

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:47,780

2

00:00:47,780 --> 00:00:49,320

Good morning.

3

00:00:49,320 --> 00:00:50,960

My name is Bernard

Weinstein and I'm

4

00:00:50,960 --> 00:00:54,650

the director of the Kean

College Oral Testimonies Project

5

00:00:54,650 --> 00:00:56,990

at the Holocaust

Resource Center.

6

00:00:56,990 --> 00:00:59,480

We are affiliated with

the Video Archives

7

00:00:59,480 --> 00:01:02,000

for Holocaust Testimony

at the Sterling

8

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:04,519

Library of Yale University.

9

00:01:04,519 --> 00:01:06,470

We are privileged

today to welcome

10

00:01:06,470 --> 00:01:09,740

Norman Salsitz, a

survivor presently living

11

00:01:09,740 --> 00:01:13,220

in Springfield, who has

generously volunteered

12

00:01:13,220 --> 00:01:15,500
to give testimony
about his experiences

13
00:01:15,500 --> 00:01:19,250
before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

14
00:01:19,250 --> 00:01:20,690
Welcome, Mr. Salsitz.

15
00:01:20,690 --> 00:01:21,410
Thank you.

16
00:01:21,410 --> 00:01:25,070
I wonder if you could
begin by telling us

17
00:01:25,070 --> 00:01:28,520
something about your
life before the war,

18
00:01:28,520 --> 00:01:34,220
the community came from, your
family, and your background.

19
00:01:34,220 --> 00:01:36,650
I was brought up
in a small town,

20
00:01:36,650 --> 00:01:42,160
like you can call it a typical
shtetl, a town like Sholem

21
00:01:42,160 --> 00:01:44,390
Aleichem, Mendele
Moykher Sforim,

22
00:01:44,390 --> 00:01:48,240
like the Jewish classics
described in their writings.

23
00:01:48,240 --> 00:01:50,660

It was a rural town.

24

00:01:50,660 --> 00:01:54,200

It didn't penetrate
yet the 20th century.

25

00:01:54,200 --> 00:01:58,400

Everything was so backwards that
we even didn't have a railroad.

26

00:01:58,400 --> 00:02:00,530

We didn't have electricity.

27

00:02:00,530 --> 00:02:02,930

It was a poor town.

28

00:02:02,930 --> 00:02:09,800

10% of Jews were the rich
Jews who made a good living.

29

00:02:09,800 --> 00:02:13,880

40% made their living,
but they struggled.

30

00:02:13,880 --> 00:02:16,160

And the rest were poor.

31

00:02:16,160 --> 00:02:23,780

Our town had 4,000 people,
2,000 Jews, 2,000 Poles.

32

00:02:23,780 --> 00:02:26,420

The Jews mostly lived
around the marketplace

33

00:02:26,420 --> 00:02:28,250

where they had their stores.

34

00:02:28,250 --> 00:02:32,960

And the industry in
our town was only--

35

00:02:32,960 --> 00:02:41,400
they worked at home, like making
underwear, shoes, clothing.

36
00:02:41,400 --> 00:02:46,750
This was the main income
of the working class.

37
00:02:46,750 --> 00:02:51,600
The life was not
very happy as whole

38
00:02:51,600 --> 00:02:54,200
because they didn't
make a living.

39
00:02:54,200 --> 00:02:56,300
A lot of our
townspeople immigrated

40
00:02:56,300 --> 00:02:57,740
to the United States.

41
00:02:57,740 --> 00:03:00,890
We had more people
from Kolbuszowa

42
00:03:00,890 --> 00:03:04,220
in New York that
we had in our town.

43
00:03:04,220 --> 00:03:06,320
And they had
organizations in America.

44
00:03:06,320 --> 00:03:08,600
And the organizations
were very helpful.

45
00:03:08,600 --> 00:03:10,130
They had the Free Loan Society.

46
00:03:10,130 --> 00:03:13,130

They send in money and everybody
who needed money could borrow.

47
00:03:13,130 --> 00:03:15,320
For every holiday, they
used to send money.

48
00:03:15,320 --> 00:03:20,120
For the winter, they send
money to buy fuel of wood.

49
00:03:20,120 --> 00:03:23,780
And the Jews themselves
had all kinds

50
00:03:23,780 --> 00:03:28,190
of organizations, self-help
organizations for the sick,

51
00:03:28,190 --> 00:03:29,240
for the needy.

52
00:03:29,240 --> 00:03:35,750
Everything was organized,
even in this small, poor town.

53
00:03:35,750 --> 00:03:40,190
For myself, I was very unhappy.

54
00:03:40,190 --> 00:03:43,760
The reason why I was
unhappy, I come from a very--

55
00:03:43,760 --> 00:03:48,770
from our ultra-orthodox
Hasidic family.

56
00:03:48,770 --> 00:03:52,370
And my father wanted me to
live the life that he lived

57
00:03:52,370 --> 00:03:54,320
and his father before him.

58
00:03:54,320 --> 00:03:55,640
I had different ideas.

59
00:03:55,640 --> 00:03:57,180
I wanted to study.

60
00:03:57,180 --> 00:04:00,380
I wanted to become a doctor
or to have a other profession.

61
00:04:00,380 --> 00:04:03,470
For him, was enough to sit
and to study the Talmud,

62
00:04:03,470 --> 00:04:05,750
to get married, to
take over the business,

63
00:04:05,750 --> 00:04:09,500
and to go on the same way.

64
00:04:09,500 --> 00:04:14,090
Did you have a career planned
for yourself particularly?

65
00:04:14,090 --> 00:04:14,870
Yes.

66
00:04:14,870 --> 00:04:17,930
My father had a career planned
for me, what he wanted.

67
00:04:17,930 --> 00:04:20,180
He wanted I should become very--

68
00:04:20,180 --> 00:04:21,380
A scholar, yes.

69
00:04:21,380 --> 00:04:23,750
--learning and this.

70

00:04:23,750 --> 00:04:27,980

And then later,
naturally, to match--

71

00:04:27,980 --> 00:04:30,440

to have a matchmaker
and to get married.

72

00:04:30,440 --> 00:04:32,720

And too, because I was the
youngest in our family--

73

00:04:32,720 --> 00:04:34,280

we were nine children--

74

00:04:34,280 --> 00:04:37,310

and I was the youngest,
so the youngest usually

75

00:04:37,310 --> 00:04:38,930

took over the business.

76

00:04:38,930 --> 00:04:41,300

And I started to
work in the business,

77

00:04:41,300 --> 00:04:45,890

but my idea too for the future
was not our little town.

78

00:04:45,890 --> 00:04:49,370

I wanted to go in this
time to Palestine.

79

00:04:49,370 --> 00:04:51,470

And I wanted to go to school.

80

00:04:51,470 --> 00:04:56,090

And my ambition was to become
a doctor or to become an actor.

81

00:04:56,090 --> 00:04:57,230

And this was my ambition.

82

00:04:57,230 --> 00:05:02,390

Because we used to make
shows in our Hasidic school.

83

00:05:02,390 --> 00:05:04,820

And I always participated.

84

00:05:04,820 --> 00:05:07,400

And also, we had a cantor
who came twice a year.

85

00:05:07,400 --> 00:05:09,110

And I sang in the choir.

86

00:05:09,110 --> 00:05:12,240

When I was seven, eight
years, I had a boy soprano.

87

00:05:12,240 --> 00:05:14,450

And he liked me.

88

00:05:14,450 --> 00:05:17,660

And in general, our house
was a singing house.

89

00:05:17,660 --> 00:05:20,750

Everybody-- I had five sisters
and we were four brothers.

90

00:05:20,750 --> 00:05:24,170

Everybody in our
house could sing.

91

00:05:24,170 --> 00:05:27,110

And when came Saturday,
we sat down by the table.

92

00:05:27,110 --> 00:05:31,340

And everybody used to sing
that Saturday this Murat.

93

00:05:31,340 --> 00:05:32,970

So my life was different.

94

00:05:32,970 --> 00:05:37,280

Also, I wanted to go out with
a girl, to speak to a girl.

95

00:05:37,280 --> 00:05:40,220

And as a matter of fact,
when I was 11 years old

96

00:05:40,220 --> 00:05:42,650

I already fell in
love with a girl.

97

00:05:42,650 --> 00:05:48,460

And I loved her from
11 til I was 18.

98

00:05:48,460 --> 00:05:50,560

When I was 18 was
the first time that I

99

00:05:50,560 --> 00:05:53,050

spoke to her, from 11 to 18.

100

00:05:53,050 --> 00:05:54,760

And this was always within me.

101

00:05:54,760 --> 00:05:58,600

And I cultivated
this love very much.

102

00:05:58,600 --> 00:06:00,880

So I was not--

103

00:06:00,880 --> 00:06:02,780

I didn't have what I wanted.

104

00:06:02,780 --> 00:06:06,820

Also, in school I always--

105

00:06:06,820 --> 00:06:10,770

I was a very big Polish patriot.

106

00:06:10,770 --> 00:06:16,720

Because I said, if I live in
Poland, I want to be the same.

107

00:06:16,720 --> 00:06:18,790

I want to have the
same opportunities

108

00:06:18,790 --> 00:06:20,830

as my school friends had.

109

00:06:20,830 --> 00:06:22,510

When it came a
national holiday, I

110

00:06:22,510 --> 00:06:24,892

wanted to march
with a Polish flag.

111

00:06:24,892 --> 00:06:26,350

And when it was a
national holiday,

112

00:06:26,350 --> 00:06:28,330

I wanted to sing
together with them.

113

00:06:28,330 --> 00:06:29,548

But they didn't accept me.

114

00:06:29,548 --> 00:06:30,340

They didn't let me.

115

00:06:30,340 --> 00:06:32,980

Because I was a
Jewish boy with side

116

00:06:32,980 --> 00:06:36,370

locks, with a kippah on my

head, with a black jacket.

117

00:06:36,370 --> 00:06:39,520

And this was very
difficult for me.

118

00:06:39,520 --> 00:06:40,750

Because I envied them.

119

00:06:40,750 --> 00:06:45,640

When there was sport matches,
so I wanted to participate.

120

00:06:45,640 --> 00:06:47,800

But they wouldn't take
me because I was a Jew.

121

00:06:47,800 --> 00:06:49,750

And in school, I
always had trouble

122

00:06:49,750 --> 00:06:52,330

because I was the
one who spoke up.

123

00:06:52,330 --> 00:06:56,710

I was the one if I was beaten
up, I didn't stay or run away,

124

00:06:56,710 --> 00:06:58,240

I always fought back.

125

00:06:58,240 --> 00:07:01,390

And the teachers didn't like it.

126

00:07:01,390 --> 00:07:05,860

There were special, one teacher,
his name was Vishnevskiy.

127

00:07:05,860 --> 00:07:10,240

And there was an incident
when I was nine years old.

128

00:07:10,240 --> 00:07:15,620

And we made a show in
school, the 19th of March.

129

00:07:15,620 --> 00:07:18,910

The 19th of March was a
very important holiday.

130

00:07:18,910 --> 00:07:23,710

It was the names day of Yosefa--

131

00:07:23,710 --> 00:07:24,940

Josef.

132

00:07:24,940 --> 00:07:27,910

Now, in Poland, you didn't
celebrate so much birthdays

133

00:07:27,910 --> 00:07:29,260

as names days.

134

00:07:29,260 --> 00:07:31,210

Now, why was Josef so important?

135

00:07:31,210 --> 00:07:35,170

Because the Marshal of
Portland was Josef Piludski.

136

00:07:35,170 --> 00:07:39,370

So for this day, we called
it the names day of Piludski.

137

00:07:39,370 --> 00:07:42,340

So our school made
a little show.

