

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:23,930

2

00:00:23,930 --> 00:00:25,500

Good afternoon.

3

00:00:25,500 --> 00:00:29,630

I'm Bernard Weinstein, director
of the Kean College Holocaust

4

00:00:29,630 --> 00:00:32,850

Oral Testimonies Program.

5

00:00:32,850 --> 00:00:36,120

My name is Ann Monka.

6

00:00:36,120 --> 00:00:41,760

I was born in Eastern
Europe in a city named Lida.

7

00:00:41,760 --> 00:00:43,050

In what country?

8

00:00:43,050 --> 00:00:43,600

In Poland.

9

00:00:43,600 --> 00:00:46,530

10

00:00:46,530 --> 00:00:51,150

I was quite young
when the war started,

11

00:00:51,150 --> 00:00:55,380

so I'll go in a little
bit of the background

12

00:00:55,380 --> 00:00:59,640

from the way I remember
my hometown before it

13

00:00:59,640 --> 00:01:01,866
was destroyed.

14

00:01:01,866 --> 00:01:10,350
Lida had 30,000 population
of which 10,000 were Jews.

15

00:01:10,350 --> 00:01:15,090
The block that I was
born and raised on

16

00:01:15,090 --> 00:01:18,270
had very primitive homes.

17

00:01:18,270 --> 00:01:22,680
I, for instance, remember living
in a three-family house that

18

00:01:22,680 --> 00:01:26,100
belonged at one time
to my grandmother.

19

00:01:26,100 --> 00:01:28,650
She, in turn, had
three children,

20

00:01:28,650 --> 00:01:35,470
and she gave each child what you
would call today an apartment.

21

00:01:35,470 --> 00:01:37,560
In those days, it was a home.

22

00:01:37,560 --> 00:01:40,720

23

00:01:40,720 --> 00:01:47,710
I remember growing up with
five cousins that lived

24

00:01:47,710 --> 00:01:50,800
with me under the same roof.

25
00:01:50,800 --> 00:01:56,110
I am the youngest in my personal
family of three children.

26
00:01:56,110 --> 00:01:58,330
I have an older
sister and brother,

27
00:01:58,330 --> 00:02:01,660
and I was the youngest.

28
00:02:01,660 --> 00:02:05,740
So I remember, as a child,
being very favoured,

29
00:02:05,740 --> 00:02:08,889
being the youngest child.

30
00:02:08,889 --> 00:02:13,570
My father used to call
me his [NON-ENGLISH]..

31
00:02:13,570 --> 00:02:15,775
That meant the youngest
child in the family.

32
00:02:15,775 --> 00:02:19,740

33
00:02:19,740 --> 00:02:25,400
I remember also on the
weekends, my little cousins

34
00:02:25,400 --> 00:02:31,340
that were younger than I
was want to play with me.

35
00:02:31,340 --> 00:02:34,370
And they would come in the
morning, knock on the door,

36

00:02:34,370 --> 00:02:37,410
and identify themselves.

37
00:02:37,410 --> 00:02:41,310
I had two aunts
by the same name.

38
00:02:41,310 --> 00:02:46,670
So the cousins would say,
this is [NON-ENGLISH],,

39
00:02:46,670 --> 00:02:49,528
meaning a cousin from one end.

40
00:02:49,528 --> 00:02:52,070
And the other one would knock
on the door, and she would say,

41
00:02:52,070 --> 00:02:54,500
this is [NON-ENGLISH].

42
00:02:54,500 --> 00:02:56,030
And I used to get
such a kick out

43
00:02:56,030 --> 00:03:01,040
of it because I was a little
bit older than them, and they

44
00:03:01,040 --> 00:03:05,880
refer to me as
their older cousin,

45
00:03:05,880 --> 00:03:08,390
always wanted to play with me.

46
00:03:08,390 --> 00:03:09,575
We had such good times.

47
00:03:09,575 --> 00:03:12,180

48

00:03:12,180 --> 00:03:16,010

I remember Saturdays going
with my father, for instance,

49

00:03:16,010 --> 00:03:17,660

to the temple.

50

00:03:17,660 --> 00:03:20,660

My mother would get
all the children ready,

51

00:03:20,660 --> 00:03:24,290

and we would go to temple.

52

00:03:24,290 --> 00:03:28,520

And I was so little that I
couldn't even reach the seat.

53

00:03:28,520 --> 00:03:30,890

And somehow, I always
used to look up

54

00:03:30,890 --> 00:03:36,335

to the rabbi sitting on the
Bimah with such respect,

55

00:03:36,335 --> 00:03:38,990

not to say a word, because
children always tend

56

00:03:38,990 --> 00:03:41,240

to be a little bit restless.

57

00:03:41,240 --> 00:03:45,170

And I enjoyed it.

58

00:03:45,170 --> 00:03:51,950

I did not know any other
way, actually, not to obey.

59

00:03:51,950 --> 00:03:55,550

For some reason, if I
compare my upbringing

60
00:03:55,550 --> 00:04:00,300
as a child to the way
children are raised,

61
00:04:00,300 --> 00:04:04,430
let's say, in this country,
it's quite a difference.

62
00:04:04,430 --> 00:04:09,790
The respect somehow we had
for our parents was not--

63
00:04:09,790 --> 00:04:12,490

64
00:04:12,490 --> 00:04:13,630
no other way.

65
00:04:13,630 --> 00:04:21,490
I mean, this is exactly what
I, in a way, miss today.

66
00:04:21,490 --> 00:04:23,740
Or not even-- I
wouldn't say miss,

67
00:04:23,740 --> 00:04:26,410
but I compare the difference.

68
00:04:26,410 --> 00:04:29,140

69
00:04:29,140 --> 00:04:34,810
Just getting off the
subject, we would always

70
00:04:34,810 --> 00:04:38,470
have to, let's say, give up a
seat even for an older person,

71
00:04:38,470 --> 00:04:41,320

let's say, if you
would go in a train

72
00:04:41,320 --> 00:04:45,460
or if you go to the temple,
no matter where you would go.

73
00:04:45,460 --> 00:04:49,120
And there were limited seats.

74
00:04:49,120 --> 00:04:51,640
Children would never
dare to sit down first

75
00:04:51,640 --> 00:04:57,250
before they would give their
seat up for an older person.

76
00:04:57,250 --> 00:05:00,520
This is something I found
difficult to understand when

77
00:05:00,520 --> 00:05:01,900
I first came to this country.

78
00:05:01,900 --> 00:05:05,110
I'm really jumping
off a long way.

79
00:05:05,110 --> 00:05:06,850
That's all right.

80
00:05:06,850 --> 00:05:13,910
But nevertheless, coming
back to my younger years,

81
00:05:13,910 --> 00:05:18,870
we were raised with very
primitive toys, for instance.

82
00:05:18,870 --> 00:05:24,170
I remember having so much
fun helping my grandmother

83
00:05:24,170 --> 00:05:28,700
baking cookies and challah
to prepare for the Shabbat.

84
00:05:28,700 --> 00:05:30,600
Everything was done at home.

85
00:05:30,600 --> 00:05:34,760
I mean, nothing was
bought ready-made.

86
00:05:34,760 --> 00:05:37,630

87
00:05:37,630 --> 00:05:40,060
I would help my
mother in the kitchen

88
00:05:40,060 --> 00:05:43,120
to prepare supper and play
with the pots and pans

89
00:05:43,120 --> 00:05:46,550
and have such a good time.

90
00:05:46,550 --> 00:05:49,300
And I did not even
know that there

91
00:05:49,300 --> 00:05:54,820
exists such toys like
computers, television, video,

92
00:05:54,820 --> 00:05:59,230
I mean, things that our children
have today and don't really

93
00:05:59,230 --> 00:06:01,690
appreciate, because there's
always something more then

94

00:06:01,690 --> 00:06:03,940
something new coming out.

95
00:06:03,940 --> 00:06:08,320
And you want all those things,
and you cannot always get it.

96
00:06:08,320 --> 00:06:10,960
And it becomes a big problem.

97
00:06:10,960 --> 00:06:13,390
We did not have these problems.

98
00:06:13,390 --> 00:06:17,170
We made ourselves
so happy with what

99
00:06:17,170 --> 00:06:21,970
was available, either because
we didn't know any better.

100
00:06:21,970 --> 00:06:27,400
Or perhaps this was just
enough to be happy and go on

101
00:06:27,400 --> 00:06:30,890
from stage to stage.

102
00:06:30,890 --> 00:06:33,420
How did your parents
earn a living?

103
00:06:33,420 --> 00:06:36,380
My father was a bookkeeper.

104
00:06:36,380 --> 00:06:43,370
He worked for 27 years
on one job for a brewery,

105
00:06:43,370 --> 00:06:48,510
and we were considered
middle class people.

106

00:06:48,510 --> 00:06:53,940

But this was-- for European
standards at the time

107

00:06:53,940 --> 00:06:58,920

when I remember it, it
was the upper class.

108

00:06:58,920 --> 00:07:02,040

I remember when my father
first bought a radio,

109

00:07:02,040 --> 00:07:05,040

and nobody on the
block had a radio.

110

00:07:05,040 --> 00:07:08,250

And his friends would
come to listen, especially

111

00:07:08,250 --> 00:07:11,400

when the war
started, to the news

112

00:07:11,400 --> 00:07:14,850

and to know what's
going on in the world.

113

00:07:14,850 --> 00:07:19,410

And I would feel so proud
that we have a radio.

