

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

2
00:00:05,928 --> 00:00:08,892
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:08,892 --> 00:00:25,210

4
00:00:25,210 --> 00:00:26,390
Good afternoon.

5
00:00:26,390 --> 00:00:28,180
My name is Joan Bang.

6
00:00:28,180 --> 00:00:31,270
I'm a member of the Kean
College Oral Testimonies

7
00:00:31,270 --> 00:00:34,060
project of The Holocaust
Resource Center.

8
00:00:34,060 --> 00:00:36,700
We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

9
00:00:36,700 --> 00:00:39,250
for Holocaust Testimonies
at the Sterling

10
00:00:39,250 --> 00:00:41,830
Library of Yale University.

11
00:00:41,830 --> 00:00:45,250
Sharing the interview with
me is Dr. Bernard Weinstein.

12
00:00:45,250 --> 00:00:49,420
We are privileged to welcome Mr.
Ed Harvit, a survivor presently

13

00:00:49,420 --> 00:00:52,480

living in Mountainside, New
Jersey, who has generously

14

00:00:52,480 --> 00:00:56,050

volunteered to give testimony
about his experiences

15

00:00:56,050 --> 00:00:59,020

before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

16

00:00:59,020 --> 00:01:00,610

Welcome, Mr. Harvit.

17

00:01:00,610 --> 00:01:02,394

Thank you.

18

00:01:02,394 --> 00:01:04,700

Could you tell us a little
bit about your background--

19

00:01:04,700 --> 00:01:07,520

where you were born,
when you were born,

20

00:01:07,520 --> 00:01:10,880

your parents, your
early childhood?

21

00:01:10,880 --> 00:01:20,350

I was born in 1929 in June
in what was then Poland.

22

00:01:20,350 --> 00:01:24,620

The name of the city
was then Stanisław³w.

23

00:01:24,620 --> 00:01:29,180

Since then, it's-- the city
now is within the boundaries

24

00:01:29,180 --> 00:01:32,930
of the Soviet Union, and the
name of the city was changed

25

00:01:32,930 --> 00:01:36,350
to Ivano-Frankivsk.

26

00:01:36,350 --> 00:01:40,430
The general area is
referred to as Galicia.

27

00:01:40,430 --> 00:01:48,650
And as far as I know,
my paternal family

28

00:01:48,650 --> 00:01:51,620
has lived in that region
for a long, long time,

29

00:01:51,620 --> 00:01:53,960
several generations at least.

30

00:01:53,960 --> 00:01:59,630
On my mother's side, her
parents came also from Poland.

31

00:01:59,630 --> 00:02:04,340
But then during the First World
War, they moved to Austria.

32

00:02:04,340 --> 00:02:07,820
And my mother was
raised in Vienna.

33

00:02:07,820 --> 00:02:18,980
And then married to Poland
and lived in Stanislaw³w until

34

00:02:18,980 --> 00:02:23,260
1943, where my mother--

35

00:02:23,260 --> 00:02:29,330

a survivor of a pogrom
where my father was killed--

36
00:02:29,330 --> 00:02:32,030
and I left Stanisławów.

37
00:02:32,030 --> 00:02:35,720
And we went to Lwów, which
was the largest city within

38
00:02:35,720 --> 00:02:36,800
the same--

39
00:02:36,800 --> 00:02:40,220
basically the same area.

40
00:02:40,220 --> 00:02:43,640
And then we made
several other moves.

41
00:02:43,640 --> 00:02:46,910
Eventually, we were
liberated by the Russian army

42
00:02:46,910 --> 00:02:52,760
and allowed to go to Poland,
where the borders were shifted.

43
00:02:52,760 --> 00:02:56,090
And we were settled in
the western part of Poland

44
00:02:56,090 --> 00:02:59,840
in a town which is
now called Legnica--

45
00:02:59,840 --> 00:03:02,180
the German name for
that was Liegnitz--

46
00:03:02,180 --> 00:03:05,120
on the Lower Silesia.

47

00:03:05,120 --> 00:03:13,440

And in 1946, we moved
to Munich, West Germany.

48

00:03:13,440 --> 00:03:16,220

We lived there
approximately five years

49

00:03:16,220 --> 00:03:22,250

and emigrated to the
United States in 1951.

50

00:03:22,250 --> 00:03:24,950

After living in New
York for a few months,

51

00:03:24,950 --> 00:03:26,660

we settled in New Jersey.

52

00:03:26,660 --> 00:03:28,580

And we are still here.

53

00:03:28,580 --> 00:03:30,290

Could we back up
for just a minute?

54

00:03:30,290 --> 00:03:32,520

Did you have
brothers and sisters?

55

00:03:32,520 --> 00:03:34,850

No, I was an only child.

56

00:03:34,850 --> 00:03:40,760

Were there other members of your
family living at your-- living

57

00:03:40,760 --> 00:03:42,500

in your home, though?

58

00:03:42,500 --> 00:03:45,410

Aunts or uncles or--

59

00:03:45,410 --> 00:03:51,470

No, my parents and myself lived
in the apartment building.

60

00:03:51,470 --> 00:03:55,120

And another apartment
was occupied

61

00:03:55,120 --> 00:03:58,910

by my paternal grandparents.

62

00:03:58,910 --> 00:04:03,290

And my father had a brother
who came to America right

63

00:04:03,290 --> 00:04:07,520

after the First World War
and settled in New York.

64

00:04:07,520 --> 00:04:10,910

What did your family
do for a living?

65

00:04:10,910 --> 00:04:14,670

My grandfather had
a grocery store.

66

00:04:14,670 --> 00:04:17,120

And my father had a--

67

00:04:17,120 --> 00:04:24,880

was a supplier of food
stuff to the Polish army.

68

00:04:24,880 --> 00:04:27,930

My mother was a housewife.

69

00:04:27,930 --> 00:04:31,200

And what was your early
childhood education like then?

70

00:04:31,200 --> 00:04:34,970
Were you in a regular school?

71
00:04:34,970 --> 00:04:37,550
Were you in a Hebrew school?

72
00:04:37,550 --> 00:04:47,870
Well, my father was
really a Zionist.

73
00:04:47,870 --> 00:04:53,900
And when I was growing up
as a child, it was really--

74
00:04:53,900 --> 00:04:57,170
the Jewish population
was persecuted,

75
00:04:57,170 --> 00:04:59,640
even before the war.

76
00:04:59,640 --> 00:05:04,280
And my parents decided not to
send me to a public school.

77
00:05:04,280 --> 00:05:08,885
And instead, I attended
a Hebrew school.

78
00:05:08,885 --> 00:05:10,970
It was also because
of the convenience,

79
00:05:10,970 --> 00:05:14,180
because that school happened
to be just across the street

80
00:05:14,180 --> 00:05:16,050
from where we lived.

81
00:05:16,050 --> 00:05:19,940
So my early education
was in a Hebrew school,

82
00:05:19,940 --> 00:05:23,790
but it was not a Hebrew
religious school.

83
00:05:23,790 --> 00:05:26,400
It was a Hebrew
non-religious school,

84
00:05:26,400 --> 00:05:31,610
where the Jewish religion
was taught only as a subject.

85
00:05:31,610 --> 00:05:34,940
But everything was
taught in Hebrew.

86
00:05:34,940 --> 00:05:42,890
And after we were occupied
by the Russian army in 1939,

87
00:05:42,890 --> 00:05:48,410
that school was changed
into a Yiddish school.

88
00:05:48,410 --> 00:05:51,960
And I attended that
for a very short time

89
00:05:51,960 --> 00:05:55,380
and decided-- my parents
decided then to send me

90
00:05:55,380 --> 00:05:57,960
to a public school instead.

91
00:05:57,960 --> 00:06:00,890
And then the war
broke out, and then

92
00:06:00,890 --> 00:06:04,810
I obviously didn't go to
school for the duration

93

00:06:04,810 --> 00:06:07,600
of the German occupation.

94

00:06:07,600 --> 00:06:12,370
After the liberation by
the Russian army in 1944,

95

00:06:12,370 --> 00:06:19,270
I went to school in the
Russian educational system,

96

00:06:19,270 --> 00:06:22,840
where it runs from
1 to 10th grade.

97

00:06:22,840 --> 00:06:26,710
And then after that,
you are ready to enter

98

00:06:26,710 --> 00:06:29,500
a higher school of learning.

99

00:06:29,500 --> 00:06:35,920
I went into the fifth grade
and finished the fifth grade.

100

00:06:35,920 --> 00:06:41,900
And then we moved out of
that area into West Germany.

101

00:06:41,900 --> 00:06:47,740
Now, I lost some more time,
as far as school goes.

102

00:06:47,740 --> 00:06:52,510
So then I was sort of too
old to enter high school.

103

00:06:52,510 --> 00:06:58,000
And instead my mother
insisted I studied.

104

00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:02,350

So my mother hired
a private tutor.

105

00:07:02,350 --> 00:07:08,710

And I took private
lessons and took an exam.

106

00:07:08,710 --> 00:07:14,890

And I entered the technical
college, engineering school,

107

00:07:14,890 --> 00:07:16,600

in Munich.

108

00:07:16,600 --> 00:07:20,560

And I graduated in
1951 with a degree

109

00:07:20,560 --> 00:07:23,110

in mechanical engineering.

110

00:07:23,110 --> 00:07:27,460

Did you perceive a
difference between being

111

00:07:27,460 --> 00:07:31,600

in a public school and being in
the early school, the Zionist

112

00:07:31,600 --> 00:07:33,160

school, that you were in?

113

00:07:33,160 --> 00:07:36,440

Were you treated differently
as a Jew in the public school?

114

00:07:36,440 --> 00:07:39,097

115

00:07:39,097 --> 00:07:40,180

Are you referring to the--

116
00:07:40,180 --> 00:07:41,722
I'm talking about
the period before--

117
00:07:41,722 --> 00:07:46,180
before the war, or when
the Russians came in.

118
00:07:46,180 --> 00:07:51,440
Well, I really don't remember
having had any kind of problems

119
00:07:51,440 --> 00:07:53,250
in the school.

120
00:07:53,250 --> 00:07:55,580
And when I came--

121
00:07:55,580 --> 00:07:59,270
I can only actually
remember one--

122
00:07:59,270 --> 00:08:03,140
just one case, in
all my school days,

123
00:08:03,140 --> 00:08:08,300
as far as being
discriminated, and that was

124
00:08:08,300 --> 00:08:12,140
in Munich as a college student.

