

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,928

2
00:00:05,928 --> 00:00:09,386
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:09,386 --> 00:00:33,130

4
00:00:33,130 --> 00:00:34,730
Good afternoon.

5
00:00:34,730 --> 00:00:36,160
My name is Bernard Weinstein.

6
00:00:36,160 --> 00:00:38,770
I'm the Director of the Kean
College oral testimonies

7
00:00:38,770 --> 00:00:41,410
project of the Holocaust
Resource Center.

8
00:00:41,410 --> 00:00:43,930
We are affiliated
with the Video Archive

9
00:00:43,930 --> 00:00:48,610
for Holocaust Testimonies
at Yale University.

10
00:00:48,610 --> 00:00:52,300
We are privileged to welcome
Lilly Goldberger, a survivor

11
00:00:52,300 --> 00:00:55,180
presently living in New
York City who has generously

12
00:00:55,180 --> 00:00:57,820
volunteered to give testimony

about her experiences

13

00:00:57,820 --> 00:01:00,490

before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

14

00:01:00,490 --> 00:01:02,140

Mrs. Goldberger, welcome.

15

00:01:02,140 --> 00:01:04,150

Thank you.

16

00:01:04,150 --> 00:01:07,000

I'd like to begin by
asking you to tell me

17

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:09,950

where and when you were born.

18

00:01:09,950 --> 00:01:15,730

I was born in Czechoslovakian
border and Hungarian.

19

00:01:15,730 --> 00:01:16,850

And when?

20

00:01:16,850 --> 00:01:17,350

Yes.

21

00:01:17,350 --> 00:01:20,800

1923, November 24.

22

00:01:20,800 --> 00:01:24,340

What was the name of the town
or city in which you were born?

23

00:01:24,340 --> 00:01:26,110

SãtoraljaÃ°jhely.

24

00:01:26,110 --> 00:01:31,450

And in Slovak language
was Nove Mesto.

25
00:01:31,450 --> 00:01:34,870
Can you tell us a little bit
about the town or the city

26
00:01:34,870 --> 00:01:36,940
that you came from?

27
00:01:36,940 --> 00:01:41,730
It was a very nice town before
the whole thing started.

28
00:01:41,730 --> 00:01:43,060
And we're very happy.

29
00:01:43,060 --> 00:01:46,180
We grew up, I had
sisters and brothers

30
00:01:46,180 --> 00:01:52,350
and cousins and grandparents.

31
00:01:52,350 --> 00:01:56,710
And we were just one big family.

32
00:01:56,710 --> 00:02:01,900
Everybody lived in the
same community and--

33
00:02:01,900 --> 00:02:05,260
Till I was about 10
years old, we all

34
00:02:05,260 --> 00:02:10,750
lived in my grandfather's
house, which was very big.

35
00:02:10,750 --> 00:02:15,220
And there was my
mother's brother.

36
00:02:15,220 --> 00:02:20,290

And she had two or
three unmarried--

37
00:02:20,290 --> 00:02:26,920
he had-- no, my grandparents
had still three unmarried

38
00:02:26,920 --> 00:02:27,700
daughters.

39
00:02:27,700 --> 00:02:31,070

40
00:02:31,070 --> 00:02:34,130
I just repeat, we
were very happy there.

41
00:02:34,130 --> 00:02:36,340
What did your father
do for a living?

42
00:02:36,340 --> 00:02:43,090
He was with my grandfather who
was a wine merchant till things

43
00:02:43,090 --> 00:02:44,590
started to go bad.

44
00:02:44,590 --> 00:02:47,820
So that was here and
there, all kinds of things.

45
00:02:47,820 --> 00:02:50,620
Whichever he can feed
the family, he grabbed.

46
00:02:50,620 --> 00:02:53,350

47
00:02:53,350 --> 00:02:56,805
Did your family observe
Judaism very strongly?

48

00:02:56,805 --> 00:02:59,500

Oh, yes, definitely.

49

00:02:59,500 --> 00:03:02,560

They're very observant.

50

00:03:02,560 --> 00:03:06,790

And my brothers went to yeshiva.

51

00:03:06,790 --> 00:03:09,520

We-- the girls-- were
not taken that seriously.

52

00:03:09,520 --> 00:03:13,450

We just had our little
davening in the morning

53

00:03:13,450 --> 00:03:19,490

and won our Hebrew
writing and talking.

54

00:03:19,490 --> 00:03:23,410

But really it was the boys who
were more important to send

55

00:03:23,410 --> 00:03:25,600

them to good yeshivas.

56

00:03:25,600 --> 00:03:27,880

What was your own
education like?

57

00:03:27,880 --> 00:03:30,020

Did you go to public school or--

58

00:03:30,020 --> 00:03:35,710

Public school, right-- no, it
was like a parochial school.

59

00:03:35,710 --> 00:03:42,670

And yeah, only Jewish
children went there.

60

00:03:42,670 --> 00:03:44,750

Public school was not for us.

61

00:03:44,750 --> 00:03:50,220

62

00:03:50,220 --> 00:03:57,090

What percentage or what the
amount of the population

63

00:03:57,090 --> 00:03:58,890

was Jewish where you lived?

64

00:03:58,890 --> 00:04:01,080

I don't remember,
I really don't.

65

00:04:01,080 --> 00:04:04,260

I have no-- there were lots
of Jews and lots of streets

66

00:04:04,260 --> 00:04:06,780

where only Jews were living.

67

00:04:06,780 --> 00:04:09,090

But I cannot tell you, really.

68

00:04:09,090 --> 00:04:11,310

Were Jews segregated
in any sense--

69

00:04:11,310 --> 00:04:13,050

No, not really.

70

00:04:13,050 --> 00:04:13,685

Not before.

71

00:04:13,685 --> 00:04:16,350

72

00:04:16,350 --> 00:04:19,170
Did you ever-- did you
ever experience any kind

73
00:04:19,170 --> 00:04:22,230
of antisemitic behavior?

74
00:04:22,230 --> 00:04:23,180
Yes.

75
00:04:23,180 --> 00:04:25,140
Can you describe
something prior--

76
00:04:25,140 --> 00:04:29,520
After us all kinds of words.

77
00:04:29,520 --> 00:04:32,220
"You Jew," this and that.

78
00:04:32,220 --> 00:04:36,330
Then my father used to
come home from the temple,

79
00:04:36,330 --> 00:04:40,800
and they grabbed his beard.

80
00:04:40,800 --> 00:04:44,290
And again, with all
kinds of words which

81
00:04:44,290 --> 00:04:48,390
we didn't use in the house
just because we were Jewish.

82
00:04:48,390 --> 00:04:50,700
Was this before the
outbreak of the war itself?

83
00:04:50,700 --> 00:04:52,500
It was before, yeah.

84

00:04:52,500 --> 00:04:53,370
Before 1939?

85
00:04:53,370 --> 00:04:54,060
Right.

86
00:04:54,060 --> 00:04:56,445
Or when I went to
the market, sometimes

87
00:04:56,445 --> 00:04:58,590
my mother didn't
feel like going.

88
00:04:58,590 --> 00:05:03,600
So I went to the market to
buy fruit and vegetables.

89
00:05:03,600 --> 00:05:09,540
And I picked up like grapes,
and I said, how much is that?

90
00:05:09,540 --> 00:05:15,040
It was like a custom
that you bargained.

91
00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:17,220
Let's say, for example,
they said, this is \$10,

92
00:05:17,220 --> 00:05:20,802
I said, I like to have it,
but they gave it to me for \$8.

93
00:05:20,802 --> 00:05:23,910

94
00:05:23,910 --> 00:05:31,210
So she says, OK, I'd rather
give it to you than to a Jew.

95
00:05:31,210 --> 00:05:34,330
And then she used again

the word because she

96

00:05:34,330 --> 00:05:38,410
thought that I was very blonde,
I was Snow White, really.

97

00:05:38,410 --> 00:05:40,780
And maybe some of them
thought that I wasn't Jewish.

98

00:05:40,780 --> 00:05:45,950
So she says I'd rather give
it to you than to that Jew.

99

00:05:45,950 --> 00:05:47,350
So what was--

100

00:05:47,350 --> 00:05:48,490
And I was very young.

101

00:05:48,490 --> 00:05:52,010
And I was-- we
got so used to it.

102

00:05:52,010 --> 00:05:54,040
We didn't even pay
attention anymore.

103

00:05:54,040 --> 00:05:59,290

104

00:05:59,290 --> 00:06:01,540
And I had non-Jewish friends.

105

00:06:01,540 --> 00:06:03,130
We were very good friends.

106

00:06:03,130 --> 00:06:06,490
Like we couldn't have a
radio in the house anymore,

107

00:06:06,490 --> 00:06:13,330

so I went over to my
non-Jewish friends,

108
00:06:13,330 --> 00:06:15,610
and I listened to the radio.

109
00:06:15,610 --> 00:06:18,640
And we were very,
very good friends.

110
00:06:18,640 --> 00:06:21,670
And we used to sing the
latest songs together.

111
00:06:21,670 --> 00:06:25,060
And we used to exchange books.

112
00:06:25,060 --> 00:06:29,860
And the same people, as soon
as we left, they get them.

113
00:06:29,860 --> 00:06:32,230
We saw them running
into the house

114
00:06:32,230 --> 00:06:37,140
and taking out everything,
our own things.

115
00:06:37,140 --> 00:06:40,190
Your good friends.

116
00:06:40,190 --> 00:06:48,530
So before the actual war came to
you, they were real neighbors.

117
00:06:48,530 --> 00:06:49,250
And afterwards--

118
00:06:49,250 --> 00:06:51,417
They were really neighbors,
and they were very nice.

119

00:06:51,417 --> 00:06:58,400
And then we had somebody come
in the Sabbath to light the fire

120

00:06:58,400 --> 00:06:59,960
or carry something like--

121

00:06:59,960 --> 00:07:02,800

122

00:07:02,800 --> 00:07:06,890
we couldn't carry, on
the Sabbath, anything.

123

00:07:06,890 --> 00:07:08,030
It wasn't allowed.

124

00:07:08,030 --> 00:07:12,020
My father even put this
handkerchief around his neck.

125

00:07:12,020 --> 00:07:14,240
And we had non-Jewish
friends who

126

00:07:14,240 --> 00:07:18,260
used to do like pick up
the paper or something,

127

00:07:18,260 --> 00:07:21,140
certain things like that.

128

00:07:21,140 --> 00:07:26,150
And there were
certain people really

129

00:07:26,150 --> 00:07:30,380
who didn't even think
of the difference,

130

00:07:30,380 --> 00:07:33,670
except we would meet in their

houses, we wouldn't even--

131
00:07:33,670 --> 00:07:36,600
we were taught we don't even--

132
00:07:36,600 --> 00:07:38,630
we were not supposed
to drink water there.

133
00:07:38,630 --> 00:07:41,828

134
00:07:41,828 --> 00:07:43,620
Was that because of
religious restrictions?

135
00:07:43,620 --> 00:07:47,280
Because of religious, right.

136
00:07:47,280 --> 00:07:53,040
And that's what it was.

137
00:07:53,040 --> 00:07:55,560
And then it started.

138
00:07:55,560 --> 00:07:59,040
Were you aware of
what was happening

139
00:07:59,040 --> 00:08:03,810
outside your own country,
outside your own area?

140
00:08:03,810 --> 00:08:05,460
Yes.

141
00:08:05,460 --> 00:08:06,730
How were you aware?

