

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000

2
00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:05,500
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:05,500 --> 00:00:29,500

4
00:00:29,500 --> 00:00:30,950
Good afternoon.

5
00:00:30,950 --> 00:00:32,200
My name is Bernard Weinstein.

6
00:00:32,200 --> 00:00:34,720
I'm the director of the Kean
College Oral Testimonies

7
00:00:34,720 --> 00:00:37,240
Project at the Holocaust
Resource Center.

8
00:00:37,240 --> 00:00:39,730
We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

9
00:00:39,730 --> 00:00:43,120
for Holocaust Testimonies
at Yale University.

10
00:00:43,120 --> 00:00:45,730
Sharing the interview
with me is Ann Caplet.

11
00:00:45,730 --> 00:00:47,920
We are privileged
to welcome Mrs. Lee

12
00:00:47,920 --> 00:00:52,540
Weinberg of New Jersey, a

survivor, who has generously

13

00:00:52,540 --> 00:00:55,930
volunteered to give testimony
about her experiences

14

00:00:55,930 --> 00:00:58,690
before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

15

00:00:58,690 --> 00:00:59,980
Welcome, Mrs. Weinberg.

16

00:00:59,980 --> 00:01:00,940
Thank you.

17

00:01:00,940 --> 00:01:04,330
I'd like to begin by
asking you to tell us

18

00:01:04,330 --> 00:01:08,230
a little bit about the town
or city that you came from

19

00:01:08,230 --> 00:01:13,920
and your life before
the Holocaust.

20

00:01:13,920 --> 00:01:15,930
I was living--

21

00:01:15,930 --> 00:01:24,060
I was born in the town
Chrzanow, as a very happy child

22

00:01:24,060 --> 00:01:26,690
with my brother and my parents.

23

00:01:26,690 --> 00:01:28,620
Naturally, the
whole family, which

24

00:01:28,620 --> 00:01:33,640
counts between 180 or 220
people, which is the close,

25
00:01:33,640 --> 00:01:35,370
immediate family.

26
00:01:35,370 --> 00:01:39,930
My childhood was
very, very happy one.

27
00:01:39,930 --> 00:01:47,490
I do remember many happy times
spending with my parents,

28
00:01:47,490 --> 00:01:51,060
with my brother, especially
during our high holidays

29
00:01:51,060 --> 00:01:55,110
and any holiday,
which I'm trying today

30
00:01:55,110 --> 00:01:59,380
to bring to my children
and my grandchildren.

31
00:01:59,380 --> 00:02:02,010
I assume that Judaism
meant a great deal to you--

32
00:02:02,010 --> 00:02:02,510
Of course--

33
00:02:02,510 --> 00:02:03,270
To your family--

34
00:02:03,270 --> 00:02:05,620
Besides going to the
public school, which

35
00:02:05,620 --> 00:02:08,650
was from 8:00 in the

morning till noon,

36

00:02:08,650 --> 00:02:11,950

I had to attend every
day Bais Yaakov, which

37

00:02:11,950 --> 00:02:14,590

was from 2:00 till 5:00.

38

00:02:14,590 --> 00:02:18,130

And that was every single day.

39

00:02:18,130 --> 00:02:21,910

Proper Jewish education was
almost next to our nature,

40

00:02:21,910 --> 00:02:24,910

because the family
was quite Orthodox.

41

00:02:24,910 --> 00:02:33,040

Perhaps, it's a strong
description, but fanatics.

42

00:02:33,040 --> 00:02:39,100

So Judaism was very,
very important to us.

43

00:02:39,100 --> 00:02:44,320

I did not know any other life
except that type of life.

44

00:02:44,320 --> 00:02:50,380

When the war broke out, which
was September the 1st, 1939,

45

00:02:50,380 --> 00:02:55,840

we were systematically dismissed
from any education system.

46

00:02:55,840 --> 00:02:59,230

We could not be more than
10 people in one room,

47

00:02:59,230 --> 00:03:04,650

otherwise we were accused
for any treasons or spying.

48

00:03:04,650 --> 00:03:09,210

Therefore, our education was
completely cut off for Jews

49

00:03:09,210 --> 00:03:14,040

in my particular town or I think
in any other town in Poland

50

00:03:14,040 --> 00:03:17,670

during the German occupation.

51

00:03:17,670 --> 00:03:21,910

What did this lack of
access mean to you?

52

00:03:21,910 --> 00:03:27,150

It means still today that I
am suffering that I did not

53

00:03:27,150 --> 00:03:29,800

have the proper high education.

54

00:03:29,800 --> 00:03:33,630

I finished only
seven public schools

55

00:03:33,630 --> 00:03:40,650

and one additional class, which
was interrupted then in 1939.

56

00:03:40,650 --> 00:03:43,170

That is haunting till today.

57

00:03:43,170 --> 00:03:46,920

But unfortunately, it's a pass.

58

00:03:46,920 --> 00:03:52,230

What did your father do for
your family for a living

59
00:03:52,230 --> 00:03:53,940
or professionally?

60
00:03:53,940 --> 00:03:57,900
We-- my father, my
parents, rather,

61
00:03:57,900 --> 00:04:00,310
had a store with
fruit and vegetable.

62
00:04:00,310 --> 00:04:06,890
It was a little local store
that people from the town

63
00:04:06,890 --> 00:04:10,310
came and shopped like
in an ordinary city

64
00:04:10,310 --> 00:04:13,340
today in London
or anywhere else.

65
00:04:13,340 --> 00:04:20,000
We also have hospitals
and [NON-ENGLISH],,

66
00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:25,790
which was a social office for
sick people that we distributed

67
00:04:25,790 --> 00:04:29,510
our fruit and vegetable
on daily basis also,

68
00:04:29,510 --> 00:04:33,320
which was a very comfortable
income to the family.

69
00:04:33,320 --> 00:04:36,720

How large a city was your city?

70

00:04:36,720 --> 00:04:40,910

The city was approximate
42,000, 43,000 people.

71

00:04:40,910 --> 00:04:44,090

And how many
roughly were Jewish?

72

00:04:44,090 --> 00:04:46,160

24,000 Jews.

73

00:04:46,160 --> 00:04:49,430

So a little more than
half the population--

74

00:04:49,430 --> 00:04:52,390

Was Jewish, yes.

75

00:04:52,390 --> 00:04:55,970

Did you or other
people that you knew

76

00:04:55,970 --> 00:05:02,240

experience any kind of
antisemitism or antagonism

77

00:05:02,240 --> 00:05:07,010

or hatred or rancor from
the non-Jewish population

78

00:05:07,010 --> 00:05:12,310

before things got bad?

79

00:05:12,310 --> 00:05:18,490

As far as I am
recalling, during 1935-6,

80

00:05:18,490 --> 00:05:20,650

we did not feel
any antisemitism.

81

00:05:20,650 --> 00:05:25,780

But then came organization
was called AK, which means

82

00:05:25,780 --> 00:05:28,660

Akcja Krajowa,
antisemitism started

83

00:05:28,660 --> 00:05:32,770

to develop by boycotting
all different stores,

84

00:05:32,770 --> 00:05:36,370

throwing stones through
the windows, et cetera.

85

00:05:36,370 --> 00:05:39,070

But it was not in
a very violent way.

86

00:05:39,070 --> 00:05:46,510

It was just starting of making
it much harder for the Jews

87

00:05:46,510 --> 00:05:47,170

in this city.

88

00:05:47,170 --> 00:05:49,370

And this was done only to Jews?

89

00:05:49,370 --> 00:05:49,870

Yes.

90

00:05:49,870 --> 00:05:50,370

No.

91

00:05:50,370 --> 00:05:54,730

That was done only to
Jews on antisemitic basis,

92

00:05:54,730 --> 00:05:58,480

being that the city was

predominated by Jews.

93

00:05:58,480 --> 00:06:03,010

All representative, I would
say, from the mayor of the city

94

00:06:03,010 --> 00:06:08,860

to the doctors, lawyers,
and so on was mostly Jews.

95

00:06:08,860 --> 00:06:12,280

Did you feel personally
threatened by this?

96

00:06:12,280 --> 00:06:14,830

Or did members of
your family feel--

97

00:06:14,830 --> 00:06:18,520

At that particular moment, no.

98

00:06:18,520 --> 00:06:21,560

Till the German occupation.

99

00:06:21,560 --> 00:06:22,580

Which was in '39.

100

00:06:22,580 --> 00:06:23,660

'9, yes.

101

00:06:23,660 --> 00:06:28,130

What were the neighbors
like before and during?

102

00:06:28,130 --> 00:06:30,605

Where they receptive
to this kind of and

103

00:06:30,605 --> 00:06:33,090

did they participate in
this kind of activity,

104

00:06:33,090 --> 00:06:34,190
your immediate neighbors?

105
00:06:34,190 --> 00:06:34,984
No, no.

106
00:06:34,984 --> 00:06:38,270
Most of them they
were young activist,

107
00:06:38,270 --> 00:06:41,960
which we would call
them today students,

108
00:06:41,960 --> 00:06:43,910
but not people from the town.

109
00:06:43,910 --> 00:06:46,820
There was most
likely outsiders that

110
00:06:46,820 --> 00:06:49,142
came in to do the dirty work.

111
00:06:49,142 --> 00:06:50,600
They were agitators
in other words?

112
00:06:50,600 --> 00:06:52,970
Yes, they were.

113
00:06:52,970 --> 00:06:54,980
And what was this
organization that you

114
00:06:54,980 --> 00:06:57,290
mentioned that was antisemitic?

115
00:06:57,290 --> 00:07:00,620
What was its
fundamental purpose?

116

00:07:00,620 --> 00:07:05,390
To ruin the Jews of Poland.

117
00:07:05,390 --> 00:07:07,790
Was it a nationalistic
kind of organization?

118
00:07:07,790 --> 00:07:09,350
Not official.

119
00:07:09,350 --> 00:07:10,190
Indirectly.

120
00:07:10,190 --> 00:07:12,990

121
00:07:12,990 --> 00:07:16,465
When did you really start
to feel yourself in danger?

122
00:07:16,465 --> 00:07:19,010

123
00:07:19,010 --> 00:07:23,750
Not till the Germans
came in 1939.

124
00:07:23,750 --> 00:07:28,340
I was never concerned about
danger going here or there.