125
00:08:12,140 --> 00:08:14,960
The German setup of--

126
00:08:14,960 --> 00:08:19,165
the university setup, or the
engineering schools in Germany

127
00:08:19,165 --> 00:08:20,540

are not part of
the universities.

128
00:08:20,540 --> 00:08:22,550
They are separate.

129
00:08:22,550 --> 00:08:24,890
But the system is--

130
00:08:24,890 --> 00:08:27,150
the student body is very free.

131
00:08:27,150 --> 00:08:31,210
There's no attendance
check or whatever.

132
00:08:31,210 --> 00:08:34,200
They come and go, they come
and go, wherever they please.

133
00:08:34,200 --> 00:08:35,760
And they study or don't study.

134
00:08:35,760 --> 00:08:41,330
And just the professor lectures,
and it's up to the student

135
00:08:41,330 --> 00:08:42,799
to study or not to study.

136
00:08:42,799 --> 00:08:47,570
So that one incident
that I remember

137
00:08:47,570 --> 00:08:52,910
is that the professor
taught descriptive

138
00:08:52,910 --> 00:08:56,030
geometry, which was a
very difficult subject

139

00:08:56,030 --> 00:08:57,140
to comprehend.

140
00:08:57,140 --> 00:09:01,080
And he was not a very
good teacher as such.

141
00:09:01,080 --> 00:09:06,050
He was probably a very
good engineer or--

142
00:09:06,050 --> 00:09:08,090
but not a good teacher,
couldn't explain to us.

143
00:09:08,090 --> 00:09:10,220
So we did not learn too much.

144
00:09:10,220 --> 00:09:13,910
And the general student
body was not very attentive.

145
00:09:13,910 --> 00:09:17,690
And some students
in the back room--

146
00:09:17,690 --> 00:09:20,300
back of the room were playing
cards and reading newspapers.

147
00:09:20,300 --> 00:09:25,406
And so at one point, he pointed
at me directly and said--

148
00:09:25,406 --> 00:09:31,520
he called me by name, and asked
me if I understood his lecture.

149
00:09:31,520 --> 00:09:37,260
And I very demonstratively
got up, and I said, I also--

150
00:09:37,260 --> 00:09:39,353

and I underlined also--
don't understand.

151
00:09:39,353 --> 00:09:40,770
So he said, what
do you mean also?

152
00:09:40,770 --> 00:09:43,440
I said, well, very few
seem to understand,

153
00:09:43,440 --> 00:09:47,780
and I'm one of those that
also don't understand.

154
00:09:47,780 --> 00:09:52,640
So then I decided
that, obviously, he

155
00:09:52,640 --> 00:09:56,000
made sure to know who I was.

156
00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:00,160
And the reason was actually--

157
00:10:00,160 --> 00:10:03,650
I'm backtracking, I
forgot to mention that--

158
00:10:03,650 --> 00:10:07,970
on the previous
lecture, where he

159
00:10:07,970 --> 00:10:12,680
didn't get much
respect or whatever,

160
00:10:12,680 --> 00:10:15,530
he came out with a statement.

161
00:10:15,530 --> 00:10:18,710
He was sort of
agitated, and he said,

162
00:10:18,710 --> 00:10:21,050
what is this, a Jew school?

163
00:10:21,050 --> 00:10:23,280
And nobody said anything.

164
00:10:23,280 --> 00:10:26,990
There was no answer or anything.

165
00:10:26,990 --> 00:10:32,090
And at the end of the class,
the student, the president

166
00:10:32,090 --> 00:10:34,280
of the class, came up to me.

167
00:10:34,280 --> 00:10:36,990
And they all knew
that I was Jewish,

168
00:10:36,990 --> 00:10:39,412
and I was the only
Jew in the class.

169
00:10:39,412 --> 00:10:41,300
And he said, did you
hear that remark?

170
00:10:41,300 --> 00:10:43,010
And I said, yes, I did.

171
00:10:43,010 --> 00:10:46,910
So he said to me, how
come you did not respond?

172
00:10:46,910 --> 00:10:48,410
So I looked at
him, and I said, I

173
00:10:48,410 --> 00:10:50,452
thought that you were the

president of the class,

174

00:10:50,452 --> 00:10:53,540
and obviously you found
that to be objectionable.

175

00:10:53,540 --> 00:10:57,570
And if you did, why
didn't you say anything?

176

00:10:57,570 --> 00:11:00,200
So he did, subsequently.

177

00:11:00,200 --> 00:11:05,450
Told the professor on
the following lecture

178

00:11:05,450 --> 00:11:08,930
that there was a Jewish
student in the class,

179

00:11:08,930 --> 00:11:13,340
and they did not-- we did not
appreciate this kind of remark.

180

00:11:13,340 --> 00:11:17,060
So then he called me by name
and asked me, specifically,

181

00:11:17,060 --> 00:11:22,400
if I understood his lecture.

182

00:11:22,400 --> 00:11:25,670
After that incident,
I had the right,

183

00:11:25,670 --> 00:11:29,660
as a non-German student--

184

00:11:29,660 --> 00:11:31,650
because I wasn't, after
all, a German student--

185

00:11:31,650 --> 00:11:38,010

I had the right to request
an oral examination.

186

00:11:38,010 --> 00:11:41,960

So I went up to him, and
I asked him whether--

187

00:11:41,960 --> 00:11:44,270

the next time we will
have an examination,

188

00:11:44,270 --> 00:11:47,030

I would like to do it orally.

189

00:11:47,030 --> 00:11:49,082

So he said, well--

190

00:11:49,082 --> 00:11:50,540

he didn't like the
idea, because it

191

00:11:50,540 --> 00:11:53,270

would mean to him to
spend an extra hour

192

00:11:53,270 --> 00:11:57,350

or whatever time just sitting
with me and testing me.

193

00:11:57,350 --> 00:12:00,260

So he said, well, why
don't you try to do

194

00:12:00,260 --> 00:12:01,910

the exam with everybody else?

195

00:12:01,910 --> 00:12:04,280

And then if you have
problems, I will give you

196

00:12:04,280 --> 00:12:05,960

an oral examination.

197

00:12:05,960 --> 00:12:07,520

So I sat, and I

wrote the exam, and I

198

00:12:07,520 --> 00:12:09,920

felt that I did fairly well.

199

00:12:09,920 --> 00:12:12,050

And when he

announced the grades,

200

00:12:12,050 --> 00:12:17,670

and I got a passing grade, which

I felt was not good enough.

201

00:12:17,670 --> 00:12:22,700

So I went over to him, and

I asked him to see my paper.

202

00:12:22,700 --> 00:12:26,750

Well, he stalled me for

about two or three weeks.

203

00:12:26,750 --> 00:12:30,110

And he finally-- never

showed me the paper,

204

00:12:30,110 --> 00:12:33,050

but he finally

upgraded my grade.

205

00:12:33,050 --> 00:12:35,810

So that was the only incident

throughout my school days

206

00:12:35,810 --> 00:12:38,840

that I had any kind of

a case of where I felt

207

00:12:38,840 --> 00:12:40,673

that I was prejudiced against.

208
00:12:40,673 --> 00:12:41,840
Being discriminated against.

209
00:12:41,840 --> 00:12:42,800
Discriminated against.

210
00:12:42,800 --> 00:12:45,710
Where were you at the
outbreak of the war?

211
00:12:45,710 --> 00:12:48,600
At the outbreak of
the war, I was in my--

212
00:12:48,600 --> 00:12:51,560
the town where I was
born, in Stanislaw³w.

213
00:12:51,560 --> 00:12:55,940
And did you feel any
danger at that time?

214
00:12:55,940 --> 00:12:59,540
Well, I only felt
the danger when

215
00:12:59,540 --> 00:13:03,440
the war started, because we
were very cognizant of what

216
00:13:03,440 --> 00:13:04,940
was happening.

217
00:13:04,940 --> 00:13:11,180
And, you know, the war
between Poland and Germany

218
00:13:11,180 --> 00:13:13,160
and the Soviet Union.

219
00:13:13,160 --> 00:13:17,150

And actually, we were run
over by the Russian troops

220
00:13:17,150 --> 00:13:19,760
and occupied by the Russians.

221
00:13:19,760 --> 00:13:21,630
And that was in 1939.

222
00:13:21,630 --> 00:13:28,730
So the Russian occupation
lasted from 1939 until 1941.

223
00:13:28,730 --> 00:13:33,050
At this time, my
grandparents, who were

224
00:13:33,050 --> 00:13:37,530
classified as capitalists--

225
00:13:37,530 --> 00:13:40,160
and they were far from
being capitalists--

226
00:13:40,160 --> 00:13:43,340
but they owned a building,
and my grandfather

227
00:13:43,340 --> 00:13:47,150
was a self-employed person.

228
00:13:47,150 --> 00:13:50,720
They were ordered to
move out of the city.

229
00:13:50,720 --> 00:13:54,120
They were not allowed to
live in their own house.

230
00:13:54,120 --> 00:13:57,990
And they had to move into a
village, a nearby village.

231

00:13:57,990 --> 00:14:02,540

But my father and I and my
family stayed in the city.

232

00:14:02,540 --> 00:14:10,190

And my father became an
employee in the food industry,

233

00:14:10,190 --> 00:14:14,555

but specifically under the
ministry of the railroads.

234

00:14:14,555 --> 00:14:17,840

In those days-- I don't
know how it is now--

235

00:14:17,840 --> 00:14:21,980

the Soviet railroad system
was completely independent

236

00:14:21,980 --> 00:14:26,060

of all the other ministries.

237

00:14:26,060 --> 00:14:28,160

They ran their own
not only railroads,

238

00:14:28,160 --> 00:14:32,940

but they ran their own food
stores and clothing stores,

239

00:14:32,940 --> 00:14:33,440

everything.

240

00:14:33,440 --> 00:14:37,280

And even they had their
own justice system.

241

00:14:37,280 --> 00:14:39,620

And my father was working
for the railroad then.

242

00:14:39,620 --> 00:14:42,800
In the period when it was still
possible for you to get out--

243
00:14:42,800 --> 00:14:45,980

244
00:14:45,980 --> 00:14:50,990
your having said that
your family was Zionists

245
00:14:50,990 --> 00:14:52,640
prompts this question--

246
00:14:52,640 --> 00:14:56,660
did they ever entertain your
parents or your grandparents

247
00:14:56,660 --> 00:15:02,210
any notion about going to
Palestine or settling there?

248
00:15:02,210 --> 00:15:08,000
Or was it always that you wanted
to stay in your own country?

249
00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:11,510
Well, I don't know about my
grandparents-- grandfather

250
00:15:11,510 --> 00:15:12,650
being a Zionist.

