

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,126

2
00:00:05,126 --> 00:00:07,070
--my eyes.

3
00:00:07,070 --> 00:00:07,670
That light.

4
00:00:07,670 --> 00:00:10,373

5
00:00:10,373 --> 00:00:11,540
But don't look at the light.

6
00:00:11,540 --> 00:00:12,040
I know.

7
00:00:12,040 --> 00:00:17,480

8
00:00:17,480 --> 00:00:19,370
My name is Dr. Sidney Langer.

9
00:00:19,370 --> 00:00:22,310
And I am the director of
the Oral History Project

10
00:00:22,310 --> 00:00:24,110
of the Holocaust
Studies Resource Center

11
00:00:24,110 --> 00:00:26,270
at Kean College in New Jersey.

12
00:00:26,270 --> 00:00:30,800
I'm very pleased that Mr. Enoch
Trencher, who presently resides

13
00:00:30,800 --> 00:00:33,890

in Union, New Jersey, has
come to the college today

14
00:00:33,890 --> 00:00:36,260
to talk about some
of his experiences

15
00:00:36,260 --> 00:00:37,460
during the Holocaust.

16
00:00:37,460 --> 00:00:39,775
Mr. Trencher, I want to
thank you very much--

17
00:00:39,775 --> 00:00:40,400
You're welcome.

18
00:00:40,400 --> 00:00:42,440
--for coming.

19
00:00:42,440 --> 00:00:46,220
Could you tell me a
little bit about the town

20
00:00:46,220 --> 00:00:49,790
you were born in, your
date of birth, what

21
00:00:49,790 --> 00:00:52,020
life was like in your town?

22
00:00:52,020 --> 00:00:53,330
OK.

23
00:00:53,330 --> 00:00:57,740
I was born in a
large city, Krakow.

24
00:00:57,740 --> 00:01:04,340
But I was raised in a small
town named Krosno in Galicia.

25

00:01:04,340 --> 00:01:09,530

The town had approximately
2,000 Jewish families.

26

00:01:09,530 --> 00:01:11,882

How far was the
town from Krakow?

27

00:01:11,882 --> 00:01:17,150

Oh, over 100 kilometers.

28

00:01:17,150 --> 00:01:24,120

It's about a couple
hours' ride by train.

29

00:01:24,120 --> 00:01:25,530

And your date of birth was--

30

00:01:25,530 --> 00:01:32,680

My date of birth
is March 10, 1926.

31

00:01:32,680 --> 00:01:35,110

My town had a nice
Jewish community.

32

00:01:35,110 --> 00:01:39,030

33

00:01:39,030 --> 00:01:44,370

My father was a local butcher.

34

00:01:44,370 --> 00:01:49,500

And we-- our family consisted
of eight children, four boys

35

00:01:49,500 --> 00:01:51,300

and four girls.

36

00:01:51,300 --> 00:01:54,570

When I was also was living
our mother-- my father's

37

00:01:54,570 --> 00:01:57,360
grandfather and grandmother.

38

00:01:57,360 --> 00:01:59,920
We had our own home.

39

00:01:59,920 --> 00:02:06,180
We also had livestock, like
our own car or a horse, horse

40

00:02:06,180 --> 00:02:11,009
and buggy, because
the situation was not

41

00:02:11,009 --> 00:02:15,570
like in America when you were--

42

00:02:15,570 --> 00:02:19,980
a butcher, I suppose,
had to do everything.

43

00:02:19,980 --> 00:02:21,570
Buy the cattle.

44

00:02:21,570 --> 00:02:24,030
Bring it to the slaughter house.

45

00:02:24,030 --> 00:02:25,490
Slaughter it.

46

00:02:25,490 --> 00:02:26,640
Skin it.

47

00:02:26,640 --> 00:02:29,580
Bring it to the market.

48

00:02:29,580 --> 00:02:31,440
Cut it up and sell it.

49

00:02:31,440 --> 00:02:33,690
Everything in one.

50
00:02:33,690 --> 00:02:37,260
And there was no refrigeration.

51
00:02:37,260 --> 00:02:40,350
And when there was
any meat left over,

52
00:02:40,350 --> 00:02:45,810
there was a city icehouse
where you kept the meat

53
00:02:45,810 --> 00:02:48,450
for the following day or week.

54
00:02:48,450 --> 00:02:52,080

55
00:02:52,080 --> 00:02:59,820
The town had what they
called a rav and two rabbis.

56
00:02:59,820 --> 00:03:02,010
And there was a nice--

57
00:03:02,010 --> 00:03:06,270
The rav was a
[NON-ENGLISH] leader?

58
00:03:06,270 --> 00:03:09,540
We did not know of any--

59
00:03:09,540 --> 00:03:12,660
what is the American--

60
00:03:12,660 --> 00:03:14,110
what is the three--

61
00:03:14,110 --> 00:03:15,780
Orthodox, conservative, reform--

62

00:03:15,780 --> 00:03:17,010
There were no conservative.

63
00:03:17,010 --> 00:03:19,140
Everything was Orthodox.

64
00:03:19,140 --> 00:03:23,370
But there was Orthodox
and very Orthodox.

65
00:03:23,370 --> 00:03:24,690
And each--

66
00:03:24,690 --> 00:03:27,240
So the rebbe was very
Orthodox and the two rabbis

67
00:03:27,240 --> 00:03:28,380
were Orthodox?

68
00:03:28,380 --> 00:03:32,760
Each one has their own sect.

69
00:03:32,760 --> 00:03:36,810
And when it came
to [NON-ENGLISH],,

70
00:03:36,810 --> 00:03:44,580
those kind of thing, so they
had their own clique where each

71
00:03:44,580 --> 00:03:47,850
rabbi had their
own [NON-ENGLISH],,

72
00:03:47,850 --> 00:03:54,090
their own part of the
community, Jewish community.

73
00:03:54,090 --> 00:03:59,130
And there also was a Jewish
community, [NON-ENGLISH],,

74

00:03:59,130 --> 00:04:03,690
what they call when we were
slaughtering animal, you know,

75

00:04:03,690 --> 00:04:07,650
a cow, you had to pay a certain
amount because there was

76

00:04:07,650 --> 00:04:08,740
a shochet.

77

00:04:08,740 --> 00:04:09,240
And--

78

00:04:09,240 --> 00:04:10,400
A ritual slaughter?

79

00:04:10,400 --> 00:04:11,220
Ritual slaughter.

80

00:04:11,220 --> 00:04:12,210
Right.

81

00:04:12,210 --> 00:04:18,300
And from that money, I
think they got part of it.

82

00:04:18,300 --> 00:04:20,760
And that's because
none of those rabbis

83

00:04:20,760 --> 00:04:22,470
worked near their children.

84

00:04:22,470 --> 00:04:25,200
The community kept
them supported.

85

00:04:25,200 --> 00:04:28,760

86

00:04:28,760 --> 00:04:31,380
What kind of school did you go
to when you were growing up?

87
00:04:31,380 --> 00:04:34,190
Well, there was a public school.

88
00:04:34,190 --> 00:04:37,460
And all I finish is
just sixth grade.

89
00:04:37,460 --> 00:04:39,980
Then the war broke out.

90
00:04:39,980 --> 00:04:44,340
Did you have any education
in religious studies?

91
00:04:44,340 --> 00:04:44,840
Oh, yes.

92
00:04:44,840 --> 00:04:45,800
Did you have--

93
00:04:45,800 --> 00:04:47,900
In the afternoons.

94
00:04:47,900 --> 00:04:50,180
The public school
was in the morning.

95
00:04:50,180 --> 00:04:51,980
And in the afternoons,
we went where

96
00:04:51,980 --> 00:04:54,050
they used to call a cheder.

97
00:04:54,050 --> 00:05:00,630
And I got my education,
my religious education.

98

00:05:00,630 --> 00:05:02,600

Read and write.

99

00:05:02,600 --> 00:05:09,470

And those cheders, those
special rabbis or teachers

100

00:05:09,470 --> 00:05:11,450

which they conducted.

101

00:05:11,450 --> 00:05:15,170

You say there were approximately
2,000 Jewish people living

102

00:05:15,170 --> 00:05:16,158

in this town.

103

00:05:16,158 --> 00:05:18,575

Do you have any idea what the
total population of the town

104

00:05:18,575 --> 00:05:19,075

was?

105

00:05:19,075 --> 00:05:19,880

15,000.

106

00:05:19,880 --> 00:05:24,020

15,000 was the total population.

107

00:05:24,020 --> 00:05:27,090

Your cheder, could
you describe that?

108

00:05:27,090 --> 00:05:31,610

It was a one-room school,
if you can call it.

109

00:05:31,610 --> 00:05:36,140

And you start at a very
young age, four or five,

110

00:05:36,140 --> 00:05:38,780
and you continue as
far as you can go.

111
00:05:38,780 --> 00:05:41,990
And then you are promoted
to go to a different cheder,

112
00:05:41,990 --> 00:05:43,790
different rabbi.

113
00:05:43,790 --> 00:05:46,790
And I never had a chance
to go to any higher.

114
00:05:46,790 --> 00:05:49,760
But I went several years.

115
00:05:49,760 --> 00:05:51,480
It did not cost anything.

116
00:05:51,480 --> 00:05:52,730
It was free.

117
00:05:52,730 --> 00:05:55,160
I don't know who paid.

118
00:05:55,160 --> 00:05:57,350
But it was very--

119
00:05:57,350 --> 00:05:58,370
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

120
00:05:58,370 --> 00:05:59,300
Probably.

121
00:05:59,300 --> 00:06:01,010
Very strict.

122
00:06:01,010 --> 00:06:03,890
And anything was
said was not supposed

123
00:06:03,890 --> 00:06:07,550
to be divulged at home at all.

124
00:06:07,550 --> 00:06:09,360
Really?

125
00:06:09,360 --> 00:06:09,860
Yes.

126
00:06:09,860 --> 00:06:15,560
But some memories
cannot be forgotten.

127
00:06:15,560 --> 00:06:18,020
Very interesting.

128
00:06:18,020 --> 00:06:20,360
Was your family Orthodox?

129
00:06:20,360 --> 00:06:21,290
Yes.

130
00:06:21,290 --> 00:06:22,900
Of course.

131
00:06:22,900 --> 00:06:28,350
Well, nobody ever would think
to do anything on a Saturday.

132
00:06:28,350 --> 00:06:32,810
Telephones in our towns, maybe
was a half a dozen altogether.

133
00:06:32,810 --> 00:06:37,640
There was approximately-- the
town and Poland in general

134
00:06:37,640 --> 00:06:39,460
was very poor.

135

00:06:39,460 --> 00:06:46,880

Our town, I think, had
two cars, automobiles.

136

00:06:46,880 --> 00:06:49,010

The rest was just
horse and buggies.

137

00:06:49,010 --> 00:06:51,290

Who owned the two cars?

138

00:06:51,290 --> 00:06:56,150

Well, we had a factory by the
name was called [NON-ENGLISH]..

139

00:06:56,150 --> 00:07:00,470

And employed approximately
1,000 people.

140

00:07:00,470 --> 00:07:03,390

So one of those
cars belonged to--

141

00:07:03,390 --> 00:07:04,400

[INAUDIBLE] factory.

142

00:07:04,400 --> 00:07:05,330

The factory.

143

00:07:05,330 --> 00:07:08,615

And the other one, I
think, to the mayor.

144

00:07:08,615 --> 00:07:12,330

Or there were a couple of
cars for, for instance,

145

00:07:12,330 --> 00:07:15,830

the fire department,
the police department.

146

00:07:15,830 --> 00:07:18,470

Otherwise, there weren't any.

147
00:07:18,470 --> 00:07:27,060
Our town also had airport, which
the Germans put to good use

148
00:07:27,060 --> 00:07:27,810
when they came in.

149
00:07:27,810 --> 00:07:32,710

150
00:07:32,710 --> 00:07:36,625
What was the relationship of the
Jewish community in your town

151
00:07:36,625 --> 00:07:37,995
and the non-Jewish community?

152
00:07:37,995 --> 00:07:39,370
What kinds of
experiences did you

153
00:07:39,370 --> 00:07:41,328
have when you were going
to the public schools?

154
00:07:41,328 --> 00:07:43,390

155
00:07:43,390 --> 00:07:46,600
The Polish people,
especially the children,

156
00:07:46,600 --> 00:07:47,920
were taught in school--

157
00:07:47,920 --> 00:07:51,430

158
00:07:51,430 --> 00:07:52,390
I have to start--

159

00:07:52,390 --> 00:07:54,400

let's go start again.

160

00:07:54,400 --> 00:07:57,460

We had our subjects--

161

00:07:57,460 --> 00:08:01,540

of course, history or
reading, writing, arithmetic,

162

00:08:01,540 --> 00:08:05,440

whatever the public
school gave you.

