We are continuing with the story of Dina Weinreb Jacoud after our pause.

When we left off, you were telling us how you went with your father and your brother from Beregszász to Budapest.

That's right, yes.

And he did went with us, somehow he followed us.

He really was a devoted friend.

Just from hearing from us, because we were not Hungarians.

Anyhow we went to Budapest.

And there, in the beginning, we were in hiding.

So I somehow found a drop to stay with a family.
and helping that--

that was a couple.

I remember the first family was a couple.

They didn't have children.

They had a little beautiful puppy.

And I was helping her with whatever I could in the house.

And she was nice to me.

I can see high class people.

And I slept there too.

I was always with them.

On Saturday and Sunday, I had an opportunity,

I went to visit my father and brother.

My brother he got a job in the factory.
And I couldn't tell you, I never went there, because we were in hiding.

We were really illegal there.

And my father, he rented with other people, grown up, I mean, retired people, a room.

And they were paying together.

I mean, each one paid a certain amount.

I imagine it must have been not too much.

And he slept there.

And that took a while until one day,

I don't know who took care, but somebody must have,

maybe the Kehila, or someone in the Kehila, who took
care that we received papers that we were non-Jews,

39
00:02:10,289 --> 00:02:12,930
like Christians, Polish people.

40
00:02:12,930 --> 00:02:18,890
And with those papers, we were--

41
00:02:18,890 --> 00:02:21,840

42
00:02:21,840 --> 00:02:25,440
every three months-- every month or every three months, I think,

43
00:02:25,440 --> 00:02:30,930
or every month, we had to go to a place where we had

44
00:02:30,930 --> 00:02:35,190
to register that we are like--

45
00:02:35,190 --> 00:02:36,320
Aliens.

46
00:02:36,320 --> 00:02:38,375
Aliens, yeah, I think so.

47
00:02:38,375 --> 00:02:40,560
I think I remember we used to go-- it wasn't far--

48
00:02:40,560 --> 00:02:41,730
But non-Jewish--

49
00:02:41,730 --> 00:02:44,190
Non-Jewish aliens, yeah.

50
00:02:44,190 --> 00:02:46,800
And we had, I think it was every month.

51
00:02:46,800 --> 00:02:48,160
I don't remember.

But I think it was every month we had to go there and register.

And then after a while, I don't know how--

I can't remember exactly.

But somehow we had to--

we couldn't stay in Budapest too long.

We stayed there a while, but not too long.

Towards the end, I would say, they send us out from Budapest.

I don't know if they didn't have room or something.

I have no idea.

I know that we had to leave Budapest.

And we went to Békéscsaba.
Békéscsaba was more close to Romania.

And there we stayed with a lady.

She had— I don't remember, yeah, with a lady.

And she had two children normal, and one child she had born

cripple, a very abnormal child.

It never grew.

She always kept him in a crib.

A Terrible sight.

And I admired that lady.

We had one room there, because we all had the Christian paper.

And she, that lady, she was much nicer to the little child

than to her own children.

I had big respect.
And one day I asked her, I noticed that you are much nicer to that baby than to your children.

And she said, that the child needs me.

My children can manage.

And she said, you'll be surprised how very much a mother loves a child, even the way it looks.

And it's so true.

Even when I became a mother, then I realized that a child, no matter how the child looks or what, you love so passionately.

That you don't see—it doesn't bother you.
Anyway, we stayed for a while.

And we had the group from the newcomers.

We used to play cards and meet.

And we always stayed together with the newcomers somehow.

So we were legal there.

And we could mingle with the non-aliens.

But we still felt much better among ourselves.

But some of the Hungarian people,

especially they were young girls and young boys,

they wanted to like get together.

And some of them wanted even to marry each other.
And they used to make parties for us.

They really wanted to take us into their life.

As a matter of fact, they were wealthy people.

I remember very wealthy family invited us every Shabbat.

that we should come to them.

And they were so--

I remember the maid used to come and very, very elegant family.

But they treated us with such respect.

Only on Shabbat we went there.

So it was known that you were Jews.

Of course.

But we just had the papers.
But everybody knew.

Until 1944, it was going on like that.

I didn't work in Békéscsaba.

I don't know how--

we got a pension.

I couldn't tell you how we managed somehow.

How long was that, that period of time?

Until '44 when the Germans--

I guess, they came, the Germans came in the beginning of '44.

If I'm not mistaken, it was on March.

I'm not so sure with the dates.

But how long was it that you had this period?

No, before March, because on March,
we were arrested already.

Not long after they came we were arrested.

What did you say?

How long was this period until the Germans came that you were living there and with the alien papers.

Till '44.

From?

We started our full journey from '42.

But we were in so many places, like [? Scotozc ?] and then

[? Mincocz ?] and then Beregszász.

And then Budapest and from Budapest-- so each place a while.
And each time, I would say it improved.

139
00:07:25,810 --> 00:07:28,510
The conditions were improved.

140
00:07:28,510 --> 00:07:31,910
I will never forget when I was in Békéscsaba,

141
00:07:31,910 --> 00:07:36,220
there was not far from our place, there was a store.

142
00:07:36,220 --> 00:07:39,025
And I used to go and shop there.

143
00:07:39,025 --> 00:07:40,330
And there was a man--

144
00:07:40,330 --> 00:07:42,160
I didn't pay any attention.

145
00:07:42,160 --> 00:07:44,830
And he probably must have paid attention.

146
00:07:44,830 --> 00:07:46,030
And he knew somehow--

147
00:07:46,030 --> 00:07:48,460
I don't know, he probably took information.

148
00:07:48,460 --> 00:07:49,790
Who knows?

149
00:07:49,790 --> 00:07:52,810
I was sticking to my father and brother.