251
00:15:12,650 --> 00:15:16,550
I only know about my
father being a Zionist.

252
00:15:16,550 --> 00:15:19,430
Whether he entertained the
notion of moving to Palestine,

253
00:15:19,430 --> 00:15:21,660
I really don't know.

254
00:15:21,660 --> 00:15:25,130
But I can imagine that he
probably could not do it,

255
00:15:25,130 --> 00:15:28,520
because already, his
older brother had left

256
00:15:28,520 --> 00:15:31,050
for the United-- for America.

257
00:15:31,050 --> 00:15:34,820
And his parents were alone--

258
00:15:34,820 --> 00:15:38,130
would be alone if
we would have left.

259
00:15:38,130 --> 00:15:43,100
So I imagine that even if he had
feelings of going to Palestine,

260
00:15:43,100 --> 00:15:48,710
he probably wouldn't do
it because of his parents.

261
00:15:48,710 --> 00:15:53,150
And my grandfather,
specifically, was much older

262
00:15:53,150 --> 00:15:55,250
than my grandmother.

263
00:15:55,250 --> 00:15:58,927
And I don't think that they--

264
00:15:58,927 --> 00:16:00,760
That he would have
wanted to have left them.

265
00:16:00,760 --> 00:16:02,840

--would've wanted to uproot
himself and all this.

266
00:16:02,840 --> 00:16:05,340
Were your maternal grandparents
living near you at the time,

267
00:16:05,340 --> 00:16:05,910
too?

268
00:16:05,910 --> 00:16:09,620
No, my maternal-- my
mother lost her father

269
00:16:09,620 --> 00:16:11,450
when she was very, very young.

270
00:16:11,450 --> 00:16:15,920
And my grandmother, my mother's
mother, lived in Vienna.

271
00:16:15,920 --> 00:16:25,340
And after the Anschluss,
when Austria was taken over

272
00:16:25,340 --> 00:16:33,790
by Nazi regime, by
Hitler, my grandmother

273
00:16:33,790 --> 00:16:39,190
never bothered actually to
become an Austrian citizen.

274
00:16:39,190 --> 00:16:47,080
So the Austrian government
and Hitler, at one time,

275
00:16:47,080 --> 00:16:50,170
decided that all
those that were not

276
00:16:50,170 --> 00:16:54,250
Austrian citizens on a

given day had to move back

277

00:16:54,250 --> 00:16:57,430
to their original country.

278

00:16:57,430 --> 00:17:04,180
And they literally threw out
my grandmother and other people

279

00:17:04,180 --> 00:17:06,470
like herself.

280

00:17:06,470 --> 00:17:08,800
She had lived there
practically all her life.

281

00:17:08,800 --> 00:17:12,660
She had lost the
Polish citizenship,

282

00:17:12,660 --> 00:17:15,750
so Poland would not let them in.

283

00:17:15,750 --> 00:17:19,140
And Austria threw them out.

284

00:17:19,140 --> 00:17:21,480
So my grandmother
and three other women

285

00:17:21,480 --> 00:17:26,190
found themselves on the border
on the international territory

286

00:17:26,190 --> 00:17:28,690
between the two countries.

287

00:17:28,690 --> 00:17:30,580
And my mother got a letter--

288

00:17:30,580 --> 00:17:35,910
got a telegram from one of these

Polish people who sort of threw

289

00:17:35,910 --> 00:17:39,510
food to these four women.

290

00:17:39,510 --> 00:17:43,890
And somehow they got the
address of my mother.

291

00:17:43,890 --> 00:17:48,570
And my mother traveled from
the other side of Poland

292

00:17:48,570 --> 00:17:50,580
to see if she could--

293

00:17:50,580 --> 00:17:52,750
what she could do about this.

294

00:17:52,750 --> 00:17:59,190
And she was able to smuggle
these four women into Poland.

295

00:17:59,190 --> 00:18:00,730
How did she do that?

296

00:18:00,730 --> 00:18:04,980
She paid somebody at
night, and they just

297

00:18:04,980 --> 00:18:07,650
brought them across the border.

298

00:18:07,650 --> 00:18:13,680
And then my grandmother
lived with us,

299

00:18:13,680 --> 00:18:17,020
until she was taken away
to a concentration camp.

300

00:18:17,020 --> 00:18:21,780

And I don't know what
finally happened to her.

301
00:18:21,780 --> 00:18:25,650
So during the early years of
the war then, where you lived

302
00:18:25,650 --> 00:18:27,990
was occupied by the
Russian soldiers.

303
00:18:27,990 --> 00:18:31,260
What was life like
during that time?

304
00:18:31,260 --> 00:18:35,610
Were there food shortages?

305
00:18:35,610 --> 00:18:37,620
Did people still go
about their business

306
00:18:37,620 --> 00:18:39,780
as if nothing had happened?

307
00:18:39,780 --> 00:18:42,930
Or was life pretty
much the same?

308
00:18:42,930 --> 00:18:47,010
Well, life could not go on
as if nothing had happened,

309
00:18:47,010 --> 00:18:49,290
because a lot of
things happened.

310
00:18:49,290 --> 00:18:51,240
There was obviously
not private enterprise.

311
00:18:51,240 --> 00:18:54,180
Everybody became an

employee of the state.

312

00:18:54,180 --> 00:18:58,710

And a lot of people,
like my grandparents,

313

00:18:58,710 --> 00:19:01,620

had to leave the town.

314

00:19:01,620 --> 00:19:04,650

So life was not the same.

315

00:19:04,650 --> 00:19:12,420

But being, at that time,
about 10, 11 years old,

316

00:19:12,420 --> 00:19:16,180

it did not affect me very much.

317

00:19:16,180 --> 00:19:20,860

I went about my ways,
going to school.

318

00:19:20,860 --> 00:19:27,240

And so I really honestly cannot
remember all the details.

319

00:19:27,240 --> 00:19:32,550

But I don't remember anything
extraordinarily bad or good.

320

00:19:32,550 --> 00:19:36,677

So just everything went a
certain way, and that was it.

321

00:19:36,677 --> 00:19:38,760

What did your father do
for a living at that time?

322

00:19:38,760 --> 00:19:43,920

Well, now he was working for
the ministry of the railroad

323

00:19:43,920 --> 00:19:49,670
and the food supply for the
employees of the railroad--

324

00:19:49,670 --> 00:19:52,860
for the Russian railroad system.

325

00:19:52,860 --> 00:19:57,670
When did things start
to really change then?

326

00:19:57,670 --> 00:20:00,340
Or did you know that you
were actually in danger?

327

00:20:00,340 --> 00:20:11,390
Well, just prior to the
occupation of the German army,

328

00:20:11,390 --> 00:20:16,010
we knew that the
whole world is coming

329

00:20:16,010 --> 00:20:18,330
to some sort of an eclipse.

330

00:20:18,330 --> 00:20:21,100

331

00:20:21,100 --> 00:20:26,080
Young men were being drafted
into the Russian army--

332

00:20:26,080 --> 00:20:26,860
most of them.

333

00:20:26,860 --> 00:20:30,190

334

00:20:30,190 --> 00:20:39,130
Some of the people escaped the
German occupation of Poland

335
00:20:39,130 --> 00:20:45,430
and somehow found their way
to our area, where we were not

336
00:20:45,430 --> 00:20:46,720
occupied by the Germans.

337
00:20:46,720 --> 00:20:48,190
And they were
telling us what was

338
00:20:48,190 --> 00:20:51,220
happening on the other side.

339
00:20:51,220 --> 00:20:54,380
These were Jewish people.

340
00:20:54,380 --> 00:20:56,960
The beginning years
was not really--

341
00:20:56,960 --> 00:20:59,380
nobody was yet being
massacred and killed.

342
00:20:59,380 --> 00:21:05,430
But they felt that something
bad was going to happen.

343
00:21:05,430 --> 00:21:08,170
This was before June of
1941, before the invasion?

344
00:21:08,170 --> 00:21:09,790
That's correct.

345
00:21:09,790 --> 00:21:11,730
Specifically, my
family, my father,

346
00:21:11,730 --> 00:21:15,010

was not drafted into
the Russian army,

347

00:21:15,010 --> 00:21:19,120
probably primarily because he
was a married man with a child.

348

00:21:19,120 --> 00:21:24,970
Instead, he was drafted
into the fire department.

349

00:21:24,970 --> 00:21:30,720
And he was trained
to be a fireman.

350

00:21:30,720 --> 00:21:36,960
So actually when the war
broke out in June the 22nd,

351

00:21:36,960 --> 00:21:43,380
if I remember, 1941, and the
German planes flew overhead,

352

00:21:43,380 --> 00:21:45,630
and they bombed, and there
was a fire someplace,

353

00:21:45,630 --> 00:21:50,940
I still remember seeing a fire
engine passing by my house.

354

00:21:50,940 --> 00:21:54,390
And I saw my father
on the fire engine.

355

00:21:54,390 --> 00:22:00,060
As it happened, he was
the only Jewish fireman.

356

00:22:00,060 --> 00:22:05,010
So after the ghetto was
created, after we were occupied

357

00:22:05,010 --> 00:22:07,860
by the Germans, my
father was given the job

358
00:22:07,860 --> 00:22:10,950
to organize the Jewish fire
brigade within the ghetto.

359
00:22:10,950 --> 00:22:14,790
And he became sort of the chief
of the Jewish fire department

360
00:22:14,790 --> 00:22:15,810
in our ghetto.

361
00:22:15,810 --> 00:22:21,070
So when the Germans came in
then and formed the ghetto,

362
00:22:21,070 --> 00:22:23,490
what were your living
conditions like then?

363
00:22:23,490 --> 00:22:27,510
Well, before they
formed the ghetto,

364
00:22:27,510 --> 00:22:30,090
I can remember the
first thing that

365
00:22:30,090 --> 00:22:35,880
happened that really hit
everybody was that they

366
00:22:35,880 --> 00:22:42,540
proclaimed that every Jewish
professional person had

367
00:22:42,540 --> 00:22:47,010
to come to register on
a given day in order

368

00:22:47,010 --> 00:22:53,460
to obtain a license to practice
their individual profession.

369
00:22:53,460 --> 00:22:55,260
And they were all gathered--

370
00:22:55,260 --> 00:22:58,200
all these people were gathered
and were taken directly

371
00:22:58,200 --> 00:22:59,980
to the cemetery.

372
00:22:59,980 --> 00:23:03,030
And until 6 o'clock
that evening,

373
00:23:03,030 --> 00:23:06,420
they were shooting them,
they were killing them.

