

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:38,600

2
00:00:38,600 --> 00:00:40,230
Good evening.

3
00:00:40,230 --> 00:00:41,660
My name is Bernard Weinstein.

4
00:00:41,660 --> 00:00:45,140
I'm the director of the
Holocaust Oral Testimonies

5
00:00:45,140 --> 00:00:48,170
Project of the Holocaust
Resource Center.

6
00:00:48,170 --> 00:00:50,330
We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

7
00:00:50,330 --> 00:00:53,780
for Holocaust Testimonies
at Yale University.

8
00:00:53,780 --> 00:00:57,200
Sharing the interview with
me is Stanley Freedman.

9
00:00:57,200 --> 00:01:01,490
We are privileged to welcome
Manek Werdiger, a survivor

10
00:01:01,490 --> 00:01:05,209
presently living in Union,
New Jersey, who has generously

11
00:01:05,209 --> 00:01:08,120
volunteered to give testimony
about his experiences

12
00:01:08,120 --> 00:01:11,060
before, during, and
after the Holocaust.

13
00:01:11,060 --> 00:01:13,520
Mr. Werdiger, I'd
like to welcome you.

14
00:01:13,520 --> 00:01:16,430
And I'd like to begin
by asking you to tell us

15
00:01:16,430 --> 00:01:20,060
a little bit about
your early life,

16
00:01:20,060 --> 00:01:24,470
and where you lived,
and whatever memories

17
00:01:24,470 --> 00:01:27,540
you have of your youth.

18
00:01:27,540 --> 00:01:34,410
Well, I was born about 65
years ago in Kraków, Poland.

19
00:01:34,410 --> 00:01:41,250
And as a youth living in a
Jewish neighborhood and being

20
00:01:41,250 --> 00:01:46,710
a son of, I would say,
a middle-income family--

21
00:01:46,710 --> 00:01:51,660
not very Orthodox, but
traditionally religious--

22
00:01:51,660 --> 00:01:54,630
as a youngster, about
three or four years,

23
00:01:54,630 --> 00:01:58,860
I attended what we called
at that time cheder, which

24
00:01:58,860 --> 00:02:05,700
is a orthodox Hebrew school

which, being frank about it,

25

00:02:05,700 --> 00:02:07,320
I didn't like it.

26

00:02:07,320 --> 00:02:10,259
But I was forced to.

27

00:02:10,259 --> 00:02:12,660
And for two years, I did.

28

00:02:12,660 --> 00:02:16,230
And then of course,
like anyone else,

29

00:02:16,230 --> 00:02:19,740
I entered into
public school, which

30

00:02:19,740 --> 00:02:22,830
I attended for seven years.

31

00:02:22,830 --> 00:02:30,705
And then, of course, being a
big smart fellow for my parents,

32

00:02:30,705 --> 00:02:36,120
they were looking for me to get
me into some high school, which

33

00:02:36,120 --> 00:02:38,400
was very hard at that time.

34

00:02:38,400 --> 00:02:44,490
And being Jewish, we couldn't
attend a public high school.

35

00:02:44,490 --> 00:02:50,340
And fortunately, in our town,
which had about 65,000 Jews,

36

00:02:50,340 --> 00:02:56,880
we had about three or even four
high school strictly Jewish,

37

00:02:56,880 --> 00:03:02,340
which were approved by
the Polish government.

38

00:03:02,340 --> 00:03:05,130
Of course, they were
private, and they cost money.

39

00:03:05,130 --> 00:03:10,380
But somehow, everyone
who was able to,

40

00:03:10,380 --> 00:03:12,810
had some ability,
tried to get in.

41

00:03:12,810 --> 00:03:19,920
And so I attended a commercial
Hebrew high school in Kraków,

42

00:03:19,920 --> 00:03:26,520
from where I graduated in 1939,
just about two months before

43

00:03:26,520 --> 00:03:29,100
the outbreak of
Second World War.

44

00:03:29,100 --> 00:03:32,760
At that time, did you have any
idea what you wanted to do,

45

00:03:32,760 --> 00:03:35,250
or what you wanted to be?

46

00:03:35,250 --> 00:03:40,020
I know in public
schools when I attended,

47

00:03:40,020 --> 00:03:43,830
and I was told by the
teachers, that I am very

48

00:03:43,830 --> 00:03:46,770
good in math or arithmetic.

49
00:03:46,770 --> 00:03:52,860
So it was natural for me to go
to some commercial high school.

50
00:03:52,860 --> 00:03:58,830
And being frank about
it, I didn't plan.

51
00:03:58,830 --> 00:04:01,500
And I didn't know
at that time what

52
00:04:01,500 --> 00:04:04,260
my plans would be
after I graduated

53
00:04:04,260 --> 00:04:06,990
from commercial high school.

54
00:04:06,990 --> 00:04:07,620
Yeah.

55
00:04:07,620 --> 00:04:11,740
What did your father
do for a living?

56
00:04:11,740 --> 00:04:14,070
He was in textiles.

57
00:04:14,070 --> 00:04:22,710
And we were considered middle
income, but we struggled.

58
00:04:22,710 --> 00:04:26,550
I remember we struggled
providing that.

59
00:04:26,550 --> 00:04:32,730
I had a older sister, about
four and a half years older,

60
00:04:32,730 --> 00:04:35,610
and older brother who
was nine years older.

61
00:04:35,610 --> 00:04:43,680
And we all went through
private high schools, which

62
00:04:43,680 --> 00:04:47,020
put a big strain on my family.

63
00:04:47,020 --> 00:04:49,420
But we made it.

64
00:04:49,420 --> 00:04:51,630
Were there memories
of your childhood

65
00:04:51,630 --> 00:04:54,850
that you can still recall
that are still very vivid--

66
00:04:54,850 --> 00:04:55,350
No.

67
00:04:55,350 --> 00:04:55,850
--to you?

68
00:04:55,850 --> 00:05:02,310
As a child, of course, I think
we were pretty happy children.

69
00:05:02,310 --> 00:05:07,230
Of course, at the
same time, we lived

70
00:05:07,230 --> 00:05:09,600
in a strictly
Jewish neighborhood.

71
00:05:09,600 --> 00:05:11,910
But there were times, like--

72
00:05:11,910 --> 00:05:14,970
and we attended school
six days a week.

73

00:05:14,970 --> 00:05:18,150
Now, we had always
Saturday free,

74
00:05:18,150 --> 00:05:20,790
because they were Jewish
or Hebrew schools.

75
00:05:20,790 --> 00:05:24,420
And whenever we used to go
into a so-called Christian

76
00:05:24,420 --> 00:05:28,920
neighborhood, we were very
careful, because at the times,

77
00:05:28,920 --> 00:05:34,680
we were jumped up by other
youngsters and beaten up.

78
00:05:34,680 --> 00:05:38,230
So we made sure, whenever we
went into those neighborhoods,

79
00:05:38,230 --> 00:05:41,950
there were at least three or
four of us walking together

80
00:05:41,950 --> 00:05:44,380
so we can defend ourselves.

81
00:05:44,380 --> 00:05:47,677
Or if we have to run away, we
will know about each other--

82
00:05:47,677 --> 00:05:48,510
Were you, yourself--

83
00:05:48,510 --> 00:05:49,302
--when we get home.

84
00:05:49,302 --> 00:05:50,440
--ever beaten or attacked?

85
00:05:50,440 --> 00:05:51,398

Yes, I was.

86
00:05:51,398 --> 00:05:53,738
Yes, I was.

87
00:05:53,738 --> 00:05:54,680
Yeah.

88
00:05:54,680 --> 00:05:56,930
Can you talk about any
of that experience?

89
00:05:56,930 --> 00:05:58,550
No, this was like--

90
00:05:58,550 --> 00:06:02,900
we had a lot of parks
in our city all around.

91
00:06:02,900 --> 00:06:08,000
And that's where youngsters,
like usual, used to walk--

92
00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,910
boys, either separate,
or with girls,

93
00:06:10,910 --> 00:06:14,610
or girls separate-- where
you could meet, or whatever.

94
00:06:14,610 --> 00:06:19,520
And those places were the
ones where we always--

95
00:06:19,520 --> 00:06:22,070
there wasn't a day
where someone didn't get

96
00:06:22,070 --> 00:06:25,380
hurt by beating, or so forth.

97
00:06:25,380 --> 00:06:25,880
And--

98

00:06:25,880 --> 00:06:27,890

Because you were Jewish, or--

99

00:06:27,890 --> 00:06:29,150

Because we were Jewish.

100

00:06:29,150 --> 00:06:32,240

And there were not
too much cooperation

101

00:06:32,240 --> 00:06:33,650

from the Polish police.

102

00:06:33,650 --> 00:06:35,540

Actually, they looked away.

103

00:06:35,540 --> 00:06:40,270

And the one thing was
either to hit back or just

104

00:06:40,270 --> 00:06:43,410

to run away as fast as you can.

105

00:06:43,410 --> 00:06:49,250

Did this kind of antagonism
come only from your peers?

106

00:06:49,250 --> 00:06:51,290

Or did you see it
in the adult world?

107

00:06:51,290 --> 00:06:53,810

Did you see it, for example,
in the schools you went to,

108

00:06:53,810 --> 00:06:55,150

or among the adult population?

109

00:06:55,150 --> 00:06:59,600

Well, the schools-- living in
the Jewish neighborhoods, even

110

00:06:59,600 --> 00:07:02,180

the public schools,

which I attended,

111

00:07:02,180 --> 00:07:08,100
was mostly attended
by 95% Jewish kids.

112

00:07:08,100 --> 00:07:10,460
There were just a few
Christian, because they

113

00:07:10,460 --> 00:07:13,250
were the neighborhood schools.

114

00:07:13,250 --> 00:07:17,070
Now, the same was
with my sister.

115

00:07:17,070 --> 00:07:21,560
She attended a Jewish high
school, private school.

116

00:07:21,560 --> 00:07:29,330
Now, my brother attended
a technical school.

117

00:07:29,330 --> 00:07:31,310
He became, later, an architect.

118

00:07:31,310 --> 00:07:38,210
And there were numerus clausus
on the class of '34, '36.

119

00:07:38,210 --> 00:07:39,560
There were only two Jews.

120

00:07:39,560 --> 00:07:43,280
And that's why they
only admitted two.

121

00:07:43,280 --> 00:07:45,050
Later, they made it one.

122

00:07:45,050 --> 00:07:47,550
And the last year,
in '39, I think,

123

00:07:47,550 --> 00:07:50,960

it was completely
numerus nullus.

124

00:07:50,960 --> 00:07:53,780

They didn't take in anyone.

125

00:07:53,780 --> 00:08:00,470

So that's how it
was in our city.

126

00:08:00,470 --> 00:08:06,680

Was there a point where you felt
that something was inevitable,

127

00:08:06,680 --> 00:08:09,890

that something was going to
happen before it actually

128

00:08:09,890 --> 00:08:11,180

happened?