138

00:07:42,340 --> 00:07:46,300

Now they needed a
boy who could sing.

139

00:07:46,300 --> 00:07:49,510

And they had a new song

about Piludski, a tribute

140
00:07:49,510 --> 00:07:50,680
to Piludski.

141
00:07:50,680 --> 00:07:53,440
Now from all the Polish
boys, my friends,

142
00:07:53,440 --> 00:07:58,690
there was nobody that
had such a high range

143
00:07:58,690 --> 00:08:04,990
and could sing it the
way the teacher wanted.

144
00:08:04,990 --> 00:08:07,840
So this teacher,
Vishnevskiy, who

145
00:08:07,840 --> 00:08:12,670
was our math teacher and
also our music teacher,

146
00:08:12,670 --> 00:08:14,350
asked everybody to sing.

147
00:08:14,350 --> 00:08:16,540
And he picked me
out I should sing.

148
00:08:16,540 --> 00:08:20,080
Now he wasn't very happy with it
because he was an anti-Semite.

149
00:08:20,080 --> 00:08:22,360
But he didn't have a
choice so he picked me out.

150
00:08:22,360 --> 00:08:24,430
And we started and we
rehearsed the song.

151
00:08:24,430 --> 00:08:26,290
And it was a beautiful song.

152
00:08:26,290 --> 00:08:30,040
And then later, this day,
it was the 19th of March.

153
00:08:30,040 --> 00:08:31,510
In the morning, we got up.

154
00:08:31,510 --> 00:08:33,260
First, my father was against it.

155
00:08:33,260 --> 00:08:35,289
He said, this is
not your holiday.

156
00:08:35,289 --> 00:08:36,850
And this is not your place.

157
00:08:36,850 --> 00:08:39,760
You better go to the shul
and study more Talmud.

158
00:08:39,760 --> 00:08:41,740
Why do you have to sing?

159
00:08:41,740 --> 00:08:43,929
It's not for-- you
sing in the temple

160
00:08:43,929 --> 00:08:48,280
and the shul is all right, but
this is not a Jewish trade.

161
00:08:48,280 --> 00:08:51,370
But I wanted and I was
the youngest child home.

162
00:08:51,370 --> 00:08:54,160
And everything what I

said, my mother was happy,

163
00:08:54,160 --> 00:08:56,310
my sisters were happy and
they persuaded my father

164
00:08:56,310 --> 00:08:57,670
that he should let me do it.

165
00:08:57,670 --> 00:09:02,440
After we rehearsed in the
morning, I got up earlier,

166
00:09:02,440 --> 00:09:05,230
went to prayer
because the boy had

167
00:09:05,230 --> 00:09:06,973
to go every day in the morning.

168
00:09:06,973 --> 00:09:08,140
And I remember, I came home.

169
00:09:08,140 --> 00:09:11,860
My mother put on my
Shabbat, the sabbath jacket.

170
00:09:11,860 --> 00:09:16,390
And she took a velvet
yarmulke and put on.

171
00:09:16,390 --> 00:09:18,880
And I remember, she even
cleaned it with kerosene.

172
00:09:18,880 --> 00:09:21,310
Because once you clean with
kerosene it has a luster.

173
00:09:21,310 --> 00:09:24,507
And I shined the shoes.

174

00:09:24,507 --> 00:09:25,090

And I came up.

175

00:09:25,090 --> 00:09:26,710

I was very happy.

176

00:09:26,710 --> 00:09:28,990

My mother, my
sisters went to see.

177

00:09:28,990 --> 00:09:30,710

And we came into the auditorium.

178

00:09:30,710 --> 00:09:32,380

It was a large auditorium.

179

00:09:32,380 --> 00:09:36,010

And we waited for
the important people

180

00:09:36,010 --> 00:09:38,810

to come out from church because
they went first to church.

181

00:09:38,810 --> 00:09:41,800

And then they came
in to start the show.

182

00:09:41,800 --> 00:09:44,980

In this room, there was a
large room, the auditorium.

183

00:09:44,980 --> 00:09:47,350

And one wall, there
was the Polish eagle.

184

00:09:47,350 --> 00:09:50,200

And one side was the
portrait of Moscicki.

185

00:09:50,200 --> 00:09:51,700

He was the president of Poland.

186

00:09:51,700 --> 00:09:53,920

And the other side was
the portrait of Piludski.

187

00:09:53,920 --> 00:09:57,100

Across on the second
wall was a big crucifix

188

00:09:57,100 --> 00:09:58,720

with Jesus hanging.

189

00:09:58,720 --> 00:10:03,170

Whenever a class, was
a cross with Jesus.

190

00:10:03,170 --> 00:10:07,570

And when we started
to go in to the--

191

00:10:07,570 --> 00:10:11,830

to perform, a teacher
took me by the hand.

192

00:10:11,830 --> 00:10:15,910

And she escorted
me to the platform.

193

00:10:15,910 --> 00:10:21,280

And in the corner of the
platform was a little divider.

194

00:10:21,280 --> 00:10:23,320

And she put me
behind the divider.

195

00:10:23,320 --> 00:10:25,480

And I couldn't
understand why behind

196

00:10:25,480 --> 00:10:27,730

the divider when everybody
would perform in front

197

00:10:27,730 --> 00:10:29,980
of all the dignitaries.

198

00:10:29,980 --> 00:10:32,590
And they started the
speeches and everything.

199

00:10:32,590 --> 00:10:35,260
Then the teacher came
in with his violin.

200

00:10:35,260 --> 00:10:38,200
And he said to me, while
I was behind the platform,

201

00:10:38,200 --> 00:10:39,270
he said, now we'll start.

202

00:10:39,270 --> 00:10:40,940
And he started to play.

203

00:10:40,940 --> 00:10:42,790
And I right away understood--

204

00:10:42,790 --> 00:10:44,140
I was nine years old--

205

00:10:44,140 --> 00:10:46,420
what here was going on.

206

00:10:46,420 --> 00:10:51,150
I said they are ashamed to show
this Jewish boy to perform.

207

00:10:51,150 --> 00:10:53,398
They picked me out because
I was the best in singing.

208

00:10:53,398 --> 00:10:54,690
They said this to you directly?

209

00:10:54,690 --> 00:10:55,357
No, they didn't.

210
00:10:55,357 --> 00:10:56,310
But I understood.

211
00:10:56,310 --> 00:10:57,810
Why should they put me--

212
00:10:57,810 --> 00:10:59,700
I wanted everybody
should see me.

213
00:10:59,700 --> 00:11:02,190
Especially when my mother
was there with my sisters.

214
00:11:02,190 --> 00:11:06,270
And also, I knew the girl that I
liked very much was also there.

215
00:11:06,270 --> 00:11:10,440
But I was behind this divider.

216
00:11:10,440 --> 00:11:13,260
And he started to play.

217
00:11:13,260 --> 00:11:15,990
And I said, I'm
not going to sing.

218
00:11:15,990 --> 00:11:17,850
But somehow,
automatically, I don't

219
00:11:17,850 --> 00:11:19,080
know why I started to sing.

220
00:11:19,080 --> 00:11:20,340
I cried and I sang.

221
00:11:20,340 --> 00:11:21,090

I cried.

222

00:11:21,090 --> 00:11:24,150

And then later, after it was
finished, everybody applauded.

223

00:11:24,150 --> 00:11:25,470

And they made the show.

224

00:11:25,470 --> 00:11:27,620

I was still sitting
behind the divider.

225

00:11:27,620 --> 00:11:28,860

I didn't go out.

226

00:11:28,860 --> 00:11:31,510

When the people left, I
was ashamed to go out.

227

00:11:31,510 --> 00:11:32,010

Why?

228

00:11:32,010 --> 00:11:33,330

I wasn't ashamed for myself.

229

00:11:33,330 --> 00:11:35,230

I maybe was ashamed for them.

230

00:11:35,230 --> 00:11:36,750

And after everything
was finished,

231

00:11:36,750 --> 00:11:39,780

my mother and my sisters waited.

232

00:11:39,780 --> 00:11:42,690

And I couldn't look
them in the eyes.

233

00:11:42,690 --> 00:11:45,180

And I said to them, you

know, my father was right.

234

00:11:45,180 --> 00:11:46,830

He said to me this
is not for you.

235

00:11:46,830 --> 00:11:48,870

And when we walked
home-- so my mother said,

236

00:11:48,870 --> 00:11:51,240

you know the nicest things,
the most beautiful thing

237

00:11:51,240 --> 00:11:53,460

was your song from
the whole show.

238

00:11:53,460 --> 00:11:55,590

But we didn't see it.

239

00:11:55,590 --> 00:11:58,020

We didn't see you,
but we knew it's you.

240

00:11:58,020 --> 00:12:01,750

But I was very gratified
when this girl came to me.

241

00:12:01,750 --> 00:12:03,990

And she said to me, I
know that you sang it

242

00:12:03,990 --> 00:12:05,340

and it was beautiful.

243

00:12:05,340 --> 00:12:08,010

This is the environment
that we were brought up.

244

00:12:08,010 --> 00:12:12,930

And this stands out in my
mind, that they needed me,

245
00:12:12,930 --> 00:12:16,080
but they didn't
want to share there

246
00:12:16,080 --> 00:12:17,550
is a Jewish boy who's doing it.

247
00:12:17,550 --> 00:12:22,890
If you had not been so
conspicuously Jewish,

248
00:12:22,890 --> 00:12:24,577
as you were, but they knew--

249
00:12:24,577 --> 00:12:26,160
they had known you
were Jewish, do you

250
00:12:26,160 --> 00:12:30,990
think they would have accepted
you any more in that community?

251
00:12:30,990 --> 00:12:32,490
You mean, if I
wouldn't be dressed--

252
00:12:32,490 --> 00:12:33,840
If you looked more assimilated?

253
00:12:33,840 --> 00:12:34,260
Assimilated.

254
00:12:34,260 --> 00:12:34,760
Yes.

255
00:12:34,760 --> 00:12:35,880
Yes, They would.

256
00:12:35,880 --> 00:12:37,920
Doesn't mean that they will be--

257

00:12:37,920 --> 00:12:40,320
we will be maybe accepted.

258

00:12:40,320 --> 00:12:43,800
Like for instance on the street
when we went out from school,

259

00:12:43,800 --> 00:12:46,350
there non-Jewish boys
maybe would walk with me

260

00:12:46,350 --> 00:12:49,890
a little longer on
the street because I

261

00:12:49,890 --> 00:12:51,660
wouldn't look so Jewish.

262

00:12:51,660 --> 00:12:54,990
But to be friends,
to invite me home,

263

00:12:54,990 --> 00:12:56,440
or I should invite
them home, no.

264

00:12:56,440 --> 00:12:57,315
Yes, the separation--

265

00:12:57,315 --> 00:12:57,660
The separation--

266

00:12:57,660 --> 00:12:58,175
--would have been felt
under any circumstances.

267

00:12:58,175 --> 00:12:59,280
--would be the same.

268

00:12:59,280 --> 00:13:00,000
Right.

269

00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:00,930

Yes.

270

00:13:00,930 --> 00:13:02,700

There was a friend,
I had a friend.

271

00:13:02,700 --> 00:13:04,290

He was a doctor's son.

272

00:13:04,290 --> 00:13:07,620

But he didn't have
friends, Jews,

273

00:13:07,620 --> 00:13:08,910

but he had friend non-Jews.

274

00:13:08,910 --> 00:13:11,610

But he was already
completely assimilated.

275

00:13:11,610 --> 00:13:14,430

And he was accepted.

276

00:13:14,430 --> 00:13:16,320

Accepted to a certain--

277

00:13:16,320 --> 00:13:17,520

in a certain way.