374
00:23:06,420 --> 00:23:08,970
For some reason, at 6
o'clock-- and I think it's 6

375
00:23:08,970 --> 00:23:11,400
o'clock, I'm not 100%
sure about the time--

376
00:23:11,400 --> 00:23:15,540
but on a given moment,
they ceased fire,

377
00:23:15,540 --> 00:23:19,740
and whoever was not killed
was allowed to go back.

378
00:23:19,740 --> 00:23:22,260
But by then, most of
the professional people

379
00:23:22,260 --> 00:23:24,630

were killed off.

380

00:23:24,630 --> 00:23:26,160

Was this done all in one day?

381

00:23:26,160 --> 00:23:27,270

Or over a period of days?

382

00:23:27,270 --> 00:23:29,700

That was done in one day.

383

00:23:29,700 --> 00:23:38,000

And then they designated an
area of the city that was then--

384

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:42,690

they made all the
non-Jews move out

385

00:23:42,690 --> 00:23:44,850

and all the Jews
moved into that area.

386

00:23:44,850 --> 00:23:46,240

Who did the killing, by the way?

387

00:23:46,240 --> 00:23:46,740

Was it the--

388

00:23:46,740 --> 00:23:50,280

At that specific point,
as far as I remember,

389

00:23:50,280 --> 00:23:52,320

were only German--

390

00:23:52,320 --> 00:23:52,950

German--

391

00:23:52,950 --> 00:23:54,390

The Einsatzgruppen?

392
00:23:54,390 --> 00:23:56,610
I don't know.

393
00:23:56,610 --> 00:23:57,720
But they were not--

394
00:23:57,720 --> 00:24:00,990
this was right at the
beginning, so there were no--

395
00:24:00,990 --> 00:24:03,840
no Ukrainian police
or Polish or whatever.

396
00:24:03,840 --> 00:24:07,260
It was only Germans.

397
00:24:07,260 --> 00:24:11,040
So then we were all told
that we had to move in.

398
00:24:11,040 --> 00:24:13,890
And I don't know
the details, but we

399
00:24:13,890 --> 00:24:16,890
were designated a very
tiny, little apartment,

400
00:24:16,890 --> 00:24:21,540
where my father, mother,
myself, my maternal grandmother,

401
00:24:21,540 --> 00:24:25,170
and my paternal
grandparents moved all

402
00:24:25,170 --> 00:24:28,980
into this one little apartment.

403
00:24:28,980 --> 00:24:32,790
And that's where we

were in the ghetto.

404

00:24:32,790 --> 00:24:35,400

As I said, my father was
given the job of organizing

405

00:24:35,400 --> 00:24:38,820

the Jewish fire brigade.

406

00:24:38,820 --> 00:24:44,260

And they gave them some
space in a very old building,

407

00:24:44,260 --> 00:24:49,070

which was a very, very
large pre-war textile mill.

408

00:24:49,070 --> 00:24:54,810

It was called Rudolf's
M^hle, Rudolf's Mill,

409

00:24:54,810 --> 00:25:02,070

where he assembled a number of
people that he was, in turn,

410

00:25:02,070 --> 00:25:06,000

training to be firefighters.

411

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:07,230

These were all Jewish people?

412

00:25:07,230 --> 00:25:08,938

They were all Jewish
people, because that

413

00:25:08,938 --> 00:25:11,400

was within the ghetto.

414

00:25:11,400 --> 00:25:14,100

There were very few
able-bodied young men,

415

00:25:14,100 --> 00:25:19,980
because most of those had
left with the Russian army.

416
00:25:19,980 --> 00:25:22,300
And so there were some--

417
00:25:22,300 --> 00:25:24,660
I don't remember how
many of these people

418
00:25:24,660 --> 00:25:27,630
were there in the
Jewish fire brigade.

419
00:25:27,630 --> 00:25:31,830
Their equipment was
all hand-operated.

420
00:25:31,830 --> 00:25:34,590

421
00:25:34,590 --> 00:25:38,430
Nothing was motorized,
as far as I remember.

422
00:25:38,430 --> 00:25:40,920
Wagons that had to be--
the pumps had to be pushed

423
00:25:40,920 --> 00:25:41,590
and so forth.

424
00:25:41,590 --> 00:25:44,790
But they did the
best they could.

425
00:25:44,790 --> 00:25:48,300
And I remember, on
several occasions,

426
00:25:48,300 --> 00:25:54,360
they were actually called in

to help put out fires outside

427

00:25:54,360 --> 00:25:58,590
of the ghetto to help the
regular fire department.

428

00:25:58,590 --> 00:26:01,050
Can you describe your
living conditions

429

00:26:01,050 --> 00:26:04,230
in the ghetto for us a
little bit more explicitly?

430

00:26:04,230 --> 00:26:07,552
Well, as far as I remember,
we had a two-room flat.

431

00:26:07,552 --> 00:26:09,510
There were eight of you
there, is that correct?

432

00:26:09,510 --> 00:26:12,195
Well, my grandparents, two,
my grandmother, three--

433

00:26:12,195 --> 00:26:14,100
no, and three of us.

434

00:26:14,100 --> 00:26:15,040
There were six of us.

435

00:26:15,040 --> 00:26:15,540
Six, right.

436

00:26:15,540 --> 00:26:16,260
Six.

437

00:26:16,260 --> 00:26:19,775
We had one-- a kitchen.

438

00:26:19,775 --> 00:26:22,950

439

00:26:22,950 --> 00:26:26,190

I would guess the size, I
would say, probably somewhere

440

00:26:26,190 --> 00:26:28,920

it's, like, 10 by 12.

441

00:26:28,920 --> 00:26:32,910

And a bedroom about
that same size.

442

00:26:32,910 --> 00:26:34,110

For the six of you.

443

00:26:34,110 --> 00:26:36,090

For all of us, yes.

444

00:26:36,090 --> 00:26:39,000

And we were sort of, quote,
unquote, "privileged people,"

445

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:40,020

because we--

446

00:26:40,020 --> 00:26:42,780

my father was the chief
of the fire department.

447

00:26:42,780 --> 00:26:47,410

Is that why you were
given this space?

448

00:26:47,410 --> 00:26:49,950

I don't know whether
this was the reason.

449

00:26:49,950 --> 00:27:00,390

But it was the next house right
next to that Rudolf's MÃ¼hle,

450

00:27:00,390 --> 00:27:05,700
where the fire
department was situated.

451
00:27:05,700 --> 00:27:09,390
That big building,
the Rudolf's Mill,

452
00:27:09,390 --> 00:27:13,110
it was turned into
a concentration camp

453
00:27:13,110 --> 00:27:17,580
within the ghetto,
where they, in turn--

454
00:27:17,580 --> 00:27:23,550
Jews who came out of
Hungary, Hungarian Jews,

455
00:27:23,550 --> 00:27:26,430
that were not
Hungarian citizens--

456
00:27:26,430 --> 00:27:33,660
and Hungary, at that
point, was an ally of--

457
00:27:33,660 --> 00:27:36,360
allied with Hitler Germany.

458
00:27:36,360 --> 00:27:42,990
So they sent the Jews out
of Hungary into Galicia.

459
00:27:42,990 --> 00:27:46,560
And they put all these people,
or many of those people,

460
00:27:46,560 --> 00:27:48,000
into this building.

461
00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:51,045

And every single
day, they were shot--

462
00:27:51,045 --> 00:27:52,920
I don't know how many,
but a number of them--

463
00:27:52,920 --> 00:27:57,080
until they were all killed
off in that building.

464
00:27:57,080 --> 00:28:02,250
And my father and the
firemen and the Jewish police

465
00:28:02,250 --> 00:28:03,480
were asked--

466
00:28:03,480 --> 00:28:04,860
were told-- made--

467
00:28:04,860 --> 00:28:07,890

468
00:28:07,890 --> 00:28:11,715
after everybody's
actions, I don't

469
00:28:11,715 --> 00:28:13,090
know exactly what
they had to do,

470
00:28:13,090 --> 00:28:15,960
but I guess dispose
of the clothing.

471
00:28:15,960 --> 00:28:18,410
Everything had to be sorted out.

472
00:28:18,410 --> 00:28:23,700
All I can remember and
that I know for a fact,

473

00:28:23,700 --> 00:28:30,870

that every afternoon I could
hear shots, machine gun shots.

474

00:28:30,870 --> 00:28:33,420

And I knew for a fact that
people were being killed there.

475

00:28:33,420 --> 00:28:37,380

The people who were put into the
concentration camp, were they--

476

00:28:37,380 --> 00:28:39,810

were they specially selected?

477

00:28:39,810 --> 00:28:43,773

Were they picked up at
random off the street?

478

00:28:43,773 --> 00:28:44,940

How were they brought there?

479

00:28:44,940 --> 00:28:45,790

I really don't know.

480

00:28:45,790 --> 00:28:50,520

But these people were sent
by the Hungarian government.

481

00:28:50,520 --> 00:28:52,980

And the word was that
these people never

482

00:28:52,980 --> 00:28:56,790

bothered getting the
Hungarian citizenship.

483

00:28:56,790 --> 00:28:59,545

They may have lived there
for God knows how many years,

484

00:28:59,545 --> 00:29:00,420

probably their lives.

485

00:29:00,420 --> 00:29:02,580

So they were deportees,
in other words.

486

00:29:02,580 --> 00:29:06,960

They were deported from Hungary
because of lack of citizenship.

487

00:29:06,960 --> 00:29:09,720

Like my grandmother was
deported from Austria,

488

00:29:09,720 --> 00:29:11,770

because she was not
an Austrian citizen.

489

00:29:11,770 --> 00:29:13,395

So they were brought
there by transport

490

00:29:13,395 --> 00:29:14,312

and sent immediately--

491

00:29:14,312 --> 00:29:16,545

They brought them by
transport and sent directly

492

00:29:16,545 --> 00:29:17,540

into that building.

493

00:29:17,540 --> 00:29:18,457

So you never saw them.

494

00:29:18,457 --> 00:29:22,170

So these were not people
from your ghetto itself

495

00:29:22,170 --> 00:29:23,520

that were being brought in here.

496

00:29:23,520 --> 00:29:27,030

No, no, there was a
concentration camp--

497

00:29:27,030 --> 00:29:27,975

Just for these--

498

00:29:27,975 --> 00:29:30,150

--inside the ghetto.

499

00:29:30,150 --> 00:29:32,760

What was your life
like at that time?

500

00:29:32,760 --> 00:29:33,720

Were you working?

501

00:29:33,720 --> 00:29:36,030

Were you just in the home?