114

00:07:19,410 --> 00:07:20,970

I would tell my
friends that they

115

00:07:20,970 --> 00:07:24,060

are welcome any time
to come to our home

116

00:07:24,060 --> 00:07:27,390

and to listen to music or--

117

00:07:27,390 --> 00:07:30,450

at that time, I guess I was
not interested in politics,

118

00:07:30,450 --> 00:07:33,690

neither could I understand it.

119

00:07:33,690 --> 00:07:37,260

But being young, you
see a lot of things

120

00:07:37,260 --> 00:07:40,740

that you do not understand.

121

00:07:40,740 --> 00:07:46,870

And when you ask
questions, is it

122

00:07:46,870 --> 00:07:49,360

because they feel that you're
young they don't give you

123

00:07:49,360 --> 00:07:50,660

the right answer?

124

00:07:50,660 --> 00:07:52,120

Or they don't want
to confuse you?

125

00:07:52,120 --> 00:07:55,270

Or they want to spare you?

126

00:07:55,270 --> 00:07:58,870

I remember many, many
times asking questions

127

00:07:58,870 --> 00:08:02,680

during my Holocaust
years, what took place.

128

00:08:02,680 --> 00:08:05,470

And why are we

being so persecuted?

129

00:08:05,470 --> 00:08:11,890

And the answers I did not
understand as a child.

130

00:08:11,890 --> 00:08:17,320

It's more now in this stage
of my life, when I go back,

131

00:08:17,320 --> 00:08:21,700

I know why I was
not answered and why

132

00:08:21,700 --> 00:08:27,700

I was spared by my parents
not telling me the truth.

133

00:08:27,700 --> 00:08:31,450

How do you feel about that now?

134

00:08:31,450 --> 00:08:38,780

I feel a little bit confused.

135

00:08:38,780 --> 00:08:47,140

I feel hurt, not that I blame
my parents for not telling me,

136

00:08:47,140 --> 00:08:49,810

but, in general, what
took place and why

137

00:08:49,810 --> 00:08:53,920

it's very difficult for me
to understand and accept

138

00:08:53,920 --> 00:08:57,750

why we were really persecuted.

139

00:08:57,750 --> 00:09:03,210

As a matter of fact, I remember
being away with my family

140

00:09:03,210 --> 00:09:09,890

at a summer resort when the
war broke out, being so happy,

141

00:09:09,890 --> 00:09:14,750

looking forward to
a wonderful summer

142

00:09:14,750 --> 00:09:20,450

with my brother and
sister and my friends.

143

00:09:20,450 --> 00:09:26,960

We were at a little lake that
was so peaceful and beautiful.

144

00:09:26,960 --> 00:09:31,760

And my father came home quite
unexpected during the week.

145

00:09:31,760 --> 00:09:37,820

And he told my mother that
Germany declared war on Poland,

146

00:09:37,820 --> 00:09:40,445

and he's drafted to
go into the Army.

147

00:09:40,445 --> 00:09:43,220

148

00:09:43,220 --> 00:09:46,160

I did not know what it meant.

149

00:09:46,160 --> 00:09:50,930

I only knew that we had
to pack up our things

150

00:09:50,930 --> 00:09:54,905

and go back to our home
by horse and wagon.

151

00:09:54,905 --> 00:09:58,190

152

00:09:58,190 --> 00:10:01,700

And my father went
into Polish uniform,

153

00:10:01,700 --> 00:10:04,490

and he kissed the
family goodbye.

154

00:10:04,490 --> 00:10:07,700

And he went into war.

155

00:10:07,700 --> 00:10:10,520

Now, again, I did
not know what war

156

00:10:10,520 --> 00:10:15,260

meant, not having
television, not ever being

157

00:10:15,260 --> 00:10:19,910

exposed to shooting,
and to guns,

158

00:10:19,910 --> 00:10:22,620

and to good guys and bad guys.

159

00:10:22,620 --> 00:10:28,950

And also being young, of course,
I did not know what it meant.

160

00:10:28,950 --> 00:10:32,550

But just watching my mother
and my aunts and uncles,

161

00:10:32,550 --> 00:10:36,510

I was very frightened because
I knew something is happening,

162

00:10:36,510 --> 00:10:40,800

that it's not going to be good.

163
00:10:40,800 --> 00:10:43,440
Do you remember
before the war started

164
00:10:43,440 --> 00:10:47,460
experiencing any
kind of anti-Semitism

165
00:10:47,460 --> 00:10:52,560
or any kind of antagonism
from the larger

166
00:10:52,560 --> 00:10:55,200
non-Jewish community?

167
00:10:55,200 --> 00:10:59,820
I personally did not
experience anything.

168
00:10:59,820 --> 00:11:02,400
For instance, on the
block where I lived,

169
00:11:02,400 --> 00:11:07,500
there were some Gentile
families living, not too many.

170
00:11:07,500 --> 00:11:11,490
And we had a very friendly
relationship with them,

171
00:11:11,490 --> 00:11:13,950
very neighborly.

172
00:11:13,950 --> 00:11:17,100
Everybody watched each
other's child grow up

173
00:11:17,100 --> 00:11:18,930
and the progress they're making.

174

00:11:18,930 --> 00:11:22,220

175

00:11:22,220 --> 00:11:28,400

And until the war broke out,
that our disappointment really

176

00:11:28,400 --> 00:11:34,910

was so great when we suddenly
needed help from our neighbors.

177

00:11:34,910 --> 00:11:37,650

And there was nobody there.

178

00:11:37,650 --> 00:11:39,350

So it came as a shock to you.

179

00:11:39,350 --> 00:11:41,210

Quite as a shock--

180

00:11:41,210 --> 00:11:42,260

quite as a shock.

181

00:11:42,260 --> 00:11:45,210

182

00:11:45,210 --> 00:11:45,710

Yeah.

183

00:11:45,710 --> 00:11:49,295

Poland was defeated in six days.

184

00:11:49,295 --> 00:11:52,850

185

00:11:52,850 --> 00:11:56,780

And the next thing we hear
that the Russians occupied

186

00:11:56,780 --> 00:12:01,580

the territory where we
lived, the city of Lida,

187
00:12:01,580 --> 00:12:05,310
Eastern part of Europe.

188
00:12:05,310 --> 00:12:08,850
And I remember the
changes were so great,

189
00:12:08,850 --> 00:12:18,040
and the adjustment to a
different type of life

190
00:12:18,040 --> 00:12:21,280
was, like, very tragic.

191
00:12:21,280 --> 00:12:25,600
For instance, Poland
was a democratic country

192
00:12:25,600 --> 00:12:27,490
with a free enterprise.

193
00:12:27,490 --> 00:12:31,120
We were able to go to the stores
to buy whatever we needed,

194
00:12:31,120 --> 00:12:33,310
whatever we were able
to afford, whatever

195
00:12:33,310 --> 00:12:36,460
was available in those years.

196
00:12:36,460 --> 00:12:41,710
When the Russians came, all
the stores were confiscated.

197
00:12:41,710 --> 00:12:46,450
You were not allowed to
have your own business.

198
00:12:46,450 --> 00:12:49,690

And everything was rationed.

199

00:12:49,690 --> 00:12:54,940

I mean, bread you would get on
stamps, sugar, all the dairy

200

00:12:54,940 --> 00:12:58,450

products, meat,
whatever, clothes even.

201

00:12:58,450 --> 00:13:03,280

I remember once
standing in line.

202

00:13:03,280 --> 00:13:07,660

I needed some shoes
that I outgrew.

203

00:13:07,660 --> 00:13:11,290

And I needed a
new pair of shoes.

204

00:13:11,290 --> 00:13:13,150

And we were standing
in line something

205

00:13:13,150 --> 00:13:15,880

like maybe a half a day.

206

00:13:15,880 --> 00:13:19,870

By the time our next
came, they told us

207

00:13:19,870 --> 00:13:22,710

that they are out of shoes.

208

00:13:22,710 --> 00:13:24,920

And then we heard,
we found out there

209

00:13:24,920 --> 00:13:26,310

were no shoes to begin with.

210

00:13:26,310 --> 00:13:28,190

They just kept people
waiting in line,

211

00:13:28,190 --> 00:13:30,140

saying that today
we're selling shoes.

212

00:13:30,140 --> 00:13:32,060

These are the sizes.

213

00:13:32,060 --> 00:13:34,340

And there was no such thing.

214

00:13:34,340 --> 00:13:36,835

So it was difficult,
especially for my parents.

215

00:13:36,835 --> 00:13:39,860

I remember it was very
difficult to adjust.

216

00:13:39,860 --> 00:13:42,620

And then what the Russians did--

217

00:13:42,620 --> 00:13:48,290

they would take your whole
family, what they would call

218

00:13:48,290 --> 00:13:51,320

the rich people, the bourgeois.

219

00:13:51,320 --> 00:13:55,700

And they would send them
to Russia, to Siberia,

220

00:13:55,700 --> 00:13:57,200

just because they were rich.

221

00:13:57,200 --> 00:14:01,970

I mean, the people had to know
that the Russians will come,

222
00:14:01,970 --> 00:14:05,150
and they will not allow
for somebody who had

223
00:14:05,150 --> 00:14:09,470
their own business to exist.

224
00:14:09,470 --> 00:14:12,890
And they would take a
Russian family from Russia

225
00:14:12,890 --> 00:14:16,250
and bring them into
the house of the people

226
00:14:16,250 --> 00:14:18,410
that they sent to Russia.

227
00:14:18,410 --> 00:14:19,580
And we watched it.

228
00:14:19,580 --> 00:14:22,100
I personally remember
scenes like this,

229
00:14:22,100 --> 00:14:24,450
where people would scream.

230
00:14:24,450 --> 00:14:27,927
And they did not want
to leave their home.