278

00:13:17,520 --> 00:13:19,170

But, yeah, this
is very important.

279

00:13:19,170 --> 00:13:23,850

Because we were-- we stood
out that we were different,

280

00:13:23,850 --> 00:13:24,990

that we were dressed--

281

00:13:24,990 --> 00:13:25,830
we were dressed different.

282
00:13:25,830 --> 00:13:26,330
Yes.

283
00:13:26,330 --> 00:13:29,760

284
00:13:29,760 --> 00:13:35,850
Did you feel other forms of
antagonism or other forms of--

285
00:13:35,850 --> 00:13:39,330
The forms were--
the antagonism was

286
00:13:39,330 --> 00:13:44,970
that we knew that if we went out
that night we were beaten up.

287
00:13:44,970 --> 00:13:46,560
And we didn't complain.

288
00:13:46,560 --> 00:13:50,340
Because this was the way
we thought it should be.

289
00:13:50,340 --> 00:13:53,280
If a Jew went to the
shul in the evening

290
00:13:53,280 --> 00:13:57,150
and it was winter nights, and
a few hooligans from our town

291
00:13:57,150 --> 00:13:59,730
grabbed them and they
beat him, they kicked him,

292
00:13:59,730 --> 00:14:01,140
he went the way.

293

00:14:01,140 --> 00:14:03,090

He didn't go to the
police to complain.

294

00:14:03,090 --> 00:14:06,870

Because the policemen were
the same few policemen

295

00:14:06,870 --> 00:14:09,600

that they probably didn't
like the Jews either.

296

00:14:09,600 --> 00:14:12,300

And it was not--
we didn't complain

297

00:14:12,300 --> 00:14:15,870

because this was the way that
it went on year after year.

298

00:14:15,870 --> 00:14:20,610

Now if I was beaten up in
school, if I was strong enough,

299

00:14:20,610 --> 00:14:21,510

or if I was--

300

00:14:21,510 --> 00:14:23,850

like in Jewish, you
say I was a shaggitz.

301

00:14:23,850 --> 00:14:25,020

I didn't let me--

302

00:14:25,020 --> 00:14:26,320

I didn't let it go away.

303

00:14:26,320 --> 00:14:27,360

So I fought back.

304

00:14:27,360 --> 00:14:28,650

If they were stronger,

they beat me up.

305

00:14:28,650 --> 00:14:30,067

If I was stronger,
I beat them up.

306

00:14:30,067 --> 00:14:32,580

But this was the way.

307

00:14:32,580 --> 00:14:34,530

We always were beaten
up, the Jewish boys.

308

00:14:34,530 --> 00:14:38,910

The reason why, we had
non-Jewish boys from around

309

00:14:38,910 --> 00:14:40,050

from the countryside.

310

00:14:40,050 --> 00:14:42,990

Now they were always two three
years older than we were.

311

00:14:42,990 --> 00:14:45,900

Because they used to go to
three years in the same class.

312

00:14:45,900 --> 00:14:47,430

They never passed the class.

313

00:14:47,430 --> 00:14:49,590

Where a Jewish boy
was scholarly more

314

00:14:49,590 --> 00:14:55,130

advanced and he passed mostly
from one class to the other.

315

00:14:55,130 --> 00:14:58,500

Now if we were 9,
10, 11, and there

316

00:14:58,500 --> 00:15:01,280
were boys who were 13, 14,
naturally they were stronger

317

00:15:01,280 --> 00:15:02,250
and they were bigger.

318

00:15:02,250 --> 00:15:04,650
So they had the
chance to beat us up.

319

00:15:04,650 --> 00:15:07,620
For instance, we had
games, sport games.

320

00:15:07,620 --> 00:15:10,110
So the teacher could
say now we have a game

321

00:15:10,110 --> 00:15:12,570
the Jews against the non-Jews.

322

00:15:12,570 --> 00:15:14,173
They were always stronger.

323

00:15:14,173 --> 00:15:15,090
They would beat us up.

324

00:15:15,090 --> 00:15:18,090
In the winter when we
started to throw snow,

325

00:15:18,090 --> 00:15:20,418
again in the school,
also the teacher

326

00:15:20,418 --> 00:15:21,960
would say, let's
see who is stronger,

327

00:15:21,960 --> 00:15:23,210
the Jews against the non-Jews.

328
00:15:23,210 --> 00:15:25,500
So they always pitied the
Jews against the others.

329
00:15:25,500 --> 00:15:26,020
The others.

330
00:15:26,020 --> 00:15:26,520
Yes.

331
00:15:26,520 --> 00:15:29,610
But we were always the
weaker because we were less

332
00:15:29,610 --> 00:15:31,290
and we were younger.

333
00:15:31,290 --> 00:15:34,560
And again, the same thing, we
were weaker physically also.

334
00:15:34,560 --> 00:15:37,620
So this was going on always.

335
00:15:37,620 --> 00:15:43,140
If there was a
Christian holiday,

336
00:15:43,140 --> 00:15:47,810
the Jews wouldn't dare to
go out in this time, when

337
00:15:47,810 --> 00:15:49,700
it was Christmas or Easter.

338
00:15:49,700 --> 00:15:51,830
Because when they
went out to church,

339
00:15:51,830 --> 00:15:55,730
the non-Jews and they found some

Jews, they would beat them up.

340
00:15:55,730 --> 00:16:00,590
And the whole situation,
even in business, the Jew

341
00:16:00,590 --> 00:16:02,300
was discriminated.

342
00:16:02,300 --> 00:16:05,210
If I remember, my father
was once-- my father

343
00:16:05,210 --> 00:16:08,360
was a very prominent
man in our town.

344
00:16:08,360 --> 00:16:11,810
He was one of the 10%
of the rich people.

345
00:16:11,810 --> 00:16:12,920
He had a big business.

346
00:16:12,920 --> 00:16:16,130
He had a wholesale
general store where

347
00:16:16,130 --> 00:16:19,250
all the stores from the villages
used to come in the stores

348
00:16:19,250 --> 00:16:20,600
and buy by us.

349
00:16:20,600 --> 00:16:22,190
He was always involved.

350
00:16:22,190 --> 00:16:28,760
He was the deputy mayor.

351
00:16:28,760 --> 00:16:31,580

Couldn't be as a Jew,
but he was always

352
00:16:31,580 --> 00:16:34,400
in the council of the town.

353
00:16:34,400 --> 00:16:35,900
He was in the Jewish council.

354
00:16:35,900 --> 00:16:41,360
He was a director of the
bank from out of town.

355
00:16:41,360 --> 00:16:45,050
So Jews were permitted to do
certain things up to a point?

356
00:16:45,050 --> 00:16:46,100
Well, they had to do it.

357
00:16:46,100 --> 00:16:49,430
Like for instance,
take the town council.

358
00:16:49,430 --> 00:16:52,100
The town council
also had 50% Jews

359
00:16:52,100 --> 00:16:53,990
because there were
50% Jews in our town,

360
00:16:53,990 --> 00:16:55,910
but the mayor was
always a non-Jew.

361
00:16:55,910 --> 00:16:56,720
Yes.

362
00:16:56,720 --> 00:16:59,990
And they always picked out that
the deputy mayor was a Jew.

363

00:16:59,990 --> 00:17:03,440

My father used to have a
job, if somebody needed

364

00:17:03,440 --> 00:17:06,260

to have a prescription
or he was poor

365

00:17:06,260 --> 00:17:09,589

and he had to go to a doctor,
so the town paid for it.

366

00:17:09,589 --> 00:17:13,250

But they had to
have a signed card

367

00:17:13,250 --> 00:17:15,470

that the council approved it.

368

00:17:15,470 --> 00:17:18,990

Now, my father was the one
who gave out those cards.

369

00:17:18,990 --> 00:17:21,255

So the Jews and non-Jews
came to my father.

370

00:17:21,255 --> 00:17:23,630

And he knew that the people
are poor, he gave it to them.

371

00:17:23,630 --> 00:17:24,560

Yes.

372

00:17:24,560 --> 00:17:27,560

He was involved in everything,
in every organization,

373

00:17:27,560 --> 00:17:32,190

in every philanthropic
organization as much as we had.

374

00:17:32,190 --> 00:17:33,950
And he was involved.

375
00:17:33,950 --> 00:17:39,080
Also, he could give more
charity than somebody else.

376
00:17:39,080 --> 00:17:40,520
But he felt--

377
00:17:40,520 --> 00:17:42,290
I remember once
he went to court.

378
00:17:42,290 --> 00:17:45,290
He took somebody to court
that they owed him money.

379
00:17:45,290 --> 00:17:47,030
And he lost.

380
00:17:47,030 --> 00:17:48,350
So he came home.

381
00:17:48,350 --> 00:17:49,250
He cried.

382
00:17:49,250 --> 00:17:50,960
This is the only time
I saw him crying.

383
00:17:50,960 --> 00:17:52,860
And I asked him, why do you cry?

384
00:17:52,860 --> 00:17:55,340
He said, I'm not
crying because I lost.

385
00:17:55,340 --> 00:17:57,920
I am crying the way
they humiliated me,

386

00:17:57,920 --> 00:18:00,650
the way the judge talked to me.

387
00:18:00,650 --> 00:18:02,880
My father spoke
beautiful Polish.

388
00:18:02,880 --> 00:18:07,670
It was a rarity that a Jew that
had a long gray beard, this

389
00:18:07,670 --> 00:18:08,660
was very--

390
00:18:08,660 --> 00:18:10,400
it was not the
everyday you could

391
00:18:10,400 --> 00:18:14,690
find a Jew with a long beard
could speak beautiful Polish

392
00:18:14,690 --> 00:18:18,410
and without a
trace of an accent.

393
00:18:18,410 --> 00:18:22,060
And usually the judge,
when he came to court,

394
00:18:22,060 --> 00:18:23,320
and had just started to talk.

395
00:18:23,320 --> 00:18:27,260
And with a Jewish sing-song
he made fun of his language.

396
00:18:27,260 --> 00:18:28,640
And my father didn't have it.

397
00:18:28,640 --> 00:18:30,770
So he came, and
he said, I don't--

398
00:18:30,770 --> 00:18:33,440
I'm not sorry that
I lost, but why

399
00:18:33,440 --> 00:18:35,870
did he have to humiliate me?

400
00:18:35,870 --> 00:18:40,080
And this was very
much on his mind.

401
00:18:40,080 --> 00:18:43,220
And he also was a person
that he would speak up.

402
00:18:43,220 --> 00:18:46,430
If there was an unjust
thing in the town,

403
00:18:46,430 --> 00:18:47,870
he would be the
one that he would

404
00:18:47,870 --> 00:18:50,720
go to the head of the
town, to the police.

405
00:18:50,720 --> 00:18:52,880
He would speak or
be the spokesman.

406
00:18:52,880 --> 00:18:54,890
Maybe because he
spoke so good Polish,

407
00:18:54,890 --> 00:18:56,570
where the other
people were ashamed

408
00:18:56,570 --> 00:18:59,480
or they didn't feel comfortable
to speak because on account

409
00:18:59,480 --> 00:19:00,260
of their language.

410
00:19:00,260 --> 00:19:03,890
And because he spoke good,
and also he was well known.

411
00:19:03,890 --> 00:19:09,560
We sold our merchandise
to the municipality.

412
00:19:09,560 --> 00:19:11,600
They needed kerosene,
they needed other things,

413
00:19:11,600 --> 00:19:12,680
they bought it by us.

414
00:19:12,680 --> 00:19:15,710
We sold merchandise
to the parish.

415
00:19:15,710 --> 00:19:18,170
They needed a lot of
stuff for the police,

416
00:19:18,170 --> 00:19:19,610
they brought it by us.

