

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:22,830

2

00:00:22,830 --> 00:00:24,090

Good morning.

3

00:00:24,090 --> 00:00:27,630

I'm Bernard Weinstein from the
Kean College Holocaust Resource

4

00:00:27,630 --> 00:00:29,310

Center.

5

00:00:29,310 --> 00:00:32,700

I am interviewing
Helen Raff, who

6

00:00:32,700 --> 00:00:34,410

lives in Elizabeth,
New Jersey, and is

7

00:00:34,410 --> 00:00:36,210

a survivor of the Holocaust.

8

00:00:36,210 --> 00:00:38,430

Mrs. Raff, I'd like
to welcome you.

9

00:00:38,430 --> 00:00:42,270

And I'd like you to tell us a
little bit about the place you

10

00:00:42,270 --> 00:00:44,580

come from in Poland.

11

00:00:44,580 --> 00:00:45,420

OK.

12

00:00:45,420 --> 00:00:48,450

I start off by saying,
I'm from Poland.

13
00:00:48,450 --> 00:00:51,810
And the city is Jedrzejów.

14
00:00:51,810 --> 00:00:53,620
I was born there.

15
00:00:53,620 --> 00:00:57,000
And I assume that my parents
were born there, too.

16
00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:00,090
Can you give me a little sense
of where it is geographically

17
00:01:00,090 --> 00:01:00,840
in Poland?

18
00:01:00,840 --> 00:01:07,920
Geographically, it's
central Poland, exactly

19
00:01:07,920 --> 00:01:11,280
between Warsaw and Krakow,
right in the middle.

20
00:01:11,280 --> 00:01:11,880
I see.

21
00:01:11,880 --> 00:01:15,570
Yeah, a nice, little city.

22
00:01:15,570 --> 00:01:24,870
The population was 32,000,
and a clean, very clean city.

23
00:01:24,870 --> 00:01:28,680
We had some schools.

24
00:01:28,680 --> 00:01:31,110
And--

25

00:01:31,110 --> 00:01:34,050

What percentage of the
population was Jewish?

26

00:01:34,050 --> 00:01:36,090

I really cannot
tell you exactly,

27

00:01:36,090 --> 00:01:41,170

but it was a smaller
population than half was Jewish

28

00:01:41,170 --> 00:01:43,350

in Jedrzejów.

29

00:01:43,350 --> 00:01:43,920

Yeah.

30

00:01:43,920 --> 00:01:48,570

We had one big synagogue,
and the rest of them

31

00:01:48,570 --> 00:01:53,010

were just like really just
like a shtetlekh, whatever,

32

00:01:53,010 --> 00:01:55,665

just houses of worship.

33

00:01:55,665 --> 00:01:59,120

34

00:01:59,120 --> 00:02:03,000

And what did your
parents do for a living?

35

00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:06,350

My father was in transportation.

36

00:02:06,350 --> 00:02:11,810

Yes, my mother was a
housewife with six children.

37
00:02:11,810 --> 00:02:15,613
And where were you in
the family constellation?

38
00:02:15,613 --> 00:02:17,280
Were you the youngest
or middle, oldest?

39
00:02:17,280 --> 00:02:22,060
No, I'm the second
from the oldest.

40
00:02:22,060 --> 00:02:27,710
Yes, I had an older
sister, then was myself.

41
00:02:27,710 --> 00:02:33,450
Then I have a brother, and I
have three younger sisters,

42
00:02:33,450 --> 00:02:36,650
I had three younger sisters.

43
00:02:36,650 --> 00:02:40,430
It was five girls and one boy.

44
00:02:40,430 --> 00:02:43,070
Were you the only one of
your sisters who survived?

45
00:02:43,070 --> 00:02:46,250
I am the only one
from the sisters, yes.

46
00:02:46,250 --> 00:02:47,870
And your brother, also?

47
00:02:47,870 --> 00:02:50,170
Yes my brother also survived.

48
00:02:50,170 --> 00:02:52,190

Yes.