231
00:14:27,927 --> 00:14:29,510
They did not know
for what reason they

232
00:14:29,510 --> 00:14:30,802
are taken out from their house.

233
00:14:30,802 --> 00:14:33,260
What did they do wrong?

234

00:14:33,260 --> 00:14:35,840

There was just nothing doing.

235

00:14:35,840 --> 00:14:39,695

And people were very frightened,
and they complained terribly.

236

00:14:39,695 --> 00:14:42,450

237

00:14:42,450 --> 00:14:46,800

But little did we know
that these complaints were

238

00:14:46,800 --> 00:14:50,730

very minor to what
other Jews went through

239

00:14:50,730 --> 00:14:55,230

at the very same time in
the Western part of Poland.

240

00:14:55,230 --> 00:14:57,090

Did you know of
people who actually

241

00:14:57,090 --> 00:15:00,650

tried to get away into the
West from where you were?

242

00:15:00,650 --> 00:15:03,510

Yes, they-- but you couldn't.

243

00:15:03,510 --> 00:15:04,990

You absolutely couldn't.

244

00:15:04,990 --> 00:15:06,910

You were not your own person.

245

00:15:06,910 --> 00:15:10,530

You needed permission.

246

00:15:10,530 --> 00:15:12,240

You couldn't do
nothing on your own,

247

00:15:12,240 --> 00:15:15,770

whatever you would
like in Russia.

248

00:15:15,770 --> 00:15:20,520

It is quite different than in
a free country, when you live,

249

00:15:20,520 --> 00:15:24,090

that you can do as you please.

250

00:15:24,090 --> 00:15:30,570

What about your own pattern
of life under the Russians,

251

00:15:30,570 --> 00:15:31,383

your schooling?

252

00:15:31,383 --> 00:15:32,175

Was it interrupted?

253

00:15:32,175 --> 00:15:32,967

Or did it continue?

254

00:15:32,967 --> 00:15:37,810

Yes, it was interrupted
in a way and pushed back.

255

00:15:37,810 --> 00:15:44,970

Like for instance, at a time
when the Russians came to Lida,

256

00:15:44,970 --> 00:15:48,120

I was in fifth grade.

257

00:15:48,120 --> 00:15:51,720

Automatically, I was

put back in fourth grade

258

00:15:51,720 --> 00:15:57,810

because they did not
acknowledge the education we

259

00:15:57,810 --> 00:16:00,510

got equivalent to theirs.

260

00:16:00,510 --> 00:16:04,000

Besides, everything was
turned into Russian,

261

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:07,980

and we had to catch up.

262

00:16:07,980 --> 00:16:11,710

I, for instance, went
to a Tarbut school.

263

00:16:11,710 --> 00:16:17,580

My father was leaning
towards Zionism.

264

00:16:17,580 --> 00:16:22,800

And I guess, back in his mind,
he probably dreamed someday

265

00:16:22,800 --> 00:16:25,410

to go to Palestine.

266

00:16:25,410 --> 00:16:29,640

But the time wasn't right
when the kids were little,

267

00:16:29,640 --> 00:16:33,270

and he was hoping to
give us a background.

268

00:16:33,270 --> 00:16:36,060

It was later on
we figured out why

269

00:16:36,060 --> 00:16:37,890
he sent us to a Tarbut school.

270

00:16:37,890 --> 00:16:41,190
This was like a
private school today

271

00:16:41,190 --> 00:16:45,630
that you would call
not public school.

272

00:16:45,630 --> 00:16:54,210
And the Russians were very
much against that school.

273

00:16:54,210 --> 00:16:57,120
They didn't even
acknowledge it as such.

274

00:16:57,120 --> 00:17:01,560
This was a Zionist school,
where you prepare kids for--

275

00:17:01,560 --> 00:17:08,109
to be Zionists, not to go
to school to be educated.

276

00:17:08,109 --> 00:17:15,210
As a matter of fact, my father
was punished so severely

277

00:17:15,210 --> 00:17:21,910
that we found out after
the war that my father used

278

00:17:21,910 --> 00:17:29,340
to be taken off the street
on the way from work

279

00:17:29,340 --> 00:17:31,470
by communists.

280

00:17:31,470 --> 00:17:33,240
And they interrogated him.

281
00:17:33,240 --> 00:17:37,770
How come he sent his
children to a Tarbut school?

282
00:17:37,770 --> 00:17:43,410
And they would beat him up
and keep him a whole night

283
00:17:43,410 --> 00:17:53,400
to sign a confession that he
was working against Russia,

284
00:17:53,400 --> 00:17:54,730
let's say.

285
00:17:54,730 --> 00:17:55,230
I mean--

286
00:17:55,230 --> 00:17:56,890
Was this done periodically?

287
00:17:56,890 --> 00:17:58,350
Yes, and we did not know.

288
00:17:58,350 --> 00:18:00,990
My father, several
times, I remember

289
00:18:00,990 --> 00:18:03,120
not coming home from work.

290
00:18:03,120 --> 00:18:05,520
And we thought, perhaps
he's busy at work.

291
00:18:05,520 --> 00:18:07,920
There's-- it had never happened.

292
00:18:07,920 --> 00:18:10,140

And the next day, he would come.

293

00:18:10,140 --> 00:18:12,690

And he wouldn't be,
like, the same person.

294

00:18:12,690 --> 00:18:14,700

And my mother would
ask him, where are you?

295

00:18:14,700 --> 00:18:15,780

What happened?

296

00:18:15,780 --> 00:18:19,390

He did not say one word.

297

00:18:19,390 --> 00:18:24,970

He was told that if
he will tell anybody

298

00:18:24,970 --> 00:18:28,120

what is being done to
him, the whole family

299

00:18:28,120 --> 00:18:29,950

will be sent to Siberia.

300

00:18:29,950 --> 00:18:34,570

And he was afraid
to take that chance.

301

00:18:34,570 --> 00:18:35,755

This happened several times.

302

00:18:35,755 --> 00:18:41,280

303

00:18:41,280 --> 00:18:48,000

After the war, when
the Russians left Lida,

304

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:49,510

he told us about this incident.

305

00:18:49,510 --> 00:18:52,230

306

00:18:52,230 --> 00:18:54,840

My father, for
instance, originally

307

00:18:54,840 --> 00:19:00,630

came from a city of Lodz
in Poland, a big city.

308

00:19:00,630 --> 00:19:05,640

He was one of seven children.

309

00:19:05,640 --> 00:19:08,880

He was the only one
that settled in Lida.

310

00:19:08,880 --> 00:19:15,030

He served in the First World War
in Lida, and he met my mother.

311

00:19:15,030 --> 00:19:17,670

They got married, and
that's where they settled.

312

00:19:17,670 --> 00:19:23,200

His whole family, his parents,
five sisters and brothers, six,

313

00:19:23,200 --> 00:19:24,840

he was a seventh--

314

00:19:24,840 --> 00:19:29,700

he was the oldest, as a matter
of fact, may he rest in peace--

315

00:19:29,700 --> 00:19:30,405

lived in Lodz.

316

00:19:30,405 --> 00:19:35,140

317

00:19:35,140 --> 00:19:39,130

When we lived under
the Russians in Lida,

318

00:19:39,130 --> 00:19:44,890

one day, a man
came to our house.

319

00:19:44,890 --> 00:19:46,030

He knocked on the door.

320

00:19:46,030 --> 00:19:48,940

321

00:19:48,940 --> 00:19:53,200

My mother went to open the
door, and she got frightened

322

00:19:53,200 --> 00:19:57,310

when she saw this
person at the door.

323

00:19:57,310 --> 00:20:02,530

He looked completely
beaten up, dirty.

324

00:20:02,530 --> 00:20:06,070

He was missing some teeth.

325

00:20:06,070 --> 00:20:10,945

And he identified himself that
he comes from Lodz Ghetto.

326

00:20:10,945 --> 00:20:15,170

327

00:20:15,170 --> 00:20:17,030

We did not know what
he's talking about,

328

00:20:17,030 --> 00:20:18,290

what it means, "ghetto."

329

00:20:18,290 --> 00:20:24,860

He said, the

Germans are in Lodz,

330

00:20:24,860 --> 00:20:29,180

and all the Jews were

put in a closed ghetto.

331

00:20:29,180 --> 00:20:33,290

And I don't know how

I managed to escape.

332

00:20:33,290 --> 00:20:35,090

They are killing people alive.

333

00:20:35,090 --> 00:20:38,450

334

00:20:38,450 --> 00:20:43,550

They are depriving

them from humanity.

335

00:20:43,550 --> 00:20:46,340

My mother couldn't believe it.

336

00:20:46,340 --> 00:20:48,350

He pleaded with her.

337

00:20:48,350 --> 00:20:55,100

He said, please let me go in

and just be with the family

338

00:20:55,100 --> 00:20:55,910

one day.

339

00:20:55,910 --> 00:20:59,060

340

00:20:59,060 --> 00:21:01,850

After a while, she
felt sorry for him.

341

00:21:01,850 --> 00:21:04,340

She was sure that this man
ran away from a prison,

342

00:21:04,340 --> 00:21:08,310

or he's some kind of a bandit.

343

00:21:08,310 --> 00:21:09,560

She didn't know what to think.

344

00:21:09,560 --> 00:21:11,195

This was not somebody
you had known.

345

00:21:11,195 --> 00:21:11,695

No.

346

00:21:11,695 --> 00:21:12,528

This was a stranger.

347

00:21:12,528 --> 00:21:15,320

He just-- a total stranger.

348

00:21:15,320 --> 00:21:17,330

But again, later
on, we figured out

349

00:21:17,330 --> 00:21:19,160

why did he come to our house.

