

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,902

2
00:00:06,902 --> 00:00:10,353
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:10,353 --> 00:00:22,700

4
00:00:22,700 --> 00:00:24,090
Good afternoon.

5
00:00:24,090 --> 00:00:28,520
My name is Bernard Weinstein I'm
a director of the Kean College

6
00:00:28,520 --> 00:00:32,420
Oral Testimonies Project of
the Holocaust Resource Center.

7
00:00:32,420 --> 00:00:34,820
We are affiliated with
the Video Archives

8
00:00:34,820 --> 00:00:38,570
for Holocaust Testimonies
at Yale University.

9
00:00:38,570 --> 00:00:41,660
Sharing the interview
with me is Joan Bang.

10
00:00:41,660 --> 00:00:45,830
We are privileged to welcome
Jeanette Ehrlich, a survivor

11
00:00:45,830 --> 00:00:48,950
presently living in Mays
Landing, New Jersey, who

12
00:00:48,950 --> 00:00:51,410

has generously volunteered
to give testimony

13
00:00:51,410 --> 00:00:53,850
about her experiences
before, during,

14
00:00:53,850 --> 00:00:56,120
and after the Holocaust.

15
00:00:56,120 --> 00:00:58,010
Mrs. Ehrlich, welcome.

16
00:00:58,010 --> 00:00:59,030
Thank you very much.

17
00:00:59,030 --> 00:01:01,970
I'd like to begin by
asking you to tell us

18
00:01:01,970 --> 00:01:05,510
a little bit about
the town or city

19
00:01:05,510 --> 00:01:09,440
that you grew up
in before the war.

20
00:01:09,440 --> 00:01:11,460
Myszkow is not the big city.

21
00:01:11,460 --> 00:01:18,230
But it is an industrial city
and has a lot of factories.

22
00:01:18,230 --> 00:01:21,380
We lived in Myszkow
very comfortable.

23
00:01:21,380 --> 00:01:23,840
And I had a lot of friends.

24

00:01:23,840 --> 00:01:26,750

And I went to school
there one year.

25

00:01:26,750 --> 00:01:29,570

And then my parents sent me
away to a school my oldest

26

00:01:29,570 --> 00:01:31,670

sister went in Czestochowa.

27

00:01:31,670 --> 00:01:36,770

This is about 45
minutes away by train.

28

00:01:36,770 --> 00:01:40,850

And this is a Hebrew
gymnasium, where

29

00:01:40,850 --> 00:01:46,370

I learned a lot about the Jewish
history and my own people.

30

00:01:46,370 --> 00:01:52,850

Since my parents were very
Jewish oriented and also

31

00:01:52,850 --> 00:01:56,300

assimilated, they
wanted us to know more

32

00:01:56,300 --> 00:02:03,020

about our background and our
people and about religion.

33

00:02:03,020 --> 00:02:07,190

And I went to school
every morning by train.

34

00:02:07,190 --> 00:02:11,000

And I came home 3 o'clock,
went to another Jewish school,

35

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:15,250
where they taught me religion.

36
00:02:15,250 --> 00:02:17,260
I was the only one,
because my sister didn't

37
00:02:17,260 --> 00:02:18,700
want to go to that school.

38
00:02:18,700 --> 00:02:20,200
She went to the
Hebrew gymnasium,

39
00:02:20,200 --> 00:02:24,680
but she didn't want to
go to a religious school.

40
00:02:24,680 --> 00:02:28,280
And when the war
broke out in 1939,

41
00:02:28,280 --> 00:02:30,610
we were all caught in Myszkow.

42
00:02:30,610 --> 00:02:34,060
People started to run
when they heard the war is

43
00:02:34,060 --> 00:02:37,250
on in all different directions.

44
00:02:37,250 --> 00:02:40,240
And we went to a nearby
town called Zarki,

45
00:02:40,240 --> 00:02:43,090
where we used to live before.

46
00:02:43,090 --> 00:02:46,390
My older sister
and my grandmother

47

00:02:46,390 --> 00:02:50,140

went the day before,
a night before.

48

00:02:50,140 --> 00:02:54,280

And when we arrived
there the next day,

49

00:02:54,280 --> 00:02:58,330

they said that one bomb fell,
and it fell in this house

50

00:02:58,330 --> 00:02:59,560

where my sister was.

51

00:02:59,560 --> 00:03:04,060

And she was under the
rubble from this house.

52

00:03:04,060 --> 00:03:09,370

And she was lucky that
the a boyfriend of hers

53

00:03:09,370 --> 00:03:15,280

that she used to have knew
that she went into this house,

54

00:03:15,280 --> 00:03:16,990

and he got her out.

55

00:03:16,990 --> 00:03:23,530

But the rest of the people
were dead from this house.

56

00:03:23,530 --> 00:03:28,390

May I backtrack a little bit
and ask you some questions

57

00:03:28,390 --> 00:03:33,520

leading up to the incident
you just described.

58

00:03:33,520 --> 00:03:39,970

In Myszkow was there a
large Jewish community?

59

00:03:39,970 --> 00:03:43,130

No, it wasn't too large.

60

00:03:43,130 --> 00:03:47,800

I would say it was about
600 Jewish families.

61

00:03:47,800 --> 00:03:53,350

What were relations like between
the Jews and the non-Jews?

62

00:03:53,350 --> 00:03:55,320

Very good.

63

00:03:55,320 --> 00:03:59,180

A matter of fact, I had
an un-Jewish friend,

64

00:03:59,180 --> 00:04:01,940

a very close friend.

65

00:04:01,940 --> 00:04:05,200

But when the war broke out,
they stopped being friends.

66

00:04:05,200 --> 00:04:08,770

67

00:04:08,770 --> 00:04:13,450

Did you experience
any acts prior

68

00:04:13,450 --> 00:04:16,130

to the war of antisemitism--

69

00:04:16,130 --> 00:04:17,070

Many times--

70

00:04:17,070 --> 00:04:17,890
Antagonism--

71
00:04:17,890 --> 00:04:18,700
Many times.

72
00:04:18,700 --> 00:04:21,804
Can you describe any
of these incidents?

73
00:04:21,804 --> 00:04:25,460
They called us different
names in school.

74
00:04:25,460 --> 00:04:32,430
And it's hard to describe what--

75
00:04:32,430 --> 00:04:33,840
it's humiliation.

76
00:04:33,840 --> 00:04:37,220

77
00:04:37,220 --> 00:04:40,700
Did that make you
feel a stronger

78
00:04:40,700 --> 00:04:43,650
sense of Jewish identity
and solidarity or was--

79
00:04:43,650 --> 00:04:44,150
Yes--

80
00:04:44,150 --> 00:04:46,160
Is an alienating
kind of experience?

81
00:04:46,160 --> 00:04:48,500
No, it made me feel--

82
00:04:48,500 --> 00:04:50,840

I was always proud
of my Jewishness,

83
00:04:50,840 --> 00:04:53,060
because of the
background that I had

84
00:04:53,060 --> 00:04:56,390
that I learned about the
history, the ancient history,

85
00:04:56,390 --> 00:04:58,460
and the Jewish
history of the Bible.

86
00:04:58,460 --> 00:05:00,600
And I was very proud of that.

87
00:05:00,600 --> 00:05:03,410
So this didn't make
any effect on me.

88
00:05:03,410 --> 00:05:06,760
It just humiliated me.

89
00:05:06,760 --> 00:05:09,280
Before the war,
was there any time

90
00:05:09,280 --> 00:05:14,510
when you felt yourself in
immediate danger or immediate--

91
00:05:14,510 --> 00:05:15,050
Always--

92
00:05:15,050 --> 00:05:15,550
Peril?

93
00:05:15,550 --> 00:05:21,580
Every minute of the day,
I was always in danger.

94

00:05:21,580 --> 00:05:24,670

There were always
things that-- a Jew

95

00:05:24,670 --> 00:05:27,430

wasn't allowed to
walk on the sidewalks,

96

00:05:27,430 --> 00:05:30,790

only in the middle of the
street and with horses.

97

00:05:30,790 --> 00:05:33,130

There wasn't too many
cars in our city.

98

00:05:33,130 --> 00:05:37,320

But as small as it was, we
had cars in our city too.

99

00:05:37,320 --> 00:05:39,880

Are you talking before or after?

100

00:05:39,880 --> 00:05:41,380

I was talking during the war.

101

00:05:41,380 --> 00:05:42,280

Oh, during.

102

00:05:42,280 --> 00:05:44,620

I meant before
was there any time

103

00:05:44,620 --> 00:05:46,180

when you felt yourself to be--

104

00:05:46,180 --> 00:05:46,930

In danger--

105

00:05:46,930 --> 00:05:47,660

In danger?

106

00:05:47,660 --> 00:05:49,740

No, not especially.

107

00:05:49,740 --> 00:05:52,710

Can you describe
or can you continue

108

00:05:52,710 --> 00:05:56,560

to describe the beginning
of the war for us?

109

00:05:56,560 --> 00:05:58,680

Yes.

110

00:05:58,680 --> 00:06:00,450

As soon as we came
back from Zarki,

111

00:06:00,450 --> 00:06:05,400

where we escaped during
the first days of war,

112

00:06:05,400 --> 00:06:10,350

our house was taken away.

113

00:06:10,350 --> 00:06:14,490

The general made his
headquarters in our house

114

00:06:14,490 --> 00:06:16,900

since it was a big villa.

115

00:06:16,900 --> 00:06:21,570

And we were not allowed
the first days there.

116

00:06:21,570 --> 00:06:25,860

And we stayed with a family
called [? Zeybek, ?] Jacob

117

00:06:25,860 --> 00:06:27,570

[? Zeybek. ?]

118
00:06:27,570 --> 00:06:31,920
Matter of fact, I have
two children in Israel.

119
00:06:31,920 --> 00:06:33,990
One of them is a
judge in Israel.

120
00:06:33,990 --> 00:06:37,770
And I just visited the daughter.

121
00:06:37,770 --> 00:06:43,020
And we stayed there
until they moved on.

122
00:06:43,020 --> 00:06:46,170
The general with the soldiers
moved on to different cities,

123
00:06:46,170 --> 00:06:51,550
and we got our house
back, but not for long.

124
00:06:51,550 --> 00:06:56,460
They also sent us a
third man called--

125
00:06:56,460 --> 00:07:02,790
a German-- that my father had
to teach all about his business,

126
00:07:02,790 --> 00:07:05,790
because he took
over the business.