129

00:08:11,180 --> 00:08:14,180

Or were you taken by surprise
when the war broke out?

130

00:08:14,180 --> 00:08:17,000

No, I don't think we
were taken by surprise.

131

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:18,860

Of course, there's
always a surprise.

132

00:08:18,860 --> 00:08:21,170

But we always
listened to the radio.

133

00:08:21,170 --> 00:08:28,370

And Kraków, being a few hundred
kilometers from the German

134

00:08:28,370 --> 00:08:31,640

border, we listened

to the radio.

135

00:08:31,640 --> 00:08:34,820

And we always heard
it, very clearly,

136

00:08:34,820 --> 00:08:36,679

what's going on in Germany--

137

00:08:36,679 --> 00:08:39,710

from German radio, not
from Polish, exactly.

138

00:08:39,710 --> 00:08:42,559

And we listened to
Hitler's speeches

139

00:08:42,559 --> 00:08:45,290

when he took
Czechoslovakia, Austria.

140

00:08:45,290 --> 00:08:50,360

And we expected
something to happen.

141

00:08:50,360 --> 00:08:55,670

But till it does happen,
you really don't know.

142

00:08:55,670 --> 00:08:59,690

Especially, we were young.

143

00:08:59,690 --> 00:09:02,320

My brother was already--

144

00:09:02,320 --> 00:09:06,410

he was in the army in 1937.

145

00:09:06,410 --> 00:09:12,290

And being graduated
from technical school,

146

00:09:12,290 --> 00:09:16,340

he was admitted--

147

00:09:16,340 --> 00:09:19,070

they had to admit him,
although they didn't want to,

148

00:09:19,070 --> 00:09:21,380

to an officer school.

149

00:09:21,380 --> 00:09:26,290

And he came out from the
army as a second lieutenant

150

00:09:26,290 --> 00:09:29,990

of the Polish army
because of the--

151

00:09:29,990 --> 00:09:31,180

as a student.

152

00:09:31,180 --> 00:09:34,970

I mean, after the
studies, they took him in.

153

00:09:34,970 --> 00:09:41,745

And by us, they were taken
to the army by age 21, 22.

154

00:09:41,745 --> 00:09:45,590

155

00:09:45,590 --> 00:09:49,020

Do you remember the actual
outbreak of the war?

156

00:09:49,020 --> 00:09:50,040

Yes, I do.

157

00:09:50,040 --> 00:09:51,730

Can you talk also about that?

158

00:09:51,730 --> 00:09:52,230

No.

159

00:09:52,230 --> 00:09:56,760

It was September 1, 1939.

160
00:09:56,760 --> 00:09:59,130
And it was on Friday.

161
00:09:59,130 --> 00:10:01,050
And we saw some--

162
00:10:01,050 --> 00:10:03,780
I mean, we heard
some bombardment.

163
00:10:03,780 --> 00:10:07,260
But we didn't realize
what it actually is.

164
00:10:07,260 --> 00:10:10,750
But later, we put on the radio.

165
00:10:10,750 --> 00:10:16,140
And there were signal and
codes like chocolate, vapor.

166
00:10:16,140 --> 00:10:18,270
And there were some
codes, probably

167
00:10:18,270 --> 00:10:21,570
for the army, which
we picked it up.

168
00:10:21,570 --> 00:10:27,150
And I was riding
around with a bicycle.

169
00:10:27,150 --> 00:10:29,880
And we knew--

170
00:10:29,880 --> 00:10:32,610
I mean, the word
spreads quickly.

171
00:10:32,610 --> 00:10:38,190
Although, Kraków was a
pretty good town, 300,000--

172

00:10:38,190 --> 00:10:44,460

that the main railroad
depot was bombed.

173

00:10:44,460 --> 00:10:50,080

And we could already hear
ambulances and the army

174

00:10:50,080 --> 00:10:50,880

all over.

175

00:10:50,880 --> 00:10:52,710

This was the first day.

176

00:10:52,710 --> 00:10:59,490

And the second or third
day, it was already--

177

00:10:59,490 --> 00:11:02,505

they actually went so fast.

178

00:11:02,505 --> 00:11:08,260

On the second day already
you could see the army,

179

00:11:08,260 --> 00:11:12,735

which was withdrawing through
Kraków going toward east.

180

00:11:12,735 --> 00:11:16,805

181

00:11:16,805 --> 00:11:19,270

And it was everything
in disarray.

182

00:11:19,270 --> 00:11:21,400

There was no command.

183

00:11:21,400 --> 00:11:24,100

Nobody know where they're going.

184

00:11:24,100 --> 00:11:28,280

Soldiers were looking for

their battalion, or company.

185

00:11:28,280 --> 00:11:31,690

They never found it.

186

00:11:31,690 --> 00:11:33,310

So this was the
second or third day.

187

00:11:33,310 --> 00:11:39,460

And on Sunday morning,
we saw that everything

188

00:11:39,460 --> 00:11:42,100

was running toward the east.

189

00:11:42,100 --> 00:11:48,970

And we decided with my
father that I and my brother

190

00:11:48,970 --> 00:11:52,070

will go also.

191

00:11:52,070 --> 00:11:53,660

Yeah.

192

00:11:53,660 --> 00:11:57,586

And where, specifically,
did you plan to go?

193

00:11:57,586 --> 00:11:58,432

East.

194

00:11:58,432 --> 00:12:00,080

East, as far as possible.

195

00:12:00,080 --> 00:12:03,335

We thought, if you go
toward Russian border,

196

00:12:03,335 --> 00:12:05,300

we will be safe.

197

00:12:05,300 --> 00:12:10,720

And also, he had--

198
00:12:10,720 --> 00:12:14,210
over the phone, he had
a certain code where,

199
00:12:14,210 --> 00:12:15,920
being in the
reserve, that he had

200
00:12:15,920 --> 00:12:19,220
to register to a
certain battalion,

201
00:12:19,220 --> 00:12:21,110
or whatever they called it.

202
00:12:21,110 --> 00:12:25,730
And he had his uniform
with him, as an officer.

203
00:12:25,730 --> 00:12:30,380
And we left Kraków going east.

204
00:12:30,380 --> 00:12:32,180
And we were walking on the way.

205
00:12:32,180 --> 00:12:33,925
And we got more company.

206
00:12:33,925 --> 00:12:36,180
We're a group, maybe.

207
00:12:36,180 --> 00:12:38,660
There were thousands and
thousands of people walking.

208
00:12:38,660 --> 00:12:42,405
But we had a group of six,
seven men from Kraków.

209
00:12:42,405 --> 00:12:45,800
And we're walking east.

210

00:12:45,800 --> 00:12:48,650

On the way, we
had to be careful,

211

00:12:48,650 --> 00:12:53,420

because they were bombing
and blocking the main roads.

212

00:12:53,420 --> 00:12:55,220

But we had a map.

213

00:12:55,220 --> 00:12:57,800

And we tried to
avoid the main roads.

214

00:12:57,800 --> 00:13:01,190

And we were going toward
Russian border, which

215

00:13:01,190 --> 00:13:07,430

was about 400 kilometers away.

216

00:13:07,430 --> 00:13:11,100

They took away my bicycle.

217

00:13:11,100 --> 00:13:12,150

You couldn't run away.

218

00:13:12,150 --> 00:13:17,180

You couldn't drive, because
the roads were crowded.

219

00:13:17,180 --> 00:13:19,640

Was your mother and your sister
with you also at the time?

220

00:13:19,640 --> 00:13:20,140

No.

221

00:13:20,140 --> 00:13:23,098

My mother, sister, and my
father, they remained home.

222

00:13:23,098 --> 00:13:23,890

They remained home.

223
00:13:23,890 --> 00:13:25,830
They remained home.

224
00:13:25,830 --> 00:13:33,320
And we went all the way,
almost, to the Russian border.

225
00:13:33,320 --> 00:13:36,380
But before even we
got there, we heard

226
00:13:36,380 --> 00:13:41,270
and were told that the Russian
made an agreement with Germany,

227
00:13:41,270 --> 00:13:47,480
and they're going to occupy
the eastern part of Poland.

228
00:13:47,480 --> 00:13:49,430
That's what they did.

229
00:13:49,430 --> 00:13:55,010
And they came over
where we were.

230
00:13:55,010 --> 00:13:57,920
But in the beginning,
with the Russian,

231
00:13:57,920 --> 00:14:02,000
it wasn't the same
as with the Germans.

232
00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:03,917
Of course, at that time,
we still didn't know.

233
00:14:03,917 --> 00:14:05,833
We didn't have the
experience with each other,

234
00:14:05,833 --> 00:14:07,490
because we didn't

know the Germans.

235

00:14:07,490 --> 00:14:10,370

They were already in
Kraków, but we were away,

236

00:14:10,370 --> 00:14:14,210

200 kilometers to the east.

237

00:14:14,210 --> 00:14:16,790

And of course,
there already we met

238

00:14:16,790 --> 00:14:21,690

some Russian Jewish soldiers,
which were very nice to us.

239

00:14:21,690 --> 00:14:25,130

But in general, it was
like a war, a lot of--

240

00:14:25,130 --> 00:14:29,810

hundreds of thousands people
from the west and the east,

241

00:14:29,810 --> 00:14:32,950

and the food, and
everything else.

242

00:14:32,950 --> 00:14:35,900

The houses were crowded.

243

00:14:35,900 --> 00:14:39,050

Whenever you got a Jewish
family, they invite you.

244

00:14:39,050 --> 00:14:41,600

They gave you
whatever they could.

245

00:14:41,600 --> 00:14:44,540

They, themselves,
didn't have much.

246

00:14:44,540 --> 00:14:49,910

We slept on tables, on floors,
because it's very crowded.

247

00:14:49,910 --> 00:14:58,760

And after six, seven weeks,
we got word from the west

248

00:14:58,760 --> 00:15:01,160

that it's not so bad.

249

00:15:01,160 --> 00:15:05,610

And in Kraków, still the Germans
are there, but it's not so bad.

250

00:15:05,610 --> 00:15:10,640

And we came-- we started
to walk back east.

251

00:15:10,640 --> 00:15:13,920

So within two months,
we were back in Kraków.

252

00:15:13,920 --> 00:15:18,050

A matter of fact, we
are going, and we were

253

00:15:18,050 --> 00:15:19,837

about 100 kilometers from--

254

00:15:19,837 --> 00:15:21,170

Can I ask you one question here?

255

00:15:21,170 --> 00:15:23,756

Who did you get the information
from that things were not

256

00:15:23,756 --> 00:15:24,256

so bad?

257

00:15:24,256 --> 00:15:26,480

There's always somebody said.

258

00:15:26,480 --> 00:15:28,790

Now, you couldn't verify it.

259

00:15:28,790 --> 00:15:32,150

But during the war, there
are rumors every minute

260

00:15:32,150 --> 00:15:36,620

that this, he saw somebody who
said that they are coming here,

261

00:15:36,620 --> 00:15:37,990

he saw somebody.

