

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:22,350

2
00:00:22,350 --> 00:00:23,400
Smile to the camera.

3
00:00:23,400 --> 00:00:24,850
Good afternoon.

4
00:00:24,850 --> 00:00:26,940
My name is Bernard
Weinstein, and I'm

5
00:00:26,940 --> 00:00:29,220
the director of the Kean
College Oral Testimonies

6
00:00:29,220 --> 00:00:31,830
project of the Holocaust
Resource Center.

7
00:00:31,830 --> 00:00:34,230
We are affiliated
with the Video Archive

8
00:00:34,230 --> 00:00:36,990
for Holocaust Testimonies
at the Sterling

9
00:00:36,990 --> 00:00:39,270
Library of Yale University.

10
00:00:39,270 --> 00:00:42,840
Sharing the interview
with me is Anne Kaplan.

11
00:00:42,840 --> 00:00:46,080
We are privileged to welcome
Henry Erlich, a survivor

12
00:00:46,080 --> 00:00:49,620
presently living in Linden,
New Jersey, who has generously

13

00:00:49,620 --> 00:00:52,590

volunteered to give testimony
about his experiences

14

00:00:52,590 --> 00:00:56,040

before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

15

00:00:56,040 --> 00:00:58,170

Mr. Erlich, we'd
like to welcome you.

16

00:00:58,170 --> 00:01:02,190

And I'm going to begin
by asking you to tell us

17

00:01:02,190 --> 00:01:07,027

something about the
place where you grew up,

18

00:01:07,027 --> 00:01:07,860

where you came from.

19

00:01:07,860 --> 00:01:11,670

20

00:01:11,670 --> 00:01:20,715

Well, let me start with
my youth as I remember.

21

00:01:20,715 --> 00:01:23,760

22

00:01:23,760 --> 00:01:29,260

I was a young child, nine
years old, when my father died.

23

00:01:29,260 --> 00:01:30,040

So, of course--

24

00:01:30,040 --> 00:01:31,290

Excuse me, where did you live?

25

00:01:31,290 --> 00:01:39,540

I live in Kraków, Poland, which
was a city of about 200,000

26
00:01:39,540 --> 00:01:40,120
people.

27
00:01:40,120 --> 00:01:43,030
Which was considered a
sizable town in Poland,

28
00:01:43,030 --> 00:01:47,480
one of the larger
cities in Poland.

29
00:01:47,480 --> 00:01:54,500
And it was considered a cultural
city, not only in a Jewish way

30
00:01:54,500 --> 00:01:56,180
but in non-Jewish way also.

31
00:01:56,180 --> 00:01:58,310
It was a University city.

32
00:01:58,310 --> 00:02:03,890
We had many high schools,
so-called gymnasiums

33
00:02:03,890 --> 00:02:08,330
what we called them, and
we had secondary schools.

34
00:02:08,330 --> 00:02:12,980
And very fine education
was obtainable in Kraków.

35
00:02:12,980 --> 00:02:19,300
Of course it was a
compulsory education.

36
00:02:19,300 --> 00:02:20,400
We had to go.

37
00:02:20,400 --> 00:02:24,090
Of course, high school

was not compulsory.

38

00:02:24,090 --> 00:02:31,540

But many people of middle
class attended high schools.

39

00:02:31,540 --> 00:02:35,500

And most Jewish children
were sent to high schools.

40

00:02:35,500 --> 00:02:41,050

We also had a Hebrew
gymnasium or high school--

41

00:02:41,050 --> 00:02:45,070

Hebrew high school-- which
was conducted in Polish

42

00:02:45,070 --> 00:02:48,220

but was a dual language.

43

00:02:48,220 --> 00:02:52,660

They taught us Hebrew
as well as Polish.

44

00:02:52,660 --> 00:02:55,825

And it was considered one of
the finest schools in Poland.

45

00:02:55,825 --> 00:02:58,720

46

00:02:58,720 --> 00:02:59,220

OK.

47

00:02:59,220 --> 00:03:08,200

Let me go back to the time
that my father passed away.

48

00:03:08,200 --> 00:03:14,020

It was difficult for
us, because my mother

49

00:03:14,020 --> 00:03:15,670

was, of course, a widow.

50
00:03:15,670 --> 00:03:18,850
I had a brother who
was 14 years my senior,

51
00:03:18,850 --> 00:03:23,350
and my sister was
nine years my senior.

52
00:03:23,350 --> 00:03:27,790
Which means that they had no--

53
00:03:27,790 --> 00:03:31,990
we had no common
interests together

54
00:03:31,990 --> 00:03:34,180
since there was such a
tremendous difference

55
00:03:34,180 --> 00:03:37,430
in ages at that time.

56
00:03:37,430 --> 00:03:40,580
And my mother had to go to work.

57
00:03:40,580 --> 00:03:43,430

58
00:03:43,430 --> 00:03:48,730
And that was difficult
for me to adjust.

59
00:03:48,730 --> 00:03:52,080
Of course we had family.

60
00:03:52,080 --> 00:03:59,720
We had uncles, cousins,
which we were close

61
00:03:59,720 --> 00:04:02,610
with them, quite close.

62
00:04:02,610 --> 00:04:03,320

The same city.

63

00:04:03,320 --> 00:04:08,910

And also, we had families
which were outside of Kraków.

64

00:04:08,910 --> 00:04:11,970

They lived in a
different part of Poland.

65

00:04:11,970 --> 00:04:16,740

And as an orphan I was invited
to their house for the summer

66

00:04:16,740 --> 00:04:17,240

vacation.

67

00:04:17,240 --> 00:04:20,130

68

00:04:20,130 --> 00:04:23,520

It was quite pleasant.

69

00:04:23,520 --> 00:04:29,970

And I attended the public
school system in the beginning

70

00:04:29,970 --> 00:04:33,030

for four years.

71

00:04:33,030 --> 00:04:39,960

And then I was enrolled in
that Hebrew high school,

72

00:04:39,960 --> 00:04:41,730

which was quite expensive.

73

00:04:41,730 --> 00:04:46,350

And were it was difficult for
us to handle that expense.

74

00:04:46,350 --> 00:04:51,580

But luckily my
brother was a dentist,

75

00:04:51,580 --> 00:04:54,000
and he was doing quite well.

76

00:04:54,000 --> 00:05:00,930
And he was a very fine man,
and he took over the payment

77

00:05:00,930 --> 00:05:05,220
for my education as well
as helped my mother.

78

00:05:05,220 --> 00:05:06,552
And my sister also chipped in.

79

00:05:06,552 --> 00:05:08,010
She was working at
the time already

80

00:05:08,010 --> 00:05:12,240
in the office as a bookkeeper.

81

00:05:12,240 --> 00:05:20,400
So that was more or less
the structure of our life

82

00:05:20,400 --> 00:05:22,380
until I got into
the high school.

83

00:05:22,380 --> 00:05:24,570
In high school, the
life was much better.

84

00:05:24,570 --> 00:05:26,220
It was very close to my house.

85

00:05:26,220 --> 00:05:33,800
As a matter of fact, I could
see the backyard of the school

86

00:05:33,800 --> 00:05:37,130
from my window.

87

00:05:37,130 --> 00:05:40,190

And I went to school when
I heard the bell ringing--

88
00:05:40,190 --> 00:05:41,570
then I went to school.

89
00:05:41,570 --> 00:05:43,070
It was about two, three minutes.

90
00:05:43,070 --> 00:05:46,040

91
00:05:46,040 --> 00:05:53,410
I would say that the school
years were quite happy days.

92
00:05:53,410 --> 00:05:55,660
Because there's a
lot of children.

93
00:05:55,660 --> 00:05:57,940
I had a lot of friends.

94
00:05:57,940 --> 00:06:03,130
And of course, it
wasn't easy to grow up

95
00:06:03,130 --> 00:06:08,110
without a father, where
everybody or most of my friends

96
00:06:08,110 --> 00:06:11,530
had a mother and father
and sister and brother.

97
00:06:11,530 --> 00:06:14,170
My brother was out of town--

98
00:06:14,170 --> 00:06:16,795
he lived in a different town.

99
00:06:16,795 --> 00:06:18,920
And my sister, of course,
she was nine years older.

100

00:06:18,920 --> 00:06:22,810

She already had different
interests than I did.

101

00:06:22,810 --> 00:06:26,860

So it wasn't easy, but
I did the best I could.

102

00:06:26,860 --> 00:06:33,170

And I would say that the
life in school was good.

103

00:06:33,170 --> 00:06:36,910

Were your friends-- your
friends were primarily Jewish,

104

00:06:36,910 --> 00:06:37,660

I assume.

105

00:06:37,660 --> 00:06:38,425

All Jewish.

106

00:06:38,425 --> 00:06:39,610

All Jewish.

107

00:06:39,610 --> 00:06:42,130

Because there was
a Hebrew school.

108

00:06:42,130 --> 00:06:43,480

And you didn't associate.

109

00:06:43,480 --> 00:06:46,420

We didn't associate--

110

00:06:46,420 --> 00:06:52,750

I knew a few non-Jewish
boys my age, very few.

111

00:06:52,750 --> 00:06:55,900

But predominantly were Jewish--

112

00:06:55,900 --> 00:06:58,200

my friends were Jewish.

113
00:06:58,200 --> 00:07:01,150
Was going to a
Hebrew high school

114
00:07:01,150 --> 00:07:04,570
a choice that your parents
made for you, or was

115
00:07:04,570 --> 00:07:11,170
it dictated by the necessity
to remain isolated from--

116
00:07:11,170 --> 00:07:12,610
It was both.