163

00:08:05,440 --> 00:08:10,030

And we also had one hour
as Jewish, as non-Jewish.

164

00:08:10,030 --> 00:08:15,910

Priests came to school, taught
the non-Jewish kids religion

165

00:08:15,910 --> 00:08:20,650

and also once a
week came a teacher

166

00:08:20,650 --> 00:08:24,460

to teach us Jewish religion.

167

00:08:24,460 --> 00:08:29,650

But whenever the priest left,
he left such a mark on those

168

00:08:29,650 --> 00:08:33,320

non-Jewish kids that
in order for me--

169

00:08:33,320 --> 00:08:36,100

and that's why I'm talking
about anti-Semitism--

170

00:08:36,100 --> 00:08:40,090

my oldest brother had
to come and take me home

171
00:08:40,090 --> 00:08:45,490
because there was always
fights that ruining

172
00:08:45,490 --> 00:08:49,690
and to the children
starting from very little

173
00:08:49,690 --> 00:08:50,590
by the priests.

174
00:08:50,590 --> 00:08:53,260

175
00:08:53,260 --> 00:08:54,430
It's unbelievable.

176
00:08:54,430 --> 00:08:58,450
I can still today of today I
cannot forget how the children

177
00:08:58,450 --> 00:09:01,210
were brought up that--

178
00:09:01,210 --> 00:09:02,800
what was that bringing up?

179
00:09:02,800 --> 00:09:06,700
The priest taught the
children that a Jew

180
00:09:06,700 --> 00:09:10,120
was the one that killed Jesus.

181
00:09:10,120 --> 00:09:14,410
And for that reason, I am the
one that am part of the Jews

182
00:09:14,410 --> 00:09:15,970

that you should be killed, too.

183
00:09:15,970 --> 00:09:19,210
Why did you Jews kill Jesus?

184
00:09:19,210 --> 00:09:21,040
And what did I know?

185
00:09:21,040 --> 00:09:25,270
Of course I knew that the
Jews did not kill Jesus.

186
00:09:25,270 --> 00:09:26,320
But I couldn't tell him.

187
00:09:26,320 --> 00:09:28,760
The only way you
do was to defend.

188
00:09:28,760 --> 00:09:30,490
So whenever we
walked out of school,

189
00:09:30,490 --> 00:09:34,810
we always went in a group
of five or six or 10

190
00:09:34,810 --> 00:09:39,140
and just sneaked out of
the school, never alone.

191
00:09:39,140 --> 00:09:42,440
We went sometimes
alone and I got hit.

192
00:09:42,440 --> 00:09:45,940
So my mother complained
to the principal.

193
00:09:45,940 --> 00:09:47,800
Said, this is nothing.

194

00:09:47,800 --> 00:09:49,540

It's an everyday occurrence.

195

00:09:49,540 --> 00:09:52,600

We can't help you.

196

00:09:52,600 --> 00:09:55,380

That anti-Semitism
went much further.

197

00:09:55,380 --> 00:09:59,830

There is one month of the
year where the Christian--

198

00:09:59,830 --> 00:10:02,920

and ours was a Catholic state.

199

00:10:02,920 --> 00:10:05,710

Poland is very Catholic--

200

00:10:05,710 --> 00:10:09,160

where they go
evenings to the mass.

201

00:10:09,160 --> 00:10:15,040

Our house was almost
on the edge of town.

202

00:10:15,040 --> 00:10:21,180

And our roof, we had a tin
roof, not usually from lime

203

00:10:21,180 --> 00:10:24,070

or whatever they call it.

204

00:10:24,070 --> 00:10:30,190

So whenever they used to go
to church or from church,

205

00:10:30,190 --> 00:10:34,900

as many stones were on the
street were on top of our roof.

206

00:10:34,900 --> 00:10:40,780

And you would think the roof
was coming down, so many stones.

207

00:10:40,780 --> 00:10:45,550

One time-- my older
sister was married.

208

00:10:45,550 --> 00:10:49,660

So my brother-in-law was
a husky guy, six foot,

209

00:10:49,660 --> 00:10:52,660

with two of my
oldest brothers stuck

210

00:10:52,660 --> 00:10:54,950

in a corner in the
back of the house.

211

00:10:54,950 --> 00:10:57,100

We had a fence around the house.

212

00:10:57,100 --> 00:10:59,980

And waited and
wanted to see, who

213

00:10:59,980 --> 00:11:03,100

are the ones that really throw
not only stone-- many times

214

00:11:03,100 --> 00:11:05,860

they broke the windows, too.

215

00:11:05,860 --> 00:11:11,080

And fortunately
they caught three.

216

00:11:11,080 --> 00:11:12,820

Of course, there
was no telephone.

217

00:11:12,820 --> 00:11:16,270
They took them to the police.

218
00:11:16,270 --> 00:11:19,360
And they came to court.

219
00:11:19,360 --> 00:11:22,900
Do you remember how old
you were at this time?

220
00:11:22,900 --> 00:11:24,490
11, 12.

221
00:11:24,490 --> 00:11:26,410
So this is already--

222
00:11:26,410 --> 00:11:28,150
In 1937, '38.

223
00:11:28,150 --> 00:11:29,410
'37, '38?

224
00:11:29,410 --> 00:11:31,560
Yes.

225
00:11:31,560 --> 00:11:35,740
And they came before a judge.

226
00:11:35,740 --> 00:11:37,780
And my mother came.

227
00:11:37,780 --> 00:11:42,580
And this, again, I
will never forget.

228
00:11:42,580 --> 00:11:44,980
They were found
guilty and they were

229
00:11:44,980 --> 00:11:51,520
found one zloty for the
crime that they committed.

230

00:11:51,520 --> 00:11:54,220
My mother interrupted the judge.

231

00:11:54,220 --> 00:11:58,270
And she stood up and said,
excuse me, your Honor.

232

00:11:58,270 --> 00:12:03,430
But if they are found \$1 for
a crime like this, I'll go

233

00:12:03,430 --> 00:12:06,820
and I'll knock somebody's window
out, too, and scare the people

234

00:12:06,820 --> 00:12:08,890
to death for \$1.

235

00:12:08,890 --> 00:12:14,140
He told her, sit down, woman,
because if you don't sit,

236

00:12:14,140 --> 00:12:17,800
I'll hold you in
contempt of court.

237

00:12:17,800 --> 00:12:21,520
And that was the finished of it.

238

00:12:21,520 --> 00:12:23,620
And things like this,
you cannot forget.

239

00:12:23,620 --> 00:12:26,730

240

00:12:26,730 --> 00:12:31,650
I can go on and on, but I don't
think that will do any good.

241

00:12:31,650 --> 00:12:33,570

On the walls,
where ever you say,

242
00:12:33,570 --> 00:12:38,220
don't abide by a Jew,
that's anti-Semitism.

243
00:12:38,220 --> 00:12:44,820
Do these kinds of experiences--
now, of course, you're young.

244
00:12:44,820 --> 00:12:48,630
You're born in 1926.

245
00:12:48,630 --> 00:12:51,600
Do you think the same kind of
relationship existed, you know,

246
00:12:51,600 --> 00:12:53,430
in 1926, '27, and '28?

247
00:12:53,430 --> 00:12:56,280
You were too young at the time
between the Jewish community

248
00:12:56,280 --> 00:12:57,630
and the non-Jewish community.

249
00:12:57,630 --> 00:13:01,440
Or could there have been some
relationship between the time

250
00:13:01,440 --> 00:13:04,740
when Hitler came
to power in 1933?

251
00:13:04,740 --> 00:13:10,020
And there were changes, you
know, after 1933 in Poland.

252
00:13:10,020 --> 00:13:12,920
Before Hitler came to
Poland, before the Nazis came

253
00:13:12,920 --> 00:13:14,170
to Poland, there were changes.

254
00:13:14,170 --> 00:13:18,150
And I'm just wondering if--

255
00:13:18,150 --> 00:13:24,900
We had a factory, a glass
factory, and some half German,

256
00:13:24,900 --> 00:13:29,160
they called them,
from Oberschlesien.

257
00:13:29,160 --> 00:13:31,680
They came to live in
the town because they

258
00:13:31,680 --> 00:13:34,140
were there and the
mechanics, they

259
00:13:34,140 --> 00:13:38,580
knew how to operate the factory.

260
00:13:38,580 --> 00:13:44,040
And, well, too much
of a change that

261
00:13:44,040 --> 00:13:50,500
does not have to be done in
my town because, as I was--

262
00:13:50,500 --> 00:13:53,430
I'm trying to
explain, they are--

263
00:13:53,430 --> 00:13:59,430
the Polaks, the
population, were so rooted

264

00:13:59,430 --> 00:14:06,000
in that hatred of the
Jew that's unbelievable.

265
00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:13,080
One other thing comes
before me that is so--

266
00:14:13,080 --> 00:14:16,050
it's like the picture
before my eyes.

267
00:14:16,050 --> 00:14:18,000
I think I mentioned it.

268
00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:19,740
If I didn't, I'll
mention it now.

269
00:14:19,740 --> 00:14:22,980
My older sister was married.

270
00:14:22,980 --> 00:14:27,000
And my brother-in-law
was a husky six foot guy.

271
00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:34,800
And he also was-- and he was
in the buying and selling

272
00:14:34,800 --> 00:14:37,800
department of the cows.

273
00:14:37,800 --> 00:14:45,600
He used to go to the
villages, buy the herd,

274
00:14:45,600 --> 00:14:52,200
care for a heifer or a cow or
bull, and bring them to town

275
00:14:52,200 --> 00:14:54,540
and sell them.

276
00:14:54,540 --> 00:14:58,110
But before you
brought them to town,

277
00:14:58,110 --> 00:15:00,540
then you had to go
to the village elders

278
00:15:00,540 --> 00:15:05,070
and get a certificate that
you bought it legally.

279
00:15:05,070 --> 00:15:09,220
So many times-- he
took me along one time.

280
00:15:09,220 --> 00:15:13,230
And this is usually about
3 kilometer in the village

281
00:15:13,230 --> 00:15:15,540
to go to that-- like,
mayor in a town,

282
00:15:15,540 --> 00:15:17,580
there was elders in the village.

283
00:15:17,580 --> 00:15:22,830
And it costs, whatever, a
few cents of your thing.

284
00:15:22,830 --> 00:15:25,560
And he had to give you
a death certificate

285
00:15:25,560 --> 00:15:30,130
because that was the legal way.

286
00:15:30,130 --> 00:15:34,770
But my point is, I did
not dress any different

287

00:15:34,770 --> 00:15:37,140
than anybody else.

288

00:15:37,140 --> 00:15:39,150
Going into the
village by myself,

289

00:15:39,150 --> 00:15:40,470
I would have never dared.

290

00:15:40,470 --> 00:15:43,560
But going with my
brother-in-law,

291

00:15:43,560 --> 00:15:46,530
I did, because he
was a husky guy.

292

00:15:46,530 --> 00:15:50,730
Walking through those couple
kilometers as many kids

293

00:15:50,730 --> 00:15:51,730
as they were--

294

00:15:51,730 --> 00:15:53,850
Jew, go to Palestine.

295

00:15:53,850 --> 00:15:55,680
Jew, get out of here.

296

00:15:55,680 --> 00:15:57,240
You do not belong.

297

00:15:57,240 --> 00:16:01,650
How did they-- and stones were
thrown at us, too, of course.

298

00:16:01,650 --> 00:16:06,210
But they respected my brother
in law for his height,

299

00:16:06,210 --> 00:16:07,920
for being so big.

300

00:16:07,920 --> 00:16:11,880
But how in the world could
they recognize that we

301

00:16:11,880 --> 00:16:15,090
were non-Jews, I do not know.

302

00:16:15,090 --> 00:16:16,857
I'll never figure this out.

303

00:16:16,857 --> 00:16:18,690
How they could recognize
that you were Jews?

304

00:16:18,690 --> 00:16:22,950
That I was a Jew,
because our clothes--

305

00:16:22,950 --> 00:16:25,080
we dress the same.

306

00:16:25,080 --> 00:16:27,990
And that's how
that anti-Semitism

307

00:16:27,990 --> 00:16:29,850
was rooted in them.

308

00:16:29,850 --> 00:16:31,410
And they stuck to it.

309

00:16:31,410 --> 00:16:33,750
The only thing that
they came to town

310

00:16:33,750 --> 00:16:38,580
is because they had to
deal-- oh, excuse me.

311
00:16:38,580 --> 00:16:41,160
Most of the Jewish
people you ask

312
00:16:41,160 --> 00:16:46,530
settled in towns, not in
the villages, because we--

313
00:16:46,530 --> 00:16:48,150
and it goes back
hundreds of years

314
00:16:48,150 --> 00:16:50,790
when the Jews came into Poland.