262

00:15:37,990 --> 00:15:40,310

But it wasn't very-- you
couldn't see it in the--

263

00:15:40,310 --> 00:15:41,810

couldn't read the papers.

264

00:15:41,810 --> 00:15:43,370

There were no papers.

265

00:15:43,370 --> 00:15:44,810

Somebody said.

266

00:15:44,810 --> 00:15:47,150

And there are all
kind of rumors,

267

00:15:47,150 --> 00:15:49,790

which you felt that,
if a few people said

268

00:15:49,790 --> 00:15:54,170

the same thing, probably
this is right, or whatever.

269

00:15:54,170 --> 00:15:56,750

But we could never--
it's right as possible.

270

00:15:56,750 --> 00:16:00,980

But maybe it was true at the
time, because in the beginning,

271

00:16:00,980 --> 00:16:03,980
actually, it was
like status quo.

272
00:16:03,980 --> 00:16:09,980
Nothing happened the first month
or two when they entered Kraków

273
00:16:09,980 --> 00:16:13,010
till they got organized,
and all kind of stuff.

274
00:16:13,010 --> 00:16:17,220
They later started with
the arm band, and whatever.

275
00:16:17,220 --> 00:16:21,530
So even when we were closer
to Kraków, sometimes--

276
00:16:21,530 --> 00:16:24,500
I mean, there was
German army already,

277
00:16:24,500 --> 00:16:27,440
because we were already
on the German side going

278
00:16:27,440 --> 00:16:31,070
left, and right, and
cars, and wagons.

279
00:16:31,070 --> 00:16:33,830
And even if they stop us, they
didn't know that we are Jews.

280
00:16:33,830 --> 00:16:34,850
They stopped us.

281
00:16:34,850 --> 00:16:39,380
And they took us for a 50, 60
kilometer ride toward Kraków.

282
00:16:39,380 --> 00:16:43,160
And they even gave us
cigarettes and chocolate.

283
00:16:43,160 --> 00:16:46,490
And of course, we knew that we
cannot tell them that we are

284
00:16:46,490 --> 00:16:47,000
Jews.

285
00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:48,870
And they didn't ask.

286
00:16:48,870 --> 00:16:51,470
But later, the rest
of it, we walk.

287
00:16:51,470 --> 00:16:53,370
And we came home.

288
00:16:53,370 --> 00:16:55,630
And of course, my
parents and my sister

289
00:16:55,630 --> 00:16:58,940
were very happy to see us,
because somebody told them

290
00:16:58,940 --> 00:17:02,870
already that when we
started to walk at that time

291
00:17:02,870 --> 00:17:06,210
toward east, that they
bombed a village called--

292
00:17:06,210 --> 00:17:11,450
it was about 15, 20 miles away--
that somebody from us got hurt.

293
00:17:11,450 --> 00:17:12,990
I don't know how
they got the word.

294
00:17:12,990 --> 00:17:17,010
But anyway, that's
what they were told.

295

00:17:17,010 --> 00:17:18,440

And we got home.

296

00:17:18,440 --> 00:17:19,640

And we got home.

297

00:17:19,640 --> 00:17:24,800

It was November, December.

298

00:17:24,800 --> 00:17:27,470

And we knew what was happening.

299

00:17:27,470 --> 00:17:29,450

They were walking
on the streets,

300

00:17:29,450 --> 00:17:31,790

especially in the Jewish
neighborhood, which was not

301

00:17:31,790 --> 00:17:33,848

hard, because
whoever they caught

302

00:17:33,848 --> 00:17:35,390

in the Jewish
neighborhood, they knew

303

00:17:35,390 --> 00:17:37,280

for sure that they are Jews.

304

00:17:37,280 --> 00:17:40,940

And they took out the
first [? neighbor ?]

305

00:17:40,940 --> 00:17:44,630

some cause or were
beating us up.

306

00:17:44,630 --> 00:17:46,970

And we had a few--

307

00:17:46,970 --> 00:17:54,280

I had a few high school
friends who got together.

308
00:17:54,280 --> 00:17:56,600
And we said, no, we aren't
going to take it anymore.

309
00:17:56,600 --> 00:17:58,760
We're going back.

310
00:17:58,760 --> 00:18:00,770
And we got some money.

311
00:18:00,770 --> 00:18:04,190
And we got our rucksacks,
each one of us.

312
00:18:04,190 --> 00:18:06,840
And we went to the
German-Russian border,

313
00:18:06,840 --> 00:18:10,330
which was on the river Saalach.

314
00:18:10,330 --> 00:18:12,475
And at that time--

315
00:18:12,475 --> 00:18:13,850
this was in the
beginning-- there

316
00:18:13,850 --> 00:18:18,020
were a lot of Polish
people on the Russian side

317
00:18:18,020 --> 00:18:19,970
and on the German side.

318
00:18:19,970 --> 00:18:24,530
And they had some kind of an
agreement with the Russians.

319
00:18:24,530 --> 00:18:28,280
There was a railroad
bridge there

320
00:18:28,280 --> 00:18:32,420
that they're going to let in,
say, a few thousand people

321
00:18:32,420 --> 00:18:33,350
on this side.

322
00:18:33,350 --> 00:18:35,520
And they will let in
a few thousand people.

323
00:18:35,520 --> 00:18:37,940
And we went one of the
transport like this.

324
00:18:37,940 --> 00:18:40,820
They didn't know at that
time that we are Jews.

325
00:18:40,820 --> 00:18:43,430
We didn't have yet the arm band.

326
00:18:43,430 --> 00:18:47,560
And we went on the
Russian side again.

327
00:18:47,560 --> 00:18:50,690
This was only me
without my brother, just

328
00:18:50,690 --> 00:18:53,850
me and another four friends.

329
00:18:53,850 --> 00:18:56,420
Of course, my father
didn't want to let us go.

330
00:18:56,420 --> 00:19:01,670
But I tried to explain that this
is the way to save ourselves.

331
00:19:01,670 --> 00:19:03,470
And then, of course,
we went there.

332

00:19:03,470 --> 00:19:06,170

There was nothing we could do.

333

00:19:06,170 --> 00:19:07,640

Everything was expensive.

334

00:19:07,640 --> 00:19:12,680

Whatever we had, we
spent in order to live.

335

00:19:12,680 --> 00:19:18,470

And we didn't see anything
to-- a way of saving ourselves.

336

00:19:18,470 --> 00:19:22,820

The Russian started to get
tough and started already

337

00:19:22,820 --> 00:19:26,990

some people, which they
called [INAUDIBLE],, to move.

338

00:19:26,990 --> 00:19:28,580

At night, they used
to arrest them.

339

00:19:28,580 --> 00:19:32,040

They had to send them to Russia.

340

00:19:32,040 --> 00:19:33,980

Later, we found
out they went down

341

00:19:33,980 --> 00:19:38,840

[INAUDIBLE] which, lucky
for them, most of them

342

00:19:38,840 --> 00:19:41,030

later survived.

343

00:19:41,030 --> 00:19:47,660

But after four weeks or
so, we started to go back.

344

00:19:47,660 --> 00:19:51,860

And we went back to Kraków.

345

00:19:51,860 --> 00:19:54,410

And I remember, in
Kraków, we [INAUDIBLE]..

346

00:19:54,410 --> 00:19:58,100

The family was very happy
that we are together.

347

00:19:58,100 --> 00:20:04,160

And we were happy that
we found them all right.

348

00:20:04,160 --> 00:20:07,670

And then, of course,
came out this--

349

00:20:07,670 --> 00:20:08,720

all kind of stuff.

350

00:20:08,720 --> 00:20:11,070

You have to an arm band.

351

00:20:11,070 --> 00:20:15,830

And they are catching,
taking us to work.

352

00:20:15,830 --> 00:20:18,650

Every other day,
you have to report.

353

00:20:18,650 --> 00:20:21,800

And you had to have certain--

354

00:20:21,800 --> 00:20:24,140

a few days a week,
you must have shown

355

00:20:24,140 --> 00:20:26,360

that you are working for them.

356

00:20:26,360 --> 00:20:29,700

And at one point, they started--

357

00:20:29,700 --> 00:20:31,370
they called up the
whole neighborhood.

358

00:20:31,370 --> 00:20:36,590
And they took away
all the jewelry first.

359

00:20:36,590 --> 00:20:37,890
And they're shooting.

360

00:20:37,890 --> 00:20:40,910
They killed quite a few people.

361

00:20:40,910 --> 00:20:47,130
And I remember my
building on Saturday.

362

00:20:47,130 --> 00:20:50,665
No matter how, the Jews
always found [INAUDIBLE]..

363

00:20:50,665 --> 00:20:52,300
On holiday, they got together.

364

00:20:52,300 --> 00:20:55,340
They made a minyan,
and they were praying.

365

00:20:55,340 --> 00:20:59,160
So in my building,
we were all praying.

366

00:20:59,160 --> 00:21:02,660
Well, young people weren't.

367

00:21:02,660 --> 00:21:07,710
But still, we
copied our parents.

368

00:21:07,710 --> 00:21:10,940
We were praying, and came a--

369

00:21:10,940 --> 00:21:12,920

how he came, I don't know--

370

00:21:12,920 --> 00:21:14,090

an SS officer.

371

00:21:14,090 --> 00:21:19,580

And he started with a Polish
fellow who had scissors.

372

00:21:19,580 --> 00:21:24,380

And they started to tell
him to cut off the beards.

373

00:21:24,380 --> 00:21:26,370

In the synagogue, in the
place where you were?

374

00:21:26,370 --> 00:21:27,620

No, no, it wasn't a synagogue.

375

00:21:27,620 --> 00:21:28,800

It was inside the house.

376

00:21:28,800 --> 00:21:30,500

The synagogues were out.

377

00:21:30,500 --> 00:21:32,180

You weren't allowed to meet.

378

00:21:32,180 --> 00:21:36,470

Actually, there was a law you
couldn't meet more than four

379

00:21:36,470 --> 00:21:39,750

or six people in one place.

380

00:21:39,750 --> 00:21:44,070

And so it was one of
the apartments we met.

381

00:21:44,070 --> 00:21:50,000

And the Jews, they always
pray, even not religious.

382

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:54,950
And they took us in a basement
where they closed us up.

383

00:21:54,950 --> 00:22:00,550
And the SS officer, he
says, they is coming.

384

00:22:00,550 --> 00:22:04,370
A few hours later, he's
going to shoot us all.

385

00:22:04,370 --> 00:22:06,920
But somehow, he didn't come.

386

00:22:06,920 --> 00:22:09,350
And little by little,
we start to run away.

387

00:22:09,350 --> 00:22:13,460
And we all went to some other
houses in case he comes back.

388

00:22:13,460 --> 00:22:16,620
But he didn't come back.

389

00:22:16,620 --> 00:22:27,240
And that's how we lived still
in our house till March '41.