417
00:19:19,610 --> 00:19:23,360
And then so on, the schools
bought the things by us.

418
00:19:23,360 --> 00:19:25,220
So he knew all those people.

419
00:19:25,220 --> 00:19:29,060
And he was very well--
very much respected.

420
00:19:29,060 --> 00:19:32,270

But still, when it
came to humiliate

421
00:19:32,270 --> 00:19:36,650
a Jew with a long beard,
he was not exempt.

422
00:19:36,650 --> 00:19:37,280
Yeah.

423
00:19:37,280 --> 00:19:39,710
You and your siblings were--

424
00:19:39,710 --> 00:19:43,040
did you attend a secular
school as well as a--

425
00:19:43,040 --> 00:19:43,730
Yes, we went--

426
00:19:43,730 --> 00:19:44,690
A Talmud Torah?

427
00:19:44,690 --> 00:19:46,430
Well, when I was
three years old,

428
00:19:46,430 --> 00:19:47,850
naturally they
took me to cheder.

429
00:19:47,850 --> 00:19:48,350
Yeah.

430
00:19:48,350 --> 00:19:51,170
And this was a very
big thing when they

431
00:19:51,170 --> 00:19:52,950
took a child by three years.

432
00:19:52,950 --> 00:19:54,780

The first thing is
they cut off the hair.

433
00:19:54,780 --> 00:19:56,990
Till three years, you were
allowed to have long hair.

434
00:19:56,990 --> 00:19:59,032
By three years, they cut
off completely the hair.

435
00:19:59,032 --> 00:20:01,580
They left some side locks.

436
00:20:01,580 --> 00:20:04,760
And my father covered
me with his tallis

437
00:20:04,760 --> 00:20:08,120
and he carried me to the
first teacher to cheder.

438
00:20:08,120 --> 00:20:09,920
And the woman went after me.

439
00:20:09,920 --> 00:20:15,270
And they threw almonds,
and nuts and raisins.

440
00:20:15,270 --> 00:20:17,360
It's a symbol of a sweet life.

441
00:20:17,360 --> 00:20:20,780
And also, in this time they
smeared my fingers with honey.

442
00:20:20,780 --> 00:20:21,770
It was a tradition.

443
00:20:21,770 --> 00:20:23,210
It was a beautiful tradition.

444

00:20:23,210 --> 00:20:27,050

And then when I was
six years, I started

445

00:20:27,050 --> 00:20:30,480

to attend the public school.

446

00:20:30,480 --> 00:20:30,980

Yes.

447

00:20:30,980 --> 00:20:34,760

This was a public school
for boys, Jews and non-Jews

448

00:20:34,760 --> 00:20:35,390

together.

449

00:20:35,390 --> 00:20:38,450

So till from 8 til 1, we
were in the public school.

450

00:20:38,450 --> 00:20:40,490

1 o'clock, we came
home, we ate lunch.

451

00:20:40,490 --> 00:20:41,840

And I run to the cheder.

452

00:20:41,840 --> 00:20:43,580

Later I attended the yeshiva--

453

00:20:43,580 --> 00:20:46,130

Talmud Torah, and
then a yeshiva.

454

00:20:46,130 --> 00:20:49,972

And then until I
finished seven grades.

455

00:20:49,972 --> 00:20:50,930

I finished [INAUDIBLE].

456

00:20:50,930 --> 00:20:52,410
I was very unhappy.

457
00:20:52,410 --> 00:20:57,045
I remember the day
when we got our--

458
00:20:57,045 --> 00:20:57,545
Diplomas.

459
00:20:57,545 --> 00:20:57,890
Diplomas.

460
00:20:57,890 --> 00:20:58,550
Certificates.

461
00:20:58,550 --> 00:21:00,170
I came home and I cried.

462
00:21:00,170 --> 00:21:01,620
All my friends were so happy.

463
00:21:01,620 --> 00:21:05,600
They had special
songs for this day,

464
00:21:05,600 --> 00:21:07,460
how happy they
were they finished.

465
00:21:07,460 --> 00:21:08,928
And I came home and I cried.

466
00:21:08,928 --> 00:21:10,970
So I remember my mother
said, why are you crying?

467
00:21:10,970 --> 00:21:15,350
And I had always very good
diplomas, very, mostly

468
00:21:15,350 --> 00:21:16,722

excellent, excellent.

469

00:21:16,722 --> 00:21:17,930

So she said, why you unhappy?

470

00:21:17,930 --> 00:21:21,230

Said, well, this will be my
education and this will be it.

471

00:21:21,230 --> 00:21:22,940

I will finish the
seventh lesson.

472

00:21:22,940 --> 00:21:24,920

Then later after, I
want to go farther.

473

00:21:24,920 --> 00:21:28,790

But my father wouldn't
let me go to a gymnasium.

474

00:21:28,790 --> 00:21:31,850

We had a gymnasium in our town,
which is like a high school.

475

00:21:31,850 --> 00:21:36,290

But he wouldn't let me go
because we had to go Saturday.

476

00:21:36,290 --> 00:21:39,990

And Saturday was unheard that a
Jewish boy should go Saturday.

477

00:21:39,990 --> 00:21:43,310

You have to write Saturday,
to carry your papers, which

478

00:21:43,310 --> 00:21:44,870

wasn't allowed.

479

00:21:44,870 --> 00:21:46,392

Some didn't go
because they didn't

480
00:21:46,392 --> 00:21:47,600
have the money to pay for it.

481
00:21:47,600 --> 00:21:48,590
It was quite expensive.

482
00:21:48,590 --> 00:21:50,750
My father had the
money to pay for it,

483
00:21:50,750 --> 00:21:52,310
but because it was Saturday.

484
00:21:52,310 --> 00:21:55,280
So I dreamt to run away
from home and to go there.

485
00:21:55,280 --> 00:21:57,350
But I was never too
strong to do it.

486
00:21:57,350 --> 00:21:58,460
And I didn't do it.

487
00:21:58,460 --> 00:22:01,070
And then a year
later, I joined--

488
00:22:01,070 --> 00:22:04,460
they opened a
professional night school.

489
00:22:04,460 --> 00:22:10,670
Professional means
for a business school,

490
00:22:10,670 --> 00:22:12,200
business courses and all that.

491
00:22:12,200 --> 00:22:12,950
So I joined it.

492
00:22:12,950 --> 00:22:13,970
And this took two years.

493
00:22:13,970 --> 00:22:14,720
And I finished it.

494
00:22:14,720 --> 00:22:16,010
And that's what I do.

495
00:22:16,010 --> 00:22:18,230
I started to work at
my father's store.

496
00:22:18,230 --> 00:22:23,400
So I was very, very
unhappy that I couldn't go.

497
00:22:23,400 --> 00:22:25,910
And going to the yeshiva,
going to Talmud Torah,

498
00:22:25,910 --> 00:22:27,200
I never liked it.

499
00:22:27,200 --> 00:22:30,740
I did it because my
father wanted me to do.

500
00:22:30,740 --> 00:22:33,200
Then he sent me away to a rabbi.

501
00:22:33,200 --> 00:22:39,410
And I was there a year, two
semesters, in a town, Tarnow.

502
00:22:39,410 --> 00:22:40,460
This was a big town.

503
00:22:40,460 --> 00:22:42,350
And he was a
disciple of a rabbi.

504

00:22:42,350 --> 00:22:45,330

We called him the [YIDDISH],,
the rabbi from Jacob.

505

00:22:45,330 --> 00:22:46,880

And he had a yeshiva.

506

00:22:46,880 --> 00:22:49,220

And I went over there
for two semesters.

507

00:22:49,220 --> 00:22:53,320

But I never, never was
there with a full heart.

508

00:22:53,320 --> 00:22:55,760

I didn't like it.

509

00:22:55,760 --> 00:22:58,060

And you never-- you never
went to the gymnasium.

510

00:22:58,060 --> 00:23:02,120

And I never went because we
were in the store and we worked.

511

00:23:02,120 --> 00:23:06,620

And then in 19-- a year before
the war I wanted to run away.

512

00:23:06,620 --> 00:23:10,020

And where do you run
away from Poland?

513

00:23:10,020 --> 00:23:12,050

So I had family in America.

514

00:23:12,050 --> 00:23:13,310

This would have been in '38.

515

00:23:13,310 --> 00:23:14,150

This '38.

516
00:23:14,150 --> 00:23:15,930
I had family in America.

517
00:23:15,930 --> 00:23:17,150
And I start to write them.

518
00:23:17,150 --> 00:23:18,360
And I definitely did--

519
00:23:18,360 --> 00:23:21,320
I make up my mind I don't
want to be in Poland.

520
00:23:21,320 --> 00:23:23,750
So I wrote to my family
to send me an affidavit.

521
00:23:23,750 --> 00:23:26,480
But from all my family,
nobody did anything.

522
00:23:26,480 --> 00:23:27,980
Nobody sent me--
the only thing they

523
00:23:27,980 --> 00:23:31,490
had to invest is a quarter, buy
a quarter to go, and to make

524
00:23:31,490 --> 00:23:33,590
an affidavit, and go
to a notary republic,

525
00:23:33,590 --> 00:23:36,050
and to have it notarized,
and to send it to Washington.

526
00:23:36,050 --> 00:23:37,853
Now if they would go
to a bank probably

527

00:23:37,853 --> 00:23:39,020
they would save the quarter.

528

00:23:39,020 --> 00:23:40,730
But they didn't do it.

529

00:23:40,730 --> 00:23:42,380
Even my brother didn't do it.

530

00:23:42,380 --> 00:23:44,750
So I decided to run
away to Palestine.

531

00:23:44,750 --> 00:23:49,460
I joined a Zionist organization,
a huge Zionist organization

532

00:23:49,460 --> 00:23:51,380
which was Hanoar Hatzioni.

533

00:23:51,380 --> 00:23:54,560
And we decide--
legally, we couldn't go.

534

00:23:54,560 --> 00:23:55,820
You needed a certificate.

535

00:23:55,820 --> 00:23:59,090
And this time, the mandate,
the English mandate, they

536

00:23:59,090 --> 00:24:00,380
didn't let in too many Jews.

537

00:24:00,380 --> 00:24:03,050
And I had the brother
already in Palestine.

538

00:24:03,050 --> 00:24:05,510
He left 1933.

539

00:24:05,510 --> 00:24:11,640
And I, with a friend, we
paid in to a group in Romania

540
00:24:11,640 --> 00:24:14,510
that we had to go
illegal from Poland

541
00:24:14,510 --> 00:24:17,990
through the border to Romania,
in Romania to join them

542
00:24:17,990 --> 00:24:21,410
and to go illegal to Palestine.

543
00:24:21,410 --> 00:24:23,300
And this was in '39.

544
00:24:23,300 --> 00:24:25,040
And I already paid
them the money.

545
00:24:25,040 --> 00:24:27,440
I remember it was
500 zloty to pay in.

546
00:24:27,440 --> 00:24:28,520
I paid in the money.

547
00:24:28,520 --> 00:24:29,570
The war broke out.

548
00:24:29,570 --> 00:24:32,360
I never got back the money
and I never went to Palestine.

549
00:24:32,360 --> 00:24:35,780
Did you-- by the time you had
decided to go to Palestine,

550
00:24:35,780 --> 00:24:38,660
had you already sensed
that there was danger?

551
00:24:38,660 --> 00:24:40,340
We sensed-- yes.

552
00:24:40,340 --> 00:24:41,540
Well, this was in '38--

553
00:24:41,540 --> 00:24:43,830
1938 and '39.

554
00:24:43,830 --> 00:24:48,380
The minute that Hitler
started to rule Germany,

555
00:24:48,380 --> 00:24:50,780
the Jews in Poland felt--

556
00:24:50,780 --> 00:24:56,420
every time there were new orders
in Germany, the Jews felt it.