49

00:02:52,190 --> 00:03:00,350

Growing up in your city, did you experience any anti-Semitism?

50

00:03:00,350 --> 00:03:01,340

Yes.

51

00:03:01,340 --> 00:03:08,870

Yes, there was quite a bit of Jews--

52

00:03:08,870 --> 00:03:13,850

we were allowed to come to sports places,

53

00:03:13,850 --> 00:03:22,040

but plenty time being beaten up and being afraid to go.

54

00:03:22,040 --> 00:03:22,940

Right.

55

00:03:22,940 --> 00:03:28,580

Yes, and there also was picketing

56

00:03:28,580 --> 00:03:33,470

from Polish youngsters and elderly,

57

00:03:33,470 --> 00:03:39,140

picketing Jewish establishment stores with the slogan

58

00:03:39,140 --> 00:03:42,230

"Don't buy Jews."

59

00:03:42,230 --> 00:03:43,730

This is even before the war.

60

00:03:43,730 --> 00:03:45,450
Oh, yes, this is before the war.

61
00:03:45,450 --> 00:03:45,950
Yeah.

62
00:03:45,950 --> 00:03:49,190

63
00:03:49,190 --> 00:03:53,390
So you had experience even
before the Germans came in

64
00:03:53,390 --> 00:03:53,900
of what--

65
00:03:53,900 --> 00:03:58,250
Yeah, incidents like that,
being like coming before Easter,

66
00:03:58,250 --> 00:04:03,140
like right now, at
night, when everybody

67
00:04:03,140 --> 00:04:05,360
congregated in the churches.

68
00:04:05,360 --> 00:04:08,720
You better don't
be in the streets

69
00:04:08,720 --> 00:04:11,220
before you're going
to be beaten up.

70
00:04:11,220 --> 00:04:11,720
Yeah.

71
00:04:11,720 --> 00:04:14,780

72
00:04:14,780 --> 00:04:20,990

And what was it like
being Jewish at the time?

73
00:04:20,990 --> 00:04:23,900
Were just observant people?

74
00:04:23,900 --> 00:04:27,770
Yeah, not strictly, but
observant for Kashruth

75
00:04:27,770 --> 00:04:28,850
and everything else.

76
00:04:28,850 --> 00:04:34,160
And my father didn't have
a beard or just a hat.

77
00:04:34,160 --> 00:04:36,830

78
00:04:36,830 --> 00:04:41,060
So you were not necessarily
conspicuous as Jews.

79
00:04:41,060 --> 00:04:44,810
In other words, you
didn't stand out--

80
00:04:44,810 --> 00:04:45,540
As Jews?

81
00:04:45,540 --> 00:04:47,360
Oh, yes, we stand out as Jews.

82
00:04:47,360 --> 00:04:48,230
Oh, yeah.

83
00:04:48,230 --> 00:04:50,990
Yes.

84
00:04:50,990 --> 00:04:53,020
Yeah.

85
00:04:53,020 --> 00:04:56,020
Did you go to school?

86
00:04:56,020 --> 00:04:58,180
Yes, I did go to school.

87
00:04:58,180 --> 00:05:02,230
I finished public school,
which is seven years,

88
00:05:02,230 --> 00:05:05,440
like equivalent to
high school here.

89
00:05:05,440 --> 00:05:09,040
Yes, day in and day out.

90
00:05:09,040 --> 00:05:11,440
What were the
schools like for you?

91
00:05:11,440 --> 00:05:13,740
What were the schools like?

92
00:05:13,740 --> 00:05:17,710
This was a nice
place of learning.

93
00:05:17,710 --> 00:05:24,400
I mean, they taught you
reading, writing, arithmetic,

94
00:05:24,400 --> 00:05:33,860
and of course, even sewing and
all, gymnastics, and all that.

95
00:05:33,860 --> 00:05:38,870
Yes, mostly we had
ladies teachers.

96
00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:40,460

Yeah.