125
00:07:28,340 --> 00:07:32,360
I was a very happy
little girl, doing

126
00:07:32,360 --> 00:07:34,460
what I wanted to do,
what basically was

127
00:07:34,460 --> 00:07:39,760
school and my friends, family.

128

00:07:39,760 --> 00:07:44,530
What happened right at
the beginning of the war?

129
00:07:44,530 --> 00:07:48,850
The beginning of the war,
which was in September,

130
00:07:48,850 --> 00:07:51,280
was a nightmare.

131
00:07:51,280 --> 00:07:53,800
It was very, very frightening.

132
00:07:53,800 --> 00:07:58,630
We had dark street
with alarms going on.

133
00:07:58,630 --> 00:08:02,100
We had to remain in the house.

134
00:08:02,100 --> 00:08:06,300
We have to paint the
windows and strip them

135
00:08:06,300 --> 00:08:10,200
in case of a significant
alarm or attack of the German

136
00:08:10,200 --> 00:08:12,210
we should not be damaged.

137
00:08:12,210 --> 00:08:16,980
And that was told by our
mayor of the city to do so.

138
00:08:16,980 --> 00:08:20,220
We had to protect myself
with the water and the most

139
00:08:20,220 --> 00:08:22,860
necessary food,
because we didn't

140
00:08:22,860 --> 00:08:24,900
know how long that will take.

141
00:08:24,900 --> 00:08:28,540
Fortunately enough,
there was none,

142
00:08:28,540 --> 00:08:33,130
because the German
army was very well

143
00:08:33,130 --> 00:08:37,240
accepted in Katowice, which
was not too far from my town.

144
00:08:37,240 --> 00:08:42,850
Therefore, they marched in very
peacefully through the town.

145
00:08:42,850 --> 00:08:49,705
The first week of their ruling
in our town was very painful.

146
00:08:49,705 --> 00:08:55,630
It was very frightful
particularly for a male Jew.

147
00:08:55,630 --> 00:09:00,430
They start to concentrate all
the intellectuals in our town,

148
00:09:00,430 --> 00:09:03,970
starting from
teachers, professors,

149
00:09:03,970 --> 00:09:08,773
any prominent person, because
they were afraid of a revolt.

150
00:09:08,773 --> 00:09:10,690
When you say they started
to concentrate them,

151
00:09:10,690 --> 00:09:12,505
do you mean they sent them
to concentration camps--

152
00:09:12,505 --> 00:09:13,005
No--

153
00:09:13,005 --> 00:09:14,580
Or to isolate them?

154
00:09:14,580 --> 00:09:20,500
In the city, we had a square,
which every town in Europe

155
00:09:20,500 --> 00:09:23,980
had a square, which
was called a rynek.

156
00:09:23,980 --> 00:09:25,570
And there they concentrate.

157
00:09:25,570 --> 00:09:29,290
They knew all the papers,
all the occupation

158
00:09:29,290 --> 00:09:31,180
from certain people.

159
00:09:31,180 --> 00:09:33,340
Therefore, they were called in.

160
00:09:33,340 --> 00:09:36,390
And they were either
killed or hung.

161
00:09:36,390 --> 00:09:38,850
That was a few miles
away from our town.

162
00:09:38,850 --> 00:09:42,250
That was the first

week in September.

163

00:09:42,250 --> 00:09:43,860

And this was the intelligentsia?

164

00:09:43,860 --> 00:09:45,630

Yes.

165

00:09:45,630 --> 00:09:50,940

That was, I would say by
speaking with other people

166

00:09:50,940 --> 00:09:55,020

after the liberation, that was
the basic and the main system

167

00:09:55,020 --> 00:09:56,570

of the Germans.

168

00:09:56,570 --> 00:09:59,237

Was this primarily the
Jewish intelligentsia

169

00:09:59,237 --> 00:10:00,570

that they did this to or Polish?

170

00:10:00,570 --> 00:10:01,830

Both.

171

00:10:01,830 --> 00:10:04,005

There were Jews and
also prominent Poles.

172

00:10:04,005 --> 00:10:08,610

173

00:10:08,610 --> 00:10:18,930

And what do you remember this
doing to the people who saw it?

174

00:10:18,930 --> 00:10:23,210

We were petrified,

including my parents.

175

00:10:23,210 --> 00:10:26,150

Most of the time,
they did not know

176

00:10:26,150 --> 00:10:31,200

how to protect themselves from
the next steps of the Germans,

177

00:10:31,200 --> 00:10:36,630

being that we had no
choice to go somewhere.

178

00:10:36,630 --> 00:10:40,530

We lived in fear
till the next step.

179

00:10:40,530 --> 00:10:45,070

That was in 1941 and we have to
start to work for the Germans.

180

00:10:45,070 --> 00:10:49,550

Young or old must work.

181

00:10:49,550 --> 00:10:53,390

They were formed in our
synagogues, in our temples,

182

00:10:53,390 --> 00:10:58,280

huge manufacturers of
clothing for the Wehrmacht.

183

00:10:58,280 --> 00:11:01,110

184

00:11:01,110 --> 00:11:06,750

My parents, my brother and I, we
had to work on different shift.

185

00:11:06,750 --> 00:11:09,420

186

00:11:09,420 --> 00:11:12,300

The food start to lessen.

187

00:11:12,300 --> 00:11:15,390

But when you were
working, then you

188

00:11:15,390 --> 00:11:21,030

had a special card
to give you bread

189

00:11:21,030 --> 00:11:23,130

and the most necessary things.

190

00:11:23,130 --> 00:11:25,050

What kind of work
did you have to do?

191

00:11:25,050 --> 00:11:31,960

I was sewing in that
particular shop,

192

00:11:31,960 --> 00:11:34,780

making the German
uniforms to be sent

193

00:11:34,780 --> 00:11:37,900

to Osten, which was to Russia.

194

00:11:37,900 --> 00:11:41,450

Both sides of the heavy
uniforms were the right size,

195

00:11:41,450 --> 00:11:44,770

otherwise if there would
be snowing over there,

196

00:11:44,770 --> 00:11:47,140

one side would be
white and the other one

197

00:11:47,140 --> 00:11:50,860

would be military green.

198

00:11:50,860 --> 00:11:54,030

Did you live at home while
you were going to work?

199

00:11:54,030 --> 00:11:54,810

Yes.

200

00:11:54,810 --> 00:11:56,620

You were committed to occupy--

201

00:11:56,620 --> 00:11:59,020

But we had to give away
our apartment, which

202

00:11:59,020 --> 00:12:01,090

was a huge apartment.

203

00:12:01,090 --> 00:12:07,150

And those years of living, we
had three rooms, four those.

204

00:12:07,150 --> 00:12:10,480

So two rooms were
confiscated for other Jews,

205

00:12:10,480 --> 00:12:13,150

because they came from different
part of the city, which

206

00:12:13,150 --> 00:12:18,580

was forming an open
ghetto in Chrzanow.

207

00:12:18,580 --> 00:12:21,730

But in the very same location
where he had lived before, only

208

00:12:21,730 --> 00:12:22,750

with fewer rooms.

209

00:12:22,750 --> 00:12:23,500

Yes.

210

00:12:23,500 --> 00:12:24,850

Yes.

211

00:12:24,850 --> 00:12:27,850

When you say forming an open
ghetto, describe what you mean.

212

00:12:27,850 --> 00:12:30,530

213

00:12:30,530 --> 00:12:34,760

The city was quite huge.

214

00:12:34,760 --> 00:12:38,240

There were certainly areas,
the better, the newer section

215

00:12:38,240 --> 00:12:43,250

of the city, they were occupied
by the Germans and Poles, who

216

00:12:43,250 --> 00:12:45,800

were either
collaborators or sent

217

00:12:45,800 --> 00:12:48,170

in from different
part of Poland.

218

00:12:48,170 --> 00:12:50,690

And the Jews have to
evacuate to the smaller

219

00:12:50,690 --> 00:12:52,700

quarters of the city.

220

00:12:52,700 --> 00:12:56,210

Therefore, we had to
give away the apartments.

221

00:12:56,210 --> 00:13:00,630

If there was a family of four,
we could have only one room.

222

00:13:00,630 --> 00:13:02,180

Luckily, we had more than one.

223

00:13:02,180 --> 00:13:03,350

We had three.

224

00:13:03,350 --> 00:13:05,720

But we have to make room
for the other people.

225

00:13:05,720 --> 00:13:08,600

There was not only my
family, but basically

226

00:13:08,600 --> 00:13:11,210

the Jews who are living in
that particular quarters,

227

00:13:11,210 --> 00:13:13,790

they have to open their
doors for somebody else.

228

00:13:13,790 --> 00:13:14,480

Jewish people.

229

00:13:14,480 --> 00:13:15,260

Jewish people.

230

00:13:15,260 --> 00:13:21,440

By that time, there was formed
a Jewish Gemeinde, which was

231

00:13:21,440 --> 00:13:23,510

Jewish center of activities.

232

00:13:23,510 --> 00:13:24,950

And there were
one representative

233

00:13:24,950 --> 00:13:29,810
for the Jews, who handled all
the affairs between the Germans

234

00:13:29,810 --> 00:13:31,550
and Austros.

235

00:13:31,550 --> 00:13:33,640
The people that
you took in, were

236

00:13:33,640 --> 00:13:35,660
they indigenous to
the city or were they

237

00:13:35,660 --> 00:13:38,660
people who came from other
cities or other towns?

238

00:13:38,660 --> 00:13:41,000
No, they were people who
were living in the city,

239

00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:43,430
but in different
part of this city.

240

00:13:43,430 --> 00:13:47,770
And they were pushed into
the ghetto style of living.

241

00:13:47,770 --> 00:13:52,510
How many people were living in
your flat or apartment or rooms

242

00:13:52,510 --> 00:13:53,170
at one time?

243

00:13:53,170 --> 00:13:57,330
The apartment, there were
more than 12 people, I think.

244

00:13:57,330 --> 00:14:01,630

1942, we have to
give up other room

245

00:14:01,630 --> 00:14:03,220

for the people who came in.

246

00:14:03,220 --> 00:14:05,350

And that was already
from different parts

247

00:14:05,350 --> 00:14:08,690

of not necessarily
from Chrzanow.

248

00:14:08,690 --> 00:14:10,740

12 people in how many rooms?

249

00:14:10,740 --> 00:14:13,520

There was five rooms.

250

00:14:13,520 --> 00:14:15,540

Where four had lived
before in other words?