390

00:22:27,240 --> 00:22:27,960
Excuse me.

391

00:22:27,960 --> 00:22:31,020
What kind of work did they
have do during the week?

392

00:22:31,020 --> 00:22:36,770
All kind of work-- cleaning
streets, shoveling snow.

393

00:22:36,770 --> 00:22:41,070
They have those private
barracks or private houses

394
00:22:41,070 --> 00:22:42,150
where the SS lived.

395
00:22:42,150 --> 00:22:49,590
So we were unloading coal,
and cleaning their buildings,

396
00:22:49,590 --> 00:22:50,960
and all kind of work.

397
00:22:50,960 --> 00:22:54,990

398
00:22:54,990 --> 00:22:56,530
We are lucky.

399
00:22:56,530 --> 00:22:59,220
If you have work,
they let you alone.

400
00:22:59,220 --> 00:23:00,120
It was all right.

401
00:23:00,120 --> 00:23:02,430
But mostly, you had
three or four people.

402
00:23:02,430 --> 00:23:05,760
They put one guard to watch you.

403
00:23:05,760 --> 00:23:07,680
And you couldn't
stop for a second.

404
00:23:07,680 --> 00:23:11,320
Beside that, you are getting
beaten left and right.

405
00:23:11,320 --> 00:23:15,810
Were they using the older
people, and the sick,

406
00:23:15,810 --> 00:23:17,960

and others as well
to do these jobs?

407

00:23:17,960 --> 00:23:21,090

I will tell you, most of the--

408

00:23:21,090 --> 00:23:27,660

of course, they're looking
for healthier younger people.

409

00:23:27,660 --> 00:23:31,950

But they always got
somebody sick or old.

410

00:23:31,950 --> 00:23:35,550

And they made fun with him,
because a man like this

411

00:23:35,550 --> 00:23:36,340

couldn't do much.

412

00:23:36,340 --> 00:23:42,480

And they were pushing him,
and kicking him, and so forth.

413

00:23:42,480 --> 00:23:46,200

So this way, we stayed
there till March.

414

00:23:46,200 --> 00:23:52,460

And by March, we had to move.

415

00:23:52,460 --> 00:23:53,860

They established the ghetto.

416

00:23:53,860 --> 00:23:58,980

They called it Podgórze, which
is also a part of Kraków,

417

00:23:58,980 --> 00:24:02,770

on the other side of
the Vistula River.

418

00:24:02,770 --> 00:24:08,400

So of course, we tried to sell

all of the furniture, whatever

419

00:24:08,400 --> 00:24:11,130

we could, because

we had only one

420

00:24:11,130 --> 00:24:13,750

room for the whole

family in the ghetto,

421

00:24:13,750 --> 00:24:15,720

which was not easy to get.

422

00:24:15,720 --> 00:24:19,680

But my brother,

being an architect,

423

00:24:19,680 --> 00:24:26,130

he got a job with the chief

of the building, a German.

424

00:24:26,130 --> 00:24:29,220

He was a unterscharführer

in Kraków.

425

00:24:29,220 --> 00:24:34,230

And through him, he got

us a room in the ghetto.

426

00:24:34,230 --> 00:24:39,090

Now, to enter the ghetto, you

had to have a special pass.

427

00:24:39,090 --> 00:24:45,060

And my father, and my mother,

and my brother got the passes.

428

00:24:45,060 --> 00:24:48,460

And my sister and

myself didn't get it.

429

00:24:48,460 --> 00:24:50,300

So we couldn't enter the ghetto.

430

00:24:50,300 --> 00:24:54,000

And we had family
about 12 miles away.

431
00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:55,410
And we went over there.

432
00:24:55,410 --> 00:24:58,770
And we lived there for
two or three months

433
00:24:58,770 --> 00:25:01,530
till my brother
somehow worked it out.

434
00:25:01,530 --> 00:25:03,630
And he got the passes for us.

435
00:25:03,630 --> 00:25:06,520
And we came back
into the ghetto.

436
00:25:06,520 --> 00:25:10,980
Now, in the ghetto, in the
beginning it wasn't too bad.

437
00:25:10,980 --> 00:25:14,640
We still had to go to work,
but they let us alone.

438
00:25:14,640 --> 00:25:19,740
We were surrounded by-- a big
wall was built all around us.

439
00:25:19,740 --> 00:25:23,010
And there were two entrances.

440
00:25:23,010 --> 00:25:25,920
But still, we got, somehow--

441
00:25:25,920 --> 00:25:32,405
they let us have our own little
newspaper and post office.

442
00:25:32,405 --> 00:25:37,840
And they had the Judenrat,

our own community, which

443

00:25:37,840 --> 00:25:40,860
was supposed to govern with us.

444

00:25:40,860 --> 00:25:45,660
And they brought some Jews
from the little communities

445

00:25:45,660 --> 00:25:47,160
around us.

446

00:25:47,160 --> 00:25:51,360
And they put them
all in the ghetto.

447

00:25:51,360 --> 00:25:57,570
And this was in 1941, in March.

448

00:25:57,570 --> 00:26:01,770
And we came back with my sister
in May, or middle of May.

449

00:26:01,770 --> 00:26:07,470
And then, of course, the
Russian-German war started

450

00:26:07,470 --> 00:26:09,120
in '41--

451

00:26:09,120 --> 00:26:11,820
in July, I believe.

452

00:26:11,820 --> 00:26:15,420
It was very sad, because
there was a man who

453

00:26:15,420 --> 00:26:16,740
was going through the ghetto.

454

00:26:16,740 --> 00:26:18,455
He was cutting it through.

455

00:26:18,455 --> 00:26:22,170

And there was a lot
of army, German army,

456

00:26:22,170 --> 00:26:28,590
and later Italian army we
saw going through our ghetto.

457

00:26:28,590 --> 00:26:32,070
And even the Italian soldiers
were very sympathetic.

458

00:26:32,070 --> 00:26:36,610
They told us-- they showed
us to take off the arm band.

459

00:26:36,610 --> 00:26:42,030
And they were even accompanied
by SS on motorcycles.

460

00:26:42,030 --> 00:26:43,930
But probably, they
were afraid that they

461

00:26:43,930 --> 00:26:45,935
should run away, the Italians.

462

00:26:45,935 --> 00:26:48,690
They weren't the same
way as the Germans.

463

00:26:48,690 --> 00:26:53,040
But we didn't have a
direct contact with them.

464

00:26:53,040 --> 00:27:00,090
Now, in '42, it started already
getting worse and worse.

465

00:27:00,090 --> 00:27:07,520
And they called us all
into a special office.

466

00:27:07,520 --> 00:27:10,750
And there was the
German officers there.

467

00:27:10,750 --> 00:27:13,250

And they looked at you, or they
asked you what you're doing.

468

00:27:13,250 --> 00:27:18,170

And they either stamp
your pass, or they didn't.

469

00:27:18,170 --> 00:27:23,540

Those whose pass were
stamped meant that they

470

00:27:23,540 --> 00:27:26,000

could remain in the ghetto.

471

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:29,520

Those who weren't
stamped, the next day,

472

00:27:29,520 --> 00:27:33,230

they called them all
on a special market.

473

00:27:33,230 --> 00:27:37,820

And they were to go
with the deportation.

474

00:27:37,820 --> 00:27:41,000

On what basis did
they stamp you?

475

00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:41,710

He likes you.

476

00:27:41,710 --> 00:27:43,040

He looked at you.

477

00:27:43,040 --> 00:27:46,340

And he said-- of
course, supposedly,

478

00:27:46,340 --> 00:27:49,730

if he saw on the
pass that you have

479

00:27:49,730 --> 00:27:51,590

some profession
like electrician,

480

00:27:51,590 --> 00:27:56,360

or a tailor, or a shoemaker,
he was more sympathetic.

481

00:27:56,360 --> 00:28:00,450

If you were a bourgeois
bureaucrat or something,

482

00:28:00,450 --> 00:28:03,080

or some professional
like doctor,

483

00:28:03,080 --> 00:28:05,480

or a professor, or
teacher, this was

484

00:28:05,480 --> 00:28:08,390

the best way to get rid of you.

485

00:28:08,390 --> 00:28:14,270

And you presented a pass
for you and for your wife.

486

00:28:14,270 --> 00:28:16,760

So if you didn't get
it automatically,

487

00:28:16,760 --> 00:28:18,852

your wife didn't get it, either.

488

00:28:18,852 --> 00:28:23,030

And next day, early
in the morning,

489

00:28:23,030 --> 00:28:25,410

they woke up everybody.

490

00:28:25,410 --> 00:28:29,850

And they had those
Jewish police.

491

00:28:29,850 --> 00:28:32,270

And they were going
to every house.

492

00:28:32,270 --> 00:28:35,510

And they were going from
apartment to apartment.

493

00:28:35,510 --> 00:28:38,630

And whoever didn't have
the stamp had to walk out.

494

00:28:38,630 --> 00:28:44,630

And they gave them a separate
appelplatz, they called it.

495

00:28:44,630 --> 00:28:46,610

And from them,
they dragged them,

496

00:28:46,610 --> 00:28:49,880

some walking to
the police station.

497

00:28:49,880 --> 00:28:52,610

Some, they put on
their big trucks,

498

00:28:52,610 --> 00:28:55,050

or they threw them
on the trucks.

499

00:28:55,050 --> 00:28:56,990

And they went.

500

00:28:56,990 --> 00:29:01,880

They packed them in the
wagons, maybe 100 in each one.

501

00:29:01,880 --> 00:29:04,160

And we didn't know at that
time where they're going.

502

00:29:04,160 --> 00:29:07,460

But later, we found

out where they went.

503

00:29:07,460 --> 00:29:13,970

So actually, my brother and
my sister and myself, we

504

00:29:13,970 --> 00:29:15,730

got the stamp.

505

00:29:15,730 --> 00:29:18,810

And my father didn't get it.

506

00:29:18,810 --> 00:29:21,110

And I took a chance.

507

00:29:21,110 --> 00:29:25,580

And I went, myself,
with my father's pass

508

00:29:25,580 --> 00:29:28,160

where he had a picture on.

509

00:29:28,160 --> 00:29:30,410

And the German looked
at the picture.

510

00:29:30,410 --> 00:29:33,350

And he noticed that I
cannot be the same one.

511

00:29:33,350 --> 00:29:34,970

And then there was--

512

00:29:34,970 --> 00:29:40,970

he was born in 1890 something.

513

00:29:40,970 --> 00:29:45,370

But somehow, he looked at
me, and he gave the stamp.

514

00:29:45,370 --> 00:29:49,030

So that time, I
saved my parents.

515

00:29:49,030 --> 00:29:50,830
This was in May.

516
00:29:50,830 --> 00:29:54,000
But four or five months
later, it was October.

517
00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:57,970
We had, again, the same thing,
but not with the stamps.

518
00:29:57,970 --> 00:30:02,170
They just told everyone
to get out on the streets.