117
00:07:12,610 --> 00:07:16,930
Number one, was that--

118
00:07:16,930 --> 00:07:18,460
let me go back.

119
00:07:18,460 --> 00:07:23,470
My father, when he was alive,
he wasn't a religious person.

120
00:07:23,470 --> 00:07:25,420
My mother was.

121
00:07:25,420 --> 00:07:29,330
She was a very, very
religious person.

122
00:07:29,330 --> 00:07:32,950
Of course we had a kosher
home, and my mother--

123
00:07:32,950 --> 00:07:38,840
we observed all the Jewish
holidays very strictly.

124
00:07:38,840 --> 00:07:42,610
And that was one of the
reasons that they wanted

125

00:07:42,610 --> 00:07:46,330
me to go to a Hebrew school.

126

00:07:46,330 --> 00:07:49,330
As a young child, four
or five years old,

127

00:07:49,330 --> 00:07:52,780
I was sent to a
so-called cheder,

128

00:07:52,780 --> 00:07:56,530
which was a Jewish school.

129

00:07:56,530 --> 00:07:59,060
And they taught me how to read.

130

00:07:59,060 --> 00:07:59,560
[INAUDIBLE]

131

00:07:59,560 --> 00:08:01,630
Read.

132

00:08:01,630 --> 00:08:04,840
And that was a custom, that
every child, every Jewish boy

133

00:08:04,840 --> 00:08:09,100
and some girls, went to cheder.

134

00:08:09,100 --> 00:08:13,950
But I wasn't very much for it.

135

00:08:13,950 --> 00:08:17,630
I didn't like it,
let's put it this way.

136

00:08:17,630 --> 00:08:24,470
So the Hebrew school
was more to my liking.

137

00:08:24,470 --> 00:08:29,090
And of course, it was a
very high standards school,

138
00:08:29,090 --> 00:08:32,380
fine professors, fine teachers.

139
00:08:32,380 --> 00:08:37,960
It was considered one of the
finest schools in Poland.

140
00:08:37,960 --> 00:08:40,890
So this school years
were quite happy.

141
00:08:40,890 --> 00:08:44,580

142
00:08:44,580 --> 00:08:46,450
Are there early
memories that you

143
00:08:46,450 --> 00:08:51,400
have that were particularly
precious to you

144
00:08:51,400 --> 00:08:53,970
now that you think
back on those times?

145
00:08:53,970 --> 00:08:59,750

146
00:08:59,750 --> 00:09:03,590
I don't know if the reason
for my being the way I was

147
00:09:03,590 --> 00:09:09,830
was because I was without
very close family life.

148
00:09:09,830 --> 00:09:13,070
Because living without a father,
with a mother absent all day

149
00:09:13,070 --> 00:09:16,400
long, and my sister
absent all day long,

150

00:09:16,400 --> 00:09:20,360

I was left mostly by myself.

151

00:09:20,360 --> 00:09:28,040

So I became a reader,
an avid reader.

152

00:09:28,040 --> 00:09:30,650

I started to read when
I was five years old,

153

00:09:30,650 --> 00:09:40,591

and I was reading I would
say every single day

154

00:09:40,591 --> 00:09:42,430

late into night.

155

00:09:42,430 --> 00:09:45,210

And that was, I
think, my way of--

156

00:09:45,210 --> 00:09:48,340

157

00:09:48,340 --> 00:09:50,950

I was a loner.

158

00:09:50,950 --> 00:09:55,990

I would say I was a loner
because of the circumstances.

159

00:09:55,990 --> 00:10:02,920

Until I went into high
school, I was left by myself.

160

00:10:02,920 --> 00:10:04,660

I was different
than other children,

161

00:10:04,660 --> 00:10:05,780

let's put it this way.

162

00:10:05,780 --> 00:10:08,770

So I started to read,
and I enjoyed that.

163

00:10:08,770 --> 00:10:10,960

I forgot about everything else.

164

00:10:10,960 --> 00:10:12,870

Sometimes I was
reading into the night,

165

00:10:12,870 --> 00:10:14,655

and my mother used
to run off the light.

166

00:10:14,655 --> 00:10:16,030

She said, you'll
spoil your eyes.

167

00:10:16,030 --> 00:10:17,360

Which I did.

168

00:10:17,360 --> 00:10:18,880

What kind of books did you read?

169

00:10:18,880 --> 00:10:21,040

All kind of books.

170

00:10:21,040 --> 00:10:25,510

When I was young, of course,
when I was 10 years old,

171

00:10:25,510 --> 00:10:30,490

my favorite books at that
time were American westerns

172

00:10:30,490 --> 00:10:32,330

and about American Indians.

173

00:10:32,330 --> 00:10:33,520

Adventure.

174

00:10:33,520 --> 00:10:36,010

That was, at the
time, my favorite.

175

00:10:36,010 --> 00:10:39,070

And later on, I started to
read different books of course.

176

00:10:39,070 --> 00:10:42,660

As I grew I started to
read different books.

177

00:10:42,660 --> 00:10:47,320

And while-- I'm jumping
the gun a little bit.

178

00:10:47,320 --> 00:10:51,730

179

00:10:51,730 --> 00:10:54,220

In the United States, when
I came to the United States,

180

00:10:54,220 --> 00:10:55,750

I of course had to work.

181

00:10:55,750 --> 00:10:58,750

I started all over again,
and there was not much time

182

00:10:58,750 --> 00:11:02,110

to read books.

183

00:11:02,110 --> 00:11:04,187

Because we have to
raise a family and we

184

00:11:04,187 --> 00:11:05,800

had different things.

185

00:11:05,800 --> 00:11:09,252

But I promised myself, when I
retire, I'm going to make up,

186

00:11:09,252 --> 00:11:10,210

and I'm going to tread.

187

00:11:10,210 --> 00:11:10,870
And I do.

188
00:11:10,870 --> 00:11:15,010
I read about four to six
hours a day to make up.

189
00:11:15,010 --> 00:11:19,990
Because I still think that
this is the best entertainment

190
00:11:19,990 --> 00:11:21,700
there is, to read a good book.

191
00:11:21,700 --> 00:11:23,350
[INAUDIBLE]

192
00:11:23,350 --> 00:11:25,540
When did you sense
that things were

193
00:11:25,540 --> 00:11:29,020
beginning to change for you?

194
00:11:29,020 --> 00:11:30,610
In what way?

195
00:11:30,610 --> 00:11:31,240
For the worse.

196
00:11:31,240 --> 00:11:32,470
As a child or later on.

197
00:11:32,470 --> 00:11:35,865
Well, I'm talking
in terms of the war.

198
00:11:35,865 --> 00:11:37,660
You're talking about--

199
00:11:37,660 --> 00:11:40,390
The late '30s.

200
00:11:40,390 --> 00:11:41,380

The late '30s?

201

00:11:41,380 --> 00:11:42,910

Well, unless there
are some things--

202

00:11:42,910 --> 00:11:48,940

Well, life in
Poland, as you know,

203

00:11:48,940 --> 00:11:51,220

probably you heard, it was--

204

00:11:51,220 --> 00:11:54,790

the Polish people
were antisemitic.

205

00:11:54,790 --> 00:11:59,210

206

00:11:59,210 --> 00:12:06,520

But Kraków itself, we didn't
feel it as much as some people

207

00:12:06,520 --> 00:12:08,200

in the small communities.

208

00:12:08,200 --> 00:12:10,285

You know, they were
targets over there.

209

00:12:10,285 --> 00:12:15,010

Kraków was, you would
say, a cosmopolitan city.

210

00:12:15,010 --> 00:12:23,020

And of course, we had many,
many antisemitic happenings

211

00:12:23,020 --> 00:12:28,750

in Kraków, mostly
done by the students.

212

00:12:28,750 --> 00:12:30,640

Universities and

high school students,

213

00:12:30,640 --> 00:12:32,140
they had their own organization.

214

00:12:32,140 --> 00:12:34,150
Like you have here
let's say Birch Society,

215

00:12:34,150 --> 00:12:38,250
they had what they
called [NON-ENGLISH],,

216

00:12:38,250 --> 00:12:46,830
a real antisemitic organization
designed just to hate Jews.

217

00:12:46,830 --> 00:12:48,630
And they were showing it.

218

00:12:48,630 --> 00:12:54,090
But we also had our own groups.

219

00:12:54,090 --> 00:12:57,120
You know, Jewish
people usually like

220

00:12:57,120 --> 00:13:00,000
to belong to different
organizations.

221

00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:06,840
We had zionistic organization of
different type and different--

222

00:13:06,840 --> 00:13:15,880
we had Zionist organizations
like the middle of the road,

223

00:13:15,880 --> 00:13:23,500
and we had the Bund, and we had
right-wingers and left-wingers,

224

00:13:23,500 --> 00:13:27,160
and we had Jewish

newspapers galore.

225

00:13:27,160 --> 00:13:32,400

And were involved in
Zionist activities.

226

00:13:32,400 --> 00:13:36,280

The young people of Kraków
had about, I would say,

227

00:13:36,280 --> 00:13:38,080

20 different organizations.

228

00:13:38,080 --> 00:13:40,480

Were you yourself
involved with Zionism?

229

00:13:40,480 --> 00:13:42,410

I was very much involved too.

230

00:13:42,410 --> 00:13:44,510

Yes, zionistic organization.

231

00:13:44,510 --> 00:13:47,830

Yes, I belong to one too.

232

00:13:47,830 --> 00:14:00,550

And we heard of an incidence
of antisemitic activities,

233

00:14:00,550 --> 00:14:05,720

like beatings or
something-- we reacted.

234

00:14:05,720 --> 00:14:07,970

We are not afraid to react.