251

00:14:15,540 --> 00:14:16,220

Yes.

252

00:14:16,220 --> 00:14:19,400

Only us, the family.

253

00:14:19,400 --> 00:14:23,340

What other conditions did
you find in the ghetto

254

00:14:23,340 --> 00:14:24,390

as time went on?

255

00:14:24,390 --> 00:14:30,200

Well, the conditions were in
the beginning quite normal,

256

00:14:30,200 --> 00:14:33,800

except that you meet
different people,

257

00:14:33,800 --> 00:14:36,510

because more people came.

258

00:14:36,510 --> 00:14:41,330

But the hygienic situation
was quite all right

259

00:14:41,330 --> 00:14:42,180

in the beginning.

260

00:14:42,180 --> 00:14:44,450

Later on, it was more
difficult, especially

261

00:14:44,450 --> 00:14:48,320

during the wintertime, when
you need heat, which was

262

00:14:48,320 --> 00:14:49,850

coal at that particular time.

263

00:14:49,850 --> 00:14:51,530

You need a stove.

264

00:14:51,530 --> 00:14:53,370

And not many rooms have it.

265

00:14:53,370 --> 00:14:58,520

So it was really
annoying and very hard

266

00:14:58,520 --> 00:15:03,450

to obtain the same stigma
of life that we used to.

267

00:15:03,450 --> 00:15:05,720

Virtually no privacy.

268

00:15:05,720 --> 00:15:06,890

No, only one room.

269

00:15:06,890 --> 00:15:09,760

270

00:15:09,760 --> 00:15:12,504

What about food?

271

00:15:12,504 --> 00:15:17,960

We were fortunately not to
suffer from lack of food,

272

00:15:17,960 --> 00:15:22,370

because my father has a lot
of friends who are Gentile.

273

00:15:22,370 --> 00:15:25,630

And they brought
in the food to us.

274

00:15:25,630 --> 00:15:29,470

In 1942, we do have
to exchange already

275

00:15:29,470 --> 00:15:33,710

some valuables,
like gold, for food.

276

00:15:33,710 --> 00:15:37,600

But basically my
family was not hungry.

277

00:15:37,600 --> 00:15:40,170

278

00:15:40,170 --> 00:15:42,570

Did you have to share
the food with the people

279

00:15:42,570 --> 00:15:44,640

in sharing the house with you?

280
00:15:44,640 --> 00:15:46,140
No.

281
00:15:46,140 --> 00:15:49,200
How did they manage for food?

282
00:15:49,200 --> 00:15:51,880
Probably on the same basics.

283
00:15:51,880 --> 00:15:54,210
They have to sell
something to get something,

284
00:15:54,210 --> 00:15:56,260
because we were rationed.

285
00:15:56,260 --> 00:15:58,680
And if you didn't have
anybody to help you

286
00:15:58,680 --> 00:16:02,250
out the Gentile side, it was
very difficult to get one.

287
00:16:02,250 --> 00:16:04,440
But food preparations
and eating and so on

288
00:16:04,440 --> 00:16:08,160
were done within the
one room where you were.

289
00:16:08,160 --> 00:16:11,670
So that, in other words,
if you had abundance

290
00:16:11,670 --> 00:16:16,240
and the others didn't, you were
more or less sheltered from it?

291
00:16:16,240 --> 00:16:17,040

Yes.

292

00:16:17,040 --> 00:16:20,970

We had our privacy, as I say,
in one kitchen and one bedroom.

293

00:16:20,970 --> 00:16:22,650

And then we could
do whatever we want.

294

00:16:22,650 --> 00:16:25,410

Nobody in it,
except the Germans.

295

00:16:25,410 --> 00:16:31,270

They can come in any day
or night, knock on the door

296

00:16:31,270 --> 00:16:33,230

and enter.

297

00:16:33,230 --> 00:16:36,940

Did you have at
that time a curfew?

298

00:16:36,940 --> 00:16:39,260

Of course, we had the
curfew to right away

299

00:16:39,260 --> 00:16:41,270

after the war broke out.

300

00:16:41,270 --> 00:16:43,580

The Jews were not permitted
during the summertime,

301

00:16:43,580 --> 00:16:46,370

in September when
the war broke out,

302

00:16:46,370 --> 00:16:48,650

the curfew was till 9
o'clock in the evening.

303
00:16:48,650 --> 00:16:51,800
In the wintertime, it
was only till 8 o'clock.

304
00:16:51,800 --> 00:16:54,710
So we could not go
out later than this,

305
00:16:54,710 --> 00:16:58,410
otherwise you were shot
at if you were caught.

306
00:16:58,410 --> 00:17:01,810

307
00:17:01,810 --> 00:17:10,300
During a time that you
were in this condition,

308
00:17:10,300 --> 00:17:13,382
did you have a chance
to get any education?

309
00:17:13,382 --> 00:17:18,069
Was there any schooling
going on in the ghetto?

310
00:17:18,069 --> 00:17:18,640
No.

311
00:17:18,640 --> 00:17:25,690
We did not have any officially
way of being taught or learned.

312
00:17:25,690 --> 00:17:32,350
But friends who are a
little bit older than us,

313
00:17:32,350 --> 00:17:34,420
we were reading books.

314

00:17:34,420 --> 00:17:39,360
And we were trying to keep
up with our math and algebra

315
00:17:39,360 --> 00:17:42,970
at that time, which was
very fascinating for us.

316
00:17:42,970 --> 00:17:45,460
But official teaching
was completely

317
00:17:45,460 --> 00:17:49,100
verboden for the Jews.

318
00:17:49,100 --> 00:17:51,380
Actually, you didn't
have much time

319
00:17:51,380 --> 00:17:54,270
if you worked how many
hours in the factory.

320
00:17:54,270 --> 00:17:57,300
Well, we were
working eight hours.

321
00:17:57,300 --> 00:17:58,800
But on different basis.

322
00:17:58,800 --> 00:18:02,970
One were working,
let's say, from 1:00

323
00:18:02,970 --> 00:18:04,560
to late in the evening.

324
00:18:04,560 --> 00:18:07,140
And then again for the
night and in the morning,

325
00:18:07,140 --> 00:18:09,640
there were 24 hours of working.

326
00:18:09,640 --> 00:18:13,030
And we have to change it.

327
00:18:13,030 --> 00:18:17,430
There was on a strictly
German controlled.

328
00:18:17,430 --> 00:18:19,500
Then your sleeping
arrangements were also--

329
00:18:19,500 --> 00:18:20,340
Different.

330
00:18:20,340 --> 00:18:21,127
Absolutely.

331
00:18:21,127 --> 00:18:21,960
On a rotating basis.

332
00:18:21,960 --> 00:18:24,030
Of course.

333
00:18:24,030 --> 00:18:29,910
So if your hours were
subject to change,

334
00:18:29,910 --> 00:18:32,830
were you permitted in
and out of the ghetto--

335
00:18:32,830 --> 00:18:33,330
No--

336
00:18:33,330 --> 00:18:34,130
At odd hours--

337
00:18:34,130 --> 00:18:38,040
We're always restricted
being in the ghetto.

338

00:18:38,040 --> 00:18:41,430

The only reason-- the difference
between different cities,

339

00:18:41,430 --> 00:18:44,010

which we found out
after the liberation,

340

00:18:44,010 --> 00:18:47,760

we did not have a wall
that we were locked in.

341

00:18:47,760 --> 00:18:50,070

But with the same token,
we were definitely

342

00:18:50,070 --> 00:18:55,650

restricted not to go out from
certain limits of our streets.

343

00:18:55,650 --> 00:18:57,990

Did things get worse
in that regard?

344

00:18:57,990 --> 00:19:00,390

Of course, they did.

345

00:19:00,390 --> 00:19:05,070

We had in 1940 a huge--

346

00:19:05,070 --> 00:19:08,790

the Germans grabbed
us out from our home

347

00:19:08,790 --> 00:19:13,800

in the middle of the day to
form in our square, which

348

00:19:13,800 --> 00:19:18,870

I mentioned before,
looked us over completely.

349

00:19:18,870 --> 00:19:22,560

Who was young, capable
of physical work

350

00:19:22,560 --> 00:19:25,206

were sent to concentration camp.

351

00:19:25,206 --> 00:19:30,260

The rest was brutal beaten.

352

00:19:30,260 --> 00:19:34,020

They could not work anymore.

353

00:19:34,020 --> 00:19:38,585

It was a problem for the
Jews to take care under.

354

00:19:38,585 --> 00:19:44,900

By pure nature of living,
some of them made it to life,

355

00:19:44,900 --> 00:19:47,990

and some of them didn't.

356

00:19:47,990 --> 00:19:51,860

But from one month to the
other, the conditions of living

357

00:19:51,860 --> 00:19:55,040

was very hard and
also petrified,

358

00:19:55,040 --> 00:20:01,660

because we did not know when the
next transport, or Aussiedlung,

359

00:20:01,660 --> 00:20:05,250

which the German
called, will occur.

360

00:20:05,250 --> 00:20:07,680

How often did the
transports occur?

361
00:20:07,680 --> 00:20:09,300
Twice a year approximate.

362
00:20:09,300 --> 00:20:11,040
And did you know
when they would come?

363
00:20:11,040 --> 00:20:11,700
No, we didn't.

364
00:20:11,700 --> 00:20:13,140
Always taken by surprise?

365
00:20:13,140 --> 00:20:15,390
By surprise, yes.

366
00:20:15,390 --> 00:20:20,850
In 1942, some of our
friends of our family,

367
00:20:20,850 --> 00:20:24,660
which was working in
the Kultusgemeinde,

368
00:20:24,660 --> 00:20:32,430
they mentioned the possibility
of a gathering again.

369
00:20:32,430 --> 00:20:34,620
That was the time
where my parents

370
00:20:34,620 --> 00:20:39,120
were hit by the Gentile people.

371
00:20:39,120 --> 00:20:42,120
And my brother and I,
we were both working

372
00:20:42,120 --> 00:20:44,250
in different places.

373

00:20:44,250 --> 00:20:47,970

We came home from our work.

374

00:20:47,970 --> 00:20:51,090

And my parents were not at home.

375

00:20:51,090 --> 00:20:57,680

It was a terrifying experience
being that I was very young.

376

00:20:57,680 --> 00:21:00,770

I was only 14 and
half years old.

377

00:21:00,770 --> 00:21:03,890

I did not know what to do.