150
00:07:52,810 --> 00:07:53,910
That's all cared.

151
I didn't care for anything.

And one day he approached me.

And he said, you know, I have a farm.

And I could take you and your family--

because he saw sometimes I came with my brother and my father--

and hide you there if you marry me.

I looked at him and I said--

I couldn't tell him I wouldn't do that.

And I wouldn't do that to my father.

I wouldn't even mention--

but, you know, after the war, I was thinking and asking myself

a question, I shouldn't have done that.
But I really would have to sacrifice.

It would be so much against me.

But I would maybe have
my father and my--

I don't know.

Those are the things you will always remember.

I didn't mention to my father.

I thought if I would mention it, I would shock him.

Maybe not.

But I always had in my mind I come from such a prestigious Jewish family.

Would I put such a spot on my ancestors life?

I don't think--
I never mentioned to him.

And then in between, I met somebody else.

And my brother met someone else.

And they tried to get us into the family.

But all that was war.

And I never was thinking my brother [INAUDIBLE] we should tie ourselves until things would be legal,

or we will see where we will land, or how life--

I never thought-- it was a war.

And my father was such a lonely man.

I thought I go away--

I kept him alive I thought.

And I tried to be everything to him.
I couldn't, I guess.

He was very lonely.

When the German came, it was in the beginning 1944.

A group of aliens--

I mean those people from Poland that ran away from Hungary--

came to Békéscsaba, because that was closer to Romania.

And Romania wasn't under Germany yet.

And they found out about us.

And they came to us.

There were three young fellows.

And they said they would like to go to Romania.

One of the fellow,
his name was--

202
00:10:37,010 --> 00:10:40,400

203
00:10:40,400 --> 00:10:43,490
maybe later I will remember.

204
00:10:43,490 --> 00:10:45,530
He was from Krakow.

205
00:10:45,530 --> 00:10:50,600
And he said that he would take me if I would be willing to go.

206
00:10:50,600 --> 00:10:55,400
I said, yes, but I have a brother and a father.

207
00:10:55,400 --> 00:10:59,720
He said we will take you all--

208
00:10:59,720 --> 00:11:02,100
Hornstein from Krakow, young fellow.

209
00:11:02,100 --> 00:11:04,430
And he said, OK.

210
00:11:04,430 --> 00:11:08,430
So he said, let's first try out the way

211
00:11:08,430 --> 00:11:10,070
how to go so we would be more sure of ourselves to get there.

212
00:11:10,070 --> 00:11:15,020
And then we will be the second transport.

213
00:11:15,020 --> 00:11:15,740
We are agreed.
Why not?

And from there, we were planning to go to Israel, because from Romania we had an opportunity.

And they went.

The first transport went.

And then we were supposed to go later.

But they caught the first one, the first people that left.

And some people when they found out that they caught them,

they ran away from Békéscsaba.

And they went to Budapest.

And somehow my father wasn't strong enough,

I guess, to leave.

And we were left in the same place.
In the middle of the night, of course, the police came and arrested us. And then it started the journey from one prison to another. First, they took us to Budapest. They took us-- no, to that place in Békéscsaba. But we were there-- they took everything away. And all they gave us special clothing-- no, they let us have our clothes. Only they took belts or things, you know, whatever, and the jewelry, whatever. I had nothing to talk about.
And we were there a short time in Békéscsaba prison.

And from Békéscsaba, they took us back to Budapest

to the prison.

That was in Buda.

You know Budapest was about apart from Buda.

And there, each time they took a different group of people

to the Gestapo in Buda.

What they went to though there, it was unbelievable.

And one day, I remember we, I and two other girls

from that place that I knew them--

one lives in Toronto and the other lives in Elmira.

We have numbers one after another.
I have 82 and they have 83
and 84, because we together

were in Budapest.

And they were also going
to different places.

Anyhow, somehow
we kept together.

And we three were given a room
in that prison in Budapest.

And in that room were one,
two, three, four more people--
three Polish girls that
came from Warsaw ghetto.

Now, do you know when Warsaw
was not in the ghetto,

but when the
Christian people had
their riot against the German.

I guess they had--

I don't remember--

That's when the came--
These were Polish Christian women?

Polish Christian.

They did something.

But that's when we were not there.

Before '43 probably.

'44 or '43.

Before '43, I think.

No, I think it must have been '43, '44.

I don't remember.

But the made just like we [NON-ENGLISH] is a--

Demonstration, revolt?

A revolt, yeah.

And they arrested many, many Polish people.
that took part in the revolt.
And some of the people--

there was a [? Schulevska. ?]
She was a very known person.

She took part.

She was very politically
involved in it.

And then there was a wife of
a [? Jutan ?] from Pilsudski.

You know Pilsudski was
the president of Poland

before the war.

And she was-- her husband was--

she was an exceptional
person, very nice.

She knew that we are Jewish.

[? Schulevska ?] too,
but I think that wife--

I forgot her name.
She told her to keep quiet.

She really wanted we should survive as Christian.

How do I know I tell you later what happened.

And then there was a girl by the name Wanda, young girl.

She also participated.

And one other girl was from England.

She was such a hard to get along woman.

English people are so settled in their way.

They're not easy to get along.

But we didn't have much to do with them.

But that Wanda used to know how to tell fortune with cards.

And I wanted so much to learn from her.
And I watched her.

I learned I guess that some people have in them something uncontrollable, extrasensory perception.

And I think I have in me.

And I somehow watched her, and I learned a little bit from her.

How I know that I have--

I tell you an incident, two incidents in my life that I will never forget.

One incident it was when I was a young girl.

I was in the fifth grade.

And when I became very sick, I was 11 years old.

And I got measles at that time.
To be in that age is very dangerous. When you're younger, it's much easier.