127
00:07:05,790 --> 00:07:09,010
And he let us stay in the house.

128
00:07:09,010 --> 00:07:15,540
We only took the part that was
my father's study and office.

129

00:07:15,540 --> 00:07:17,430

He took away a part of it.

130

00:07:17,430 --> 00:07:20,100

And this was for business.

131

00:07:20,100 --> 00:07:23,550

And they gave us three rooms
in the house, the kitchen

132

00:07:23,550 --> 00:07:28,290

and another room and
a bedroom to stay.

133

00:07:28,290 --> 00:07:30,900

What business was
your father in?

134

00:07:30,900 --> 00:07:36,510

He was a partner into a
coal mine, two coal mines,

135

00:07:36,510 --> 00:07:40,260

with two other partners.

136

00:07:40,260 --> 00:07:44,970

So he has his means of earning a
living was taken away from him?

137

00:07:44,970 --> 00:07:46,890

Yes.

138

00:07:46,890 --> 00:07:51,660

How did he support himself and
his family during this time?

139

00:07:51,660 --> 00:07:54,420

He supported himself
by having still money

140

00:07:54,420 --> 00:07:56,580

from before the war.

141
00:07:56,580 --> 00:08:02,240
And he also gave us
children money and he said--

142
00:08:02,240 --> 00:08:07,000
in foreign currency and
in diamonds-- and he said,

143
00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:13,570
if you ever need to buy
yourself off, here's something.

144
00:08:13,570 --> 00:08:17,280
And he said everybody should
go in different directions,

145
00:08:17,280 --> 00:08:19,950
because as a family
we won't survive,

146
00:08:19,950 --> 00:08:22,740
but we might survive
if everybody else will

147
00:08:22,740 --> 00:08:25,620
be in a different
city, because we

148
00:08:25,620 --> 00:08:27,480
don't know what's going to be.

149
00:08:27,480 --> 00:08:31,070
He saw right away
what's coming on.

150
00:08:31,070 --> 00:08:33,179
They ask him also
to be the president

151
00:08:33,179 --> 00:08:36,010
of the Jewish community.

152

00:08:36,010 --> 00:08:37,799

And he said he wouldn't do that.

153

00:08:37,799 --> 00:08:40,409

154

00:08:40,409 --> 00:08:45,720

And a friend of his,

[? Eugeniusz ?] Hirschfeld,

155

00:08:45,720 --> 00:08:49,560

he said he will take this

responsibility because somebody

156

00:08:49,560 --> 00:08:51,830

has to do it.

157

00:08:51,830 --> 00:08:55,820

How old were the children at

this time, you and your brother

158

00:08:55,820 --> 00:08:57,440

and sisters?

159

00:08:57,440 --> 00:08:59,210

I wasn't quite 16.

160

00:08:59,210 --> 00:09:03,800

23 days later I was 16

when the war broke out.

161

00:09:03,800 --> 00:09:06,650

My older sister a

year and a half older.

162

00:09:06,650 --> 00:09:12,860

And my younger

sister was born 1927.

163

00:09:12,860 --> 00:09:16,080

And my little brother

was born in 1933.

164
00:09:16,080 --> 00:09:17,540
So he was six years old.

165
00:09:17,540 --> 00:09:21,790

166
00:09:21,790 --> 00:09:27,220
And did you follow
your father's advice?

167
00:09:27,220 --> 00:09:28,420
Did the family separate?

168
00:09:28,420 --> 00:09:29,920
Did they go in
different directions?

169
00:09:29,920 --> 00:09:35,110
Not right now, but pretty soon.

170
00:09:35,110 --> 00:09:37,270
After it was
Judenrein in Myszkow

171
00:09:37,270 --> 00:09:42,460
and there were
selections, my father

172
00:09:42,460 --> 00:09:46,750
got word from somebody,
I don't know from whom,

173
00:09:46,750 --> 00:09:50,740
that it's going to be Judenrein.

174
00:09:50,740 --> 00:09:56,600
And all the people from
there are going to Auschwitz.

175
00:09:56,600 --> 00:10:02,650
And this was in I

think beginning 1942.

176

00:10:02,650 --> 00:10:05,350

I'm not exactly sure the date.

177

00:10:05,350 --> 00:10:12,040

And we hired a man,

[? Kapuscinski, ?] I think was

178

00:10:12,040 --> 00:10:16,360

his name, or [? Kapuscewski. ?]

He was an engineer in a factory

179

00:10:16,360 --> 00:10:22,580

where we used to supply

coals for the factory.

180

00:10:22,580 --> 00:10:26,920

And he said to my father,

I will make a place

181

00:10:26,920 --> 00:10:32,470

where you can hide with

your wife and children

182

00:10:32,470 --> 00:10:34,960

until it's all over.

183

00:10:34,960 --> 00:10:40,720

And my father said to me,

one person should stay back.

184

00:10:40,720 --> 00:10:44,740

And since I am very

clever, I should stay back

185

00:10:44,740 --> 00:10:48,100

and see what's going

on, because maybe it

186

00:10:48,100 --> 00:10:51,340

will blow over in a day or two.

187

00:10:51,340 --> 00:10:53,710

But when it didn't
blow over, and I

188

00:10:53,710 --> 00:10:59,860

saw that they're going to send
away everybody from the town,

189

00:10:59,860 --> 00:11:02,200

I started to walk
towards the city

190

00:11:02,200 --> 00:11:03,820

that I knew that
my father was going

191

00:11:03,820 --> 00:11:07,240

to go to Zawiercie
[? Wartenow ?]

192

00:11:07,240 --> 00:11:08,950

And I walked during the nights.

193

00:11:08,950 --> 00:11:13,120

And during the day, I
was hiding in the bushes.

194

00:11:13,120 --> 00:11:16,450

And it wasn't far anyway.

195

00:11:16,450 --> 00:11:18,590

I was there in a
couple of hours.

196

00:11:18,590 --> 00:11:20,510

How long was your journey?

197

00:11:20,510 --> 00:11:22,570

It wasn't long because
the city was away

198

00:11:22,570 --> 00:11:24,520

by train maybe 20 minutes.

199
00:11:24,520 --> 00:11:25,360
So it wasn't long.

200
00:11:25,360 --> 00:11:30,200
But for me it was
like an eternity.

201
00:11:30,200 --> 00:11:33,680
Can you describe your
feelings when you were hiding?

202
00:11:33,680 --> 00:11:34,970
Yes.

203
00:11:34,970 --> 00:11:38,550
I heard shots all around me.

204
00:11:38,550 --> 00:11:42,680
And the corn was very
high at the time.

205
00:11:42,680 --> 00:11:45,350
And I was laying
there in the field.

206
00:11:45,350 --> 00:11:48,530
And I was thinking to myself--

207
00:11:48,530 --> 00:11:51,830
I heard footsteps walking
and shooting in there.

208
00:11:51,830 --> 00:11:56,750
And so I was thinking, oh,
now, my life will be over.

209
00:11:56,750 --> 00:11:59,270
But I felt happy that
my parents were not

210

00:11:59,270 --> 00:12:01,380
with me, that at least
they will be safe.

211
00:12:01,380 --> 00:12:04,350

212
00:12:04,350 --> 00:12:07,820
Where was your mother and
your brothers and sisters

213
00:12:07,820 --> 00:12:08,610
at this time?

214
00:12:08,610 --> 00:12:11,520
They were hidden
in a factory where

215
00:12:11,520 --> 00:12:15,360
the engineer from this
factory helped my parents.

216
00:12:15,360 --> 00:12:20,090
Like I mentioned, his,
name was [? Kapuscinski. ?]

217
00:12:20,090 --> 00:12:23,450
Were there other members
of your family that were

218
00:12:23,450 --> 00:12:25,880
living with you at that time?

219
00:12:25,880 --> 00:12:28,760
Grandparents, other relatives?

220
00:12:28,760 --> 00:12:32,480
My grandmother I
was living with us.

221
00:12:32,480 --> 00:12:36,050
We took her out from
the ghetto, from Lodz.

222

00:12:36,050 --> 00:12:37,280

That's Litzmannstadt.

223

00:12:37,280 --> 00:12:41,840

During the war, they called it
a German name for that city.

224

00:12:41,840 --> 00:12:47,570

And a little cousin also
from the same ghetto.

225

00:12:47,570 --> 00:12:53,060

And later on when we
were in Zawiercie,

226

00:12:53,060 --> 00:12:58,070

a family came, my
mother's brother and a son

227

00:12:58,070 --> 00:13:00,410

and a brother and
another person.

228

00:13:00,410 --> 00:13:05,510

I don't remember who it was,
if he was a relative or just

229

00:13:05,510 --> 00:13:07,820

a friend of my cousin.

230

00:13:07,820 --> 00:13:10,190

And this was during the
early years of the war?

231

00:13:10,190 --> 00:13:12,480

Yes.

232

00:13:12,480 --> 00:13:16,560

What was the living
space like at that time?

233

00:13:16,560 --> 00:13:19,170
The living space were very bad.

234
00:13:19,170 --> 00:13:24,690
First of all, you couldn't
get a nice apartment

235
00:13:24,690 --> 00:13:26,610
because it was a ghetto.

236
00:13:26,610 --> 00:13:33,330
So the [? Koltesgemeinde-- ?]
this is the Jewish--

237
00:13:33,330 --> 00:13:37,930
the Jewish, what you call that--

238
00:13:37,930 --> 00:13:39,280
I forgot what you call it.

239
00:13:39,280 --> 00:13:43,180
But anyway, they appointed
a room, let's say,

240
00:13:43,180 --> 00:13:44,950
for one family or two families.

241
00:13:44,950 --> 00:13:49,330
It depends how large the
family was in the ghettos.

242
00:13:49,330 --> 00:13:53,500
But when we went to Zawiercie,
we had family there.

243
00:13:53,500 --> 00:13:57,770
And we still had some-- we
lived with family there.

244
00:13:57,770 --> 00:14:02,440
They were still a couple of the
people that owned that place.

245

00:14:02,440 --> 00:14:03,700

They took us in.

246

00:14:03,700 --> 00:14:07,660

So we had two bedrooms and
a kitchen and a dining room.

247

00:14:07,660 --> 00:14:08,950

But we shared all together.