557
00:24:56,420 --> 00:25:00,080
Officially, officially
the government

558
00:25:00,080 --> 00:25:04,740
didn't put in the same
orders, the same things

559
00:25:04,740 --> 00:25:05,900
they did in Germany.

560
00:25:05,900 --> 00:25:08,450
But we knew that the
Polish people don't have

561
00:25:08,450 --> 00:25:09,920
too much love for the Jews.

562
00:25:09,920 --> 00:25:11,930
And they adopted certain things.

563

00:25:11,930 --> 00:25:16,940

Also it got much worse
the day Piludski died.

564

00:25:16,940 --> 00:25:18,710

He died in 1935.

565

00:25:18,710 --> 00:25:24,260

I wouldn't say that Piludski
was the biggest lover of Jews,

566

00:25:24,260 --> 00:25:26,358

but he was not an anti-Semite.

567

00:25:26,358 --> 00:25:28,025

He was considered a
liberal in his time.

568

00:25:28,025 --> 00:25:29,400

He was considered
a liberal, yes.

569

00:25:29,400 --> 00:25:31,120

He was considered that.

570

00:25:31,120 --> 00:25:34,560

A lot of things that
came out after he died,

571

00:25:34,560 --> 00:25:37,380

they would never do
it when he was alive.

572

00:25:37,380 --> 00:25:38,630

He was a strong man.

573

00:25:38,630 --> 00:25:43,070

And he had-- the
population liked him.

574

00:25:43,070 --> 00:25:44,910

Like, for instance,

after he died,

575

00:25:44,910 --> 00:25:49,120

there were people who
started to in sejm,

576

00:25:49,120 --> 00:25:51,500

which means in
senate in congress,

577

00:25:51,500 --> 00:25:55,860

to try to abolish ritual
slaughtering in Poland.

578

00:25:55,860 --> 00:25:58,385

And there was a lady,
she was a member of it.

579

00:25:58,385 --> 00:26:00,770

And this was very prominent.

580

00:26:00,770 --> 00:26:05,060

And this couldn't happen
in the time of Piludski.

581

00:26:05,060 --> 00:26:07,840

There was a town, a
little town, Przytyk.

582

00:26:07,840 --> 00:26:09,600

And in Przytyk was a pogrom.

583

00:26:09,600 --> 00:26:13,950

The program was 1938,
which this wouldn't happen.

584

00:26:13,950 --> 00:26:17,960

So the people started
to feel that every time

585

00:26:17,960 --> 00:26:21,350

Germany advanced with
their discriminations,

586
00:26:21,350 --> 00:26:23,630
and with the rules,
and with their orders

587
00:26:23,630 --> 00:26:26,480
against the Jews,
something, somehow

588
00:26:26,480 --> 00:26:28,130
we lived through with it.

589
00:26:28,130 --> 00:26:32,090
Now our town, Kolbuszowa,
which was a very small town,

590
00:26:32,090 --> 00:26:34,310
was distinguished
in a lot of ways,

591
00:26:34,310 --> 00:26:37,340
but also was distinguished
that we had a pogrom.

592
00:26:37,340 --> 00:26:42,770
Now we don't talk the pogrom
in 19th century, in 20--

593
00:26:42,770 --> 00:26:44,450
this was in 20th century.

594
00:26:44,450 --> 00:26:47,690
The pogrom was the 6th of May.

595
00:26:47,690 --> 00:26:52,370
This was one of the highlights
of Kolbuszowa, which

596
00:26:52,370 --> 00:26:55,850
they went through,
till the Germans came

597

00:26:55,850 --> 00:26:58,650
and they liquidated the whole
town, which became bigger.

598
00:26:58,650 --> 00:27:03,260
So in 1919, Poland
received independence

599
00:27:03,260 --> 00:27:05,010
after so many years.

600
00:27:05,010 --> 00:27:07,550
So the Polish people
wanted to celebrate.

601
00:27:07,550 --> 00:27:11,390
Now how is the best way to
celebrate our independence

602
00:27:11,390 --> 00:27:15,860
after almost 200 years
under foreign rules?

603
00:27:15,860 --> 00:27:18,440
Because they were under
Russian, German, and Austria.

604
00:27:18,440 --> 00:27:22,350
We were under Austria, which
was the best part to live.

605
00:27:22,350 --> 00:27:24,830
So they decided
to make a pogrom.

606
00:27:24,830 --> 00:27:26,900
Not a big program,
a small program

607
00:27:26,900 --> 00:27:28,148
because it was a small town.

608
00:27:28,148 --> 00:27:30,440

If it would be a bigger town,
it would be a big pogrom.

609
00:27:30,440 --> 00:27:33,170
They came in and they
killed nine people.

610
00:27:33,170 --> 00:27:34,040
They plundered.

611
00:27:34,040 --> 00:27:36,200
They took away everything
that Jews have.

612
00:27:36,200 --> 00:27:40,280
They wounded 400 people
and they killed nine--

613
00:27:40,280 --> 00:27:41,310
to enjoy themselves.

614
00:27:41,310 --> 00:27:41,810
Why?

615
00:27:41,810 --> 00:27:42,290
To celebrate--

616
00:27:42,290 --> 00:27:43,450
This was pleasure to them.

617
00:27:43,450 --> 00:27:46,800
To celebrate their independence.

618
00:27:46,800 --> 00:27:50,210
Now, if we lived through-- and
the pogrom was the 6th of May,

619
00:27:50,210 --> 00:27:51,800
1919.

620
00:27:51,800 --> 00:27:53,840
I was born on the 6th of May.

621
00:27:53,840 --> 00:27:56,630
But I was born a
year later, in 1920.

622
00:27:56,630 --> 00:27:59,780
So always this day--

623
00:27:59,780 --> 00:28:03,830
there were even songs
made up for this pogrom.

624
00:28:03,830 --> 00:28:04,910
In the songs--

625
00:28:04,910 --> 00:28:06,950
I don't know if I should
tell you the songs--

626
00:28:06,950 --> 00:28:11,450
which there was a
Polish folk song

627
00:28:11,450 --> 00:28:15,620
and it describes the beauty
of me because it was in May.

628
00:28:15,620 --> 00:28:18,200
And then later they
changed the words.

629
00:28:18,200 --> 00:28:21,050
And they changed--

630
00:28:21,050 --> 00:28:26,120
And the 3rd of May, it was
Poland's biggest holiday,

631
00:28:26,120 --> 00:28:26,900
national holiday.

632
00:28:26,900 --> 00:28:28,940

Because the 3rd of May
was the anniversary

633
00:28:28,940 --> 00:28:30,470
of the Polish Constitution.

634
00:28:30,470 --> 00:28:32,870
And we called this
Konstytucji 3 Maja,

635
00:28:32,870 --> 00:28:34,640
the 3rd of May Constitution.

636
00:28:34,640 --> 00:28:40,430
So this song described the 3rd
of May and the beauty of May.

637
00:28:40,430 --> 00:28:43,940
So they changed it and
they said [POLISH]..

638
00:28:43,940 --> 00:28:47,120

639
00:28:47,120 --> 00:28:48,545
It's like (singing) [POLISH].

640
00:28:48,545 --> 00:28:58,430

641
00:28:58,430 --> 00:29:01,640
It means, the 3rd of
May, the 6th of May,

642
00:29:01,640 --> 00:29:05,570
break all the windows by
the Jew, beat the Jew,

643
00:29:05,570 --> 00:29:09,300
kill the Jew, because for
the Polish it's a blessing,

644

00:29:09,300 --> 00:29:10,760
it's a beautiful day.

645
00:29:10,760 --> 00:29:14,720
Now those songs were sang
to us in the school--

646
00:29:14,720 --> 00:29:16,160
even this was--

647
00:29:16,160 --> 00:29:18,260
I was born later-- even later.

648
00:29:18,260 --> 00:29:22,040
The Polish people, you,
the Polish friends,

649
00:29:22,040 --> 00:29:23,510
used to sing it.

650
00:29:23,510 --> 00:29:25,670
Now, I remember my
father, if he had

651
00:29:25,670 --> 00:29:29,795
an argument with a non-Jew,
sometimes with a porter,

652
00:29:29,795 --> 00:29:31,200
somehow they had argument.

653
00:29:31,200 --> 00:29:33,377
So he used to tell-- and
the porter threatened him.

654
00:29:33,377 --> 00:29:35,210
So he always used to
say, what do you think?

655
00:29:35,210 --> 00:29:36,860
This is the 6th of May?

656

00:29:36,860 --> 00:29:38,390
It's not the 6th of May anymore?

657
00:29:38,390 --> 00:29:41,760
Naturally, this was
something that he stopped.

658
00:29:41,760 --> 00:29:45,200
But we always lived with
the shadow of this pogrom.

659
00:29:45,200 --> 00:29:52,570
And the funny thing is that the
nine people who were killed,

660
00:29:52,570 --> 00:29:56,000
about half were
killed Jews who went

661
00:29:56,000 --> 00:29:59,480
through the whole war, the
First World War, from 1914,

662
00:29:59,480 --> 00:30:02,180
and they came home in 1918.

663
00:30:02,180 --> 00:30:04,460
Now I always thought why
where they killed more

664
00:30:04,460 --> 00:30:05,630
than other people?

665
00:30:05,630 --> 00:30:09,410
Those were Jews who fought
in the Austrian army.

666
00:30:09,410 --> 00:30:12,868
And probably when they came to
beat them up, so they resisted.

667
00:30:12,868 --> 00:30:14,660
And because they resisted

they killed them.

668

00:30:14,660 --> 00:30:16,590

Because they saw
them as Austrian--

669

00:30:16,590 --> 00:30:18,860

No, they didn't-- no, they
didn't know that they were

670

00:30:18,860 --> 00:30:20,870

in army because they
didn't have their uniforms.

671

00:30:20,870 --> 00:30:23,720

But the Jews themselves,
they thought--

672

00:30:23,720 --> 00:30:25,250

I know I would do
the same thing.

673

00:30:25,250 --> 00:30:26,870

I fought for 40 years.

674

00:30:26,870 --> 00:30:28,760

And now we have
our independence.

675

00:30:28,760 --> 00:30:30,620

And also, when
somebody's a soldier

676

00:30:30,620 --> 00:30:32,930

for four years, who was
on different fronts,

677

00:30:32,930 --> 00:30:34,880

he knows a little more to fight.

678

00:30:34,880 --> 00:30:35,900

So he resisted.

679

00:30:35,900 --> 00:30:38,360

So they killed him.

680

00:30:38,360 --> 00:30:42,200

Yeah, so it was all the fact
that they put up a fight.

681

00:30:42,200 --> 00:30:44,740

Well, and this was the
lives that we were.

682

00:30:44,740 --> 00:30:47,290

And then closer
to the war, as we

683

00:30:47,290 --> 00:30:52,630

came closer to the war, more
orders, more against the Jews,

684

00:30:52,630 --> 00:30:57,670

with taxes, with other
restrictions in business.

685

00:30:57,670 --> 00:31:00,790

And this, we saw that
something would happen.

686

00:31:00,790 --> 00:31:02,140

Till we come to '39.

687

00:31:02,140 --> 00:31:06,040

In '39, it was the famous pact
that Poland made with Germany,

688

00:31:06,040 --> 00:31:07,360

the non-aggression pact.

689

00:31:07,360 --> 00:31:09,880

Which in this time we had
the foreign minister, Beck.

690

00:31:09,880 --> 00:31:12,040

And everybody accused
him that he was a German,

691
00:31:12,040 --> 00:31:13,180
he was a traitor.