And I became very sick. At that time I was with my grandfather,

I told you, on the farm.

And we didn't have a doctor. And my fever, I was coming out.

You are very sick until the measles come out.

And I was so sick.

They didn't know.

So they took me-- my mother had a sister, an aunt, of course,

in Stryi.

That was a city where a lot of Jewish people lived.
And they took me to that city.

And I stayed with my Aunt.

Sala was her name.

And my mother and my father stayed there because they wouldn't leave me alone.

I was-- nobody believed-- they called a doctor.

And he said, it's impossible to get my fever couldn't-- for no money, he couldn't--

the fever was the highest possible.

And whatever he did, nothing helped.

I was so sick that they gave me up.
And would you believe me, I had like--

I cannot explain like I would see something and somebody was talking to me.

And that came and an old man with a long beard--

I saw it, but nobody else.

My father was there, my mother, my aunt.

And he came to me next to my bed and he said to me, listen,

you have a very good chance to get well,

but one thing you have to promise me--

you are going from now on to talk--

because with my parents I talk Polish.

Between themselves they spoke Yiddish--
you are going to from now on to talk Yiddish.

Like when you eat something or you will drink water

or when you get up in the morning,

you will have to have all the brachas.

You have to say for like in the morning you say a bracha.

And then at night, you say--

what you call--

Shema.

Yeah.

And only Yiddish.

And if you do that, I am going to stand under the door, and I'm going to listen
if you listen to me.

And if you will listen, you will get well.

and you will continue to live.

But you are not allowed to tell anybody.

So how do I handle the situation?

Suddenly, I started to talk to my parents Yiddish.

And my father says, what's going on?

How come you speak Yiddish?

And I only show to him that he should talk to me Yiddish.

And showed like this and towards the door.

And my father went towards the door, opened up the door,

Nobody was there.

I said, I'm sorry.
And I wouldn't for no money in the world I would talk.

And I said the prayer.

I though maybe I didn't remember.

So my memory became so unusual that I didn't know who I am really, what happened with me.

And my mother noticed that too.

And at that time, before it started,

I was so sick that my hair couldn't be touched, because it was already so sore from the fever.

They couldn't comb my hair.

It was like one piece of knot.
And I continued.

So my father just couldn't take it.

And my mother and my aunt, what is going on?

First of all, my mother called the Professor [? Kitchusa. ?]

I will never forget, one of the biggest doctors in Stryi.

And she told him, come, because something is going on,

and I can't understand.

Maybe you will tell me what it is.

And he came.

And he gave me a book, [NON-ENGLISH] [? will?] come

in [? years--?] I was at that time 11 years old.

I guess it started--
what am I talking, 51 years.

401
00:20:41,040 --> 00:20:42,120
It's a long time.

402
00:20:42,120 --> 00:20:44,880
But I will always
have that picture.

403
00:20:44,880 --> 00:20:48,690
He gave me a book, a heavy
book, [NON-ENGLISH] That's one

404
00:20:48,690 --> 00:20:53,010
of the biggest books
written, very good book.

405
00:20:53,010 --> 00:20:56,910
And I didn't read
that book before.

406
00:20:56,910 --> 00:20:57,870
He gave me to read.

407
00:20:57,870 --> 00:20:59,410
And I just read one page.

408
00:20:59,410 --> 00:21:03,270
And from that page, I don't
know how, I told the whole story

409
00:21:03,270 --> 00:21:04,350
from the book.

410
00:21:04,350 --> 00:21:07,020
And the doctor looked at
me and he couldn't explain.

411
00:21:07,020 --> 00:21:10,200
He said, he doesn't
know how to explain,

412
00:21:10,200 --> 00:21:12,630
but there was something.
And they left me alone like that.

But they were so anxious to know that finally I said, so listen what, when I will get better, I promise that I'm going to tell you why I'm doing it.

But don't ask me anymore, because it's useless.

I wouldn't tell you.

I can't tell you.

And from day to day, I was getting better.

And then when I was getting better,

my mother and father took me to my grandmother because I had to continue with school.

I lost a lot of school that time.
And they made a seder, you know a big--

Meal, banquet--

--meal.

Everybody came.

It was such an unusual event.

And they forgot.

But one moment, my mother said, just a moment, didn't you promise us that you are going to tell us why you didn't talk to us Polish, only Yiddish,

and all the berakhah, blessing and so on.

And I told the story.

My grandmother said the way I described that Jew, it was like my
great-grandfather,

that he was--

you know, I don't know if you--

[NON-ENGLISH] He was praying for my getting better.

And they believed--

He interceded for you.

Yes.

Isn't it-- I don't know.

I can't explain.

But you got better.

I got better.

And that was one incident.

And I had another incident--

In Budapest with these women, other women prisoners?
No.

Yes.

I tell you when I had that incident here in America I'll never forget that incident.

And you will maybe laugh at me.

I never told anybody because it was something I couldn't explain.

And I only told my first husband.

I will never forget.

You see, I have nobody here in the United States and no place else, only four or five cousins.

At that time I had five cousins.

One died in Israel.
And I was worried so much.

That was the times, 1967, when the first war broke out.

Remember what was going on in the UN.

They really wanted that war.

Russia was helping there.

They took away the army from the borders.

Maybe you remember.

And I don't remember who was the representative in the UN.

But I remember that he came, Abba Eban.

Johnson was at the time the president.

And he even didn't have time to take him.

And I was so involved.

That any time I
had my television

00:24:00,450 --> 00:24:02,850 was going on only what was going on in UN.

00:24:02,850 --> 00:24:04,590 It was constantly going on.

00:24:04,590 --> 00:24:07,170 They didn't let out, because they really want--

00:24:07,170 --> 00:24:10,050 and Israel didn't want to start the war.