142
00:08:06,730 --> 00:08:07,230
What--

143

00:08:07,230 --> 00:08:10,710

I was aware because
we had the newspapers.

144

00:08:10,710 --> 00:08:14,400

My father used to
read it to us loud.

145

00:08:14,400 --> 00:08:16,380

We were aware because--

146

00:08:16,380 --> 00:08:19,920

like I said-- we went
to listen to the radio,

147

00:08:19,920 --> 00:08:23,160

to Gentile friends.

148

00:08:23,160 --> 00:08:25,750

And my father
didn't go in there.

149

00:08:25,750 --> 00:08:28,290

He just was standing
outside the window

150

00:08:28,290 --> 00:08:33,720

and listening, like when Hitler
made his famous speeches.

151

00:08:33,720 --> 00:08:39,600

And wherever you went in the
city, you saw the swastika.

152

00:08:39,600 --> 00:08:44,310

And he says, "Hitler is
coming, you this and this Jew.

153

00:08:44,310 --> 00:08:45,870

You better watch out."

154

00:08:45,870 --> 00:08:50,280

And so it was on top of
us-- let's put it this way--

155
00:08:50,280 --> 00:08:52,350
the whole thing.

156
00:08:52,350 --> 00:08:57,930
And then they had to close
the school, Jewish schools.

157
00:08:57,930 --> 00:08:59,670
There was an Orthodox one.

158
00:08:59,670 --> 00:09:05,430
And there was a Reform
Jewish school that I went,

159
00:09:05,430 --> 00:09:08,730
and they closed up,
so we went to-- we

160
00:09:08,730 --> 00:09:12,990
try to go into the public
ones, but we couldn't take it

161
00:09:12,990 --> 00:09:17,490
because we got too much
harassment and abuse

162
00:09:17,490 --> 00:09:21,780
and all those, even
from the girls.

163
00:09:21,780 --> 00:09:24,270
In what ways did
they harass you?

164
00:09:24,270 --> 00:09:25,080
In what way?

165
00:09:25,080 --> 00:09:27,940
They didn't want
to sit next to me.

166
00:09:27,940 --> 00:09:31,860
They didn't-- like,
listen, you need a pencil.

167
00:09:31,860 --> 00:09:33,420
Sometimes, you
forgot your pencil

168
00:09:33,420 --> 00:09:36,130
at home or your piece of paper.

169
00:09:36,130 --> 00:09:40,210
And if you asked them, they
wouldn't give it to you.

170
00:09:40,210 --> 00:09:41,620
No way.

171
00:09:41,620 --> 00:09:43,090
They wouldn't walk
home with you.

172
00:09:43,090 --> 00:09:46,100

173
00:09:46,100 --> 00:09:52,710
Did you have enough Jewish
friends in the public schools

174
00:09:52,710 --> 00:09:55,490
that you would be a
group among yourselves?

175
00:09:55,490 --> 00:09:56,030
Yes, sir.

176
00:09:56,030 --> 00:10:00,140
My cousins, we grew up
like sisters and brothers.

177
00:10:00,140 --> 00:10:03,860

That's the way it was
there in our town.

178
00:10:03,860 --> 00:10:07,093
And everybody who was Jewish
was treated the same way

179
00:10:07,093 --> 00:10:07,760
by the non-Jews?

180
00:10:07,760 --> 00:10:08,675
Of course, yes.

181
00:10:08,675 --> 00:10:11,190

182
00:10:11,190 --> 00:10:14,620
If my mother or my
aunt had a headache,

183
00:10:14,620 --> 00:10:17,700
the whole family got
together, and it was like--

184
00:10:17,700 --> 00:10:21,580
it's unbelievable
when I think about it.

185
00:10:21,580 --> 00:10:23,710
Oh, it was.

186
00:10:23,710 --> 00:10:27,700
My grandfather coughed,
so all the kids

187
00:10:27,700 --> 00:10:32,740
came from the country and all
over because Zeida coughed.

188
00:10:32,740 --> 00:10:34,120
You know, cough, coughing.

189

00:10:34,120 --> 00:10:36,100
I hope you understand
what I am saying.

190
00:10:36,100 --> 00:10:36,920
Yeah, yeah.

191
00:10:36,920 --> 00:10:42,790
At any sign of something
irregular or something--

192
00:10:42,790 --> 00:10:44,080
They got together.

193
00:10:44,080 --> 00:10:45,510
And we are very, very close.

194
00:10:45,510 --> 00:10:50,800

195
00:10:50,800 --> 00:10:53,560
What signs did you see--

196
00:10:53,560 --> 00:10:59,980
or did you feel yourself to be
in any kind of personal danger

197
00:10:59,980 --> 00:11:07,390
before the war actually came to
your city or to your country?

198
00:11:07,390 --> 00:11:11,830
Did you think that it was
going to happen to you, too?

199
00:11:11,830 --> 00:11:15,180
No, not really, even my father.

200
00:11:15,180 --> 00:11:16,810
And they used to--

201
00:11:16,810 --> 00:11:20,650

they said that all the
Germans are coming to Hungary,

202
00:11:20,650 --> 00:11:23,050
and they're going to
put in the ghetto,

203
00:11:23,050 --> 00:11:25,850
and it's going to be
horrible, and all this.

204
00:11:25,850 --> 00:11:29,540
And my father didn't believe it.

205
00:11:29,540 --> 00:11:32,260
So if my father didn't believe
it, then it can happen.

206
00:11:32,260 --> 00:11:34,160
Like we were coming
home from someplace--

207
00:11:34,160 --> 00:11:36,775
I don't know, maybe from
the movies or something.

208
00:11:36,775 --> 00:11:40,075
And we used to live
very near the railroad.

209
00:11:40,075 --> 00:11:44,260
Wasn't the railroad like,
they say, that the house was

210
00:11:44,260 --> 00:11:44,770
shaking?

211
00:11:44,770 --> 00:11:47,710
It was a very elegant
section, very nice,

212
00:11:47,710 --> 00:11:49,600
with the trees from both sides.

213
00:11:49,600 --> 00:11:52,330
And we used to spazier there.

214
00:11:52,330 --> 00:11:53,920
I don't know how to say it.

215
00:11:53,920 --> 00:11:54,880
Stroll.

216
00:11:54,880 --> 00:11:55,750
Right.

217
00:11:55,750 --> 00:11:58,780
And then somebody came.

218
00:11:58,780 --> 00:12:04,910
And they said the Italian
Jews were passing in there.

219
00:12:04,910 --> 00:12:06,010
How you call then?

220
00:12:06,010 --> 00:12:07,750
They didn't call it
train, cattle cars.

221
00:12:07,750 --> 00:12:08,580
Cattle cars.

222
00:12:08,580 --> 00:12:11,020
Right.

223
00:12:11,020 --> 00:12:13,300
And they are begging for father.

224
00:12:13,300 --> 00:12:16,890

225
00:12:16,890 --> 00:12:18,820
And you knew where

they were going?

226

00:12:18,820 --> 00:12:20,490

They didn't know
where they were going.

227

00:12:20,490 --> 00:12:25,360

And we thought it was
terrible, terrible, right?

228

00:12:25,360 --> 00:12:28,530

But two minutes later, five
minutes later, we went home.

229

00:12:28,530 --> 00:12:30,450

And not that we
forgot all about it,

230

00:12:30,450 --> 00:12:34,440

but we just couldn't believe
it, that it can happen.

231

00:12:34,440 --> 00:12:35,550

A year after--

232

00:12:35,550 --> 00:12:39,800

I don't know when was the year
when the Italian Jews went

233

00:12:39,800 --> 00:12:41,300

to Auschwitz.

234

00:12:41,300 --> 00:12:41,800

At '42.

235

00:12:41,800 --> 00:12:43,890

'42.

236

00:12:43,890 --> 00:12:46,350

We didn't think that
this will happen to us.

237

00:12:46,350 --> 00:12:49,540

238

00:12:49,540 --> 00:12:54,150

And then it did.

239

00:12:54,150 --> 00:12:56,820

Little by little,
they took my brothers

240

00:12:56,820 --> 00:12:58,140

for this kind of labor.

241

00:12:58,140 --> 00:12:59,130

Came--

242

00:12:59,130 --> 00:13:01,650

By this time, of course, the
Nazis were already in your--

243

00:13:01,650 --> 00:13:02,430

Very active.

244

00:13:02,430 --> 00:13:03,690

In your area.

245

00:13:03,690 --> 00:13:05,040

No, not yet.

246

00:13:05,040 --> 00:13:09,360

I think they were in
Czechoslovakia-- no.

247

00:13:09,360 --> 00:13:11,880

When did they March
into Poland, '38, right?

248

00:13:11,880 --> 00:13:12,610

'39.

249

00:13:12,610 --> 00:13:13,110

'39.

250
00:13:13,110 --> 00:13:15,820

251
00:13:15,820 --> 00:13:23,810
Then they-- we didn't have
the Germans there before '44.

252
00:13:23,810 --> 00:13:28,040
But the [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
the Czechoslovakian people were

253
00:13:28,040 --> 00:13:32,000
running heavy overnight--
especially young girls--

254
00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:36,050
and seemed so near
to the border.

255
00:13:36,050 --> 00:13:40,460
They came, and they
spend the night with us

256
00:13:40,460 --> 00:13:42,890
because my father was
that kind of person.

257
00:13:42,890 --> 00:13:46,190
Whoever came in, he didn't
have any fear or anything.

258
00:13:46,190 --> 00:13:51,290
And when I'm thinking about
something lately, I had papers.

259
00:13:51,290 --> 00:13:54,950
I had all kinds of--

260
00:13:54,950 --> 00:13:56,420
no, I don't know, citizen--

261

00:13:56,420 --> 00:13:58,800
because I used to go
back to Czechoslovakia.

262
00:13:58,800 --> 00:14:01,700
And you needed like
a visa or something

263
00:14:01,700 --> 00:14:03,660
to go through the border.

264
00:14:03,660 --> 00:14:05,570
And my father felt
so sorry for them

265
00:14:05,570 --> 00:14:12,620
that he gave them my paper,
which if they catch them--

266
00:14:12,620 --> 00:14:15,530
I don't know if it was
stupidity or kindness,

267
00:14:15,530 --> 00:14:17,630
I don't know what it was.

268
00:14:17,630 --> 00:14:19,910
But for a moment,
when I think about it,

269
00:14:19,910 --> 00:14:25,040
sometimes I stop, and
I just can't believe it

270
00:14:25,040 --> 00:14:26,150
because he wasn't, really.

271
00:14:26,150 --> 00:14:28,760
He was a very smart
man and everything.

272
00:14:28,760 --> 00:14:33,950
And I just-- maybe, though,

he was so optimistic.

273

00:14:33,950 --> 00:14:36,350

I can't believe this.

274

00:14:36,350 --> 00:14:38,660

You yourself were
not optimistic?

275

00:14:38,660 --> 00:14:39,530

I was.

276

00:14:39,530 --> 00:14:43,820

Still, I am-- no, not
anymore, but I used to.

277

00:14:43,820 --> 00:14:47,510

I used to be very
optimistic always.

278

00:14:47,510 --> 00:14:54,190

And even when the
Germans came into our--

279

00:14:54,190 --> 00:14:56,020

because I was in Budapest.

280

00:14:56,020 --> 00:14:57,910

Shall I tell you why
I was in Budapest?

281

00:14:57,910 --> 00:15:00,270

Please.

282

00:15:00,270 --> 00:15:01,380

It's a very sad story.