235

00:14:07,970 --> 00:14:12,080

We were not like sheep.

236

00:14:12,080 --> 00:14:13,470

And they knew about it.

237

00:14:13,470 --> 00:14:22,910

So it wasn't as bad as in small communities outside of Kraków

238

00:14:22,910 --> 00:14:26,900
or a different part of Poland,
where we heard it was really

239

00:14:26,900 --> 00:14:28,190
very dangerous to live.

240

00:14:28,190 --> 00:14:31,630

241

00:14:31,630 --> 00:14:34,120
After the war, when I heard of--

242

00:14:34,120 --> 00:14:35,800
when you live in
a big city and you

243

00:14:35,800 --> 00:14:37,630
don't know about the
small communities,

244

00:14:37,630 --> 00:14:39,740
you really don't
know what's going on.

245

00:14:39,740 --> 00:14:43,720
But later on, we found
out that they were really

246

00:14:43,720 --> 00:14:46,035
living in a different country.

247

00:14:46,035 --> 00:14:55,210
They were exposed to
antisemitic revolts, beatings,

248

00:14:55,210 --> 00:14:58,330
small, you would say, pogroms.

249

00:14:58,330 --> 00:15:02,470

250

00:15:02,470 --> 00:15:06,370
We had incidents like that
too, but we defended ourselves.

251

00:15:06,370 --> 00:15:07,510
We didn't let them do it.

252

00:15:07,510 --> 00:15:10,820

253

00:15:10,820 --> 00:15:20,920
So then in 1938 we
saw the first signs

254

00:15:20,920 --> 00:15:27,230
of things which
will feared most.

255

00:15:27,230 --> 00:15:31,930
Because most of us had some
relatives living in Germany,

256

00:15:31,930 --> 00:15:32,720
Austria.

257

00:15:32,720 --> 00:15:36,800
When you say we, excuse me,
do you mean all of the Jews

258

00:15:36,800 --> 00:15:37,500
in Kraków?

259

00:15:37,500 --> 00:15:39,530
Or do you mean
certain groups who

260

00:15:39,530 --> 00:15:43,340
are more politically
or socially attuned.

261

00:15:43,340 --> 00:15:46,130
Well, I would say the people who
belonged to these organizations

262

00:15:46,130 --> 00:15:49,250
that I mentioned
were aware of what's

263
00:15:49,250 --> 00:15:54,140
going on than the ultrareligious
people who are involved mostly

264
00:15:54,140 --> 00:15:56,240
in studies.

265
00:15:56,240 --> 00:16:00,200
They were not very much
involved in politics.

266
00:16:00,200 --> 00:16:02,540
You know, the
Hasidic people mostly

267
00:16:02,540 --> 00:16:03,950
are involved in their own--

268
00:16:03,950 --> 00:16:05,570
they have their own--

269
00:16:05,570 --> 00:16:06,600
they live in a cocoon.

270
00:16:06,600 --> 00:16:10,100
They live in their own
world, and what's outside

271
00:16:10,100 --> 00:16:12,870
it's not very important to them.

272
00:16:12,870 --> 00:16:17,270
And we are much more politically
involved and knowledgeable

273
00:16:17,270 --> 00:16:18,600
than they were.

274
00:16:18,600 --> 00:16:22,250
So we knew what's going on,
especially when we the first

275

00:16:22,250 --> 00:16:27,830

transport of German
Jews came to Kraków.

276

00:16:27,830 --> 00:16:33,260

We were, as a group of
people, of our organization,

277

00:16:33,260 --> 00:16:36,350

receiving these people
who were thrown out

278

00:16:36,350 --> 00:16:41,570

of Germany because their
parents were born in Poland

279

00:16:41,570 --> 00:16:43,220

but they lived in Germany.

280

00:16:43,220 --> 00:16:46,790

So they were expelled
first of all, right away.

281

00:16:46,790 --> 00:16:48,890

And they expelled
almost practically

282

00:16:48,890 --> 00:16:52,070

with nothing, a
couple of suitcases.

283

00:16:52,070 --> 00:16:53,630

They left everything there.

284

00:16:53,630 --> 00:16:54,800

Was this in '38?

285

00:16:54,800 --> 00:16:56,120

It was 1938.

286

00:16:56,120 --> 00:17:03,590

They came through the
border of the town Zbąszyń,

287

00:17:03,590 --> 00:17:06,230

which was very famous
in Poland at that time

288

00:17:06,230 --> 00:17:08,180

because that's where
the transport came.

289

00:17:08,180 --> 00:17:14,920

And we saw the first
sign of the Nazi power.

290

00:17:14,920 --> 00:17:19,329

And they started to tell us
about the Kristallnacht, what

291

00:17:19,329 --> 00:17:21,910

was going on in Germany,
in Berlin, and all

292

00:17:21,910 --> 00:17:25,260

over Germany in November 1930--

293

00:17:25,260 --> 00:17:26,800

8.

294

00:17:26,800 --> 00:17:27,461

'38.

295

00:17:27,461 --> 00:17:27,961

'38.

296

00:17:27,961 --> 00:17:30,780

297

00:17:30,780 --> 00:17:33,690

It was difficult to believe.

298

00:17:33,690 --> 00:17:36,000

If you live a
normal life and you

299

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:39,090

don't know about these

things, it's had to do--

300
00:17:39,090 --> 00:17:42,230
you. always think, maybe they
exaggerated a bit or something

301
00:17:42,230 --> 00:17:42,730
like this.

302
00:17:42,730 --> 00:17:44,910
But later on when
you see people who

303
00:17:44,910 --> 00:17:49,140
had to leave all their
possession over there,

304
00:17:49,140 --> 00:17:52,260
and they brought a couple
of suitcases with them,

305
00:17:52,260 --> 00:17:54,750
and they were telling us
of these atrocities-- how

306
00:17:54,750 --> 00:17:59,850
they were beaten, how their
synagogues were burned.

307
00:17:59,850 --> 00:18:05,250
And they broke-- they had
signs on these windows,

308
00:18:05,250 --> 00:18:08,820
"do not buy from Jews."

309
00:18:08,820 --> 00:18:10,740
Then we started
to see the light--

310
00:18:10,740 --> 00:18:11,853
what's going on.

311
00:18:11,853 --> 00:18:13,395
We knew we were

going to be the next.

312

00:18:13,395 --> 00:18:17,000

313

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:25,070

And of course, right after
that, we had visitors in Poland

314

00:18:25,070 --> 00:18:26,160

from Germany.

315

00:18:26,160 --> 00:18:36,140

Goring came to hunt in Poland,
because we had these places--

316

00:18:36,140 --> 00:18:36,980

Forests.

317

00:18:36,980 --> 00:18:40,900

Great forests where
they had these animals

318

00:18:40,900 --> 00:18:43,730

that they wanted to hunt.

319

00:18:43,730 --> 00:18:48,410

And we had our so-called
secretary of state

320

00:18:48,410 --> 00:18:52,160

who was collaborating with the
Germans already at that time.

321

00:18:52,160 --> 00:18:53,210

His name was Beck.

322

00:18:53,210 --> 00:18:56,010

323

00:18:56,010 --> 00:19:08,550

And Jewish life in
Poland was fairly stable

324

00:19:08,550 --> 00:19:14,670
until the Marshal
Pilsudski was alive.

325
00:19:14,670 --> 00:19:23,610
He was the one who didn't permit
outbursts of antisemitism.

326
00:19:23,610 --> 00:19:29,180
Not that he loved Jews,
but he kept Poland stable.

327
00:19:29,180 --> 00:19:32,040

328
00:19:32,040 --> 00:19:37,520
Once he died, the
whole picture changed.

329
00:19:37,520 --> 00:19:43,790
The antisemitism was directed
from the top officially.

330
00:19:43,790 --> 00:19:53,110
They didn't permit to kill,
ritual killing like we had--

331
00:19:53,110 --> 00:19:54,300
[INAUDIBLE]

332
00:19:54,300 --> 00:19:55,740
Kashrut.

333
00:19:55,740 --> 00:20:03,970
They asked Polish people
not to buy from Jews.

334
00:20:03,970 --> 00:20:07,990
They worked parallel
to the Germans.

335
00:20:07,990 --> 00:20:11,560
And then we saw that
the situation is bad,

336

00:20:11,560 --> 00:20:14,080
and that was close
before the war.

337
00:20:14,080 --> 00:20:18,650

338
00:20:18,650 --> 00:20:28,990
Of course in 1938 also,
Poland had an adventure

339
00:20:28,990 --> 00:20:30,340
with Czechoslovakia.

340
00:20:30,340 --> 00:20:35,470
They walked into Czechoslovakia,
took a part of Czechoslovakia,

341
00:20:35,470 --> 00:20:39,980
which was, in my
opinion, a very bad move.

342
00:20:39,980 --> 00:20:44,625
Then was Anschluss, that
Germany went into Austria.

343
00:20:44,625 --> 00:20:47,590

344
00:20:47,590 --> 00:20:51,640
And they took part of
Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia,

345
00:20:51,640 --> 00:20:55,720
and then we saw that
the war is imminent.

346
00:20:55,720 --> 00:21:01,910
Then we heard that in case of
war that England will react,

347
00:21:01,910 --> 00:21:06,140
and France will react, and
the United States will react.

348

00:21:06,140 --> 00:21:07,720
And we have nothing
to worry about.

349
00:21:07,720 --> 00:21:11,650
They will overpower
Germany very quickly.

350
00:21:11,650 --> 00:21:15,370
That was the situation
right before the war.