519
00:30:02,170 --> 00:30:05,200
And they checked the houses,
that nobody should be in.

520
00:30:05,200 --> 00:30:07,660
And they made a segregation.

521
00:30:07,660 --> 00:30:09,100
They had a few officers.

522
00:30:09,100 --> 00:30:10,600
And we were walking.

523
00:30:10,600 --> 00:30:13,390
And he told, this one over
here, and this one over here,

524
00:30:13,390 --> 00:30:15,010
and this one over here.

525
00:30:15,010 --> 00:30:16,690
And we knew this
one over there--

526
00:30:16,690 --> 00:30:18,280
it was for the deportation.

527
00:30:18,280 --> 00:30:22,930
This one over here, in
group, we are walking out

528
00:30:22,930 --> 00:30:25,660
from the ghetto.

529
00:30:25,660 --> 00:30:28,400
Did you know at the time
who was going where?

530
00:30:28,400 --> 00:30:28,900
Pardon me?

531
00:30:28,900 --> 00:30:29,910
Did you know at the time--

532
00:30:29,910 --> 00:30:30,200
Yes.

533
00:30:30,200 --> 00:30:31,020
--who was going where?

534
00:30:31,020 --> 00:30:31,520
No.

535
00:30:31,520 --> 00:30:35,350
We knew, because we
noticed right away

536
00:30:35,350 --> 00:30:37,360
they took the younger
people, the healthier.

537
00:30:37,360 --> 00:30:41,320
And the olders and the women,
they took them over there.

538
00:30:41,320 --> 00:30:42,940
But I knew what's
going to happen.

539
00:30:42,940 --> 00:30:43,490
And I tried--

540
00:30:43,490 --> 00:30:50,600

541
00:30:50,600 --> 00:30:54,806
I shaved my father's
beard, should look younger.

542
00:30:54,806 --> 00:30:57,920
But it didn't help.

543
00:30:57,920 --> 00:31:01,160
Now, they put him on the side.

544
00:31:01,160 --> 00:31:03,080
And my mother eventually--

545
00:31:03,080 --> 00:31:06,260
I was told later, because I
wasn't together with them--

546
00:31:06,260 --> 00:31:08,600
that she could remain.

547
00:31:08,600 --> 00:31:10,510
But she saw him, so
she went with him.

548
00:31:10,510 --> 00:31:13,920

549
00:31:13,920 --> 00:31:15,571
Was that the last
time you saw them?

550
00:31:15,571 --> 00:31:16,988
This was the last
time I saw them.

551
00:31:16,988 --> 00:31:19,080
Yes.

552
00:31:19,080 --> 00:31:20,550
Now, we went out.

553
00:31:20,550 --> 00:31:25,160
And of course, I did not.

554

00:31:25,160 --> 00:31:28,010

And we were out a evening.

555

00:31:28,010 --> 00:31:32,190

In the evening, we were
coming back, all those groups.

556

00:31:32,190 --> 00:31:34,000

So we came in the house.

557

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:37,670

And on the way, already,
we were told by people

558

00:31:37,670 --> 00:31:38,630

that they are gone.

559

00:31:38,630 --> 00:31:42,000

560

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:45,660

So we remained in the
ghetto for another--

561

00:31:45,660 --> 00:31:52,800

till March '43, where they took
us to a concentration camp,

562

00:31:52,800 --> 00:31:54,520

Plaszów.

563

00:31:54,520 --> 00:31:58,420

So we took whatever
we could with us.

564

00:31:58,420 --> 00:32:03,120

And I was working there
in [INAUDIBLE] shop.

565

00:32:03,120 --> 00:32:13,340

And we had a group where we
were going out from the ghetto.

566

00:32:13,340 --> 00:32:15,630
We're going out from the ghetto.

567
00:32:15,630 --> 00:32:18,150
And sometimes, we
go night shift.

568
00:32:18,150 --> 00:32:21,300
We were working on
those little metal

569
00:32:21,300 --> 00:32:25,800
pieces for the special
orders they were making.

570
00:32:25,800 --> 00:32:29,940
They were sending
to their soldiers--

571
00:32:29,940 --> 00:32:34,410
it was winter-- on the
east front with Russia.

572
00:32:34,410 --> 00:32:40,740
And at that time, we had to make
certain amount on the machine.

573
00:32:40,740 --> 00:32:46,740
So at one of the evening, I
cut my finger on the machine.

574
00:32:46,740 --> 00:32:48,990
And I came back together.

575
00:32:48,990 --> 00:32:50,040
We had a few--

576
00:32:50,040 --> 00:32:51,540
some own doctors.

577
00:32:51,540 --> 00:32:55,320
And they somehow
healed as much as they

578
00:32:55,320 --> 00:32:59,850

could not to show the Germans
that something happened,

579
00:32:59,850 --> 00:33:02,910
because they could
try to get rid of me.

580
00:33:02,910 --> 00:33:07,490
And we were going like
this for a few months.

581
00:33:07,490 --> 00:33:12,450
At one point, even when
we were coming back

582
00:33:12,450 --> 00:33:14,850
from the night shift
in the morning,

583
00:33:14,850 --> 00:33:17,120
the commandant of the camp--

584
00:33:17,120 --> 00:33:18,750
his name was Goth.

585
00:33:18,750 --> 00:33:22,980
He was waiting for
somebody with his dogs

586
00:33:22,980 --> 00:33:24,670
at the entrance of the camp.

587
00:33:24,670 --> 00:33:27,270
And we were coming over.

588
00:33:27,270 --> 00:33:30,540
And he had two dogs.

589
00:33:30,540 --> 00:33:32,500
I don't know if he
told them anything.

590
00:33:32,500 --> 00:33:36,360
Anyway, they jumped at me.

591

00:33:36,360 --> 00:33:39,210

And they bit me over here.

592

00:33:39,210 --> 00:33:43,080

And he had some
pretty women with him,

593

00:33:43,080 --> 00:33:46,440

standing with them
at the gate, which--

594

00:33:46,440 --> 00:33:50,070

well, somebody said later
that it was a Jewish girl.

595

00:33:50,070 --> 00:33:54,720

And she told him
something very loud.

596

00:33:54,720 --> 00:33:56,220

And then he ran over.

597

00:33:56,220 --> 00:33:59,550

And he took the
dogs away from me.

598

00:33:59,550 --> 00:34:03,030

So I was bitten here.

599

00:34:03,030 --> 00:34:04,200

And I went to--

600

00:34:04,200 --> 00:34:07,950

but somehow, I came out from it.

601

00:34:07,950 --> 00:34:12,989

And we were in the camp
working off and on.

602

00:34:12,989 --> 00:34:19,560

We had shootings and
hangings every other day

603

00:34:19,560 --> 00:34:28,380

till August 1944, where we were
loaded, about, I don't know,

604
00:34:28,380 --> 00:34:34,745
6,000 maybe on a train going--

605
00:34:34,745 --> 00:34:37,110
we thought that we're
going to Auschwitz.

606
00:34:37,110 --> 00:34:39,030
But we actually were going east.

607
00:34:39,030 --> 00:34:42,960
And we stopped at Auschwitz.

608
00:34:42,960 --> 00:34:45,030
And we were staying
there for half a day.

609
00:34:45,030 --> 00:34:48,690
And for some reason, they
didn't unload us there.

610
00:34:48,690 --> 00:34:51,706
And they took us to Mauthausen.

611
00:34:51,706 --> 00:34:54,556
We were about two or three days.

612
00:34:54,556 --> 00:34:56,514
Were the people on the
train only from Plaszów?

613
00:34:56,514 --> 00:34:57,556
Or were they from other--

614
00:34:57,556 --> 00:34:59,681
Only from Plaszów.

615
00:34:59,681 --> 00:35:02,340
It was a big train.

616
00:35:02,340 --> 00:35:03,990

And of course,
people were dying,

617
00:35:03,990 --> 00:35:06,570
because we were loaded
a hundred a day.

618
00:35:06,570 --> 00:35:11,400
And they didn't give
us anything on the way.

619
00:35:11,400 --> 00:35:16,860
They stopped us once in
a Czechoslovakian town.

620
00:35:16,860 --> 00:35:23,760
And some Czechoslovakian, which
were really taking a chance,

621
00:35:23,760 --> 00:35:26,040
they brought up some water.

622
00:35:26,040 --> 00:35:31,160
And they were very good to us.

623
00:35:31,160 --> 00:35:32,790
And we weren't going back.

624
00:35:32,790 --> 00:35:38,370
And we wound up in
Mauthausen, where

625
00:35:38,370 --> 00:35:43,350
we stayed for about
six weeks, which

626
00:35:43,350 --> 00:35:46,370
was terrible, because
there were beating us

627
00:35:46,370 --> 00:35:48,450
up a few times a day.

628
00:35:48,450 --> 00:35:55,130
And they had those few hundred

steps going down for rocks.

629

00:35:55,130 --> 00:36:00,120
We were just carrying
rocks up and down, just

630

00:36:00,120 --> 00:36:04,290
to make us miserable.

631

00:36:04,290 --> 00:36:11,010
And finally, they were
registering for some factories.

632

00:36:11,010 --> 00:36:14,970
And we all-- I mean,
with our friends,

633

00:36:14,970 --> 00:36:18,490
we all told them that
we are mechanics,

634

00:36:18,490 --> 00:36:21,910
which nobody knows what
a mechanic is, just

635

00:36:21,910 --> 00:36:23,970
to get out and get
to the factory.

636

00:36:23,970 --> 00:36:28,380
And we got-- they took
us to St. Valentin,

637

00:36:28,380 --> 00:36:34,770
where they were producing
the German tanks, the Tiger,

638

00:36:34,770 --> 00:36:37,230
the big tanks, a very big place.

639

00:36:37,230 --> 00:36:41,880
They had five or six
tremendous building.

640

00:36:41,880 --> 00:36:43,530

And they were all in the forest.

641

00:36:43,530 --> 00:36:46,260

So actually, probably
you couldn't see a thing

642

00:36:46,260 --> 00:36:52,170

from the air, because woods
were around a lot of it.

643

00:36:52,170 --> 00:36:54,300

And we were working there.

644

00:36:54,300 --> 00:36:56,600

At the beginning, it wasn't bad.

645

00:36:56,600 --> 00:37:00,360

We were working with
the Austrian masters.

646

00:37:00,360 --> 00:37:01,950

They told us what to do.

647

00:37:01,950 --> 00:37:05,110

Some [INAUDIBLE] was OK.

648

00:37:05,110 --> 00:37:07,050

So he brought us
a piece of bread.

649

00:37:07,050 --> 00:37:10,750

650

00:37:10,750 --> 00:37:16,330

And this was going
on for a few months.

651

00:37:16,330 --> 00:37:19,180

There was a funny
thing there, because I

652

00:37:19,180 --> 00:37:24,640

noticed one day-- of course,
we were all men and no women.

