:46,345

That's the one I told
you about, my nephew.

930

00:48:46,345 --> 00:48:51,100

931

00:48:51,100 --> 00:48:55,720

When was it that you decided
to come to the United States?

932

00:48:55,720 --> 00:48:59,290

Well, I always wanted to
come to the United States.

933

00:48:59,290 --> 00:49:02,560

I didn't have any
relatives here.

934

00:49:02,560 --> 00:49:07,930

But I found out from the
UNRRA, from the HIAS,

935

00:49:07,930 --> 00:49:14,780

that children under 18 should
fill out an application.

936

00:49:14,780 --> 00:49:18,130

And we would have to go to an
internment camp in Prien am

937

00:49:18,130 --> 00:49:20,860

Chiemsee, which was
near Berchtesgaden,

938

00:49:20,860 --> 00:49:24,940

and stay there and wait for
the quarter and the papers

939

00:49:24,940 --> 00:49:26,440
to come through.

940

00:49:26,440 --> 00:49:29,230
And that's when I
left my brother.

941

00:49:29,230 --> 00:49:30,940
And I stayed there
for three months

942

00:49:30,940 --> 00:49:32,530
until my papers were cleared.

943

00:49:32,530 --> 00:49:34,960
And we came on the
Ernie Pyle, which

944

00:49:34,960 --> 00:49:41,960
was an army transport ship, in
January of 1947, January 13.

945

00:49:41,960 --> 00:49:43,420
And that was some trip.

946

00:49:43,420 --> 00:49:44,860
We left January 1.

947

00:49:44,860 --> 00:49:47,950
And it was supposed
to be a 6-day journey.

948

00:49:47,950 --> 00:49:51,190
And it was terrible.

949

00:49:51,190 --> 00:49:53,080
There was a terrible storm.

950

00:49:53,080 --> 00:49:55,420
And the ship was rocking.

951

00:49:55,420 --> 00:49:56,920
And all the dishes broke.

952
00:49:56,920 --> 00:49:58,240
And the water was coming in.

953
00:49:58,240 --> 00:50:01,000
And we never thought we
were going to make it.

954
00:50:01,000 --> 00:50:02,860
But we did arrive.

955
00:50:02,860 --> 00:50:07,300
And, of course, I couldn't
speak a word of English.

956
00:50:07,300 --> 00:50:12,310
And my sister had married six
months prior to my arrival.

957
00:50:12,310 --> 00:50:13,900
And her husband
had an uncle here.

958
00:50:13,900 --> 00:50:16,580
So they came here
in June of '46.

959
00:50:16,580 --> 00:50:19,150
So when I arrived,
I lived with her.

960
00:50:19,150 --> 00:50:24,940
And I registered in evening high
school, Girls High in Brooklyn.

961
00:50:24,940 --> 00:50:31,870
And I got a job in a
factory doing floor girl,

962
00:50:31,870 --> 00:50:35,510
picking up sleeves that

were done, piecework,

963

00:50:35,510 --> 00:50:37,650

and they all joined together.

964

00:50:37,650 --> 00:50:39,490

So I was tearing them apart.

965

00:50:39,490 --> 00:50:43,010

And I was making \$22 a week.

966

00:50:43,010 --> 00:50:44,860

And I was going to
school at night.

967

00:50:44,860 --> 00:50:47,440

And I registered
in high school, not

968

00:50:47,440 --> 00:50:48,730

knowing the English language.

969

00:50:48,730 --> 00:50:50,410

It was really tough.

970

00:50:50,410 --> 00:50:51,250

So I started--

971

00:50:51,250 --> 00:50:54,370

I knew Polish quite well,
because all the years

972

00:50:54,370 --> 00:50:58,810

I didn't go to school, my
father tutored me at home.

973

00:50:58,810 --> 00:51:03,730

And, of course, when
the Germans came in,

974

00:51:03,730 --> 00:51:06,460

they confiscated all the

furs and all the radios.

975

00:51:06,460 --> 00:51:11,480

We had no way of getting
any information or any news.

976

00:51:11,480 --> 00:51:14,740

But, luckily, I had a
father who was brilliant.