283

00:15:01,380 --> 00:15:05,240

284

00:15:05,240 --> 00:15:07,940

My brother, the second one--

285
00:15:07,940 --> 00:15:10,070
the older one was already--

286
00:15:10,070 --> 00:15:13,430
we didn't know where he was.

287
00:15:13,430 --> 00:15:18,260
The second one didn't want
to go into that labor camp

288
00:15:18,260 --> 00:15:20,540
where my husband went.

289
00:15:20,540 --> 00:15:22,730
And he had money.

290
00:15:22,730 --> 00:15:26,750
And if you had money in
Budapest, you could go--

291
00:15:26,750 --> 00:15:27,500
you can--

292
00:15:27,500 --> 00:15:32,540
somebody arranged that you
talk to a kind of doctor who

293
00:15:32,540 --> 00:15:38,560
can arrange that you
go into that hospital,

294
00:15:38,560 --> 00:15:41,060
and you are crazy.

295
00:15:41,060 --> 00:15:43,440
So you can avoid that.

296
00:15:43,440 --> 00:15:46,980
So my brother called me
up, and he said, come up,

297

00:15:46,980 --> 00:15:49,730

and you are going to be
my guardian because you

298

00:15:49,730 --> 00:15:51,290

needed somebody.

299

00:15:51,290 --> 00:15:52,850

And he-- when I
went to Budapest,

300

00:15:52,850 --> 00:15:55,910

he gave me an envelope, and he
told me which doctor to go to.

301

00:15:55,910 --> 00:15:59,050

302

00:15:59,050 --> 00:16:02,110

And I don't have
to say anything.

303

00:16:02,110 --> 00:16:05,380

I just have to say
I'm Lilly Rothstein,

304

00:16:05,380 --> 00:16:07,540

and Yosef Rothstein
is my brother,

305

00:16:07,540 --> 00:16:09,910

and put down the
envelope on the table.

306

00:16:09,910 --> 00:16:13,930

And that's what I
did, and I left.

307

00:16:13,930 --> 00:16:17,135

Then I had to visit
him in the hospital.

308

00:16:17,135 --> 00:16:21,540

309

00:16:21,540 --> 00:16:25,680

When I visited him, he came out
like-- he really looked like--

310

00:16:25,680 --> 00:16:30,480

he was supposed to
be with the uniform.

311

00:16:30,480 --> 00:16:33,780

And they give him
the shock treatment.

312

00:16:33,780 --> 00:16:36,970

And he had beautiful teeth.

313

00:16:36,970 --> 00:16:42,990

But from the shock
treatment, one had broken.

314

00:16:42,990 --> 00:16:45,240

And I was sitting
there and crying.

315

00:16:45,240 --> 00:16:47,070

I don't have to tell you that.

316

00:16:47,070 --> 00:16:50,100

I was crying so hard at the end.

317

00:16:50,100 --> 00:16:52,440

I didn't know then that
they were watching me

318

00:16:52,440 --> 00:16:56,460

because there were hundreds
and hundreds of Jewish boys

319

00:16:56,460 --> 00:16:57,630

who did that.

320

00:16:57,630 --> 00:17:01,530

And they wanted to
find out if he's just--

321

00:17:01,530 --> 00:17:03,790

they pretend or if it's true.

322

00:17:03,790 --> 00:17:07,960

So my brother passed because
I cried so much there,

323

00:17:07,960 --> 00:17:13,390

that he thought if she's crying,
then he must be really sick.

324

00:17:13,390 --> 00:17:16,200

And I visited him
a couple of times.

325

00:17:16,200 --> 00:17:19,710

And then I--

326

00:17:19,710 --> 00:17:20,380

I don't know.

327

00:17:20,380 --> 00:17:22,569

I don't remember if
he came out or not.

328

00:17:22,569 --> 00:17:26,250

But anyway, it was
Purim, and my mother

329

00:17:26,250 --> 00:17:31,587

wanted me to come home from
Budapest, to be home for Purim

330

00:17:31,587 --> 00:17:33,045

because the boy
couldn't come home.

331

00:17:33,045 --> 00:17:33,990

It was a small town.

332
00:17:33,990 --> 00:17:36,390
And they were worried
that they will grab them.

333
00:17:36,390 --> 00:17:40,440
In Budapest, you can
disappear in certain ways

334
00:17:40,440 --> 00:17:42,710
because it was a big city.

335
00:17:42,710 --> 00:17:48,640
So I came home in a day or two
days after the Germans came.

336
00:17:48,640 --> 00:17:51,030
So I never went
back to Budapest.

337
00:17:51,030 --> 00:17:54,967
Purim is in March,
April sometimes, right?

338
00:17:54,967 --> 00:17:55,467
Mm-hmm.

339
00:17:55,467 --> 00:17:58,210

340
00:17:58,210 --> 00:18:02,860
March the 19th or the 20th,
something like that came.

341
00:18:02,860 --> 00:18:06,450
The Germans marched in.

342
00:18:06,450 --> 00:18:10,560
So I never went back, and we--

343
00:18:10,560 --> 00:18:19,210

I stayed till they came to
pick us up to the ghetto.

344
00:18:19,210 --> 00:18:20,980
I remember, in the ghetto--

345
00:18:20,980 --> 00:18:22,840
I hate to tell you--

346
00:18:22,840 --> 00:18:28,420
that was the red-light
district, our ghetto.

347
00:18:28,420 --> 00:18:31,630
It was a small room surrounding.

348
00:18:31,630 --> 00:18:40,420
And I was reading Gone with
the Wind when the Hungarians--

349
00:18:40,420 --> 00:18:43,660
the Germans didn't pick
us up in the ghetto,

350
00:18:43,660 --> 00:18:47,390
to take us to the ghetto
cars, it was the Hungarians.

351
00:18:47,390 --> 00:18:51,700
They used to wear some kind
of hat with the feathers--

352
00:18:51,700 --> 00:18:55,750
very fancy, very elegant.

353
00:18:55,750 --> 00:18:57,350
So I lived there.

354
00:18:57,350 --> 00:19:00,280
I finished the book
when I came to America--

355

00:19:00,280 --> 00:19:03,320
yeah, to America.

356
00:19:03,320 --> 00:19:07,090
And yeah, about my
brother, shall I

357
00:19:07,090 --> 00:19:08,860
tell you what happened to him?

358
00:19:08,860 --> 00:19:11,770
I don't know if I'm strong
enough, but I have to tell you.

359
00:19:11,770 --> 00:19:13,700
I went to the ghetto,
and my brother

360
00:19:13,700 --> 00:19:18,970
sent a non-Jewish lady to
the front of the ghetto

361
00:19:18,970 --> 00:19:21,085
with Irish papers.

362
00:19:21,085 --> 00:19:24,060

363
00:19:24,060 --> 00:19:26,130
We were very close
with her six kids,

364
00:19:26,130 --> 00:19:29,800
but with-- yeah, see, somehow,
we were very, very close.

365
00:19:29,800 --> 00:19:30,890
You and he in particular?

366
00:19:30,890 --> 00:19:32,500
Yeah, right.

367

00:19:32,500 --> 00:19:34,630

He said that he couldn't
take it because he

368

00:19:34,630 --> 00:19:37,180

knew about Auschwitz
and everything,

369

00:19:37,180 --> 00:19:39,610

and he wanted at
least to save me.

370

00:19:39,610 --> 00:19:42,370

He couldn't save
the whole family,

371

00:19:42,370 --> 00:19:44,560

but he wanted to save me.

372

00:19:44,560 --> 00:19:51,884

And the woman couldn't get to me
somehow and even to Auschwitz.

373

00:19:51,884 --> 00:19:55,760

374

00:19:55,760 --> 00:19:59,990

We went to Auschwitz
with my parents

375

00:19:59,990 --> 00:20:03,200

and with my two sisters.

376

00:20:03,200 --> 00:20:09,440

377

00:20:09,440 --> 00:20:13,280

They told us that
we are going to--

378

00:20:13,280 --> 00:20:17,300

I don't know if you knew
about the town, Kosice.

379
00:20:17,300 --> 00:20:20,900
There was in Czechoslovakia
a very beautiful town.

380
00:20:20,900 --> 00:20:23,570
And they said they're
going to take us there.

381
00:20:23,570 --> 00:20:27,320
And the old man said we're
going to get white bread,

382
00:20:27,320 --> 00:20:30,433
and they're going to be--
the young ones will work,

383
00:20:30,433 --> 00:20:31,100
and everything--

384
00:20:31,100 --> 00:20:34,490
The Germans told you
this or the Hungarians?

385
00:20:34,490 --> 00:20:39,440
I don't know-- I don't remember
where we got this from.

386
00:20:39,440 --> 00:20:45,005
So when we got there,
they said, Kosice.

387
00:20:45,005 --> 00:20:49,220
I had a raincoat in
the car-- in the train.

388
00:20:49,220 --> 00:20:53,810
And I pick up my raincoat,
and my mother said,

389
00:20:53,810 --> 00:20:57,560
I always thought you are
smart, but you are not.

390
00:20:57,560 --> 00:20:59,420
We are not going to Kosice.

391
00:20:59,420 --> 00:21:02,630
We are going someplace else.

392
00:21:02,630 --> 00:21:04,640
She knew somehow.

393
00:21:04,640 --> 00:21:08,870
So I figured if we don't go
to Kosice, so we go to Praga

394
00:21:08,870 --> 00:21:13,462
or [INAUDIBLE] We
got to Auschwitz.

395
00:21:13,462 --> 00:21:17,830

396
00:21:17,830 --> 00:21:21,160
And my father was
the kind of person

397
00:21:21,160 --> 00:21:23,360
who was taking
care of the family.

398
00:21:23,360 --> 00:21:27,100
My father was taken hostage
when the Germans came in.

399
00:21:27,100 --> 00:21:30,760
My grandfather was one of
the richest men in town.

400
00:21:30,760 --> 00:21:34,230
And they looked
up the textbooks,

401
00:21:34,230 --> 00:21:37,270

and my grandfather wasn't
alive anymore, I think.

402
00:21:37,270 --> 00:21:38,490
No, he wasn't.

403
00:21:38,490 --> 00:21:40,890
So they took my
father as a hostage.

404
00:21:40,890 --> 00:21:43,860
That was a Friday morning.

405
00:21:43,860 --> 00:21:46,270
And of course, we are
sitting home and crying.

406
00:21:46,270 --> 00:21:50,560
And they took my brother
Misha, who is in Brooklyn.

407
00:21:50,560 --> 00:21:52,180
And we are sitting
down and crying.

408
00:21:52,180 --> 00:21:54,740
And I have my older
brother, oldest.

409
00:21:54,740 --> 00:21:57,550
We don't know where
he was already.

410
00:21:57,550 --> 00:21:59,617
His little boy was--

411
00:21:59,617 --> 00:22:01,450
[? Tilim ?] you know
what [? Tilim ?] means?

412
00:22:01,450 --> 00:22:02,350
Yes.

413

00:22:02,350 --> 00:22:07,090

Saying, [? Tilim ?] for
my father and Uncle Misha.

414

00:22:07,090 --> 00:22:11,690

All of a sudden, my father walks
in with their fish for Shabbos.

415

00:22:11,690 --> 00:22:14,020

First, he went to the
market to buy fish.

416

00:22:14,020 --> 00:22:15,230

And then he came--

417

00:22:15,230 --> 00:22:16,480

that's the kind of man he was.

418

00:22:16,480 --> 00:22:22,420

So when we got to Auschwitz,
they opened the doors,

419

00:22:22,420 --> 00:22:25,330

and my father said,
you just stay here,

420

00:22:25,330 --> 00:22:26,630

and I'll bring you water.