653

00:37:24,640 --> 00:37:26,215

I noticed there was a balcony.

654

00:37:26,215 --> 00:37:29,020

They were working upstairs also.

655

00:37:29,020 --> 00:37:32,590

And I noticed a girl
whom I know from Kraków.

656

00:37:32,590 --> 00:37:37,420

And she was there as an
Aryan, as a Gentile girl.

657

00:37:37,420 --> 00:37:39,400

And she noticed me.

658

00:37:39,400 --> 00:37:42,070

Of course, she
couldn't move her head,

659

00:37:42,070 --> 00:37:44,680

though, people
should be suspicious.

660

00:37:44,680 --> 00:37:45,710

But she smiled to me.

661

00:37:45,710 --> 00:37:46,580

I smiled to her.

662

00:37:46,580 --> 00:37:51,550

And every other day, she threw
me cigarettes from the balcony.

663

00:37:51,550 --> 00:37:54,370

People didn't know who it
is, but I know who it is.

664

00:37:54,370 --> 00:37:57,610

And of course, some of
them grabbed my cigarettes.

665

00:37:57,610 --> 00:37:59,740

But I was getting
a few cigarettes,

666
00:37:59,740 --> 00:38:04,440
which I could change for a piece
of bread, or something else.

667
00:38:04,440 --> 00:38:05,920
This was going on
for a few weeks.

668
00:38:05,920 --> 00:38:08,370
And later, I didn't
see her anymore.

669
00:38:08,370 --> 00:38:11,170
She disappeared somewhere.

670
00:38:11,170 --> 00:38:17,410
And then, of course, November
or December, somehow they

671
00:38:17,410 --> 00:38:19,600
discovered the factory.

672
00:38:19,600 --> 00:38:26,770
And came one night a
tremendous bombardment.

673
00:38:26,770 --> 00:38:32,080
And they lighted, with
the rockets, the sky.

674
00:38:32,080 --> 00:38:33,940
And you could see like day time.

675
00:38:33,940 --> 00:38:35,220
And we were not nowhere.

676
00:38:35,220 --> 00:38:37,090
We were just outside.

677
00:38:37,090 --> 00:38:42,580
The Germans, they
had the air shelters.

678
00:38:42,580 --> 00:38:44,740
But we were outside.

679
00:38:44,740 --> 00:38:48,970
And we were just
happy, smiling, seeing.

680
00:38:48,970 --> 00:38:52,150
But we saw planes
by the hundreds.

681
00:38:52,150 --> 00:38:55,630
It was like birds,
hundreds, hundreds of them,

682
00:38:55,630 --> 00:38:57,820
and tremendous bombardment.

683
00:38:57,820 --> 00:38:59,695
Do you know what
nationality the planes were?

684
00:38:59,695 --> 00:39:00,195
English.

685
00:39:00,195 --> 00:39:00,993
They were English.

686
00:39:00,993 --> 00:39:01,840
British.

687
00:39:01,840 --> 00:39:04,030
Because I understand--
later, we found out--

688
00:39:04,030 --> 00:39:07,570
that they had some
kind of agreement,

689
00:39:07,570 --> 00:39:10,040
American and English,
that the English were

690

00:39:10,040 --> 00:39:13,780
to bombard at night, and
the Americans in daytime.

691
00:39:13,780 --> 00:39:17,440
But they were English, because
they had those circles.

692
00:39:17,440 --> 00:39:26,506
And during the bombardment, I
didn't realize I was wounded.

693
00:39:26,506 --> 00:39:29,350
You see, I have a
stiff finger here.

694
00:39:29,350 --> 00:39:30,700
And they took me there.

695
00:39:30,700 --> 00:39:34,000
And there was a Polish
doctor, not Jewish, which

696
00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:35,320
he was a pretty decent man.

697
00:39:35,320 --> 00:39:37,790
But I don't think
he was a doctor.

698
00:39:37,790 --> 00:39:41,150
He was a medic, or something.

699
00:39:41,150 --> 00:39:42,910
And he tried to do
the best for me.

700
00:39:42,910 --> 00:39:45,940
But he cut down [INAUDIBLE].

701
00:39:45,940 --> 00:39:48,850
And since then, I
have a stiff finger.

702
00:39:48,850 --> 00:39:53,350

And this hand was
tremendous swollen.

703
00:39:53,350 --> 00:39:53,890
So--

704
00:39:53,890 --> 00:39:55,440
How did you get the wound?

705
00:39:55,440 --> 00:39:56,860
Did you know how it was--

706
00:39:56,860 --> 00:39:57,880
I noticed something.

707
00:39:57,880 --> 00:40:00,400
I felt something went in here.

708
00:40:00,400 --> 00:40:01,330
But I [INAUDIBLE].

709
00:40:01,330 --> 00:40:02,680
Shrapnel or something?

710
00:40:02,680 --> 00:40:05,180
It must have been
a piece of metal.

711
00:40:05,180 --> 00:40:08,833
And after a day or two,
the swell was tremendous.

712
00:40:08,833 --> 00:40:12,190
The whole hand was
swollen, like this.

713
00:40:12,190 --> 00:40:16,600
So when I was-- from Mauthausen,
they sent me to St. Valentin.

714
00:40:16,600 --> 00:40:21,730
And then, from St.
Valentin, we were

715

00:40:21,730 --> 00:40:25,940
living in those barracks
near the big factory.

716
00:40:25,940 --> 00:40:28,600
So wherever people died--

717
00:40:28,600 --> 00:40:30,610
and they were dying every day.

718
00:40:30,610 --> 00:40:32,800
And then people
sick, like me, they

719
00:40:32,800 --> 00:40:34,940
were sent back to Mauthausen.

720
00:40:34,940 --> 00:40:37,420
It was their center.

721
00:40:37,420 --> 00:40:39,380
It's like Auschwitz.

722
00:40:39,380 --> 00:40:43,930
And in Mauthausen, there
were a lot of people.

723
00:40:43,930 --> 00:40:45,490
And they were in one barrack.

724
00:40:45,490 --> 00:40:48,100
It was the Jewish barracks.

725
00:40:48,100 --> 00:40:56,620
And all of the Jewish
people were admitted there.

726
00:40:56,620 --> 00:41:01,210
And I found there about six,
seven, or eight doctors,

727
00:41:01,210 --> 00:41:02,020
Jewish doctors.

728

00:41:02,020 --> 00:41:03,700
They were all from Kraków.

729
00:41:03,700 --> 00:41:05,930
And a few, I knew.

730
00:41:05,930 --> 00:41:08,830
And they were in
charge of the barracks.

731
00:41:08,830 --> 00:41:13,330
And they helped me out
whenever they could.

732
00:41:13,330 --> 00:41:14,500
A few of them are here.

733
00:41:14,500 --> 00:41:17,110

734
00:41:17,110 --> 00:41:21,880
But later on came March of '45.

735
00:41:21,880 --> 00:41:25,330
And I could walk.

736
00:41:25,330 --> 00:41:27,550
I just couldn't do
much with my hand.

737
00:41:27,550 --> 00:41:30,790

738
00:41:30,790 --> 00:41:34,360
They took us to upstairs.

739
00:41:34,360 --> 00:41:36,820
There was a special
camp there where

740
00:41:36,820 --> 00:41:42,130
they brought a lot of Hungarian
Jews in the beginning.

741

00:41:42,130 --> 00:41:44,950
There were also English
and French prisoners

742
00:41:44,950 --> 00:41:48,430
of war, which they
kept them separately.

743
00:41:48,430 --> 00:41:52,092
And we stayed there
for two weeks.

744
00:41:52,092 --> 00:41:54,640
Here, they were playing
around with us, or whatever.

745
00:41:54,640 --> 00:41:57,370
But they were
bombarding us at night.

746
00:41:57,370 --> 00:42:00,130
And somebody said that
they were German planes,

747
00:42:00,130 --> 00:42:03,490
and they were
throwing bombs at us.

748
00:42:03,490 --> 00:42:06,820
And it was terrible conditions,
terrible conditions.

749
00:42:06,820 --> 00:42:08,950
You could find-- get
up in the morning,

750
00:42:08,950 --> 00:42:13,210
you see dead people
with cut off hands.

751
00:42:13,210 --> 00:42:15,910
People were cutting off
their hands for food.

752
00:42:15,910 --> 00:42:17,460
They were eating the flesh.

753

00:42:17,460 --> 00:42:21,460

And it was normal, every day.

754

00:42:21,460 --> 00:42:27,080

And later on, three weeks
before the end of the war--

755

00:42:27,080 --> 00:42:29,740

which we didn't know that the
end of the war was coming--

756

00:42:29,740 --> 00:42:34,240

they took us on a
march to west Austria.

757

00:42:34,240 --> 00:42:37,630

And we're marching
again two or three days.

758

00:42:37,630 --> 00:42:42,420

And over there, already, we
didn't have to do anything.

759

00:42:42,420 --> 00:42:46,390

We were just dying and
laying in the fields.

760

00:42:46,390 --> 00:42:49,390

And we had no barracks.

761

00:42:49,390 --> 00:42:51,280

Everyone has a blanket.

762

00:42:51,280 --> 00:42:55,480

So we got together, and
we sleep, four guys.

763

00:42:55,480 --> 00:42:58,180

We're laying on the blanket
cover us with the blanket.

764

00:42:58,180 --> 00:43:00,640

Meanwhile, it was raining.

765

00:43:00,640 --> 00:43:01,690

It was sloppy.

766

00:43:01,690 --> 00:43:06,670

And people weren't
getting up in the morning.

767

00:43:06,670 --> 00:43:07,570

This guy didn't move.

768

00:43:07,570 --> 00:43:08,630

This guy didn't move.

769

00:43:08,630 --> 00:43:10,750

I mean, dead people.

770

00:43:10,750 --> 00:43:13,326

Over there, a lot
of people died.

771

00:43:13,326 --> 00:43:18,190

Till a few weeks later, all
of a sudden, we looked around.

772

00:43:18,190 --> 00:43:23,020

And we see the guards are gone.

773

00:43:23,020 --> 00:43:26,200

And we started to hear
some machine guns.

774

00:43:26,200 --> 00:43:27,230

And we had no idea.

775

00:43:27,230 --> 00:43:27,910

Nobody moved.

776

00:43:27,910 --> 00:43:32,110

We're still staying till
somebody came and said

777

00:43:32,110 --> 00:43:36,670

that the Germans ran away.

778

00:43:36,670 --> 00:43:42,430

And then, a few hours later,
the first American patrol came.

779

00:43:42,430 --> 00:43:43,658

And they were very strict.

780

00:43:43,658 --> 00:43:45,700

They didn't even want to
talk to us, because this

781

00:43:45,700 --> 00:43:47,290

was the first front.

782

00:43:47,290 --> 00:43:50,080

They're still shooting
around, left and night.

783

00:43:50,080 --> 00:43:55,098

And next day, already, a
lot of American army came.