378

00:21:03,890 --> 00:21:11,380

So the decision came very
quickly to run to my aunt

379

00:21:11,380 --> 00:21:12,920

and to ask of help.

380

00:21:12,920 --> 00:21:17,220

What can we do to
bring my parents home?

381

00:21:17,220 --> 00:21:19,410

It was a very difficult task.

382

00:21:19,410 --> 00:21:23,400

It took a few minutes
of the decision.

383

00:21:23,400 --> 00:21:26,470

I ran to the school where they
were all concentrated there.

384

00:21:26,470 --> 00:21:29,470

385
00:21:29,470 --> 00:21:33,280
And with a piece
of rope, I tried

386
00:21:33,280 --> 00:21:36,970
to throw to the window
my father should get it.

387
00:21:36,970 --> 00:21:37,780
You saw him?

388
00:21:37,780 --> 00:21:38,350
Yes.

389
00:21:38,350 --> 00:21:41,350
I waved to him, and I saw him.

390
00:21:41,350 --> 00:21:43,900
And I said he should try
to escape with my mother

391
00:21:43,900 --> 00:21:45,430
to get out.

392
00:21:45,430 --> 00:21:50,160
Somebody by the door
will help him out.

393
00:21:50,160 --> 00:21:57,210
And we were exceptionally lucky
that the rescue was successful

394
00:21:57,210 --> 00:21:58,590
and my parents came home.

395
00:21:58,590 --> 00:22:01,800

396
00:22:01,800 --> 00:22:05,550
With the same token it was
a sadness in our family,

397

00:22:05,550 --> 00:22:13,230

because the quota, the amount
of people had to be that much.

398

00:22:13,230 --> 00:22:18,420

That means that other two person
had to be taken to Auschwitz.

399

00:22:18,420 --> 00:22:20,430

To make up for this whoever--

400

00:22:20,430 --> 00:22:21,976

The rescue of my parents, yes.

401

00:22:21,976 --> 00:22:23,760

Make up the numbers.

402

00:22:23,760 --> 00:22:32,460

That was a very, very
bittersweet experience

403

00:22:32,460 --> 00:22:34,080

in my very early years.

404

00:22:34,080 --> 00:22:37,440

405

00:22:37,440 --> 00:22:40,830

I was happy to have
my parents home.

406

00:22:40,830 --> 00:22:44,730

But my conscience was
always bothering me

407

00:22:44,730 --> 00:22:49,290

that somebody else took
place, perhaps also parents.

408

00:22:49,290 --> 00:22:53,445

Did you know who the people were

who were taken in your place?

409

00:22:53,445 --> 00:22:55,491

No, I did not.

410

00:22:55,491 --> 00:22:57,810

It was impossible to know.

411

00:22:57,810 --> 00:22:59,820

Did your parents have
to go into hiding again?

412

00:22:59,820 --> 00:23:06,750

Or you continued on your
so-called normal routine?

413

00:23:06,750 --> 00:23:10,500

No, it was a normal
routine under the pressure

414

00:23:10,500 --> 00:23:12,540

of the German occupation.

415

00:23:12,540 --> 00:23:17,440

They were with us
until the last,

416

00:23:17,440 --> 00:23:21,970

I would say look of our
town, which was in 1943.

417

00:23:21,970 --> 00:23:23,690

It wasn't names that mattered.

418

00:23:23,690 --> 00:23:24,410

It was numbers.

419

00:23:24,410 --> 00:23:27,880

In other words, they didn't
know that these two people Mr

420

00:23:27,880 --> 00:23:29,480

and Mrs. So-and-so--

421

00:23:29,480 --> 00:23:35,550

Yes, to them, we were always
numbers, amount in numbers.

422

00:23:35,550 --> 00:23:41,850

When the German came, that
was in the beginning of 1941,

423

00:23:41,850 --> 00:23:49,600

they want force
already us metal.

424

00:23:49,600 --> 00:23:52,700

They did not ask for permission.

425

00:23:52,700 --> 00:23:56,650

They knocked on the door,
came in in a very brutal way.

426

00:23:56,650 --> 00:23:59,380

They took what they wanted.

427

00:23:59,380 --> 00:24:02,680

And when they were looking
for something special,

428

00:24:02,680 --> 00:24:06,340

they put the beds upside down.

429

00:24:06,340 --> 00:24:09,520

The quilt covers which were
done from down, especially

430

00:24:09,520 --> 00:24:13,780

during the wintertime, they
sadistically took a knife

431

00:24:13,780 --> 00:24:16,854

and opened up to see
that nothing is there.

432

00:24:16,854 --> 00:24:18,550

This I recall.

433

00:24:18,550 --> 00:24:20,635

Unfortunately, I witnessed
this a few times.

434

00:24:20,635 --> 00:24:23,800

435

00:24:23,800 --> 00:24:28,840

Many things of the brutality,
which I would never

436

00:24:28,840 --> 00:24:32,980

forget, especially
when you are young,

437

00:24:32,980 --> 00:24:38,860

there is a certain fear that
you carry the rest of your life.

438

00:24:38,860 --> 00:24:43,100

And the invasion of your home,
your privacy, and your person.

439

00:24:43,100 --> 00:24:46,480

We did not think this
far, particularly

440

00:24:46,480 --> 00:24:50,860

myself, because my brother was
a little bit older than I was,

441

00:24:50,860 --> 00:24:53,330

I was still a child.

442

00:24:53,330 --> 00:24:57,400

So I was just frightening
what will happen to me

443

00:24:57,400 --> 00:25:00,190

or who will be the
next one that that

444
00:25:00,190 --> 00:25:04,190
should happen what they doing.

445
00:25:04,190 --> 00:25:07,460
What were some of the other
brutalities that you saw?

446
00:25:07,460 --> 00:25:12,890
Well, we experience
Aussiedlung in 1941 and '42,

447
00:25:12,890 --> 00:25:18,170
which the one who are let free,
like myself, my family, some

448
00:25:18,170 --> 00:25:21,590
of my friends, we used
to go to the train

449
00:25:21,590 --> 00:25:26,950
to give them water and
food to help them out.

450
00:25:26,950 --> 00:25:31,480
The scene that we witnessed
was just intolerable

451
00:25:31,480 --> 00:25:33,460
for human beings.

452
00:25:33,460 --> 00:25:37,270
The poor people were packed in
in the wagon, which is a train.

453
00:25:37,270 --> 00:25:43,140
It was not a person trained, as
we driving or traveling around

454
00:25:43,140 --> 00:25:44,540
in today.

455
00:25:44,540 --> 00:25:46,450
It was for cattle.

456
00:25:46,450 --> 00:25:49,840
There was a tiny
little window open

457
00:25:49,840 --> 00:25:55,090
for 200 people in
one particular wagon.

458
00:25:55,090 --> 00:26:00,590
But no hygiene facilities,
no food, no nothing.

459
00:26:00,590 --> 00:26:04,760
The poor people that
time did not know in 1941

460
00:26:04,760 --> 00:26:07,970
where the distance is.

461
00:26:07,970 --> 00:26:13,130
Later on, we find out by
sending some Gentile people

462
00:26:13,130 --> 00:26:17,840
to Auschwitz, which was
approximately 32 miles away

463
00:26:17,840 --> 00:26:20,060
from our home.

464
00:26:20,060 --> 00:26:24,200
In the beginning
of the 1940, '41,

465
00:26:24,200 --> 00:26:27,140
there were only political
prisoners in Auschwitz.

466

00:26:27,140 --> 00:26:30,950
But then in 1941,
they started already

467
00:26:30,950 --> 00:26:36,240
with mass
transportation of Jews.

468
00:26:36,240 --> 00:26:41,230
You were saying that you tried
to bring them water at the--

469
00:26:41,230 --> 00:26:42,860
Yes, to the station.

470
00:26:42,860 --> 00:26:44,020
Did they permit you?

471
00:26:44,020 --> 00:26:44,950
Yes.

472
00:26:44,950 --> 00:26:51,310
Some of them was either looking
away or officially permitting.

473
00:26:51,310 --> 00:26:55,360
They have looked
away and let us do

474
00:26:55,360 --> 00:26:57,880
what we done to help
them with food and water.

475
00:26:57,880 --> 00:27:00,450

476
00:27:00,450 --> 00:27:06,210
Did you have any
particular curiosity

477
00:27:06,210 --> 00:27:07,650
about who these people were?

478

00:27:07,650 --> 00:27:10,740

Or did you recognize
this is something

479

00:27:10,740 --> 00:27:16,960

that might ultimately happen
to you or to others you knew?

480

00:27:16,960 --> 00:27:20,230

Some of the people was
a part of my family.

481

00:27:20,230 --> 00:27:23,020

They grew up in my town.

482

00:27:23,020 --> 00:27:25,750

They could be school inmates.

483

00:27:25,750 --> 00:27:29,830

They could be
parents of my friends

484

00:27:29,830 --> 00:27:35,480

who I attended school and
played and spend my free time.

485

00:27:35,480 --> 00:27:39,520

So actually, it was a
heartbreaking experience.

486

00:27:39,520 --> 00:27:41,920

It's like somebody
that you're taking away

487

00:27:41,920 --> 00:27:43,378

from your own family.

488

00:27:43,378 --> 00:27:44,920

So these are people
you already knew?

489

00:27:44,920 --> 00:27:46,879

Yes.

490

00:27:46,879 --> 00:27:49,840

Ann, you wanted
to say something.

491

00:27:49,840 --> 00:27:51,220

Yes.

492

00:27:51,220 --> 00:27:55,480

The infractions, if people
did something wrong,

493

00:27:55,480 --> 00:28:01,210

like breaking the curfew or
some of the other rules, what

494

00:28:01,210 --> 00:28:05,110

were some of the punishments
that they heaped on the people?

495

00:28:05,110 --> 00:28:07,240

The punishment were very severe.

496

00:28:07,240 --> 00:28:10,280

And it all depends
on the individual.

497

00:28:10,280 --> 00:28:12,250

Some of them could--

498

00:28:12,250 --> 00:28:14,560

I'm referring to some
of them, naturally was

499

00:28:14,560 --> 00:28:17,830

a German, who was
in a uniform, could

500

00:28:17,830 --> 00:28:20,140

have a dog working with them.

501

00:28:20,140 --> 00:28:23,880

He could tear you
to pieces at once.

502

00:28:23,880 --> 00:28:25,440

Some of them.