00:24:10,050 --> 00:24:11,658 And it was so hot.

00:24:11,658 --> 00:24:12,450 Maybe you remember.

00:24:12,450 --> 00:24:13,350 They were waiting.

00:24:13,350 --> 00:24:15,930 What [INAUDIBLE].

00:24:15,930 --> 00:24:17,850 And I was so worried.

00:24:17,850 --> 00:24:21,810 I said, now I have that little family there.

00:24:21,810 --> 00:24:22,740 What will happen?

00:24:22,740 --> 00:24:24,150 I will lose all those cousins.

00:24:24,150 --> 00:24:25,830 And I never saw them.
And I don't have anything else.

How can it be?

What will happen?

I was worrying, because all the countries, Arab countries--

maybe you remember.

They got together.

Everybody was against Israel.

They were very well organized.

Among themselves, they fight.

But towards Israel, they all go.

And I couldn't take it.

And I couldn't go to sleep.

That was the Sunday night before Monday.
And maybe you remember Monday morning the war broke out.

And that was Sunday night.

And I sat and watched the television.

My husband was sleeping.

My children were asleep.

I couldn't sleep.

Just was impossible.

Believe it or not, while I was watching and crying--

I was crying so much.

And I ask, how can it be?

Didn't the Jewish people had enough?

Those few people that were left in Israel,

these were people that were rescued from Poland,
from such a Holocaust. How can it be? How will God let it happen? And I swear to God, believe it or not, suddenly I saw over the representative of Egypt, I saw long fingers, black fingers like from a witch, your imagination of a witch. But they were so long like I never saw. And those hands, just the hand, not the arm-- I saw the hands were crushing that head of the representative from Egypt. And I was thinking to myself, that must be something.
I think I get the message.

Something that I can't explain.

But I'm going to keep it to myself.

Nobody will know.

But I think that Jewish people will win the war.

That was my interpretation, because it's impossible.

But I was so unquiet.

And I went to bed.

When I saw that, then I thought, I'm going to bed.

But I couldn't fall asleep.

I had to share that--

what do you call something like that--

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media. It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.
A vision.

00:26:42,760 --> 00:26:45,940
I had to share it,
because I felt that this

00:26:45,940 --> 00:26:47,920
is some kind of a message.

00:26:47,920 --> 00:26:52,000
And if I share it with
somebody, maybe those people

00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:53,800
will understand
me that something

00:26:53,800 --> 00:26:58,000
is in me that I can't explain,
because this big things--

00:26:58,000 --> 00:26:59,590
little things,
many things happen.

00:26:59,590 --> 00:27:01,960
But other people have it.

00:27:01,960 --> 00:27:05,380
But things like that, I
thought, that's unusual.

00:27:05,380 --> 00:27:06,400
And I was tossing.

00:27:06,400 --> 00:27:08,260
And I didn't want to
wake up, because I

00:27:08,260 --> 00:27:11,860
was taught at home
that you ever wake up

00:27:11,860 --> 00:27:13,120
somebody who is sleeping.
That was against religion.

I somehow observed all those little things.

I wouldn't wake him.

But I was tossing back and forth.

So finally my husband woke up.

And he said, what's going on?

I said, I don't know what to do.

I said, I have something and I am afraid to talk.

But I must share.

I must tell you something.

And please don't tell anybody.

I must share.

Maybe you will help me to explain or something.
And I told him that the incident.

And he just took it and he promised he wouldn't say.

And this is it.

And then in the morning, he had to go to the business.

And we opened up the radio.

Of course, the war broke out.

And then I was thinking, now keep cool.

We are going to win.

And I really felt that Israel was going to win.

And I wasn't worrying.

And Israel won.

It was like a miracle.

I don't know.
Like they said, there is a time when even a broom can shoot people.

You know what I mean?

There is a saying. And it's so true.

And Israel won the war.

So then I was thinking to myself that it's something in me that I have to watch.

I'm going to watch little things that maybe will help me in life.

Later on there were the things that I saw that, yes, there was something.
I had to tell you that story.

I don't know why did I?

Something must have reminded you.

We were in the Budapest prison.

Oh, yeah, that's right.

And when we were in Budapest prison,

and they were very nice to us.

As a matter of fact, that wife of a [? Jutan, ?] she used to get parcels there because she had family in Budapest probably.

And she shared with us with the food,

which was very, very nice.

And then one day, they called us to the Gestapo.
They beat us so terribly.

When we came, we couldn't move.

Why did they beat you?

Because they said that we are Jews.

And we didn't want to say that we are Jews.

But they couldn't get it out of us.

We said we are Mischlinges.

You know what Mischlinge is?

Half Jew.

Because my mother was non-Jew.

And my father I couldn't see he is Jew, because they could prove that he's Jewish,

and my brother.
But I said my mother wasn't Jewish, believe it or not.

And they threw us in back in the prison.

And then we got better after a while.

One day, two girls were brought in into our cell.

You call it a cell, right?

And I saw right away that these two girls were Jewish.

They wore such a big cross.

But I thought they were Jewish.

And they were hiding under that big cross.

And I knew that that [? Schulevska ?]

was very antisemitic.

And somehow with the Polish people,
they feel who is Jewish.

And I think that they led them. Somehow she got in touch with somebody.

And she told that they are Jewish.

And they took them out. And I knew that she told.

And I was a Jew, right? I was hiding too.

But it woke me such a nationalist feeling that I didn't care what will happen to me.

And I said to them, that she should hear, because I knew that those two women didn't and I knew that [? Schulevska ?] did it.
And I said so.

I know I will get to a concentration camp.

I know that I'm going to be close to a chimney.

But somehow I'm not going to be burned.