350

00:21:19,160 --> 00:21:21,920

Maybe he was knocking
at other people's home.

351

00:21:21,920 --> 00:21:24,350

And when he said
he was from Lodz,

352

00:21:24,350 --> 00:21:27,590
they maybe referred him
to us because they knew

353
00:21:27,590 --> 00:21:29,090
that my father comes from Lodz.

354
00:21:29,090 --> 00:21:31,820
And perhaps we will let him in.

355
00:21:31,820 --> 00:21:36,440
And sure enough, my
mother let him in.

356
00:21:36,440 --> 00:21:38,840
And I remember this man.

357
00:21:38,840 --> 00:21:40,370
After he washed up
a little bit, she

358
00:21:40,370 --> 00:21:42,770
gave him a change of clothes.

359
00:21:42,770 --> 00:21:45,860
He was having supper
with us at the table

360
00:21:45,860 --> 00:21:48,470
with the whole family.

361
00:21:48,470 --> 00:21:52,670
And for the longest
time, I could not

362
00:21:52,670 --> 00:21:58,730
forget the stories he told us
that seemed totally unreal.

363
00:21:58,730 --> 00:22:04,040
And especially for me as a
child, to understand this

364

00:22:04,040 --> 00:22:07,620
was absolutely impossible.

365

00:22:07,620 --> 00:22:11,070
And again, I remember
my parents saying,

366

00:22:11,070 --> 00:22:12,960
we shouldn't be frightened.

367

00:22:12,960 --> 00:22:14,460
Maybe the man is sick.

368

00:22:14,460 --> 00:22:20,340
And you know-- we were
acting afterwards like,

369

00:22:20,340 --> 00:22:23,490
oh my god, it could
happen to us too maybe,

370

00:22:23,490 --> 00:22:24,690
or something like that.

371

00:22:24,690 --> 00:22:28,170
In a way, he tried
to warn my parents

372

00:22:28,170 --> 00:22:31,390
that the war is not over.

373

00:22:31,390 --> 00:22:34,110
You never know
what could happen.

374

00:22:34,110 --> 00:22:39,720
But nobody paid attention, and
nobody believed him, literally.

375

00:22:39,720 --> 00:22:41,940
It was just like a nightmare.

376

00:22:41,940 --> 00:22:44,670

Was his own family
there in Lodz?

377

00:22:44,670 --> 00:22:49,360

His own family he left behind,
this man you're referring to.

378

00:22:49,360 --> 00:22:49,860

Yes.

379

00:22:49,860 --> 00:22:50,360

Yes.

380

00:22:50,360 --> 00:22:53,940

He was the only one that
just escaped he didn't

381

00:22:53,940 --> 00:22:56,460

know where he will wind up.

382

00:22:56,460 --> 00:22:59,990

He managed to run away,
and he came to Lida.

383

00:22:59,990 --> 00:23:04,220

384

00:23:04,220 --> 00:23:09,670

When-- I assume that things
changed when the Germans

385

00:23:09,670 --> 00:23:11,770

invaded Eastern Poland.

386

00:23:11,770 --> 00:23:13,660

Well, little did we know--

387

00:23:13,660 --> 00:23:14,560

little did we know.

388

00:23:14,560 --> 00:23:17,325
It did not take too much longer.

389
00:23:17,325 --> 00:23:19,075
We lived under the
Russians for two years.

390
00:23:19,075 --> 00:23:22,460

391
00:23:22,460 --> 00:23:25,490
My father was very
lucky to come back

392
00:23:25,490 --> 00:23:29,840
from being drafted
to the Polish Army.

393
00:23:29,840 --> 00:23:34,070
We lost contact
with him for months.

394
00:23:34,070 --> 00:23:37,550
My mother was sure that
he will never return.

395
00:23:37,550 --> 00:23:41,580

396
00:23:41,580 --> 00:23:44,750
There was no contact.

397
00:23:44,750 --> 00:23:48,650
One day, he came
back from nowhere.

398
00:23:48,650 --> 00:23:56,600
And he said that all the
Polish Army was taken to--

399
00:23:56,600 --> 00:24:00,710

400

00:24:00,710 --> 00:24:05,000

oh, I forgot the place where
they were all executed.

401

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:06,410

They were put on trucks.

402

00:24:06,410 --> 00:24:10,670

They were captured as
prisoners by the Russian Army,

403

00:24:10,670 --> 00:24:12,230

and my father managed to escape.

404

00:24:12,230 --> 00:24:15,160

405

00:24:15,160 --> 00:24:18,160

And somebody was good to him.

406

00:24:18,160 --> 00:24:20,590

He went into a
private home to people

407

00:24:20,590 --> 00:24:25,040

that he did not know
in the Polish uniform,

408

00:24:25,040 --> 00:24:33,960

and he said that he would like
to go back to his city of Lida.

409

00:24:33,960 --> 00:24:36,870

And he could use
some clothes, not

410

00:24:36,870 --> 00:24:39,420

to be identified as a soldier.

411

00:24:39,420 --> 00:24:42,570

And they did gave him
a change of clothes.

412
00:24:42,570 --> 00:24:45,570
And this way, he
managed to come home.

413
00:24:45,570 --> 00:24:50,730
When he appeared, it was like--

414
00:24:50,730 --> 00:24:53,520
in the Jewish religion, you
would say [NON-ENGLISH],,

415
00:24:53,520 --> 00:24:56,980
when you come back
from the dead.

416
00:24:56,980 --> 00:25:00,570
I remember so many people
coming to our home, asking,

417
00:25:00,570 --> 00:25:03,120
maybe you saw my husband,
maybe you saw my brother,

418
00:25:03,120 --> 00:25:07,860
maybe you saw people that
never returned from the Army.

419
00:25:07,860 --> 00:25:10,830

420
00:25:10,830 --> 00:25:15,690
These were all very frightening
experiences for a child.

421
00:25:15,690 --> 00:25:23,630

422
00:25:23,630 --> 00:25:27,650
I missed my father a
lot when he was away.

423

00:25:27,650 --> 00:25:33,740

I used to cry and ask my
mother if he'll return.

424

00:25:33,740 --> 00:25:37,530

And she did not know
what to answer me.

425

00:25:37,530 --> 00:25:44,030

But we were lucky he did come
back, and not too much longer.

426

00:25:44,030 --> 00:25:47,030

427

00:25:47,030 --> 00:25:50,600

While we lived under the
Russians, the war was going on.

428

00:25:50,600 --> 00:25:56,690

We heard many times planes go
through the city and drop bombs

429

00:25:56,690 --> 00:26:00,650

whether in the neighborhood
or in the distance.

430

00:26:00,650 --> 00:26:02,660

And we were prepared right away.

431

00:26:02,660 --> 00:26:05,480

When we hear these planes,
the siren would go off.

432

00:26:05,480 --> 00:26:08,720

And we had to run into
shelter because our homes were

433

00:26:08,720 --> 00:26:10,760

so primitive.

434

00:26:10,760 --> 00:26:13,460

And they knew, once

a bomb will fall,

435

00:26:13,460 --> 00:26:16,115

it could take the
whole city in flames.

436

00:26:16,115 --> 00:26:18,680

437

00:26:18,680 --> 00:26:22,580

And sure enough, one day,
we heard a siren go off.

438

00:26:22,580 --> 00:26:25,550

This was already 1941.

439

00:26:25,550 --> 00:26:29,570

And we were just about
ready to go into our bunker.

440

00:26:29,570 --> 00:26:31,400

We came out in the street.

441

00:26:31,400 --> 00:26:34,140

And we turned around,
and we smelled smoke.

442

00:26:34,140 --> 00:26:35,390

We saw fire.

443

00:26:35,390 --> 00:26:41,300

From a distance, it seemed
like the block is on fire.

444

00:26:41,300 --> 00:26:47,990

And sure enough, as we looked a
little closer, it took no time.

445

00:26:47,990 --> 00:26:49,355

And our home caught on fire.

446

00:26:49,355 --> 00:26:52,220

447
00:26:52,220 --> 00:26:55,820
And my parents just about
managed to get the kids out

448
00:26:55,820 --> 00:26:58,505
and my aunts and uncles
with all the little cousins.

449
00:26:58,505 --> 00:27:01,460

450
00:27:01,460 --> 00:27:06,140
And we realized that our
grandmother is missing.

451
00:27:06,140 --> 00:27:09,300
So my mother ran into
the house to get her out.

452
00:27:09,300 --> 00:27:12,240
And she said, no, I'm
not going no place.

453
00:27:12,240 --> 00:27:15,727
This is where I was born,
and here I'm staying.

454
00:27:15,727 --> 00:27:17,060
And they said, what do you mean?

455
00:27:17,060 --> 00:27:18,115
The house is on fire.

456
00:27:18,115 --> 00:27:18,990
You cannot stay here.

457
00:27:18,990 --> 00:27:21,770
She didn't even know
what's going on outside,

458

00:27:21,770 --> 00:27:23,390
but she refused to go.

459
00:27:23,390 --> 00:27:28,400
Nevertheless, they
managed to get her out.

460
00:27:28,400 --> 00:27:36,530
And as she got out of the
house, our home caught on fire.

461
00:27:36,530 --> 00:27:38,990
And we were all
standing in the street.

462
00:27:38,990 --> 00:27:41,510
Three families with
small children,

463
00:27:41,510 --> 00:27:44,540
with an old little grandmother
watched the house go down

464
00:27:44,540 --> 00:27:47,210
in flames in front of our eyes.

465
00:27:47,210 --> 00:27:54,810

466
00:27:54,810 --> 00:27:58,950
We did not know what to
do, where to turn to.