503

00:28:25,440 --> 00:28:30,850

They had beaten
you with a rifle.

504

00:28:30,850 --> 00:28:34,220

So blood was pouring from
you without any help.

505

00:28:34,220 --> 00:28:38,410

They did not permit immediately
help to the patient,

506

00:28:38,410 --> 00:28:39,160

or to the person.

507

00:28:39,160 --> 00:28:41,880

508

00:28:41,880 --> 00:28:46,650

As far as humanitarian,
there were everything

509

00:28:46,650 --> 00:28:50,040

but to being a human
of with feelings.

510

00:28:50,040 --> 00:28:53,820

And having done that, there
was no medical assistance

511

00:28:53,820 --> 00:28:54,540

of any kind.

512

00:28:54,540 --> 00:28:57,440

At the moment you
were not permitted.

513
00:28:57,440 --> 00:29:00,740
We did have medical supply.

514
00:29:00,740 --> 00:29:03,650
The Jews in the
city was supervised

515
00:29:03,650 --> 00:29:07,350
by the Jewish Kultusgemeinde.

516
00:29:07,350 --> 00:29:10,020
But at the moment
or few hours later,

517
00:29:10,020 --> 00:29:12,870
till he does not
disappear, we were not

518
00:29:12,870 --> 00:29:16,750
allowed to touch
or to be near him.

519
00:29:16,750 --> 00:29:19,870
How long were you in
this work situation

520
00:29:19,870 --> 00:29:23,080
with a relative
degree of knowing what

521
00:29:23,080 --> 00:29:24,550
you were going to do every day?

522
00:29:24,550 --> 00:29:27,890

523
00:29:27,890 --> 00:29:32,210
With all different kinds
of disturbance in between,

524
00:29:32,210 --> 00:29:35,600

like Aussiedlung and all
different segregation

525
00:29:35,600 --> 00:29:40,430
for working, transport
to concentration camps,

526
00:29:40,430 --> 00:29:46,280
the conditions remained
for me till 1943,

527
00:29:46,280 --> 00:29:48,710
till the city was Judenfrei.

528
00:29:48,710 --> 00:29:52,880
And what happened then?

529
00:29:52,880 --> 00:30:00,830
That was an extremely
difficult experience,

530
00:30:00,830 --> 00:30:02,810
because we're being
experienced already

531
00:30:02,810 --> 00:30:06,110
from previous evacuation
the Jews from our town,

532
00:30:06,110 --> 00:30:11,560
we knew that this is
the end of our lives.

533
00:30:11,560 --> 00:30:15,130
The whole remains
of Jews in the city

534
00:30:15,130 --> 00:30:19,780
were brought up again to the
same place, which was a square.

535
00:30:19,780 --> 00:30:23,470
There was no

counting, no nothing.

536

00:30:23,470 --> 00:30:27,100

Before there used to be a
segregation from the appointee

537

00:30:27,100 --> 00:30:28,840

of high officers.

538

00:30:28,840 --> 00:30:31,360

Either you were going right
or you were going left.

539

00:30:31,360 --> 00:30:35,110

This time we all
stood in one center.

540

00:30:35,110 --> 00:30:38,910

And there was a mass of people.

541

00:30:38,910 --> 00:30:42,630

And what happened when
you were in that square?

542

00:30:42,630 --> 00:30:47,530

The deportation was a
terrible experience.

543

00:30:47,530 --> 00:30:52,800

I still can hear the screaming
of some small children,

544

00:30:52,800 --> 00:30:56,790

that they were torn
away from the hands,

545

00:30:56,790 --> 00:30:59,670

from the breast, of the mothers.

546

00:30:59,670 --> 00:31:03,880

And you could hear the voice
so clearly even today, mommy,

547

00:31:03,880 --> 00:31:05,499

mommy, don't let me--

548

00:31:05,499 --> 00:31:12,350

549

00:31:12,350 --> 00:31:18,060

After several hours

standing in same square,

550

00:31:18,060 --> 00:31:21,930

we were shipped into a

school, to a Gymnasium.

551

00:31:21,930 --> 00:31:24,060

From the Gymnasium, in

a middle of the night,

552

00:31:24,060 --> 00:31:29,110

we had to walk to the train

with all people together.

553

00:31:29,110 --> 00:31:31,060

We did not know who was where.

554

00:31:31,060 --> 00:31:34,650

555

00:31:34,650 --> 00:31:35,700

We will--

556

00:31:35,700 --> 00:31:38,150

Was your family

together at this point?

557

00:31:38,150 --> 00:31:41,880

No, my mother, my father were

hidden again by the Poles.

558

00:31:41,880 --> 00:31:44,640

559

00:31:44,640 --> 00:31:46,860

My brother was working.

560

00:31:46,860 --> 00:31:47,970

He didn't know where I am.

561

00:31:47,970 --> 00:31:51,730

And I did not know where he is.

562

00:31:51,730 --> 00:31:57,917

After riding in that particular
train from my home to nowhere--

563

00:31:57,917 --> 00:31:59,250

we did not know where we going--

564

00:31:59,250 --> 00:32:02,760

565

00:32:02,760 --> 00:32:08,170

the train was
extremely slow moving.

566

00:32:08,170 --> 00:32:13,300

I am sure that you did see
the Shoah, the pictures,

567

00:32:13,300 --> 00:32:15,520

those were the trains
that we were transported--

568

00:32:15,520 --> 00:32:17,260

Those were the tracks.

569

00:32:17,260 --> 00:32:19,750

At that same place.

570

00:32:19,750 --> 00:32:24,690

As you just heard the
movement of the railing.

571

00:32:24,690 --> 00:32:26,300

What time of the
year was that, Lee?

572

00:32:26,300 --> 00:32:26,800

February.

573

00:32:26,800 --> 00:32:28,120

It was bitter cold.

574

00:32:28,120 --> 00:32:31,720

575

00:32:31,720 --> 00:32:36,190

We were allowed to take
only what we were wearing,

576

00:32:36,190 --> 00:32:38,950

nothing else.

577

00:32:38,950 --> 00:32:41,380

I was working at night.

578

00:32:41,380 --> 00:32:45,350

And they took me
straight from work.

579

00:32:45,350 --> 00:32:46,710

No coat.

580

00:32:46,710 --> 00:32:49,765

No, I did have a very
warm coat and good shoes,

581

00:32:49,765 --> 00:32:52,710

as a matter of fact.

582

00:32:52,710 --> 00:32:55,320

And I had my pocketbook
with the pictures,

583

00:32:55,320 --> 00:32:57,600

and some of the pictures
I have here today.

584
00:32:57,600 --> 00:33:00,960

585
00:33:00,960 --> 00:33:07,470
We were traveling at that speed
and that terrible surrounding

586
00:33:07,470 --> 00:33:13,740
for a day and night till
we came to Markstadt.

587
00:33:13,740 --> 00:33:20,790
As we were loaded from the
train, all of a sudden I

588
00:33:20,790 --> 00:33:22,290
realized my brother is there.

589
00:33:22,290 --> 00:33:25,038

590
00:33:25,038 --> 00:33:27,690
Now, you can imagine
how emotional you

591
00:33:27,690 --> 00:33:30,370
got when you see
your only brother

592
00:33:30,370 --> 00:33:34,250
but you could not
talk to each other.

593
00:33:34,250 --> 00:33:35,420
We were restricted.

594
00:33:35,420 --> 00:33:38,290

595

00:33:38,290 --> 00:33:41,470
Then we came to the
camp, which took

596
00:33:41,470 --> 00:33:44,680
several hours, because there
were old people with us.

597
00:33:44,680 --> 00:33:47,110
They could not walk fast.

598
00:33:47,110 --> 00:33:51,265
In between, they were all
beaten or hurt by the Germans.

599
00:33:51,265 --> 00:33:54,720

600
00:33:54,720 --> 00:33:58,620
As we approach the
camp, that was Appell.

601
00:33:58,620 --> 00:34:00,810
We have to count
how many people.

602
00:34:00,810 --> 00:34:06,540
And I found that this is almost
the city of Chrzanow, which was

603
00:34:06,540 --> 00:34:08,670
the total liquidation of Jews.

604
00:34:08,670 --> 00:34:12,969

605
00:34:12,969 --> 00:34:16,960
There was 40 woman of us.

606
00:34:16,960 --> 00:34:20,580
We had to go to
separate barracks

607

00:34:20,580 --> 00:34:27,489

to have some soup, as we
can call it soup, or coffee.

608

00:34:27,489 --> 00:34:29,710

And the men were somewhere else.

609

00:34:29,710 --> 00:34:32,980

610

00:34:32,980 --> 00:34:36,580

The first experience that
I had in concentration camp

611

00:34:36,580 --> 00:34:39,699

was a terrifying.

612

00:34:39,699 --> 00:34:44,710

I saw a girl on the [? perch, ?]
which was a bed, a wooden bed,

613

00:34:44,710 --> 00:34:47,020

on the second level.

614

00:34:47,020 --> 00:34:48,490

And she was completely crippled.

615

00:34:48,490 --> 00:34:51,600

616

00:34:51,600 --> 00:34:55,199

A very sweet, like
an angel face.

617

00:34:55,199 --> 00:34:57,400

And we start to
talk to each other.

618

00:34:57,400 --> 00:35:02,540

So she told us, if we
can remain in this camp,

619

00:35:02,540 --> 00:35:07,070

we can help to
survive other 5 to men

620

00:35:07,070 --> 00:35:10,520

by working in the
kitchen and giving him

621

00:35:10,520 --> 00:35:14,140

a little bit more food.

622

00:35:14,140 --> 00:35:19,400

We had one orderly
person with us.

623

00:35:19,400 --> 00:35:23,850

Unfortunately, she passed
away now a year and a half.

624

00:35:23,850 --> 00:35:28,980

She was a nurse before
the war in my town.

625

00:35:28,980 --> 00:35:33,310

She had some money
with her and jewelry,

626

00:35:33,310 --> 00:35:37,420

try to interview with
the Jewish leaders

627

00:35:37,420 --> 00:35:41,530

from that particular
camp, which was Markstadt.

628

00:35:41,530 --> 00:35:44,350

We should remain in that camp.

629

00:35:44,350 --> 00:35:49,620

Whatever belongings
we had, like a ring,

630

00:35:49,620 --> 00:35:53,890
earrings, or what, we
should give it to her.