248

00:14:08,950 --> 00:14:11,610

249

00:14:11,610 --> 00:14:17,350

And was there a feeling
of closeness among all

250

00:14:17,350 --> 00:14:18,270

of the people--

251

00:14:18,270 --> 00:14:20,910

Oh, yes, very close.

252

00:14:20,910 --> 00:14:25,000

Our family was a very
close knit family.

253

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:27,920

And everybody cared
about everybody else.

254

00:14:27,920 --> 00:14:33,450

255

00:14:33,450 --> 00:14:37,770

How long did you
spend in this place?

256

00:14:37,770 --> 00:14:41,340

Not long, because when the
family came from the ghetto,

257

00:14:41,340 --> 00:14:47,730
from Lodz, somebody must have
seen them go into our place.

258

00:14:47,730 --> 00:14:51,030
And they reported
to the Gestapo.

259

00:14:51,030 --> 00:14:54,000
And the Gestapo came.

260

00:14:54,000 --> 00:15:00,870
And when they walked in, my
cousin and this young fellow

261

00:15:00,870 --> 00:15:01,950
escaped.

262

00:15:01,950 --> 00:15:05,190
And they took my
uncle with his son.

263

00:15:05,190 --> 00:15:08,850
And they took me, my older
sister and my younger sister,

264

00:15:08,850 --> 00:15:12,210
because nobody else was
in the house at the time.

265

00:15:12,210 --> 00:15:17,890
My grandmother with my little
brother was hidden in a bunker.

266

00:15:17,890 --> 00:15:22,560
And my cousin escaped
through the window

267

00:15:22,560 --> 00:15:25,860
when they walked in
through the door.

268

00:15:25,860 --> 00:15:27,720
So they took us to the Gestapo.

269
00:15:27,720 --> 00:15:31,380
What happened to my uncle
and his son, I don't know.

270
00:15:31,380 --> 00:15:36,210
But to us three, my
sisters and to me, I said,

271
00:15:36,210 --> 00:15:38,220
my sister didn't
know all about it.

272
00:15:38,220 --> 00:15:41,640
I took in strangers.

273
00:15:41,640 --> 00:15:46,470
And they said, are
they your relatives?

274
00:15:46,470 --> 00:15:49,830
I said, yes, that's
why I let them in.

275
00:15:49,830 --> 00:15:51,930
Did you take money from
them, they asked me.

276
00:15:51,930 --> 00:15:54,107
I said, no, they're
my relatives.

277
00:15:54,107 --> 00:15:55,190
That's why I took them in.

278
00:15:55,190 --> 00:15:59,550

279
00:15:59,550 --> 00:16:01,890
And this was in fact
when I was in Zawiercie.

280
00:16:01,890 --> 00:16:05,580
And they told me to bend down.

281
00:16:05,580 --> 00:16:07,590
And they gave me some--

282
00:16:07,590 --> 00:16:10,410
on my back-- some lashes.

283
00:16:10,410 --> 00:16:13,140
And they said to tell the truth.

284
00:16:13,140 --> 00:16:14,190
Why I took them in?

285
00:16:14,190 --> 00:16:18,520
If I take in people there
from the [? gate-- ?]

286
00:16:18,520 --> 00:16:23,340
this is the government that--
we were in the Third Reich.

287
00:16:23,340 --> 00:16:26,220
And so they had to
cross the border.

288
00:16:26,220 --> 00:16:28,980
It means they were
illegal in our town

289
00:16:28,980 --> 00:16:31,800
if I keep people there.

290
00:16:31,800 --> 00:16:34,800
And I said, no, I just
took them in because they

291
00:16:34,800 --> 00:16:38,480
said they are our relatives.

292

00:16:38,480 --> 00:16:41,690

And my sister kept saying she
doesn't know anything about it.

293

00:16:41,690 --> 00:16:43,910

She wasn't home when they came.

294

00:16:43,910 --> 00:16:45,950

And she doesn't even know them.

295

00:16:45,950 --> 00:16:47,240

And she didn't.

296

00:16:47,240 --> 00:16:50,900

I knew them, but she
didn't know them.

297

00:16:50,900 --> 00:16:55,340

And I took everything
upon myself.

298

00:16:55,340 --> 00:16:58,700

So they were spared the lashes.

299

00:16:58,700 --> 00:17:03,440

And then they sent us to
Bedzin, to Waisenhaus.

300

00:17:03,440 --> 00:17:07,910

This is for children
that had no parents.

301

00:17:07,910 --> 00:17:09,200

This was before the war.

302

00:17:09,200 --> 00:17:15,230

They had a house for orphans.

303

00:17:15,230 --> 00:17:19,369

And from this house, they made
like a [? Punkt, ?] everybody

304

00:17:19,369 --> 00:17:21,800
went to Auschwitz.

305

00:17:21,800 --> 00:17:25,220
And somehow my father
managed to get us out

306

00:17:25,220 --> 00:17:29,510
from there to a labor
camp instead of Auschwitz.

307

00:17:29,510 --> 00:17:32,150

308

00:17:32,150 --> 00:17:39,520
So everyone knew that they
were transports from Bedzin

309

00:17:39,520 --> 00:17:40,180
to Auschwitz?

310

00:17:40,180 --> 00:17:41,530
Yes.

311

00:17:41,530 --> 00:17:44,580
And how was your father
able to get you out?

312

00:17:44,580 --> 00:17:46,080
We had a Treuhandler.

313

00:17:46,080 --> 00:17:51,470
It means that man that came to
us to take over the business.

314

00:17:51,470 --> 00:17:56,420
His brother-in-law was
in very high position.

315

00:17:56,420 --> 00:18:00,710
And he had--

316

00:18:00,710 --> 00:18:04,940

I don't know exactly what
he was, but he could help.

317

00:18:04,940 --> 00:18:09,500

And for money, some of them did.

318

00:18:09,500 --> 00:18:13,020

They knew that sooner or
later they will get us all.

319

00:18:13,020 --> 00:18:18,160

So in the meantime, for
money, they could do things.

320

00:18:18,160 --> 00:18:21,730

So while you are with
your two sisters,

321

00:18:21,730 --> 00:18:26,110

the rest of your family was
intact all together still?

322

00:18:26,110 --> 00:18:28,360

What happened to them
and where they were,

323

00:18:28,360 --> 00:18:31,210

we don't know because we
were in forced labor camp.

324

00:18:31,210 --> 00:18:33,970

325

00:18:33,970 --> 00:18:37,720

But when they brought
me back, my parents

326

00:18:37,720 --> 00:18:42,220

were in Sosnowiec, where
it was still a ghetto.

327

00:18:42,220 --> 00:18:46,750

328

00:18:46,750 --> 00:18:51,370

How did you know
where they were?

329

00:18:51,370 --> 00:18:53,290

Did you have any
information about them?

330

00:18:53,290 --> 00:18:56,720

Yes, we were allowed
to write once a month

331

00:18:56,720 --> 00:18:58,870

that we are all
right and doing very

332

00:18:58,870 --> 00:19:01,750

well, that we are very happy
and we have enough food

333

00:19:01,750 --> 00:19:04,600

and everything.

334

00:19:04,600 --> 00:19:08,260

And they wrote to us
also once a month,

335

00:19:08,260 --> 00:19:10,370

because this was not
a concentration camp.

336

00:19:10,370 --> 00:19:14,740

This was a forced labor camp.

337

00:19:14,740 --> 00:19:17,770

But the forced labor
camp was bad enough.

338

00:19:17,770 --> 00:19:22,330

We had to stay in roll call

every day for three hours.

339

00:19:22,330 --> 00:19:24,350

Like we got up very early.

340

00:19:24,350 --> 00:19:26,260

It was still nighttime.

341

00:19:26,260 --> 00:19:31,010

And we went 6 o'clock to work.

342

00:19:31,010 --> 00:19:32,830

What kind of work did you do?

343

00:19:32,830 --> 00:19:40,460

We worked in a factory where
we had spools of thread.

344

00:19:40,460 --> 00:19:44,710

We had to put the
thread on those spools.

345

00:19:44,710 --> 00:19:48,020

And we had to make
so much of it.

346

00:19:48,020 --> 00:19:56,140

If we fail to do our count
again whatever we had to do,

347

00:19:56,140 --> 00:19:57,550

we were sent to Auschwitz.

348

00:19:57,550 --> 00:19:59,830

And we were told so.

349

00:19:59,830 --> 00:20:04,050

We had to give so much
of the production.

350

00:20:04,050 --> 00:20:07,410

And we got very little food.

351
00:20:07,410 --> 00:20:09,810
We had a piece of bread
in the morning when

352
00:20:09,810 --> 00:20:14,210
we went to work with a can of--

353
00:20:14,210 --> 00:20:18,870
they called it coffee, but
it was like dirty water,

354
00:20:18,870 --> 00:20:20,460
ersatz coffee.

355
00:20:20,460 --> 00:20:26,700
And we didn't have enough of
the water to wash the cans well,

356
00:20:26,700 --> 00:20:29,850
because when we got to water,
we wanted to wash ourself

357
00:20:29,850 --> 00:20:33,720
and to wash our clothes
and to do other things.

358
00:20:33,720 --> 00:20:40,520
And also we had when we
came back from work soap.

359
00:20:40,520 --> 00:20:43,590
So this was all we had.

360
00:20:43,590 --> 00:20:46,190
And it was very little,
because we were very hungry.

361
00:20:46,190 --> 00:20:48,900
And at night time was very cold.

362
00:20:48,900 --> 00:20:52,460

And we couldn't even fall
asleep we were so cold.

363
00:20:52,460 --> 00:20:58,080
Our teeth were
banging for coldness.

364
00:20:58,080 --> 00:21:04,260
And I laid with my sister, just
like herrings, with my sisters.

365
00:21:04,260 --> 00:21:05,820
And my older sister was first.

366
00:21:05,820 --> 00:21:06,570
I was second.

367
00:21:06,570 --> 00:21:09,090
And my younger
sister was the third.

368
00:21:09,090 --> 00:21:11,220
Then we decided maybe we
should put our youngest

369
00:21:11,220 --> 00:21:15,780
sister in the middle to warm her
up because she's still young.

370
00:21:15,780 --> 00:21:18,440
Was this during
the winter months?

371
00:21:18,440 --> 00:21:20,190
Was this during
the winter months?

372
00:21:20,190 --> 00:21:21,900
Yes, it was in
the winter months.