467
00:27:58,950 --> 00:28:04,140
One of my uncles, my
mother's brother--

468
00:28:04,140 --> 00:28:08,530
he dealt with apple orchards.

469
00:28:08,530 --> 00:28:12,085
And they were located in
the outskirts of the city.

470
00:28:12,085 --> 00:28:15,030

471
00:28:15,030 --> 00:28:20,860
And he remembered having
friends that he dealt with,

472
00:28:20,860 --> 00:28:22,330
and he got an idea.

473
00:28:22,330 --> 00:28:28,120
Maybe their house was not
burned because it was quite away

474
00:28:28,120 --> 00:28:29,490
from the center of the city.

475
00:28:29,490 --> 00:28:32,800

476
00:28:32,800 --> 00:28:36,740
And we decided to go there.

477
00:28:36,740 --> 00:28:41,210
And sure enough, by the time we
approached, this little farm--

478
00:28:41,210 --> 00:28:44,390
it was quite a distance--

479
00:28:44,390 --> 00:28:47,890
it was already late at night.

480
00:28:47,890 --> 00:28:52,810
And these friends of my uncle
were completely bewildered

481
00:28:52,810 --> 00:28:57,730
to see us all in
front of his house.

482

00:28:57,730 --> 00:29:00,880

He said, what happened?

483

00:29:00,880 --> 00:29:06,460

And they told him that
our house was burned.

484

00:29:06,460 --> 00:29:11,140

And he said, oh, yes, I heard
the bombings, and I heard--

485

00:29:11,140 --> 00:29:13,690

I almost smelled the smoke.

486

00:29:13,690 --> 00:29:18,280

But I didn't realize that such
a big area was burned down.

487

00:29:18,280 --> 00:29:20,980

488

00:29:20,980 --> 00:29:27,700

He did not have enough for
us, to put us up in his home.

489

00:29:27,700 --> 00:29:33,640

But he said, I have the
barn in the backyard,

490

00:29:33,640 --> 00:29:37,420

and you're welcome
to sleep over there.

491

00:29:37,420 --> 00:29:40,960

We'll see what happens tomorrow.

492

00:29:40,960 --> 00:29:46,420

And sure enough, we
spend the night there.

493

00:29:46,420 --> 00:29:49,450

And for us, the

children in particular,

494

00:29:49,450 --> 00:29:53,830

it was such a different
accommodation.

495

00:29:53,830 --> 00:29:56,320

It was almost a night of fun.

496

00:29:56,320 --> 00:29:59,410

We forgot already that
we have no home anymore.

497

00:29:59,410 --> 00:30:03,040

We forgot for the moment
the flames that we saw,

498

00:30:03,040 --> 00:30:05,710

the frightening
experience, and not

499

00:30:05,710 --> 00:30:10,420

understanding that we have
no place to go back to.

500

00:30:10,420 --> 00:30:16,900

We enjoyed it very much, and we
were even laughing and hoping

501

00:30:16,900 --> 00:30:20,005

that we could stay there
indefinitely, us, the children.

502

00:30:20,005 --> 00:30:23,290

503

00:30:23,290 --> 00:30:26,740

And unfortunately,
our luck did not last.

504

00:30:26,740 --> 00:30:33,130

Because the next morning, these
very same people that let us in

505

00:30:33,130 --> 00:30:34,210
came into the barn.

506

00:30:34,210 --> 00:30:38,860
And they said, we are very,
very sorry to tell you that you

507

00:30:38,860 --> 00:30:41,720
cannot stay here anymore.

508

00:30:41,720 --> 00:30:45,640
Our neighbors found out
that I let in Jewish people

509

00:30:45,640 --> 00:30:48,310
into my barn, and
the city of Lida

510

00:30:48,310 --> 00:30:51,460
is occupied by the Germans.

511

00:30:51,460 --> 00:30:56,260
And how fast the word spread
around that the Germans do not

512

00:30:56,260 --> 00:30:58,540
like Jews.

513

00:30:58,540 --> 00:31:00,670
And they were afraid
to take the chance,

514

00:31:00,670 --> 00:31:03,940
that if they find out that there
are Jewish people hiding here,

515

00:31:03,940 --> 00:31:07,390
everybody will be
killed in the village.

516

00:31:07,390 --> 00:31:10,370

And we had no choice.

517
00:31:10,370 --> 00:31:16,300
We had to go back to the city,
but where do you go back to?

518
00:31:16,300 --> 00:31:19,570

519
00:31:19,570 --> 00:31:24,460
As we were going back from
this farm, on the road,

520
00:31:24,460 --> 00:31:26,740
the German Army approached us.

521
00:31:26,740 --> 00:31:30,940
We saw the tanks coming in
and the soldiers walking.

522
00:31:30,940 --> 00:31:35,620
It was just in the midst of
taking over the territory.

523
00:31:35,620 --> 00:31:38,300
They did not know who we are.

524
00:31:38,300 --> 00:31:42,730
They did not ask any questions,
whether we are Jews or not.

525
00:31:42,730 --> 00:31:46,060
But they knew that the city was
burned, especially the center

526
00:31:46,060 --> 00:31:49,750
of the city, where mostly
the Jewish population lived,

527
00:31:49,750 --> 00:31:56,360
the synagogue area and the
whole center of the city.

528

00:31:56,360 --> 00:31:57,770

They said, where are you going?

529

00:31:57,770 --> 00:32:01,540

We said, we're going to

Lida, That's our hometown.

530

00:32:01,540 --> 00:32:07,040

Oh, Lida-- Lida is

very little left.

531

00:32:07,040 --> 00:32:08,120

We knew.

532

00:32:08,120 --> 00:32:09,260

Unfortunately, we knew.

533

00:32:09,260 --> 00:32:14,450

But as we came into

the city, again,

534

00:32:14,450 --> 00:32:17,180

my parents remembered

having some relatives

535

00:32:17,180 --> 00:32:21,780

who lived in the outskirts

also of the city.

536

00:32:21,780 --> 00:32:26,270

And to our luck, their

house was not burned.

537

00:32:26,270 --> 00:32:30,210

And they let us in, only

us, my parents, my sister,

538

00:32:30,210 --> 00:32:32,180

and brother.

539

00:32:32,180 --> 00:32:37,820

My uncle with his family had to

find a place, someplace else.

540

00:32:37,820 --> 00:32:39,780

I don't even remember where.

541

00:32:39,780 --> 00:32:41,420

And we were all separated.

542

00:32:41,420 --> 00:32:43,340

Everybody was on their own.

543

00:32:43,340 --> 00:32:47,000

544

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:50,780

And we lived with
these relatives

545

00:32:50,780 --> 00:32:54,950

for a very short time,
and then the rules

546

00:32:54,950 --> 00:33:00,790

started to come that there
will be a ghetto formed

547

00:33:00,790 --> 00:33:04,760

for all Jewish people.

548

00:33:04,760 --> 00:33:09,590

And nobody can live
wherever they want.

549

00:33:09,590 --> 00:33:12,890

They have to be
concentrated in one area.

550

00:33:12,890 --> 00:33:18,400

They designated several
blocks that there

551

00:33:18,400 --> 00:33:22,780

were homes not burned,
and they called

552
00:33:22,780 --> 00:33:26,350
this the ghetto for the Jews.

553
00:33:26,350 --> 00:33:28,870
They came out with the
rules that the Jews have

554
00:33:28,870 --> 00:33:31,990
to be identified by
wearing a yellow star,

555
00:33:31,990 --> 00:33:37,360
no matter whether you're a
child or an adult, old or young.

556
00:33:37,360 --> 00:33:40,120
You cannot walk in the
street, on the sidewalk.

557
00:33:40,120 --> 00:33:47,320
You have to walk in the middle,
where the horses and wagons go.

558
00:33:47,320 --> 00:33:50,980
For my days, there were
very, very little cars

559
00:33:50,980 --> 00:33:53,510
in the city of Lida.

560
00:33:53,510 --> 00:33:57,580
I remember a story my mother
always telling when I was born.

561
00:33:57,580 --> 00:34:01,030
They brought me home from
the hospital by taxi,

562
00:34:01,030 --> 00:34:05,290
and that was a

very, very big deal.

563

00:34:05,290 --> 00:34:08,449

This taxi was from
a different city.

564

00:34:08,449 --> 00:34:10,270

It was like a service.

565

00:34:10,270 --> 00:34:18,870

And I was supposed to
feel very fortunate that I

566

00:34:18,870 --> 00:34:19,919

was brought home by taxi.

567

00:34:19,919 --> 00:34:23,929

568

00:34:23,929 --> 00:34:27,889

My father, as I said before,
worked in the brewery.

569

00:34:27,889 --> 00:34:29,614

And the brewery was not burnt.

570

00:34:29,614 --> 00:34:32,179

571

00:34:32,179 --> 00:34:37,100

When they formed the ghetto and
all the rules for the Jewish

572

00:34:37,100 --> 00:34:40,670

people, that they
cannot go to work,

573

00:34:40,670 --> 00:34:43,400

they have to live in the ghetto.

574

00:34:43,400 --> 00:34:46,670

And the people will

have to be taken out

575

00:34:46,670 --> 00:34:49,370
of the ghetto every
day to forced labor

576

00:34:49,370 --> 00:34:51,980
to clean up the
city from the mess

577

00:34:51,980 --> 00:34:55,760
of the burning and
the bombing And that's

578

00:34:55,760 --> 00:34:59,360
exactly what they did daily.

579

00:34:59,360 --> 00:35:03,350
And my father took a chance,
and he went to the brewery.

580

00:35:03,350 --> 00:35:07,520
And he identified himself
that he is Jewish.