692
00:31:13,180 --> 00:31:15,310
But they made a
non-aggression pact

693
00:31:15,310 --> 00:31:18,190
because Hitler wanted
to take Sudeten and walk

694
00:31:18,190 --> 00:31:19,630
into Czechoslovakia.

695
00:31:19,630 --> 00:31:22,720
And he-- and they were
very smart, the Germans.

696
00:31:22,720 --> 00:31:24,640
In everything they
were very smart.

697
00:31:24,640 --> 00:31:27,370
And they figured why
should they have--

698
00:31:27,370 --> 00:31:29,800
at this time nobody knew
that the Germans are really

699
00:31:29,800 --> 00:31:32,440
so strong, why should
they have an enemy

700
00:31:32,440 --> 00:31:36,220
right in the site on
the border, Poland.

701
00:31:36,220 --> 00:31:38,470
So they wanted to make

a non-aggression pact.

702

00:31:38,470 --> 00:31:40,810

And they said to Poland,
we will give you a sliver.

703

00:31:40,810 --> 00:31:43,880

We'll give you a piece of
land from Czechoslovakia.

704

00:31:43,880 --> 00:31:48,100

And there was a small
river called Olza.

705

00:31:48,100 --> 00:31:51,550

And this piece of land,
we call the Zaolzie.

706

00:31:51,550 --> 00:31:53,460

It means on the
other side of Olza.

707

00:31:53,460 --> 00:31:54,400

So they made a pact.

708

00:31:54,400 --> 00:31:58,750

And they said to them,
you take this little piece

709

00:31:58,750 --> 00:31:59,980

and we will take the Sudeten.

710

00:31:59,980 --> 00:32:01,600

And they had a
non-aggression pact

711

00:32:01,600 --> 00:32:03,670

so they knew Poland
wouldn't do anything.

712

00:32:03,670 --> 00:32:07,000

Naturally, when the German
army moved into the Sudeten,

713
00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:11,230
the Polish army moved
in in this little piece.

714
00:32:11,230 --> 00:32:12,730
And they wrapped it.

715
00:32:12,730 --> 00:32:13,970
And they took it over.

716
00:32:13,970 --> 00:32:19,060
And this was a very smart thing
from the Germans to do it.

717
00:32:19,060 --> 00:32:21,700
What was your first
memory or reminiscence

718
00:32:21,700 --> 00:32:25,660
of the war itself, when war
broke out in September of '39?

719
00:32:25,660 --> 00:32:30,590
When the war broke out,
this was September the 1st.

720
00:32:30,590 --> 00:32:31,090
Yes.

721
00:32:31,090 --> 00:32:32,300
1939.

722
00:32:32,300 --> 00:32:33,520
Naturally, in the morning--

723
00:32:33,520 --> 00:32:37,750
we had in our town
maybe three radios.

724
00:32:37,750 --> 00:32:38,740
We didn't have radios.

725
00:32:38,740 --> 00:32:39,910
We didn't have electricity.

726
00:32:39,910 --> 00:32:43,300
But there were people who
had radios with the quartz,

727
00:32:43,300 --> 00:32:44,975
I think, or some crystals.

728
00:32:44,975 --> 00:32:46,160
Yes, the old sets.

729
00:32:46,160 --> 00:32:47,410
The old crystal sets.

730
00:32:47,410 --> 00:32:49,660
And we found out, everybody run.

731
00:32:49,660 --> 00:32:52,520
There was one radio in the
Jewish organization called

732
00:32:52,520 --> 00:32:53,020
[INAUDIBLE].

733
00:32:53,020 --> 00:32:54,520
And we find out there is war.

734
00:32:54,520 --> 00:32:57,910
In the minute we find
out that there is war,

735
00:32:57,910 --> 00:33:01,750
we knew that this is something
terrible for the Jews.

736
00:33:01,750 --> 00:33:05,620
And we knew that the
Polish army is not

737

00:33:05,620 --> 00:33:08,680

an army that could
withstand the German army.

738

00:33:08,680 --> 00:33:12,640

Poland didn't have
practically no motorization

739

00:33:12,640 --> 00:33:14,800

in the army, a motorized army.

740

00:33:14,800 --> 00:33:16,510

And they didn't
have an air force.

741

00:33:16,510 --> 00:33:17,770

They had a few planes.

742

00:33:17,770 --> 00:33:20,920

So they couldn't fight
against the Germans.

743

00:33:20,920 --> 00:33:23,170

And we already knew
about the German army

744

00:33:23,170 --> 00:33:25,510

because we saw on the news
reels, we saw in the movies

745

00:33:25,510 --> 00:33:28,750

how the German army
moved in to Rhineland,

746

00:33:28,750 --> 00:33:31,060

moved into our Austria,
moved into Sudeten.

747

00:33:31,060 --> 00:33:32,920

It wasn't just the first one.

748

00:33:32,920 --> 00:33:36,130

So we saw the might
of the German army.

749
00:33:36,130 --> 00:33:42,310
And every-- and the German
army was very impressive,

750
00:33:42,310 --> 00:33:45,010
the way they marched, the
way they had their equipment.

751
00:33:45,010 --> 00:33:47,230
Poland had a good
cavalry, but cavalry

752
00:33:47,230 --> 00:33:50,750
was good in the 17th
century, in the 18th century,

753
00:33:50,750 --> 00:33:53,150
but not in the 20th century.

754
00:33:53,150 --> 00:33:59,470
A few days before September the
1st, they made a mobilization.

755
00:33:59,470 --> 00:34:03,100
And also the mobilization
was so done very--

756
00:34:03,100 --> 00:34:05,140
not professionally.

757
00:34:05,140 --> 00:34:07,360
They started to mobilize people.

758
00:34:07,360 --> 00:34:09,940
And they mobilized
elderly people.

759
00:34:09,940 --> 00:34:13,989
From our town they
mobilized over 100 Jews who

760
00:34:13,989 --> 00:34:17,560
were soldiers in the
Austrian Army, Jews

761
00:34:17,560 --> 00:34:21,340
who were 40 years, 45 years,
50 years, with long beards,

762
00:34:21,340 --> 00:34:22,540
they mobilized them.

763
00:34:22,540 --> 00:34:24,280
And they had families.

764
00:34:24,280 --> 00:34:25,880
And they took them to the army.

765
00:34:25,880 --> 00:34:26,840
So I remember this day.

766
00:34:26,840 --> 00:34:29,110
It was about five days
before the war broke out.

767
00:34:29,110 --> 00:34:31,810
Trucks came in the middle
of the marketplace.

768
00:34:31,810 --> 00:34:33,540
And at night they
had to assemble.

769
00:34:33,540 --> 00:34:35,290
And they took them
away and they send them

770
00:34:35,290 --> 00:34:36,830
to different sections.

771
00:34:36,830 --> 00:34:39,820
Now, there were a lot of

young soldiers in the reserve.

772

00:34:39,820 --> 00:34:42,790

Those young soldiers were
not called right away.

773

00:34:42,790 --> 00:34:44,560

And then later they
said the reason why,

774

00:34:44,560 --> 00:34:47,590

because they wanted to keep
them because they were sure

775

00:34:47,590 --> 00:34:50,830

that the army who is
in the active army

776

00:34:50,830 --> 00:34:53,889

would resist the
German approach.

777

00:34:53,889 --> 00:34:55,580

And they were in the army.

778

00:34:55,580 --> 00:34:58,180

And then the first--

779

00:34:58,180 --> 00:35:01,120

right away we knew
that a terrible thing

780

00:35:01,120 --> 00:35:03,040

will happen to the Jews.

781

00:35:03,040 --> 00:35:08,620

Because what the Germans would
do, they will have willing--

782

00:35:08,620 --> 00:35:13,420

a nation who was-- who is
willing to collaborate,

783

00:35:13,420 --> 00:35:17,080
who is willing to help anything
what the Germans wanted

784

00:35:17,080 --> 00:35:18,400
when it comes to the Jews.

785

00:35:18,400 --> 00:35:20,320
We didn't have yet proof.

786

00:35:20,320 --> 00:35:24,220
But from the past, we knew
that this could happen.

787

00:35:24,220 --> 00:35:29,860
In special, our town had
already went through a pogrom.

788

00:35:29,860 --> 00:35:31,930
And we remembered the program.

789

00:35:31,930 --> 00:35:34,940
A day or two days later,
when the war broke out,

790

00:35:34,940 --> 00:35:37,120
we started to see
already refugees

791

00:35:37,120 --> 00:35:41,950
coming from the Western
part of Poland, mostly Jews.

792

00:35:41,950 --> 00:35:45,370
The war started and they
started to run away to the East.

793

00:35:45,370 --> 00:35:47,990
And everybody thought that
somehow the Polish army

794

00:35:47,990 --> 00:35:49,280

would stop them.

795

00:35:49,280 --> 00:35:52,220

The first day there were
less, second day, more.

796

00:35:52,220 --> 00:35:55,130

Then it became so as
through Kolbuszowa they

797

00:35:55,130 --> 00:35:58,190

came through thousands
of thousands of refugees.

798

00:35:58,190 --> 00:35:59,600

Why Kolbuszowa?

799

00:35:59,600 --> 00:36:03,260

Because there was a
shortcut from Tarnow

800

00:36:03,260 --> 00:36:05,840

to go to Rzeszow,
to go to the East.

801

00:36:05,840 --> 00:36:10,970

So they could go through fields
and not to go to the roads

802

00:36:10,970 --> 00:36:13,430

where there were railroads
and the Germans started

803

00:36:13,430 --> 00:36:16,520

to bomb the roads where the
people were running away.

804

00:36:16,520 --> 00:36:17,645

So they took the fields--

805

00:36:17,645 --> 00:36:18,620

It was back route.

806

00:36:18,620 --> 00:36:19,790

It was a back route.

807

00:36:19,790 --> 00:36:22,280

And through this field--
and everybody-- somebody

808

00:36:22,280 --> 00:36:25,280

knew this road so
everybody followed them.

809

00:36:25,280 --> 00:36:28,970

And there you could see
streams, thousands of thousands

810

00:36:28,970 --> 00:36:29,600

of people.

811

00:36:29,600 --> 00:36:31,880

And they were from a village
that they came through.

812

00:36:31,880 --> 00:36:33,830

And they came to
Kolbuszowa to rest.

813

00:36:33,830 --> 00:36:36,230

And they had feet
bleeding, people

814

00:36:36,230 --> 00:36:39,070

who took with them self
packages and bundles.

815

00:36:39,070 --> 00:36:41,360

On the way they threw away
everything because they

816

00:36:41,360 --> 00:36:41,870

couldn't--

817

00:36:41,870 --> 00:36:42,980

They couldn't carry anything.

818
00:36:42,980 --> 00:36:43,938
They couldn't carry it.

819
00:36:43,938 --> 00:36:45,410
And more and more
every day were.

820
00:36:45,410 --> 00:36:49,130
Then we started-- we wanted
to run away from our town.

821
00:36:49,130 --> 00:36:51,200
And we asked the people,
what should we do?

822
00:36:51,200 --> 00:36:52,940
And all of them
said, don't do it.

823
00:36:52,940 --> 00:36:54,080
We made a mistake.

824
00:36:54,080 --> 00:36:57,320
Because sooner or later
the Germans will catch you.

825
00:36:57,320 --> 00:36:59,150
Because we go and
they go faster.

826
00:36:59,150 --> 00:37:00,320
And they advance faster.

827
00:37:00,320 --> 00:37:00,920
Yeah.

828
00:37:00,920 --> 00:37:02,780
The third day, we
started already

829

00:37:02,780 --> 00:37:07,370
to see splinters from the Polish
Army coming through Kolbuszowa.