421

00:22:26,630 --> 00:22:29,700

I don't have to tell you that we
were dying for a drop of water,

422

00:22:29,700 --> 00:22:30,200

right?

423

00:22:30,200 --> 00:22:32,110

How long were you
on the transport?

424

00:22:32,110 --> 00:22:34,750

About three days, I think.

425
00:22:34,750 --> 00:22:36,210
I don't know.

426
00:22:36,210 --> 00:22:38,248
Three nights or two
nights and three days.

427
00:22:38,248 --> 00:22:38,790
I don't know.

428
00:22:38,790 --> 00:22:39,610
It was--

429
00:22:39,610 --> 00:22:41,530
Did you travel in a boxcar or--

430
00:22:41,530 --> 00:22:44,410
Of course, on the
floor with all the--

431
00:22:44,410 --> 00:22:46,510
next to my mother.

432
00:22:46,510 --> 00:22:49,690
And my mother's
biggest concern was--

433
00:22:49,690 --> 00:22:53,890
listen to this, with all her
sweetness, there is madness--

434
00:22:53,890 --> 00:22:55,720
she was worried
because there were

435
00:22:55,720 --> 00:23:01,570
borders, Czechoslovakia border,
German border, Romanian.

436
00:23:01,570 --> 00:23:03,130
And she was worried--

437
00:23:03,130 --> 00:23:07,310
when we were in that car--

438
00:23:07,310 --> 00:23:08,780
that the war is
going to be over,

439
00:23:08,780 --> 00:23:11,930
how we are going to get in
touch with our brothers?

440
00:23:11,930 --> 00:23:14,620

441
00:23:14,620 --> 00:23:15,920
You know what I mean?

442
00:23:15,920 --> 00:23:16,450
Yes.

443
00:23:16,450 --> 00:23:18,570
She didn't see what--

444
00:23:18,570 --> 00:23:19,150
Right.

445
00:23:19,150 --> 00:23:21,420
Even if she know we are
not going to Kosice.

446
00:23:21,420 --> 00:23:23,800
Anyway, my father left
looking for water,

447
00:23:23,800 --> 00:23:25,080
and that was the end.

448
00:23:25,080 --> 00:23:28,570

449

00:23:28,570 --> 00:23:32,740

When we got down from the
car-- from the train or car,

450

00:23:32,740 --> 00:23:36,875

my mother said, I
smell human flesh.

451

00:23:36,875 --> 00:23:42,410

452

00:23:42,410 --> 00:23:43,470

And I don't know.

453

00:23:43,470 --> 00:23:45,620

I must have been real--

454

00:23:45,620 --> 00:23:49,760

something was wrong with my
brain because you saw all

455

00:23:49,760 --> 00:23:52,940

the [ʔ tallis ʔ] and
the [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

456

00:23:52,940 --> 00:23:58,956

and the books and the
clothing from people.

457

00:23:58,956 --> 00:24:01,160

And I just didn't--

458

00:24:01,160 --> 00:24:04,400

not that I didn't pay
attention because I must have

459

00:24:04,400 --> 00:24:05,810

because I have seen it, right?

460

00:24:05,810 --> 00:24:12,090

But I still thought that we
are going to be all right.

461

00:24:12,090 --> 00:24:17,250

And holding onto my
mother, my little sister

462

00:24:17,250 --> 00:24:19,870

was right in front
of us and in--

463

00:24:19,870 --> 00:24:22,400

464

00:24:22,400 --> 00:24:25,850

no, it was like
lightning from the sky.

465

00:24:25,850 --> 00:24:28,070

It was over in--

466

00:24:28,070 --> 00:24:31,760

I don't know how it was
over, but it was over.

467

00:24:31,760 --> 00:24:36,750

I have never seen them
anymore, my little sister.

468

00:24:36,750 --> 00:24:43,290

And then I was there
with my sister.

469

00:24:43,290 --> 00:24:48,600

And the second
one, Hanne, who got

470

00:24:48,600 --> 00:24:52,480

lupus and died here in Canada.

471

00:24:52,480 --> 00:25:02,680

Anyway, then they cut our hair.

472

00:25:02,680 --> 00:25:06,760

I don't know, I'm thinking

about it, which one was worst?

473

00:25:06,760 --> 00:25:10,300

When they cut my hair, I
thought, nothing can be worse.

474

00:25:10,300 --> 00:25:14,920

And when they--

475

00:25:14,920 --> 00:25:18,850

I never took a shower or a
bath in front of my own mother.

476

00:25:18,850 --> 00:25:22,750

And the men, the SS men were
just walking up and down.

477

00:25:22,750 --> 00:25:24,790

And we are standing there.

478

00:25:24,790 --> 00:25:25,700

That was horrible.

479

00:25:25,700 --> 00:25:31,990

480

00:25:31,990 --> 00:25:36,290

And then my sister started
to cry because in the get-go,

481

00:25:36,290 --> 00:25:40,140

all the girls cut
their hair short.

482

00:25:40,140 --> 00:25:43,260

And it so happened that I
had very good-looking hair,

483

00:25:43,260 --> 00:25:45,420

and my father was
very proud of it.

484

00:25:45,420 --> 00:25:47,340
And he didn't let me cut it.

485
00:25:47,340 --> 00:25:53,130
So I put a thing around it
while we were in the ghetto.

486
00:25:53,130 --> 00:25:56,940
And that's how I was there.

487
00:25:56,940 --> 00:25:59,920
And then they cut my
hair, I said to myself,

488
00:25:59,920 --> 00:26:01,770
this thing is going
to be over tomorrow,

489
00:26:01,770 --> 00:26:05,820
and I will be embarrassed
to show myself to my father.

490
00:26:05,820 --> 00:26:07,440
And he was--

491
00:26:07,440 --> 00:26:09,575
God knows where he
was already, right?

492
00:26:09,575 --> 00:26:10,950
You never saw him
after he left--

493
00:26:10,950 --> 00:26:13,260
Never.

494
00:26:13,260 --> 00:26:17,370
And what I-- I didn't
believe that we won't see him

495
00:26:17,370 --> 00:26:19,710
because I used to
write little notes

496

00:26:19,710 --> 00:26:23,160
and threw it toward the wires.

497

00:26:23,160 --> 00:26:28,980
And whenever the men came to
the fire to talk to us shortly

498

00:26:28,980 --> 00:26:31,650
afterwards, I was always
looking for my father.

499

00:26:31,650 --> 00:26:35,100

500

00:26:35,100 --> 00:26:38,670
And even when the Kapo said,
if you don't keep quiet,

501

00:26:38,670 --> 00:26:40,380
or you don't--

502

00:26:40,380 --> 00:26:48,180
you don't listen to me, you
see that smoke going up there?

503

00:26:48,180 --> 00:26:50,610
You are going to end
up there very soon.

504

00:26:50,610 --> 00:26:52,590
And I thought she was joking.

505

00:26:52,590 --> 00:26:55,950
When we saw the smoke sometimes
because we had to get out

506

00:26:55,950 --> 00:27:00,150
from bed 4 o'clock to--

507

00:27:00,150 --> 00:27:02,010
I don't even know when it was.

508

00:27:02,010 --> 00:27:05,070

The first thing when I heard
the whistle, "Aufshtein!"

509

00:27:05,070 --> 00:27:07,740

"Aufshtein!", first
thing, we cried a little,

510

00:27:07,740 --> 00:27:12,910

and we got that because
there was no other way.

511

00:27:12,910 --> 00:27:15,480

So when we saw the smoke,
we thought, oh, my God, they

512

00:27:15,480 --> 00:27:17,250

are baking the bread already.

513

00:27:17,250 --> 00:27:19,700

We are going to get fresh bread.

514

00:27:19,700 --> 00:27:21,090

You see how stupid can you be?

515

00:27:21,090 --> 00:27:27,350

516

00:27:27,350 --> 00:27:30,950

And then shall I go back to my--

517

00:27:30,950 --> 00:27:33,950

finish my brother story?

518

00:27:33,950 --> 00:27:36,330

Yes.

519

00:27:36,330 --> 00:27:43,280

But that was after the war,
when I found out about him.

520

00:27:43,280 --> 00:27:44,800

This was Yosef?

521

00:27:44,800 --> 00:27:45,910

Yes, you're right.

522

00:27:45,910 --> 00:27:50,380

He was-- I was in Bergen-Belsen
still after the war,

523

00:27:50,380 --> 00:27:52,660

like I told you.

524

00:27:52,660 --> 00:27:54,850

And then some people came.

525

00:27:54,850 --> 00:27:58,750

526

00:27:58,750 --> 00:28:07,820

Oh, yeah, my brother Misha came
to see us, to Bergen-Belsen.

527

00:28:07,820 --> 00:28:09,020

He told me--

528

00:28:09,020 --> 00:28:10,580

I said, where is Yosi?

529

00:28:10,580 --> 00:28:12,890

I haven't heard from Yosi.

530

00:28:12,890 --> 00:28:15,830

He told me-- he asked me if I
want to know the whole story.

531

00:28:15,830 --> 00:28:18,770

I said, yes.

532

00:28:18,770 --> 00:28:23,000

He told me that

Yosi was liberated

533

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:24,890
with three other
friends, one of them

534

00:28:24,890 --> 00:28:29,510
was Michael, my cousin
or uncle, I don't know.

535

00:28:29,510 --> 00:28:33,100
And they were walking through
a forest or something.

536

00:28:33,100 --> 00:28:36,260

537

00:28:36,260 --> 00:28:41,540
And SS members hiding
and shot my brother.

538

00:28:41,540 --> 00:28:44,480
And there was-- he must have--

539

00:28:44,480 --> 00:28:47,610
if it would be like in a
city or near a hospital,

540

00:28:47,610 --> 00:28:51,500
I'm sure he could have been
saved because they told us

541

00:28:51,500 --> 00:28:56,796
that he was three days there,
suffering till he died.

542

00:28:56,796 --> 00:29:00,077

543

00:29:00,077 --> 00:29:01,660
They just shot him
and left him there?

544

00:29:01,660 --> 00:29:02,160

Right.

545

00:29:02,160 --> 00:29:05,040

546

00:29:05,040 --> 00:29:08,910

And all this when I have
no idea what happened.

547

00:29:08,910 --> 00:29:11,130

We have an idea because
he wrote a letter,

548

00:29:11,130 --> 00:29:13,840

a goodbye letter to my mother.

549

00:29:13,840 --> 00:29:17,150

But we don't know where--

550

00:29:17,150 --> 00:29:19,460

Can we go back for a
moment to the ghetto?

551

00:29:19,460 --> 00:29:20,720

Yeah, to the ghetto, right.

552

00:29:20,720 --> 00:29:23,330

How long were you
there in the ghetto?

553

00:29:23,330 --> 00:29:26,690

Not too long, not
too long because--

554

00:29:26,690 --> 00:29:31,310

like I said-- it was March--

555

00:29:31,310 --> 00:29:33,710

I think they came
in 19 to Budapest.

556

00:29:33,710 --> 00:29:36,815

And then a day after
or two days after, it

557

00:29:36,815 --> 00:29:41,150

must have been between
19 and 21 happening,

558

00:29:41,150 --> 00:29:46,120

then they left us alone
because they were negotiating

559

00:29:46,120 --> 00:29:49,420

between the Jewish community--

560

00:29:49,420 --> 00:29:54,940

there were 10 or 15 or 20 people
who saw them, saw the Germans.