351
00:21:15,370 --> 00:21:20,040

352
00:21:20,040 --> 00:21:36,900
And then, of course, in
September, the Germans

353
00:21:36,900 --> 00:21:39,250
walked right in.

354
00:21:39,250 --> 00:21:41,890
There was some resistance,
of course, Polish resistance.

355
00:21:41,890 --> 00:21:45,070
But it was useless, because
they came with such a power,

356
00:21:45,070 --> 00:21:50,290
with such a punch
with planes and tanks.

357
00:21:50,290 --> 00:21:55,727
And Polish people-- the Polish
Army was not prepared for that.

358
00:21:55,727 --> 00:21:57,310
So they were fighting
a losing battle.

359
00:21:57,310 --> 00:22:00,555
It took only two,
three weeks, and they

360

00:22:00,555 --> 00:22:03,820
were overpowered all together.

361

00:22:03,820 --> 00:22:08,690
As a matter of fact,
the Polish resistance

362

00:22:08,690 --> 00:22:15,050
lasted longer than
French, Belgian, Holland.

363

00:22:15,050 --> 00:22:18,910
They were fighting much stronger
because Polish people didn't

364

00:22:18,910 --> 00:22:22,690
want to give an
inch what they said.

365

00:22:22,690 --> 00:22:24,190
But of course they
were overpowered,

366

00:22:24,190 --> 00:22:30,820
and then the problems
started right away.

367

00:22:30,820 --> 00:22:35,680
We still were in our
houses, in our apartments.

368

00:22:35,680 --> 00:22:46,130
And when it happened that Kraków
was the place where the general

369

00:22:46,130 --> 00:22:55,150
government German took the
seat on that Castle of Wawel,

370

00:22:55,150 --> 00:22:58,540
the general government by Frank.

371

00:22:58,540 --> 00:23:01,000
His name was Frank.

372

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:03,380

Kraków was never disturbed.

373

00:23:03,380 --> 00:23:05,310

There has never
been a bomb thrown.

374

00:23:05,310 --> 00:23:07,660

Kraków was intact.

375

00:23:07,660 --> 00:23:09,620

That's how they planned it.

376

00:23:09,620 --> 00:23:13,300

They had their plans
mapped for years--

377

00:23:13,300 --> 00:23:14,650

what to do, where to go.

378

00:23:14,650 --> 00:23:19,780

They had their spies
all over Poland.

379

00:23:19,780 --> 00:23:22,870

They knew every street,
they knew every store,

380

00:23:22,870 --> 00:23:26,530

they knew where every
Jew has a business

381

00:23:26,530 --> 00:23:29,020

and what have in there.

382

00:23:29,020 --> 00:23:34,750

They had a network of
spies all over Poland.

383

00:23:34,750 --> 00:23:37,780

When they walked
in, because Poland

384

00:23:37,780 --> 00:23:46,900

happened to be always under
three different governments--

385
00:23:46,900 --> 00:23:51,790
Poland was always
dissected it Russian part,

386
00:23:51,790 --> 00:23:54,970
Austria-Hungary
part, German part.

387
00:23:54,970 --> 00:23:57,510

388
00:23:57,510 --> 00:24:04,080
The German part, so-called
Silesia, at one time

389
00:24:04,080 --> 00:24:06,750
was Polish, then it changed
hands it was German,

390
00:24:06,750 --> 00:24:08,370
and it was Polish again.

391
00:24:08,370 --> 00:24:10,800
And people spoke--

392
00:24:10,800 --> 00:24:16,410
Polish people, most Jews spoke
at least three, four languages.

393
00:24:16,410 --> 00:24:18,060
Not because they
were so intelligent,

394
00:24:18,060 --> 00:24:21,000
but the necessity was there.

395
00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:23,550
On the Russian side, you
had to speak Russian.

396
00:24:23,550 --> 00:24:24,960
You spoke Polish.

397
00:24:24,960 --> 00:24:26,820
You spoke Yiddish.

398
00:24:26,820 --> 00:24:29,730
And most Jews spoke
German too, which

399
00:24:29,730 --> 00:24:33,380
was very close to Yiddish.

400
00:24:33,380 --> 00:24:40,210
So the Silesian people,
they spied for Germany.

401
00:24:40,210 --> 00:24:43,600
They wanted to
German to come in.

402
00:24:43,600 --> 00:24:47,710
Because at one time, 50
years ago, it was Germany.

403
00:24:47,710 --> 00:24:51,370
They were very unhappy to
live in Poland, because they

404
00:24:51,370 --> 00:24:52,420
were also persecuted.

405
00:24:52,420 --> 00:24:55,620

406
00:24:55,620 --> 00:24:58,830
So the story
politically was solved.

407
00:24:58,830 --> 00:25:02,670
When at once they march in,
the Silesian became Germans.

408
00:25:02,670 --> 00:25:06,300
The put on the
so-called hakenkreuz.

409

00:25:06,300 --> 00:25:13,216
They volunteered to the German
party, and they became German.

410

00:25:13,216 --> 00:25:17,490
And of course I forgot
one very important thing,

411

00:25:17,490 --> 00:25:21,420
that at that time
there was a pact signed

412

00:25:21,420 --> 00:25:26,780
between Germany and Russia,
which didn't last too long.

413

00:25:26,780 --> 00:25:30,540

414

00:25:30,540 --> 00:25:36,000
So a part of Poland
was taken by Russia.

415

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:40,380

416

00:25:40,380 --> 00:25:42,990
When Germany
marched into Poland,

417

00:25:42,990 --> 00:25:49,650
many young people like
myself started to run away.

418

00:25:49,650 --> 00:25:51,870
We ran from Kraków.

419

00:25:51,870 --> 00:25:58,650
We went as far as Lublin,
which is northeast of Kraków,

420

00:25:58,650 --> 00:26:02,720
and we were cut
there by the Germans.

421

00:26:02,720 --> 00:26:08,660

Some of them went as
far on the territory

422

00:26:08,660 --> 00:26:12,950

which was annexed
by the Soviet Union.

423

00:26:12,950 --> 00:26:17,810

And most of the people who
did that survived the war.

424

00:26:17,810 --> 00:26:18,790

Most, not all.

425

00:26:18,790 --> 00:26:21,870

426

00:26:21,870 --> 00:26:24,690

We decided to go back, because
we had families over there.

427

00:26:24,690 --> 00:26:26,880

We had my mother, my
brother, and my sister,

428

00:26:26,880 --> 00:26:31,710

and we went back,
because we didn't

429

00:26:31,710 --> 00:26:37,730

believe what's ahead of us.

430

00:26:37,730 --> 00:26:40,050

So you went from East to West?

431

00:26:40,050 --> 00:26:40,550

Yes.

432

00:26:40,550 --> 00:26:41,120

Yeah.

433

00:26:41,120 --> 00:26:45,830

We went from Lublin

from the East,

434

00:26:45,830 --> 00:26:49,130
which was also German territory,
but it was East of Kraków.

435

00:26:49,130 --> 00:26:53,745
And we went back to Kraków to
be reunited with the families.

436

00:26:53,745 --> 00:26:58,470

437

00:26:58,470 --> 00:27:06,000
And then came the first--

438

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:08,610
after few days
when they march in,

439

00:27:08,610 --> 00:27:13,970
there were posters
all over the city--

440

00:27:13,970 --> 00:27:24,200
all Jews have to bring their fur
coats, their silver, jewelry,

441

00:27:24,200 --> 00:27:26,300
and radios.

442

00:27:26,300 --> 00:27:31,520
Within 24 hours, if
they find something--

443

00:27:31,520 --> 00:27:35,030
they're going to search,
and if they find something--

444

00:27:35,030 --> 00:27:37,320
there will be a death penalty.

445

00:27:37,320 --> 00:27:39,140
And so we saw the light already.

446

00:27:39,140 --> 00:27:43,130

447

00:27:43,130 --> 00:27:50,825

So I remember like today,
I took my mother's fur coat

448

00:27:50,825 --> 00:27:53,110

and I burned it.

449

00:27:53,110 --> 00:27:56,640

I took the radio, I
smashed it to pieces.

450

00:27:56,640 --> 00:27:58,560

And many people
did the same thing.

451

00:27:58,560 --> 00:28:02,710

452

00:28:02,710 --> 00:28:05,980

Whatever silver we
had, a few pieces

453

00:28:05,980 --> 00:28:07,960

we delivered, a
few pieces we were

454

00:28:07,960 --> 00:28:09,875

hiding in different places.

455

00:28:09,875 --> 00:28:14,500

456

00:28:14,500 --> 00:28:23,260

And after a few
months, they started

457

00:28:23,260 --> 00:28:26,830

to come and take out the best--

458

00:28:26,830 --> 00:28:33,520

they came with trucks,

the German army trucks,

459

00:28:33,520 --> 00:28:41,290

and they started to remove
merchandise from Jewish stores.

460

00:28:41,290 --> 00:28:44,510

461

00:28:44,510 --> 00:28:49,320

Kraków was famous for textiles.

462

00:28:49,320 --> 00:28:53,110

There was several streets and
there was nothing but textiles.

463

00:28:53,110 --> 00:28:58,440

They had very wealthy
Jews over there

464

00:28:58,440 --> 00:29:03,080

who had tremendous
amount of textiles.

465

00:29:03,080 --> 00:29:08,420

They were taking out for
days and days, truckloads,

466

00:29:08,420 --> 00:29:11,400

truckloads, one after
another of textiles,

467

00:29:11,400 --> 00:29:14,640

and they were taking
it away to Germany.

468

00:29:14,640 --> 00:29:17,070

The same thing they did
to the other things.

469

00:29:17,070 --> 00:29:21,480

Then, a few months later, they
took over all the businesses.