315
00:16:50,790 --> 00:16:55,170
They did not get a chance
to settle into the villages,

316
00:16:55,170 --> 00:16:59,490
become farmers, so they
had to do the best they can

317
00:16:59,490 --> 00:17:02,310
to live in towns and cities.

318
00:17:02,310 --> 00:17:04,910
Now, once you get into
a town and a city,

319
00:17:04,910 --> 00:17:06,819
you just want to make a living.

320
00:17:06,819 --> 00:17:09,089
So they became merchants.

321
00:17:09,089 --> 00:17:14,819
Of course, tailors,
shoemakers, you know,

322
00:17:14,819 --> 00:17:20,130
craftsmen, and of course,

lawyers, doctors, dentists,

323
00:17:20,130 --> 00:17:22,050
and professionals.

324
00:17:22,050 --> 00:17:24,810
And very few of the
Jewish population

325
00:17:24,810 --> 00:17:27,839
ever became farmers, because
they never got the chance

326
00:17:27,839 --> 00:17:28,755
to go to the farms.

327
00:17:28,755 --> 00:17:31,780

328
00:17:31,780 --> 00:17:33,900
Correct.

329
00:17:33,900 --> 00:17:34,900
Were there any changes--

330
00:17:34,900 --> 00:17:37,630
I mean, there were changes
in-laws of [NON-ENGLISH],,

331
00:17:37,630 --> 00:17:39,070
for example, ritual slaughter--

332
00:17:39,070 --> 00:17:40,420
Yes.

333
00:17:40,420 --> 00:17:41,270
Do you remember--

334
00:17:41,270 --> 00:17:42,155
Yes.

335

00:17:42,155 --> 00:17:43,780

Again, you were very
young at the time.

336

00:17:43,780 --> 00:17:48,160

But I do, because my father
was one of the five butchers

337

00:17:48,160 --> 00:17:49,090

that were in town.

338

00:17:49,090 --> 00:17:50,170

Right.

339

00:17:50,170 --> 00:17:52,060

The year before--

340

00:17:52,060 --> 00:17:53,290

What year would that be?

341

00:17:53,290 --> 00:17:54,162

1938.

342

00:17:54,162 --> 00:17:56,213

1938.

343

00:17:56,213 --> 00:17:56,755

So you were--

344

00:17:56,755 --> 00:17:59,320

The Polish
government-- I was 12.

345

00:17:59,320 --> 00:18:04,420

The Polish government brought
it under strict control

346

00:18:04,420 --> 00:18:07,180

the proceedings
and slaughter of--

347

00:18:07,180 --> 00:18:09,670

ritual slaughter.

348

00:18:09,670 --> 00:18:12,550

And what they did, they
put out a contingent.

349

00:18:12,550 --> 00:18:19,120

They give everybody this ration.

350

00:18:19,120 --> 00:18:22,220

And five butchers-- my
father was the oldest.

351

00:18:22,220 --> 00:18:26,290

I mean, so for instance,
they give you 2000 pounds

352

00:18:26,290 --> 00:18:29,050

of lightweight-- life weight.

353

00:18:29,050 --> 00:18:32,210

And the other
butchers accordingly.

354

00:18:32,210 --> 00:18:37,900

So the 2,000 pounds life
weight was one heifer.

355

00:18:37,900 --> 00:18:42,250

And that's all--
actually, we were--

356

00:18:42,250 --> 00:18:48,340

the town lost half of the amount
of the meat which were allowed

357

00:18:48,340 --> 00:18:50,320

to be slaughtered legally.

358

00:18:50,320 --> 00:18:52,120

Of course, there was--

359

00:18:52,120 --> 00:18:54,130
illegally, you
could still do it.

360
00:18:54,130 --> 00:18:56,290
Illegally, what does it mean?

361
00:18:56,290 --> 00:19:03,610
Illegally to the
Polish government.

362
00:19:03,610 --> 00:19:10,270
But as Jews, if my father or my
brother-in-law could get a calf

363
00:19:10,270 --> 00:19:15,220
and bring it into our
stable, we got the shochet,

364
00:19:15,220 --> 00:19:18,220
and he slaughtered
it and he skinned it.

365
00:19:18,220 --> 00:19:22,570
And we-- instead of doing
this in our store in town,

366
00:19:22,570 --> 00:19:27,928
we did it in our little--

367
00:19:27,928 --> 00:19:28,900
Secrecy.

368
00:19:28,900 --> 00:19:31,600
--in a little room.

369
00:19:31,600 --> 00:19:33,070
And done the same thing.

370
00:19:33,070 --> 00:19:33,970
But they did.

371

00:19:33,970 --> 00:19:39,820

They gave us-- they
rationed the meat.

372

00:19:39,820 --> 00:19:41,770

Why did they ration?

373

00:19:41,770 --> 00:19:46,660

They said that we can use the
hind quarters of the meat.

374

00:19:46,660 --> 00:19:50,170

Of course, according
to the Jewish law,

375

00:19:50,170 --> 00:19:52,570

only the fore quarter is kosher.

376

00:19:52,570 --> 00:19:56,110

It has to be [INAUDIBLE]
and de-veined.

377

00:19:56,110 --> 00:19:59,860

But there is also a way
that the hindquarter,

378

00:19:59,860 --> 00:20:02,650

if it's properly de-veined--

379

00:20:02,650 --> 00:20:04,370

and there's only a couple--

380

00:20:04,370 --> 00:20:10,730

few people in the whole region
of ours that could do it.

381

00:20:10,730 --> 00:20:14,530

So you can use the whole animal.

382

00:20:14,530 --> 00:20:19,120

The thing happened that
near us, there was nowhere.

383

00:20:19,120 --> 00:20:22,570

And we had to actually
have it done--

384

00:20:22,570 --> 00:20:26,110

somebody did come, because
if we would not de-vein it,

385

00:20:26,110 --> 00:20:29,260

they would have
cut off completely.

386

00:20:29,260 --> 00:20:32,170

But after it was de-veined, we
could not sell it as kosher,

387

00:20:32,170 --> 00:20:34,930

because our rabbi
would not allow it.

388

00:20:34,930 --> 00:20:38,620

We had to sell it to
the non-kosher butcher

389

00:20:38,620 --> 00:20:41,950

for about a tenth of the value.

390

00:20:41,950 --> 00:20:43,127

And what happened--

391

00:20:43,127 --> 00:20:43,960

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

392

00:20:43,960 --> 00:20:47,200

The tenth of the value
of a pound of meat.

393

00:20:47,200 --> 00:20:50,320

What happened is, say, for
instance, the pound of meat

394

00:20:50,320 --> 00:20:55,720

was \$1 for 100 pounds.

395

00:20:55,720 --> 00:20:59,770

And the other 100 pounds
you get back only \$0.10.

396

00:20:59,770 --> 00:21:04,130

So the other \$0.90 had to
be put on on the dollar.

397

00:21:04,130 --> 00:21:07,360

So the Jewish person, if we
[INAUDIBLE] the meat had to pay

398

00:21:07,360 --> 00:21:11,560

\$1.90, almost double the
amount, in order to have a piece

399

00:21:11,560 --> 00:21:13,480

of meat on the table.

400

00:21:13,480 --> 00:21:16,990

And this was already
before the war.

401

00:21:16,990 --> 00:21:19,150

Any other laws that
you recall that were

402

00:21:19,150 --> 00:21:22,060

passed in Poland prior to--

403

00:21:22,060 --> 00:21:22,570

Oh, yes.

404

00:21:22,570 --> 00:21:25,460

405

00:21:25,460 --> 00:21:30,130

Certain-- I don't know how
many miles from the border.

406

00:21:30,130 --> 00:21:33,820
No Jew could buy any property.

407
00:21:33,820 --> 00:21:37,540
Now, we lived
about 24 kilometers

408
00:21:37,540 --> 00:21:42,430
from the Czechoslovakian border
or the Carpathian Mountains.

409
00:21:42,430 --> 00:21:45,940
And it was as close
as you went there.

410
00:21:45,940 --> 00:21:52,120
No Jew were allowed to buy
any properties by yourself.

411
00:21:52,120 --> 00:21:53,980
This was the law passed?

412
00:21:53,980 --> 00:21:56,845
That was my town
that I remember.

413
00:21:56,845 --> 00:22:00,145

414
00:22:00,145 --> 00:22:00,645
OK.

415
00:22:00,645 --> 00:22:06,450

416
00:22:06,450 --> 00:22:11,220
Do you remember the day
when the war broke out?

417
00:22:11,220 --> 00:22:12,900
Yes, I do.

418

00:22:12,900 --> 00:22:16,380

Can you describe what you
were doing, what happened?

419

00:22:16,380 --> 00:22:19,230

Did you have any warning?

420

00:22:19,230 --> 00:22:19,980

No.

421

00:22:19,980 --> 00:22:21,150

We didn't.

422

00:22:21,150 --> 00:22:27,060

It was September 1, 1939.

423

00:22:27,060 --> 00:22:31,110

And it was about 5
o'clock in the morning.

424

00:22:31,110 --> 00:22:33,060

And all of a sudden,
we hear bombs.

425

00:22:33,060 --> 00:22:35,500

We didn't know what it was.

426

00:22:35,500 --> 00:22:39,720

And next thing we
know, a big fire.

427

00:22:39,720 --> 00:22:44,970

They bombed the only factory
which I mentioned before.

428

00:22:44,970 --> 00:22:49,580

It was a shoe factory,
the [INAUDIBLE]..

429

00:22:49,580 --> 00:22:52,240

And a couple more rounds.

430

00:22:52,240 --> 00:22:54,120
And they went.

431
00:22:54,120 --> 00:22:56,010
And that was it.

432
00:22:56,010 --> 00:23:00,960
And 7 or 10 days
later, the Germans

433
00:23:00,960 --> 00:23:03,930
walked into town because
within two weeks,

434
00:23:03,930 --> 00:23:06,030
Germany occupied whole Poland.

435
00:23:06,030 --> 00:23:10,590
I think it took them a
little longer by Warsaw.

436
00:23:10,590 --> 00:23:13,590
They had a little
more resistance.

437
00:23:13,590 --> 00:23:15,900
Or the was another
problem-- no problem.

438
00:23:15,900 --> 00:23:18,060
What it is at that time--

439
00:23:18,060 --> 00:23:19,830
Let me go back just
for one second.

440
00:23:19,830 --> 00:23:24,000
Before September 1, 1939, did
you-- again, you're young.

441
00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:25,770
You're 12 years
old, 11 years old.

442
00:23:25,770 --> 00:23:27,750
Did you have any idea
of what was going on

443
00:23:27,750 --> 00:23:29,625
in Germany at the time?

444
00:23:29,625 --> 00:23:32,410
Was there any discussion in
your family, among friends?

445
00:23:32,410 --> 00:23:33,090
Yes.

446
00:23:33,090 --> 00:23:34,500
Yes, we did.

447
00:23:34,500 --> 00:23:40,620
We did know, because
the Germans--

448
00:23:40,620 --> 00:23:45,430
the Jews, which
were stateless, they

449
00:23:45,430 --> 00:23:47,430
were thrown out of Germany.

450
00:23:47,430 --> 00:23:49,260
Was about 100,000 of them.

451
00:23:49,260 --> 00:23:52,020
They were brought
to the Polish border

452
00:23:52,020 --> 00:23:56,340
and just thrown over
the Polish side.

453
00:23:56,340 --> 00:23:58,800
The Poles still come in.

454
00:23:58,800 --> 00:24:01,140
And they were
scattered all over.

455
00:24:01,140 --> 00:24:02,820
Our family did come to us.

456
00:24:02,820 --> 00:24:05,640

457
00:24:05,640 --> 00:24:08,370
That was a year before.

458
00:24:08,370 --> 00:24:12,780
You know, half of
all those people--

459
00:24:12,780 --> 00:24:14,370
they consider
themselves German Jews.

460
00:24:14,370 --> 00:24:16,770
But somehow they were stateless.

461
00:24:16,770 --> 00:24:22,290
Half of those somehow
decided not to stay around

462
00:24:22,290 --> 00:24:23,370
and kept going.

463
00:24:23,370 --> 00:24:24,600
Many of them--

464
00:24:24,600 --> 00:24:26,520
I never been in Israel yet--

465
00:24:26,520 --> 00:24:28,320
live in Israel
now, and of course,

466

00:24:28,320 --> 00:24:30,150

their great
grandchildren already.

467

00:24:30,150 --> 00:24:31,950

But I do remember that fact.

468

00:24:31,950 --> 00:24:35,250

He threw out the stateless Jews.