631
00:35:53,890 --> 00:35:58,790
Maybe we succeed to
remain in that camp.

632
00:35:58,790 --> 00:36:05,360
And as she was talking to the
representative of the Jews

633
00:36:05,360 --> 00:36:08,350
there, they said
it's impossible,

634
00:36:08,350 --> 00:36:13,590
because in Sosnowiec, which
was a Dulag, the concentration

635
00:36:13,590 --> 00:36:18,210
of the Jewish people before they
were sent to the camp, which

636
00:36:18,210 --> 00:36:19,860
we did not go.

637
00:36:19,860 --> 00:36:25,110
We were almost one of the
transportation to the camps

638
00:36:25,110 --> 00:36:27,870
that we did not stay
in Dulag in Sosnowiec.

639
00:36:27,870 --> 00:36:31,040

640
00:36:31,040 --> 00:36:33,380
The women who have
husbands and family

641
00:36:33,380 --> 00:36:36,950

there bribed the
Germans very highly.

642
00:36:36,950 --> 00:36:40,340
And they're coming
in for our place.

643
00:36:40,340 --> 00:36:46,910
So that was a very big letdown
to our more feelings that I

644
00:36:46,910 --> 00:36:50,210
cannot be with my brother on
my friends with her father,

645
00:36:50,210 --> 00:36:54,130
which was also in
the same transport.

646
00:36:54,130 --> 00:36:58,660
In another half hour, we had
to report again to the square,

647
00:36:58,660 --> 00:36:59,650
in the camp--

648
00:36:59,650 --> 00:37:02,520
Was this just the women,
or the women and the men?

649
00:37:02,520 --> 00:37:05,350
Women, because the men
were separated from us.

650
00:37:05,350 --> 00:37:09,214
And we did not know
where they are.

651
00:37:09,214 --> 00:37:14,990
The little girl that I mentioned
before, she was crippled.

652
00:37:14,990 --> 00:37:18,880

And I ask her, what's
happened to you

653
00:37:18,880 --> 00:37:22,040
because you're very young
and you have an angel face?

654
00:37:22,040 --> 00:37:24,230
I'm sure if you are
not capable of working,

655
00:37:24,230 --> 00:37:25,660
you would not be here.

656
00:37:25,660 --> 00:37:27,680
She said, this is
the whole story,

657
00:37:27,680 --> 00:37:30,160
but don't pay attention to it.

658
00:37:30,160 --> 00:37:35,020
So we started to press
her she should tell us.

659
00:37:35,020 --> 00:37:39,870
One German wanted to rape her.

660
00:37:39,870 --> 00:37:46,680
And she started to scream
and asking for help.

661
00:37:46,680 --> 00:37:50,070
So he throws her down to
a bunker, which was full,

662
00:37:50,070 --> 00:37:52,560
of course.

663
00:37:52,560 --> 00:37:56,670
And she broke spine.

664

00:37:56,670 --> 00:38:00,810

And there was no help
at the moment for her.

665

00:38:00,810 --> 00:38:05,850

So it was a very
unpleasant situation

666

00:38:05,850 --> 00:38:09,840

for the first steps being
in concentration camp.

667

00:38:09,840 --> 00:38:11,490

She had already
been there when--

668

00:38:11,490 --> 00:38:14,160

She probably was there
more than a year or year

669

00:38:14,160 --> 00:38:19,580

and a half [INAUDIBLE] I
don't think she survived.

670

00:38:19,580 --> 00:38:20,810

She did not leave with you.

671

00:38:20,810 --> 00:38:21,720

She stayed on.

672

00:38:21,720 --> 00:38:25,070

Yes, she was already a year
and a half in that camp.

673

00:38:25,070 --> 00:38:29,600

But she gave us the advice
to remain in the camp,

674

00:38:29,600 --> 00:38:35,166

we can save the 5 to 10
men from being alive.

675

00:38:35,166 --> 00:38:40,350

You know when you're young,
you're still very optimistic.

676
00:38:40,350 --> 00:38:43,410
Your hope for the
future is so brighter

677
00:38:43,410 --> 00:38:50,330
than I imagine of my parents,
because today as a parent,

678
00:38:50,330 --> 00:38:57,150
I know my obligation and
responsibility to my children.

679
00:38:57,150 --> 00:39:01,610
So I can possibly think
how my parents felt

680
00:39:01,610 --> 00:39:05,390
about losing their children
or anybody else who was so

681
00:39:05,390 --> 00:39:10,340
close to them in a mature age.

682
00:39:10,340 --> 00:39:13,160
If she was so crippled
and everybody at this camp

683
00:39:13,160 --> 00:39:18,755
was required to do some
work, how did she work?

684
00:39:18,755 --> 00:39:19,670
How did she--

685
00:39:19,670 --> 00:39:20,390
She did not.

686
00:39:20,390 --> 00:39:22,550
She was not capable of working.

687

00:39:22,550 --> 00:39:26,600

And the woman, the girls,
whoever was with her

688

00:39:26,600 --> 00:39:29,360

in the bunk, brought her food.

689

00:39:29,360 --> 00:39:33,860

Being that the German done it,
it was not officially registry

690

00:39:33,860 --> 00:39:38,600

that something happened to
her on the work territory.

691

00:39:38,600 --> 00:39:42,623

692

00:39:42,623 --> 00:39:43,790

Where did you go from there?

693

00:39:43,790 --> 00:39:46,580

694

00:39:46,580 --> 00:39:49,730

We went back to the Appellplatz.

695

00:39:49,730 --> 00:39:57,890

And they send us with a
truck, open truck, to nowhere.

696

00:39:57,890 --> 00:40:03,270

We had the slightest idea, the
40 people on that truck where

697

00:40:03,270 --> 00:40:05,520

we're going.

698

00:40:05,520 --> 00:40:09,960

We were almost sure that we're
going direction of Auschwitz.

699

00:40:09,960 --> 00:40:12,560

700

00:40:12,560 --> 00:40:18,190

Fortunately, enough we went
to other camp, Klettendorf.

701

00:40:18,190 --> 00:40:22,270

And that was a new
area of my life,

702

00:40:22,270 --> 00:40:28,050

starting working in
concentration camp.

703

00:40:28,050 --> 00:40:35,580

In the beginning, the first
impression in the camp

704

00:40:35,580 --> 00:40:45,600

was very strange, because it was
a combination of frightening,

705

00:40:45,600 --> 00:40:49,680

and yet I found a little
warmth from a friend

706

00:40:49,680 --> 00:40:54,180

who was already for two
years in concentration camp.

707

00:40:54,180 --> 00:40:58,860

As we were counted out
how many 40 girls of us,

708

00:40:58,860 --> 00:41:02,570

we were all let free
to the barracks.

709

00:41:02,570 --> 00:41:06,440

In the barracks,
she recognized me.

710

00:41:06,440 --> 00:41:11,520

And she said, Lika, you
will sleep tonight with me.

711

00:41:11,520 --> 00:41:15,000

I was absolutely delighted.

712

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:18,810

The first time since
three days of traveling

713

00:41:18,810 --> 00:41:21,790

with very difficult
experience in my life,

714

00:41:21,790 --> 00:41:25,380

I was sleeping on
a snow white cover

715

00:41:25,380 --> 00:41:28,890

from down and a normal
pillow that I was so

716

00:41:28,890 --> 00:41:31,260

used to from home.

717

00:41:31,260 --> 00:41:40,070

And I say, Zusu, it's not so bad
if this is what we're living.

718

00:41:40,070 --> 00:41:45,270

But unfortunately, the privilege
was quickly taken away from us.

719

00:41:45,270 --> 00:41:48,830

We have to give away
everything what we had,

720

00:41:48,830 --> 00:41:51,440

including my
friend, her covering

721

00:41:51,440 --> 00:41:53,120
and pillows, et cetera.

722
00:41:53,120 --> 00:41:59,180
We were just given a gray
blanket without cover,

723
00:41:59,180 --> 00:42:00,710
without anything.

724
00:42:00,710 --> 00:42:05,390
And that was our
basically sleeping.

725
00:42:05,390 --> 00:42:07,280
These were things she
brought from home?

726
00:42:07,280 --> 00:42:09,378
She did not bring it from home.

727
00:42:09,378 --> 00:42:09,920
How did she--

728
00:42:09,920 --> 00:42:13,610
Her parents send it to her,
because in the beginning,

729
00:42:13,610 --> 00:42:17,720
in 1940, '41, there
was Zwangsarbeitslager.

730
00:42:17,720 --> 00:42:20,120
It was not a concentration camp.

731
00:42:20,120 --> 00:42:23,030
And you were
permitted one package,

732
00:42:23,030 --> 00:42:27,170
I understand, a month to send
to a child, or your husband

733

00:42:27,170 --> 00:42:31,340

or your wife, whoever
it might concern.

734

00:42:31,340 --> 00:42:35,150

But that changed
rapidly in '43 when

735

00:42:35,150 --> 00:42:38,970

I came to camp, because
it was concentration camp.

736

00:42:38,970 --> 00:42:42,220

What kind of work did
you do in this camp?

737

00:42:42,220 --> 00:42:47,030

In the beginning, we used
to travel to Breslau,

738

00:42:47,030 --> 00:42:51,280

which is Wroclaw today--
it's Polish occupation--

739

00:42:51,280 --> 00:42:53,875

working in a cleaning factory.

740

00:42:53,875 --> 00:43:02,000

It was called [? Kelling. ?]
It was very interesting for me,

741

00:43:02,000 --> 00:43:03,810

being that I was so young.

742

00:43:03,810 --> 00:43:06,170

I was never in Breslau.

743

00:43:06,170 --> 00:43:11,310

And we had to drive every
single day in the morning.

744

00:43:11,310 --> 00:43:14,520

We have to get up
5:30 in the morning

745
00:43:14,520 --> 00:43:20,940
without food, only black coffee,
to get dressed in uniforms

746
00:43:20,940 --> 00:43:22,110
and go to work.

747
00:43:22,110 --> 00:43:24,740

748
00:43:24,740 --> 00:43:31,530
And that particular
victory, I was very lucky.

749
00:43:31,530 --> 00:43:35,110
I looked like a
shiksa, like a Gentile,

750
00:43:35,110 --> 00:43:36,760
and I happen to speak German.

751
00:43:36,760 --> 00:43:39,270

752
00:43:39,270 --> 00:43:42,840
My supervisor
liked me very much.