470

00:29:21,480 --> 00:29:23,970

They had what they
call [GERMAN SPEECH]..

471
00:29:23,970 --> 00:29:27,780
[GERMAN SPEECH] is a
manager, a German manager

472
00:29:27,780 --> 00:29:30,280
who took over the store.

473
00:29:30,280 --> 00:29:31,410
And he was the manager.

474
00:29:31,410 --> 00:29:35,970
Sometimes they kept the
owner as a working person,

475
00:29:35,970 --> 00:29:39,870
sometimes they
threw him right out.

476
00:29:39,870 --> 00:29:43,920
And that was the end of
Jewish business in Kraków

477
00:29:43,920 --> 00:29:46,062
and of course in
the rest of Poland.

478
00:29:46,062 --> 00:29:48,270
I am talking about Kraków,
because that's all I know.

479
00:29:48,270 --> 00:29:50,950

480
00:29:50,950 --> 00:29:51,850
That's all I knew.

481
00:29:51,850 --> 00:29:55,340
Now, I know different.

482
00:29:55,340 --> 00:30:01,025
Then was so-called Zwangsarbeit,
which means forced labor.

483

00:30:01,025 --> 00:30:03,800

484

00:30:03,800 --> 00:30:06,130

Every man on the street--

485

00:30:06,130 --> 00:30:09,350

we would walk on the street,
and they were going with trucks,

486

00:30:09,350 --> 00:30:12,840

they were grabbing
you just like animals.

487

00:30:12,840 --> 00:30:15,410

They needed 50 people
here, and 50 people they

488

00:30:15,410 --> 00:30:17,600

took them off the street.

489

00:30:17,600 --> 00:30:21,980

So we saw that this
cannot go on that way.

490

00:30:21,980 --> 00:30:23,055

So Jewish community--

491

00:30:23,055 --> 00:30:24,930

These were only Jews
that they were grabbing?

492

00:30:24,930 --> 00:30:25,220

Pardon me?

493

00:30:25,220 --> 00:30:27,110

These were only Jews
that they were grabbing?

494

00:30:27,110 --> 00:30:27,610

Yes.

495

00:30:27,610 --> 00:30:30,560

496
00:30:30,560 --> 00:30:32,330
We were living--

497
00:30:32,330 --> 00:30:35,930
Jewish lived predominantly
in a certain section,

498
00:30:35,930 --> 00:30:39,500
what they called
Kazimierz, named

499
00:30:39,500 --> 00:30:46,160
by one of the great Polish kings
Casimir, who was good to Jews.

500
00:30:46,160 --> 00:30:51,380
And that part was
called Kazimierz.

501
00:30:51,380 --> 00:30:55,850
So they were rounding up people
and grabbing them to work.

502
00:30:55,850 --> 00:30:59,920
And sometimes they were
mistreated, beaten up,

503
00:30:59,920 --> 00:31:01,100
and worked hard--

504
00:31:01,100 --> 00:31:02,240
old people.

505
00:31:02,240 --> 00:31:04,850
We said that this cannot go on.

506
00:31:04,850 --> 00:31:08,785
So there was a Jewish
community, [YIDDISH SPEECH]----

507
00:31:08,785 --> 00:31:11,600
what they called Yiddish
[YIDDISH SPEECH]----

508
00:31:11,600 --> 00:31:14,080
Jewish.

509
00:31:14,080 --> 00:31:21,340
They created what you would
call here Department of Labor.

510
00:31:21,340 --> 00:31:26,980
And we had a pool
of people every day.

511
00:31:26,980 --> 00:31:30,730
We asked Germans, whenever
they need some people,

512
00:31:30,730 --> 00:31:34,060
they should come-- instead of
grabbing them from the street--

513
00:31:34,060 --> 00:31:38,000
that place, to the
Department of Labor,

514
00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:41,690
and ask for 50 people or
100 people or 200 people,

515
00:31:41,690 --> 00:31:44,920
and they'll be
delivered to work.

516
00:31:44,920 --> 00:31:47,050
And they should
bring him right back.

517
00:31:47,050 --> 00:31:51,370
And I started to work in
that Labor Department.

518
00:31:51,370 --> 00:31:53,780
Did everybody register
in this [YIDDISH SPEECH]??

519
00:31:53,780 --> 00:31:55,630

You had to be
registered in order

520
00:31:55,630 --> 00:32:00,850
to get the paper, a permission
to live where you are.

521
00:32:00,850 --> 00:32:04,630
You had to have a
certain document stamped

522
00:32:04,630 --> 00:32:12,070
by that Jewish [YIDDISH SPEECH]
and by the Germans.

523
00:32:12,070 --> 00:32:13,480
Otherwise you were illegal.

524
00:32:13,480 --> 00:32:18,130
Because many people from outside
of Kraków used to infiltrate

525
00:32:18,130 --> 00:32:19,150
Kraków.

526
00:32:19,150 --> 00:32:22,340
And there was just
nowhere to put them.

527
00:32:22,340 --> 00:32:25,360
We had to take people
in our apartment too.

528
00:32:25,360 --> 00:32:28,470

529
00:32:28,470 --> 00:32:31,050
So that's how it started off.

530
00:32:31,050 --> 00:32:35,140
Then you started to
get on a large scale.

531
00:32:35,140 --> 00:32:39,060
Then they needed thousands

of people to work.

532

00:32:39,060 --> 00:32:45,950

So they opened
small labor camps--

533

00:32:45,950 --> 00:32:46,970

whatever they needed.

534

00:32:46,970 --> 00:32:51,650

Let's say they
needed in a factory

535

00:32:51,650 --> 00:32:57,980

or in quarries-- stone
quarries-- or build roads,

536

00:32:57,980 --> 00:33:05,450

or many different things--
load the railroad cars

537

00:33:05,450 --> 00:33:08,420

or clean the streets,
wintertime for snow cleaning.

538

00:33:08,420 --> 00:33:12,890

539

00:33:12,890 --> 00:33:16,620

So they were using Jewish labor.

540

00:33:16,620 --> 00:33:22,130

Then Kraków was
famous of their parks.

541

00:33:22,130 --> 00:33:25,470

The parks-- you could start
on one end of the city,

542

00:33:25,470 --> 00:33:28,130

you go around, you come
back to the same spot.

543

00:33:28,130 --> 00:33:30,650

It was circled by

beautiful parks,

544

00:33:30,650 --> 00:33:38,570
and the parks had
iron grills and gates.

545

00:33:38,570 --> 00:33:42,470
And they needed steel for
armaments or whenever.

546

00:33:42,470 --> 00:33:45,980
We had to cut all that down,
and they were taken away.

547

00:33:45,980 --> 00:33:47,540
So they used Jews for that.

548

00:33:47,540 --> 00:33:50,260

549

00:33:50,260 --> 00:33:51,640
Anything they wanted.

550

00:33:51,640 --> 00:33:55,570
For the Air Force
they had, I would

551

00:33:55,570 --> 00:34:01,000
say, about 50 different
kind of little, tiny camps,

552

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:03,730
where people were working there.

553

00:34:03,730 --> 00:34:06,190
Some of them stayed
overnight, some of them

554

00:34:06,190 --> 00:34:07,380
were coming back and forth.

555

00:34:07,380 --> 00:34:11,760

556

00:34:11,760 --> 00:34:19,219

After that, we heard that
they took a group of several

557

00:34:19,219 --> 00:34:22,050

thousand people
outside of Kraków.

558

00:34:22,050 --> 00:34:27,079

It was in the vicinity like
I mentioned before, Plaszow.

559

00:34:27,079 --> 00:34:29,000

It used to be a Jewish cemetery.

560

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:34,130

They razed all the
monuments and stones,

561

00:34:34,130 --> 00:34:35,719

and they erected barracks.

562

00:34:35,719 --> 00:34:39,260

563

00:34:39,260 --> 00:34:45,730

So the word spread that
they're going to take us out,

564

00:34:45,730 --> 00:34:47,880

and we're going to live
there in the barracks.

565

00:34:47,880 --> 00:34:49,199

It will be a working camp.

566

00:34:49,199 --> 00:34:54,460

567

00:34:54,460 --> 00:34:55,510

But I jumped the gun.

568

00:34:55,510 --> 00:34:58,720

I forgot to mention the ghetto.

569

00:34:58,720 --> 00:35:05,110

570

00:35:05,110 --> 00:35:13,490

They took a part of Kraków,
they put walls around it,

571

00:35:13,490 --> 00:35:16,040

and they designated
this for a ghetto.

572

00:35:16,040 --> 00:35:25,180

And one day there was an
order that all the Jews have

573

00:35:25,180 --> 00:35:26,740

to vacate their apartments.

574

00:35:26,740 --> 00:35:31,660

They are allowed to take 20
kilograms of whatever they

575

00:35:31,660 --> 00:35:37,290

want to take with them
and move into that ghetto.

576

00:35:37,290 --> 00:35:41,500

Well, we as families
were used to living in,

577

00:35:41,500 --> 00:35:46,500

I wouldn't say comparing to
United States apartments,

578

00:35:46,500 --> 00:35:48,630

but there were smaller.

579

00:35:48,630 --> 00:35:52,860

But we had two-bedroom
apartments.

580

00:35:52,860 --> 00:36:00,690

Now, when they took
us to the ghetto,

581

00:36:00,690 --> 00:36:05,430
the two-bedroom apartments you
had to fit in three families.

582

00:36:05,430 --> 00:36:08,060
Three strange families.