I will fight and I will take nekome-- Revenge--

Revenge on that girl why she did it, because I'm sure that she was the one.

Because they worked overnight with us,

she must have told them that these were Jewish--

How did you understand that she didn't tell about you?

Because we were there.
But how do you understand that she didn't tell about you, that you were Jewish?

Why?

We were there not one day.

And the others, right after the first night,

they took them out.

Only those two girls, I think, that they kept there.

They knew that we are Jewish.

They knew.

She knew.

But she probably--they warned her.

And did I tell you that that [? Schulevska ?] was killed.

They shot her in that prison.
And I was very glad to hear it.

I was really glad.

I thought that those two girls, in the INAUDIBLE of those girls took revenge.

And I don't know if I told you, that was the time--

did I tell you-- am I repeating myself about Hannah Szenes.

Did I tell you?

No.

Being in that prison, suddenly we heard that Hannah Szenes was arrested.

And you know she was--

What did you know of her then?

At that time, did you know who she was?
Somehow, I don't know who told us, but somehow it came to our ears that she was a parachutist, that she wanted to rescue. I cannot tell you how I knew. But I knew that Hannah Szenes was. And she was just a floor below us. And they used to let her walk by herself around that little-- And I used to look through the window.
and see that Hannah Szenes by herself she was walking.

And I didn't know that they killed her.

I think she was--

when they took us away, she was still there.

But then when I somehow got a book about her, biography.

Abba Eban wrote about her.

I Don't know if you know.

It was her diary.

And he put together because, he didn't know too much about her,

I guess.

But there was a diary.

And he wrote.

And I read about her there.
When I read about her, I thought, she was a lucky girl, because you die anyhow sooner or later.

But she did so much. She put her name into history.

It's worthwhile to have your name in history, even if you live young.

There's something about the.

It's so important.

How long were you in Buda?

In Buddha, not too long after they took us away.

You know, it was not long after--

they like rushed us, like I knew that the front must have been
close by because they rushed--

721
00:34:27,580 --> 00:34:32,139
32 people-- we were not
the regular prisoners.

722
00:34:32,139 --> 00:34:34,179
We were political
prisoners, because we

723
00:34:34,179 --> 00:34:36,909
were supposed to go to Romania.

724
00:34:36,909 --> 00:34:41,469
And we were treated as
political prisoners.

725
00:34:41,469 --> 00:34:43,100
You ask, what do you mean?

726
00:34:43,100 --> 00:34:47,320
We had a little bit more
respect than as Jews,

727
00:34:47,320 --> 00:34:50,800
because we were political.

728
00:34:50,800 --> 00:34:55,900
Anyhow, so they took
us from Budapest.

729
00:34:55,900 --> 00:34:57,700
I thought they will
take us to Auschwitz.

730
00:34:57,700 --> 00:35:01,600
But they took us to Debrecen.

731
00:35:01,600 --> 00:35:04,390
I don't know why
they took us there.

732
00:35:04,390 --> 00:35:06,780
I guess they
gathered more people.
And at Debrecen, we were maybe three or four weeks tops,

no more.

And they separated, of course.

We were separated again, I and my father.

But it seemed to me that only we were there.

I was there with those two women and another mother

with a daughter that also belonged with that group,

but they were separated before.

And my father and my brother and other people--

I don't remember who.

I know that we were 32 people.

But I just cared my father and my brother.
I was separated.

And I felt it from here
I’m sure they will take us

to a concentration camp.

And I wanted so much to be
with my brother and my father,

because they were together.

But I was separated.

And that guard that guarded us--

they were two guards.

Both were very young.

One was younger than--

the one that wasn't
so young, he seemed
to be such a kind person.

And I don't know
why he felt that--
he asked me, why would you be in prison?

759
00:36:30,310 --> 00:36:32,020
You are so young.

760
00:36:32,020 --> 00:36:35,200
And he said, you know, I have a daughter your age.

761
00:36:35,200 --> 00:36:36,880
And she's so innocent.

762
00:36:36,880 --> 00:36:38,380
Why would you be in prison?

763
00:36:38,380 --> 00:36:40,010
What did you do?

764
00:36:40,010 --> 00:36:43,320
I said, I don't know.

765
00:36:43,320 --> 00:36:44,910
They arrested us.

766
00:36:44,910 --> 00:36:47,430
I wouldn't tell him why.

767
00:36:47,430 --> 00:36:53,350
But he knew that my father and my brother are Jewish, I guess.

768
00:36:53,350 --> 00:36:57,760
And they-- he was very kind to me.

769
00:36:57,760 --> 00:37:02,300
He used to take me out from that cell.

770
00:37:02,300 --> 00:37:05,540
And he took me to his office--

771
00:37:05,540 --> 00:37:07,550
those two shared that office-- and he

00:37:07,550 --> 00:37:10,790
said, listen, make believe that you help,

00:37:10,790 --> 00:37:13,100
clean up, or something, because I want

00:37:13,100 --> 00:37:14,930
to give you additional food.

00:37:14,930 --> 00:37:16,610
And he gave me additional food.

00:37:16,610 --> 00:37:18,870
And at that time, I remember I was smoking.

00:37:18,870 --> 00:37:20,900
I don't know why I was smoking.

00:37:20,900 --> 00:37:21,710
I was smoking.

00:37:21,710 --> 00:37:26,120
And he used to take a cigarette, lit it, and come to us

00:37:26,120 --> 00:37:28,910
and throw it on the floor that I should pick up and have it.

00:37:28,910 --> 00:37:31,250
And I asked him, tell me why--

00:37:31,250 --> 00:37:33,590
that's when he told me, I have a daughter.

00:37:33,590 --> 00:37:34,160
Yeah, I ask.
I didn't trust him.