784

00:43:55,098 --> 00:43:56,890

What was your reaction
to the American army

785

00:43:56,890 --> 00:43:58,370

when you saw them?

786

00:43:58,370 --> 00:44:00,144

Indifferent.

787

00:44:00,144 --> 00:44:02,430

Indifferent.

788

00:44:02,430 --> 00:44:04,740

We hardly stayed on our feet.

789

00:44:04,740 --> 00:44:05,800

They came to camp.

790

00:44:05,800 --> 00:44:07,800

First of all, in
the beginning, we

791
00:44:07,800 --> 00:44:11,340
didn't know that it's an
American army, because we

792
00:44:11,340 --> 00:44:15,840
were used to the red star.

793
00:44:15,840 --> 00:44:17,970
And this is true,
it was a white star.

794
00:44:17,970 --> 00:44:21,510
But we thought, maybe
they are Russian.

795
00:44:21,510 --> 00:44:24,900
Some of us started to
talk Russian to them.

796
00:44:24,900 --> 00:44:26,088
And they didn't answer.

797
00:44:26,088 --> 00:44:26,880
They wouldn't talk.

798
00:44:26,880 --> 00:44:31,410
They didn't talk at all,
the first American groups.

799
00:44:31,410 --> 00:44:37,200
And then we started
to walk toward west,

800
00:44:37,200 --> 00:44:39,720
because we know that when
they are moving this way,

801
00:44:39,720 --> 00:44:42,370
that they're still
fighting this way.

802
00:44:42,370 --> 00:44:43,200
So we were--

803

00:44:43,200 --> 00:44:44,100

Moving away from it.

804

00:44:44,100 --> 00:44:45,420

--moving away from it.

805

00:44:45,420 --> 00:44:50,190

And we were so hungry,
and everything else.

806

00:44:50,190 --> 00:44:52,770

We took sacks with potatoes.

807

00:44:52,770 --> 00:44:55,000

And we hardly dragged it.

808

00:44:55,000 --> 00:44:56,100

But we had potatoes.

809

00:44:56,100 --> 00:44:58,770

We didn't need it, but
we walked with potatoes.

810

00:44:58,770 --> 00:45:03,270

We were afraid that we're going
to be running short on food.

811

00:45:03,270 --> 00:45:07,140

And then we came closer to Wels.

812

00:45:07,140 --> 00:45:16,440

And we found a wagon
with German uniforms.

813

00:45:16,440 --> 00:45:18,900

And we were all with lice.

814

00:45:18,900 --> 00:45:20,760

I mean, we were--

815

00:45:20,760 --> 00:45:24,240

it took over the lapel here.

816

00:45:24,240 --> 00:45:26,190
It was white, white--

817
00:45:26,190 --> 00:45:28,920
everything lice,
all over, all over,

818
00:45:28,920 --> 00:45:31,350
because we didn't watch
ourselves for months.

819
00:45:31,350 --> 00:45:33,420
Were you dressed in the
striped uniforms, the--

820
00:45:33,420 --> 00:45:35,148
We were in the striped uniforms.

821
00:45:35,148 --> 00:45:38,370
But we went later to this wagon.

822
00:45:38,370 --> 00:45:41,550
And we threw out the uniform,
anything, everything we had.

823
00:45:41,550 --> 00:45:44,600
And we put on the
German uniform.

824
00:45:44,600 --> 00:45:46,970
So we were walking with
the German uniforms.

825
00:45:46,970 --> 00:45:51,910
Meanwhile, the American
army, with the trucks,

826
00:45:51,910 --> 00:45:53,880
were rounding up the Germans.

827
00:45:53,880 --> 00:45:56,625
And they saw us in
the German uniform.

828
00:45:56,625 --> 00:45:59,070

And they took us on a truck.

829

00:45:59,070 --> 00:46:01,920

And we didn't know how to
explain it on the truck.

830

00:46:01,920 --> 00:46:06,630

And they took us to
Wels, to one place

831

00:46:06,630 --> 00:46:10,840

where they were bringing
the prisoners of war

832

00:46:10,840 --> 00:46:12,570

and all kind of people.

833

00:46:12,570 --> 00:46:16,685

And then, of course, we started
to say, Polish, Polish, Polish.

834

00:46:16,685 --> 00:46:21,000

And there was an American
soldier from Chicago

835

00:46:21,000 --> 00:46:23,310

who spoke Polish.

836

00:46:23,310 --> 00:46:24,570

And he spoke to us.

837

00:46:24,570 --> 00:46:26,760

And he told us all this.

838

00:46:26,760 --> 00:46:28,470

And we explained to him.

839

00:46:28,470 --> 00:46:34,703

At that time, he knew already
there is some Polish DP

840

00:46:34,703 --> 00:46:36,990

camp near Linz.

841

00:46:36,990 --> 00:46:40,800
And he took us there to the
Polish camp in Linz, which

842
00:46:40,800 --> 00:46:42,420
I didn't put it down there.

843
00:46:42,420 --> 00:46:45,570
I was there maybe
five, six days.

844
00:46:45,570 --> 00:46:46,300
Was that Hart?

845
00:46:46,300 --> 00:46:46,800
Or--

846
00:46:46,800 --> 00:46:47,220
No.

847
00:46:47,220 --> 00:46:47,580
It was before--

848
00:46:47,580 --> 00:46:48,247
Oh, before Hart.

849
00:46:48,247 --> 00:46:48,870
--Hart.

850
00:46:48,870 --> 00:46:51,270
I was there six days.

851
00:46:51,270 --> 00:46:54,710
And I got sick.

852
00:46:54,710 --> 00:46:55,870
They gave me up already.

853
00:46:55,870 --> 00:46:58,290
They didn't want to
take me to the hospital.

854
00:46:58,290 --> 00:46:59,120
There was a nurse.

855

00:46:59,120 --> 00:47:01,430

He says, no, take
him to the hospital.

856

00:47:01,430 --> 00:47:03,980

He is still living.

857

00:47:03,980 --> 00:47:06,020

When the Americans came,
did they give you food?

858

00:47:06,020 --> 00:47:07,410

Did they give you any
kind of nourishment?

859

00:47:07,410 --> 00:47:09,090

You can have food
as much as you can.

860

00:47:09,090 --> 00:47:11,700

But the more you ate,
the worse it was.

861

00:47:11,700 --> 00:47:13,400

Yeah.

862

00:47:13,400 --> 00:47:14,840

And we did eat.

863

00:47:14,840 --> 00:47:17,660

Matter of fact, we
found a truckload

864

00:47:17,660 --> 00:47:20,690

with German army food.

865

00:47:20,690 --> 00:47:23,660

A lot of them, they just
put their heads into it.

866

00:47:23,660 --> 00:47:25,310

They were just eating.

867

00:47:25,310 --> 00:47:29,840
And a lot of them just died,
because they couldn't take it.

868
00:47:29,840 --> 00:47:33,920
We did, also, but maybe
not as much, not as much.

869
00:47:33,920 --> 00:47:38,240
And anyway, I got typhus.

870
00:47:38,240 --> 00:47:40,970
And I went to the Linz hospital.

871
00:47:40,970 --> 00:47:45,350
I was there about four or
five weeks in the hospital.

872
00:47:45,350 --> 00:47:46,820
And I got better.

873
00:47:46,820 --> 00:47:49,460
I didn't know what's going
on with me was so serious.

874
00:47:49,460 --> 00:47:51,390
I had no idea.

875
00:47:51,390 --> 00:47:54,410
And I was laying there with
German prisoners of war.

876
00:47:54,410 --> 00:47:57,330
We were all mixed together.

877
00:47:57,330 --> 00:48:02,960
And then, later on, the last
stages of my sickness, I

878
00:48:02,960 --> 00:48:04,700
got tremendous appetite.

879
00:48:04,700 --> 00:48:08,010
And they didn't give
us enough to eat.

880

00:48:08,010 --> 00:48:12,050

So we were going out, which
we're not supposed to.

881

00:48:12,050 --> 00:48:16,070

And we were going to the houses.

882

00:48:16,070 --> 00:48:18,410

And they saw.

883

00:48:18,410 --> 00:48:21,400

They saw, and gave us a little
food, just a little food.

884

00:48:21,400 --> 00:48:29,210

And finally, one Jewish
fellow, whom I know,

885

00:48:29,210 --> 00:48:30,200

came to the hospital.

886

00:48:30,200 --> 00:48:32,600

He was looking-- he
was also a survivor.

887

00:48:32,600 --> 00:48:35,720

But he was OK, and me OK.

888

00:48:35,720 --> 00:48:38,090

And he was looking
for his brother.

889

00:48:38,090 --> 00:48:39,830

And I met him.

890

00:48:39,830 --> 00:48:41,120

And I was very happy.

891

00:48:41,120 --> 00:48:42,980

And I told him where he is.

892

00:48:42,980 --> 00:48:48,920

Then I found out that there is

a Jewish camp in Hart near Linz.

893

00:48:48,920 --> 00:48:51,530
So finally, they let me go.

894

00:48:51,530 --> 00:48:54,440
And they gave me
some old clothing.

895

00:48:54,440 --> 00:48:59,810
And I went to the Jewish camp
in Hart where I met already some

896

00:48:59,810 --> 00:49:03,410
people, which I knew, a
lot of them from Kraków,

897

00:49:03,410 --> 00:49:04,730
another one from the camp.

898

00:49:04,730 --> 00:49:08,900
But already, it was you
were between your own.

899

00:49:08,900 --> 00:49:12,020
And I was very, very weak.

900

00:49:12,020 --> 00:49:17,660
But there was an American, which
was stationed about maybe half

901

00:49:17,660 --> 00:49:19,850
a mile from the camp.

902

00:49:19,850 --> 00:49:20,900
And they were so happy.

903

00:49:20,900 --> 00:49:24,540
There were maybe 70% Jews
in the army, which was--

904

00:49:24,540 --> 00:49:28,040
it was a battalion from
around New York areas.

905

00:49:28,040 --> 00:49:31,560

And there were a lot of people
from Brooklyn and from there.

906

00:49:31,560 --> 00:49:36,840

And there were a doctor and
major, a American doctor.

907

00:49:36,840 --> 00:49:38,080

And he helped me a lot.

908

00:49:38,080 --> 00:49:42,180

909

00:49:42,180 --> 00:49:44,880

But I just already--

910

00:49:44,880 --> 00:49:52,890

of course, I found out there
my sister was in Bergen-Belsen,

911

00:49:52,890 --> 00:49:56,340

that she's not alive.

912

00:49:56,340 --> 00:49:57,760

And my brother--

913

00:49:57,760 --> 00:49:59,100

I didn't tell you the story.

914

00:49:59,100 --> 00:50:04,930

When I was in Plaszów, my
brother was shot with his wife.

915

00:50:04,930 --> 00:50:08,560

Supposedly, they were bringing
some food into the camp.