373
00:21:21,900 --> 00:21:28,650
And also, we tried to share

our portion, our ration

374

00:21:28,650 --> 00:21:31,730

with the younger sister.

375

00:21:31,730 --> 00:21:34,190

This was in 1942?

376

00:21:34,190 --> 00:21:36,320

Yes, this was in 1942.

377

00:21:36,320 --> 00:21:39,450

And how long were you there?

378

00:21:39,450 --> 00:21:42,050

I wasn't there long.

379

00:21:42,050 --> 00:21:47,090

I don't remember the
exact time how long I was.

380

00:21:47,090 --> 00:21:52,340

But then I was brought back to
a shop, [? Grossner's ?] shop

381

00:21:52,340 --> 00:22:01,030

in Bedzin and as
an expert on shoes.

382

00:22:01,030 --> 00:22:03,590

And I worked there
in the factory.

383

00:22:03,590 --> 00:22:07,930

And I lived in the ghetto
in Bedzin for a while.

384

00:22:07,930 --> 00:22:12,050

Were conditions any
better at that time

385

00:22:12,050 --> 00:22:14,020

than they were in the--

386
00:22:14,020 --> 00:22:16,390
Yeah, in Bedzin, at
least I got to stay

387
00:22:16,390 --> 00:22:19,840
with my father's relatives.

388
00:22:19,840 --> 00:22:24,370
And also in the ghetto,
there wasn't enough space,

389
00:22:24,370 --> 00:22:27,430
but at least I was
with relatives.

390
00:22:27,430 --> 00:22:29,900
And I worked in the factory.

391
00:22:29,900 --> 00:22:37,040
And I could have bought
food on the black market.

392
00:22:37,040 --> 00:22:39,760
So the conditions
were much better.

393
00:22:39,760 --> 00:22:41,560
While you were in
the work camp, do you

394
00:22:41,560 --> 00:22:46,330
remember any
particular situations

395
00:22:46,330 --> 00:22:54,400
where you were shown either an
act of kindness or particularly

396
00:22:54,400 --> 00:22:55,570
brutal behavior?

397

00:22:55,570 --> 00:22:58,210

Was there ever--

398

00:22:58,210 --> 00:23:01,810

I was very lucky that I
never got into trouble.

399

00:23:01,810 --> 00:23:05,860

Somehow, I said, somebody
is watching over me.

400

00:23:05,860 --> 00:23:11,870

But my sister got into trouble
by sending away a letter

401

00:23:11,870 --> 00:23:12,980

to home.

402

00:23:12,980 --> 00:23:16,340

We were not allowed to
send any more letters home.

403

00:23:16,340 --> 00:23:20,180

And we tried to get
some words home,

404

00:23:20,180 --> 00:23:23,270

because the letters that we
wrote once a month was just

405

00:23:23,270 --> 00:23:24,120

in the beginning.

406

00:23:24,120 --> 00:23:27,080

Later on we were not allowed
to, to just show the parents

407

00:23:27,080 --> 00:23:29,420

that we are alive and happy.

408

00:23:29,420 --> 00:23:31,970

But she wanted to really

tell them how it this

409
00:23:31,970 --> 00:23:33,890
the situation there.

410
00:23:33,890 --> 00:23:42,240
And somehow the head of our
camp caught that letter.

411
00:23:42,240 --> 00:23:48,590
And we were going to be sent
to Auschwitz, my sisters and I.

412
00:23:48,590 --> 00:23:51,560
And it was a very bad situation.

413
00:23:51,560 --> 00:23:55,470

414
00:23:55,470 --> 00:23:58,190
But I can't describe
really how it was.

415
00:23:58,190 --> 00:23:59,658
It's too much for me.

416
00:23:59,658 --> 00:24:02,350

417
00:24:02,350 --> 00:24:05,380
So you had left your sisters
and gone back to work,

418
00:24:05,380 --> 00:24:07,990
becoming a shoe specialist.

419
00:24:07,990 --> 00:24:09,610
Not my sisters.

420
00:24:09,610 --> 00:24:10,720
I was brought home.

421

00:24:10,720 --> 00:24:14,290

First was my younger sister
brought home as a specialist.

422

00:24:14,290 --> 00:24:16,750

Then I was brought home.

423

00:24:16,750 --> 00:24:17,890

There were ersatz.

424

00:24:17,890 --> 00:24:21,670

It means somebody else
sent in our place.

425

00:24:21,670 --> 00:24:25,390

And then my older sister
was going to come home.

426

00:24:25,390 --> 00:24:33,860

And she was already in Sosnowiec
and waiting to be released,

427

00:24:33,860 --> 00:24:36,670

when my father went
with the last payment.

428

00:24:36,670 --> 00:24:38,780

And they wanted money and cur--

429

00:24:38,780 --> 00:24:42,810

430

00:24:42,810 --> 00:24:46,030

the reason they
call it, this means

431

00:24:46,030 --> 00:24:50,670

dollars and English
pounds, things like that.

432

00:24:50,670 --> 00:24:57,790

And when he came with the

money, the criminal police

433

00:24:57,790 --> 00:24:59,920
was waiting for him.

434

00:24:59,920 --> 00:25:05,470
Since it was forbidden
to have this currency,

435

00:25:05,470 --> 00:25:07,720
they took him to the Gestapo.

436

00:25:07,720 --> 00:25:10,030
They were waiting
to the last one,

437

00:25:10,030 --> 00:25:11,740
until my older sister
would come home,

438

00:25:11,740 --> 00:25:16,400
to get as much money out
of him as they could.

439

00:25:16,400 --> 00:25:20,120
And they knew that they
will have us anyway.

440

00:25:20,120 --> 00:25:25,010
So this was the only way to get
everything out from my father.

441

00:25:25,010 --> 00:25:32,060
And then he was beaten so
bad and pieces of flesh

442

00:25:32,060 --> 00:25:32,990
hanging from him.

443

00:25:32,990 --> 00:25:34,760
When they confronted
my sister with him,

444

00:25:34,760 --> 00:25:37,760

she didn't even recognize
him, until he started to say,

445

00:25:37,760 --> 00:25:39,860

Ruthie, don't you recognize me?

446

00:25:39,860 --> 00:25:41,090

She started to cry.

447

00:25:41,090 --> 00:25:45,140

And I said, papa, forgive
me, I didn't recognize you.

448

00:25:45,140 --> 00:25:48,710

And he said, just be
strong and beg them

449

00:25:48,710 --> 00:25:51,230

that you want to go
back to the labor camp.

450

00:25:51,230 --> 00:25:53,813

Tell them to send you
back to the labor camp.

451

00:25:53,813 --> 00:25:54,980

And that's all he could say.

452

00:25:54,980 --> 00:25:56,660

And then he fainted.

453

00:25:56,660 --> 00:25:58,520

And they took him away.

454

00:25:58,520 --> 00:26:04,130

And my sister said she could
never forget that agony.

455

00:26:04,130 --> 00:26:06,950

She wakes up in the middle of
the night dreaming about it,

456
00:26:06,950 --> 00:26:08,085
like something horrible.

457
00:26:08,085 --> 00:26:11,950

458
00:26:11,950 --> 00:26:14,200
Was that the last
time you saw him?

459
00:26:14,200 --> 00:26:16,269
That's the last time
my sister saw him.

460
00:26:16,269 --> 00:26:22,500

461
00:26:22,500 --> 00:26:26,028
And what happened subsequently?

462
00:26:26,028 --> 00:26:30,110
Subsequently, my mother with
my little brother and sister

463
00:26:30,110 --> 00:26:32,690
and my grandmother
were sent to Auschwitz

464
00:26:32,690 --> 00:26:35,780
from Zawiercie ghetto
where they liquidated

465
00:26:35,780 --> 00:26:37,410
the rest of the ghetto.

466
00:26:37,410 --> 00:26:40,430

467
00:26:40,430 --> 00:26:44,150
But before then, I was hidden
in a bunker with my mother.

468
00:26:44,150 --> 00:26:47,000
My mother had false
papers, so did I.

469
00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:51,410
And we were going
to hide someplace.

470
00:26:51,410 --> 00:26:55,910
And we had papers that we
are Aryans, not Jewish.

471
00:26:55,910 --> 00:26:58,740
I bleached my hair to blonde.

472
00:26:58,740 --> 00:27:00,990
I had a beautiful black hair.

473
00:27:00,990 --> 00:27:03,930
My mother was blonde
with blue eyes,

474
00:27:03,930 --> 00:27:06,960
so she didn't look
Jewish at all.

475
00:27:06,960 --> 00:27:08,580
But we were caught.

476
00:27:08,580 --> 00:27:11,700
When she came to take me out
from Bedzin from the ghetto,

477
00:27:11,700 --> 00:27:12,840
we were caught.

478
00:27:12,840 --> 00:27:14,250
It was Judenrein.

479
00:27:14,250 --> 00:27:17,700
And we were hidden

in the bunker.

480
00:27:17,700 --> 00:27:25,790
Later on, when they found
us, they took us out,

481
00:27:25,790 --> 00:27:30,980
and my mother said
she has to get out

482
00:27:30,980 --> 00:27:34,430
of here because my little
sister and brother are

483
00:27:34,430 --> 00:27:36,110
in Zawiercie, and
my grandmother,

484
00:27:36,110 --> 00:27:37,550
she has to go there.

485
00:27:37,550 --> 00:27:40,530
She has to be with them,
otherwise they will be lost.

486
00:27:40,530 --> 00:27:44,210
So I said, OK, you do
whatever you have to do

487
00:27:44,210 --> 00:27:47,940
and somehow I will survive.

488
00:27:47,940 --> 00:27:52,280
And that night, she got out.

489
00:27:52,280 --> 00:27:55,640
I don't remember
exactly how she got out.

490
00:27:55,640 --> 00:27:58,910
But she met my husband now--

491

00:27:58,910 --> 00:28:00,800
I didn't know him at the time--

492
00:28:00,800 --> 00:28:03,920
she met him and she came
up to him and he said,

493
00:28:03,920 --> 00:28:07,700
you look like a nice man, she
said to him, a nice young man.

494
00:28:07,700 --> 00:28:12,590
Could you tell me where
is the end of the ghetto?

495
00:28:12,590 --> 00:28:14,090
Where is the border?

496
00:28:14,090 --> 00:28:17,790
And what town is beyond that?

497
00:28:17,790 --> 00:28:21,950
And he said, there is
Srodula, where we are.