581

00:35:07,520 --> 00:35:10,850
And he worked here
for so many years,

582

00:35:10,850 --> 00:35:13,445
and could he perhaps
get his job back?

583

00:35:13,445 --> 00:35:16,440

584

00:35:16,440 --> 00:35:21,780
And the German
director at the time

585

00:35:21,780 --> 00:35:29,320
was quite different than what
we heard about the Germans.

586

00:35:29,320 --> 00:35:33,160

Whether he needed the
labor for the time being

587

00:35:33,160 --> 00:35:36,730

or the Jewish people, or
whether he was a little bit more

588

00:35:36,730 --> 00:35:40,690

compassionate, this
we will never know.

589

00:35:40,690 --> 00:35:44,500

However, he allowed us--

590

00:35:44,500 --> 00:35:47,770

he allowed my father to get
his position back and have

591

00:35:47,770 --> 00:35:51,080

his family live on the premises.

592

00:35:51,080 --> 00:35:54,100

And not only my father,
but all the Jewish people

593

00:35:54,100 --> 00:35:59,560

that worked for the brewery were
able to get their jobs back.

594

00:35:59,560 --> 00:36:04,270

And the production of the beer
was so important in those days,

595

00:36:04,270 --> 00:36:05,890

they needed it for the soldiers.

596

00:36:05,890 --> 00:36:11,410

And they needed
the beer so badly.

597

00:36:11,410 --> 00:36:15,880
And he figured he's not going
to interrupt the flow of it,

598
00:36:15,880 --> 00:36:21,130
and he'll hire all the Jewish
people back to work for as long

599
00:36:21,130 --> 00:36:24,730
as he will be able to.

600
00:36:24,730 --> 00:36:29,710
And I remember getting
assigned a room for our family

601
00:36:29,710 --> 00:36:35,930
that we had to share with three
other families in one room.

602
00:36:35,930 --> 00:36:36,970
We were away from--

603
00:36:36,970 --> 00:36:38,080
How many people were you?

604
00:36:38,080 --> 00:36:39,680
We were in one room.

605
00:36:39,680 --> 00:36:40,870
We were five.

606
00:36:40,870 --> 00:36:44,740
My girlfriend with her
family were 4, is 9.

607
00:36:44,740 --> 00:36:46,750
And there were 2 singles--

608
00:36:46,750 --> 00:36:50,810
11 people in one room.

609
00:36:50,810 --> 00:36:54,250

This was a three-room apartment.

610

00:36:54,250 --> 00:36:58,780

In each room, there were two
or three families living.

611

00:36:58,780 --> 00:37:04,630

We all shared one
kitchen, one bathroom

612

00:37:04,630 --> 00:37:09,790

that was in the back of the
house, not even in the house.

613

00:37:09,790 --> 00:37:13,925

These were the conditions that
I grew up with and I remember.

614

00:37:13,925 --> 00:37:17,260

615

00:37:17,260 --> 00:37:20,860

My father was going
daily to work.

616

00:37:20,860 --> 00:37:26,920

My brother was rather
young, but somehow he

617

00:37:26,920 --> 00:37:30,460

was very able and very capable.

618

00:37:30,460 --> 00:37:34,630

And they allowed him
to be like a handyman

619

00:37:34,630 --> 00:37:40,990

for an electrician that had
to be on duty 24 hours a day.

620

00:37:40,990 --> 00:37:43,570

They changed often shifts.

621

00:37:43,570 --> 00:37:49,750

And my sister was able to get
a little job in the office.

622

00:37:49,750 --> 00:37:53,470

My mother was not
assigned to any work.

623

00:37:53,470 --> 00:37:55,330

The work took a
great toll on her,

624

00:37:55,330 --> 00:37:58,060

and she was not feeling well.

625

00:37:58,060 --> 00:38:02,200

And I was considered the
child, the youngest one,

626

00:38:02,200 --> 00:38:05,380

that there was no work for me.

627

00:38:05,380 --> 00:38:08,470

There were no schools
for me either to go to.

628

00:38:08,470 --> 00:38:15,490

We just had to create our
own chores the whole day

629

00:38:15,490 --> 00:38:18,230

to spend the day.

630

00:38:18,230 --> 00:38:21,190

The older ones would
teach the younger ones

631

00:38:21,190 --> 00:38:28,540

to read, and to tell stories,
and to write, and to hope

632

00:38:28,540 --> 00:38:30,560

the war should end soon.

633

00:38:30,560 --> 00:38:35,200

We did not know
what's waiting for us.

634

00:38:35,200 --> 00:38:35,960

What about food?

635

00:38:35,960 --> 00:38:37,810

Did you have food?

636

00:38:37,810 --> 00:38:41,230

Food was rationed.

637

00:38:41,230 --> 00:38:49,060

We were not starving, but we
did not have enough food either.

638

00:38:49,060 --> 00:38:50,840

But it wasn't bad.

639

00:38:50,840 --> 00:38:53,320

Somehow, we managed
in those days.

640

00:38:53,320 --> 00:38:56,900

641

00:38:56,900 --> 00:39:02,000

One evening, we were all asleep.

642

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:04,010

My brother used to
work mainly at night.

643

00:39:04,010 --> 00:39:07,790

644

00:39:07,790 --> 00:39:11,210

He came in, and he woke us up.

645

00:39:11,210 --> 00:39:14,920

He woke up the whole house.

646

00:39:14,920 --> 00:39:22,450

And he said, he hears such
screams coming from the ghetto.

647

00:39:22,450 --> 00:39:28,280

The ghetto was
located, like, maybe, I

648

00:39:28,280 --> 00:39:34,420

would say, a couple of blocks
in relation to distances today

649

00:39:34,420 --> 00:39:35,185

from the brewery.

650

00:39:35,185 --> 00:39:43,560

651

00:39:43,560 --> 00:39:48,660

He said, I don't
know what it means,

652

00:39:48,660 --> 00:39:50,400

but it doesn't sound good.

653

00:39:50,400 --> 00:39:53,400

654

00:39:53,400 --> 00:39:56,040

We were prepared.

655

00:39:56,040 --> 00:39:58,830

And all along during
the war times,

656

00:39:58,830 --> 00:40:01,650

when something
unusual would happen,

657

00:40:01,650 --> 00:40:05,310

when you would have
to run in hiding,

658

00:40:05,310 --> 00:40:07,255

everybody always had
a place prepared.

659

00:40:07,255 --> 00:40:10,340

660

00:40:10,340 --> 00:40:17,390

And I remember comparing
notes with my friends if--

661

00:40:17,390 --> 00:40:20,540

do you have a hiding
place already prepared?

662

00:40:20,540 --> 00:40:22,220

And you know,
nobody was supposed

663

00:40:22,220 --> 00:40:25,880

to tell anybody where it is.

664

00:40:25,880 --> 00:40:29,000

We called it a [NON-ENGLISH].

665

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:33,020

It was a word that, in
Russia, probably means

666

00:40:33,020 --> 00:40:37,040

a very small place where you
can just about hide yourself.

667

00:40:37,040 --> 00:40:38,560

And that's about it.

668

00:40:38,560 --> 00:40:41,180

669

00:40:41,180 --> 00:40:43,040

And we always
would say, oh, yes,

670

00:40:43,040 --> 00:40:46,850

we have a hiding place
that gave us such security.

671

00:40:46,850 --> 00:40:49,490

When we would say that
we have a hiding place,

672

00:40:49,490 --> 00:40:52,480

we will be sure that
nothing will happen to us.

673

00:40:52,480 --> 00:40:55,070

674

00:40:55,070 --> 00:40:58,510

And sure enough, when my brother
came with that terrible news,

675

00:40:58,510 --> 00:41:00,970

and he said he hears
screaming from the ghetto,

676

00:41:00,970 --> 00:41:02,950

we did not know
what's going on there.

677

00:41:02,950 --> 00:41:04,000

But we knew one thing.

678

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:06,850

We have to hide.

679

00:41:06,850 --> 00:41:09,970

And we were in
hiding a whole night,

680

00:41:09,970 --> 00:41:14,070
and the screams never stopped.

681
00:41:14,070 --> 00:41:15,150
They never stopped.

682
00:41:15,150 --> 00:41:17,430
Until the following morning,
we still heard them.

683
00:41:17,430 --> 00:41:21,380

684
00:41:21,380 --> 00:41:26,057
And the next morning,
it came to go to work.

685
00:41:26,057 --> 00:41:27,140
We didn't know what to do.

686
00:41:27,140 --> 00:41:30,470
I mean, not we, my father, for
instance, and the other people,

687
00:41:30,470 --> 00:41:32,945
the workers that were all
in different hiding places.

688
00:41:32,945 --> 00:41:36,350

689
00:41:36,350 --> 00:41:45,110
The German director spared
us from an execution

690
00:41:45,110 --> 00:41:50,190
that took place that night.

691
00:41:50,190 --> 00:41:57,060
They took out the entire ghetto
into a field, an open field,

692

00:41:57,060 --> 00:42:00,330
where probably in
normal times you

693
00:42:00,330 --> 00:42:07,360
would play soccer or
baseball or whatever.

694
00:42:07,360 --> 00:42:09,015
And there were mass
graves prepared.

695
00:42:09,015 --> 00:42:21,870

696
00:42:21,870 --> 00:42:23,250
They separated the people.

697
00:42:23,250 --> 00:42:25,680
10,000 Jewish people
came out in the field.

698
00:42:25,680 --> 00:42:30,030
They separated half and
half, left and right.

699
00:42:30,030 --> 00:42:33,750
And nobody knew which
side was the good one.

700
00:42:33,750 --> 00:42:37,150

701
00:42:37,150 --> 00:42:47,435
And 5,000 people were
shot without knowing why.