977

00:51:14,740 --> 00:51:16,450

He spoke seven languages.

978

00:51:16,450 --> 00:51:21,760

And so whatever education I
had, I really at that point,

979

00:51:21,760 --> 00:51:23,710

thanks to him.

980

00:51:23,710 --> 00:51:28,150

And I started phonetically
writing and sitting

981

00:51:28,150 --> 00:51:30,520

in English and
American history class.

982

00:51:30,520 --> 00:51:33,343

And I'm writing phonetically
what I'm hearing.

983

00:51:33,343 --> 00:51:34,510

And it was very frustrating.

984

00:51:34,510 --> 00:51:36,430

I bought a Polish-English
dictionary.

985

00:51:36,430 --> 00:51:40,900

And I couldn't find any words
to correspond to what I wrote.

986

00:51:40,900 --> 00:51:43,780

So I decided to do
it the reverse way.

987

00:51:43,780 --> 00:51:47,470

I started staying up nights and
thinking of little sentences,

988

00:51:47,470 --> 00:51:49,690

like every day
sentences in Polish.

989

00:51:49,690 --> 00:51:52,360

And then looked it up
from Polish to English.

990

00:51:52,360 --> 00:51:54,370

And every day, I wrote 50 words.

991

00:51:54,370 --> 00:51:56,770

And I really taught
myself English.

992

00:51:56,770 --> 00:51:59,530

And believe it or not, I made
four years of high school

993

00:51:59,530 --> 00:52:01,300

in a year and a half.

994

00:52:01,300 --> 00:52:02,290

I don't know how.

995

00:52:02,290 --> 00:52:03,670

I really don't.

996

00:52:03,670 --> 00:52:05,785

And then I wanted to
get out of factory.

997

00:52:05,785 --> 00:52:07,430

I didn't want to

work in a factory.

998

00:52:07,430 --> 00:52:11,050

So I got a job with an insurance
company, Chubb and Son.

999

00:52:11,050 --> 00:52:14,500

And I became a file clerk.

1000

00:52:14,500 --> 00:52:17,890

So then I decided
to go to Brooklyn

1001

00:52:17,890 --> 00:52:21,700

College as a non-matric
student and just take

1002

00:52:21,700 --> 00:52:23,140

courses in accounting.

1003

00:52:23,140 --> 00:52:24,250

And I was doing very well.

1004

00:52:24,250 --> 00:52:25,720

I was getting all A's.

1005

00:52:25,720 --> 00:52:28,210

So I got a letter
from my professors

1006

00:52:28,210 --> 00:52:29,260

how well I was doing.

1007

00:52:29,260 --> 00:52:31,870

So I asked them for a promotion.

1008

00:52:31,870 --> 00:52:34,030

And I got promotion.

1009

00:52:34,030 --> 00:52:35,690

And little by
little, I said, well,

1010
00:52:35,690 --> 00:52:37,330
I have already so
many credits, maybe

1011
00:52:37,330 --> 00:52:39,730
I'll take another course
and another course.

1012
00:52:39,730 --> 00:52:43,690
And, ps, I wound up going for
9 and 1/2 years to Brooklyn

1013
00:52:43,690 --> 00:52:46,880
College and got my degree,
majoring in accounting,

1014
00:52:46,880 --> 00:52:49,390
minor in education.

1015
00:52:49,390 --> 00:52:52,420
And from then on I went
on to different jobs,

1016
00:52:52,420 --> 00:52:54,240
better positions.

1017
00:52:54,240 --> 00:52:56,480
And here I am.

1018
00:52:56,480 --> 00:52:58,480
When you think about all
that's happened to you,

1019
00:52:58,480 --> 00:53:03,020
what do you think
enabled you to survive?

1020
00:53:03,020 --> 00:53:05,180
Do you think it was fate?

1021
00:53:05,180 --> 00:53:06,720

Do you think it was luck?

1022
00:53:06,720 --> 00:53:10,880
Do you think it was
some quality in you that

1023
00:53:10,880 --> 00:53:13,160
made you not give up or what?

1024
00:53:13,160 --> 00:53:19,250
As I said in the beginning,
I had a really beautiful

1025
00:53:19,250 --> 00:53:20,150
childhood.