97

00:05:40,460 --> 00:05:42,800

Did you experience
any kind of prejudice

98

00:05:42,800 --> 00:05:45,080

or any kind of anti-Semitism
in the schools?

99

00:05:45,080 --> 00:05:50,930

If there was any, I
personally didn't feel any.

100

00:05:50,930 --> 00:05:54,500

I was very good in gymnastics,
and I was very good in school.

101

00:05:54,500 --> 00:05:59,990

So I had my friends, probably
mostly Jewish friends,

102

00:05:59,990 --> 00:06:04,920

but some Polish
young ladies, too.

103

00:06:04,920 --> 00:06:06,500

Yeah.

104

00:06:06,500 --> 00:06:12,230

And you did have
friends in both groups,

105

00:06:12,230 --> 00:06:14,360

among Jews and among Poles?

106

00:06:14,360 --> 00:06:17,000

107

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:20,420

Yeah, I had friends, but
not close friends, not

108

00:06:20,420 --> 00:06:21,920

close friends from--

109

00:06:21,920 --> 00:06:25,610

were Jewish friends,
yes, very close.

110

00:06:25,610 --> 00:06:31,910

And it was a very nice
youth in Jedrzejow,

111

00:06:31,910 --> 00:06:34,550

which they came together.

112

00:06:34,550 --> 00:06:39,980

and Like the Mizrachi and
all the others, you came.

113

00:06:39,980 --> 00:06:41,610

You belonged there.

114

00:06:41,610 --> 00:06:45,350

And you came for meetings
and all different things.

115

00:06:45,350 --> 00:06:46,370

Yeah.

116

00:06:46,370 --> 00:06:48,650

Did you have a large
extended family

117

00:06:48,650 --> 00:06:50,870

also in the city,
uncles, aunts, cousins?

118

00:06:50,870 --> 00:06:53,390

Yes, from both sides,
from my father's side

119

00:06:53,390 --> 00:06:56,990

and from my mother's

side, uncles, aunts,

120

00:06:56,990 --> 00:07:00,290

cousins from both sides.

121

00:07:00,290 --> 00:07:04,190

Are there any early memories
that you particularly treasure

122

00:07:04,190 --> 00:07:06,370

or particularly remember?

123

00:07:06,370 --> 00:07:12,110

Yes, I never knew
my grandparents,

124

00:07:12,110 --> 00:07:15,500

from my mother's side,
only a grandfather.

125

00:07:15,500 --> 00:07:20,780

But there was-- my
grandfather's brother was alive.

126

00:07:20,780 --> 00:07:22,520

And it came holidays.

127

00:07:22,520 --> 00:07:26,360

It was a strictly holiday,
because they always wanted

128

00:07:26,360 --> 00:07:29,000

to be together with everybody.

129

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:34,610

Yeah, and reminiscing about
how it was when they were

130

00:07:34,610 --> 00:07:37,940

growing up, and all different.

131

00:07:37,940 --> 00:07:38,900

Yes.

132
00:07:38,900 --> 00:07:40,580
Yeah.

133
00:07:40,580 --> 00:07:43,850
When did you first feel
that you were in danger?

134
00:07:43,850 --> 00:07:47,690

135
00:07:47,690 --> 00:07:50,480
Well, when the war broke out.

136
00:07:50,480 --> 00:07:51,560
In '39.

137
00:07:51,560 --> 00:07:52,640
In '39.

138
00:07:52,640 --> 00:07:55,780
Before, we did not
expect right away this,

139
00:07:55,780 --> 00:08:02,570
but we knew the war broke
out September 1, 1939.

140
00:08:02,570 --> 00:08:04,430
And I think, if
I'm not mistaken,

141
00:08:04,430 --> 00:08:10,040
the same day the German
army was in our town.

142
00:08:10,040 --> 00:08:10,610
Yes.

143
00:08:10,610 --> 00:08:17,210
Before the army came in, there

were bombings, aeroplanes,

144

00:08:17,210 --> 00:08:20,510

a lot of destruction
in the city.