583

00:36:08,060 --> 00:36:11,460
Now, can you imagine
living with strange people,

584

00:36:11,460 --> 00:36:21,420
suddenly crowded, uncomfortable,
children crying, not

585

00:36:21,420 --> 00:36:26,910
enough beds, not enough
covers, wintertime no heat,

586

00:36:26,910 --> 00:36:28,140
summertime hot?

587

00:36:28,140 --> 00:36:32,040

588

00:36:32,040 --> 00:36:32,810
People quarreled.

589

00:36:32,810 --> 00:36:35,815
Which, of course, in
a situation like this,

590

00:36:35,815 --> 00:36:36,690
you can't have peace.

591

00:36:36,690 --> 00:36:39,810

592

00:36:39,810 --> 00:36:41,580
Early in the
morning, we had to go

593

00:36:41,580 --> 00:36:47,980
to work to what they called

zwangsarbeit, the forced labor.

594

00:36:47,980 --> 00:36:50,580

595

00:36:50,580 --> 00:36:53,940

We had cards for food.

596

00:36:53,940 --> 00:36:58,710

The food that we were
designated was just I

597

00:36:58,710 --> 00:37:06,260

would say about 1,000 calories.

598

00:37:06,260 --> 00:37:10,805

Many people were
illegal in that ghetto.

599

00:37:10,805 --> 00:37:12,680

They wanted to be together
with their family,

600

00:37:12,680 --> 00:37:15,380

but they were out of town.

601

00:37:15,380 --> 00:37:18,740

They were not permitted
actually to be there.

602

00:37:18,740 --> 00:37:19,700

But they were hiding.

603

00:37:19,700 --> 00:37:21,840

They wanted to be together.

604

00:37:21,840 --> 00:37:23,990

So these people didn't
even get these cards.

605

00:37:23,990 --> 00:37:26,112

They had no food at all.

606

00:37:26,112 --> 00:37:27,320

So we had to share with them.

607

00:37:27,320 --> 00:37:32,200

608

00:37:32,200 --> 00:37:35,630

Who from your family was
with you in this apartment?

609

00:37:35,630 --> 00:37:36,420

Ghetto?

610

00:37:36,420 --> 00:37:39,570

Yes, in the living
quarters that you had.

611

00:37:39,570 --> 00:37:41,840

Living quarters?

612

00:37:41,840 --> 00:37:51,400

My mother, my sister, my
brother, four children.

613

00:37:51,400 --> 00:37:54,280

Because my sister had
two girls and my brother

614

00:37:54,280 --> 00:37:59,190

had a girl and the boy,
with their spouses.

615

00:37:59,190 --> 00:38:01,680

This was eight people
from your family alone.

616

00:38:01,680 --> 00:38:02,310

Yes.

617

00:38:02,310 --> 00:38:03,540

And how many others?

618

00:38:03,540 --> 00:38:06,130

619

00:38:06,130 --> 00:38:08,170
We couldn't fit any
more than eight people.

620
00:38:08,170 --> 00:38:13,210
We have a small little
apartment and that's all.

621
00:38:13,210 --> 00:38:19,900
We were actually three families,
because my mother and myself,

622
00:38:19,900 --> 00:38:23,030
my brother with his
wife and two children,

623
00:38:23,030 --> 00:38:26,440
and my sister with her
husband and two children.

624
00:38:26,440 --> 00:38:29,350
And that was after you
had vacated your own--

625
00:38:29,350 --> 00:38:31,700
After we vacated our apartment.

626
00:38:31,700 --> 00:38:35,500
And my brother didn't
live together with us.

627
00:38:35,500 --> 00:38:37,420
He lived in a different town.

628
00:38:37,420 --> 00:38:40,926
He ran out from there, came to--

629
00:38:40,926 --> 00:38:41,890
To be with you.

630
00:38:41,890 --> 00:38:45,100
--to be with us.

631
00:38:45,100 --> 00:38:47,760
It was a horror

to live that way.

632
00:38:47,760 --> 00:38:53,230
Wintertime was no heat,
summertime was hot.

633
00:38:53,230 --> 00:38:58,300
Imagine four families cook
on one stove, with one sink,

634
00:38:58,300 --> 00:38:59,665
with one toilet.

635
00:38:59,665 --> 00:39:04,270

636
00:39:04,270 --> 00:39:06,134
And that was only the beginning.

637
00:39:06,134 --> 00:39:08,860

638
00:39:08,860 --> 00:39:16,390
Then, after several
months, we had

639
00:39:16,390 --> 00:39:27,830
to come to the Jewish authority,
which was inside the ghetto,

640
00:39:27,830 --> 00:39:35,010
and stamp our what they called
ausweis, which is a card.

641
00:39:35,010 --> 00:39:38,460
Each person who was legally
in the ghetto had a card.

642
00:39:38,460 --> 00:39:43,250

643
00:39:43,250 --> 00:39:45,680
So we we heard
rumors that there's

644

00:39:45,680 --> 00:39:50,670

going to be a selection,
that since it was so crowded

645

00:39:50,670 --> 00:39:52,520

they're going to get
rid of some people.

646

00:39:52,520 --> 00:39:56,552

So we knew already who's going
to be the first one, of course

647

00:39:56,552 --> 00:39:57,260

the older people.

648

00:39:57,260 --> 00:40:00,940

649

00:40:00,940 --> 00:40:08,980

I had someone working in
the Jewish community office,

650

00:40:08,980 --> 00:40:14,440

and I was told that if I can,
take my mother out or hider

651

00:40:14,440 --> 00:40:19,980

her, otherwise I'm not going
to have my mother for long.

652

00:40:19,980 --> 00:40:23,340

Inside the ghetto, you
couldn't hide any place,

653

00:40:23,340 --> 00:40:28,080

because you had
so-called Jewish police.

654

00:40:28,080 --> 00:40:33,210

And they knew all
about everybody.

655

00:40:33,210 --> 00:40:34,980

They working actually
for the Germans.

656
00:40:34,980 --> 00:40:38,190

657
00:40:38,190 --> 00:40:39,960
Unfortunately,
that was the case.

658
00:40:39,960 --> 00:40:42,630

659
00:40:42,630 --> 00:40:47,950
There was a courthouse
inside the ghetto,

660
00:40:47,950 --> 00:40:51,120
which was managed by Germans.

661
00:40:51,120 --> 00:40:56,860
And there was a Polish
janitor over there.

662
00:40:56,860 --> 00:40:59,610

663
00:40:59,610 --> 00:41:02,050
I went to him.

664
00:41:02,050 --> 00:41:07,740
He was the only Polish person
that lived in the ghetto.

665
00:41:07,740 --> 00:41:11,610
I went to him, and
I said, listen,

666
00:41:11,610 --> 00:41:14,160
I'm afraid it's going
to be a selection

667
00:41:14,160 --> 00:41:19,310
and they're going to take the
older people and my mother.

668

00:41:19,310 --> 00:41:23,380
Would you hid my mother?

669
00:41:23,380 --> 00:41:29,360
He said, listen, child, I
have my wife and my children.

670
00:41:29,360 --> 00:41:32,950
If they find your
mother in my house,

671
00:41:32,950 --> 00:41:35,500
they're going to kill us all.

672
00:41:35,500 --> 00:41:40,060
There are Germans coming
in and out all the time.

673
00:41:40,060 --> 00:41:41,110
But I was desperate.

674
00:41:41,110 --> 00:41:42,460
And I said, I'll give you money.

675
00:41:42,460 --> 00:41:43,870
I'll give you whatever you want.

676
00:41:43,870 --> 00:41:46,570
He said, It's not the
money that I want.

677
00:41:46,570 --> 00:41:48,430
But I want to live.

678
00:41:48,430 --> 00:41:51,280
What do you want me to do?

679
00:41:51,280 --> 00:41:51,970
I turned around.

680
00:41:51,970 --> 00:41:55,630
I was walking out, and
he said, wait a minute.

681

00:41:55,630 --> 00:41:58,540
Let me talk to my wife.

682
00:41:58,540 --> 00:42:02,740
He went to his wife, and he
came back a few minutes later.

683
00:42:02,740 --> 00:42:05,910
He said, bring your mother over.

684
00:42:05,910 --> 00:42:08,000
We'll find a room for her.

685
00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:11,670
But in two days there was
going to be selection.

686
00:42:11,670 --> 00:42:12,670
And I brought my mother.

687
00:42:12,670 --> 00:42:20,293
They hid her in a what
do you call closet here.

688
00:42:20,293 --> 00:42:21,460
It was different over there.

689
00:42:21,460 --> 00:42:28,050
It was like a separate
place outside.

690
00:42:28,050 --> 00:42:29,580
It's not a built-in closet.

691
00:42:29,580 --> 00:42:34,230
It was-- I forgot
the name of it.

692
00:42:34,230 --> 00:42:36,660
Anyhow, she spent
there two three days.

693
00:42:36,660 --> 00:42:39,270
After selection
day, they sent out

694
00:42:39,270 --> 00:42:41,250
several thousand old people.

695
00:42:41,250 --> 00:42:44,820
And we never saw them again.

696
00:42:44,820 --> 00:42:46,320
So I saved my mother once.

697
00:42:46,320 --> 00:42:48,960

698
00:42:48,960 --> 00:42:55,440
So it shows you there are some
Polish people with a heart too.

699
00:42:55,440 --> 00:42:56,700
The risked their own life.

700
00:42:56,700 --> 00:42:57,567
Yes.

701
00:42:57,567 --> 00:43:00,700
[INAUDIBLE]

702
00:43:00,700 --> 00:43:02,260
I will never forget this.

703
00:43:02,260 --> 00:43:04,453
I was so desperate, I
didn't know what to do.

704
00:43:04,453 --> 00:43:06,120
Where are you going
to hide your mother?