1026
00:53:20,150 --> 00:53:23,180
We were not interested
in material things,

1027
00:53:23,180 --> 00:53:27,080
because we really weren't
rich, but we were very rich

1028
00:53:27,080 --> 00:53:29,900
spiritually and intellectually.

1029
00:53:29,900 --> 00:53:32,210
I remember we had
this big radio that's

1030
00:53:32,210 --> 00:53:33,470
the size of a television.

1031
00:53:33,470 --> 00:53:34,790
It was Telefunken.

1032
00:53:34,790 --> 00:53:37,800
Before the war it was \$500.

1033
00:53:37,800 --> 00:53:44,150
And we got it because we

all loved classical music.

1034
00:53:44,150 --> 00:53:45,880
Ever since I was
a little girl, I

1035
00:53:45,880 --> 00:53:49,740
remember singing
symphonies and concertos.

1036
00:53:49,740 --> 00:53:53,810
And my brother could whistle out
a violin concerto from A to Z.

1037
00:53:53,810 --> 00:53:59,720
And reading and it was
the tradition, the love,

1038
00:53:59,720 --> 00:54:01,170
and the closeness of the family.

1039
00:54:01,170 --> 00:54:05,390

1040
00:54:05,390 --> 00:54:09,300
The mere memory of this gave me
the strength to go on.

1041
00:54:09,300 --> 00:54:11,330
It was so beautiful.

1042
00:54:11,330 --> 00:54:13,850
And every time
something happened--

1043
00:54:13,850 --> 00:54:16,760
I mean there were times
where I felt was there a God?

1044
00:54:16,760 --> 00:54:21,230
Why didn't God paralyze this
German who took a little child

1045

00:54:21,230 --> 00:54:22,715
and smashed it against the wall?

1046

00:54:22,715 --> 00:54:26,270

1047

00:54:26,270 --> 00:54:28,190
But then there were
other things happening

1048

00:54:28,190 --> 00:54:30,260
that made me feel, well, why me?

1049

00:54:30,260 --> 00:54:32,375
I was chosen from
so many millions.

1050

00:54:32,375 --> 00:54:34,920

1051

00:54:34,920 --> 00:54:35,420
Why?

1052

00:54:35,420 --> 00:54:40,250
There must be a power
that is doing this,

1053

00:54:40,250 --> 00:54:42,080
sending me in the right places.

1054

00:54:42,080 --> 00:54:48,800
Not even not the shaving of the
hair or always being kind of

1055

00:54:48,800 --> 00:54:50,600
protected somehow.

1056

00:54:50,600 --> 00:54:54,530
I don't know how, whether
it's fate or religion or God,

1057

00:54:54,530 --> 00:54:55,940
call it what you want.

1058
00:54:55,940 --> 00:55:00,500
But I've always felt that there
was somebody watching over me.

1059
00:55:00,500 --> 00:55:04,100
And I feel very fortunate.

1060
00:55:04,100 --> 00:55:06,020
I know some of my
friends don't like

1061
00:55:06,020 --> 00:55:07,710
to talk about the Holocaust.

1062
00:55:07,710 --> 00:55:12,110
They sometimes they are ashamed
to admit the things that they

1063
00:55:12,110 --> 00:55:13,010
had to live through.

1064
00:55:13,010 --> 00:55:14,870
They wouldn't tell
their children.

1065
00:55:14,870 --> 00:55:16,110
It was degrading.

1066
00:55:16,110 --> 00:55:17,300
It's beneath them.

1067
00:55:17,300 --> 00:55:21,770
I feel I really I have
risen above it all.

1068
00:55:21,770 --> 00:55:24,710
And I feel like
I'm the chosen one.

1069

00:55:24,710 --> 00:55:26,810
I feel fortunate.

1070
00:55:26,810 --> 00:55:32,100
Can we pause at this
moment take a break?

1071
00:55:32,100 --> 00:55:36,830
And we'll continue a little
bit beyond this after a break.

1072
00:55:36,830 --> 00:55:40,540
We'll be back after
a brief intermission.

1073
00:55:40,540 --> 00:55:44,000