702
00:42:47,435 --> 00:42:50,680

703
00:42:50,680 --> 00:42:52,885
And the other half
returned to the ghetto.

704
00:42:52,885 --> 00:42:57,330

705
00:42:57,330 --> 00:43:00,390
And my mother lost
her mother then,

706
00:43:00,390 --> 00:43:04,920
her brother with the whole
family, two beautiful children,

707
00:43:04,920 --> 00:43:06,825
[PERSONAL NAME] and
[PERSONAL NAME]..

708
00:43:06,825 --> 00:43:10,080

709
00:43:10,080 --> 00:43:15,165
My mother's sister lost
her husband and one child.

710
00:43:15,165 --> 00:43:17,700

711
00:43:17,700 --> 00:43:19,830
I have a little cousin,
Vivian, that my mother

712
00:43:19,830 --> 00:43:24,130
saved, her sister's daughter.

713
00:43:24,130 --> 00:43:28,030
By mistake, she ran
into the right lane,

714
00:43:28,030 --> 00:43:29,230
which meant to life.

715
00:43:29,230 --> 00:43:32,720

716
00:43:32,720 --> 00:43:37,370
She had an uncle who looked
just like her father,

717
00:43:37,370 --> 00:43:41,120
and her uncle was sent to
live, to the right side.

718
00:43:41,120 --> 00:43:43,160
And she thought
it was her father,

719
00:43:43,160 --> 00:43:46,340
and she followed the uncle.

720
00:43:46,340 --> 00:43:49,670
And her mother got hysterical,
seeing that her child goes

721
00:43:49,670 --> 00:43:51,050
to the right.

722
00:43:51,050 --> 00:43:54,470
In the confusion,
she followed her too.

723
00:43:54,470 --> 00:43:57,350
And she separated
herself from her husband

724
00:43:57,350 --> 00:44:03,765
and her other little
daughter, and they survived.

725
00:44:03,765 --> 00:44:08,300

726
00:44:08,300 --> 00:44:11,160
When my mother found out
that her sister remained

727

00:44:11,160 --> 00:44:15,440
the only one with a little
girl, five years old,

728
00:44:15,440 --> 00:44:17,630
my father asked
the German director

729
00:44:17,630 --> 00:44:22,220
if she could come to live
with us on the brewery,

730
00:44:22,220 --> 00:44:24,720
not to remain in
the ghetto anymore.

731
00:44:24,720 --> 00:44:27,940

732
00:44:27,940 --> 00:44:31,900
And the director gave my father
permission that she will come.

733
00:44:31,900 --> 00:44:34,420
She will go to work, and
she will live with us.

734
00:44:34,420 --> 00:44:37,930
So we took two more
people into the same room

735
00:44:37,930 --> 00:44:39,520
where there were 11.

736
00:44:39,520 --> 00:44:40,750
We made room for her.

737
00:44:40,750 --> 00:44:43,750

738
00:44:43,750 --> 00:44:46,890
And these were very
difficult times for us

739
00:44:46,890 --> 00:44:52,400
because the crying
never stopped,

740
00:44:52,400 --> 00:44:57,710
and the loss of
the whole family.

741
00:44:57,710 --> 00:45:00,780

742
00:45:00,780 --> 00:45:03,210
Yesterday, I had a grandmother.

743
00:45:03,210 --> 00:45:05,160
I had aunts and uncles.

744
00:45:05,160 --> 00:45:06,315
And today, they were gone.

745
00:45:06,315 --> 00:45:09,350

746
00:45:09,350 --> 00:45:14,810
But I did not realize how
lucky I am to have my parents.

747
00:45:14,810 --> 00:45:18,360
The German director
spared us for a reason.

748
00:45:18,360 --> 00:45:21,330
He actually admitted
to the Jewish people.

749
00:45:21,330 --> 00:45:24,360
He said, the SS came
to call for you.

750
00:45:24,360 --> 00:45:26,810
They knew I have Jews

here at the brewery.

751

00:45:26,810 --> 00:45:30,470

But I told them that I send you
away already in the morning.

752

00:45:30,470 --> 00:45:32,870

You're no longer here.

753

00:45:32,870 --> 00:45:34,580

He said, I need the beer.

754

00:45:34,580 --> 00:45:37,220

I need the work from you.

755

00:45:37,220 --> 00:45:41,360

For as long as I can keep
you, I will save you.

756

00:45:41,360 --> 00:45:46,880

757

00:45:46,880 --> 00:45:50,150

The half of the
ghetto that remained--

758

00:45:50,150 --> 00:45:52,040

people were very discouraged.

759

00:45:52,040 --> 00:45:57,310

They knew already-- they
could read the handwriting

760

00:45:57,310 --> 00:46:00,400

that it's no good.

761

00:46:00,400 --> 00:46:04,720

And young people said,
we have to put up

762

00:46:04,720 --> 00:46:06,200

some sort of resistance.

763
00:46:06,200 --> 00:46:09,940
We just cannot allow ourselves
to be slaughtered here like

764
00:46:09,940 --> 00:46:12,670
sheep.

765
00:46:12,670 --> 00:46:14,350
Let's run into the woods.

766
00:46:14,350 --> 00:46:17,410
Let's try to form
an underground.

767
00:46:17,410 --> 00:46:19,320
Let's try to do something.

768
00:46:19,320 --> 00:46:22,510

769
00:46:22,510 --> 00:46:24,340
Again, very few people did it.

770
00:46:24,340 --> 00:46:27,820

771
00:46:27,820 --> 00:46:31,540
But some people ran
away from the ghetto,

772
00:46:31,540 --> 00:46:37,060
and they tried to live in the
woods, go from place to place,

773
00:46:37,060 --> 00:46:40,870
try to kill some
Germans if they could

774
00:46:40,870 --> 00:46:45,820
to acquire some ammunition, try
to build up some little army

775
00:46:45,820 --> 00:46:47,740
if they can.

776
00:46:47,740 --> 00:46:52,690
They would send
messengers to the ghetto.

777
00:46:52,690 --> 00:46:54,400
What are you waiting for?

778
00:46:54,400 --> 00:46:56,380
What are you sitting here?

779
00:46:56,380 --> 00:46:57,580
Escape.

780
00:46:57,580 --> 00:46:58,120
Come.

781
00:46:58,120 --> 00:46:59,330
Help us.

782
00:46:59,330 --> 00:47:00,790
Let's do something.

783
00:47:00,790 --> 00:47:03,700

784
00:47:03,700 --> 00:47:04,840
Very few people followed.

785
00:47:04,840 --> 00:47:07,550

786
00:47:07,550 --> 00:47:11,750
In a way, they
could not believe--

787
00:47:11,750 --> 00:47:17,420
they could not believe

what's waiting for them.

788

00:47:17,420 --> 00:47:22,190

On the other hand, they couldn't
see too much hope in the woods.

789

00:47:22,190 --> 00:47:25,160

What is there for
them in the woods?

790

00:47:25,160 --> 00:47:27,275

No home, no way of survival.

791

00:47:27,275 --> 00:47:31,470

792

00:47:31,470 --> 00:47:36,240

And the ghetto was going
on for another year

793

00:47:36,240 --> 00:47:43,320

when the city was completely
cleaned up from the mess,

794

00:47:43,320 --> 00:47:45,675

and there was no more
work left for the Jews.

795

00:47:45,675 --> 00:47:48,740

796

00:47:48,740 --> 00:47:55,550

And the aim to kill all the
Jews became very evident.

797

00:47:55,550 --> 00:48:00,650

Every city supposedly was
supposed to be made judenrein,

798

00:48:00,650 --> 00:48:06,010

with a big sign that this
city is clean of Jews.

799

00:48:06,010 --> 00:48:10,430

800

00:48:10,430 --> 00:48:16,700

They tried to eliminate the
rest by a different method,

801

00:48:16,700 --> 00:48:19,730

to send them to
the concentration

802

00:48:19,730 --> 00:48:21,980

camps that existed in Germany.

803

00:48:21,980 --> 00:48:24,060

Prior to this, there
were no deportations?

804

00:48:24,060 --> 00:48:24,560

No.

805

00:48:24,560 --> 00:48:28,430

806

00:48:28,430 --> 00:48:31,430

And one afternoon,
I remember being

807

00:48:31,430 --> 00:48:40,100

home with my little cousin, my
mother, and eight other people,

808

00:48:40,100 --> 00:48:45,980

parents of my girlfriend,
three other adults.

809

00:48:45,980 --> 00:48:49,460

We were all together, about 11.

810

00:48:49,460 --> 00:48:53,420

And we heard these
violent voices

811
00:48:53,420 --> 00:48:57,650
screaming in German, [GERMAN].

812
00:48:57,650 --> 00:49:06,190

813
00:49:06,190 --> 00:49:11,200
The Poles, in Polish,
screamed to one another,

814
00:49:11,200 --> 00:49:15,470
the Polish workers, [POLISH].

815
00:49:15,470 --> 00:49:20,790

816
00:49:20,790 --> 00:49:23,520
Meaning, we have to
get all the Jews out,

817
00:49:23,520 --> 00:49:26,850
whether they're
in hiding or not.

818
00:49:26,850 --> 00:49:30,090
When we heard this,
again, the hiding.

819
00:49:30,090 --> 00:49:32,670
We have to hide.

820
00:49:32,670 --> 00:49:35,790
What we did is this
house had an attic.

821
00:49:35,790 --> 00:49:40,110
So we ran up in the
attic with a ladder.