561

00:29:54,940 --> 00:29:57,190

All the time, they wanted
this, and they wanted that.

562

00:29:57,190 --> 00:29:59,190

And they wanted
gold the other day.

563

00:29:59,190 --> 00:30:01,420

They wanted money and all this.

564

00:30:01,420 --> 00:30:03,765

So we were left alone.

565

00:30:03,765 --> 00:30:06,880

566

00:30:06,880 --> 00:30:10,180

Then I don't remember--

567

00:30:10,180 --> 00:30:17,980

I don't remember how it
was when we find ourselves

568
00:30:17,980 --> 00:30:19,390
in the ghetto.

569
00:30:19,390 --> 00:30:22,280
That part, I don't
remember at all.

570
00:30:22,280 --> 00:30:29,980
I just knew it was beautiful,
like summery days because I had

571
00:30:29,980 --> 00:30:31,540
to help out in the hospital.

572
00:30:31,540 --> 00:30:33,460
I remember we had
to put on a uniform.

573
00:30:33,460 --> 00:30:36,310
Otherwise, we couldn't
walk on the street.

574
00:30:36,310 --> 00:30:42,870
But we had some IDs that we
are in the hospital helping.

575
00:30:42,870 --> 00:30:45,270
But only Jewish people
were there, right?

576
00:30:45,270 --> 00:30:48,130

577
00:30:48,130 --> 00:30:50,680
And then when I heard
that we have to go,

578
00:30:50,680 --> 00:30:53,140
there was number one transport.

579
00:30:53,140 --> 00:30:55,630

We were in the
second one, I think.

580
00:30:55,630 --> 00:30:57,170
So of course, I
left the hospital,

581
00:30:57,170 --> 00:31:00,140
and I went home to the ghetto.

582
00:31:00,140 --> 00:31:04,830
And there was--
packed everything,

583
00:31:04,830 --> 00:31:08,730
packed very nicely with
my mother's trousseau,

584
00:31:08,730 --> 00:31:14,010
which my grandmother bought
her for 22 people, long--

585
00:31:14,010 --> 00:31:17,160
and she got them in
Brussels or God knows where.

586
00:31:17,160 --> 00:31:20,030
And we put it on our
back, and we left.

587
00:31:20,030 --> 00:31:23,750

588
00:31:23,750 --> 00:31:25,970
We went to the station.

589
00:31:25,970 --> 00:31:28,940
I am very annoyed
and very upset when

590
00:31:28,940 --> 00:31:32,030
I see that some
people are questioning

591

00:31:32,030 --> 00:31:37,730

why didn't we escape, or
why didn't we do something?

592

00:31:37,730 --> 00:31:39,910

How can you do
anything when you worry

593

00:31:39,910 --> 00:31:42,300

that if you start, they--
we were sitting at the rail

594

00:31:42,300 --> 00:31:46,550

station on the floor, right?

595

00:31:46,550 --> 00:31:50,870

And they said, anybody who moves
or stands up, I'll kill you,

596

00:31:50,870 --> 00:31:52,510

or I'll kill your
father, or your--

597

00:31:52,510 --> 00:31:55,610

we were worried always about
our parents and my sister.

598

00:31:55,610 --> 00:31:59,480

I figured if I'm going to
be brave, and I get up,

599

00:31:59,480 --> 00:32:02,330

then they kill my
brother or my mother

600

00:32:02,330 --> 00:32:04,340

or my father or my sister.

601

00:32:04,340 --> 00:32:08,180

And then when we were
marching to the train,

602

00:32:08,180 --> 00:32:13,890
Hungarian Nazis were watching.

603

00:32:13,890 --> 00:32:21,260
We have four in a row with
the machine gun, like this.

604

00:32:21,260 --> 00:32:24,830
We never had even
a toy machine gun

605

00:32:24,830 --> 00:32:28,520
because maybe we
couldn't afford it

606

00:32:28,520 --> 00:32:32,370
or which wasn't in style yet,
to play with a gun at that time.

607

00:32:32,370 --> 00:32:35,270
So imagine standing
there next to the--

608

00:32:35,270 --> 00:32:38,720

609

00:32:38,720 --> 00:32:44,720
then when you get to Auschwitz,
all the SS and the dogs.

610

00:32:44,720 --> 00:32:46,610
There was a girl, we
were standing in line

611

00:32:46,610 --> 00:32:49,610
and waiting for her to be
washed and cut her hair.

612

00:32:49,610 --> 00:32:52,820
That was before they cut our--
just coming from the train.

613

00:32:52,820 --> 00:32:55,470

Comes a very lovely girl out.

614

00:32:55,470 --> 00:32:58,220

She must have been Czech because
most of the Czechoslovak girls

615

00:32:58,220 --> 00:33:00,080

used to speak Hungarian.

616

00:33:00,080 --> 00:33:04,430

And she comes out, and she
says, don't worry, girls.

617

00:33:04,430 --> 00:33:08,580

You just listen, and
nothing will happen to you.

618

00:33:08,580 --> 00:33:13,230

Behind her was an SS
with a German Shepherd,

619

00:33:13,230 --> 00:33:16,590

give her a slap on her face,
that the poor girl fell

620

00:33:16,590 --> 00:33:17,400

on the ground.

621

00:33:17,400 --> 00:33:20,040

And God knows what
happened to her.

622

00:33:20,040 --> 00:33:22,540

Then we got the message
that we better keep

623

00:33:22,540 --> 00:33:26,340

our mouth shut and just listen--

624

00:33:26,340 --> 00:33:28,560

Was this girl a
prisoner herself?

625
00:33:28,560 --> 00:33:31,817
She was already because
she had no hair maybe

626
00:33:31,817 --> 00:33:33,400
because the
Czechoslovakian girls were

627
00:33:33,400 --> 00:33:35,850
there for a long time already.

628
00:33:35,850 --> 00:33:40,200
All our Kapos were
Czechoslovakian one, I think,

629
00:33:40,200 --> 00:33:41,970
or Ukrainian or--

630
00:33:41,970 --> 00:33:47,240
our Kapo in the Block 11
was Czechoslovakian Jewish.

631
00:33:47,240 --> 00:33:51,670
She used to tell me how
her father used to clean

632
00:33:51,670 --> 00:33:53,550
sanitary places on the street--

633
00:33:53,550 --> 00:33:55,590
and the street and all this.

634
00:33:55,590 --> 00:34:01,200
And she was such
a revolutionary,

635
00:34:01,200 --> 00:34:02,085
or how you say that?

636
00:34:02,085 --> 00:34:04,620
That she took her

father breakfast

637

00:34:04,620 --> 00:34:08,940

on the street in
sterling silver cups

638

00:34:08,940 --> 00:34:13,610

and these trays
and other things.

639

00:34:13,610 --> 00:34:15,830

She has her share--

640

00:34:15,830 --> 00:34:18,330

her leg when-- because she
was walking up and down,

641

00:34:18,330 --> 00:34:19,310

so we could see her.

642

00:34:19,310 --> 00:34:23,030

We were standing to be counted.

643

00:34:23,030 --> 00:34:29,250

And she used to walk up
and down with a stick.

644

00:34:29,250 --> 00:34:32,790

Pieces were missing from
her leg because she told us

645

00:34:32,790 --> 00:34:36,750

that they were building
those barracks there, that we

646

00:34:36,750 --> 00:34:39,030

had already when we got there.

647

00:34:39,030 --> 00:34:42,239

And if they stopped, or
they did something wrong,

648

00:34:42,239 --> 00:34:48,590
they let the dogs loose on them.

649
00:34:48,590 --> 00:34:49,880
And I heard that she died.

650
00:34:49,880 --> 00:34:54,540
She had a heart attack or
something there in Auschwitz

651
00:34:54,540 --> 00:34:57,540
after we left.

652
00:34:57,540 --> 00:35:00,180
When you got to
Auschwitz, was there--

653
00:35:00,180 --> 00:35:03,870
when you got to Auschwitz,
was there a selection?

654
00:35:03,870 --> 00:35:07,290
Did they make people go to
the left and to the right?

655
00:35:07,290 --> 00:35:10,890
But that's where my mother
and my sister and my father--

656
00:35:10,890 --> 00:35:12,510
but I just--

657
00:35:12,510 --> 00:35:13,420
I didn't see.

658
00:35:13,420 --> 00:35:16,520
We were so bewildered, we
didn't even see what's going on.

659
00:35:16,520 --> 00:35:20,610
After, when I was looking
for my mother, I saw--

660

00:35:20,610 --> 00:35:23,760

I was-- she was
missing, and my sister.

661

00:35:23,760 --> 00:35:26,610

But I still thought that they
took them to another place,

662

00:35:26,610 --> 00:35:29,400

really, where they
take the young ones

663

00:35:29,400 --> 00:35:31,500

and the elderly ones.

664

00:35:31,500 --> 00:35:37,590

And Mike's brother-- no,
Mike's mother and sister

665

00:35:37,590 --> 00:35:38,560

was there with us.

666

00:35:38,560 --> 00:35:43,045

She was a very attractive,
youngish-looking woman.

667

00:35:43,045 --> 00:35:43,920

And she came with us.

668

00:35:43,920 --> 00:35:46,620

We were together all the time.

669

00:35:46,620 --> 00:35:48,930

And then till
Bergen-Belsen, she just

670

00:35:48,930 --> 00:35:54,960

couldn't take it anymore by
the-- almost the very end.

671

00:35:54,960 --> 00:35:57,120

How long were you in Auschwitz?

672
00:35:57,120 --> 00:36:00,120
I was in Auschwitz from--

673
00:36:00,120 --> 00:36:03,870
sometimes in May till--

674
00:36:03,870 --> 00:36:05,790
when was Tisha
B'av I don't know.

675
00:36:05,790 --> 00:36:06,720
What's the date?

676
00:36:06,720 --> 00:36:10,050
Usually July or August.

677
00:36:10,050 --> 00:36:12,990
I know because I was very
hungry and very young,

678
00:36:12,990 --> 00:36:18,420
and I just didn't care about
anything, guests, just food

679
00:36:18,420 --> 00:36:20,520
after a while.

680
00:36:20,520 --> 00:36:22,980
And when we got to
the train station,

681
00:36:22,980 --> 00:36:26,190
again, going to
Dachau, they gave us

682
00:36:26,190 --> 00:36:27,590
something which
was so delicious,

683
00:36:27,590 --> 00:36:29,650
I just couldn't resist.

684
00:36:29,650 --> 00:36:32,790
It was like cabbage something.

685
00:36:32,790 --> 00:36:36,780
And Mike's mother says,
I can't believe it

686
00:36:36,780 --> 00:36:38,460
that Tisha B'av You were eating.

687
00:36:38,460 --> 00:36:41,010
She didn't touch the food.

688
00:36:41,010 --> 00:36:44,840
But I said, I can't
help it, I have to.

689
00:36:44,840 --> 00:36:47,720
So that's why I know
it was Tisha B'av

690
00:36:47,720 --> 00:36:48,990
And we went to Dachau.

691
00:36:48,990 --> 00:36:53,620

692
00:36:53,620 --> 00:36:59,740
We got off the train,
like the sky was falling.

693
00:36:59,740 --> 00:37:01,960
There was I don't know how
many thousands of girls.

694
00:37:01,960 --> 00:37:08,030
I think 1,500 from our barrack.

695
00:37:08,030 --> 00:37:12,250
We've had only one
because we were going to--

696

00:37:12,250 --> 00:37:15,250

we were going to Birkenau.

697

00:37:15,250 --> 00:37:16,840

I don't know what was the idea.