469

00:24:35,250 --> 00:24:36,240

He said, they belong--

470

00:24:36,240 --> 00:24:38,310

they are Polish citizens.

471

00:24:38,310 --> 00:24:40,170

We don't want any
Polish citizens.

472

00:24:40,170 --> 00:24:43,530

This was before
the Crystal Night.

473

00:24:43,530 --> 00:24:44,200

And--

474

00:24:44,200 --> 00:24:45,600

You were aware of Kristallnacht?

475

00:24:45,600 --> 00:24:47,010

Yes.

476

00:24:47,010 --> 00:24:49,090

Well, I may have been a child.

477

00:24:49,090 --> 00:24:57,720

But we discussed and then that's
what we did know about it.

478

00:24:57,720 --> 00:25:00,330

But you didn't think that
what was happening in Germany

479
00:25:00,330 --> 00:25:01,110
would have any--

480
00:25:01,110 --> 00:25:01,610
No.

481
00:25:01,610 --> 00:25:04,050
--impact on life in Poland?

482
00:25:04,050 --> 00:25:04,890
Not only this.

483
00:25:04,890 --> 00:25:11,010
Even after the September 1,
1939, there were in our town--

484
00:25:11,010 --> 00:25:14,910
in fact, our--

485
00:25:14,910 --> 00:25:19,190
Germany went very off
course when they walked in--

486
00:25:19,190 --> 00:25:20,100
Yeah, let's go back.

487
00:25:20,100 --> 00:25:22,290
You said September 1, 1939.

488
00:25:22,290 --> 00:25:25,440
But then you said there was
some bombing of the factory.

489
00:25:25,440 --> 00:25:28,950
And then you said there was a
period of 10 days or six days.

490
00:25:28,950 --> 00:25:31,600
Yes, before they

actually walked in.

491

00:25:31,600 --> 00:25:34,980

What happened during those days,
during those six, seven days?

492

00:25:34,980 --> 00:25:37,410

There was propaganda
put out by the Polish,

493

00:25:37,410 --> 00:25:41,580

how resistance they putting
up, how they fighting.

494

00:25:41,580 --> 00:25:46,560

And seven, 10 days later, we
had the German army in our town.

495

00:25:46,560 --> 00:25:50,940

So that was just propaganda
put out by the little Polish

496

00:25:50,940 --> 00:25:55,860

government that was left because
all the big [NON-ENGLISH] left.

497

00:25:55,860 --> 00:25:58,680

They left the Polish army.

498

00:25:58,680 --> 00:26:01,200

The general was the leader.

499

00:26:01,200 --> 00:26:03,570

He picked himself up,
went, I think, to London,

500

00:26:03,570 --> 00:26:05,850

to England, left everything.

501

00:26:05,850 --> 00:26:06,750

That's right.

502

00:26:06,750 --> 00:26:10,590
Poland, whatever
they had, they had--

503
00:26:10,590 --> 00:26:14,100
my brother was on active
duty and the other one

504
00:26:14,100 --> 00:26:17,520
was recalled to active duty.

505
00:26:17,520 --> 00:26:18,330
In the Polish army.

506
00:26:18,330 --> 00:26:20,220
Into the Polish army.

507
00:26:20,220 --> 00:26:22,350
And all of a sudden,
after a couple days,

508
00:26:22,350 --> 00:26:24,840
there was nobody to take care--

509
00:26:24,840 --> 00:26:29,010
no captain, no major,
no colonel, nothing.

510
00:26:29,010 --> 00:26:32,310
And it was just--
they let them loose.

511
00:26:32,310 --> 00:26:32,910
No command.

512
00:26:32,910 --> 00:26:36,580
No headquarters.

513
00:26:36,580 --> 00:26:40,285
And that's why, because the
Polish army was good trained.

514

00:26:40,285 --> 00:26:45,320
But how can you have a good
army without any commanders?

515
00:26:45,320 --> 00:26:50,050
And they occupied
Poland in two weeks.

516
00:26:50,050 --> 00:26:52,840
And you remember the
day that the Germans

517
00:26:52,840 --> 00:26:53,860
came into your town?

518
00:26:53,860 --> 00:26:54,360
Yes.

519
00:26:54,360 --> 00:26:59,470

520
00:26:59,470 --> 00:27:02,470
What I can understand,
what I remember,

521
00:27:02,470 --> 00:27:10,060
is they were-- concerning,
especially, Jewish people.

522
00:27:10,060 --> 00:27:16,870
First of all, they took out
the rabbi and ten biggest

523
00:27:16,870 --> 00:27:18,100
Jewish people--

524
00:27:18,100 --> 00:27:19,960
I mean, known people--

525
00:27:19,960 --> 00:27:23,210
and shot them right on the spot.

526

00:27:23,210 --> 00:27:26,170

And they were buried
in the middle of town.

527

00:27:26,170 --> 00:27:29,740

This was, like,
showing what they are.

528

00:27:29,740 --> 00:27:31,230

But slowly--

529

00:27:31,230 --> 00:27:32,860

This is immediately
when they entered--

530

00:27:32,860 --> 00:27:35,650

Immediately after they took
over, after they came in.

531

00:27:35,650 --> 00:27:38,050

Were all the Jews told to
come and watch this execution?

532

00:27:38,050 --> 00:27:38,550

No.

533

00:27:38,550 --> 00:27:40,090

No, no, no, no, no.

534

00:27:40,090 --> 00:27:46,750

Then somehow they let everybody.

535

00:27:46,750 --> 00:27:51,790

And we were in our own
house for over a year.

536

00:27:51,790 --> 00:27:54,460

It's not like the
other countries

537

00:27:54,460 --> 00:27:57,640

that he invaded,
like Hungary in 1944.

538

00:27:57,640 --> 00:28:02,620

Poland, he did not choke
you completely to that.

539

00:28:02,620 --> 00:28:07,030

Maybe he knew sooner or later
you haven't got anywhere to go.

540

00:28:07,030 --> 00:28:08,670

But he let you.

541

00:28:08,670 --> 00:28:13,870

We still had our car and
our horse and our house.

542

00:28:13,870 --> 00:28:16,360

Of course, it was
a much harder--

543

00:28:16,360 --> 00:28:20,050

everybody had to
wear their armbands.

544

00:28:20,050 --> 00:28:21,910

I didn't, because
I was very little

545

00:28:21,910 --> 00:28:23,770

and I was riding on a bicycle.

546

00:28:23,770 --> 00:28:28,240

So I was the only one that
could go around and see

547

00:28:28,240 --> 00:28:32,830

the town, what it is, and do
things, do a little shopping,

548

00:28:32,830 --> 00:28:34,990

because everybody
else were adults.

549

00:28:34,990 --> 00:28:37,820

I was little.

550

00:28:37,820 --> 00:28:47,310

And then slowly, slowly

I choked until 1942.

551

00:28:47,310 --> 00:28:48,170

July.

552

00:28:48,170 --> 00:28:53,210

I think, July, August

when the end came.

553

00:28:53,210 --> 00:28:56,660

554

00:28:56,660 --> 00:29:00,050

But we knew ahead of

time what's happened

555

00:29:00,050 --> 00:29:03,040

in other cities and towns.

556

00:29:03,040 --> 00:29:06,470

They started making ghettos.

557

00:29:06,470 --> 00:29:09,050

But we did not

believe-- because if you

558

00:29:09,050 --> 00:29:10,490

ask what's going

to happen, that's

559

00:29:10,490 --> 00:29:12,400

going to happen to our town.

560

00:29:12,400 --> 00:29:18,740

And in fact, one

time, they came out.

561

00:29:18,740 --> 00:29:21,620

And every corner in those
days, they used to come in

562

00:29:21,620 --> 00:29:28,070

and they gathered together.

563

00:29:28,070 --> 00:29:32,990

And they said, any
Jew wants to go--

564

00:29:32,990 --> 00:29:36,590

oh, by the way, Poland--

565

00:29:36,590 --> 00:29:40,850

1939, Poland was
taken apart in two.

566

00:29:40,850 --> 00:29:44,840

From the East came the Russians
and from the West, the Germans.

567

00:29:44,840 --> 00:29:48,560

And the river, 24--

568

00:29:48,560 --> 00:29:52,480

42 kilometers from
us was the river.

569

00:29:52,480 --> 00:29:55,130

River [? Sanok. ?]
That was the river

570

00:29:55,130 --> 00:29:59,360

where the Russians stopped
and the Germans backed off

571

00:29:59,360 --> 00:29:59,960

a little bit.

572

00:29:59,960 --> 00:30:03,320

And that's where

they divided Poland.

573

00:30:03,320 --> 00:30:08,480

And that time when I
said, the man came out,

574

00:30:08,480 --> 00:30:11,690

the whole town,
anybody that wants

575

00:30:11,690 --> 00:30:14,330

to leave Poland
this side, Germany,

576

00:30:14,330 --> 00:30:17,490

go to the other Russian side.

577

00:30:17,490 --> 00:30:18,630

Many did.

578

00:30:18,630 --> 00:30:19,680

And they survived.

579

00:30:19,680 --> 00:30:20,670

And they are alive.

580

00:30:20,670 --> 00:30:22,600

And this was 1940?

581

00:30:22,600 --> 00:30:24,120

1942.

582

00:30:24,120 --> 00:30:25,590

'41.

583

00:30:25,590 --> 00:30:26,610

'41.

584

00:30:26,610 --> 00:30:27,990

1941.

585

00:30:27,990 --> 00:30:32,190

He gave a chance
to people to go.

586

00:30:32,190 --> 00:30:33,990

My mother, let her
rest in peace--

587

00:30:33,990 --> 00:30:36,690

When you say "he," you're
referring to Hitler?

588

00:30:36,690 --> 00:30:37,380

No.

589

00:30:37,380 --> 00:30:39,420

The people in charge.

590

00:30:39,420 --> 00:30:42,660

Yes, the Germans.

591

00:30:42,660 --> 00:30:47,010

Well, what percentage of
the people went, you know--

592

00:30:47,010 --> 00:30:49,260

One, maybe.

593

00:30:49,260 --> 00:30:54,690

We did not-- even
so, we knew Lodz.

594

00:30:54,690 --> 00:30:56,400

We knew Krakow.

595

00:30:56,400 --> 00:30:59,250

We knew other cities that
were being evacuated.

596

00:30:59,250 --> 00:31:02,250

In fact, some of the
people came to our town,

597

00:31:02,250 --> 00:31:05,140

our house, where
we lived one family

598

00:31:05,140 --> 00:31:09,870

and took in four other families,
divided, and put them together

599

00:31:09,870 --> 00:31:13,200

into our own family because
they were the people that

600

00:31:13,200 --> 00:31:14,700

came from other towns--

601

00:31:14,700 --> 00:31:17,820

other cities-- to stay.

602

00:31:17,820 --> 00:31:22,320

So we gave our rooms, our
house to people because we

603

00:31:22,320 --> 00:31:23,680

knew what was happening.

604

00:31:23,680 --> 00:31:26,130

But we still didn't believe.

605

00:31:26,130 --> 00:31:29,990

That's how naive people
were, including my parents,

606

00:31:29,990 --> 00:31:32,370

especially my mother.

607

00:31:32,370 --> 00:31:35,190

And what are we going to do?

608

00:31:35,190 --> 00:31:36,150

We have a house.

609

00:31:36,150 --> 00:31:39,218

We have a home with
30-some-odd years?

610

00:31:39,218 --> 00:31:40,260

Where are we going to go?

611

00:31:40,260 --> 00:31:42,510

Just on the shirt
on our backs going

612

00:31:42,510 --> 00:31:44,170

to go to the Russian side?

613

00:31:44,170 --> 00:31:45,640

What are we going to do?

614

00:31:45,640 --> 00:31:47,220

Let's stay here.

615

00:31:47,220 --> 00:31:51,300

And we are still in our home
They're not doing to us.

616

00:31:51,300 --> 00:31:52,590

And they will only know.

617

00:31:52,590 --> 00:31:55,160

618

00:31:55,160 --> 00:31:57,980

And then slowly, slowly,
they started choking.

619

00:31:57,980 --> 00:32:01,565

Is there any council by the
kehilla, by the leaders?

620

00:32:01,565 --> 00:32:02,065

Yes

621

00:32:02,065 --> 00:32:04,190

Did they make any
recommendations?

622
00:32:04,190 --> 00:32:05,120
They were worse.

623
00:32:05,120 --> 00:32:07,550
They were set up by the Germans.

624
00:32:07,550 --> 00:32:11,270
And all they did is
follow the Germans--

625
00:32:11,270 --> 00:32:16,070
German wishes, like winter came.

626
00:32:16,070 --> 00:32:18,040
Snow.