502

00:29:36,030 --> 00:29:38,490

Or did you have--

503

00:29:38,490 --> 00:29:41,490

had they set up these young
men for some kind of a function

504

00:29:41,490 --> 00:29:41,990

as well?

505

00:29:41,990 --> 00:29:46,770

Well, because of connections,
so my father's connections,

506

00:29:46,770 --> 00:29:47,640

at the age of--

507

00:29:47,640 --> 00:29:50,430

I think I was, like, 12
years old or whatever,

508

00:29:50,430 --> 00:29:56,700

I became a mechanic's
helper fixing bicycles.

509
00:29:56,700 --> 00:29:59,370
Now, outside of the
ghetto, they formed--

510
00:29:59,370 --> 00:30:06,640
somebody formed-- in one large
building, different trades,

511
00:30:06,640 --> 00:30:09,850
manned all by
Jewish trades people

512
00:30:09,850 --> 00:30:13,390
serving the
non-Jewish population.

513
00:30:13,390 --> 00:30:17,380
And among other things,
there was a bicycle shop.

514
00:30:17,380 --> 00:30:19,090
And I was working
at that bicycle

515
00:30:19,090 --> 00:30:25,420
shop as a gopher or helper
to fix bicycles, whatever.

516
00:30:25,420 --> 00:30:29,320
My mother eventually also
worked in the same building.

517
00:30:29,320 --> 00:30:33,700
And she worked in a tailor shop.

518
00:30:33,700 --> 00:30:35,650
But in my case,
specifically, I know

519
00:30:35,650 --> 00:30:38,170

that I would have never
gotten a job had it not

520
00:30:38,170 --> 00:30:41,960
been for my father's
position being

521
00:30:41,960 --> 00:30:45,700
the chief of the
Jewish fire brigade.

522
00:30:45,700 --> 00:30:51,670
We were assembled every
morning on the Jewish side

523
00:30:51,670 --> 00:30:54,160
of the ghetto wall.

524
00:30:54,160 --> 00:31:01,190
As a group, we were led by
police to the place of work.

525
00:31:01,190 --> 00:31:03,740
And after the work
was completed,

526
00:31:03,740 --> 00:31:07,120
we were led back
inside into the ghetto.

527
00:31:07,120 --> 00:31:13,940
And that's how--

528
00:31:13,940 --> 00:31:16,220
Did you have any
feelings at that time

529
00:31:16,220 --> 00:31:19,280
that you were not
going to survive

530
00:31:19,280 --> 00:31:21,254
this experience, or that--

531
00:31:21,254 --> 00:31:24,510

532
00:31:24,510 --> 00:31:28,070
that you were really
in immediate danger,

533
00:31:28,070 --> 00:31:29,840
or that any members
of your family

534
00:31:29,840 --> 00:31:31,280
were in immediate danger?

535
00:31:31,280 --> 00:31:35,600
For example, your father,
because he was in the position

536
00:31:35,600 --> 00:31:37,550
that he was in.

537
00:31:37,550 --> 00:31:40,670
Well, there was no question
that we were constantly

538
00:31:40,670 --> 00:31:42,590
in immediate danger.

539
00:31:42,590 --> 00:31:47,030
Because the object
of forming a ghetto

540
00:31:47,030 --> 00:31:49,940
was to liquidate--
to kill everybody off

541
00:31:49,940 --> 00:31:51,560
and liquidating the ghetto.

542
00:31:51,560 --> 00:31:52,640
And you realized that.

543
00:31:52,640 --> 00:31:54,920
And we realized that,
because people were

544
00:31:54,920 --> 00:31:59,300
being constantly taken away.

545
00:31:59,300 --> 00:32:06,410
I remember an incident
where the Ukrainian--

546
00:32:06,410 --> 00:32:09,110
the ghetto was manned
by the Jewish police.

547
00:32:09,110 --> 00:32:14,030
We had a mayor, a Jewish
mayor, and a Jewish police,

548
00:32:14,030 --> 00:32:17,510
and a Jewish fire department
inside the ghetto.

549
00:32:17,510 --> 00:32:20,240
On the outside, we
had the German police

550
00:32:20,240 --> 00:32:22,700
and Ukrainian police.

551
00:32:22,700 --> 00:32:24,920
The gate, there was only
one way to get in and out

552
00:32:24,920 --> 00:32:27,050
of the ghetto,
through the main gate,

553
00:32:27,050 --> 00:32:30,020
which was manned on the
outside by the Ukrainian

554

00:32:30,020 --> 00:32:33,020
and the Germans, and on
the inside by the Jews.

555

00:32:33,020 --> 00:32:35,510
The wall was
constructed completely

556

00:32:35,510 --> 00:32:37,250
surrounding the
ghetto, which was

557

00:32:37,250 --> 00:32:40,670
a high wall with barbed wire.

558

00:32:40,670 --> 00:32:45,860
None of us was allowed to leave
or enter as an individual.

559

00:32:45,860 --> 00:32:51,590
We could only go to work as
a group, led out and led in.

560

00:32:51,590 --> 00:33:01,250
And at one time, I remember
specifically a Ukrainian--

561

00:33:01,250 --> 00:33:03,290
I don't remember, Ukrainian
or German policeman

562

00:33:03,290 --> 00:33:07,350
came with an arrest warrant
against a Jewish man,

563

00:33:07,350 --> 00:33:09,890
a specific case.

564

00:33:09,890 --> 00:33:13,180
And this man would not let--

565

00:33:13,180 --> 00:33:13,880

be arrested.

566
00:33:13,880 --> 00:33:16,520
He grabbed a bottle,
hit the policeman,

567
00:33:16,520 --> 00:33:22,800
injured the German
policeman, and he ran away.

568
00:33:22,800 --> 00:33:26,600
The German police gave an
order to the Jewish police

569
00:33:26,600 --> 00:33:35,240
to produce this man within 24
hours or whatever, or else.

570
00:33:35,240 --> 00:33:38,173
They were not able to find him.

571
00:33:38,173 --> 00:33:39,590
I don't know what
happened to him.

572
00:33:39,590 --> 00:33:41,880
He escaped or whatever.

573
00:33:41,880 --> 00:33:46,280
So they organized a
pogrom within the ghetto.

574
00:33:46,280 --> 00:33:51,260
They came in, and they--

575
00:33:51,260 --> 00:33:57,890
first, they lined up the Jewish
police, and they decimated.

576
00:33:57,890 --> 00:34:05,090
Every 10th Jewish policeman
was hung on a gas lamp--

577

00:34:05,090 --> 00:34:07,970

two on every gas lamp.

578

00:34:07,970 --> 00:34:13,909

Then, they hung the mayor, the
Jewish mayor of the ghetto.

579

00:34:13,909 --> 00:34:17,880

Then they dug a mass
grave inside the center

580

00:34:17,880 --> 00:34:20,480

of-- on the main
street of the ghetto.

581

00:34:20,480 --> 00:34:26,000

And they went house to house,
rounding up only men, no women.

582

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:30,090

And I don't know how many, but
hundreds, maybe a thousand,

583

00:34:30,090 --> 00:34:35,300

maybe even more were killed
and shot, and most of them

584

00:34:35,300 --> 00:34:39,565

killed into one grave.

585

00:34:39,565 --> 00:34:42,230

Where I worked outside
the ghetto with my mother,

586

00:34:42,230 --> 00:34:43,989

we were not allowed--
not brought back

587

00:34:43,989 --> 00:34:45,850

that day back home.

588

00:34:45,850 --> 00:34:49,225

We stayed overnight
at our place of work,

589
00:34:49,225 --> 00:34:51,250
worked the following day.

590
00:34:51,250 --> 00:34:54,909
And when we came back the
following day after work,

591
00:34:54,909 --> 00:34:57,925
the first thing I
saw was, on every gas

592
00:34:57,925 --> 00:35:01,150
lamp, two men hanging, two
Jewish policemen hanging.

593
00:35:01,150 --> 00:35:02,440
You hadn't known about this.

594
00:35:02,440 --> 00:35:05,680
Well, we knew that something
was happening by the mere fact

595
00:35:05,680 --> 00:35:09,868
that we were not
brought back home.

596
00:35:09,868 --> 00:35:11,660
You knew that there
was something going on.

597
00:35:11,660 --> 00:35:13,952
There was something-- whatever
something was happening,

598
00:35:13,952 --> 00:35:17,440
we knew it was nothing
good happening.

599
00:35:17,440 --> 00:35:18,430
I saw this.

600

00:35:18,430 --> 00:35:20,470

Then they came by.

601

00:35:20,470 --> 00:35:27,560

I walked along the street with
all these policemen hanging.

602

00:35:27,560 --> 00:35:30,020

And I passed by the mass grave.

603

00:35:30,020 --> 00:35:35,300

And I went close to the
grave, and the grave

604

00:35:35,300 --> 00:35:37,370

was actually heaving.

605

00:35:37,370 --> 00:35:40,760

I was watching how the grave
was moving up and down--

606

00:35:40,760 --> 00:35:45,380

and moans, because not
everybody buried was dead.

607

00:35:45,380 --> 00:35:47,780

There were a lot of people
that might have gotten shot

608

00:35:47,780 --> 00:35:50,780

through the arm or chest or
whatever, and they fell in.

609

00:35:50,780 --> 00:35:52,740

And then the next body
fell on top of them.

610

00:35:52,740 --> 00:35:57,650

And there a lot of people
buried alive in that grave.

611

00:35:57,650 --> 00:35:59,430
These men on the--

612
00:35:59,430 --> 00:36:02,150
these policemen
hung for three days

613
00:36:02,150 --> 00:36:05,730
before they cut them
down and buried them.

614
00:36:05,730 --> 00:36:08,320
Those, like myself, that
worked outside the ghetto

615
00:36:08,320 --> 00:36:11,070
or inside, just the next day,
we were rounded up again,

616
00:36:11,070 --> 00:36:14,010
went back to work like
nothing ever happened.

617
00:36:14,010 --> 00:36:16,110
So I've become very callous.

618
00:36:16,110 --> 00:36:17,610
People would drive--

619
00:36:17,610 --> 00:36:21,310
I stepped over all
kinds of bodies.

620
00:36:21,310 --> 00:36:24,780
People just dropped
dead from malnutrition,

621
00:36:24,780 --> 00:36:29,940
because the rations that we were
given were not enough to live

622
00:36:29,940 --> 00:36:31,030
and too much to die.

623
00:36:31,030 --> 00:36:33,780
So eventually the
weaker ones died.