698

00:37:16,840 --> 00:37:20,200

We walked with our Kapo.

699

00:37:20,200 --> 00:37:24,480

And I heard her talking
to the SS woman.

700

00:37:24,480 --> 00:37:28,060

We were-- they were like next
to me while we were marching.

701

00:37:28,060 --> 00:37:32,980

I don't know how far is
Birkenau from Auschwitz.

702

00:37:32,980 --> 00:37:35,170

It's supposed to be very
close, I understand.

703

00:37:35,170 --> 00:37:36,550

Yeah, we were walking--

704

00:37:36,550 --> 00:37:37,690

yeah, I know now.

705

00:37:37,690 --> 00:37:40,030

I remember why we
didn't go there.

706

00:37:40,030 --> 00:37:41,590

I heard her telling--

707

00:37:41,590 --> 00:37:44,830

our Kapo telling the
SS woman, this block

708
00:37:44,830 --> 00:37:48,370
is the healthiest,
hardworking DF.

709
00:37:48,370 --> 00:37:52,880
So healthy, there was never
even a headache in the block.

710
00:37:52,880 --> 00:37:54,940
And I said, oh, no, they're
going to send us home

711
00:37:54,940 --> 00:37:59,050
because we are so healthy.

712
00:37:59,050 --> 00:38:03,250
I know why we went to Birkenau
because there was a girl,

713
00:38:03,250 --> 00:38:06,940
she was a doctor or
something or the model.

714
00:38:06,940 --> 00:38:09,380
You see that, I don't remember.

715
00:38:09,380 --> 00:38:11,890
So working in that
hospital where they made

716
00:38:11,890 --> 00:38:13,810
all those horrible things--

717
00:38:13,810 --> 00:38:14,440
Experiments.

718
00:38:14,440 --> 00:38:15,820
Right.

719
00:38:15,820 --> 00:38:20,980
When you walked in there,

you thought this paradise,

720
00:38:20,980 --> 00:38:23,950
the flowers.

721
00:38:23,950 --> 00:38:28,150
After our little barracks where
we slept in a piece like this,

722
00:38:28,150 --> 00:38:31,180
10 people together, and
when one had to turn,

723
00:38:31,180 --> 00:38:33,490
they all had to turn.

724
00:38:33,490 --> 00:38:38,050
If you walk into that
magnificent, gorgeous, modern

725
00:38:38,050 --> 00:38:41,860
place, and then nurses
with that snow-white.

726
00:38:41,860 --> 00:38:44,140
We had that thing
going on us, so I

727
00:38:44,140 --> 00:38:48,940
don't know how many weeks
after we got to the same thing.

728
00:38:48,940 --> 00:38:52,150
And gorgeous haircut.

729
00:38:52,150 --> 00:38:55,480
So I don't know, the mother
or the daughter was working,

730
00:38:55,480 --> 00:38:57,850
and they called her
outside because we were not

731

00:38:57,850 --> 00:38:59,650
supposed to go in.

732

00:38:59,650 --> 00:39:01,980
The outside meeting again.

733

00:39:01,980 --> 00:39:06,760
They met, and I couldn't
understand one thing

734

00:39:06,760 --> 00:39:09,545
because we were in the
very beginning there.

735

00:39:09,545 --> 00:39:13,740
We were not that stark yet.

736

00:39:13,740 --> 00:39:16,420
They just embraced, and
they didn't even talk.

737

00:39:16,420 --> 00:39:19,480
And they just looked and
smiled a little at each other.

738

00:39:19,480 --> 00:39:24,270
And I said to myself, my God,
if my mother would come or--

739

00:39:24,270 --> 00:39:27,420
we would scream from happiness
and kissing and hugging and all

740

00:39:27,420 --> 00:39:28,260
this.

741

00:39:28,260 --> 00:39:32,370
Now I know why, they
were afraid that--

742

00:39:32,370 --> 00:39:35,880
they were afraid to show

emotion or God knows what.

743

00:39:35,880 --> 00:39:37,320

Anyway, we went
back to Birkenau.

744

00:39:37,320 --> 00:39:42,620

And shortly after,
we went to Dachau.

745

00:39:42,620 --> 00:39:45,440

And Dachau wasn't so bad.

746

00:39:45,440 --> 00:39:49,490

The only thing, till we
got there, the train, we

747

00:39:49,490 --> 00:39:52,520

were marching I don't
know how many hours.

748

00:39:52,520 --> 00:39:55,310

It was so sad that we
couldn't open our mouths.

749

00:39:55,310 --> 00:39:56,870

We didn't talk to each other.

750

00:39:56,870 --> 00:40:01,330

We just walk, then
walk, then walk.

751

00:40:01,330 --> 00:40:05,125

And because there--
and there was

752

00:40:05,125 --> 00:40:08,960

a little, nice,
brand-new barracks.

753

00:40:08,960 --> 00:40:14,540

And everybody got the cover.

754

00:40:14,540 --> 00:40:18,950

And we haven't seen no SS,
nor the chairman, nothing.

755

00:40:18,950 --> 00:40:22,340

We just had the old Kapos.

756

00:40:22,340 --> 00:40:25,250

Or they named themselves
Kapos, I don't remember.

757

00:40:25,250 --> 00:40:29,690

But it wasn't so bad,
except that I got very sick.

758

00:40:29,690 --> 00:40:32,270

It must have been from
the train or something

759

00:40:32,270 --> 00:40:33,830

that I got very sick.

760

00:40:33,830 --> 00:40:40,040

And they put me in the Revier,
they called the hospital.

761

00:40:40,040 --> 00:40:44,030

Beds, not really beds but like--

762

00:40:44,030 --> 00:40:44,930

and I was so--

763

00:40:44,930 --> 00:40:46,850

I didn't know I was so sick.

764

00:40:46,850 --> 00:40:49,880

My sister had to go to work.

765

00:40:49,880 --> 00:40:51,920

And every night when
she came home, she did

766

00:40:51,920 --> 00:40:56,670

thought that I
wasn't there anymore.

767

00:40:56,670 --> 00:41:00,420

Finally, after-- I don't
know, I was there very long,

768

00:41:00,420 --> 00:41:02,910

for 10 weeks or something.

769

00:41:02,910 --> 00:41:06,720

Finally-- oh, yeah,
my sister used

770

00:41:06,720 --> 00:41:09,630

to sing beautiful "La
Paloma" and all this.

771

00:41:09,630 --> 00:41:10,740

And she got bread.

772

00:41:10,740 --> 00:41:13,830

And she brought me
bread and farina.

773

00:41:13,830 --> 00:41:16,290

That's very nice.

774

00:41:16,290 --> 00:41:18,240

That's what kept us alive.

775

00:41:18,240 --> 00:41:20,740

And I heard when
there was a new SS

776

00:41:20,740 --> 00:41:25,500

person came throughout
Dachau, she was introduced.

777

00:41:25,500 --> 00:41:32,880

She was-- the Kapo, I think,

was telling the SS, oh,

778

00:41:32,880 --> 00:41:36,600

and then we have a little
girl here who sings beautiful,

779

00:41:36,600 --> 00:41:37,860

wunderbar.

780

00:41:37,860 --> 00:41:39,270

And you will hear her.

781

00:41:39,270 --> 00:41:45,030

And that was the
attraction out there.

782

00:41:45,030 --> 00:41:52,410

Then the Kapo or the head
of this famous hospital

783

00:41:52,410 --> 00:41:55,680

came to me, and she
told me, I think

784

00:41:55,680 --> 00:41:58,950

it would be much better if
you get out because the SS

785

00:41:58,950 --> 00:42:01,140

woman asked me already.

786

00:42:01,140 --> 00:42:06,690

I don't care because if you
are there long, they take you,

787

00:42:06,690 --> 00:42:09,120

and they throw you.

788

00:42:09,120 --> 00:42:11,130

They have no
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

789

00:42:11,130 --> 00:42:15,540
So I got out, and my assistant
and all my good friends were

790
00:42:15,540 --> 00:42:18,870
hiding me, so I shouldn't go
to work because I couldn't.

791
00:42:18,870 --> 00:42:23,060
I couldn't walk, and
I couldn't march.

792
00:42:23,060 --> 00:42:28,760
And then this is a
little embarrassing,

793
00:42:28,760 --> 00:42:34,240
but I stayed in the camp inside.

794
00:42:34,240 --> 00:42:39,320
I was walking around,
and I had two left shoes.

795
00:42:39,320 --> 00:42:43,940
And the men's camp was
next to us, of course.

796
00:42:43,940 --> 00:42:47,490
And there was-- we
called it magazine,

797
00:42:47,490 --> 00:42:48,920
where all the clothes where.

798
00:42:48,920 --> 00:42:53,210
And if you needed something,
designer clothes, then they

799
00:42:53,210 --> 00:42:56,780
take you in over there
with a Kapo, of course.

800
00:42:56,780 --> 00:43:00,620

Alone, you couldn't
pass the gate.

801
00:43:00,620 --> 00:43:03,860
And this Frenchman
who was taking

802
00:43:03,860 --> 00:43:09,050
care of the clothes there says
his girlfriend was our Kapo.

803
00:43:09,050 --> 00:43:11,920

804
00:43:11,920 --> 00:43:15,250
So he says to her,
listen, how can you

805
00:43:15,250 --> 00:43:18,730
let a nice-looking
girl like her walking

806
00:43:18,730 --> 00:43:23,582
with this two left shoes when
I have here a bunch of shoes?

807
00:43:23,582 --> 00:43:24,790
Why don't you bring her over?

808
00:43:24,790 --> 00:43:27,600

809
00:43:27,600 --> 00:43:29,640
She didn't like
that, I know that

810
00:43:29,640 --> 00:43:33,930
because after that, every
morning, "Wo ist Lilly?

811
00:43:33,930 --> 00:43:34,980
Wo ist Lilly?"

812

00:43:34,980 --> 00:43:36,840

She was looking for
me because I was

813

00:43:36,840 --> 00:43:39,450

hiding till they left for work.

814

00:43:39,450 --> 00:43:45,490

She grabbed me, and she sent
me to work from then on.

815

00:43:45,490 --> 00:43:46,920

So I worked.

816

00:43:46,920 --> 00:43:48,750

And I don't know
how I got through

817

00:43:48,750 --> 00:43:51,990

because I really haven't
got the strength somehow.

818

00:43:51,990 --> 00:43:54,810

I needed a long time till
I recovered from that.

819

00:43:54,810 --> 00:43:55,650

I had fever.

820

00:43:55,650 --> 00:43:56,380

I had fever.

821

00:43:56,380 --> 00:44:00,870

And so you get so weak,
that you can hardly talk.

822

00:44:00,870 --> 00:44:02,820

Did you have food?

823

00:44:02,820 --> 00:44:04,560

Yeah, in Dachau, it wasn't bad.

824

00:44:04,560 --> 00:44:07,450

And then they're out in the--

825

00:44:07,450 --> 00:44:10,692

we used to work for
farmers sometimes.

826

00:44:10,692 --> 00:44:16,110

So we were not shy to take
potatoes or something in a--

827

00:44:16,110 --> 00:44:19,680

Why do you think it was so
much easier there than it

828

00:44:19,680 --> 00:44:22,470

was in Auschwitz or Birkenau--

829

00:44:22,470 --> 00:44:25,350

Because Auschwitz was the real--

830

00:44:25,350 --> 00:44:29,580

in Dachau was a brand-new Lager.

831

00:44:29,580 --> 00:44:32,160

And I think Wehrmacht was there.