753
00:43:42,840 --> 00:43:46,700
She used to bring me a
piece of bread every day.

754
00:43:46,700 --> 00:43:48,050
And that was heaven.

755
00:43:48,050 --> 00:43:51,950

756
00:43:51,950 --> 00:43:58,260

Very, very funny
way of our life,

757
00:43:58,260 --> 00:44:04,910
which is today beyond
my understanding how

758
00:44:04,910 --> 00:44:06,530
it could happen.

759
00:44:06,530 --> 00:44:12,570
She told me I want you should
meet my son, which Saturday we

760
00:44:12,570 --> 00:44:15,570
were working only a half day.

761
00:44:15,570 --> 00:44:20,760
When we walk out
from the jobs, I

762
00:44:20,760 --> 00:44:23,340
should look on
the left direction

763
00:44:23,340 --> 00:44:29,520
and he will stay there waving
to me in a uniform from Hitler

764
00:44:29,520 --> 00:44:31,990
Jugend.

765
00:44:31,990 --> 00:44:35,740
I was hysterical,
deep in myself,

766
00:44:35,740 --> 00:44:40,330
because I could not laugh loud
on the job when she told me.

767
00:44:40,330 --> 00:44:45,010
At the time that she talked to
me about it, I have to work,

768
00:44:45,010 --> 00:44:48,460
not paying any attention or
looking in her direction,

769
00:44:48,460 --> 00:44:50,590
because immediately
somebody else could

770
00:44:50,590 --> 00:44:54,460
realize, or look at me, and
I'd be punished or beaten up

771
00:44:54,460 --> 00:44:56,910
to death.

772
00:44:56,910 --> 00:45:00,180
When you think about
it, coincidence,

773
00:45:00,180 --> 00:45:03,060
what's happening
when you are young,

774
00:45:03,060 --> 00:45:06,300
it's amazing and very
hard for me today

775
00:45:06,300 --> 00:45:11,980
to understand how she was not
afraid even to say so to me,

776
00:45:11,980 --> 00:45:15,640
because she too was observed
by other people, which

777
00:45:15,640 --> 00:45:18,970
was all party people.

778
00:45:18,970 --> 00:45:22,540
And that particular
Saturday, he came in,

779

00:45:22,540 --> 00:45:28,060
a very handsome, young fellow,
blond, blue eyed probably.

780

00:45:28,060 --> 00:45:33,830
With a brief second as we
were marching, he waved to me.

781

00:45:33,830 --> 00:45:37,270
I wouldn't dare to
move my head, otherwise

782

00:45:37,270 --> 00:45:41,050
I would be beaten by the SS
woman who was working with us.

783

00:45:41,050 --> 00:45:43,650

784

00:45:43,650 --> 00:45:49,570
But there are certainly
moments that when

785

00:45:49,570 --> 00:45:54,630
you think about it today,
it is almost impossible

786

00:45:54,630 --> 00:45:57,300
to digest them.

787

00:45:57,300 --> 00:45:59,655
And this is one of
the coincidences.

788

00:45:59,655 --> 00:46:00,960
What was his story?

789

00:46:00,960 --> 00:46:03,270
How come he had that uniform?

790

00:46:03,270 --> 00:46:04,860
I have no idea.

791
00:46:04,860 --> 00:46:08,130
I never spoke or saw
him the other time,

792
00:46:08,130 --> 00:46:10,770
because we were working
there are only three months.

793
00:46:10,770 --> 00:46:13,740
And that was almost the
time that was finished.

794
00:46:13,740 --> 00:46:16,080
And I was switched
to different job.

795
00:46:16,080 --> 00:46:17,640
But this is amazing.

796
00:46:17,640 --> 00:46:21,030
These SS women,
they live nearby?

797
00:46:21,030 --> 00:46:22,350
They had homes nearby?

798
00:46:22,350 --> 00:46:23,760
Or like the supervisor--

799
00:46:23,760 --> 00:46:25,500
Oh, no, they were
probably living

800
00:46:25,500 --> 00:46:29,010
in their own normal
quarters attending work

801
00:46:29,010 --> 00:46:31,070
every single day.

802
00:46:31,070 --> 00:46:32,320

And they were all party women.

803

00:46:32,320 --> 00:46:34,930

They were all signed
up to the [INAUDIBLE]..

804

00:46:34,930 --> 00:46:37,720

And they had their
choice of girls

805

00:46:37,720 --> 00:46:40,270

to do anything, any kind
of work that they wanted

806

00:46:40,270 --> 00:46:42,430

them to do on the outside.

807

00:46:42,430 --> 00:46:44,890

Well, it all depends
on the character end.

808

00:46:44,890 --> 00:46:50,500

If they were fairly
decent, they could

809

00:46:50,500 --> 00:46:52,450

save a great deal
of people, and they

810

00:46:52,450 --> 00:46:57,460

could be normal human beings
by special punishment.

811

00:46:57,460 --> 00:47:02,470

They had their own way
from the higher officers.

812

00:47:02,470 --> 00:47:05,440

You must do so-and-so,
supervise this and this,

813

00:47:05,440 --> 00:47:07,000

but it would be

very nice people,

814

00:47:07,000 --> 00:47:09,760

like this particular woman
that I mentioned before.

815

00:47:09,760 --> 00:47:11,260

She was.

816

00:47:11,260 --> 00:47:14,590

But there was somebody
else who are terrible.

817

00:47:14,590 --> 00:47:19,420

And every move that you made,
you are punished immediately.

818

00:47:19,420 --> 00:47:25,510

Was there any other overture on
her part or any of the others

819

00:47:25,510 --> 00:47:28,580

that might have made life
a little easier for you?

820

00:47:28,580 --> 00:47:31,750

Like maybe cleaning
their house--

821

00:47:31,750 --> 00:47:33,370

But we were not allowed.

822

00:47:33,370 --> 00:47:35,380

We went to work from
the camp, and we

823

00:47:35,380 --> 00:47:37,450

have to return to work to camp.

824

00:47:37,450 --> 00:47:40,750

We had no way to be
directly in touch

825

00:47:40,750 --> 00:47:43,030
with any of the German people.

826

00:47:43,030 --> 00:47:51,490
We Jews were for the
German disease, something

827

00:47:51,490 --> 00:47:55,180
that nobody should
look at us, touch us.

828

00:47:55,180 --> 00:47:56,470
It was a big no-no.

829

00:47:56,470 --> 00:47:59,950

830

00:47:59,950 --> 00:48:06,290
So for her to be friendly
to you or to be encouraging

831

00:48:06,290 --> 00:48:08,540
was to risk in a
sense her own life.

832

00:48:08,540 --> 00:48:10,710
Of course, it was.

833

00:48:10,710 --> 00:48:18,270
But for my feelings, it
gave me a certain sense

834

00:48:18,270 --> 00:48:20,010
of being a human again.

835

00:48:20,010 --> 00:48:25,750
Maybe someday I'd be alive,
because I was not tortured,

836

00:48:25,750 --> 00:48:27,130
beaten by her.

837

00:48:27,130 --> 00:48:32,030

And yet she told me to look at
her son, because she liked me.

838

00:48:32,030 --> 00:48:33,800

I was not a Jewish bastard.

839

00:48:33,800 --> 00:48:36,500

I was not something
full of disease.

840

00:48:36,500 --> 00:48:38,900

Because that's how they
talked about you and that's

841

00:48:38,900 --> 00:48:41,250

how they treated you.

842

00:48:41,250 --> 00:48:43,610

Did you ever hear her talk
about anybody else that way?

843

00:48:43,610 --> 00:48:45,062

No.

844

00:48:45,062 --> 00:48:47,000

No.

845

00:48:47,000 --> 00:48:51,870

We were not allowed to go to
any discussions with them.

846

00:48:51,870 --> 00:48:55,050

Because not only I was
under her observation,

847

00:48:55,050 --> 00:48:58,930

but there was somebody
who observed her.

848

00:48:58,930 --> 00:49:03,230

And then she could be punished

the same ways I would.

849

00:49:03,230 --> 00:49:05,370

Did they give you any food
in the course of the day

850

00:49:05,370 --> 00:49:06,328

while you were working?

851

00:49:06,328 --> 00:49:06,890

No way.

852

00:49:06,890 --> 00:49:07,710

No food at all?

853

00:49:07,710 --> 00:49:08,840

No way.

854

00:49:08,840 --> 00:49:11,810

The food was the sandwich
that she gave me.

855

00:49:11,810 --> 00:49:15,440

And when we returned to
our barracks and our camp,

856

00:49:15,440 --> 00:49:21,120

we got our soup, which the first
few weeks I couldn't eat it,

857

00:49:21,120 --> 00:49:25,740

because there was some
vegetables including scent,

858

00:49:25,740 --> 00:49:33,070

worms, dirt, and a tiny piece of
potato was floating on the top.

859

00:49:33,070 --> 00:49:36,495

Otherwise, it very hot
water, filthy hot water.

860

00:49:36,495 --> 00:49:38,110
And that's how we survived.

861
00:49:38,110 --> 00:49:38,710
And coffee.

862
00:49:38,710 --> 00:49:39,670
There's so little food.

863
00:49:39,670 --> 00:49:41,740
It's amazing you had
the energy to work.

864
00:49:41,740 --> 00:49:44,280

865
00:49:44,280 --> 00:49:48,190
I guess the power
of life or the fate.

866
00:49:48,190 --> 00:49:50,970
I strongly believe
in fate, more so

867
00:49:50,970 --> 00:49:54,550
than anything else till today.

868
00:49:54,550 --> 00:49:56,560
If you were meant
to be alive, you

869
00:49:56,560 --> 00:50:03,430
survive the most crucial
and unhuman facilities.

870
00:50:03,430 --> 00:50:06,500
Then you're alive.

871
00:50:06,500 --> 00:50:08,900
How long were you in this camp?

872
00:50:08,900 --> 00:50:12,450

I was a year and a
half at this camp.

873
00:50:12,450 --> 00:50:14,430
And was they were turnover?

874
00:50:14,430 --> 00:50:15,850
They brought more?

875
00:50:15,850 --> 00:50:20,280
Of course, six weeks later
we got a big transport

876
00:50:20,280 --> 00:50:23,280
coming in from other cities.

877
00:50:23,280 --> 00:50:28,020
And that was the end
of the Jews in Poland.