145

00:08:20,510 --> 00:08:24,290

And then the army marched in.

146

00:08:24,290 --> 00:08:29,000

Did you expect that
this would happen?

147

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:31,490

With their right
mind, nobody probably

148

00:08:31,490 --> 00:08:34,490

could expect, not
only me being young,

149

00:08:34,490 --> 00:08:37,250

but not even my
parents, my father,

150

00:08:37,250 --> 00:08:39,080

expected something
like this could

151

00:08:39,080 --> 00:08:45,350

happen to civilian people,
to women, children.

152

00:08:45,350 --> 00:08:50,270

We thought that if it's a war,
it's only between the armies.

153

00:08:50,270 --> 00:08:53,107

But something like that
was simply unbelievable,

154

00:08:53,107 --> 00:08:53,690

what happened.

155
00:08:53,690 --> 00:08:56,720

156
00:08:56,720 --> 00:08:59,353
Can you remember any
specific incidents

157
00:08:59,353 --> 00:09:00,270
of the very beginning?

158
00:09:00,270 --> 00:09:01,640
Very much.

159
00:09:01,640 --> 00:09:06,770
The minute the army came
into the square of the town,

160
00:09:06,770 --> 00:09:13,940
they right away picked out
three for sure, probably more,

161
00:09:13,940 --> 00:09:16,430
prominent Jews.

162
00:09:16,430 --> 00:09:20,090
And they simply, in view
of everybody, they just,

163
00:09:20,090 --> 00:09:24,620
with no specific
reason, they shot

164
00:09:24,620 --> 00:09:27,350
each and every one of them.

165
00:09:27,350 --> 00:09:33,950
And this gave us a feeling
like probably you obey me,

166
00:09:33,950 --> 00:09:36,710
because you can be next.

167

00:09:36,710 --> 00:09:40,760

And this was something that
it's an unbelievable sight.

168

00:09:40,760 --> 00:09:44,570

From the same moment
when this happened,

169

00:09:44,570 --> 00:09:47,540

it looks like my father
was in the square.

170

00:09:47,540 --> 00:09:53,870

And then he ran home,
maybe about a block and a--

171

00:09:53,870 --> 00:09:57,800

we were probably a block
and a half from the square.

172

00:09:57,800 --> 00:10:01,340

And coming then, he
kept looking back

173

00:10:01,340 --> 00:10:04,700

if the army comes
into our street.

174

00:10:04,700 --> 00:10:05,570

And they did.

175

00:10:05,570 --> 00:10:10,580

He got so scared that he
fell and had a heart attack.

176

00:10:10,580 --> 00:10:12,200

He survived it.

177

00:10:12,200 --> 00:10:16,370

He survived it,
but this was the--

178

00:10:16,370 --> 00:10:19,520

but it looks like the
soldiers or the SS,

179

00:10:19,520 --> 00:10:23,690

whoever it was, they
probably noticed him, too,

180

00:10:23,690 --> 00:10:28,680

because they came into our
square of where we were living,

181

00:10:28,680 --> 00:10:32,760

and took out a religious Jew.

182

00:10:32,760 --> 00:10:36,720

And he was with a talus
praying in tefillin.

183

00:10:36,720 --> 00:10:39,960

He took him out to the
middle of the square where we

184

00:10:39,960 --> 00:10:43,560

were living, and cut his beard.

185

00:10:43,560 --> 00:10:46,980

And when he objected,
he was beaten.

186

00:10:46,980 --> 00:10:49,810

187

00:10:49,810 --> 00:10:53,380

Did you see this incident
repeated over and over?

188

00:10:53,380 --> 00:10:56,220

It was repeated a
lot of places when

189

00:10:56,220 --> 00:11:01,770

they see, yes, assembling
Jews with beards,

190
00:11:01,770 --> 00:11:05,130
and cutting their
beards, the pious.

191
00:11:05,130 --> 00:11:10,470
And-- go ahead.