624
00:36:33,780 --> 00:36:39,660
One of the benefits of working
outside the ghetto, like I did,

625
00:36:39,660 --> 00:36:44,340
was that I would smuggle
things out of the ghetto,

626
00:36:44,340 --> 00:36:49,920
some things of clothing or some
whatever, and barter for food.

627
00:36:49,920 --> 00:36:52,800
And then smuggle
food back, which

628
00:36:52,800 --> 00:36:57,240
was illegal had I been
caught when entering back.

629
00:36:57,240 --> 00:37:01,350
I could have been singled
out and arrested and killed.

630
00:37:01,350 --> 00:37:05,400
But this was what
was being done.

631
00:37:05,400 --> 00:37:08,190
And all of your
family, the six of you,

632
00:37:08,190 --> 00:37:10,530
were still living
in your apartment

633
00:37:10,530 --> 00:37:13,090
at this particular

point in time.

634

00:37:13,090 --> 00:37:16,410

We were still, all of
us, in that apartment.

635

00:37:16,410 --> 00:37:19,020

And another incident
had happened.

636

00:37:19,020 --> 00:37:22,890

One day, we came to work.

637

00:37:22,890 --> 00:37:26,220

And for some reason,
there was some sort

638

00:37:26,220 --> 00:37:29,220

of a commotion going
on in the building.

639

00:37:29,220 --> 00:37:32,280

What had happened was
the overall director

640

00:37:32,280 --> 00:37:36,940

of this whole building of the
different trades was a German.

641

00:37:36,940 --> 00:37:41,040

And he had a Jewish
young woman secretary.

642

00:37:41,040 --> 00:37:46,440

And for some strange reason,
he took his secretary,

643

00:37:46,440 --> 00:37:49,410

and he personally took
her out of the building

644

00:37:49,410 --> 00:37:51,720

and most likely,

we thought, brought

645

00:37:51,720 --> 00:37:54,400

her back into the ghetto.

646

00:37:54,400 --> 00:37:57,750

So we all started

feeling very uneasy.

647

00:37:57,750 --> 00:37:59,820

And I went over to my

mother's department,

648

00:37:59,820 --> 00:38:03,940

and I said, let's

get out of here.

649

00:38:03,940 --> 00:38:07,240

I had sort of an intuition that

something is going to happen.

650

00:38:07,240 --> 00:38:09,960

And my mother said, well,

we cannot just walk out.

651

00:38:09,960 --> 00:38:11,750

I mean, you cannot walk--

652

00:38:11,750 --> 00:38:15,418

you couldn't walk through

the streets alone.

653

00:38:15,418 --> 00:38:16,960

And while I was

talking to my mother,

654

00:38:16,960 --> 00:38:18,377

I looked out the

window, and I saw

655

00:38:18,377 --> 00:38:22,060

a group of Jewish people

being walked in a group.

656
00:38:22,060 --> 00:38:27,190
And I ran out, and
I joined this group.

657
00:38:27,190 --> 00:38:30,730
And my mother ran after me,
and she joined the group.

658
00:38:30,730 --> 00:38:36,100
And we joined this group, and
we walked back into the ghetto

659
00:38:36,100 --> 00:38:37,102
with this group.

660
00:38:37,102 --> 00:38:38,310
I don't remember the details.

661
00:38:38,310 --> 00:38:40,180
They didn't check us
too closely, whatever.

662
00:38:40,180 --> 00:38:41,920
We went in.

663
00:38:41,920 --> 00:38:45,220
That afternoon, all the
people from that building

664
00:38:45,220 --> 00:38:47,980
were rounded up,
taken to the cemetery,

665
00:38:47,980 --> 00:38:52,090
executed, and that was
the end of that building

666
00:38:52,090 --> 00:38:54,000
and of the jobs.

667
00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:56,260

This was in the
process of being--

668
00:38:56,260 --> 00:39:02,160
this ghetto being liquidated.

669
00:39:02,160 --> 00:39:07,760
Then, of course, was the
fatal infamous day in my life

670
00:39:07,760 --> 00:39:11,610
when my father was killed.

671
00:39:11,610 --> 00:39:16,310
Now this textile mill,
which was the concentration

672
00:39:16,310 --> 00:39:19,490
camp for the Hungarian
Jews, no longer

673
00:39:19,490 --> 00:39:21,410
housed any Jews,
because it was--

674
00:39:21,410 --> 00:39:23,570
the Jews were all killed off.

675
00:39:23,570 --> 00:39:29,450
And this became now a warehouse
for the German army for fur

676
00:39:29,450 --> 00:39:31,430
for the Eastern Front.

677
00:39:31,430 --> 00:39:33,230
And these were tremendous rooms.

678
00:39:33,230 --> 00:39:34,440
The size of the rooms--

679
00:39:34,440 --> 00:39:38,310

it was a warehouse.

680
00:39:38,310 --> 00:39:46,000
So again, on the 12th
of October, 1942,

681
00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:49,078
this was-- we no
longer worked there.

682
00:39:49,078 --> 00:39:50,620
And there was, again,
in the morning,

683
00:39:50,620 --> 00:39:54,820
there was some sort of a
commotion inside the ghetto.

684
00:39:54,820 --> 00:39:56,960
And the ghetto was quite large.

685
00:39:56,960 --> 00:39:57,940
I mean, there were--

686
00:39:57,940 --> 00:39:59,360
I don't remember
exactly how many,

687
00:39:59,360 --> 00:40:04,360
but there were 20,000,
30,000 people in this ghetto.

688
00:40:04,360 --> 00:40:10,900
So some people came and said
that the Germans were taking

689
00:40:10,900 --> 00:40:14,860
people out on the transport
to a concentration

690
00:40:14,860 --> 00:40:16,890
camp or something.

691

00:40:16,890 --> 00:40:19,020

And my father had
access to that building.

692

00:40:19,020 --> 00:40:25,590

So he opened one of his
warehouse rooms with the fur,

693

00:40:25,590 --> 00:40:28,410

and he just hung around.

694

00:40:28,410 --> 00:40:32,070

And then after a
while, we found--

695

00:40:32,070 --> 00:40:35,580

somebody came and said that
the Germans are coming closer

696

00:40:35,580 --> 00:40:36,810

to us.

697

00:40:36,810 --> 00:40:40,650

So a whole group of people
went into this room,

698

00:40:40,650 --> 00:40:47,430

and we hid underneath the fur.

699

00:40:47,430 --> 00:40:51,660

And we were hiding under
the fur for a while.

700

00:40:51,660 --> 00:40:56,280

And then at one
point, I heard, like,

701

00:40:56,280 --> 00:41:00,480

soldiers' steps and
a lot of commotion.

702

00:41:00,480 --> 00:41:03,390

Everybody was laying
low and quiet.

703
00:41:03,390 --> 00:41:04,920
And the door opened
to that room,

704
00:41:04,920 --> 00:41:10,470
and I could hear a German,
soldiers walking in,

705
00:41:10,470 --> 00:41:11,820
and a German voice.

706
00:41:11,820 --> 00:41:17,490
And he says, the question
was, is anybody hiding--

707
00:41:17,490 --> 00:41:19,470
being hidden here?

708
00:41:19,470 --> 00:41:23,520
And I heard the
answer, nobody is here.

709
00:41:23,520 --> 00:41:26,200
That was my father.

710
00:41:26,200 --> 00:41:30,750
And he says, tell me
the truth, because it'll

711
00:41:30,750 --> 00:41:34,050
cost your head, in German.

712
00:41:34,050 --> 00:41:37,830
And my father said,
nobody's here.

713
00:41:37,830 --> 00:41:39,420
And then there was
a lot of commotion

714
00:41:39,420 --> 00:41:41,780
and all kinds of screams
and this and that.

715
00:41:41,780 --> 00:41:44,700
And I heard two shots.

716
00:41:44,700 --> 00:41:49,140
And a few minutes
later, we were--

717
00:41:49,140 --> 00:41:51,150
I was uncovered, and
my mother stood there.

718
00:41:51,150 --> 00:41:53,760
And a lot of people running,
and the German police,

719
00:41:53,760 --> 00:41:57,150
and the Jewish police, and the
whole commotion in the room.

720
00:41:57,150 --> 00:41:59,520
And we were taken out.

721
00:41:59,520 --> 00:42:04,290
I did not realize that these two
shots were fired at my father,

722
00:42:04,290 --> 00:42:05,320
and he laid dead there.

723
00:42:05,320 --> 00:42:07,140
I did not see his body.

724
00:42:07,140 --> 00:42:11,490
We were taken out as a group.

725
00:42:11,490 --> 00:42:13,410
And I guess my
mother, at that point,

726
00:42:13,410 --> 00:42:14,790
knew that my father was killed.

727
00:42:14,790 --> 00:42:15,870
I didn't.

728
00:42:15,870 --> 00:42:20,520
And we had been led to
the center of the ghetto.

729
00:42:20,520 --> 00:42:25,230
And I kept saying to
my mother, let's run.

730
00:42:25,230 --> 00:42:27,150
And she was very despondent.

731
00:42:27,150 --> 00:42:29,710
And she just didn't care.

732
00:42:29,710 --> 00:42:31,110
And she kept on walking.

733
00:42:31,110 --> 00:42:32,580
I said, let's run, let's run.

734
00:42:32,580 --> 00:42:34,170
But it was practically
impossible,

735
00:42:34,170 --> 00:42:37,790
because we were surrounded
by the German police.

736
00:42:37,790 --> 00:42:41,180
So in a short while,
we found ourselves

737
00:42:41,180 --> 00:42:45,020
at the center of
the ghetto, where

738
00:42:45,020 --> 00:42:48,140
they were segregating all
these people being brought in

739
00:42:48,140 --> 00:42:52,160
from different streets
into this square.

740
00:42:52,160 --> 00:42:55,190
And we were being-- the
people were being segregated.

741
00:42:55,190 --> 00:43:01,945
And my mother all of a sudden
stepped out of line and the--

742
00:43:01,945 --> 00:43:05,250
Sturmführer Schott was his name.

743
00:43:05,250 --> 00:43:06,920
He was the chief of the--

744
00:43:06,920 --> 00:43:09,540
from the Gestapo for the ghetto.

745
00:43:09,540 --> 00:43:11,550
He was in charge of the ghetto.

746
00:43:11,550 --> 00:43:15,980
And she stepped out
towards him, and she said,

747
00:43:15,980 --> 00:43:23,540
I'm the wife of the chief
of the Jewish fire brigade.

748
00:43:23,540 --> 00:43:28,430
And then he looked at my mother
and he says, OK, get out--

749
00:43:28,430 --> 00:43:29,210

get out of line.

750

00:43:29,210 --> 00:43:31,550

And she pulled me with her.