627
00:32:18,040 --> 00:32:21,080
And feet-- I don't
know, 3, 4, 5 feet.

628
00:32:21,080 --> 00:32:22,150
Oh, by the way--

629
00:32:22,150 --> 00:32:23,960
So we're jumping a
little bit in years.

630
00:32:23,960 --> 00:32:27,170
So we're going from '41 to '43.

631
00:32:27,170 --> 00:32:27,680
Yes.

632
00:32:27,680 --> 00:32:28,320
OK.

633
00:32:28,320 --> 00:32:28,820
Yes.

634

00:32:28,820 --> 00:32:30,950

And so this is basically
a consistent pattern.

635

00:32:30,950 --> 00:32:31,820

Yes, yes.

636

00:32:31,820 --> 00:32:34,070

You know, because you
mentioned the kehilla.

637

00:32:34,070 --> 00:32:34,970

Yeah.

638

00:32:34,970 --> 00:32:40,220

So they-- the German army was
not completely mechanized.

639

00:32:40,220 --> 00:32:43,430

They still had horse and
buggies, those heavy horses.

640

00:32:43,430 --> 00:32:47,270

Not all that many people
they had the heavy horses.

641

00:32:47,270 --> 00:32:52,440

Some of the equipment were
carried on big wagons.

642

00:32:52,440 --> 00:32:55,790

Now, you see some of
the Western movies.

643

00:32:55,790 --> 00:33:00,950

And so they needed to make
passages go from my town

644

00:33:00,950 --> 00:33:02,210

to another town.

645

00:33:02,210 --> 00:33:03,860

And only one road.

646

00:33:03,860 --> 00:33:05,420

And it was snowed in.

647

00:33:05,420 --> 00:33:11,510

So the kehilla had to put up

200, 500 Jewish man and women

648

00:33:11,510 --> 00:33:15,320

onto the roads because

there were no snowplows.

649

00:33:15,320 --> 00:33:17,600

And just shovel the snow.

650

00:33:17,600 --> 00:33:21,950

Many times I substituted

for my sisters.

651

00:33:21,950 --> 00:33:24,700

And I helped out and

I let them go home.

652

00:33:24,700 --> 00:33:27,830

And then I sneaked away

because I was little.

653

00:33:27,830 --> 00:33:28,820

Well, we had to.

654

00:33:28,820 --> 00:33:31,910

And we made the passages for

miles and miles in the snow

655

00:33:31,910 --> 00:33:32,480

there.

656

00:33:32,480 --> 00:33:36,470

And this they gave the

authority to the kehilla

657

00:33:36,470 --> 00:33:39,650
that they should organize.

658
00:33:39,650 --> 00:33:43,190
They had their police and
they should go into the homes

659
00:33:43,190 --> 00:33:50,270
and tell who has to go
what day to do that work.

660
00:33:50,270 --> 00:33:52,220
Well, what kind of
attitude did the people

661
00:33:52,220 --> 00:33:54,080
have toward the leaders?

662
00:33:54,080 --> 00:33:56,090
There was no attitude,
because they were

663
00:33:56,090 --> 00:33:59,090
the surrogates of the Germans.

664
00:33:59,090 --> 00:34:01,430
So there was no resistance.

665
00:34:01,430 --> 00:34:02,090
No.

666
00:34:02,090 --> 00:34:04,590
But the people believed that
they essentially had no choice.

667
00:34:04,590 --> 00:34:05,090
They--

668
00:34:05,090 --> 00:34:07,400

669
00:34:07,400 --> 00:34:10,219

Then it became ransoms, too.

670

00:34:10,219 --> 00:34:13,460

And all of a sudden, they
ask for so many thousands

671

00:34:13,460 --> 00:34:15,920

of zloty and dollars.

672

00:34:15,920 --> 00:34:18,469

And then just had to go
and they were the ones

673

00:34:18,469 --> 00:34:22,639

to appraise every family.

674

00:34:22,639 --> 00:34:24,560

You come up with so much money.

675

00:34:24,560 --> 00:34:26,179

You come up with so much money.

676

00:34:26,179 --> 00:34:27,560

And then the Germans took it.

677

00:34:27,560 --> 00:34:30,239

678

00:34:30,239 --> 00:34:34,199

And then eventually came
the day when they said,

679

00:34:34,199 --> 00:34:39,929

everybody has to
come to the main--

680

00:34:39,929 --> 00:34:41,370

what you call it--

681

00:34:41,370 --> 00:34:42,130

marketplace.

682

00:34:42,130 --> 00:34:46,469

683

00:34:46,469 --> 00:34:48,989

We knew what it was
going to be, because we

684

00:34:48,989 --> 00:34:51,540

heard on the other towns.

685

00:34:51,540 --> 00:34:52,760

What date was that?

686

00:34:52,760 --> 00:34:54,210

Do you remember?

687

00:34:54,210 --> 00:34:57,150

It was in '41 at--

688

00:34:57,150 --> 00:34:58,680

June, July.

689

00:34:58,680 --> 00:35:01,930

The middle of the summer.

690

00:35:01,930 --> 00:35:03,960

And one of my sisters--

691

00:35:03,960 --> 00:35:05,010

'41?

692

00:35:05,010 --> 00:35:06,330

Yes.

693

00:35:06,330 --> 00:35:08,220

--was a dressmaker.

694

00:35:08,220 --> 00:35:16,290

And she worked and made dresses
for the German aristocracy.

695

00:35:16,290 --> 00:35:18,940

They had colonels
and all those things.

696

00:35:18,940 --> 00:35:22,860

So we thought that we will have
some kind of a little bit push

697

00:35:22,860 --> 00:35:26,090

so that they can help us.

698

00:35:26,090 --> 00:35:30,570

And I think we'd have been done.

699

00:35:30,570 --> 00:35:35,640

We hid out for a week
by our neighbors.

700

00:35:35,640 --> 00:35:38,580

But what happened, we
got scattered around.

701

00:35:38,580 --> 00:35:40,860

Well, the entire town,
Jewish population

702

00:35:40,860 --> 00:35:44,910

was all together in the summer
of 1941 to the marketplace.

703

00:35:44,910 --> 00:35:45,780

Yes.

704

00:35:45,780 --> 00:35:47,010

Your family went?

705

00:35:47,010 --> 00:35:49,740

No, we did not go
to the first one.

706

00:35:49,740 --> 00:35:52,920

The first one, whatever

it was, they came.

707

00:35:52,920 --> 00:35:58,860

They took everybody into trucks
and to the station on trains

708

00:35:58,860 --> 00:36:01,950

and sent-- oh, I
forgot the city.

709

00:36:01,950 --> 00:36:05,340

They were not gassed, but
they were electrocuted.

710

00:36:05,340 --> 00:36:07,080

Near Lvov.

711

00:36:07,080 --> 00:36:08,885

I forgot the city.

712

00:36:08,885 --> 00:36:09,810

I was so young.

713

00:36:09,810 --> 00:36:12,760

I just don't remember anymore.

714

00:36:12,760 --> 00:36:17,580

And we were heading out,
except another thing

715

00:36:17,580 --> 00:36:22,560

what happened was never any--
there was no plans made.

716

00:36:22,560 --> 00:36:27,780

So, like, my sisters
and I were in one place.

717

00:36:27,780 --> 00:36:29,800

My mother was in another place.

718

00:36:29,800 --> 00:36:31,680

And my father was
in another place.

719
00:36:31,680 --> 00:36:36,240
And my married sister and her
husband were in another place.

720
00:36:36,240 --> 00:36:40,620
Somehow, a week
later, because we

721
00:36:40,620 --> 00:36:46,410
were in that place, my sisters
and I went the second time

722
00:36:46,410 --> 00:36:47,910
when they said, come together.

723
00:36:47,910 --> 00:36:50,790
We supposed to have been
saved by those Germans who

724
00:36:50,790 --> 00:36:52,680
my sister worked for.

725
00:36:52,680 --> 00:36:56,810
He did come, but they did not
give him even the right time.

726
00:36:56,810 --> 00:36:59,640
He said, you have
no right to be here.

727
00:36:59,640 --> 00:37:00,960
And we'll do whatever.

728
00:37:00,960 --> 00:37:04,260
That was the Gestapo thing.

729
00:37:04,260 --> 00:37:06,900
Do whatever you want to.

730

00:37:06,900 --> 00:37:08,910
I was only 13.

731
00:37:08,910 --> 00:37:13,470
How I survived-- I
was 14 then already.

732
00:37:13,470 --> 00:37:17,490
How I survived, a
call came through.

733
00:37:17,490 --> 00:37:23,930
Any man between ages
of 18 and 35 step out.

734
00:37:23,930 --> 00:37:28,550
Somehow God must
have been with me.

735
00:37:28,550 --> 00:37:30,980
I stepped out.

736
00:37:30,980 --> 00:37:34,110
We were 32 boys.

737
00:37:34,110 --> 00:37:36,390
They took us and
they put us in one--

738
00:37:36,390 --> 00:37:39,450
in a hall in a
corridor of a building.

739
00:37:39,450 --> 00:37:42,510
And they locked us up.

740
00:37:42,510 --> 00:37:47,310
And it was the corridor of the
kehilla, the building where

741
00:37:47,310 --> 00:37:51,360
the Jewish community was there.

742

00:37:51,360 --> 00:37:52,770

We were there.

743

00:37:52,770 --> 00:37:56,310

And the rest we hear
outside shooting going on.

744

00:37:56,310 --> 00:37:59,400

Everybody else who was there--

745

00:37:59,400 --> 00:38:03,360

my sisters included-- were
taken away on the cars

746

00:38:03,360 --> 00:38:07,160

and to the station.

747

00:38:07,160 --> 00:38:08,360

This was the--

748

00:38:08,360 --> 00:38:12,380

I'm sorry-- the
second time that--

749

00:38:12,380 --> 00:38:13,680

Within a week later.

750

00:38:13,680 --> 00:38:14,720

OK.

751

00:38:14,720 --> 00:38:17,090

Because the first time
your family was still--

752

00:38:17,090 --> 00:38:18,320

Yes.

753

00:38:18,320 --> 00:38:19,190

OK.

754

00:38:19,190 --> 00:38:25,630

A week later, my sisters--

755

00:38:25,630 --> 00:38:31,340
my brother-in-law,
somehow he got away.

756

00:38:31,340 --> 00:38:34,050
The following day,
they let us out.

757

00:38:34,050 --> 00:38:37,730
And there were still people
coming into the town.

758

00:38:37,730 --> 00:38:39,110
And there were quite a few.

759

00:38:39,110 --> 00:38:42,440
Do you know how many people were
taken from the town that day

760

00:38:42,440 --> 00:38:43,100
when--

761

00:38:43,100 --> 00:38:44,130
Half the town.

762

00:38:44,130 --> 00:38:44,630
Half?

763

00:38:44,630 --> 00:38:45,710
More than half.

764

00:38:45,710 --> 00:38:50,360
And by then, they already
organized the second time

765

00:38:50,360 --> 00:38:52,250
a little bit like a ghetto.

766

00:38:52,250 --> 00:38:54,740
They only made one big street.

767
00:38:54,740 --> 00:38:56,810
They closed it up.

768
00:38:56,810 --> 00:38:57,870
Get yourself together.

769
00:38:57,870 --> 00:39:00,330
And here where you're going
to stay and live from now on.

770
00:39:00,330 --> 00:39:03,140
Can't go back to the house.

771
00:39:03,140 --> 00:39:09,620
But the 32 people
that we were in that--

772
00:39:09,620 --> 00:39:13,310
they gave us a pass for, like--

773
00:39:13,310 --> 00:39:17,360
stamped our ID cards.

774
00:39:17,360 --> 00:39:20,030
Go and do whatever you
want to for 24 hours.

775
00:39:20,030 --> 00:39:21,560
Get yourself together.

776
00:39:21,560 --> 00:39:24,500
Because they knew you have to.

777
00:39:24,500 --> 00:39:26,180
And I went to look.

778
00:39:26,180 --> 00:39:29,720
I couldn't find
where my mother was.

779

00:39:29,720 --> 00:39:31,700
Later on I did find out.

780
00:39:31,700 --> 00:39:35,030
My grandmother and my
father were all scattered

781
00:39:35,030 --> 00:39:38,820
and they were all
eventually caught.

782
00:39:38,820 --> 00:39:46,120
And my nephew, he was
about five years old.

783
00:39:46,120 --> 00:39:48,955
He just ran around.

784
00:39:48,955 --> 00:39:51,340
by Gentiles.

785
00:39:51,340 --> 00:39:54,160
They kept him.

786
00:39:54,160 --> 00:39:59,740
And when we came back to the
ghetto, a truck pulled up.

787
00:39:59,740 --> 00:40:06,460
And they took 50-some-odd
people to the first camp.