Then I just--

Anyhow, he told me, I have a daughter, and it's impossible that you would do something.

How can you-- I mean, you're so young.

What could you have done?

And he said-- he tried for a while.

And then one day he probably found out that they are going to take us away.

And I had some jewelry.

I remember I had a watch, some earrings, very little jewelry.
But they took it away when you--

and he bought the jewelry
to me, and he gave it to me.

I said, you can keep it.

I don't need it.

You take us to a
concentration camp.

And he said, you are young.

You can work.

And you will survive, he
said, because you're young.

You have the opportunity
and a chance.

And he said, is there anything
you would like to have,

a wish that I could fulfill?

I said, yes, if you take
me to my father now--

because when are we leaving?
He said, tomorrow.

Could I see my father and my brother.

He said, yes, I take you.

And he took me to the cell of my father and my brother.

And I don't need to tell you.

And then in the morning, I was surprised.

He didn't hide his emotions.

And he took me and my brother and father together.

I should be together.

Oh, my heart is so heavy.

And we were standing together waiting that they would take us by truck to a train station.
probably and take us away.

That's what they did.

They had 32 people.

Most of them were men.

I don't know why I have a feeling that I did tell you about it.

You sure that I didn't?

And they took us.

And, yes, before we left, he said,

I want to leave with you a message,

that [INAUDIBLE] He said so--

my name was Stephany, Aryan name--

Stephany, [GERMAN]

That was 1944.
That is 44 years ago, like he would say it to me now.

You know sometimes in your life, I came to the conclusion,

that you say something--

that's why you should really watch when you say things,

it happens.

Your wishes, or not wishes, but things what you say it fulfills.

So you have to be very cautious what you are saying,

because when you say something bad, it could happen.

But I became like that just recently,

when I started to read about Hillel or other people like that.
And I will never forget those words.

And he was right, because when we came to Auschwitz, it was much harder than being in Debrecen in that prison.

So when we came to the station, they put us towards the wall.

We were not supposed, you know-- and then the train came.

They put us in one wagon.

All of us were one wagon.

32 people, it wasn't much.

But we were separated, the men separate the women.

And my father and my brother was separated.

And I just couldn't take--

and there were five women-- one, yeah, five women.
I was the youngest one.

The one, I told you, the two women, and the mother and daughter were there.

And the rest were men, like husband from the other woman.

And anyhow, there were 32 altogether.

And I didn't know what to do.

How would I get to see my father?

I knew that that's the last journey.

How will I get to him?

But my father suddenly came, and he wanted to go to the bathroom.

And he was passing the bathroom, like here was the open, you know where the men were sitting.
And we were in the closed, [NON-ENGLISH] that you call.

And we had doors we could close.

That's where the women were.

But I opened the door and just looked like that.

At every window was an SS man.

And we had two windows.

So two SS men at each window.

But I noticed that the one that was on the other window,

he was like over the SS men, because he

had all those signatures, whatever you call.

And that soldier, when he saw my father, he hit him in his face.

And I just couldn't think for what?
That man was going to the bathroom.

And I said, what do I care?

I'm going-- I must speak up.

I must.

I just couldn't-- the pain was so great.

It's not the pain.

But the young soldier, who was he?

He couldn't be nice because he was an SS man.

Hit my father.

I just couldn't-- and I went over--

And when my father was there in the bathroom,

I went over to him and I asked him,

could you tell me,
why did you do?

897
00:43:26,610 --> 00:43:29,460
What did my father did to you?

898
00:43:29,460 --> 00:43:32,400
And I don't know why, but he felt embarrassed.

899
00:43:32,400 --> 00:43:34,410
And he wouldn't answer.

900
00:43:34,410 --> 00:43:37,950
I was sure he would hit me, or he would tell the other guy.

901
00:43:37,950 --> 00:43:40,260
And when I saw that he didn't say anything

902
00:43:40,260 --> 00:43:43,650
and he didn't hit me, I thought I must do something.

903
00:43:43,650 --> 00:43:45,300
I must see my father.

904
00:43:45,300 --> 00:43:49,830
I must go to my father, even if I will risk

905
00:43:49,830 --> 00:43:51,540
and I'm going to go to the other guy.

906
00:43:51,540 --> 00:43:52,830
And I went over.

907
00:43:52,830 --> 00:43:58,800
And I said, listen, I have here a father and a brother.

908
00:43:58,800 --> 00:44:01,590
And I know it's my last journey.
Could I go sit with them?

Would it harm if you would let me?

And, you know, he let me.

And I went.

At that moment, he was an SS man,

but it was so much appreciated.

You have no idea.

And my father was so surprised to see me.

And that's when he told me, when we was sitting, he said,

I know it's hard, but I beg you, you two are young people.

My life is over, he said.

What?

You understand.
I'm not strong enough.

And I really cannot accept what happened.

He just couldn't accept the loss of the family.

He begged, without realizing what he said,

he said, please, let it continue with our name,

continue our Jewish people survive, please,

whatever you can do.

Believe him.

And that journey took us to Auschwitz.

And in Auschwitz, because we were political

and we were all quite young--
my father was at
that time young too.

935
00:45:20,950 --> 00:45:24,280
He was born in 1897.

936
00:45:24,280 --> 00:45:28,600
And that was 1944.

937
00:45:28,600 --> 00:45:31,060
So he was 47 years old.

938
00:45:31,060 --> 00:45:32,170
He was young.

939
00:45:32,170 --> 00:45:37,210
My brother was younger
than I. So he survived.

940
00:45:37,210 --> 00:45:38,230
He was very tall.

941
00:45:38,230 --> 00:45:39,460
We all were tall.

942
00:45:39,460 --> 00:45:42,010
But he was much
taller, of course.

943
00:45:42,010 --> 00:45:43,420
And my father was tall.