498
00:28:21,950 --> 00:28:26,570
And Bedzin is not far from
here, about four miles.

499
00:28:26,570 --> 00:28:29,000
When you go straight
ahead with this road,

500
00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:33,590
if you get through the
wires, you go straight ahead

501
00:28:33,590 --> 00:28:38,420
and you will be free because
you don't look Jewish at all.

502
00:28:38,420 --> 00:28:41,960
He said, I will take

you to the border.

503

00:28:41,960 --> 00:28:44,600

At that time, I haven't
known my husband.

504

00:28:44,600 --> 00:28:45,830

I never saw in my life.

505

00:28:45,830 --> 00:28:50,970

And my mother hadn't
seen him in her life.

506

00:28:50,970 --> 00:28:52,970

And that's how she got out.

507

00:28:52,970 --> 00:28:56,160

That's extraordinary.

508

00:28:56,160 --> 00:29:00,950

So in a sense, the
first thing that he did

509

00:29:00,950 --> 00:29:02,420

for you was really to save--

510

00:29:02,420 --> 00:29:05,690

Yes, I felt that this
is somehow God's hand,

511

00:29:05,690 --> 00:29:14,360

you know, took my mother to him
and made of our paths cross.

512

00:29:14,360 --> 00:29:17,630

I believe in God, so maybe
that's why I thought so.

513

00:29:17,630 --> 00:29:22,980

514

00:29:22,980 --> 00:29:26,040

And then you had still
been left behind.

515
00:29:26,040 --> 00:29:28,260
How did you then escape?

516
00:29:28,260 --> 00:29:32,250
I have left behind because it
was very difficult to get out

517
00:29:32,250 --> 00:29:33,150
from there.

518
00:29:33,150 --> 00:29:37,440
The soldiers were
all around this camp.

519
00:29:37,440 --> 00:29:41,760
They called it Kamionka
and Srodula, little Srodula

520
00:29:41,760 --> 00:29:42,800
where I was.

521
00:29:42,800 --> 00:29:45,330
And they were shooting
They were looking

522
00:29:45,330 --> 00:29:48,180
for people in the bunkers
and take them out.

523
00:29:48,180 --> 00:29:51,090
And it was something horrible.

524
00:29:51,090 --> 00:29:55,560
Cries and lamentations,
and you can't imagine.

525
00:29:55,560 --> 00:29:59,220
It's just so chaotic.

526

00:29:59,220 --> 00:30:00,960

We didn't know
where to run first.

527

00:30:00,960 --> 00:30:03,810

And you couldn't run far,
because wherever you turned,

528

00:30:03,810 --> 00:30:04,980

you saw a soldier.

529

00:30:04,980 --> 00:30:07,140

You didn't want to be shot down.

530

00:30:07,140 --> 00:30:11,930

So you try to be all in a group.

531

00:30:11,930 --> 00:30:16,750

So when they round us
all up, they said--

532

00:30:16,750 --> 00:30:18,980

it was quite a few people.

533

00:30:18,980 --> 00:30:24,040

And somehow, we found out that
this group, what they round up,

534

00:30:24,040 --> 00:30:30,340

is going straight to
Auschwitz with the wagons.

535

00:30:30,340 --> 00:30:34,030

And when my girlfriend
that was next to me,

536

00:30:34,030 --> 00:30:36,970

that was in the bunker
with me, heard this,

537

00:30:36,970 --> 00:30:40,630

she said we're going to
Auschwitz, we'll be dead.

538
00:30:40,630 --> 00:30:44,770
You know, we knew ready
what's going on in Auschwitz.

539
00:30:44,770 --> 00:30:49,180
So then she saw Mr. Ehrlich.

540
00:30:49,180 --> 00:30:51,230
She said, oh, I know him.

541
00:30:51,230 --> 00:30:52,850
I know of him.

542
00:30:52,850 --> 00:30:55,700
And she started
to call his name.

543
00:30:55,700 --> 00:30:59,560
And she said to him,
could you help us?

544
00:30:59,560 --> 00:31:01,880
Please, could you help us?

545
00:31:01,880 --> 00:31:05,020
And he said, I can't
help you, because I'm

546
00:31:05,020 --> 00:31:06,670
in the same
situation as you are.

547
00:31:06,670 --> 00:31:10,030
But you are yourself from there,
you go straight to Auschwitz.

548
00:31:10,030 --> 00:31:12,700
And he was holding a pillow
that he tossed to her.

549
00:31:12,700 --> 00:31:15,070

And he said, take that
pillow and run and make

550
00:31:15,070 --> 00:31:16,540
believe that you're working.

551
00:31:16,540 --> 00:31:19,950
And I ran after her.

552
00:31:19,950 --> 00:31:27,840
And I ran to a toilet
that was on the outside.

553
00:31:27,840 --> 00:31:33,060
And Kamionka was a
place where the Gypsies

554
00:31:33,060 --> 00:31:36,040
used to live before the war.

555
00:31:36,040 --> 00:31:41,430
And it wasn't a
very modern place.

556
00:31:41,430 --> 00:31:45,630
And at least, I think so, maybe
other people live there too,

557
00:31:45,630 --> 00:31:46,950
not just Gypsies.

558
00:31:46,950 --> 00:31:52,290
But they didn't have
toilets in the house.

559
00:31:52,290 --> 00:31:54,660
And I hid in that toilet.

560
00:31:54,660 --> 00:31:56,940
And I waited until
it got very dark,

561

00:31:56,940 --> 00:31:58,760
and then I crawled
out from there.

562
00:31:58,760 --> 00:32:02,520

563
00:32:02,520 --> 00:32:06,980
Was what was the condition like
of the place where you hid?

564
00:32:06,980 --> 00:32:13,970
It had a very big hole
and a piece of rope

565
00:32:13,970 --> 00:32:16,160
that you had to
stretch your legs

566
00:32:16,160 --> 00:32:20,090
to stay, not to fall,
to keep your balance.

567
00:32:20,090 --> 00:32:22,970
And you could see rats running.

568
00:32:22,970 --> 00:32:28,070
And it was like a little shack.

569
00:32:28,070 --> 00:32:29,810
And it was awful.

570
00:32:29,810 --> 00:32:31,790
It was very fearful.

571
00:32:31,790 --> 00:32:33,230
How long did you spend there?

572
00:32:33,230 --> 00:32:34,850
A few hours.

573
00:32:34,850 --> 00:32:39,870

It was from the afternoon
till maybe 10:00 at night.

574
00:32:39,870 --> 00:32:42,350
And so you weren't able
to leave until it was--

575
00:32:42,350 --> 00:32:47,120
I couldn't leave, because they
were armed people and shooting

576
00:32:47,120 --> 00:32:49,710
in all directions and looking
for the people that run away.

577
00:32:49,710 --> 00:32:52,520
Somebody saw three
girls ran away.

578
00:32:52,520 --> 00:32:55,880
I don't remember who
was the third one.

579
00:32:55,880 --> 00:32:59,090
Or maybe it was my
girlfriend's sister.

580
00:32:59,090 --> 00:33:02,990
But everything is so
unclear now how it was.

581
00:33:02,990 --> 00:33:07,520
I remember seeing--
afterwards I found my friend.

582
00:33:07,520 --> 00:33:10,610
And she was telling me that
she was with her sister.

583
00:33:10,610 --> 00:33:12,860
And I remembered
in the beginning,

584

00:33:12,860 --> 00:33:15,070
but I couldn't remember
with whom she run away.

585
00:33:15,070 --> 00:33:18,700

586
00:33:18,700 --> 00:33:21,580
And where did you go
when you ran away?

587
00:33:21,580 --> 00:33:25,750
So from there, when I
called out, I saw a house.

588
00:33:25,750 --> 00:33:29,740
That was still in that Kamionka.

589
00:33:29,740 --> 00:33:32,800
And I went into the house.

590
00:33:32,800 --> 00:33:34,990
And this was for men.

591
00:33:34,990 --> 00:33:38,290
And the women were separated
and men were separated.

592
00:33:38,290 --> 00:33:42,820
And that's the first time
when I met my husband now.

593
00:33:42,820 --> 00:33:45,430
And he said to me, I'm
not supposed to be here,

594
00:33:45,430 --> 00:33:47,780
because this is the men's camp.

595
00:33:47,780 --> 00:33:48,950
How did I get here?

596

00:33:48,950 --> 00:33:52,870
And I told him how I got there.

597
00:33:52,870 --> 00:33:56,530
And we started to talk.

598
00:33:56,530 --> 00:33:58,390
And he said he
has an uncle here.

599
00:33:58,390 --> 00:34:00,370
And he started to
talk about his uncle.

600
00:34:00,370 --> 00:34:01,510
And he introduced me.

601
00:34:01,510 --> 00:34:04,140
He said to the uncle,
tell me, what should I do?

602
00:34:04,140 --> 00:34:05,260
What should I do with her?

603
00:34:05,260 --> 00:34:08,440
If they catch her in our
house, they will kill us all.

604
00:34:08,440 --> 00:34:10,900
And the uncle asked me
my name and all that.

605
00:34:10,900 --> 00:34:16,130
And all of a sudden, he said,
oh, that's my cousin's number.

606
00:34:16,130 --> 00:34:19,900
And since then I knew
I have somebody there,

607
00:34:19,900 --> 00:34:23,050
because I was a
stranger in this ghetto.

608
00:34:23,050 --> 00:34:24,469
It wasn't a ghetto anymore.

609
00:34:24,469 --> 00:34:29,199
It was a little camp
that they formed that we

610
00:34:29,199 --> 00:34:33,280
had to clean up the city--

611
00:34:33,280 --> 00:34:39,850
I mean to clean up the ghetto
and make ready and everything

612
00:34:39,850 --> 00:34:42,699
to ship to Germany, like
the coats separate, fur

613
00:34:42,699 --> 00:34:46,449
coats and shoes, after the
people that lived there.

614
00:34:46,449 --> 00:34:49,350

615
00:34:49,350 --> 00:34:56,770
So you were a group
of young people,

616
00:34:56,770 --> 00:34:58,830
for the most part, who did this?

617
00:34:58,830 --> 00:35:00,930
Yes.

618
00:35:00,930 --> 00:35:05,550
There were no old people except
for my husband's uncle, maybe

619
00:35:05,550 --> 00:35:06,250
a couple.

620
00:35:06,250 --> 00:35:10,080
But even then, he
was a young man.