788
00:40:06,460 --> 00:40:08,560
It was called Grabownica.

789
00:40:08,560 --> 00:40:11,140
It was oil fields we worked.

790
00:40:11,140 --> 00:40:14,200
And they gave us a
home where we lived.

791

00:40:14,200 --> 00:40:16,240

And a week later,
two weeks later--

792

00:40:16,240 --> 00:40:18,370

I don't know how my
little nephew found out

793

00:40:18,370 --> 00:40:19,600

where we were--

794

00:40:19,600 --> 00:40:25,360

he wrote us a card that he's
running around, would we come.

795

00:40:25,360 --> 00:40:28,720

And I was there with
my brother-in-law.

796

00:40:28,720 --> 00:40:29,260

That's it.

797

00:40:29,260 --> 00:40:30,220

Just you and your
brother-in-law?

798

00:40:30,220 --> 00:40:32,680

The rest of your family you
had been separated from?

799

00:40:32,680 --> 00:40:34,030

No more.

800

00:40:34,030 --> 00:40:37,660

And we did get mail.

801

00:40:37,660 --> 00:40:39,100

And each of us--

802

00:40:39,100 --> 00:40:42,010

this, my mother did remember--

803

00:40:42,010 --> 00:40:47,062
got in the pants sewed in
several hundred dollars.

804
00:40:47,062 --> 00:40:50,900
In case we get separated, you
should have some money on you.

805
00:40:50,900 --> 00:40:53,800
So when we arrived
there, we got that card--

806
00:40:53,800 --> 00:40:58,750
a postcard from my
nephew, we made out

807
00:40:58,750 --> 00:41:04,570
with one of those
German surrogate Polack

808
00:41:04,570 --> 00:41:07,750
that they used to go
for supplies to town.

809
00:41:07,750 --> 00:41:10,860
They should pass by
my hometown, Krosno.

810
00:41:10,860 --> 00:41:14,770
So I should be able
to pick up my nephew.

811
00:41:14,770 --> 00:41:16,030
And I did.

812
00:41:16,030 --> 00:41:19,300
And I brought him
with us to the camp.

813
00:41:19,300 --> 00:41:20,200
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

814
00:41:20,200 --> 00:41:21,640

Grabownica.

815
00:41:21,640 --> 00:41:23,660
OK.

816
00:41:23,660 --> 00:41:25,580
Your nephew was six years old?

817
00:41:25,580 --> 00:41:26,890
Yes.

818
00:41:26,890 --> 00:41:30,550
Somehow, he stayed with us.

819
00:41:30,550 --> 00:41:34,150
Now, what is the
name of the camp?

820
00:41:34,150 --> 00:41:36,040
Grabownica.

821
00:41:36,040 --> 00:41:37,690
It was a village.

822
00:41:37,690 --> 00:41:39,160
There was no camp.

823
00:41:39,160 --> 00:41:40,820
We were not guarded.

824
00:41:40,820 --> 00:41:42,070
OK, because you said--

825
00:41:42,070 --> 00:41:44,950
the last thing, again, I'm
sorry for interrupting-- but you

826
00:41:44,950 --> 00:41:46,480
were told you have 24 hours.

827
00:41:46,480 --> 00:41:47,830

You were together with the 32.

828

00:41:47,830 --> 00:41:48,330

Yes.

829

00:41:48,330 --> 00:41:50,980

So get some clothes and
come back to ghetto.

830

00:41:50,980 --> 00:41:51,760

Come back.

831

00:41:51,760 --> 00:41:52,480

Into the ghetto.

832

00:41:52,480 --> 00:41:53,990

To the ghetto as you described.

833

00:41:53,990 --> 00:41:55,060

Yes.

834

00:41:55,060 --> 00:41:58,660

In the ghetto, a truck
pulled up and 50 people

835

00:41:58,660 --> 00:42:00,100

got into the truck.

836

00:42:00,100 --> 00:42:03,220

And they took us into
a village about--

837

00:42:03,220 --> 00:42:04,795

I don't remember the mile.

838

00:42:04,795 --> 00:42:10,480

About 30, 40 kilometers
into the oil fields.

839

00:42:10,480 --> 00:42:15,820

On my part of the Polish
state had oil fields.

840
00:42:15,820 --> 00:42:18,760
And they needed
laborers, plain laborers,

841
00:42:18,760 --> 00:42:22,180
to work in the stones,
digging, thing.

842
00:42:22,180 --> 00:42:25,270
And we were there
for about six months.

843
00:42:25,270 --> 00:42:26,440
They gave us a house.

844
00:42:26,440 --> 00:42:28,730
The house belonged once
to a Jewish family,

845
00:42:28,730 --> 00:42:32,310
which [? no one ?] [? there. ?]
And they gave us bunks.

846
00:42:32,310 --> 00:42:34,330
We had to cook our food.

847
00:42:34,330 --> 00:42:36,520
We each had a little money.

848
00:42:36,520 --> 00:42:39,160
They did not pay us anything.

849
00:42:39,160 --> 00:42:43,660
But in the morning, one of the
men came and took us to work

850
00:42:43,660 --> 00:42:44,980
and brought us back.

851
00:42:44,980 --> 00:42:49,622
And unguarded-- we were not

guarded by any Germans yet.

852

00:42:49,622 --> 00:42:50,830

How many people were in this?

853

00:42:50,830 --> 00:42:52,100

50.

854

00:42:52,100 --> 00:42:53,290

That's it?

855

00:42:53,290 --> 00:42:55,150

Just the total number

who had been taken--

856

00:42:55,150 --> 00:42:59,920

And on the truck and brought to
that little town, that village.

857

00:42:59,920 --> 00:43:01,940

Was there anybody
else in the village?

858

00:43:01,940 --> 00:43:02,440

Yeah.

859

00:43:02,440 --> 00:43:03,370

Non-Jews.

860

00:43:03,370 --> 00:43:04,120

Polacks.

861

00:43:04,120 --> 00:43:04,690

Sure.

862

00:43:04,690 --> 00:43:06,520

It was a nice village.

863

00:43:06,520 --> 00:43:10,420

All around were gentiles.

864

00:43:10,420 --> 00:43:12,580

But in fact, we
used to go sometimes

865

00:43:12,580 --> 00:43:14,530

to go and buy one to buy.

866

00:43:14,530 --> 00:43:17,890

One time we bought a rabbit.

867

00:43:17,890 --> 00:43:22,300

To have to be able to
cook, we had one big pot

868

00:43:22,300 --> 00:43:26,210

and cut it out where
we had some food.

869

00:43:26,210 --> 00:43:29,140

And we had our nephew with us.

870

00:43:29,140 --> 00:43:32,710

Somehow, we paid some to
that man who was in charge

871

00:43:32,710 --> 00:43:36,430

and he looked away and he
let our nephew be with us.

872

00:43:36,430 --> 00:43:40,030

Who watched the nephew while
you were working during the day?

873

00:43:40,030 --> 00:43:44,680

You see, all of a
sudden, within two weeks,

874

00:43:44,680 --> 00:43:49,600

you grow up five years
when you're on your own.

875

00:43:49,600 --> 00:43:51,760

It's not like today.

876
00:43:51,760 --> 00:43:55,900
And he knew not to go out.

877
00:43:55,900 --> 00:43:58,570
He lived through
those two weeks.

878
00:43:58,570 --> 00:44:00,640
And he stayed with us.

879
00:44:00,640 --> 00:44:06,880
He stayed with us until
they evacuated Krosno ghetto

880
00:44:06,880 --> 00:44:10,930
and they liquidated-- not
evacuate, liquidated--

881
00:44:10,930 --> 00:44:15,340
and liquidated this camp.

882
00:44:15,340 --> 00:44:19,130
And what they did
with us, they took us

883
00:44:19,130 --> 00:44:22,700
to train and to a
ghetto, a larger ghetto.

884
00:44:22,700 --> 00:44:25,750
Do you remember when you
left there what date it was?

885
00:44:25,750 --> 00:44:27,220
No.

886
00:44:27,220 --> 00:44:28,030
Approximately?

887
00:44:28,030 --> 00:44:30,070
Six months later.

888
00:44:30,070 --> 00:44:32,530
OK, so we're still--
we're in mid-1942.

889
00:44:32,530 --> 00:44:34,840
Yeah, the end of '42.

890
00:44:34,840 --> 00:44:36,280
The end of '42.

891
00:44:36,280 --> 00:44:37,210
Yes.

892
00:44:37,210 --> 00:44:42,500
And to our ghetto, which is
called Rzeszow, Reichshof.

893
00:44:42,500 --> 00:44:48,920
And there was a ghetto
quite a few blocks away.

894
00:44:48,920 --> 00:44:53,030
And there we find out many
things that we did not know.

895
00:44:53,030 --> 00:44:55,070
First of all, they gave us--

896
00:44:55,070 --> 00:44:58,160
there were two ghettos, one
a working ghetto and one

897
00:44:58,160 --> 00:45:00,470
was a non-working ghetto.

898
00:45:00,470 --> 00:45:03,320
The working ghetto people
went out to work in the towns

899
00:45:03,320 --> 00:45:04,730
or whatever they wanted.

900
00:45:04,730 --> 00:45:07,490
And the non-working
ghetto, you just--

901
00:45:07,490 --> 00:45:09,880
they gave you a
ration and you lived.

902
00:45:09,880 --> 00:45:11,210
You lived like an animal.

903
00:45:11,210 --> 00:45:17,720
Also, there were Germans
who were watched over.

904
00:45:17,720 --> 00:45:21,050
But inside, there was
the Jewish police .

905
00:45:21,050 --> 00:45:23,090
They are the ones--

906
00:45:23,090 --> 00:45:25,430
there were the
German surrogates.

907
00:45:25,430 --> 00:45:28,190
And they were so bad-- they were
even worse than the Germans,

908
00:45:28,190 --> 00:45:29,900
some of them.

909
00:45:29,900 --> 00:45:33,470
In fact, truth has to come out.

910
00:45:33,470 --> 00:45:36,200
Some of them were so
bad that they themselves

911
00:45:36,200 --> 00:45:37,880

killed the Jewish people.

912

00:45:37,880 --> 00:45:42,180

A Jew killed a
Jew, some of them.

913

00:45:42,180 --> 00:45:46,470

But fortunately--
unfortunately--

914

00:45:46,470 --> 00:45:49,770

this episode that
I remember, when

915

00:45:49,770 --> 00:45:54,090

they liquidated
the Rzeszow ghetto,

916

00:45:54,090 --> 00:45:56,820

they liquidated
those policemen, too.

917

00:45:56,820 --> 00:45:59,310

They did not want
to have anybody

918

00:45:59,310 --> 00:46:04,410

to tell what was going on.

919

00:46:04,410 --> 00:46:09,030

Fortunately for me,
from that ghetto,

920

00:46:09,030 --> 00:46:12,540

another truck came up from--

921

00:46:12,540 --> 00:46:15,900

How long were you in the
ghetto before the truck came?

922

00:46:15,900 --> 00:46:18,540

923

00:46:18,540 --> 00:46:22,470

About a year, or maybe
a little over a year.

924

00:46:22,470 --> 00:46:25,140

Can you describe life in
the ghetto for the year?

925

00:46:25,140 --> 00:46:26,740

Yes.

926

00:46:26,740 --> 00:46:27,870

Terrible.

927

00:46:27,870 --> 00:46:32,520

Typhoid broke out,
which I had, too.

928

00:46:32,520 --> 00:46:36,600

But unfortunately I did
survive because I was young.

929

00:46:36,600 --> 00:46:38,460

I had still a little money.

930

00:46:38,460 --> 00:46:40,800

And I could buy my--

931

00:46:40,800 --> 00:46:46,410

not medicine, but juices, drinks
and things, to hold me alive.

932

00:46:46,410 --> 00:46:49,685

The fever was
terrible, the typhoid.

933

00:46:49,685 --> 00:46:51,300

An epidemic broke out.

934

00:46:51,300 --> 00:46:55,740

An epidemic broke out
because of filth, lice.

935
00:46:55,740 --> 00:47:00,210
In fact, people were
dying left and right.

936
00:47:00,210 --> 00:47:00,710
And--

937
00:47:00,710 --> 00:47:03,155

938
00:47:03,155 --> 00:47:05,030
When you were in the
ghetto during that year,

939
00:47:05,030 --> 00:47:07,010
did you know about
the death camps?

940
00:47:07,010 --> 00:47:08,820
No.

941
00:47:08,820 --> 00:47:10,080
No.

942
00:47:10,080 --> 00:47:12,570
Because you did not think
about the death camps.

943
00:47:12,570 --> 00:47:17,470
You only thought about one
thing-- survival yourself,

944
00:47:17,470 --> 00:47:20,980
how to survive from
one day to the other.