944
00:45:43,420 --> 00:45:46,180
My mother were tell people.

945
00:45:46,180 --> 00:45:54,370
And they didn't like
divide the old people here

946
00:45:54,370 --> 00:45:56,800
or young here or so on.

947
00:45:56,800 --> 00:45:59,360
We all went--
I thought that they gave us--
they took off our clothing.

They took everything away.

Of course, they separated
my father with my brother.

But I knew that they
are in the same camp.

I never knew that
I will see them.

I never expected anyhow.

And when they took
off my clothing

and it was like a sauna, you
know, where you take showers.

And clothing they called it.

They take away the clothing.

And because I was Christian--
and I was sitting and I was so embarrassed, naked.

961 00:46:39,150 --> 00:46:41,680 And men were walking back and forth.

962 00:46:41,680 --> 00:46:43,680 And I was sitting like that.

963 00:46:43,680 --> 00:46:45,780 And they saw that I was so embar--

964 00:46:45,780 --> 00:46:48,780 so they said, what do you mean?

965 00:46:48,780 --> 00:46:49,710 What are you hiding?

966 00:46:49,710 --> 00:46:52,380 What do you think, where are you in a hotel?

967 00:46:52,380 --> 00:46:57,510 And why are you behaving like that?

968 00:46:57,510 --> 00:46:58,620 And I didn't answer.

969 00:46:58,620 --> 00:47:00,450 What is there to say?

970 00:47:00,450 --> 00:47:04,350 And they were cutting off the hair from the people

971 00:47:04,350 --> 00:47:05,220 completely.

972 00:47:05,220 --> 00:47:08,340 When I came I saw women completely with a--
completely like your face.

It was completely--
what do you call--

Hairless, without hair, bald.

Not bald, because you had the--

Stubble.

Yeah, but I mean, no--

Shaven.

Shaven, that's the right word.

You see, when I get this
I cannot remember words.

I behave like a--

anyhow, and they didn't shave--

yes, I remember now.

Somehow, I don't know
how, my cousin, she also
was in Hungary.

987
00:47:44,900 --> 00:47:50,070
But she was arrested before us.

988
00:47:50,070 --> 00:47:52,080
And she was already
in Auschwitz.

989
00:47:52,080 --> 00:47:54,450
And I don't know
how she found out,

990
00:47:54,450 --> 00:48:03,520
but somehow she found
out that we came.

991
00:48:03,520 --> 00:48:06,660
There was an office there that
when you had somebody you know,

992
00:48:06,660 --> 00:48:12,730
you could ask that they
shouldn't shave off our hair.

993
00:48:12,730 --> 00:48:14,550
They should cut,
but not shave off,

994
00:48:14,550 --> 00:48:18,675
because you look horrible
with it shaven off.

995
00:48:18,675 --> 00:48:21,930
And somehow they spare our hair.

996
00:48:21,930 --> 00:48:24,000
We were cut very
short, but not shaven.

997
00:48:24,000 --> 00:48:18,675
It's a big difference.

998
00:48:18,675 --> 00:48:21,930
And they didn't shave our head.
We had at least that.

And then we because we were Christian,

we were giving special dresses.

They were like prisoners, those blue and white, [NON-ENGLISH],

Polish it is.

And with a-- then I saw with a [NON-ENGLISH] is for Christian

they had the number they put and a--

Triangle--

Triangle, red triangle, that's how you knew

it's a Jew-- it's a Christian.

And with a star was the one who was a Jew, yellow star.

And they gave us those [NON-ENGLISH]
that's in Holland, they wore those wooden shoes.

And that's it.

And they let us do--

the concentration camp, Auschwitz, was divided to A, B, and C. A was mostly for Christian people and people that just came for a short time, I guess.

And from A they took to B the Jewish people.

But we stayed in A, camp A.

And then there, when we came, we were together with Jewish people, even so we were Christian.

I don't know, because, yeah, A was a part of the camp that you had to go to first.
And when somehow it was--

1024 00:50:08,670 --> 00:50:11,610
I don't remember how it was.

1025 00:50:11,610 --> 00:50:12,340
Just a moment.

1026 00:50:12,340 --> 00:50:15,530
We were treated a little bit better.

1027 00:50:15,530 --> 00:50:18,310
I don't know, not especially.

1028 00:50:18,310 --> 00:50:22,452
No, we were in the same, like, you know, the bed--

1029 00:50:22,452 --> 00:50:25,420
it wasn't bed-- on the ground.

1030 00:50:25,420 --> 00:50:31,490
And then they had from wood made like a board and second floor

1031 00:50:31,490 --> 00:50:34,070
and the third, and so on.

1032 00:50:34,070 --> 00:50:41,620
And we were all cramped together without anything there.

1033 00:50:41,620 --> 00:50:49,010
But somehow, one day-- yeah, we went out to work.

1034 00:50:49,010 --> 00:50:52,620
Aussenkommando-- you know they took us to woods.

1035 00:50:52,620 --> 00:50:56,590

1036
And we were cutting.

In the beginning, they let us do like taking stones, big, a lot of stones in the wheel barrel and we had to fill it up and put in another place.

The most nuisance work.

But that works very bad on your brains, on your brains, yeah.

And from one place and then again from this place to another, whole day like that,

it was so denigrating.

But you had to do it.

You had to go on.

One day they changed our job.
They gave us a job to go in the woods and chop thin---

I think they made brooms out of it, such [NON-ENGLISH]..

You see, Polish now I remember better English.

That's the reaction, I guess, when brain gets very depressed.

And we were doing that.

And in the evening, we were coming back--

in the morning they counted us.

We were standing on our [? paralin. ?] They counted.

And right away we weren't with our commander

and out of the barracks and out of the camp.