621
00:35:10,080 --> 00:35:12,540
At the time, I was so young
that I thought everybody

622
00:35:12,540 --> 00:35:16,840
over 40 years old.

623
00:35:16,840 --> 00:35:20,140
And how long did you
spend with this group?

624
00:35:20,140 --> 00:35:27,200
I was there quite a long time,
maybe three or four months,

625
00:35:27,200 --> 00:35:35,000
maybe not, at least three months
I think, because my husband--

626
00:35:35,000 --> 00:35:37,580
at that time, a
friend, my friend

627
00:35:37,580 --> 00:35:40,820
said, you know, there's a
movement of Hanoar Hatzioni.

628
00:35:40,820 --> 00:35:43,640
And we have contact
with the outside.

629
00:35:43,640 --> 00:35:45,830
And somebody will come in.

630
00:35:45,830 --> 00:35:46,850
They need ammunition.

631

00:35:46,850 --> 00:35:47,900
They need money.

632
00:35:47,900 --> 00:35:49,700
And they need clothes
for the people

633
00:35:49,700 --> 00:35:54,410
that are hidden in the
bunkers by Christian people.

634
00:35:54,410 --> 00:35:59,480
And there is students,
Polish students.

635
00:35:59,480 --> 00:36:02,750
They will take us out
from here and show us

636
00:36:02,750 --> 00:36:07,550
the way to go to Czechoslovakia,
Hungary, Romania,

637
00:36:07,550 --> 00:36:09,290
Turkey, and Israel.

638
00:36:09,290 --> 00:36:12,060
To me it was like a dream.

639
00:36:12,060 --> 00:36:14,240
And he said, we have
to finance that.

640
00:36:14,240 --> 00:36:17,790
I said, whatever money I
have, I'm willing to give you.

641
00:36:17,790 --> 00:36:19,340
He said, where do
you have money?

642
00:36:19,340 --> 00:36:24,320
I said, in my buttons, in

my padding It's padded.

643

00:36:24,320 --> 00:36:26,690

I said, I have foreign currency.

644

00:36:26,690 --> 00:36:29,060

Whatever I have

it's yours if you

645

00:36:29,060 --> 00:36:34,920

can help the people and to

help me get out from here.

646

00:36:34,920 --> 00:36:40,140

And somebody came.

647

00:36:40,140 --> 00:36:42,280

Like they call it now a shaliah.

648

00:36:42,280 --> 00:36:45,790

This is a person that

comes in and it's

649

00:36:45,790 --> 00:36:50,950

a contact between the outside,

the underground, and us.

650

00:36:50,950 --> 00:36:51,790

A courier.

651

00:36:51,790 --> 00:36:52,450

A courier.

652

00:36:52,450 --> 00:36:58,390

And he came in and he said to

my husband at that time, look,

653

00:36:58,390 --> 00:36:59,620

Jeanette--

654

00:36:59,620 --> 00:37:02,800

it's means Jadzia, because

my Polish name is Jadzia--

655

00:37:02,800 --> 00:37:07,600
and her friends and you,
you work with clothes.

656

00:37:07,600 --> 00:37:11,260
Put away, aside, the
best clothes you can,

657

00:37:11,260 --> 00:37:16,240
the best firs you can, and
towels and all that you can,

658

00:37:16,240 --> 00:37:18,910
and take it to the border.

659

00:37:18,910 --> 00:37:23,350
There is a man close on the
other side, a Polish man,

660

00:37:23,350 --> 00:37:26,950
that if you bring it
to him, he will somehow

661

00:37:26,950 --> 00:37:32,120
transfer to us the clothes,
because we needed clothes

662

00:37:32,120 --> 00:37:36,290
for our people, and we can also
sell it to the Polish people

663

00:37:36,290 --> 00:37:38,720
and get money for food.

664

00:37:38,720 --> 00:37:42,030
Whatever money you will
find hidden in those houses,

665

00:37:42,030 --> 00:37:42,990
bring it to us.

666

00:37:42,990 --> 00:37:44,850

We need food, ammunition.

667

00:37:44,850 --> 00:37:48,530

We need people to go in and
find a way to Czechoslovakia.

668

00:37:48,530 --> 00:37:50,300

And all this will be told you.

669

00:37:50,300 --> 00:37:53,090

So we need everything you
can lay your hands on it.

670

00:37:53,090 --> 00:37:55,220

And we started to do so.

671

00:37:55,220 --> 00:38:01,070

Wherever I saw something good, I
put it away in a separate crate

672

00:38:01,070 --> 00:38:02,460

to be shipped.

673

00:38:02,460 --> 00:38:05,030

I mean not shipped,
but taken out.

674

00:38:05,030 --> 00:38:06,530

Was this dangerous then?

675

00:38:06,530 --> 00:38:07,970

Very dangerous.

676

00:38:07,970 --> 00:38:10,790

If they would catch me, I
would be shot right away.

677

00:38:10,790 --> 00:38:13,370

678

00:38:13,370 --> 00:38:16,460
And how did that feel?

679
00:38:16,460 --> 00:38:19,580
I was too young to realize
that this is such a danger.

680
00:38:19,580 --> 00:38:22,880
I was feeling good, because
I knew I could help.

681
00:38:22,880 --> 00:38:27,170
And I knew that I'm going to
get out, that maybe someday I

682
00:38:27,170 --> 00:38:28,910
will get out from here too.

683
00:38:28,910 --> 00:38:31,320
So I didn't even
think of the danger.

684
00:38:31,320 --> 00:38:35,780
All I was doing
is helping people.

685
00:38:35,780 --> 00:38:37,550
And I was always helping.

686
00:38:37,550 --> 00:38:39,600
Even at home when I
was a little girl,

687
00:38:39,600 --> 00:38:41,660
I remember on Fridays
in the morning,

688
00:38:41,660 --> 00:38:44,840
I used to gather food from my
grandparents, from my parents,

689
00:38:44,840 --> 00:38:48,920
and bring it to poor people,

that they would have it

690
00:38:48,920 --> 00:38:51,410
for the weekend, for Shabbos.

691
00:38:51,410 --> 00:38:54,690
And so to me, this
was nothing new.

692
00:38:54,690 --> 00:38:56,930
And later on,
during the war, when

693
00:38:56,930 --> 00:39:01,400
there was a shortage of
nurses, I took a crash course

694
00:39:01,400 --> 00:39:07,090
and helped and was
a nurse to help.

695
00:39:07,090 --> 00:39:09,090
I wasn't paid for anything.

696
00:39:09,090 --> 00:39:12,270
Matter of fact, I used
whatever means I had.

697
00:39:12,270 --> 00:39:14,820
So by this point, you would
had no further contact

698
00:39:14,820 --> 00:39:16,580
with your own family then?

699
00:39:16,580 --> 00:39:18,310
No, I was all by myself.

700
00:39:18,310 --> 00:39:20,160
I thought everybody's dead.

701
00:39:20,160 --> 00:39:23,010

And I didn't even know
what happened to my mother.

702
00:39:23,010 --> 00:39:25,500
And I was waiting for her
to come and take me out

703
00:39:25,500 --> 00:39:26,590
from there.

704
00:39:26,590 --> 00:39:30,750
But when I saw she's not coming,
I was sure that she was dead.

705
00:39:30,750 --> 00:39:35,100
I found out after the war
that she went from Zawiercie,

706
00:39:35,100 --> 00:39:39,195
from ghetto, when it was
Judenrein, they liquidated

707
00:39:39,195 --> 00:39:42,600
the ghetto, that she went with
the children and my grandmother

708
00:39:42,600 --> 00:39:43,650
to Auschwitz.

709
00:39:43,650 --> 00:39:47,340

710
00:39:47,340 --> 00:39:53,600
And how long did you spend
with this group gathering

711
00:39:53,600 --> 00:39:55,910
the materials and food?

712
00:39:55,910 --> 00:40:00,410
Until one day my
husband told me--

713

00:40:00,410 --> 00:40:03,030

I should call him my
husband at that time.

714

00:40:03,030 --> 00:40:04,550

But he's my husband now--

715

00:40:04,550 --> 00:40:09,650

said to me that somebody
is coming into the camp.

716

00:40:09,650 --> 00:40:12,530

This was Kamionka
camp they called it.

717

00:40:12,530 --> 00:40:16,070

It's coming from the
Hanoar Hatzioni movement.

718

00:40:16,070 --> 00:40:17,870

This is the underground.

719

00:40:17,870 --> 00:40:20,750

And they will tell
us when to escape.

720

00:40:20,750 --> 00:40:28,760

And they will give us word when
to escape and what we should do

721

00:40:28,760 --> 00:40:31,490

and where we should go.

722

00:40:31,490 --> 00:40:38,930

And one day, they came and they
said, it's getting to be late.

723

00:40:38,930 --> 00:40:45,390

If we won't leave right now,
it will be too late to escape.

724

00:40:45,390 --> 00:40:49,050

And we should be out
of here between now

725
00:40:49,050 --> 00:40:52,620
and two weeks from now,
because the Kamionka will

726
00:40:52,620 --> 00:40:53,580
be liquidated.

727
00:40:53,580 --> 00:40:56,160

728
00:40:56,160 --> 00:40:58,830
I didn't know Bedzin very good.

729
00:40:58,830 --> 00:41:00,390
I only knew the ghetto.

730
00:41:00,390 --> 00:41:04,710
And when they gave me
a name of the street

731
00:41:04,710 --> 00:41:08,410
and a house where I
should be and they told me

732
00:41:08,410 --> 00:41:11,100
under the town's clock--

733
00:41:11,100 --> 00:41:18,090
it was a little tall
building with a clock on top,

734
00:41:18,090 --> 00:41:20,070
I didn't even know where it was.

735
00:41:20,070 --> 00:41:23,700
But like a hand
will guide me there.

736
00:41:23,700 --> 00:41:26,880

First time in my life I was
there and never saw the city

737
00:41:26,880 --> 00:41:27,630
before.

738
00:41:27,630 --> 00:41:29,850
I only knew the ghetto.

739
00:41:29,850 --> 00:41:32,490
And somehow I run there.

740
00:41:32,490 --> 00:41:36,010

741
00:41:36,010 --> 00:41:39,730
But I came late, because I
stopped a few times to think,

742
00:41:39,730 --> 00:41:41,900
where did I see a clock?