945
00:47:20,980 --> 00:47:25,030
Were there any underground
organizations in the ghetto?

946
00:47:25,030 --> 00:47:26,410

There were people--

947

00:47:26,410 --> 00:47:29,170

I was going out on a working--

948

00:47:29,170 --> 00:47:31,600

the work force to
outside the ghetto.

949

00:47:31,600 --> 00:47:33,760

The only thing that we did--

950

00:47:33,760 --> 00:47:36,850

like sometimes some
Polacks came in

951

00:47:36,850 --> 00:47:40,070

to take out some garbage
or things like this.

952

00:47:40,070 --> 00:47:42,070

And you also saw
those undertakers

953

00:47:42,070 --> 00:47:46,070

taking out all those dead people
back and forth, back and forth.

954

00:47:46,070 --> 00:47:50,590

So you sometimes did a little
dealing with some of them.

955

00:47:50,590 --> 00:47:56,500

And I don't know, for a clothes,
a loaf of bread, something

956

00:47:56,500 --> 00:47:57,530

to that effect.

957

00:47:57,530 --> 00:48:00,220

But not on the grounds.

958

00:48:00,220 --> 00:48:01,870

I did not know.

959

00:48:01,870 --> 00:48:08,120

I knew of one fact that a
mother came to pick up her son.

960

00:48:08,120 --> 00:48:10,570

She left home.

961

00:48:10,570 --> 00:48:11,980

The name was [PERSONAL NAME].

962

00:48:11,980 --> 00:48:13,990

They still alive.

963

00:48:13,990 --> 00:48:20,650

And the boy was my nephew's age.

964

00:48:20,650 --> 00:48:22,070

She got her papers.

965

00:48:22,070 --> 00:48:24,340

And she was already two
years on Irish papers.

966

00:48:24,340 --> 00:48:26,690

She was blonde.

967

00:48:26,690 --> 00:48:29,620

I happened to see--
because my windows looked

968

00:48:29,620 --> 00:48:30,970

outside the ghetto.

969

00:48:30,970 --> 00:48:32,200

She came in.

970

00:48:32,200 --> 00:48:35,140

She took her son.

971

00:48:35,140 --> 00:48:36,880

She got out.

972

00:48:36,880 --> 00:48:39,520

The name is [PERSONAL NAME].

973

00:48:39,520 --> 00:48:42,140

And she left Poland.

974

00:48:42,140 --> 00:48:43,840

She got papers.

975

00:48:43,840 --> 00:48:46,960

Went to Austria and then to
Germany and back to Austria.

976

00:48:46,960 --> 00:48:51,560

And she survived with her son.

977

00:48:51,560 --> 00:48:53,200

They are still in
the United States.

978

00:48:53,200 --> 00:48:54,970

They live in Passaic.

979

00:48:54,970 --> 00:48:56,710

The boy is a doctor now.

980

00:48:56,710 --> 00:48:58,420

He's in the 50s.

981

00:48:58,420 --> 00:49:02,050

Her father survived, too.

982

00:49:02,050 --> 00:49:03,120

And he's in the 70--

983

00:49:03,120 --> 00:49:05,937

79 years old.

984

00:49:05,937 --> 00:49:06,520

Another story.

985

00:49:06,520 --> 00:49:10,140

986

00:49:10,140 --> 00:49:13,020

But very few were--

987

00:49:13,020 --> 00:49:18,780

she was the only person that

I know that took out her son

988

00:49:18,780 --> 00:49:24,850

and survived and

came to America.

989

00:49:24,850 --> 00:49:26,670

And they are here.

990

00:49:26,670 --> 00:49:28,020

Did other people try to escape?

991

00:49:28,020 --> 00:49:30,780

992

00:49:30,780 --> 00:49:35,340

I don't-- not from the ghetto,

because there was always that

993

00:49:35,340 --> 00:49:36,600

thing.

994

00:49:36,600 --> 00:49:38,060

Maybe something will happen.

995

00:49:38,060 --> 00:49:42,960

People always lived-- they were

in Hebrew [HEBREW] with hope.

996

00:49:42,960 --> 00:49:45,930

997
00:49:45,930 --> 00:49:47,880
And hope never came.

998
00:49:47,880 --> 00:49:51,060
We just had illusions.

999
00:49:51,060 --> 00:49:54,090
Maybe we did not want to.

1000
00:49:54,090 --> 00:49:57,030
Maybe we want to,
we couldn't do much.

1001
00:49:57,030 --> 00:50:01,090

1002
00:50:01,090 --> 00:50:04,810
I want to just go around like
a sheep to the slaughter.

1003
00:50:04,810 --> 00:50:09,850
And if that truck would not have
pulled up and they took me--

1004
00:50:09,850 --> 00:50:13,720
they took me by
force into that camp.

1005
00:50:13,720 --> 00:50:14,860
And that was a camp--

1006
00:50:14,860 --> 00:50:15,790
I don't even remember.

1007
00:50:15,790 --> 00:50:17,920
All I know, it was in the woods.

1008
00:50:17,920 --> 00:50:21,550
We were cutting forest.

1009

00:50:21,550 --> 00:50:26,560

That was about three
months before they

1010

00:50:26,560 --> 00:50:29,120

evacuated the Rzeszow ghetto.

1011

00:50:29,120 --> 00:50:29,620

OK.

1012

00:50:29,620 --> 00:50:31,840

Do you remember
the date when you

1013

00:50:31,840 --> 00:50:35,630

were taken from Rzeszow
ghetto to the camp?

1014

00:50:35,630 --> 00:50:37,930

So we're already in--

1015

00:50:37,930 --> 00:50:40,780

The end of '42.

1016

00:50:40,780 --> 00:50:43,190

OK.

1017

00:50:43,190 --> 00:50:45,670

How many people were taken
with you in this truck?

1018

00:50:45,670 --> 00:50:49,750

And how did you have
to get on this truck?

1019

00:50:49,750 --> 00:50:51,370

I was caught.

1020

00:50:51,370 --> 00:50:53,290

They were just
taking young people

1021

00:50:53,290 --> 00:50:55,120
off the streets, wherever--

1022

00:50:55,120 --> 00:50:57,110
those policemen,
wherever they could find.

1023

00:50:57,110 --> 00:50:59,110
You had no idea where you
were going, of course.

1024

00:50:59,110 --> 00:51:00,950
Oh, I knew that--

1025

00:51:00,950 --> 00:51:05,020
I knew the trucks came all
the time because that death

1026

00:51:05,020 --> 00:51:07,210
camp, that was already a camp.

1027

00:51:07,210 --> 00:51:10,120
But it was not a
concentration camp.

1028

00:51:10,120 --> 00:51:12,550
It was a work camp.

1029

00:51:12,550 --> 00:51:18,850
And every four weeks they used
to bring half dead people back

1030

00:51:18,850 --> 00:51:23,860
and pick up a contingent
of young, healthy people

1031

00:51:23,860 --> 00:51:25,790
from the same camp.

1032

00:51:25,790 --> 00:51:28,420
So where ever you saw
those trucks pulling up,

1033
00:51:28,420 --> 00:51:30,550
you tried to hide as
much as you could.

1034
00:51:30,550 --> 00:51:34,750
And I was on a workforce,
on detail in the camp,

1035
00:51:34,750 --> 00:51:38,020
working on one of those roofs.

1036
00:51:38,020 --> 00:51:38,890
They found me.

1037
00:51:38,890 --> 00:51:40,030
I hid.

1038
00:51:40,030 --> 00:51:41,240
Again, they found me.

1039
00:51:41,240 --> 00:51:42,310
Didn't hit me.

1040
00:51:42,310 --> 00:51:46,630
Just took me into
a holding cell.

1041
00:51:46,630 --> 00:51:50,770
They didn't give you a chance
to go to your room to get--

1042
00:51:50,770 --> 00:51:58,420
even pants or nothing, just the
way you stood onto the truck.

1043
00:51:58,420 --> 00:52:01,300
And that's where I parted
with my brother-in-law

1044
00:52:01,300 --> 00:52:03,100
and my nephew.

1045
00:52:03,100 --> 00:52:07,220
And then to that
forest where we-- what

1046
00:52:07,220 --> 00:52:08,620
we did, they just
cut down trees.

1047
00:52:08,620 --> 00:52:14,000

1048
00:52:14,000 --> 00:52:16,790
I forgot the name of the camp.

1049
00:52:16,790 --> 00:52:24,530
Anyway, that was-- and about
three months later, about,

1050
00:52:24,530 --> 00:52:30,500
they liquidated that camp and
they liquidated Rzeszow ghetto.

1051
00:52:30,500 --> 00:52:36,290
But liquidating that camp,
they sent us to another camp.

1052
00:52:36,290 --> 00:52:39,560
But liquidating the
ghetto, they took them

1053
00:52:39,560 --> 00:52:44,060
straight to the forest,
dug their own graves

1054
00:52:44,060 --> 00:52:46,910
and shot everyone.

1055
00:52:46,910 --> 00:52:49,040
Only one or two survivors.

1056
00:52:49,040 --> 00:52:51,270

Eventually you are all.

1057
00:52:51,270 --> 00:52:54,230
No survivors.

1058
00:52:54,230 --> 00:52:58,340
And then from that
forest camp, we

1059
00:52:58,340 --> 00:53:05,530
went to a big camp
called Pustkow.

1060
00:53:05,530 --> 00:53:07,372
Still in Poland.

1061
00:53:07,372 --> 00:53:10,570
Still in the center of Poland.

1062
00:53:10,570 --> 00:53:15,280
And we would have been
in that forest camp

1063
00:53:15,280 --> 00:53:16,870
another three months.

1064
00:53:16,870 --> 00:53:20,860
There wouldn't have
been any survivors.

1065
00:53:20,860 --> 00:53:23,890
How many people were able to
get out of that forest camp?

1066
00:53:23,890 --> 00:53:26,170
The whole forest
camp was taken apart,

1067
00:53:26,170 --> 00:53:30,160
everyone, except it was
divided into two groups.

1068

00:53:30,160 --> 00:53:34,870
Half of them went to
Pustkow and another half

1069
00:53:34,870 --> 00:53:36,355
went to a different place.

1070
00:53:36,355 --> 00:53:39,320

1071
00:53:39,320 --> 00:53:42,170
I remember mine.

1072
00:53:42,170 --> 00:53:45,320
They build us barracks.

1073
00:53:45,320 --> 00:53:50,870
And we supposed to have
been already people

1074
00:53:50,870 --> 00:53:54,350
that knew professionals.

1075
00:53:54,350 --> 00:53:56,180
They asked me, are
you a professional?

1076
00:53:56,180 --> 00:53:57,110
I stepped out.

1077
00:53:57,110 --> 00:53:59,570
I don't know why I did.

1078
00:53:59,570 --> 00:54:05,840
When we arrived in that camp,
they gave us two weeks leisure.

1079
00:54:05,840 --> 00:54:07,550
They fed us.

1080
00:54:07,550 --> 00:54:10,010
They gave us good food.

1081
00:54:10,010 --> 00:54:12,630
And we didn't do a darn thing.

1082
00:54:12,630 --> 00:54:14,720
And there were already
other people in this camp

1083
00:54:14,720 --> 00:54:15,512
when you got there?

1084
00:54:15,512 --> 00:54:18,080
There were preparing--
yes, there was already

1085
00:54:18,080 --> 00:54:20,690
some people in that camp,
but in the working camp,

1086
00:54:20,690 --> 00:54:22,250
we were in transition.

1087
00:54:22,250 --> 00:54:23,750
They didn't know
what to do with us.

1088
00:54:23,750 --> 00:54:25,130
So you were isolated
from the other people

1089
00:54:25,130 --> 00:54:25,645
who were already in the camp?

1090
00:54:25,645 --> 00:54:26,388
Yes, separated.

1091
00:54:26,388 --> 00:54:26,930
Not isolated.

1092
00:54:26,930 --> 00:54:28,550
Just separated by wire.

1093

00:54:28,550 --> 00:54:29,420

Yes.

1094

00:54:29,420 --> 00:54:33,270

And then there was a very
big camp which were--

1095

00:54:33,270 --> 00:54:37,790

we were all Jews here and they
were Polacks, Polish people.

1096

00:54:37,790 --> 00:54:41,060

But they were completely
separated from us.

1097

00:54:41,060 --> 00:54:43,100

What they did in
those couple of weeks,

1098

00:54:43,100 --> 00:54:49,340

they finished up factories
like-- or workshops,

1099

00:54:49,340 --> 00:54:52,580

better to say.

1100

00:54:52,580 --> 00:54:59,870

Shoes and plumbers, carpenters,
all kind of workshop.