705
00:43:06,120 --> 00:43:09,120

706
00:43:09,120 --> 00:43:11,390
Do you know whether this
family that hid your mother

707

00:43:11,390 --> 00:43:12,650
survived the war?

708

00:43:12,650 --> 00:43:13,817
Did you ever see them after?

709

00:43:13,817 --> 00:43:15,440
I have no idea.

710

00:43:15,440 --> 00:43:22,040
I lost-- after we were
out of the ghetto we lost.

711

00:43:22,040 --> 00:43:27,890
I wanted to look for the
people to show appreciation,

712

00:43:27,890 --> 00:43:30,860
but I could never find.

713

00:43:30,860 --> 00:43:35,720
At that time, what
happened today, in a minute

714

00:43:35,720 --> 00:43:39,860
the whole situation changed
from one day to another.

715

00:43:39,860 --> 00:43:44,410
You would never know
what happens tomorrow.

716

00:43:44,410 --> 00:43:46,390
And that was the
first evacuation

717

00:43:46,390 --> 00:43:49,150
of ghetto, what
they call selection.

718

00:43:49,150 --> 00:43:51,580
They took the old
people and children.

719

00:43:51,580 --> 00:43:52,720
Then was the second one.

720
00:43:52,720 --> 00:43:58,410
And the third one was complete
destruction of ghetto.

721
00:43:58,410 --> 00:44:01,310
That's where they took us
to the concentration camp.

722
00:44:01,310 --> 00:44:07,740
The young people able to
work were taken to the camp.

723
00:44:07,740 --> 00:44:10,050
I told you before, they
were building the barracks

724
00:44:10,050 --> 00:44:10,974
in Plaszow.

725
00:44:10,974 --> 00:44:14,190

726
00:44:14,190 --> 00:44:16,810
The other people were taken.

727
00:44:16,810 --> 00:44:19,330
We didn't know at that
time where they were taken.

728
00:44:19,330 --> 00:44:21,790
Now, of course,
we know they were

729
00:44:21,790 --> 00:44:30,330
taken straight to a place
where they were destroyed.

730
00:44:30,330 --> 00:44:34,380
What about the children,
your nieces and nephew?

731
00:44:34,380 --> 00:44:36,060

Were there with you?

732

00:44:36,060 --> 00:44:38,280

What happened to them?

733

00:44:38,280 --> 00:44:43,580

Two children of my sister,
my sister's children,

734

00:44:43,580 --> 00:44:47,490

the second
evacuation, I told you

735

00:44:47,490 --> 00:44:50,310

before there was a
square where they

736

00:44:50,310 --> 00:44:52,530

used to make the
selection, where they used

737

00:44:52,530 --> 00:44:55,440

to take the young people to
work and the older people

738

00:44:55,440 --> 00:45:02,080

and children on the
side straight to trucks

739

00:45:02,080 --> 00:45:04,840

and to the railroad station.

740

00:45:04,840 --> 00:45:07,750

They wanted to tear these
two children from her,

741

00:45:07,750 --> 00:45:08,950

and she wouldn't permit it.

742

00:45:08,950 --> 00:45:12,070

So she went with them, and that
was the last time I saw her.

743

00:45:12,070 --> 00:45:14,710

And I saw the way they did it.

744

00:45:14,710 --> 00:45:18,800

I mean, when they took the
children away from her,

745

00:45:18,800 --> 00:45:20,290

she said she would not--

746

00:45:20,290 --> 00:45:22,000

so she said, so
you go with them.

747

00:45:22,000 --> 00:45:25,412

So she went with them.

748

00:45:25,412 --> 00:45:30,140

That's the last time I saw
my sister and the children.

749

00:45:30,140 --> 00:45:32,610

And what about your brother?

750

00:45:32,610 --> 00:45:36,650

My brother never
entered the ghetto.

751

00:45:36,650 --> 00:45:37,990

He refused to go to ghetto.

752

00:45:37,990 --> 00:45:41,050

753

00:45:41,050 --> 00:45:43,930

So we used to live--

754

00:45:43,930 --> 00:45:48,760

before fear when they
erected the ghetto, we went--

755

00:45:48,760 --> 00:45:54,190

several miles away from
Kraków was a small community,

756

00:45:54,190 --> 00:45:57,160

small town you would
say, or village,

757

00:45:57,160 --> 00:46:03,340
where our family rented a
little house, a two-story house,

758

00:46:03,340 --> 00:46:07,170
which we were there
on the first floor.

759

00:46:07,170 --> 00:46:10,990

760

00:46:10,990 --> 00:46:16,500
My mother, my sister with two
children, and with her husband,

761

00:46:16,500 --> 00:46:23,730
and my brother with his wife
and two children, and myself.

762

00:46:23,730 --> 00:46:29,640
And we, at that time, didn't
have to go to the ghetto.

763

00:46:29,640 --> 00:46:34,330
So we are staying
there for about a year.

764

00:46:34,330 --> 00:46:38,690
And then there was
no Jews permitted

765

00:46:38,690 --> 00:46:39,940
to live outside of the ghetto.

766

00:46:39,940 --> 00:46:41,350
We had to go into the ghetto.

767

00:46:41,350 --> 00:46:43,470
He refused to go to ghetto.

768

00:46:43,470 --> 00:46:47,310
He said, I don't

want to be locked in.

769

00:46:47,310 --> 00:46:56,100

He took his wife and two
children and went in the woods

770

00:46:56,100 --> 00:46:59,880

about 70 kilometers from Kraków.

771

00:46:59,880 --> 00:47:05,730

He and another family
had some money with them,

772

00:47:05,730 --> 00:47:11,370

and the Polish people dug
what they call a bunker.

773

00:47:11,370 --> 00:47:16,050

In the ground, they
dug a big hole,

774

00:47:16,050 --> 00:47:18,030

and they put a
little roof over it,

775

00:47:18,030 --> 00:47:21,780

and they were staying there
for a year and a half.

776

00:47:21,780 --> 00:47:25,320

As long as the money
lasted, the Polish people

777

00:47:25,320 --> 00:47:28,660

supplied them with food.

778

00:47:28,660 --> 00:47:31,660

When the money ran out,
one of the Polish people

779

00:47:31,660 --> 00:47:34,951

denounced them, and they came
and they shot all of them.

780

00:47:34,951 --> 00:47:36,152

That was there in the woods.

781

00:47:36,152 --> 00:47:39,530

782

00:47:39,530 --> 00:47:40,940

When did you find
out about that?

783

00:47:40,940 --> 00:47:44,600

784

00:47:44,600 --> 00:47:49,700

When my brother was
in that hole and I

785

00:47:49,700 --> 00:47:55,470

was in the camp, the Polish
woman who delivered food

786

00:47:55,470 --> 00:48:01,080

for them, he asked m, since
the village is around--

787

00:48:01,080 --> 00:48:03,570

it was easier to
get food over there.

788

00:48:03,570 --> 00:48:11,520

He was sending us, to
me, food from that hole.

789

00:48:11,520 --> 00:48:15,660

Then one day that
women came, and she

790

00:48:15,660 --> 00:48:20,790

said, your brother and the
family, they're all dead.

791

00:48:20,790 --> 00:48:23,590

They were all killed.

792

00:48:23,590 --> 00:48:26,920

Someone denounced

them, and the SS came

793

00:48:26,920 --> 00:48:29,000
and they shot them right there.

794

00:48:29,000 --> 00:48:36,200

795

00:48:36,200 --> 00:48:41,000
So I had lost , at that time,
my brother with children

796

00:48:41,000 --> 00:48:47,030
and my sister-in-law, my
sister with the children,

797

00:48:47,030 --> 00:48:48,710
and my mother--

798

00:48:48,710 --> 00:48:53,060
at the second selection, my
mother was taken away too.

799

00:48:53,060 --> 00:48:54,770
What happened to
your brother-in-law?

800

00:48:54,770 --> 00:48:57,140
My brother-in-law
ran away-- ran away.

801

00:48:57,140 --> 00:48:59,210
And I lost completely.

802

00:48:59,210 --> 00:49:01,520
I never know what happened.

803

00:49:01,520 --> 00:49:09,380
I found out later on after
the war my brother-in-law was

804

00:49:09,380 --> 00:49:11,930
an owner of a movie house.

805

00:49:11,930 --> 00:49:18,650
He had large-- many, many
people that he knew, non Jews,

806
00:49:18,650 --> 00:49:20,670
in his business.

807
00:49:20,670 --> 00:49:30,320
He was also connected with
the cardinal of Kraków,

808
00:49:30,320 --> 00:49:33,930
because the Polish church
had also a movie house,

809
00:49:33,930 --> 00:49:37,105
and they asked my brother-in-law
to help them out to manage.

810
00:49:37,105 --> 00:49:38,730
They didn't know how
to manage a movie,

811
00:49:38,730 --> 00:49:41,390
so he managed for them too.

812
00:49:41,390 --> 00:49:46,550
So I found out that he
was hidden by the cardinal

813
00:49:46,550 --> 00:49:51,010
in a cloister for awhile.

814
00:49:51,010 --> 00:49:55,240
And then he decided one
day to go out in the city,

815
00:49:55,240 --> 00:49:59,070
and they grabbed him,
and they killed him.

816
00:49:59,070 --> 00:50:00,705
So I was left by myself.

817
00:50:00,705 --> 00:50:03,480

818

00:50:03,480 --> 00:50:09,775

At that time I was engaged
to a girl, which became,

819

00:50:09,775 --> 00:50:11,150

of course, my wife
after the war.

820

00:50:11,150 --> 00:50:13,900

821

00:50:13,900 --> 00:50:18,040

I was with her
throughout the war,

822

00:50:18,040 --> 00:50:23,830

except the last nine
months we were separated.