878
00:50:28,020 --> 00:50:31,920
This was already deep
in '43, summer of '43

879
00:50:31,920 --> 00:50:34,382
where was a total liquidation
of Jews in Poland.

880
00:50:34,382 --> 00:50:36,090
That's with the same
facilities that they

881
00:50:36,090 --> 00:50:38,880
have for the original 40.

882
00:50:38,880 --> 00:50:42,660
No, the facilities were much
stronger and lesser convenience

883
00:50:42,660 --> 00:50:48,010
for us prisoners, because there
were more people, more inmates,

884

00:50:48,010 --> 00:50:49,660
less food.

885

00:50:49,660 --> 00:50:52,330
And in 1940 was
Zwangsarbeitslager.

886

00:50:52,330 --> 00:50:55,300
Otherwise you have to work,
but you had plenty of food,

887

00:50:55,300 --> 00:51:00,130
and you could have help from
your home by sending packages.

888

00:51:00,130 --> 00:51:03,970
In 1943, there was nobody
anyone to send you anything.

889

00:51:03,970 --> 00:51:07,050
And it was a concentration
camp already.

890

00:51:07,050 --> 00:51:09,420
So there's quite
a few differences

891

00:51:09,420 --> 00:51:12,450
in the two years' time.

892

00:51:12,450 --> 00:51:17,590
Did you have any soap to
wash with or any cleansing--

893

00:51:17,590 --> 00:51:23,060
Yes, we did have as soap, which
I am sure you know about it

894

00:51:23,060 --> 00:51:31,300
and you heard all of it, which
was RIF, Rein Judisches Fett.

895

00:51:31,300 --> 00:51:35,410
Assumingly after we were
educated after the liberation,

896
00:51:35,410 --> 00:51:38,560
that soap was from our
skin and our own fat.

897
00:51:38,560 --> 00:51:41,280

898
00:51:41,280 --> 00:51:43,880
And, of course, no one
said anything at the time.

899
00:51:43,880 --> 00:51:46,410
We did not know.

900
00:51:46,410 --> 00:51:52,100
And even if we would know,
which there were rumors,

901
00:51:52,100 --> 00:51:56,360
by the interpretation of
the abbreviation RIF, Rein

902
00:51:56,360 --> 00:51:59,630
Judisches Fett,
that evidently it

903
00:51:59,630 --> 00:52:03,130
must be a part of our
bodies from the people

904
00:52:03,130 --> 00:52:04,860
which are not alive.

905
00:52:04,860 --> 00:52:11,700
But we couldn't either help,
prevent, or do something

906
00:52:11,700 --> 00:52:17,000
about it, because we were

in danger constantly.

907

00:52:17,000 --> 00:52:19,400

There were several people
from our camp, which

908

00:52:19,400 --> 00:52:23,100

we were together with
the men, in Klettendorf,

909

00:52:23,100 --> 00:52:26,550

that tried to escape.

910

00:52:26,550 --> 00:52:31,370

They were caught and
shot on this space

911

00:52:31,370 --> 00:52:37,000

where they were found or
being sent to Auschwitz.

912

00:52:37,000 --> 00:52:40,150

So there were no
way or no thoughts

913

00:52:40,150 --> 00:52:46,480

in our mind, the only thing
that you have deep in yourself,

914

00:52:46,480 --> 00:52:52,210

especially being fairly young,
to have hope that someday

915

00:52:52,210 --> 00:52:56,730

somebody will liberate us.

916

00:52:56,730 --> 00:53:00,600

Under what circumstances
did you leave Klettendorf?

917

00:53:00,600 --> 00:53:04,050

Oh, the circumstances
in Klettendorf

918
00:53:04,050 --> 00:53:09,970
were rather comfortable
to the situation

919
00:53:09,970 --> 00:53:13,018
that I learned they exist
after the liberation

920
00:53:13,018 --> 00:53:13,810
in different camps.

921
00:53:13,810 --> 00:53:16,460

922
00:53:16,460 --> 00:53:19,420
We had enough water to
wash ourselves, which

923
00:53:19,420 --> 00:53:22,580
was a luxury in other camps.

924
00:53:22,580 --> 00:53:23,240
We had soap.

925
00:53:23,240 --> 00:53:26,920

926
00:53:26,920 --> 00:53:31,480
And speaking about
soap, I experienced

927
00:53:31,480 --> 00:53:35,230
a fact, which today for
anybody who listened to that,

928
00:53:35,230 --> 00:53:39,870
could be just a laughter
or a comic situation,

929
00:53:39,870 --> 00:53:42,740
but it happened to me.

930
00:53:42,740 --> 00:53:49,080
I was working on the Luftwaffe.

931
00:53:49,080 --> 00:53:53,200
I was one of the
very lucky ones,

932
00:53:53,200 --> 00:53:58,300
not officially knowing as a
Jew to serve high officers

933
00:53:58,300 --> 00:54:00,900
in the dining room.

934
00:54:00,900 --> 00:54:04,390
But I was not wearing
my Jewish star,

935
00:54:04,390 --> 00:54:09,780
because they thought that I'm
a German or a Polack because

936
00:54:09,780 --> 00:54:16,010
of my looks and well
speaking the German language.

937
00:54:16,010 --> 00:54:21,800
The second day as I
came into the job,

938
00:54:21,800 --> 00:54:28,560
I saw a piece of
soap of a huge size.

939
00:54:28,560 --> 00:54:30,600
My eyes start to sparkle.

940
00:54:30,600 --> 00:54:32,760
And said, my God,
we have nothing

941

00:54:32,760 --> 00:54:39,220
to wash with, except that
the gloomy piece of soap,

942
00:54:39,220 --> 00:54:42,450
which was given to
us once in a month.

943
00:54:42,450 --> 00:54:44,960
I said, I have to have it.

944
00:54:44,960 --> 00:54:45,530
But how?

945
00:54:45,530 --> 00:54:50,560

946
00:54:50,560 --> 00:54:52,540
When I was finished
with my job, which

947
00:54:52,540 --> 00:54:55,810
was 5 o'clock in
the afternoon, I

948
00:54:55,810 --> 00:54:58,810
have to clean
completely the kitchen

949
00:54:58,810 --> 00:55:01,470
and throw out the garbage.

950
00:55:01,470 --> 00:55:06,500
In a split second, a
thought came to my mind.

951
00:55:06,500 --> 00:55:11,690
I put that piece of
soap under the garbage.

952
00:55:11,690 --> 00:55:16,120
And I will go
outside and bury it.

953
00:55:16,120 --> 00:55:20,080
I could not take it this
particular day with me,

954
00:55:20,080 --> 00:55:24,160
because I was more than sure
that somebody will notice.

955
00:55:24,160 --> 00:55:32,080
And before we will come to
the camp, I will be taken.

956
00:55:32,080 --> 00:55:35,810
Outside was working a
Jewish man as a gardener.

957
00:55:35,810 --> 00:55:41,530
Mr. Gorman was his name,
a German Jew from Breslau.

958
00:55:41,530 --> 00:55:45,500
And I told him, Erich,
you have to listen to me,

959
00:55:45,500 --> 00:55:47,500
but very quickly,
and don't look at me.

960
00:55:47,500 --> 00:55:50,800
You work and do what you
want, what you have to do.

961
00:55:50,800 --> 00:55:55,000
I have here pail with
garbage, but underneath there

962
00:55:55,000 --> 00:55:55,940
is a piece of soap.

963
00:55:55,940 --> 00:55:56,910
Please bury it.

964

00:55:56,910 --> 00:55:59,930

But do remember where.

965

00:55:59,930 --> 00:56:02,870

He looked at me with
a discreet smile.

966

00:56:02,870 --> 00:56:07,580

I see his face like today.

967

00:56:07,580 --> 00:56:11,940

And he said, OK, I shall do it.

968

00:56:11,940 --> 00:56:14,780

969

00:56:14,780 --> 00:56:17,880

My heart was pounding.

970

00:56:17,880 --> 00:56:21,220

I was petrified.

971

00:56:21,220 --> 00:56:24,400

As we approach our camp,
we have the Appell,

972

00:56:24,400 --> 00:56:28,700

which was a daily routine in
the morning in the evening,

973

00:56:28,700 --> 00:56:33,670

how many of inmates are going
out and how many are coming in.

974

00:56:33,670 --> 00:56:41,020

And the Lager Fuhrer
said, did any of you,

975

00:56:41,020 --> 00:56:45,470

particularly the one who are
working on the Luftwaffe,

976

00:56:45,470 --> 00:56:51,960

saw or did something
with a piece of soap,

977

00:56:51,960 --> 00:56:56,120

because it was called
in to my office

978

00:56:56,120 --> 00:57:00,140

that there is a
missing piece of soap.

979

00:57:00,140 --> 00:57:02,090

I am sure that I was have that.

980

00:57:02,090 --> 00:57:04,710

981

00:57:04,710 --> 00:57:06,540

But I stood silent.

982

00:57:06,540 --> 00:57:09,760

And nobody knew
anything about it.

983

00:57:09,760 --> 00:57:14,110

As we were discharged
from the Appellplatz,

984

00:57:14,110 --> 00:57:16,210

I went to my
Judeneldester, which

985

00:57:16,210 --> 00:57:19,180

was a Jewish woman
from Katowice,

986

00:57:19,180 --> 00:57:24,480

Paula, a very charming
and good natured person.

987

00:57:24,480 --> 00:57:30,210

I said Paula, in German I spoke
to her, I did have the soap,

988
00:57:30,210 --> 00:57:32,640
but I don't have it with me.

989
00:57:32,640 --> 00:57:35,150
She said, oh, my God.

990
00:57:35,150 --> 00:57:37,990
She was like relieved.

991
00:57:37,990 --> 00:57:41,320
But we attended-- we went
back to our barracks,

992
00:57:41,320 --> 00:57:47,590
everything was upside down,
because they're checked already

993
00:57:47,590 --> 00:57:48,520
what we have.

994
00:57:48,520 --> 00:57:49,540
Looking for this soap.

995
00:57:49,540 --> 00:57:56,910
That was one of my experience
of combination triumph

996
00:57:56,910 --> 00:58:00,430
and being dead by the same time.

997
00:58:00,430 --> 00:58:01,680
We have to stop at this point.

998
00:58:01,680 --> 00:58:03,480
And we'll continue
in a few minutes.

999
00:58:03,480 --> 00:58:05,030
OK.

1000

00:58:05,030 --> 00:58:11,000