1101

00:54:59,870 --> 00:55:00,440

Why?

1102

00:55:00,440 --> 00:55:04,850

Because they set
up those workshops

1103

00:55:04,850 --> 00:55:08,090

and us are supposed to be the--

1104

00:55:08,090 --> 00:55:13,520

the workers in those shops to--

1105
00:55:13,520 --> 00:55:17,240
right around there,
there were SS.

1106
00:55:17,240 --> 00:55:19,610
40,000 SS.

1107
00:55:19,610 --> 00:55:21,470
A camp, a town.

1108
00:55:21,470 --> 00:55:27,440
And we're supposed to fix
their shoes, do all their work.

1109
00:55:27,440 --> 00:55:31,850
Me, they put in to a division,
a new division they made--

1110
00:55:31,850 --> 00:55:34,580
brushes.

1111
00:55:34,580 --> 00:55:37,670
And would you believe
that within four weeks

1112
00:55:37,670 --> 00:55:40,730
I learned how to make brushes?

1113
00:55:40,730 --> 00:55:42,860
They gave you-- I
gave you the chance.

1114
00:55:42,860 --> 00:55:45,320
Within six months,
I was a brush maker.

1115
00:55:45,320 --> 00:55:46,700
Of course, hand weaving.

1116
00:55:46,700 --> 00:55:50,340

1117
00:55:50,340 --> 00:55:56,410
About 20, 30 people
in that apartment.

1118
00:55:56,410 --> 00:56:02,040
And we were there
for over a year.

1119
00:56:02,040 --> 00:56:05,280
And I can say truthfully
that was the best camp--

1120
00:56:05,280 --> 00:56:08,790
I came back to my normal weight.

1121
00:56:08,790 --> 00:56:11,020
How many people were in
that camp, do you know?

1122
00:56:11,020 --> 00:56:14,400
600.

1123
00:56:14,400 --> 00:56:17,130
And there were a little more.

1124
00:56:17,130 --> 00:56:21,580
But the people they could
not put into any work,

1125
00:56:21,580 --> 00:56:23,560
they sent them away.

1126
00:56:23,560 --> 00:56:27,090
But everybody else,
those 600 stayed.

1127
00:56:27,090 --> 00:56:31,860
We were in two big barracks,
barrack one and barrack two,

1128
00:56:31,860 --> 00:56:34,440

separated from the
Polish side again.

1129
00:56:34,440 --> 00:56:35,890
All separate.

1130
00:56:35,890 --> 00:56:42,290
There were already SS but we
were still in civilian clothes.

1131
00:56:42,290 --> 00:56:48,470
And we were there
a good year, '43.

1132
00:56:48,470 --> 00:56:53,060
And from there, we
were sent to Birkenau.

1133
00:56:53,060 --> 00:56:53,900
We didn't know.

1134
00:56:53,900 --> 00:56:55,670
All we know, they came.

1135
00:56:55,670 --> 00:57:00,560
They took us on trucks
again to the trains.

1136
00:57:00,560 --> 00:57:03,200
And I don't know how many days.

1137
00:57:03,200 --> 00:57:08,840
Next thing we know, when the
doors opened, everybody down

1138
00:57:08,840 --> 00:57:11,600
and we smelled--

1139
00:57:11,600 --> 00:57:15,110
we didn't know then what
it was-- human flesh.

1140

00:57:15,110 --> 00:57:18,620
And then there was the famous
Mengele, which I did not

1141
00:57:18,620 --> 00:57:21,770
know until come to America.

1142
00:57:21,770 --> 00:57:24,080
Left, right, left, right.

1143
00:57:24,080 --> 00:57:27,650
My group, the whole
group was left

1144
00:57:27,650 --> 00:57:30,360
unselected except for
a couple six people.

1145
00:57:30,360 --> 00:57:31,550
This is at Birkenau.

1146
00:57:31,550 --> 00:57:34,370
Already at Birkenau.

1147
00:57:34,370 --> 00:57:38,300
A date-- you don't remember?

1148
00:57:38,300 --> 00:57:42,620
Approximately you can
know because they started

1149
00:57:42,620 --> 00:57:45,480
with numbers up to 500,000.

1150
00:57:45,480 --> 00:57:49,340
They didn't have any A series.

1151
00:57:49,340 --> 00:57:51,140
Could be figured out.

1152
00:57:51,140 --> 00:57:52,880
Then they started A series.

1153
00:57:52,880 --> 00:57:56,030
The A series ran up to 20,000.

1154
00:57:56,030 --> 00:57:59,090
Then they started a
B series from 20--

1155
00:57:59,090 --> 00:58:02,150
from-- instead of A is B.

1156
00:58:02,150 --> 00:58:05,390
And this were-- after us,
or the same time with us,

1157
00:58:05,390 --> 00:58:08,420
the Hungarian Jews
started coming in.

1158
00:58:08,420 --> 00:58:10,100
That was '43, '44.

1159
00:58:10,100 --> 00:58:12,590
Can you describe exactly what
happened when you got off

1160
00:58:12,590 --> 00:58:13,970
the trains at Birkenau?

1161
00:58:13,970 --> 00:58:15,320
Yes.

1162
00:58:15,320 --> 00:58:18,530
That was the hierarchy,
which we didn't know.

1163
00:58:18,530 --> 00:58:19,550
Now I do know.

1164
00:58:19,550 --> 00:58:21,260
That was the Mengele.

1165

00:58:21,260 --> 00:58:24,320

And they were just pointing
the finger left and right.

1166

00:58:24,320 --> 00:58:28,610

Of course, most of our
group, because we came highly

1167

00:58:28,610 --> 00:58:35,630

recommended by the
SS from Pustkow,

1168

00:58:35,630 --> 00:58:38,720

that we are working people.

1169

00:58:38,720 --> 00:58:44,430

We are mechanics, craftsmen.

1170

00:58:44,430 --> 00:58:52,610

So we were all sent
to our holding camp

1171

00:58:52,610 --> 00:58:56,240

to be sent
immediately or as soon

1172

00:58:56,240 --> 00:59:00,740

as possible to a
factory in Germany

1173

00:59:00,740 --> 00:59:03,920

because they needed-- they
always needed workers,

1174

00:59:03,920 --> 00:59:07,610

mechanics, because their
soldiers went to the front,

1175

00:59:07,610 --> 00:59:09,680

so they need a mechanic,
especially here.

1176

00:59:09,680 --> 00:59:15,770
600 people come from a camp,
which they supplied 40,000 SS.

1177
00:59:15,770 --> 00:59:19,130
So we were considered mechanics.

1178
00:59:19,130 --> 00:59:22,670
Out of the 600 who came
to Birkenau, everybody--

1179
00:59:22,670 --> 00:59:25,320

1180
00:59:25,320 --> 00:59:29,210
Was not touched, except for a
couple people who were sick.

1181
00:59:29,210 --> 00:59:30,440
Them, they sent away.

1182
00:59:30,440 --> 00:59:33,890
We, the whole group was
left, except we went

1183
00:59:33,890 --> 00:59:36,300
through processing, of course.

1184
00:59:36,300 --> 00:59:39,030
We did get soap and water.

1185
00:59:39,030 --> 00:59:42,650
And after we got it,
we were tattooed.

1186
00:59:42,650 --> 00:59:45,740
That's when I have
got this tattoo.

1187
00:59:45,740 --> 00:59:47,530
And then we were signed--

1188

00:59:47,530 --> 00:59:50,570

Can you describe your
feelings at the time?

1189

00:59:50,570 --> 00:59:52,640

There was no feeling
after you'd ride

1190

00:59:52,640 --> 00:59:58,280

in a car for a week or 10
days with hardly any food

1191

00:59:58,280 --> 00:59:59,370

or anything.

1192

00:59:59,370 --> 01:00:00,410

You have no feeling.

1193

01:00:00,410 --> 01:00:02,630

You were an animal.

1194

01:00:02,630 --> 01:00:04,080

And that's not the finish.

1195

01:00:04,080 --> 01:00:08,690

We were assigned the barracks
where we were in Birkenau.

1196

01:00:08,690 --> 01:00:12,920

On one bed, what
is it, six feet?

1197

01:00:12,920 --> 01:00:14,360

You didn't sleep in the long.

1198

01:00:14,360 --> 01:00:15,950

You slept across.

1199

01:00:15,950 --> 01:00:19,340

And there were people-- eight
or 10 people were lying there.

1200

01:00:19,340 --> 01:00:21,140

When you turned
at night, all over

1201

01:00:21,140 --> 01:00:23,720

you had to turn, because
you couldn't turn around.

1202

01:00:23,720 --> 01:00:24,500

No mattress.

1203

01:00:24,500 --> 01:00:26,450

No nothing.

1204

01:00:26,450 --> 01:00:28,250

And we did see, when you go--

1205

01:00:28,250 --> 01:00:29,090

A wooden bunk.

1206

01:00:29,090 --> 01:00:30,920

A wooden bunk.

1207

01:00:30,920 --> 01:00:33,020

And we were there--

1208

01:00:33,020 --> 01:00:35,720

I don't remember, two,
maybe three weeks.

1209

01:00:35,720 --> 01:00:41,030

But when you walked out, you
did see women, but separated.

1210

01:00:41,030 --> 01:00:43,490

They're going back
and forth, working.

1211

01:00:43,490 --> 01:00:47,390

And we also saw some
gypsies, but separated.

1212

01:00:47,390 --> 01:00:51,140
Everyone was
separated separately.

1213
01:00:51,140 --> 01:00:56,450
And fortunately,
when the time came,

1214
01:00:56,450 --> 01:00:59,150
again, trucks came
and loaded us up.

1215
01:00:59,150 --> 01:01:01,040
So you're in Birkenau
for three weeks?

1216
01:01:01,040 --> 01:01:03,260
That's all.

1217
01:01:03,260 --> 01:01:07,190
And they assigned us
to a working camp.

1218
01:01:07,190 --> 01:01:08,270
All 600 people?

1219
01:01:08,270 --> 01:01:09,830
No-- all 600.

1220
01:01:09,830 --> 01:01:14,270
But again, they divided us
into three different groups.

1221
01:01:14,270 --> 01:01:17,520
Not all going into
one the same camp.

1222
01:01:17,520 --> 01:01:25,640
And I wound up Oberschlesien
and LaurahÃ¼tte.

1223
01:01:25,640 --> 01:01:29,120
It's still part of Poland.

1224
01:01:29,120 --> 01:01:30,770
Half Poland, half German.

1225
01:01:30,770 --> 01:01:31,820
Oberschlesien.

1226
01:01:31,820 --> 01:01:39,700
But I don't remember
the Polish name for it.

1227
01:01:39,700 --> 01:01:43,520
And there we came
into a factory.

1228
01:01:43,520 --> 01:01:48,300
And a factory that worked
for the German defense.

1229
01:01:48,300 --> 01:01:52,950
And we were in a very, very
big hole, like a factory.

1230
01:01:52,950 --> 01:01:54,210
We did not go out.

1231
01:01:54,210 --> 01:01:56,790
We were in the factory complex.

1232
01:01:56,790 --> 01:01:58,110
They had a big--

1233
01:01:58,110 --> 01:02:02,100
There were already
2,000 people there.

1234
01:02:02,100 --> 01:02:06,750
And there again-- and I still
didn't have no kind of a--

1235
01:02:06,750 --> 01:02:13,030

1236
01:02:13,030 --> 01:02:13,830
no craftsmen.

1237
01:02:13,830 --> 01:02:15,630
I was nothing.

1238
01:02:15,630 --> 01:02:18,480
And here I volunteered
that I am a craftsman.

1239
01:02:18,480 --> 01:02:20,520
What am I going to do?

1240
01:02:20,520 --> 01:02:24,300
They assigned me to
a command or two.

1241
01:02:24,300 --> 01:02:27,630
I come there, and
they have 10 people.

1242
01:02:27,630 --> 01:02:29,400
And there is a foreman.

1243
01:02:29,400 --> 01:02:32,220
He was a half
German, half Polack.

1244
01:02:32,220 --> 01:02:34,320
But with him, you
cannot tell any lies.

1245
01:02:34,320 --> 01:02:35,910
You have to tell him.

1246
01:02:35,910 --> 01:02:38,130
I said, I don't know anything.

1247
01:02:38,130 --> 01:02:39,150
He said, don't worry.

1248

01:02:39,150 --> 01:02:42,960

He [? was right. ?] He
was a straightforward man.

1249

01:02:42,960 --> 01:02:45,000

Says, I'll teach you.

1250

01:02:45,000 --> 01:02:52,980

He put me to a vice and
put in a piece of iron.

1251

01:02:52,980 --> 01:02:54,890

And he--

1252

01:02:54,890 --> 01:02:57,000