823

00:50:23,830 --> 00:50:29,020

And then we were reunited in
Prague in 1945 after the war.

824

00:50:29,020 --> 00:50:30,520

Was she originally
from Kraków also?

825

00:50:30,520 --> 00:50:31,020

Yes.

826

00:50:31,020 --> 00:50:32,438

She was also from Kraków.

827

00:50:32,438 --> 00:50:40,100

828

00:50:40,100 --> 00:50:43,460

I don't know what else
I should tell you.

829

00:50:43,460 --> 00:50:45,380

But I said before
that I would like

830
00:50:45,380 --> 00:50:57,730
to make a statement on
my own about the way

831
00:50:57,730 --> 00:51:06,800
the Germans prepared the
annihilation of people.

832
00:51:06,800 --> 00:51:09,740

833
00:51:09,740 --> 00:51:16,130
It was done scientifically by
doctors, professors, engineers,

834
00:51:16,130 --> 00:51:19,040
psychologists, psychiatrists.

835
00:51:19,040 --> 00:51:21,680
It was all planned.

836
00:51:21,680 --> 00:51:27,670
It was done in a
way in such stages

837
00:51:27,670 --> 00:51:34,870
that people were drawn
into it step by step.

838
00:51:34,870 --> 00:51:37,070
It wasn't done rapidly
that they came in

839
00:51:37,070 --> 00:51:39,370
and they killed everybody.

840
00:51:39,370 --> 00:51:41,920
They slowly used up--

841
00:51:41,920 --> 00:51:44,690

842
00:51:44,690 --> 00:51:51,770

they destroyed our-- before
they ed us physically,

843
00:51:51,770 --> 00:51:57,340
they destroy us mentally.

844
00:51:57,340 --> 00:51:59,890
We were so confused that
we didn't know what to do.

845
00:51:59,890 --> 00:52:05,080
Because people who lived
outside as free people cannot

846
00:52:05,080 --> 00:52:09,250
understand why we
didn't fight back,

847
00:52:09,250 --> 00:52:16,990
why was there an amount of 3
and 1/2 million people in Poland

848
00:52:16,990 --> 00:52:23,140
who let themselves be
slaughtered like sheep.

849
00:52:23,140 --> 00:52:29,680
Well, I have to explain
how did this happen.

850
00:52:29,680 --> 00:52:33,110

851
00:52:33,110 --> 00:52:40,765
We never could believe
that a man can destroy

852
00:52:40,765 --> 00:52:42,550
a man in the way they did it.

853
00:52:42,550 --> 00:52:47,770

854
00:52:47,770 --> 00:52:56,520
A normal person cannot visualize

that it's possible to destroy

855

00:52:56,520 --> 00:52:59,100
millions of people.

856

00:52:59,100 --> 00:53:03,600
We knew about war, that a
soldier goes to war and he

857

00:53:03,600 --> 00:53:07,050
he's he might lose his life.

858

00:53:07,050 --> 00:53:11,430
We knew that a plane can
come over and bomb a city

859

00:53:11,430 --> 00:53:15,180
and kill several hundred
or thousand people.

860

00:53:15,180 --> 00:53:17,070
But we didn't
believe that somebody

861

00:53:17,070 --> 00:53:21,780
can destroy 3 million people.

862

00:53:21,780 --> 00:53:22,780
That's number one.

863

00:53:22,780 --> 00:53:31,410
Number two, it happened
several times the Jewish people

864

00:53:31,410 --> 00:53:40,950
and Polish people committed
some act of violence

865

00:53:40,950 --> 00:53:44,860
against Germans, resistance.

866

00:53:44,860 --> 00:53:47,630

867

00:53:47,630 --> 00:53:51,320

If they didn't catch
the person who did it,

868

00:53:51,320 --> 00:53:58,250
they always had several hundred
hostages on hand at times.

869

00:53:58,250 --> 00:53:59,820
And they liquidated
the hostages.

870

00:53:59,820 --> 00:54:02,810

871

00:54:02,810 --> 00:54:06,860
If I as a Jew would
throw a bomb, let's say,

872

00:54:06,860 --> 00:54:11,240
at a place in Kraków,
immediately they would take 100

873

00:54:11,240 --> 00:54:16,150
hostages and execute.

874

00:54:16,150 --> 00:54:19,150
How could you defend yourself?

875

00:54:19,150 --> 00:54:21,170
How could you defend
yourself with bare hands?

876

00:54:21,170 --> 00:54:24,380
We didn't get any help from
outside from Polish people

877

00:54:24,380 --> 00:54:25,870
with weapons or anything.

878

00:54:25,870 --> 00:54:28,345
We didn't have any weapons.

879

00:54:28,345 --> 00:54:30,220
How could you defend

yourself with bare hands

880
00:54:30,220 --> 00:54:33,860
against a German army?

881
00:54:33,860 --> 00:54:37,610
So the question I'm getting
from American people

882
00:54:37,610 --> 00:54:40,310
and non-American
people, how come

883
00:54:40,310 --> 00:54:42,740
you let yourself
to be slaughtered

884
00:54:42,740 --> 00:54:44,558
without any resistance?

885
00:54:44,558 --> 00:54:45,350
How can you resist?

886
00:54:45,350 --> 00:54:49,012

887
00:54:49,012 --> 00:54:50,950
With what?

888
00:54:50,950 --> 00:54:55,130
Of course, after we
knew what's going on,

889
00:54:55,130 --> 00:54:59,456
there were several
organizations who resisted.

890
00:54:59,456 --> 00:55:01,580
So they gave their lives too.

891
00:55:01,580 --> 00:55:06,780
At one point three
friends of mine-- no,

892

00:55:06,780 --> 00:55:08,720
it was four friends of mine--

893
00:55:08,720 --> 00:55:15,560
they threw grenades into a
cafe where the German staff

894
00:55:15,560 --> 00:55:16,810
attended that cafe.

895
00:55:16,810 --> 00:55:20,420
They called it Cyganeria.

896
00:55:20,420 --> 00:55:23,157
And they threw grenades, and
they killed these Germans.

897
00:55:23,157 --> 00:55:23,990
So they were caught.

898
00:55:23,990 --> 00:55:24,865
They were liquidated.

899
00:55:24,865 --> 00:55:28,240
They were destroyed.

900
00:55:28,240 --> 00:55:30,700
There are several
instances like this.

901
00:55:30,700 --> 00:55:37,000
Do you think that those who
resisted or would have resisted

902
00:55:37,000 --> 00:55:39,070
didn't want to do
so because they

903
00:55:39,070 --> 00:55:42,820
didn't want to be responsible
for the deaths of innocent?

904
00:55:42,820 --> 00:55:47,140
Mostly Jewish people
would not take

905
00:55:47,140 --> 00:55:56,540
on their own responsibility
for somebody,

906
00:55:56,540 --> 00:56:00,470
because they wanted to show
resistance, which wouldn't hurt

907
00:56:00,470 --> 00:56:03,470
the Germans very
much anyhow, to take

908
00:56:03,470 --> 00:56:10,290
and they would kill 50
or 100 hostages for that.

909
00:56:10,290 --> 00:56:15,290
That was the most
important reason

910
00:56:15,290 --> 00:56:18,470
that people didn't resist.

911
00:56:18,470 --> 00:56:19,970
Of course there
were young people,

912
00:56:19,970 --> 00:56:23,600
some who ran away
into the woods,

913
00:56:23,600 --> 00:56:25,640
and they joined the partisans.

914
00:56:25,640 --> 00:56:28,420

915
00:56:28,420 --> 00:56:29,840
But there was another story.

916
00:56:29,840 --> 00:56:34,180
There were partisans in the
Polish woods, Polish partisans,

917

00:56:34,180 --> 00:56:38,122

they wouldn't permit
Jews to join them.

918

00:56:38,122 --> 00:56:39,580

They wouldn't share
food with them.

919

00:56:39,580 --> 00:56:41,410

They wouldn't share
weapons with them.

920

00:56:41,410 --> 00:56:45,200

So they were on their own again.

921

00:56:45,200 --> 00:56:48,740

We didn't have much help
from Polish population.

922

00:56:48,740 --> 00:56:52,760

We got some, but not very much.

923

00:56:52,760 --> 00:56:55,670

Like, I gave you an
instance with my mother.

924

00:56:55,670 --> 00:57:02,640

I met some Polish
people who were helpful.

925

00:57:02,640 --> 00:57:07,310

But most people didn't
find Polish people who

926

00:57:07,310 --> 00:57:12,170

would help in any way,
especially the people

927

00:57:12,170 --> 00:57:14,030

who went into the woods.

928

00:57:14,030 --> 00:57:17,870

They found resistance
inside the woods

929

00:57:17,870 --> 00:57:22,100
from people with the same
goal, fight against Germans,

930

00:57:22,100 --> 00:57:27,430
yet they wouldn't permit
them to join up with you.

931

00:57:27,430 --> 00:57:32,000
So we had help from nobody.

932

00:57:32,000 --> 00:57:33,560
We were on our own.

933

00:57:33,560 --> 00:57:39,020
And we were being destroyed
day after day after day

934

00:57:39,020 --> 00:57:41,097
until the complete destruction.

935

00:57:41,097 --> 00:57:44,880

936

00:57:44,880 --> 00:57:47,820
Mr. Erlich, we're going to
have to stop for a few minutes

937

00:57:47,820 --> 00:57:49,620
to start another tape.

938

00:57:49,620 --> 00:57:52,370
So we'll--

939

00:57:52,370 --> 00:58:00,000