832

00:44:32,160 --> 00:44:35,190

They were Wehrmachts
before they became SS.

833

00:44:35,190 --> 00:44:36,090

They were forced to--

834

00:44:36,090 --> 00:44:37,740

I really don't know that.

835

00:44:37,740 --> 00:44:40,750

But they were not bad to us.

836

00:44:40,750 --> 00:44:48,460

And it was a small place
because not all the 1,500 girls

837
00:44:48,460 --> 00:44:49,690
went in the same one.

838
00:44:49,690 --> 00:44:54,340
We were-- one was in--

839
00:44:54,340 --> 00:44:57,280
I forgot the name of the towns.

840
00:44:57,280 --> 00:45:01,040
It was like in the
country, it was beautiful.

841
00:45:01,040 --> 00:45:01,810
We had fresh air.

842
00:45:01,810 --> 00:45:06,410
In Auschwitz, you
breathe the horror.

843
00:45:06,410 --> 00:45:09,170

844
00:45:09,170 --> 00:45:12,200
But there was-- we
were in the forest.

845
00:45:12,200 --> 00:45:13,970
And we were--

846
00:45:13,970 --> 00:45:16,340
I don't think we were
more than, let's say,

847
00:45:16,340 --> 00:45:19,950
300, 400 in one place.

848
00:45:19,950 --> 00:45:23,120
That's why we know everybody.

849
00:45:23,120 --> 00:45:28,500
And one SS man who
took care of us.

850
00:45:28,500 --> 00:45:31,040
I think it was only one SS man.

851
00:45:31,040 --> 00:45:33,830
And then he picked the
Kapos, women and men

852
00:45:33,830 --> 00:45:36,650
who took care of the--

853
00:45:36,650 --> 00:45:40,490
everything should be--
like food and everything

854
00:45:40,490 --> 00:45:42,350
should be taken care of.

855
00:45:42,350 --> 00:45:46,180
Were the Kapos humane there?

856
00:45:46,180 --> 00:45:47,870
In Dachau, yes.

857
00:45:47,870 --> 00:45:52,910
In Dachau, more or less, except
this one who had an eye on me

858
00:45:52,910 --> 00:45:56,510
and send me out to work.

859
00:45:56,510 --> 00:45:58,460
But she was-- she
couldn't hurt me.

860
00:45:58,460 --> 00:46:00,830
She didn't touch me
ever or anything.

861
00:46:00,830 --> 00:46:03,320
She just made sure
I wasn't around

862
00:46:03,320 --> 00:46:05,780
because she wasn't
an attractive woman.

863
00:46:05,780 --> 00:46:06,890
She was Polish.

864
00:46:06,890 --> 00:46:11,280
She was that tall and very--

865
00:46:11,280 --> 00:46:11,780
Round?

866
00:46:11,780 --> 00:46:15,590
Anyway, they got married
after they were-- my sister

867
00:46:15,590 --> 00:46:16,445
saw them in Canada.

868
00:46:16,445 --> 00:46:22,220

869
00:46:22,220 --> 00:46:27,080
Then came-- Mike's mother
used to work for an SS member

870
00:46:27,080 --> 00:46:29,240
in the kitchen.

871
00:46:29,240 --> 00:46:31,340
And she used to bring
sometimes stuff--

872
00:46:31,340 --> 00:46:32,180
back stuff.

873

00:46:32,180 --> 00:46:33,860

I mean not filet mignon.

874

00:46:33,860 --> 00:46:35,900

But potatoes for us was--

875

00:46:35,900 --> 00:46:36,890

A luxury.

876

00:46:36,890 --> 00:46:38,270

Of course.

877

00:46:38,270 --> 00:46:40,190

And then she came
back in the evening,

878

00:46:40,190 --> 00:46:43,050

and she left in the morning.

879

00:46:43,050 --> 00:46:46,610

She had to come
back in the evening.

880

00:46:46,610 --> 00:46:49,970

And she had a-- she could
have stayed in Dachau,

881

00:46:49,970 --> 00:46:53,120

but she had a sister
with a daughter.

882

00:46:53,120 --> 00:46:55,280

And she wouldn't leave her.

883

00:46:55,280 --> 00:46:58,370

So she volunteered
to come with us to--

884

00:46:58,370 --> 00:47:01,550

first of all, we didn't
know where we're going.

885

00:47:01,550 --> 00:47:04,460

But she wouldn't
leave the sister,

886

00:47:04,460 --> 00:47:06,890

so she came with us
to Bergen-Belsen.

887

00:47:06,890 --> 00:47:14,210

I tell you something, no words,
no books, no movies, no film,

888

00:47:14,210 --> 00:47:17,900

no nothing can
describe Bergen-Belsen.

889

00:47:17,900 --> 00:47:21,300

890

00:47:21,300 --> 00:47:24,180

No way.

891

00:47:24,180 --> 00:47:26,670

But we found there.

892

00:47:26,670 --> 00:47:30,120

You were there in the
last months of the war?

893

00:47:30,120 --> 00:47:32,130

I was there from--

894

00:47:32,130 --> 00:47:34,470

I don't remember, end
of October or beginning

895

00:47:34,470 --> 00:47:39,600

of November till the
liberation, April 15.

896

00:47:39,600 --> 00:47:44,280

We were standing in the snow

early in the morning for hours.

897

00:47:44,280 --> 00:47:49,500

And we had to listen to
speeches about the fatherland

898

00:47:49,500 --> 00:47:52,710

because we have to work for
the fatherland to be great

899

00:47:52,710 --> 00:47:55,890

and to be a mother.

900

00:47:55,890 --> 00:48:02,270

Then we went to work
without food, horrible.

901

00:48:02,270 --> 00:48:04,060

I couldn't eat the
food in Auschwitz.

902

00:48:04,060 --> 00:48:05,360

I didn't touch it.

903

00:48:05,360 --> 00:48:07,640

Can I tell you something
from Auschwitz,

904

00:48:07,640 --> 00:48:08,750

going back to Auschwitz?

905

00:48:08,750 --> 00:48:09,350

Please.

906

00:48:09,350 --> 00:48:10,460

I couldn't eat the food.

907

00:48:10,460 --> 00:48:17,030

Mike's mother and I, the
big pot for 10 people.

908

00:48:17,030 --> 00:48:18,490

And you had to--

909

00:48:18,490 --> 00:48:22,200

And the first day
when I smell the food,

910

00:48:22,200 --> 00:48:23,750

God knows what kind
of meat was it.

911

00:48:23,750 --> 00:48:26,940

I just couldn't.

912

00:48:26,940 --> 00:48:29,850

And we-- whenever we
went, we always made sure.

913

00:48:29,850 --> 00:48:31,700

With my sister, we
were on the third floor

914

00:48:31,700 --> 00:48:37,750

because I felt we get
more air in the penthouse.

915

00:48:37,750 --> 00:48:41,050

When I was watching, they
used to bring in the food

916

00:48:41,050 --> 00:48:42,670

from the back in the big--

917

00:48:42,670 --> 00:48:45,350

I don't know the name of those.

918

00:48:45,350 --> 00:48:48,640

Well, like they put the
garbage now, big ones, right?

919

00:48:48,640 --> 00:48:51,160

Big can or big bath, yeah.

920

00:48:51,160 --> 00:48:52,810
They brought in the food there.

921
00:48:52,810 --> 00:48:55,240
They stopped in the back.

922
00:48:55,240 --> 00:48:57,910
Certain girls went
almost every day--

923
00:48:57,910 --> 00:49:02,830
oh, no, no, no, they called
the-- because block over,

924
00:49:02,830 --> 00:49:05,950
they call it, I don't know, six
or seven roll up their beds,

925
00:49:05,950 --> 00:49:07,750
had RVs at--

926
00:49:07,750 --> 00:49:10,180
obviously, Erie
and I don't know.

927
00:49:10,180 --> 00:49:13,330
I'd like-- four ladies.

928
00:49:13,330 --> 00:49:17,740
And those four ladies went to
the back door with their pots.

929
00:49:17,740 --> 00:49:21,700
And they took out the
meat from the bottom

930
00:49:21,700 --> 00:49:29,500
and ran to their bed, and they
divided between themselves.

931
00:49:29,500 --> 00:49:33,410
And I saw that, and
I couldn't take it.

932
00:49:33,410 --> 00:49:36,160
And every day, I said to
them, you should be ashamed,

933
00:49:36,160 --> 00:49:37,000
I would say.

934
00:49:37,000 --> 00:49:38,920
The curse was in Auschwitz.

935
00:49:38,920 --> 00:49:41,590
You should never
go home, she said.

936
00:49:41,590 --> 00:49:44,980
You are not allowed to
go-- no, you are not--

937
00:49:44,980 --> 00:49:48,170
you don't deserve to go home
because you are doing that.

938
00:49:48,170 --> 00:49:50,680
You are taking away
food from your other--

939
00:49:50,680 --> 00:49:53,810

940
00:49:53,810 --> 00:49:59,895
And one day, it got so
noisy, that the Kapo that--

941
00:49:59,895 --> 00:50:02,515
red-haired Alice was her
name-- came over, and she says,

942
00:50:02,515 --> 00:50:03,390
what's going on here?

943
00:50:03,390 --> 00:50:05,060

What is that noise?

944

00:50:05,060 --> 00:50:11,360

So the four ladies say that
blonde upstairs there, she

945

00:50:11,360 --> 00:50:14,000

wouldn't leave us alone.

946

00:50:14,000 --> 00:50:15,170

Come on down.

947

00:50:15,170 --> 00:50:16,160

Referring to you?

948

00:50:16,160 --> 00:50:16,850

That was me.

949

00:50:16,850 --> 00:50:19,430

950

00:50:19,430 --> 00:50:22,490

I went down.

951

00:50:22,490 --> 00:50:30,210

And Alice was with a stick
and a pencil in her hand.

952

00:50:30,210 --> 00:50:33,400

And she took the stick
in the other hand,

953

00:50:33,400 --> 00:50:37,290

she was ready to hit me.

954

00:50:37,290 --> 00:50:40,250

And in Hungarian, when
you have a little respect,

955

00:50:40,250 --> 00:50:42,000

or you love somebody,
you don't say Alice,

956
00:50:42,000 --> 00:50:45,055
you say Alice-ka, like
Doctor Lilly or Ma'am Lilly.

957
00:50:45,055 --> 00:50:45,930
You know what I mean?

958
00:50:45,930 --> 00:50:46,710
It sounds like a--

959
00:50:46,710 --> 00:50:48,350
It's an endearment.

960
00:50:48,350 --> 00:50:50,700
No, that's in Yiddish.

961
00:50:50,700 --> 00:50:53,070
Yeah, yeah-- no.

962
00:50:53,070 --> 00:50:55,590
Alice-ka is in Hungarian.

963
00:50:55,590 --> 00:50:58,890
I said, Alice-ka, please
listen to me before you

964
00:50:58,890 --> 00:51:00,720
decide to do anything to me.

965
00:51:00,720 --> 00:51:05,090

966
00:51:05,090 --> 00:51:06,230
OK, she listened.

967
00:51:06,230 --> 00:51:09,630
I don't-- that was a miracle.

968
00:51:09,630 --> 00:51:13,290
I said, you can ask

everybody around here,

969

00:51:13,290 --> 00:51:14,860

I don't touch the food.

970

00:51:14,860 --> 00:51:17,190

I am not talking for myself.