743
00:41:41,900 --> 00:41:44,350
Somehow I thought I
was dreaming about it,

744
00:41:44,350 --> 00:41:45,910
and I saw it in my dreams.

745
00:41:45,910 --> 00:41:52,810
This was so imaginary because
I couldn't have seen before.

746
00:41:52,810 --> 00:41:57,880
But maybe because they described
it, I thought I saw it before.

747
00:41:57,880 --> 00:42:01,000
When I got there,
everybody else was there.

748
00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:02,500

And they were very
happy to see me

749
00:42:02,500 --> 00:42:04,390
that I got to-- they
thought I was caught.

750
00:42:04,390 --> 00:42:08,130

751
00:42:08,130 --> 00:42:12,475
So they were people from this
movement, Hanoar Hatzioni.

752
00:42:12,475 --> 00:42:15,240

753
00:42:15,240 --> 00:42:18,220
And they said that
when the time comes,

754
00:42:18,220 --> 00:42:20,940
they have groups that they're
taking to Czechoslovakia

755
00:42:20,940 --> 00:42:22,600
and Hungary and so forth.

756
00:42:22,600 --> 00:42:25,920
And when the time comes for
us, they will come and get us.

757
00:42:25,920 --> 00:42:30,990
They can't take out
everybody in the same time.

758
00:42:30,990 --> 00:42:34,770
And we were waiting there in
the cellar by those people.

759
00:42:34,770 --> 00:42:41,580
The people's name was
Riedel, Polish people.

760
00:42:41,580 --> 00:42:44,470
And was your husband
with you at this time?

761
00:42:44,470 --> 00:42:46,560
Yes, he was with me.

762
00:42:46,560 --> 00:42:49,050
Through him, I went there.

763
00:42:49,050 --> 00:42:49,800
Yes.

764
00:42:49,800 --> 00:42:55,680
And then when they came
for us, we went to a place

765
00:42:55,680 --> 00:42:58,770
where they had the bunkers
where the people were there.

766
00:42:58,770 --> 00:43:00,330
And they were happy to see us.

767
00:43:00,330 --> 00:43:03,180
And they told us they received
all the clothes and food

768
00:43:03,180 --> 00:43:08,400
and money that we managed
to send from the Kamionka.

769
00:43:08,400 --> 00:43:10,480
So you saw the recipients
of your efforts.

770
00:43:10,480 --> 00:43:14,310
Yes, we saw, that's
right and also

771
00:43:14,310 --> 00:43:17,970

the people that
were hiding them.

772
00:43:17,970 --> 00:43:21,600
And they were in
danger all the time.

773
00:43:21,600 --> 00:43:24,350
They were very scared.

774
00:43:24,350 --> 00:43:27,200
And they risked their lives.

775
00:43:27,200 --> 00:43:31,030
And they made a bunker
under their house.

776
00:43:31,030 --> 00:43:35,480
They opened a place between
one room and the other.

777
00:43:35,480 --> 00:43:37,610
There was like a step.

778
00:43:37,610 --> 00:43:41,930
And when you opened that
piece of wood from the step,

779
00:43:41,930 --> 00:43:48,370
there was a place where
you let yourself down.

780
00:43:48,370 --> 00:43:51,850
And underneath was like
corridors with rooms,

781
00:43:51,850 --> 00:43:52,600
with everything.

782
00:43:52,600 --> 00:43:55,780
It's unbelievable
what people could do.

783

00:43:55,780 --> 00:44:00,370

And I started for the first
time to think about those people

784

00:44:00,370 --> 00:44:01,790

how they risked their lives.

785

00:44:01,790 --> 00:44:03,790

And I said, my
friends in my hometown

786

00:44:03,790 --> 00:44:08,830

that I was so close with
them never lifted a finger

787

00:44:08,830 --> 00:44:10,720

and didn't want
to be my friends.

788

00:44:10,720 --> 00:44:13,510

And I said, here
strangers, and they

789

00:44:13,510 --> 00:44:15,940

didn't do it for the money.

790

00:44:15,940 --> 00:44:20,140

I don't know how they
got paid or something.

791

00:44:20,140 --> 00:44:24,490

But had money wasn't
a factor to them.

792

00:44:24,490 --> 00:44:28,990

It was they wanted
to save people.

793

00:44:28,990 --> 00:44:32,770

And to see that there were
these corridors opening up

794

00:44:32,770 --> 00:44:37,780
for you must have made
you feel very good,

795
00:44:37,780 --> 00:44:40,100
as though there was
a way out for you.

796
00:44:40,100 --> 00:44:40,600
Is that--

797
00:44:40,600 --> 00:44:43,390
Yes, and I started to
think about my family.

798
00:44:43,390 --> 00:44:46,120
If I would only have
my sisters with me

799
00:44:46,120 --> 00:44:49,570
or my mother or my father
or anybody from my family,

800
00:44:49,570 --> 00:44:53,120
not to be alone,
I said to myself,

801
00:44:53,120 --> 00:44:54,820
why do I want to survive?

802
00:44:54,820 --> 00:44:56,980
I'm all alone in this world.

803
00:44:56,980 --> 00:45:00,940
But then I started to
think, maybe, maybe there's

804
00:45:00,940 --> 00:45:03,380
a chance that
somebody will survive,

805
00:45:03,380 --> 00:45:06,250
especially my father said

he would be proud of me.

806

00:45:06,250 --> 00:45:08,740

You always thought that
we are such a children,

807

00:45:08,740 --> 00:45:11,320

don't know anything about life.

808

00:45:11,320 --> 00:45:13,600

We were all sheltered
from everything, always

809

00:45:13,600 --> 00:45:15,400

in private schools.

810

00:45:15,400 --> 00:45:18,470

I said, he would be very
proud if I would survive.

811

00:45:18,470 --> 00:45:21,490

And I could tell him
everything that happened to me.

812

00:45:21,490 --> 00:45:24,680

And maybe this kept me going.

813

00:45:24,680 --> 00:45:28,870

I was going to ask you, did
you ever think before that time

814

00:45:28,870 --> 00:45:33,340

that you could by
your own resources

815

00:45:33,340 --> 00:45:36,880

and by these
opportunities survive?

816

00:45:36,880 --> 00:45:41,630

No, I never thought that until
that moment when I was there.

817

00:45:41,630 --> 00:45:44,140

And then I realized--

818

00:45:44,140 --> 00:45:48,310

I realized how those

people, you know,

819

00:45:48,310 --> 00:45:50,560

risking their lives for my life.

820

00:45:50,560 --> 00:45:52,360

And I said, they

don't even know me.

821

00:45:52,360 --> 00:45:56,080

And I said, I will do everything

possible to stay alive.

822

00:45:56,080 --> 00:45:59,800

If they did it for me, then I

am worth it something to myself.

823

00:45:59,800 --> 00:46:05,170

I said, I am worth to live

and tell the story afterwards.

824

00:46:05,170 --> 00:46:08,470

Maybe there won't be too many

people that will survive,

825

00:46:08,470 --> 00:46:10,960

but somebody should tell them.

826

00:46:10,960 --> 00:46:14,620

So even though it was a

very lonely time for you,

827

00:46:14,620 --> 00:46:17,470

you could see that there was

some purpose in this for you

828

00:46:17,470 --> 00:46:18,230

as well?

829

00:46:18,230 --> 00:46:21,080

Yes, that's when

I started to think

830

00:46:21,080 --> 00:46:26,210

for the first time about

life and about human beings.

831

00:46:26,210 --> 00:46:29,810

And then you were able

to escape from there

832

00:46:29,810 --> 00:46:31,550

into another country?

833

00:46:31,550 --> 00:46:37,760

Yes, from there we went out

into groups to Czechoslovakia.

834

00:46:37,760 --> 00:46:41,600

And we went through

the mountains.

835

00:46:41,600 --> 00:46:45,470

And we had a very hard time,

because climbing mountains

836

00:46:45,470 --> 00:46:46,910

in such conditions

where you have

837

00:46:46,910 --> 00:46:51,930

to watch over your shoulder

all the time not to be caught.

838

00:46:51,930 --> 00:46:58,610

We went first with

the train, like they

839

00:46:58,610 --> 00:47:02,090

have in San Francisco,

those trolley trains.

840
00:47:02,090 --> 00:47:04,070
Cable cars.

841
00:47:04,070 --> 00:47:06,690
Cable cars.

842
00:47:06,690 --> 00:47:09,710
And some-- but I
don't remember if this

843
00:47:09,710 --> 00:47:13,100
was afterwards or before when
I escaped from the ghetto.

844
00:47:13,100 --> 00:47:16,670
They were saying, Jews
escaped from the ghetto,

845
00:47:16,670 --> 00:47:18,630
Jews escaped from the ghetto.

846
00:47:18,630 --> 00:47:27,310
And we jumped off the
train, the cable car.

847
00:47:27,310 --> 00:47:31,150
And we started to walk.

848
00:47:31,150 --> 00:47:33,520
And even then, I came very late.

849
00:47:33,520 --> 00:47:35,020
I was always the last one.

850
00:47:35,020 --> 00:47:38,410
And I said, the next
time I have to stay close

851
00:47:38,410 --> 00:47:40,165
with people not to get lost.

852
00:47:40,165 --> 00:47:43,260

853
00:47:43,260 --> 00:47:48,230
And when we went
to Czechoslovakia,

854
00:47:48,230 --> 00:47:51,080
to the mountains, I
made sure the time

855
00:47:51,080 --> 00:47:53,240
hanging on to students.

856
00:47:53,240 --> 00:47:55,340
They were Polish
students taking us.

857
00:47:55,340 --> 00:48:01,230
And they told us, we
don't want money for that.

858
00:48:01,230 --> 00:48:04,920
We're doing that so you can
tell some day that there

859
00:48:04,920 --> 00:48:09,060
were a few of the Polish
people still good people,

860
00:48:09,060 --> 00:48:12,480
that we were not all bad.

861
00:48:12,480 --> 00:48:17,130
And they said that to
us when we came already

862
00:48:17,130 --> 00:48:21,480
to the site on the
Czechoslovakian side,

863

00:48:21,480 --> 00:48:26,370
they said to us, all the papers,
the false papers that you have,

864
00:48:26,370 --> 00:48:27,730
you give it to us.

865
00:48:27,730 --> 00:48:32,190
We bring it back to other people
that we can save other people

866
00:48:32,190 --> 00:48:34,910
with the same papers.