916

00:50:08,560 --> 00:50:13,250

And one day, he was waiting
for them at the entrance.

917

00:50:13,250 --> 00:50:20,890

And they took the whole group

of 56 people, and shot them.

918

00:50:20,890 --> 00:50:22,050

I even buried him.

919

00:50:22,050 --> 00:50:25,250

920

00:50:25,250 --> 00:50:28,190

Did your brother and
sister-in-law have children?

921

00:50:28,190 --> 00:50:28,820

No.

922

00:50:28,820 --> 00:50:29,900

No.

923

00:50:29,900 --> 00:50:31,550

My brother was married.

924

00:50:31,550 --> 00:50:34,370

He married in ghetto.

925

00:50:34,370 --> 00:50:35,650

My sister was married.

926

00:50:35,650 --> 00:50:39,080

927

00:50:39,080 --> 00:50:41,000

And--

928

00:50:41,000 --> 00:50:42,650

You found this out afterwards.

929

00:50:42,650 --> 00:50:44,701

Or you had seen him--

930

00:50:44,701 --> 00:50:49,130

My sister, I found afterwards,
because I met the girl she was

931

00:50:49,130 --> 00:50:52,040
with in Bergen-Belsen,
because she went from Plaszów

932
00:50:52,040 --> 00:50:55,100
to Auschwitz, from
Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen.

933
00:50:55,100 --> 00:50:57,290
And my brother, I
knew that he is dead.

934
00:50:57,290 --> 00:51:00,730
I was in Plaszów
when he was shot.

935
00:51:00,730 --> 00:51:02,980
So you are the only survivor
of your immediate family.

936
00:51:02,980 --> 00:51:03,920
Yes, I am.

937
00:51:03,920 --> 00:51:10,500

938
00:51:10,500 --> 00:51:13,650
Did you ever believe
that you would survive?

939
00:51:13,650 --> 00:51:14,370
No.

940
00:51:14,370 --> 00:51:15,840
No.

941
00:51:15,840 --> 00:51:17,010
I didn't believe it.

942
00:51:17,010 --> 00:51:18,380
And I didn't think about it.

943
00:51:18,380 --> 00:51:20,040
And I didn't look forward to it.

944

00:51:20,040 --> 00:51:21,740

I was completely indifferent.

945

00:51:21,740 --> 00:51:24,810

I was taking a day at a time.

946

00:51:24,810 --> 00:51:28,000

And they passed,
and nobody hit me.

947

00:51:28,000 --> 00:51:28,920

I felt OK.

948

00:51:28,920 --> 00:51:30,490

It was all right.

949

00:51:30,490 --> 00:51:32,220

I got up in the morning.

950

00:51:32,220 --> 00:51:36,990

I was looking forward
to some other things,

951

00:51:36,990 --> 00:51:42,540

which might happen, either
worse or better, and go

952

00:51:42,540 --> 00:51:43,350

to sleep again.

953

00:51:43,350 --> 00:51:46,620

954

00:51:46,620 --> 00:51:48,870

Life was completely meaningful.

955

00:51:48,870 --> 00:51:52,710

956

00:51:52,710 --> 00:51:54,360

I mean--

957

00:51:54,360 --> 00:51:55,050

Meaningless.

958
00:51:55,050 --> 00:51:57,210
--meaningless.

959
00:51:57,210 --> 00:52:00,940
So this is what
we were thinking--

960
00:52:00,940 --> 00:52:08,060
is about getting better
portioned food to eat.

961
00:52:08,060 --> 00:52:10,820
That's what we were
looking forward to--

962
00:52:10,820 --> 00:52:13,830
for a few hours of sleep,
where nobody disturbed you,

963
00:52:13,830 --> 00:52:15,080
nobody hit you over the head.

964
00:52:15,080 --> 00:52:17,810

965
00:52:17,810 --> 00:52:19,890
What happened after you got out?

966
00:52:19,890 --> 00:52:23,130
How did you get to the DP camp?

967
00:52:23,130 --> 00:52:25,018
No, this was the DP camp
in Europe, DP camp--

968
00:52:25,018 --> 00:52:26,060
Oh, that was the DP camp.

969
00:52:26,060 --> 00:52:31,640
--in Hart, which was part
of Hermann Goering's work.

970

00:52:31,640 --> 00:52:36,080

This was-- during the
war, I understand,

971

00:52:36,080 --> 00:52:39,830

that even the guards or the
laborers were in a barrack

972

00:52:39,830 --> 00:52:40,640

there.

973

00:52:40,640 --> 00:52:43,040

They were working
for the steel mill.

974

00:52:43,040 --> 00:52:44,900

In Linz was a big
steel mill they

975

00:52:44,900 --> 00:52:47,360

called Hermann Goering Werke.

976

00:52:47,360 --> 00:52:49,830

And so we lived there.

977

00:52:49,830 --> 00:52:52,400

We had a few houses
and barracks there.

978

00:52:52,400 --> 00:53:00,690

And we lived there
till the year of '46.

979

00:53:00,690 --> 00:53:03,540

And then they took us to Linz.

980

00:53:03,540 --> 00:53:10,170

And they gave us also a
block of building to live in.

981

00:53:10,170 --> 00:53:11,970

There were only
Jewish survivors--

982

00:53:11,970 --> 00:53:14,700

983
00:53:14,700 --> 00:53:18,060
six, eight buildings,
three-story buildings.

984
00:53:18,060 --> 00:53:20,910
And we had our kitchen.

985
00:53:20,910 --> 00:53:24,630
And we were getting
some Red Cross packages.

986
00:53:24,630 --> 00:53:29,560
And lunch time, we
could go and pick up

987
00:53:29,560 --> 00:53:32,370
the soup with something.

988
00:53:32,370 --> 00:53:37,020
And some of us already
started to walk around,

989
00:53:37,020 --> 00:53:40,680
see if to go to some
schools in Linz,

990
00:53:40,680 --> 00:53:42,765
because Linz was a larger town.

991
00:53:42,765 --> 00:53:45,270

992
00:53:45,270 --> 00:53:49,380
I think you mentioned that
there was a Jewish doctor

993
00:53:49,380 --> 00:53:51,080
or someone who helped you.

994
00:53:51,080 --> 00:53:52,920
I mean the major--

995

00:53:52,920 --> 00:53:53,970
The major.

996
00:53:53,970 --> 00:53:55,680
--in the American army.

997
00:53:55,680 --> 00:53:56,940
How did he help you?

998
00:53:56,940 --> 00:53:58,440
Can you tell me?

999
00:53:58,440 --> 00:54:00,630
First of all, he
gave me some kind

1000
00:54:00,630 --> 00:54:03,390
of pills, which did
a lot of good to me.

1001
00:54:03,390 --> 00:54:05,250
And I had to come
to him every day.

1002
00:54:05,250 --> 00:54:09,675
He was checking on me every
day, which was just walking.

1003
00:54:09,675 --> 00:54:11,370
He was very close.

1004
00:54:11,370 --> 00:54:13,320
Maybe it wasn't
even half a mile.

1005
00:54:13,320 --> 00:54:15,390
Maybe it was a quarter mile.

1006
00:54:15,390 --> 00:54:19,800
And he had his-- in one of the
building, he had his office.

1007
00:54:19,800 --> 00:54:23,370
Have you any idea what you
weighed at the end of the war?

1008
00:54:23,370 --> 00:54:24,480
I have no idea.

1009
00:54:24,480 --> 00:54:27,720
But it was just bones.

1010
00:54:27,720 --> 00:54:30,090
I have no idea.

1011
00:54:30,090 --> 00:54:32,250
He did weigh me.

1012
00:54:32,250 --> 00:54:34,320
But I don't remember.

1013
00:54:34,320 --> 00:54:39,690
I wouldn't remember
how I weighed.

1014
00:54:39,690 --> 00:54:40,890
Yeah.

1015
00:54:40,890 --> 00:54:44,550
How long were you in Hart?

1016
00:54:44,550 --> 00:54:45,660
In Hart?

1017
00:54:45,660 --> 00:54:51,480
In Hart we were, I think,
about six, seven months.

1018
00:54:51,480 --> 00:54:55,530
And that's where I met my wife.

1019
00:54:55,530 --> 00:54:58,650
She was liberated
in Theresienstadt.

1020
00:54:58,650 --> 00:55:04,770
And she lived for a month
or two, I think, in Prague.

1021
00:55:04,770 --> 00:55:09,385
And then, with the Bricha,
they organized a transport

1022
00:55:09,385 --> 00:55:15,420
to Israel, which
went through Austria.

1023
00:55:15,420 --> 00:55:18,750
And there was some
problem of getting

1024
00:55:18,750 --> 00:55:21,210
to Italy with the train.

1025
00:55:21,210 --> 00:55:26,160
So temporary, they let them
out and Salzburg, Austria.

1026
00:55:26,160 --> 00:55:30,450
And then she found some friends.

1027
00:55:30,450 --> 00:55:32,310
She was in camp together.

1028
00:55:32,310 --> 00:55:38,400
And one of her friends
was my friend's, whom

1029
00:55:38,400 --> 00:55:40,830
I was in the camp with, sister.

1030
00:55:40,830 --> 00:55:45,210
So she came to visit
her girlfriend in Hart.

1031
00:55:45,210 --> 00:55:46,960
And I got to know her.

1032
00:55:46,960 --> 00:55:48,620
And I got to know her.

1033
00:55:48,620 --> 00:55:51,030
Then a year, two years

later, we got married.

1034
00:55:51,030 --> 00:55:53,040
Where did you go from Hart?

1035
00:55:53,040 --> 00:55:56,310
From Hart, we went to
Linz, and [PLACE NAME],,

1036
00:55:56,310 --> 00:55:58,860
and then to Ebersberg.

1037
00:55:58,860 --> 00:56:02,845

1038
00:56:02,845 --> 00:56:03,720
And were those also--

1039
00:56:03,720 --> 00:56:04,980
Then over there--

1040
00:56:04,980 --> 00:56:06,840
Were those also
displaced persons areas?

1041
00:56:06,840 --> 00:56:07,090
Or were they--

1042
00:56:07,090 --> 00:56:08,700
Yes, they were all
displaced persons.

1043
00:56:08,700 --> 00:56:09,330
Yeah.

1044
00:56:09,330 --> 00:56:14,370
And I worked in Linz
as an accountant

1045
00:56:14,370 --> 00:56:17,210
for American
Distribution Company

1046
00:56:17,210 --> 00:56:22,800

till I got the visa to
go to the United States

1047
00:56:22,800 --> 00:56:25,680
by the end of '48.

1048
00:56:25,680 --> 00:56:27,357
And I arrived here in '49.

1049
00:56:27,357 --> 00:56:28,940
We're going to stop
for a few minutes.

1050
00:56:28,940 --> 00:56:29,440
Sure.

1051
00:56:29,440 --> 00:56:32,060
And we'll continue
this in a second.

1052
00:56:32,060 --> 00:56:36,060