751

00:43:31,550 --> 00:43:33,590

There was a German
soldier, and he

752

00:43:33,590 --> 00:43:38,690

was told to bring us to the
Jewish police station, which

753

00:43:38,690 --> 00:43:42,260

was right facing the square.

754

00:43:42,260 --> 00:43:46,000

And I sat at the window
watching what was happening.

755

00:43:46,000 --> 00:43:48,770

And as I said, people
were being brought

756

00:43:48,770 --> 00:43:52,400

in from different streets,
different parts of the ghetto,

757

00:43:52,400 --> 00:43:57,650

segregated into different lines.

758

00:43:57,650 --> 00:43:59,540

If they had small
children, these children

759

00:43:59,540 --> 00:44:02,960

were taken away
from their parents.

760

00:44:02,960 --> 00:44:05,930

And the truck was--

761

00:44:05,930 --> 00:44:07,640
would pull up, and
the children would

762
00:44:07,640 --> 00:44:12,290
be tossed into the truck, one on
top of the other, like cabbage.

763
00:44:12,290 --> 00:44:13,790
And the truck would be full.

764
00:44:13,790 --> 00:44:15,467
The truck would pull off.

765
00:44:15,467 --> 00:44:16,550
And another would come in.

766
00:44:16,550 --> 00:44:20,900
And the adults would be
segregated in different lines,

767
00:44:20,900 --> 00:44:21,770
and then taken away.

768
00:44:21,770 --> 00:44:27,230
And I failed to mention that
my grandparents were also

769
00:44:27,230 --> 00:44:28,980
with us in this building.

770
00:44:28,980 --> 00:44:31,320
They were taken
away at that point.

771
00:44:31,320 --> 00:44:36,800
And I have no idea
where they wound up.

772
00:44:36,800 --> 00:44:41,510
After this whole
action ceased, we

773

00:44:41,510 --> 00:44:44,810

were told that we
could leave now.

774

00:44:44,810 --> 00:44:45,920

And we left.

775

00:44:45,920 --> 00:44:49,550

My mother, meanwhile, told
me that my father was shot.

776

00:44:49,550 --> 00:44:53,630

We did not know, at that point,
whether he was dead or what.

777

00:44:53,630 --> 00:44:56,400

So we went back to this
building, and I climbed--

778

00:44:56,400 --> 00:44:58,460

it was very high windows--

779

00:44:58,460 --> 00:45:03,750

I climbed up, and I saw my
father laying dead in this--

780

00:45:03,750 --> 00:45:06,590

among all the fur and all this.

781

00:45:06,590 --> 00:45:09,620

And the next morning,
his body was removed,

782

00:45:09,620 --> 00:45:14,360

and I have no idea where
he was eventually buried.

783

00:45:14,360 --> 00:45:18,680

So after my father was killed,
and my grandparents were

784

00:45:18,680 --> 00:45:23,120

taken away, my mother had--

785

00:45:23,120 --> 00:45:25,495

Excuse me, all your grandparents
were taken-- all three--

786

00:45:25,495 --> 00:45:28,600

All three, yes.

787

00:45:28,600 --> 00:45:30,770

At that point, my
mother had made contacts

788

00:45:30,770 --> 00:45:32,530

while we were working
outside the ghetto.

789

00:45:32,530 --> 00:45:34,690

She knew local people.

790

00:45:34,690 --> 00:45:41,710

She made some contacts with
a Polish Gentile family.

791

00:45:41,710 --> 00:45:47,050

And one day, we just
walked out of the ghetto.

792

00:45:47,050 --> 00:45:49,240

That's another
story, but I don't

793

00:45:49,240 --> 00:45:51,590

know whether I should
go into more detail.

794

00:45:51,590 --> 00:45:52,090

Please.

795

00:45:52,090 --> 00:45:54,370

Please do.

796

00:45:54,370 --> 00:45:57,790

While my father was the
chief of the fire brigade,

797

00:45:57,790 --> 00:46:02,230

and he had access into the camp
where the Hungarian Jews were

798

00:46:02,230 --> 00:46:08,080

being held, my father helped
a few of these Hungarian Jews

799

00:46:08,080 --> 00:46:09,430

escape.

800

00:46:09,430 --> 00:46:12,310

What he did, he had a--

801

00:46:12,310 --> 00:46:16,930

he would put a fireman's
belt over his jacket,

802

00:46:16,930 --> 00:46:20,080

put his overcoat with another--

803

00:46:20,080 --> 00:46:23,380

with another fireman's
belt, walk in,

804

00:46:23,380 --> 00:46:25,253

because he had
access in and out,

805

00:46:25,253 --> 00:46:26,920

and he would take off
one of these belts

806

00:46:26,920 --> 00:46:29,890

and give it to
somebody, specifically.

807

00:46:29,890 --> 00:46:32,560

He was told who to bring out.

808
00:46:32,560 --> 00:46:37,060
And he would bring
out these few men.

809
00:46:37,060 --> 00:46:40,300
The Hungarian Jews had
an underground worked out

810
00:46:40,300 --> 00:46:46,450
that they paid off somebody, and
they were being smuggled back

811
00:46:46,450 --> 00:46:48,410
to Hungary.

812
00:46:48,410 --> 00:46:53,500
So he helped a few men,
a few Hungarian men,

813
00:46:53,500 --> 00:46:55,010
go back to Hungary.

814
00:46:55,010 --> 00:47:01,390
So after my father was
killed, this underground

815
00:47:01,390 --> 00:47:04,120
wanted to help my mother and me.

816
00:47:04,120 --> 00:47:07,620
So my mother was
contacted by somebody

817
00:47:07,620 --> 00:47:11,290
that, on a given night,
somebody will come and get us

818
00:47:11,290 --> 00:47:14,780
out and take us to Hungary.

819
00:47:14,780 --> 00:47:18,650

But before this happened,
somebody came to my mother

820
00:47:18,650 --> 00:47:23,090
and said that they're going
to arrest us because somebody

821
00:47:23,090 --> 00:47:24,880
squealed or whatever.

822
00:47:24,880 --> 00:47:28,340
So that same day, when
my mother got that news,

823
00:47:28,340 --> 00:47:30,740
and since we were still
able to walk out--

824
00:47:30,740 --> 00:47:35,180
because we worked outside
the ghetto, we had passes.

825
00:47:35,180 --> 00:47:37,850
So we joined the group
with somebody else,

826
00:47:37,850 --> 00:47:39,320
and we just walked
out the ghetto.

827
00:47:39,320 --> 00:47:45,110
And whatever he had on us,
that's how we walked out.

828
00:47:45,110 --> 00:47:47,120
My mother went to
some of these people

829
00:47:47,120 --> 00:47:50,430
that she had made
contacts, a Gentile family.

830
00:47:50,430 --> 00:47:54,350

And she paid them
money, and they

831
00:47:54,350 --> 00:47:59,870
produced birth certificates
for us, false documents,

832
00:47:59,870 --> 00:48:07,520
that we were mother and
son Roman Catholics.

833
00:48:07,520 --> 00:48:11,720
And this family gave my mother
an address in the largest city

834
00:48:11,720 --> 00:48:14,060
in Lwów.

835
00:48:14,060 --> 00:48:16,070
And we never went
back to the ghetto.

836
00:48:16,070 --> 00:48:18,830
We just went to the train
station and boarded the train,

837
00:48:18,830 --> 00:48:24,110
came to Lwów, went to this
apartment of that address.

838
00:48:24,110 --> 00:48:27,350
There was a Polish
woman who shared

839
00:48:27,350 --> 00:48:31,310
a two-room apartment, a
kitchen and a bedroom,

840
00:48:31,310 --> 00:48:33,410
with her daughter.

841
00:48:33,410 --> 00:48:36,170
And my mother introduced

herself as being

842

00:48:36,170 --> 00:48:44,520

a widow of a Polish officer
and played a very nationalistic

843

00:48:44,520 --> 00:48:46,490

kind of a role.

844

00:48:46,490 --> 00:48:51,410

And that Polish woman would
help us stay with her.

845

00:48:51,410 --> 00:48:57,080

So my mother and I slept in one
bed, and she and her daughter

846

00:48:57,080 --> 00:48:58,850

slept in another bed.

847

00:48:58,850 --> 00:49:03,830

But because of the
suddenness of our departure,

848

00:49:03,830 --> 00:49:06,590

obviously we didn't
have any possessions.

849

00:49:06,590 --> 00:49:09,770

And one explanation
to this woman

850

00:49:09,770 --> 00:49:15,110

was that because my father was
supposedly a Polish officer,

851

00:49:15,110 --> 00:49:18,560

and we were going to be
arrested by the Germans, that's

852

00:49:18,560 --> 00:49:20,030

why we had nothing with us.

853

00:49:20,030 --> 00:49:20,750

I see.

854

00:49:20,750 --> 00:49:23,360

But she also didn't
have much money.

855

00:49:23,360 --> 00:49:31,080

So she was forced to go and
seek employment, get a job.

856

00:49:31,080 --> 00:49:35,900

On the other hand, I could
not go to school, primarily

857

00:49:35,900 --> 00:49:38,030

because there was
a danger that I

858

00:49:38,030 --> 00:49:41,240

may have a medical examination.

859

00:49:41,240 --> 00:49:45,350

And I was circumcised
and that was--

860

00:49:45,350 --> 00:49:50,990

none of the Christian
males were circumcised,

861

00:49:50,990 --> 00:49:56,000

so that would have been
immediately a giveaway.

862

00:49:56,000 --> 00:49:59,870

My mother got a job in
the German army restaurant

863

00:49:59,870 --> 00:50:02,660

in the city of Lw³w.

864

00:50:02,660 --> 00:50:08,560

And she was put in charge of
the kitchen for the employees.

865
00:50:08,560 --> 00:50:16,020
And she sort of had
a fairly good job,

866
00:50:16,020 --> 00:50:18,720
because she had
enough food, and she

867
00:50:18,720 --> 00:50:22,740
was able to bring
food for me, where

868
00:50:22,740 --> 00:50:25,530
everybody was sort
of going hungry,

869
00:50:25,530 --> 00:50:29,400
even the Gentile population.

870
00:50:29,400 --> 00:50:36,990
We visited, on a few occasions,
the Jewish section of Lw³w,

871
00:50:36,990 --> 00:50:40,170
which only then, at that
point, was being organized

872
00:50:40,170 --> 00:50:41,610
into a ghetto.

873
00:50:41,610 --> 00:50:45,960
Where in my town, they were
already liquidating the ghetto.