830
00:37:07,370 --> 00:37:09,320
And you could see the first--

831
00:37:09,320 --> 00:37:11,690
the third day,
units went through.

832
00:37:11,690 --> 00:37:13,700
This was the retreat.

833
00:37:13,700 --> 00:37:16,130
The fourth they,
broke new units.

834
00:37:16,130 --> 00:37:20,540
The fifth day, you could
see on this, single, mixed

835
00:37:20,540 --> 00:37:22,010
in every army.

836
00:37:22,010 --> 00:37:25,850
Once the army is in formation
and the army goes forward,

837
00:37:25,850 --> 00:37:27,590
the army looks
beautiful, everything.

838
00:37:27,590 --> 00:37:30,480
But once the army runs
away and goes back--

839
00:37:30,480 --> 00:37:30,980
In retreat.

840
00:37:30,980 --> 00:37:32,930
In retreat, they look awful.

841

00:37:32,930 --> 00:37:36,335
No leadership, everything
broken, everything-- everybody

842

00:37:36,335 --> 00:37:37,400
on his own.

843

00:37:37,400 --> 00:37:38,490
Even the German army--

844

00:37:38,490 --> 00:37:42,020
I remember this
in 1944 and 1945,

845

00:37:42,020 --> 00:37:44,270
when we took over
the German army.

846

00:37:44,270 --> 00:37:46,710
And when they retreated,
they didn't look better.

847

00:37:46,710 --> 00:37:49,027
They looked the same
as the Polish army

848

00:37:49,027 --> 00:37:49,860
when they retreated.

849

00:37:49,860 --> 00:37:51,230
They were in shambles.

850

00:37:51,230 --> 00:37:53,390
They only were
kanakas or big shots

851

00:37:53,390 --> 00:37:55,010
when they went for forward.

852

00:37:55,010 --> 00:37:57,020
So the Polish army
started-- you could

853
00:37:57,020 --> 00:37:58,640
see-- you felt sorry for them.

854
00:37:58,640 --> 00:38:01,040
Here, especially with
me, I was a patriot.

855
00:38:01,040 --> 00:38:02,420
I love Poland.

856
00:38:02,420 --> 00:38:04,850
Maybe I loved so
much Poland because I

857
00:38:04,850 --> 00:38:07,070
was denied all those things.

858
00:38:07,070 --> 00:38:09,980
Like for instance, my wife
comes from a different world.

859
00:38:09,980 --> 00:38:11,840
She comes from a
more progressive.

860
00:38:11,840 --> 00:38:12,860
She had everything.

861
00:38:12,860 --> 00:38:14,120
She went to gymnasium.

862
00:38:14,120 --> 00:38:16,850
She went to-- she
worked in a big town.

863
00:38:16,850 --> 00:38:18,830
She doesn't have the nostalgia.

864
00:38:18,830 --> 00:38:21,680
She doesn't have the love
for Poland as I have.

865

00:38:21,680 --> 00:38:23,330

She knew Poland was not for her.

866

00:38:23,330 --> 00:38:24,680

They wanted to emigrate.

867

00:38:24,680 --> 00:38:29,030

But I loved it because I was
denied all those little things

868

00:38:29,030 --> 00:38:31,830

that boys want to have.

869

00:38:31,830 --> 00:38:34,610

So when I saw this,
I felt very bad.

870

00:38:34,610 --> 00:38:38,420

When the war broke out
in the 1st of September,

871

00:38:38,420 --> 00:38:42,590

the same day I went to
volunteer to the Polish army.

872

00:38:42,590 --> 00:38:44,180

There was a recruiting office.

873

00:38:44,180 --> 00:38:45,140

And I came in.

874

00:38:45,140 --> 00:38:46,340

I was 19 years old.

875

00:38:46,340 --> 00:38:47,780

And I said, I want to volunteer.

876

00:38:47,780 --> 00:38:50,870

Because I had to go to
the army when I was 21.

877

00:38:50,870 --> 00:38:52,050

And he looked at me.

878

00:38:52,050 --> 00:38:53,930

And he said, what
will we do with you?

879

00:38:53,930 --> 00:38:57,470

We don't even have
uniforms for our draftees.

880

00:38:57,470 --> 00:38:59,000

What will we do with you?

881

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:01,880

So naturally, my
parents, my father

882

00:39:01,880 --> 00:39:04,310

didn't know that
I am doing this.

883

00:39:04,310 --> 00:39:07,250

So then later, you could
see individual soldiers.

884

00:39:07,250 --> 00:39:10,700

And then, as the people went
through, the Jewish population,

885

00:39:10,700 --> 00:39:12,680

somebody, everybody--

886

00:39:12,680 --> 00:39:14,840

somebody had there a friend,
a friend of a friend.

887

00:39:14,840 --> 00:39:18,180

And they could eat something.

888

00:39:18,180 --> 00:39:20,570

But then soldiers started

to go through our town.

889

00:39:20,570 --> 00:39:22,820

They came into the stores
and they started to plunder,

890

00:39:22,820 --> 00:39:24,328

to rob, to take away everything.

891

00:39:24,328 --> 00:39:26,870

First, they were hungry, so they
took away everything to eat.

892

00:39:26,870 --> 00:39:29,360

And then they took
anything, everything.

893

00:39:29,360 --> 00:39:30,980

And we couldn't have--

894

00:39:30,980 --> 00:39:32,600

we didn't have no protection.

895

00:39:32,600 --> 00:39:36,110

I remember one day there
was-- in our store,

896

00:39:36,110 --> 00:39:37,850

there was a full
store with peasants.

897

00:39:37,850 --> 00:39:40,370

They came in to
buy, to steal, this.

898

00:39:40,370 --> 00:39:44,390

So a colonel came in with
a horse into the store.

899

00:39:44,390 --> 00:39:45,620

And came in with a horse.

900

00:39:45,620 --> 00:39:47,960

And he said to the
peasants, take anything

901

00:39:47,960 --> 00:39:50,390

you want because we want
to empty all the stores.

902

00:39:50,390 --> 00:39:53,270

When the Germans will come in,
they shouldn't find anything.

903

00:39:53,270 --> 00:39:56,090

Naturally, when the Poles
saw things like this,

904

00:39:56,090 --> 00:39:58,280

so they took what they wanted.

905

00:39:58,280 --> 00:39:59,480

And nobody could stop them.

906

00:39:59,480 --> 00:40:00,205

So they had official sanction.

907

00:40:00,205 --> 00:40:02,940

They had official sanction
and we couldn't do anything.

908

00:40:02,940 --> 00:40:06,140

So one peasant came home
and he brought something.

909

00:40:06,140 --> 00:40:08,000

And naturally, the
rest of them came

910

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:09,620

and also the Polish soldiers.

911

00:40:09,620 --> 00:40:13,340

But you could see that
everything is breaking down.

912
00:40:13,340 --> 00:40:16,220
And then planes started
to fly over our town.

913
00:40:16,220 --> 00:40:17,630
They threw a few bombs.

914
00:40:17,630 --> 00:40:21,290
And you could see that
the end of the Polish army

915
00:40:21,290 --> 00:40:23,930
is very close.

916
00:40:23,930 --> 00:40:27,680
And this took till Thursday.

917
00:40:27,680 --> 00:40:29,756
Thursday was the 8th--

918
00:40:29,756 --> 00:40:30,885
it was a week later.

919
00:40:30,885 --> 00:40:32,010
The seventh day of the war.

920
00:40:32,010 --> 00:40:32,690
The seventh.

921
00:40:32,690 --> 00:40:39,620
So Thursday in the afternoon,
a tank, a German tank,

922
00:40:39,620 --> 00:40:44,330
with a motorcycle came
in to one of the corners

923
00:40:44,330 --> 00:40:49,020
of our marketplace
from the West.

924

00:40:49,020 --> 00:40:51,240

And there were
thousands of thousands

925

00:40:51,240 --> 00:40:52,590

of refugees in our town.

926

00:40:52,590 --> 00:40:56,010

I would say that in
this time, in this day,

927

00:40:56,010 --> 00:40:59,370

there were about 40,000
refugees in our town.

928

00:40:59,370 --> 00:41:02,370

And most of them Jewish, because
most of the Jews ran away.

929

00:41:02,370 --> 00:41:05,040

They were afraid
for the Germans.

930

00:41:05,040 --> 00:41:07,590

As they came into the
corner of the town,

931

00:41:07,590 --> 00:41:10,530

there were Polish
soldiers who retreated.

932

00:41:10,530 --> 00:41:14,172

They killed the three
Germans on the motorcycles.

933

00:41:14,172 --> 00:41:14,880

There were three.

934

00:41:14,880 --> 00:41:17,088

I was standing there and I
saw that they killed them.

935

00:41:17,088 --> 00:41:20,145

As the tank-- who drove the
tank saw it, he turned around

936

00:41:20,145 --> 00:41:21,280

and he went back.

937

00:41:21,280 --> 00:41:24,900

We started-- we were afraid
because once three soldiers

938

00:41:24,900 --> 00:41:27,570

were killed, the Germans
would probably accuse

939

00:41:27,570 --> 00:41:28,940

the Jews that they did it.

940

00:41:28,940 --> 00:41:29,440

Yes.

941

00:41:29,440 --> 00:41:34,860

And this was Friday
afternoon, about 5, 6 o'clock.

942

00:41:34,860 --> 00:41:36,810

During the night
nothing happened.

943

00:41:36,810 --> 00:41:40,590

And the Polish army,
the Polish soldiers

944

00:41:40,590 --> 00:41:43,080

who were in this
time in Kolbuszowa

945

00:41:43,080 --> 00:41:44,750

knew that they did
something wrong.

946

00:41:44,750 --> 00:41:45,750

They killed the Germans.

947

00:41:45,750 --> 00:41:50,100
And they knew that the Germans
will not just take Kolbuszowa

948

00:41:50,100 --> 00:41:52,320
without revenge.

949

00:41:52,320 --> 00:41:55,700
So they left during
the night our town.

950

00:41:55,700 --> 00:41:57,720
And the town was
without soldiers.

951

00:41:57,720 --> 00:41:59,760
Which we were very
happy, because if there

952

00:41:59,760 --> 00:42:01,900
are no soldiers there
will not be a resistance

953

00:42:01,900 --> 00:42:03,150
and there will be no fighting.

954

00:42:03,150 --> 00:42:06,090
Because in fighting, we
knew that the refugees who

955

00:42:06,090 --> 00:42:07,590
didn't have where
to hide, that they

956

00:42:07,590 --> 00:42:09,330
will be the one who
will suffer the most.

957

00:42:09,330 --> 00:42:10,920
Yes.

958

00:42:10,920 --> 00:42:13,290
As I said, Kolbuszowa
was distinguished

959
00:42:13,290 --> 00:42:16,380
with a lot of things and always
distinguished with something

960
00:42:16,380 --> 00:42:17,130
bad.

961
00:42:17,130 --> 00:42:21,240
Always something
bad happened to it.

962
00:42:21,240 --> 00:42:24,180
The next day, Saturday
morning, a regiment

963
00:42:24,180 --> 00:42:28,890
of cavalry from a town,
Mielec, also from the West,

964
00:42:28,890 --> 00:42:31,500
left Mielec and
came to Kolbuszowa.

965
00:42:31,500 --> 00:42:32,790
This was about 9--

966
00:42:32,790 --> 00:42:34,920
8, 9 o'clock in the morning.

967
00:42:34,920 --> 00:42:37,920
Here we were happy
there are no soldiers.

968
00:42:37,920 --> 00:42:42,240
And they said that they're
going to make a line of defense

969
00:42:42,240 --> 00:42:43,590
in Kolbuszowa.

970
00:42:43,590 --> 00:42:45,450
And they started to organize.