822
00:49:40,110 --> 00:49:42,720
And by the time the

last person came up,

823

00:49:42,720 --> 00:49:47,220

they pushed up the ladder,
not to show any evidence

824

00:49:47,220 --> 00:49:50,170

that we are hiding there.

825

00:49:50,170 --> 00:49:52,590

And we just about managed
to close the door.

826

00:49:52,590 --> 00:49:55,170

The Germans ran into the
house, into the apartment.

827

00:49:55,170 --> 00:50:00,045

They started to shoot
violently, must have been drunk.

828

00:50:00,045 --> 00:50:01,200

We didn't see them.

829

00:50:01,200 --> 00:50:07,200

But their appearance, I mean,
their voices, their behavior,

830

00:50:07,200 --> 00:50:12,510

the way they were running
was so frightening.

831

00:50:12,510 --> 00:50:15,540

We were sitting there like
mice, not saying a word,

832

00:50:15,540 --> 00:50:17,830

the bullets running
from all directions.

833

00:50:17,830 --> 00:50:22,710

Nobody's hurt,
from the 11 people.

834
00:50:22,710 --> 00:50:30,060
We sat through like that the
whole afternoon into the night.

835
00:50:30,060 --> 00:50:36,220
And when the night approached,
everything quieted down.

836
00:50:36,220 --> 00:50:38,250
And we knew that we
cannot remain there.

837
00:50:38,250 --> 00:50:41,110

838
00:50:41,110 --> 00:50:49,180
And we decided to find a way
how to get off from the attic

839
00:50:49,180 --> 00:50:51,190
to the backyard of
the brewery, not

840
00:50:51,190 --> 00:50:55,540
through the front, where
the main entrance was,

841
00:50:55,540 --> 00:50:58,840
and just start to someplace.

842
00:50:58,840 --> 00:50:59,740
Who knows where?

843
00:50:59,740 --> 00:51:02,210
Maybe we'll be lucky
to find some partisans.

844
00:51:02,210 --> 00:51:04,690
Maybe somebody will hide us.

845
00:51:04,690 --> 00:51:05,470

We had no place.

846
00:51:05,470 --> 00:51:06,790
We didn't know what to do.

847
00:51:06,790 --> 00:51:08,080
One step at a time.

848
00:51:08,080 --> 00:51:11,180

849
00:51:11,180 --> 00:51:15,770
The adults found some rope,
very heavy rope in the attic.

850
00:51:15,770 --> 00:51:19,160
And they tied it
together to provide a way

851
00:51:19,160 --> 00:51:22,430
how we can push ourselves
down on the rope.

852
00:51:22,430 --> 00:51:25,940
And each and every person
cut their fingers to the bone

853
00:51:25,940 --> 00:51:30,080
as we were coming down
from the second floor.

854
00:51:30,080 --> 00:51:31,460
Nobody got hurt, thank god.

855
00:51:31,460 --> 00:51:32,540
Everybody made it.

856
00:51:32,540 --> 00:51:35,860

857
00:51:35,860 --> 00:51:41,410
And the eight adults

took off ahead

858

00:51:41,410 --> 00:51:44,590

of us, my mother, and my
little cousin, and myself.

859

00:51:44,590 --> 00:51:47,170

And my mother remained
with two little children

860

00:51:47,170 --> 00:51:49,630

from both sides of her arms.

861

00:51:49,630 --> 00:51:53,860

And she did not know where
to make the first step.

862

00:51:53,860 --> 00:51:55,250

Why did they escape?

863

00:51:55,250 --> 00:51:57,760

Because they did not want
to have the responsibility

864

00:51:57,760 --> 00:51:59,620

with the children.

865

00:51:59,620 --> 00:52:06,760

Kids do not behave always
the best in hiding.

866

00:52:06,760 --> 00:52:08,560

They don't understand
a lot of things.

867

00:52:08,560 --> 00:52:09,550

They ask questions.

868

00:52:09,550 --> 00:52:10,510

They want to eat.

869

00:52:10,510 --> 00:52:13,810

They cannot cooperate.

870
00:52:13,810 --> 00:52:16,840
And they did not want
the responsibility,

871
00:52:16,840 --> 00:52:17,740
so they took off.

872
00:52:17,740 --> 00:52:19,780
And they left us just alone.

873
00:52:19,780 --> 00:52:22,360

874
00:52:22,360 --> 00:52:25,210
We started to walk.

875
00:52:25,210 --> 00:52:29,050
And I remember crossing
a tiny little river

876
00:52:29,050 --> 00:52:34,460
as we approach to go to
the outskirts of the city,

877
00:52:34,460 --> 00:52:37,450
and we got wet
immediately to the waist

878
00:52:37,450 --> 00:52:40,750
by just crossing
this little river.

879
00:52:40,750 --> 00:52:44,230
And we walked, and we walked.

880
00:52:44,230 --> 00:52:48,970
And we walked for a
whole week in circles

881
00:52:48,970 --> 00:52:52,360

around the city of Lida.

882

00:52:52,360 --> 00:52:55,840

And on the road, would pass
occasionally a little farm

883

00:52:55,840 --> 00:52:58,150

house.

884

00:52:58,150 --> 00:53:01,420

And we would knock on the door.

885

00:53:01,420 --> 00:53:03,790

And when they saw a
woman with two children,

886

00:53:03,790 --> 00:53:06,250

they knew right away
we had to be Jewish

887

00:53:06,250 --> 00:53:11,495

because they knew what
happened already in the city.

888

00:53:11,495 --> 00:53:13,370

And they would tell us
that there are no more

889

00:53:13,370 --> 00:53:16,250

Jews left in the city of Lida.

890

00:53:16,250 --> 00:53:19,970

We heard that everybody
was put on trains,

891

00:53:19,970 --> 00:53:24,430

and they were sent to
the concentration camps.

892

00:53:24,430 --> 00:53:25,720

Oh, my god.

893

00:53:25,720 --> 00:53:27,770
My mother started to cry.

894
00:53:27,770 --> 00:53:32,200
She said, here my husband
is gone and two children,

895
00:53:32,200 --> 00:53:38,120
and what am I going to do here
alone with these two kids?

896
00:53:38,120 --> 00:53:43,190
They wouldn't even let us
in to sleep over at night.

897
00:53:43,190 --> 00:53:46,100
Some would hand us a
little piece of bread,

898
00:53:46,100 --> 00:53:49,670
and some smack the door
in front of you from fear.

899
00:53:49,670 --> 00:53:54,080
Everybody was afraid
for their own life.

900
00:53:54,080 --> 00:53:59,600
And after a week, we were
tired of going around

901
00:53:59,600 --> 00:54:05,685
in circles, hungry, cold.

902
00:54:05,685 --> 00:54:11,810

903
00:54:11,810 --> 00:54:15,080
And we decided to go back.

904
00:54:15,080 --> 00:54:17,960
We decided to go
back to the city.

905
00:54:17,960 --> 00:54:20,678
If this is our
destiny, we have to die

906
00:54:20,678 --> 00:54:21,845
with the rest of the family.

907
00:54:21,845 --> 00:54:25,490

908
00:54:25,490 --> 00:54:30,775
And as we were going
back, I saw a miracle.

909
00:54:30,775 --> 00:54:34,300

910
00:54:34,300 --> 00:54:41,200
I saw an army dressed in white
uniforms that was not there.

911
00:54:41,200 --> 00:54:42,610
I just saw this vision.

912
00:54:42,610 --> 00:54:45,910
And I said to my mother, whose
eyes were so red and swollen

913
00:54:45,910 --> 00:54:47,230
from crying--

914
00:54:47,230 --> 00:54:49,780
I say, Ma, we're coming
into the hands of an army.

915
00:54:49,780 --> 00:54:51,760
We can't walk that way.

916
00:54:51,760 --> 00:54:54,340
And she grabbed those two
children with all her force,

917
00:54:54,340 --> 00:54:59,630
turned around the direction, and
we started to run like animals.

918
00:54:59,630 --> 00:55:03,670
And as we were
running, a man saw us.

919
00:55:03,670 --> 00:55:07,960
And this was a partisan,
and he recognized my mother.

920
00:55:07,960 --> 00:55:11,230
And he said, Mrs. Stol,
I can't believe you

921
00:55:11,230 --> 00:55:14,230
escaped with those two kids.

922
00:55:14,230 --> 00:55:15,760
Don't worry about a thing.

923
00:55:15,760 --> 00:55:16,720
You'll be with us.

924
00:55:16,720 --> 00:55:20,430

925
00:55:20,430 --> 00:55:21,780
This was a Jewish partisan.

926
00:55:21,780 --> 00:55:25,950
This was a Jewish partisan
that ran away from the ghetto,

927
00:55:25,950 --> 00:55:29,595
and he was one of the starters
from this partisan movement.

928
00:55:29,595 --> 00:55:33,880

929
00:55:33,880 --> 00:55:36,580
He took us into a group.

930
00:55:36,580 --> 00:55:41,680
And in that group, we
found the eight people

931
00:55:41,680 --> 00:55:46,450
that ran ahead of us, they
managed to get there somehow,

932
00:55:46,450 --> 00:55:53,100
and other people that
escaped from the ghetto.

933
00:55:53,100 --> 00:55:55,650

934
00:55:55,650 --> 00:56:00,960
And we were united at
least with somebody else.

935
00:56:00,960 --> 00:56:03,670
We were not alone.

936
00:56:03,670 --> 00:56:05,130
We're going to
pause at this point,

937
00:56:05,130 --> 00:56:06,900
and we're going to
continue in a moment.

938
00:56:06,900 --> 00:56:07,500
OK.

939
00:56:07,500 --> 00:56:09,050
OK.

940
00:56:09,050 --> 00:56:17,000