971

00:51:17,190 --> 00:51:19,890

But I am talking about
those people who can hardly

972

00:51:19,890 --> 00:51:24,030

wait to get that little
soup or the piece of meat

973

00:51:24,030 --> 00:51:25,650

in their food.

974

00:51:25,650 --> 00:51:28,380

And these people comes in--

975

00:51:28,380 --> 00:51:31,140

remember, I used-- we never
used to talk Yiddish at home,

976

00:51:31,140 --> 00:51:35,260

but I used the word
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] comes

977

00:51:35,260 --> 00:51:40,680

in, runs to the food, and
they grab it with a big spoon.

978

00:51:40,680 --> 00:51:43,990

And then they divide
between themselves.

979

00:51:43,990 --> 00:51:47,880

And I found it very unfair.

980

00:51:47,880 --> 00:51:52,320

Actually, she says, kneel
down for five minutes.

981
00:51:52,320 --> 00:51:57,385
She saw that I had something.

982
00:51:57,385 --> 00:51:58,260
You know what I mean?

983
00:51:58,260 --> 00:52:01,530
I'm not-- I wasn't
defending myself.

984
00:52:01,530 --> 00:52:05,790
And then I remember,
Mike's sister and mother

985
00:52:05,790 --> 00:52:09,100
was on the other side,
across the street from us.

986
00:52:09,100 --> 00:52:13,800
And all my friends from our
shtetl there on the top floor.

987
00:52:13,800 --> 00:52:16,770
And Alice-ka turns around
and she says, is that true?

988
00:52:16,770 --> 00:52:19,530
And they were afraid to talk,
they just did like this.

989
00:52:19,530 --> 00:52:22,450
So many years, I'm shivering.

990
00:52:22,450 --> 00:52:24,060
I think I've had it.

991
00:52:24,060 --> 00:52:25,380
They just did like that.

992

00:52:25,380 --> 00:52:29,160
And she knew that it was true.

993
00:52:29,160 --> 00:52:30,930
Kneel down for five minutes.

994
00:52:30,930 --> 00:52:35,350
After she left, I got up,
and then no more black

995
00:52:35,350 --> 00:52:37,260
market anymore.

996
00:52:37,260 --> 00:52:39,150
No more.

997
00:52:39,150 --> 00:52:42,420
And so I felt--

998
00:52:42,420 --> 00:52:45,470
I was happy about it.

999
00:52:45,470 --> 00:52:47,220
You got a certain
amount of satisfaction--

1000
00:52:47,220 --> 00:52:48,525
Exactly, right.

1001
00:52:48,525 --> 00:52:51,730

1002
00:52:51,730 --> 00:52:54,480
Go back to Bergen-Belsen
and tell us.

1003
00:52:54,480 --> 00:52:57,280
Bergen-Belsen, yeah,
we were very lucky

1004
00:52:57,280 --> 00:53:00,190
in a way with all

the terrible things.

1005

00:53:00,190 --> 00:53:05,730

We found a girl who
liked my brother Yosi.

1006

00:53:05,730 --> 00:53:11,190

And she-- we know her from home
because she was a country girl,

1007

00:53:11,190 --> 00:53:14,250

but she used to come to our
city, and then they were--

1008

00:53:14,250 --> 00:53:17,500

I don't know, they were friends.

1009

00:53:17,500 --> 00:53:20,440

She spoke perfect German.

1010

00:53:20,440 --> 00:53:24,280

And she was very, very capable.

1011

00:53:24,280 --> 00:53:27,310

I cannot find
another better word.

1012

00:53:27,310 --> 00:53:28,870

That was [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

1013

00:53:28,870 --> 00:53:31,020

How you say
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] in English?

1014

00:53:31,020 --> 00:53:32,980

You were like baskets--

1015

00:53:32,980 --> 00:53:33,520

Weaver.

1016

00:53:33,520 --> 00:53:34,500

Weaver, right.

1017
00:53:34,500 --> 00:53:36,220
We called it weaver.

1018
00:53:36,220 --> 00:53:39,400
She was the fourth lady there.

1019
00:53:39,400 --> 00:53:43,210
And she took us
there every morning.

1020
00:53:43,210 --> 00:53:47,320
And that was our good
luck because at least,

1021
00:53:47,320 --> 00:53:50,290
we breathe the fresh air
because thousands of people

1022
00:53:50,290 --> 00:53:51,960
were on the floor.

1023
00:53:51,960 --> 00:53:56,240
We never-- my sister and I, we
never had a pimple or anything.

1024
00:53:56,240 --> 00:54:05,970
As soon as they saw you, I saw
my friends literally rot away.

1025
00:54:05,970 --> 00:54:08,940
And we didn't because
we've had fresh air,

1026
00:54:08,940 --> 00:54:12,940
and maybe it wasn't in our blood
to get those horrible things.

1027
00:54:12,940 --> 00:54:16,750
And we got better food there.

1028
00:54:16,750 --> 00:54:24,420

And we were treated a little
better because we had--

1029
00:54:24,420 --> 00:54:27,120
and my sister was singing.

1030
00:54:27,120 --> 00:54:28,560
And so maybe.

1031
00:54:28,560 --> 00:54:29,580
I don't know, who knows?

1032
00:54:29,580 --> 00:54:31,655
Maybe that was our--

1033
00:54:31,655 --> 00:54:34,460

1034
00:54:34,460 --> 00:54:39,330
how you say that,
that we survived?

1035
00:54:39,330 --> 00:54:44,570
We're not laying on the
floor month after month

1036
00:54:44,570 --> 00:54:47,520
and waiting for
that piece of bread.

1037
00:54:47,520 --> 00:54:50,120
In other words, people were
just lying on the ground.

1038
00:54:50,120 --> 00:54:53,700
And we went to visit
them sometimes.

1039
00:54:53,700 --> 00:54:54,200
My God.

1040
00:54:54,200 --> 00:54:57,970

1041
00:54:57,970 --> 00:55:04,540
Girls from home whom I
know, they have far worse.

1042
00:55:04,540 --> 00:55:08,800
And all the insects
you say, all the--

1043
00:55:08,800 --> 00:55:12,310

1044
00:55:12,310 --> 00:55:12,880
Lice.

1045
00:55:12,880 --> 00:55:13,380
Lice.

1046
00:55:13,380 --> 00:55:18,100

1047
00:55:18,100 --> 00:55:21,010
Can you imagine?

1048
00:55:21,010 --> 00:55:22,810
Did they have beds?

1049
00:55:22,810 --> 00:55:23,960
Did they have any kind of--

1050
00:55:23,960 --> 00:55:27,850
No, they were-- in Auschwitz,
we had beds because of her,

1051
00:55:27,850 --> 00:55:32,560
of my relative, the
four lady in the--

1052
00:55:32,560 --> 00:55:36,050
wait, but I forgot what to say.

1053

00:55:36,050 --> 00:55:43,320

But thousands of people
just on the floor.

1054

00:55:43,320 --> 00:55:46,630

We had to go and
see them sometimes

1055

00:55:46,630 --> 00:55:49,640

because we missed them.

1056

00:55:49,640 --> 00:55:51,560

So I don't know,
in the evening or--

1057

00:55:51,560 --> 00:55:53,990

I don't even know why
we had time to see.

1058

00:55:53,990 --> 00:55:56,090

No, no.

1059

00:55:56,090 --> 00:55:59,810

After the liberation, the first
thing was we went to see them.

1060

00:55:59,810 --> 00:56:07,340

My sister and myself, we were
somehow a little far away.

1061

00:56:07,340 --> 00:56:10,190

And I couldn't
walk, so my sister

1062

00:56:10,190 --> 00:56:15,800

put me down every
five minutes to rest.

1063

00:56:15,800 --> 00:56:21,140

And because I wanted to see
Mike's mother because my mother

1064

00:56:21,140 --> 00:56:23,870
and her were the best friends.

1065
00:56:23,870 --> 00:56:26,990
With all the biggest stories,
they were in a good mood.

1066
00:56:26,990 --> 00:56:28,040
They were laughing.

1067
00:56:28,040 --> 00:56:29,690
They were gossiping.

1068
00:56:29,690 --> 00:56:32,720
And after, I haven't
seen my mother,

1069
00:56:32,720 --> 00:56:36,440
I felt like maybe she
will know something.

1070
00:56:36,440 --> 00:56:37,880
I just wanted to see her.

1071
00:56:37,880 --> 00:56:40,610
She was the closest
to me after that.

1072
00:56:40,610 --> 00:56:44,451
So I went with my sister,
she wasn't there anymore.

1073
00:56:44,451 --> 00:56:47,280

1074
00:56:47,280 --> 00:56:50,700
And the sister was there.

1075
00:56:50,700 --> 00:56:55,710
And his sister-- my
mother-in-law's sister--

1076

00:56:55,710 --> 00:56:59,470
let's put it this way--
wasn't there anymore.

1077
00:56:59,470 --> 00:57:01,980
And friends with whom I
was in Auschwitz, because

1078
00:57:01,980 --> 00:57:04,350
in Auschwitz, you
still look like human,

1079
00:57:04,350 --> 00:57:08,220
except the hair because
it was short now.

1080
00:57:08,220 --> 00:57:12,860
When I saw my
friends there, I just

1081
00:57:12,860 --> 00:57:15,965
couldn't believe it,
that I looked like that.

1082
00:57:15,965 --> 00:57:17,990
I must have because I
didn't have the strength

1083
00:57:17,990 --> 00:57:20,630
to walk or eat or anything.

1084
00:57:20,630 --> 00:57:23,180
I had typhus when
we were liberated.

1085
00:57:23,180 --> 00:57:25,700

1086
00:57:25,700 --> 00:57:28,730
And I was screaming for
water, and my sister

1087
00:57:28,730 --> 00:57:30,770

brought me water in a plate.

1088
00:57:30,770 --> 00:57:32,930
And it was full
with God knows what.

1089
00:57:32,930 --> 00:57:35,490
And I was drinking
it like crazy.

1090
00:57:35,490 --> 00:57:44,180
And the most delicious
gourmet thing was for us the--

1091
00:57:44,180 --> 00:57:48,050
it looks like a melon,
and it's yellow inside.

1092
00:57:48,050 --> 00:57:50,240
I don't know how you
call it in English.

1093
00:57:50,240 --> 00:57:54,290
In Spanish, you
call it calabaza.

1094
00:57:54,290 --> 00:57:57,380
Sometimes they put it in the
soup or bake it in the oven.

1095
00:57:57,380 --> 00:57:58,487
I know what you mean.

1096
00:57:58,487 --> 00:57:59,570
I can't think of the name.

1097
00:57:59,570 --> 00:58:03,920
And that was poison for
a person who had typhus,

1098
00:58:03,920 --> 00:58:06,080
but we loved it.

1099

00:58:06,080 --> 00:58:07,910

We just loved it.

1100

00:58:07,910 --> 00:58:09,050

And then we were--

1101

00:58:09,050 --> 00:58:12,020

after liberation, we were still
on the floor for a long time

1102

00:58:12,020 --> 00:58:16,490

because they couldn't
handle that many people.

1103

00:58:16,490 --> 00:58:19,710

So we were waiting there.

1104

00:58:19,710 --> 00:58:22,690

And luckily, they came in time.

1105

00:58:22,690 --> 00:58:24,850

I think at this point,
we're going to stop and take

1106

00:58:24,850 --> 00:58:26,200

a short break and continue--

1107

00:58:26,200 --> 00:58:27,670

OK, I'm going to
smoke a cigarette.

1108

00:58:27,670 --> 00:58:29,220

Good.

1109

00:58:29,220 --> 00:58:40,000