And they took us.

Of course, they were watching us nobody should run away.
1061
00:52:27,310 --> 00:52:28,990
It didn't even occur to me.

1062
00:52:28,990 --> 00:52:30,730
Who cared anymore from life?

1063
00:52:30,730 --> 00:52:34,000
Who believed it you survived?

1064
00:52:34,000 --> 00:52:37,120
And one day, I
don't know why, we

1065
00:52:37,120 --> 00:52:42,250
noticed we were passing to
men's barracks, to men's camp.

1066
00:52:42,250 --> 00:52:47,210
And I saw my brother
and my father far away.

1067
00:52:47,210 --> 00:52:51,070
And you know that watch
what I had from the--

1068
00:52:51,070 --> 00:52:56,500
I managed in my mouth
to pull to in the camp,

1069
00:52:56,500 --> 00:52:58,090
because you were
not allowed, you

1070
00:52:58,090 --> 00:52:59,920
were supposed to
leave everything.

1071
00:52:59,920 --> 00:53:02,650
But I kept it under my tongue.

1072
00:53:02,650 --> 00:53:05,770
And somehow I managed.

1073
00:53:05,770 --> 00:53:10,300

This is a verbatim transcript of spoken word generated with 3Play Media.
It is not the primary source, and it may contain errors in spelling or accuracy.
And when I saw my brother and my father, I said--

00:53:10,300 --> 00:53:12,520
and those two girls, that we were together,

00:53:12,520 --> 00:53:15,550
always kept our numbers together--

00:53:15,550 --> 00:53:18,190
I said, my God, I have that watch.

00:53:18,190 --> 00:53:20,560
I would gladly throw to my father,

00:53:20,560 --> 00:53:23,080
because a man needs more food.

00:53:23,080 --> 00:53:24,730
Let them exchange for something.

00:53:24,730 --> 00:53:26,800
They are together, and they should have--

00:53:26,800 --> 00:53:29,680
and you know that the next girl--

00:53:29,680 --> 00:53:32,950
we were really close to each other--

00:53:32,950 --> 00:53:35,950
she took, she had more courage, and she threw over.

00:53:35,950 --> 00:53:38,440
And they got it.

00:53:38,440 --> 00:53:39,610
I will never forget her.

As a matter of fact, her grandson's getting bar mitzvah soon.

And she gave them.

And I felt at least they will have little something anyhow.

And then we were not too long there.

And because we were young, they took us on the transport.

But they did separate me from those two girls.

And we were separated.

And they told me, why didn't I want to stay there?

And I really was afraid to say anything.

I don't know, I just went.

And they sent me away to Plauen.
That was a factory of bulbs, electrical bulbs.

And there were only Christian people.

But I felt to intuition that there were about--

one of the girls that I knew from that transport,

she was Jewish.

She was there.

And there were two more Jewish girls.

One was from [INAUDIBLE] her name.

And somehow we felt close to each other.

And we just looked at each other.

And whenever we had an opportunity,
So nobody—very quietly, no one—

so we found out, yes, she's Jewish.

And we like swore for each other that we

are going to try to with just looking

at each other we will understand each other,

but we shouldn't be close.

Nobody should know.

And that if we survive, we will be together.

But one, a Christian girl, she was very close to me.

She really liked me.

I don't know if she knew that I'm Jewish.

I have no idea.
It wasn't important to me.

But I thought it's good to have somebody to cover up with you, because I looked like Jewish.

The only thing what was good with me, I knew Hungarian.

And I said that I really lived on Hungarian-Polish border.

So they were like mixed up, because Hungarian people were dark.

So they thought-- and I spoke--

there were guards that guarded us, and they spoke Hungarian.

And I spoke to them Hungarian.

So they really thought that I'm Hungarian, I guess.

I don't know, anyhow, somehow they translated it this way.
But one day, I will never forget, I couldn't sleep.

I couldn't sleep many nights.

But I heard how those Polish girls said,

you know, among us are Jewish people.

And they hide under our coats.

But we are not going to let them survive.

Before the liberation, we are going to finish them.

So then I knew where I am.

That I was wondering, how did they know?

So one girl, she asked the question, because I myself I

was asking, how would she know?

And the other said,
how do you know?

Oh, can't you see,
they are so gentle.

They don't curse like we.

They don't behave so rough.

They are so gentle.

They don't fight for the food.

They are so different.

Can't you see?

She told her.

And it is true.

Why I didn't, because
I know I'm Jewish

and I didn't want
any trouble anyhow.

But I didn't say
that I'm Jewish.

I said that I'm a Mischlinge.
I mean, I was a mixed.

And then another time they called us and they said that we can write letters to people.

That we can get parcels.

You know, I'm thinking that I hear that--

I thought that I did tell you.

I still hear the voices.

No, it's my mind that works like that, I guess.

I don't know.

And like I'm repeating constantly.

And I did not go in there.

Even so everybody went in to write letters, I did not.
I was sure then they will see that I'm not Christian,

1173
00:58:20,990 --> 00:58:22,030
that I'm Jewish.

1174
00:58:22,030 --> 00:58:22,960
But that's OK.

1175
00:58:22,960 --> 00:58:24,400
What the heck, whatever.

1176
00:58:24,400 --> 00:58:26,420
But they didn't bother me.

1177
00:58:26,420 --> 00:58:27,290
We'll have--

1178
00:58:27,290 --> 00:58:27,790
Yeah?

1179
00:58:27,790 --> 00:58:30,250
We'll have to take a break
now for a short while.

1180
00:58:30,250 --> 00:58:30,940
Good.

1181
00:58:30,940 --> 00:58:34,110
Very good, because
my head is so empty.

1182
00:58:34,110 --> 00:58:49,000