971
00:42:45,450 --> 00:42:49,710
In each house they put in
soldiers to the windows

972
00:42:49,710 --> 00:42:50,820
to protect--

973
00:42:50,820 --> 00:42:53,970
to stop the German invasion.

974
00:42:53,970 --> 00:42:57,120
And we knew that this
is a terrible thing.

975
00:42:57,120 --> 00:43:00,240
And about 3, 4 o'clock--

976
00:43:00,240 --> 00:43:04,050
we had a two-story house.

977
00:43:04,050 --> 00:43:06,660
There were very few
two-story houses in the town.

978
00:43:06,660 --> 00:43:08,400
There were maybe four or five.

979
00:43:08,400 --> 00:43:12,750
In our house, the back
went out to the fields

980
00:43:12,750 --> 00:43:15,240
from where the refugees came.

981
00:43:15,240 --> 00:43:16,440
I went up to the attic.

982

00:43:16,440 --> 00:43:18,720
There was a small window.

983
00:43:18,720 --> 00:43:22,920
And I wanted to see
what will happen.

984
00:43:22,920 --> 00:43:26,370
In our house we had hundreds
of hundreds of refugees.

985
00:43:26,370 --> 00:43:28,920
Who wanted to come
in, we let them in.

986
00:43:28,920 --> 00:43:30,810
They didn't want to
be on the streets.

987
00:43:30,810 --> 00:43:31,695
We had big basements.

988
00:43:31,695 --> 00:43:33,405
So everybody went
into the basement,

989
00:43:33,405 --> 00:43:35,400
to the cellars where
we had merchandise.

990
00:43:35,400 --> 00:43:37,330
And everybody was hiding there.

991
00:43:37,330 --> 00:43:39,330
And I was sitting
by this window.

992
00:43:39,330 --> 00:43:42,720
And I saw from a distance--
through the fields I

993
00:43:42,720 --> 00:43:45,870
saw that German army approach.

994
00:43:45,870 --> 00:43:48,990
First tanks, then
motorcycles, and then

995
00:43:48,990 --> 00:43:50,970
infantry behind the tanks.

996
00:43:50,970 --> 00:43:53,130
And they came closer and closer.

997
00:43:53,130 --> 00:43:55,740
And I gave all this--

998
00:43:55,740 --> 00:43:59,880
what I saw, I yelled down they
should know what's going on.

999
00:43:59,880 --> 00:44:02,760
And they came in to the town.

1000
00:44:02,760 --> 00:44:09,210
And then you could hear starting
shooting from the tanks,

1001
00:44:09,210 --> 00:44:12,000
from rifles, from
other, from mortars.

1002
00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:14,400
And the Polish army fought back.

1003
00:44:14,400 --> 00:44:16,500
Because they were--
in every house

1004
00:44:16,500 --> 00:44:19,830
with the windows going to
those fields there was them.

1005
00:44:19,830 --> 00:44:22,020
Well, then they came

closer and closer.

1006
00:44:22,020 --> 00:44:25,620
And you could already hear
German commands-- forwards,

1007
00:44:25,620 --> 00:44:28,170
achtung, and all those things,
because they were already

1008
00:44:28,170 --> 00:44:29,263
around our house.

1009
00:44:29,263 --> 00:44:30,180
And they went forward.

1010
00:44:30,180 --> 00:44:32,200
And naturally, the
Polish army retreated.

1011
00:44:32,200 --> 00:44:34,800
The ones who weren't killed
couldn't do anything.

1012
00:44:34,800 --> 00:44:41,970
And they came in in every
house, banged in the door,

1013
00:44:41,970 --> 00:44:45,660
in with loud, raus, raus, raus.

1014
00:44:45,660 --> 00:44:47,010
They didn't say Juden.

1015
00:44:47,010 --> 00:44:49,510
They didn't know in this
time if Jews are now Jews.

1016
00:44:49,510 --> 00:44:50,490
Everything, raus.

1017
00:44:50,490 --> 00:44:53,250

Always the same thing-- loud,
and schnell, schnell, schnell,

1018
00:44:53,250 --> 00:44:54,620
raus--

1019
00:44:54,620 --> 00:44:57,180
fast, fast, out.

1020
00:44:57,180 --> 00:44:58,990
And as we came out--

1021
00:44:58,990 --> 00:45:01,380
so there was a cordon--

1022
00:45:01,380 --> 00:45:03,960
a corridor with soldiers
from both sides.

1023
00:45:03,960 --> 00:45:06,820
And everybody ran
through this corridor.

1024
00:45:06,820 --> 00:45:09,090
On both sides were
soldiers with rifles.

1025
00:45:09,090 --> 00:45:12,180
In the four corners
of the marketplace

1026
00:45:12,180 --> 00:45:15,990
there were four tanks with
soldiers with machine guns.

1027
00:45:15,990 --> 00:45:21,900
And we run where they prepared
this cordon with the soldiers

1028
00:45:21,900 --> 00:45:28,560
to an empty place outside of
the city, a very big yard.

1029

00:45:28,560 --> 00:45:31,380

And they collected
there all the people.

1030

00:45:31,380 --> 00:45:33,780

And there were
thousands of thousands

1031

00:45:33,780 --> 00:45:36,600

of people, and mostly
refugees because they

1032

00:45:36,600 --> 00:45:38,610

didn't have where to go.

1033

00:45:38,610 --> 00:45:41,730

And what they did, they
started to burn the houses.

1034

00:45:41,730 --> 00:45:44,580

They threw in incinerator--

1035

00:45:44,580 --> 00:45:49,500

bombs and grenades and the
houses started to burn.

1036

00:45:49,500 --> 00:45:53,520

They burned a few streets and
two side of the marketplace.

1037

00:45:53,520 --> 00:45:57,120

And where we were
around us were houses.

1038

00:45:57,120 --> 00:45:59,880

So they started to
burn those houses.

1039

00:45:59,880 --> 00:46:06,240

And then a colonel came in in
a staff car without the roof.

1040

00:46:06,240 --> 00:46:10,710

And he said to us
because the Jews fought

1041

00:46:10,710 --> 00:46:13,710

against the Germans, all
the Jews who are here

1042

00:46:13,710 --> 00:46:15,300

will be burned alive.

1043

00:46:15,300 --> 00:46:17,940

On all the four sides
there was a fire.

1044

00:46:17,940 --> 00:46:21,240

Before we came into
this place there

1045

00:46:21,240 --> 00:46:23,820

were a few soldiers
by the gate and we

1046

00:46:23,820 --> 00:46:25,710

had to empty our pockets.

1047

00:46:25,710 --> 00:46:28,110

They had big baskets.

1048

00:46:28,110 --> 00:46:30,480

Everybody had to take off
their watch, their ring.

1049

00:46:30,480 --> 00:46:33,480

If women had some jewelry
and from the pocket money.

1050

00:46:33,480 --> 00:46:35,760

We had to throw
it in the baskets.

1051

00:46:35,760 --> 00:46:38,110

And he said we're

going to be burned.

1052

00:46:38,110 --> 00:46:40,320

Naturally, the people
started to cry.

1053

00:46:40,320 --> 00:46:44,040

The women, the children,
the Jewish religious people

1054

00:46:44,040 --> 00:46:47,190

started to say their last
prayers before death.

1055

00:46:47,190 --> 00:46:50,070

And we knew that they
will keep their promise.

1056

00:46:50,070 --> 00:46:53,550

After about two hours
staying there and crying,

1057

00:46:53,550 --> 00:46:56,490

the same person
came in and he said,

1058

00:46:56,490 --> 00:46:59,010

we decided not to burn you.

1059

00:46:59,010 --> 00:47:01,920

But he picked out five hostages.

1060

00:47:01,920 --> 00:47:04,980

And he took with him--
just picked out five Jews.

1061

00:47:04,980 --> 00:47:06,750

And he said, we'll
take the hostages.

1062

00:47:06,750 --> 00:47:09,840

In case something will
happen, they will be shot.

1063
00:47:09,840 --> 00:47:15,450
Now this day, 65 German
soldiers were killed.

1064
00:47:15,450 --> 00:47:19,350
185 Polish soldiers were killed.

1065
00:47:19,350 --> 00:47:24,480
And they were killed
about 100 civilians who

1066
00:47:24,480 --> 00:47:29,700
were caught in crossfire,
mostly of them Jews.

1067
00:47:29,700 --> 00:47:36,510
Also there were killed
maybe 75 or 100 horses.

1068
00:47:36,510 --> 00:47:38,748
Because as I mentioned,
this was the cavalry.

1069
00:47:38,748 --> 00:47:41,040
And the horses were standing
and, of course, the horses

1070
00:47:41,040 --> 00:47:41,540
were killed.

1071
00:47:41,540 --> 00:47:44,550
And this was everything
piled up in the streets.

1072
00:47:44,550 --> 00:47:47,550
Now they didn't let us
go home from this place.

1073
00:47:47,550 --> 00:47:50,160
They took us to the
fields outside the city.

1074

00:47:50,160 --> 00:47:53,970

And they surrounded
us with the guards.

1075

00:47:53,970 --> 00:47:56,400

And we had to stay
there the whole night.

1076

00:47:56,400 --> 00:47:58,590

And we could see
through the whole night

1077

00:47:58,590 --> 00:48:00,960

that the town is burning.

1078

00:48:00,960 --> 00:48:02,460

And we were there
with the children,

1079

00:48:02,460 --> 00:48:03,750

without food, without water.

1080

00:48:03,750 --> 00:48:05,040

We were there the whole night.

1081

00:48:05,040 --> 00:48:07,860

The next day, about
12 o'clock, they

1082

00:48:07,860 --> 00:48:10,680

said that we can
go to our homes.

1083

00:48:10,680 --> 00:48:13,050

Now the reason why
they wanted us out

1084

00:48:13,050 --> 00:48:16,272

is because during the night
and a half a day they came in

1085

00:48:16,272 --> 00:48:17,730

and they took out
everything what's

1086
00:48:17,730 --> 00:48:20,220
valuable from the houses.

1087
00:48:20,220 --> 00:48:24,030
Now we had our house,
our house wasn't burned.

1088
00:48:24,030 --> 00:48:29,430
But people who their houses were
burned didn't have where to go.

1089
00:48:29,430 --> 00:48:35,070
So naturally, people like us and
others took in family, friends.

1090
00:48:35,070 --> 00:48:39,000
And this how it started
the German occupation.

1091
00:48:39,000 --> 00:48:40,622
This was the first day.

1092
00:48:40,622 --> 00:48:43,080
And when we came to our house--
we had a lot of merchandise

1093
00:48:43,080 --> 00:48:43,890
still left--

1094
00:48:43,890 --> 00:48:45,600
everything was gone.

1095
00:48:45,600 --> 00:48:51,270
And the pillows, quilts,
everything was ripped open.

1096
00:48:51,270 --> 00:48:54,090
This is the first thing in a
pogrom or something like this.

1097

00:48:54,090 --> 00:48:56,370

I don't know why,
feathers were flying.

1098

00:48:56,370 --> 00:49:00,210

And we had to start to
clean up everything.

1099

00:49:00,210 --> 00:49:02,130

Mr. Salsitz, this
might be a good point

1100

00:49:02,130 --> 00:49:05,760

at which to stop
for the time being

1101

00:49:05,760 --> 00:49:08,610

with the beginning
of the occupation.

1102

00:49:08,610 --> 00:49:13,560

And we will continue a
little later with the rest

1103

00:49:13,560 --> 00:49:15,780

of your testimony.

1104

00:49:15,780 --> 00:49:16,280

Thank you.

1105

00:49:16,280 --> 00:49:18,130

All right.

1106

00:49:18,130 --> 00:49:27,000