867
00:48:34,910 --> 00:48:40,720
And they started to
play the accordion--

868
00:48:40,720 --> 00:48:41,970
mouth accordion.

869
00:48:41,970 --> 00:48:42,555
Harmonica.

870
00:48:42,555 --> 00:48:43,160
The harmonica.

871
00:48:43,160 --> 00:48:44,150
Mouth organ.

872
00:48:44,150 --> 00:48:44,960
Yes.

873
00:48:44,960 --> 00:48:47,690
And they said they
will make now a fire

874
00:48:47,690 --> 00:48:49,760
and will cook some potatoes.

875
00:48:49,760 --> 00:48:54,590
And they said because we are

already free on the other side,

876
00:48:54,590 --> 00:48:56,330
now they said, we
have to go back,

877
00:48:56,330 --> 00:49:00,920
but we'll make sure that
you have the right contact.

878
00:49:00,920 --> 00:49:06,385
And all of a sudden, they saw
a soldier about 100 feet away

879
00:49:06,385 --> 00:49:08,570
or 150 feet away.

880
00:49:08,570 --> 00:49:11,630
And they said to
my husband, Mejer,

881
00:49:11,630 --> 00:49:13,220
you look like a strong man.

882
00:49:13,220 --> 00:49:15,965
You go over and see who he is.

883
00:49:15,965 --> 00:49:21,470
Is he a friendly
soldier or is he not?

884
00:49:21,470 --> 00:49:23,900
And they give him a knife.

885
00:49:23,900 --> 00:49:26,240
And they said, take
the knife with you

886
00:49:26,240 --> 00:49:28,790
and find out
everything about him.

887

00:49:28,790 --> 00:49:31,730

Now, my husband has
never killed a fly.

888

00:49:31,730 --> 00:49:35,840

And I could see he was shaking.

889

00:49:35,840 --> 00:49:39,470

So I said, I will go with
you, and I will help you.

890

00:49:39,470 --> 00:49:43,010

I knew somehow I would give
him courage to be stronger.

891

00:49:43,010 --> 00:49:44,640

And we walked over to him.

892

00:49:44,640 --> 00:49:46,280

And he said,
[? Ano ?] [? hey. ?]

893

00:49:46,280 --> 00:49:48,740

That's Czechoslovakian.

894

00:49:48,740 --> 00:49:51,020

It means hello, how you been?

895

00:49:51,020 --> 00:49:52,790

And then we knew he's friendly.

896

00:49:52,790 --> 00:49:55,440

So we came back, and
we said he said, hello.

897

00:49:55,440 --> 00:49:56,925

They said, what you mean hello?

898

00:49:56,925 --> 00:49:57,675

What does he have.

899

00:49:57,675 --> 00:49:58,760

What kind of information?

900
00:49:58,760 --> 00:50:00,020
Does he have a knife?

901
00:50:00,020 --> 00:50:06,230
We didn't know anything how
to interrogate a person, ask.

902
00:50:06,230 --> 00:50:09,020
And we had to go back.

903
00:50:09,020 --> 00:50:11,750
And we started to
talk to him in Polish.

904
00:50:11,750 --> 00:50:13,700
And he knew a few
words of Polish.

905
00:50:13,700 --> 00:50:16,070
And he said he's waiting for us.

906
00:50:16,070 --> 00:50:20,600
He wants to take us
to Czechoslovakia.

907
00:50:20,600 --> 00:50:25,340
He has a place there
by some farmers.

908
00:50:25,340 --> 00:50:31,310
And there we can eat and
drink and sleep in the stalls.

909
00:50:31,310 --> 00:50:34,070
They had cows and horses.

910
00:50:34,070 --> 00:50:38,300
And they said we can be in
the barn and in the stall.

911

00:50:38,300 --> 00:50:40,940
And then we came back and
told them all about it.

912
00:50:40,940 --> 00:50:43,130
And they really
started to dance.

913
00:50:43,130 --> 00:50:46,940
And some of my friends
started to dance the horah.

914
00:50:46,940 --> 00:50:51,320
And we were very happy
that we have a contact.

915
00:50:51,320 --> 00:50:53,900
That doesn't mean
the danger was over.

916
00:50:53,900 --> 00:51:00,920
We had to go to that place and
not be seen by the Germans.

917
00:51:00,920 --> 00:51:04,670
But we got there safely
because we walked all night.

918
00:51:04,670 --> 00:51:06,950
And late in the
night we came there.

919
00:51:06,950 --> 00:51:11,060
And the people were waiting for
us, this couple, the farmers.

920
00:51:11,060 --> 00:51:14,450
And they gave us
food, and they said

921
00:51:14,450 --> 00:51:18,260
we can sleep here, because we
have to leave in the morning,

922

00:51:18,260 --> 00:51:21,170

because they live so
close by the border

923

00:51:21,170 --> 00:51:26,870

that if we stay any longer,
we jeopardize our lives.

924

00:51:26,870 --> 00:51:29,870

How many people were
there in this group?

925

00:51:29,870 --> 00:51:33,440

I would say at
least 20, 21 maybe.

926

00:51:33,440 --> 00:51:37,860

Were they organized in any
way as a political group--

927

00:51:37,860 --> 00:51:38,360

Yes--

928

00:51:38,360 --> 00:51:39,350

As an entity?

929

00:51:39,350 --> 00:51:41,330

Yes, they were organized.

930

00:51:41,330 --> 00:51:45,410

This was the organization
that I mentioned before,

931

00:51:45,410 --> 00:51:46,440

Hanoar Hatzioni.

932

00:51:46,440 --> 00:51:48,860

This is a Zionist organization.

933

00:51:48,860 --> 00:51:53,150

This was a Zionist movement.

934

00:51:53,150 --> 00:51:58,610

And they tried to take
out most of their people

935

00:51:58,610 --> 00:52:01,850

that belonged to their own
organization before the war.

936

00:52:01,850 --> 00:52:02,540

Yes.

937

00:52:02,540 --> 00:52:03,200

Yes.

938

00:52:03,200 --> 00:52:07,380

But also they needed
people to finance that.

939

00:52:07,380 --> 00:52:10,520

And they needed
money, like I said,

940

00:52:10,520 --> 00:52:16,440

and food and clothes,
because they had to survive.

941

00:52:16,440 --> 00:52:20,420

It took a couple of people
that helped to finance that.

942

00:52:20,420 --> 00:52:23,080

943

00:52:23,080 --> 00:52:26,430

And did this
organization continue all

944

00:52:26,430 --> 00:52:29,155

through that period,
the period of the war?

945

00:52:29,155 --> 00:52:29,655

Yes.

946
00:52:29,655 --> 00:52:30,360
And beyond?

947
00:52:30,360 --> 00:52:30,860
Yes.

948
00:52:30,860 --> 00:52:33,030
Some of the men were hanged.

949
00:52:33,030 --> 00:52:37,450
And I know that the
students were hanged.

950
00:52:37,450 --> 00:52:40,780
And a friend of mine that
helped me in Hungary,

951
00:52:40,780 --> 00:52:42,960
she was from that movement.

952
00:52:42,960 --> 00:52:48,060
She helped me to go to
Israel from Hungary.

953
00:52:48,060 --> 00:52:50,400
She wrote a book recently.

954
00:52:50,400 --> 00:52:53,130
And she promised to
send me that book.

955
00:52:53,130 --> 00:52:57,630
And she mentions her episodes
and what she went through.

956
00:52:57,630 --> 00:53:02,240
And it's a very connected
with mine, what she wrote.

957
00:53:02,240 --> 00:53:03,740

Yeah.

958

00:53:03,740 --> 00:53:06,920

So from where you were in
hiding in Czechoslovakia, then

959

00:53:06,920 --> 00:53:08,840

you went on to Hungary?

960

00:53:08,840 --> 00:53:10,730

Yes.

961

00:53:10,730 --> 00:53:12,320

It wasn't so easy.

962

00:53:12,320 --> 00:53:13,490

It wasn't so fast.

963

00:53:13,490 --> 00:53:16,010

And it took time
and a lot of danger.

964

00:53:16,010 --> 00:53:19,790

But we went through the border,
again, from Czechoslovakia

965

00:53:19,790 --> 00:53:21,380

through Hungary.

966

00:53:21,380 --> 00:53:26,660

And in Hungary we had
to make papers again,

967

00:53:26,660 --> 00:53:30,620

false papers, that we
are not Jewish people,

968

00:53:30,620 --> 00:53:36,770

that we are Polish citizens
and Polish Christians.

969

00:53:36,770 --> 00:53:40,250

And every week we had
to come to the police

970
00:53:40,250 --> 00:53:43,670
to sign an affidavit
that we are alive

971
00:53:43,670 --> 00:53:46,980
and that we are Polish
people and that we live--

972
00:53:46,980 --> 00:53:50,810
so they would know and
reach where to get us.

973
00:53:50,810 --> 00:53:54,980
So when the Germans
walked in 1944,

974
00:53:54,980 --> 00:53:57,980
they took all the
people from our town

975
00:53:57,980 --> 00:54:04,050
where I lived in [? Byer ?]
where we rented a house.

976
00:54:04,050 --> 00:54:07,790
And at that time, I
was already married

977
00:54:07,790 --> 00:54:09,710
because we got
married in Hungary

978
00:54:09,710 --> 00:54:12,410
when we arrived to Hungary.

979
00:54:12,410 --> 00:54:16,400
My husband said, now
Hungary is a free country.

980
00:54:16,400 --> 00:54:17,600

It's a neutral country.

981

00:54:17,600 --> 00:54:21,080

And it's not involved in war.

982

00:54:21,080 --> 00:54:23,000

So now, we have friends here.

983

00:54:23,000 --> 00:54:26,210

And we can go
wherever you want to.

984

00:54:26,210 --> 00:54:30,830

But at that time, I felt
very close to my husband

985

00:54:30,830 --> 00:54:33,800

and wanted to marry him.

986

00:54:33,800 --> 00:54:36,050

So that's when we got married.

987

00:54:36,050 --> 00:54:39,260

I think we're going to stop at
this point for a few minutes

988

00:54:39,260 --> 00:54:40,790

while we change the tape.

989

00:54:40,790 --> 00:54:41,390

OK.

990

00:54:41,390 --> 00:54:41,890

OK.

991

00:54:41,890 --> 00:54:45,090

Do you want to take
a little break?

992

00:54:45,090 --> 00:54:48,319