874
00:50:45,960 --> 00:50:48,540
In Lw³w, they just started it.

875
00:50:48,540 --> 00:50:51,180
And actually, we spoke
to Jewish people there.

876
00:50:51,180 --> 00:50:56,640
Nobody would really
believe us that the plan

877
00:50:56,640 --> 00:50:58,740
of moving all these
people into the ghetto

878
00:50:58,740 --> 00:51:03,700
was to annihilate them.

879
00:51:03,700 --> 00:51:07,340
Anyhow, my mother, as I
said, was raised in Vienna,

880
00:51:07,340 --> 00:51:11,770
so she spoke, obviously,
German, Viennese German.

881
00:51:11,770 --> 00:51:14,170
And her superior,
which was, I think,

882
00:51:14,170 --> 00:51:17,260
a lieutenant of
the German army was

883
00:51:17,260 --> 00:51:19,900
the chief of that restaurant,
of the kitchen at least.

884
00:51:19,900 --> 00:51:24,100

885
00:51:24,100 --> 00:51:27,190
At one point, when
there was some sort

886
00:51:27,190 --> 00:51:28,720
of a robbery inside
the restaurant,

887

00:51:28,720 --> 00:51:31,540

and they were going
to investigate,

888

00:51:31,540 --> 00:51:33,970

and they called in the
police to investigate,

889

00:51:33,970 --> 00:51:36,460

my mother went over
to him and said

890

00:51:36,460 --> 00:51:39,340

she wanted to be excused because
she said she didn't feel well.

891

00:51:39,340 --> 00:51:40,490

So he confronted her.

892

00:51:40,490 --> 00:51:42,240

He says, you don't
have to worry about it.

893

00:51:42,240 --> 00:51:44,710

I know that you're
Jewish and nothing

894

00:51:44,710 --> 00:51:49,180

will happen to you, which came
as a tremendous shock to her.

895

00:51:49,180 --> 00:51:54,100

And subsequently,
they had a party.

896

00:51:54,100 --> 00:51:57,100

And she was told
to be at the party,

897

00:51:57,100 --> 00:51:59,650

was invited to be at the
party, and was seated next

898

00:51:59,650 --> 00:52:02,530
to an SS officer.

899

00:52:02,530 --> 00:52:08,380
And her boss, the Viennese
lieutenant, was drunk.

900

00:52:08,380 --> 00:52:11,690
But the party went
without a hitch.

901

00:52:11,690 --> 00:52:13,510
But then my mother
really got scared,

902

00:52:13,510 --> 00:52:16,030
because she thought
that at one moment

903

00:52:16,030 --> 00:52:20,950
he may not be as cautious
and unwillingly, probably,

904

00:52:20,950 --> 00:52:26,440
say something and
she would be killed.

905

00:52:26,440 --> 00:52:29,860
By pure coincidence, walking
through the streets of Lw³w,

906

00:52:29,860 --> 00:52:34,180
she spotted a man that she
knew from before the war from

907

00:52:34,180 --> 00:52:41,080
our town, a Ukrainian
man who lived in Lw³w.

908

00:52:41,080 --> 00:52:44,140
And she spoke with him and
told him about our situation.

909

00:52:44,140 --> 00:52:50,050

And he was very sympathetic,
and he wanted to help us.

910

00:52:50,050 --> 00:52:54,370

And he suggested
that my mother ask

911

00:52:54,370 --> 00:53:01,135

for an audience
with the archbishop.

912

00:53:01,135 --> 00:53:06,280

His official title was the
metropolitan of the Greek

913

00:53:06,280 --> 00:53:09,620

Catholic denomination
of the Ukrainian church,

914

00:53:09,620 --> 00:53:15,490

which had its seat, it's
a mini Vatican in Lw³w.

915

00:53:15,490 --> 00:53:18,515

And we went there--

916

00:53:18,515 --> 00:53:19,390

my mother went there.

917

00:53:19,390 --> 00:53:24,050

She had an audience
with this very old man.

918

00:53:24,050 --> 00:53:27,388

And he was on record really--

919

00:53:27,388 --> 00:53:29,930

after the war, it was proven--
it was on record that he tried

920

00:53:29,930 --> 00:53:32,350

to help Jews, to save Jews.

921
00:53:32,350 --> 00:53:36,010
Perhaps for other reasons,
also, because he--

922
00:53:36,010 --> 00:53:40,850
one of his motives was to
have the Jews converted

923
00:53:40,850 --> 00:53:45,470
to adopt Christianity
as its religion,

924
00:53:45,470 --> 00:53:47,330
to adopt the New Testament.

925
00:53:47,330 --> 00:53:50,150

926
00:53:50,150 --> 00:53:52,010
He wanted to help
us, and they did.

927
00:53:52,010 --> 00:53:55,950
But at first, they didn't
know how to exactly do it.

928
00:53:55,950 --> 00:54:01,970
And finally the plan evolved
that my mother and I brought

929
00:54:01,970 --> 00:54:07,310
back authentic documents
of a woman and her son

930
00:54:07,310 --> 00:54:09,500
who were Roman Catholics.

931
00:54:09,500 --> 00:54:11,900
And officially,
we were converted

932

00:54:11,900 --> 00:54:14,870
from Roman Catholicism
to Greek Catholicism

933

00:54:14,870 --> 00:54:17,930
and given authentic documents.

934

00:54:17,930 --> 00:54:22,880
In reality, we were also
baptized to adopt Christianity.

935

00:54:22,880 --> 00:54:26,260

936

00:54:26,260 --> 00:54:29,090
The name of this
metropolitan, his name

937

00:54:29,090 --> 00:54:33,230
was Andrey Sheptytsky, who
was a very, very well-known--

938

00:54:33,230 --> 00:54:38,120
every Ukrainian person in
the world knows of him.

939

00:54:38,120 --> 00:54:41,850
There is a movement
now in Canada,

940

00:54:41,850 --> 00:54:43,760
where there is a college--

941

00:54:43,760 --> 00:54:47,510
Saint Nicholas College,
I believe, in Ottawa--

942

00:54:47,510 --> 00:54:49,580
they are preparing
the documentation

943

00:54:49,580 --> 00:54:52,910

for having Metropolitan
Sheptytsky eventually

944
00:54:52,910 --> 00:54:54,530
canonized.

945
00:54:54,530 --> 00:54:58,940
And I wrote once an article
in the Ukrainian newspaper

946
00:54:58,940 --> 00:55:02,240
describing how church helped me.

947
00:55:02,240 --> 00:55:07,310
So I was interviewed
by the two priests

948
00:55:07,310 --> 00:55:10,610
from that college who
are directly involved

949
00:55:10,610 --> 00:55:13,850
with the documentation.

950
00:55:13,850 --> 00:55:19,790
And during my
baptismal, my godfather

951
00:55:19,790 --> 00:55:25,070
was a very prominent priest in
that church, who was actually

952
00:55:25,070 --> 00:55:27,830
the chancellor of the church.

953
00:55:27,830 --> 00:55:30,740
So now armed with
the new documents,

954
00:55:30,740 --> 00:55:33,560
we were a little more secure.

955

00:55:33,560 --> 00:55:36,110

Because in case we
would be caught,

956

00:55:36,110 --> 00:55:38,780
these documents were verifiable.

957

00:55:38,780 --> 00:55:41,330
They would call the church,
and they would indeed

958

00:55:41,330 --> 00:55:45,740
say that we were
Greek Catholics.

959

00:55:45,740 --> 00:55:48,320
The church offered
us a sanctuary.

960

00:55:48,320 --> 00:55:51,050
They wanted to place my
mother in a monastery

961

00:55:51,050 --> 00:55:56,880
and place me into some sort of
a home for boys or whatever.

962

00:55:56,880 --> 00:56:03,800
But my mother chose not
to accept this hospitality

963

00:56:03,800 --> 00:56:06,020
and this offer, because
she didn't really

964

00:56:06,020 --> 00:56:08,810
want to part with me.

965

00:56:08,810 --> 00:56:14,120
So this Ukraine man who
introduced us to the suggestion

966

00:56:14,120 --> 00:56:17,930

of going to the church, he
took us to another town,

967
00:56:17,930 --> 00:56:22,830
to his hometown, which
was called Czortk³w,

968
00:56:22,830 --> 00:56:25,440
which is not that-- too
far away from Stanislaw³w,

969
00:56:25,440 --> 00:56:27,640
where we originally came from.

970
00:56:27,640 --> 00:56:32,820
And he brought us to the house
of his son, who was a bachelor

971
00:56:32,820 --> 00:56:34,440
and lived with his--

972
00:56:34,440 --> 00:56:39,090
with his aunt-- the man
who brought us, his sister.

973
00:56:39,090 --> 00:56:44,970
And his son was a lawyer.

974
00:56:44,970 --> 00:56:48,790
And on a few days
after we arrived there,

975
00:56:48,790 --> 00:56:53,490
he told my mother that he
recognized her from his days

976
00:56:53,490 --> 00:56:56,040
when he was practicing law--

977
00:56:56,040 --> 00:56:59,460
was clerking in the
court in Stanislaw³w.

978

00:56:59,460 --> 00:57:01,110

And he knew who my mother was.

979

00:57:01,110 --> 00:57:03,760

So he says, you're not

Mrs. [PERSONAL NAME],,

980

00:57:03,760 --> 00:57:06,300

as her adopted

name was, he said,

981

00:57:06,300 --> 00:57:10,710

but your name is Mrs. Horowitz.

982

00:57:10,710 --> 00:57:12,630

And he was very kind.

983

00:57:12,630 --> 00:57:16,710

He said he wishes us good luck.

984

00:57:16,710 --> 00:57:21,810

But he was afraid that by living

in the same house with us,

985

00:57:21,810 --> 00:57:25,542

if we were to be found out to

be Jews, we would be killed,

986

00:57:25,542 --> 00:57:26,500

and he would be killed.

987

00:57:26,500 --> 00:57:29,520

So he asked us, in

no uncertain terms,

988

00:57:29,520 --> 00:57:32,197

to please find

another place to go.

989

00:57:32,197 --> 00:57:34,530

I think at this point, we'll

have to take a short break.

990
00:57:34,530 --> 00:57:34,820
Yes.

991
00:57:34,820 --> 00:57:35,373
OK.

992
00:57:35,373 --> 00:57:36,540
I forgot to change the tape.

993
00:57:36,540 --> 00:57:37,490
And we'll come back.

994
00:57:37,490 --> 00:57:38,157
We'll come back.

995
00:57:38,157 --> 00:57:39,890
Thank you.

996
00:57:39,890 --> 00:57:44,299