192
00:11:10,470 --> 00:11:12,520
Please, no do you
want to continue?

193
00:11:12,520 --> 00:11:15,900
And it was a trying
thing for young people

194
00:11:15,900 --> 00:11:20,730
to see something like that,
that one human being can do this

195
00:11:20,730 --> 00:11:23,965
to another with no reason.

196
00:11:23,965 --> 00:11:28,040

197
00:11:28,040 --> 00:11:30,800
You were still in school
at the time this happened.

198
00:11:30,800 --> 00:11:31,340
Yes.

199
00:11:31,340 --> 00:11:35,810
Oh, no, I was out of school
already, because at 14--

200
00:11:35,810 --> 00:11:40,460
we start school at 7 and
at 14 you were finished.

201
00:11:40,460 --> 00:11:41,900
Yes, I was out of school.

202
00:11:41,900 --> 00:11:44,210
What were you doing at the
time the war broke out?

203
00:11:44,210 --> 00:11:53,230
At the time, at the war, I
was learning a trade, to sew.

204
00:11:53,230 --> 00:11:57,180
But I don't remember-- either
it was no work or whatever,

205
00:11:57,180 --> 00:12:00,230
but that day,
because of the war,

206
00:12:00,230 --> 00:12:05,390
that day I was no
place other than home.

207
00:12:05,390 --> 00:12:07,360
Right.

208
00:12:07,360 --> 00:12:08,410
Yeah.

209
00:12:08,410 --> 00:12:10,510
What was the mood in your
household at the time?

210
00:12:10,510 --> 00:12:13,570
Oh, very scary mood,
very scary mood.

211
00:12:13,570 --> 00:12:19,840
There was like the old-fashioned
kerosene lamps, no electricity.

212
00:12:19,840 --> 00:12:23,020

We were afraid even
to put this on--

213
00:12:23,020 --> 00:12:26,440
very scary, very scary.

214
00:12:26,440 --> 00:12:29,170
Did your father lose
his job as well?

215
00:12:29,170 --> 00:12:31,090
Oh, yeah, of course.

216
00:12:31,090 --> 00:12:32,560
That's right.

217
00:12:32,560 --> 00:12:35,080
Yeah, right away.

218
00:12:35,080 --> 00:12:36,880
Yeah.

219
00:12:36,880 --> 00:12:40,630
We even tried somebody
from the neighbors,

220
00:12:40,630 --> 00:12:43,000
which they're Christian.

221
00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:48,130
Maybe they take over and we
split the income, whatever.

222
00:12:48,130 --> 00:12:52,690
But they take
everything or that's it.

223
00:12:52,690 --> 00:12:55,270

224
00:12:55,270 --> 00:12:57,670
Had you thought of

trying to escape

225

00:12:57,670 --> 00:13:00,820
or running away or any kind of--

226

00:13:00,820 --> 00:13:07,160
Yes, amongst a bunch of friends,
we started to talk about it.

227

00:13:07,160 --> 00:13:14,600
This was when came out word
that a certain day in December--

228

00:13:14,600 --> 00:13:18,250
this is September when it
started, but in December,

229

00:13:18,250 --> 00:13:25,840
all the Jews have to wear the
Star of David, the yellow star.

230

00:13:25,840 --> 00:13:29,590
And by that time, that
whole bunch of friends

231

00:13:29,590 --> 00:13:36,100
were talking amongst themselves
and getting ready to escape.

232

00:13:36,100 --> 00:13:44,290
And December, I think the 14th,
we finally took to that plan.

233

00:13:44,290 --> 00:13:48,640
And this time, I don't know
if it was four couples.

234

00:13:48,640 --> 00:13:53,560
No, it was a mixed group, a
mixed group, girls and boys,

235

00:13:53,560 --> 00:13:54,700
friends.

236
00:13:54,700 --> 00:13:58,330
It's the fact that my
father, that time, not

237
00:13:58,330 --> 00:14:02,200
through the center of the city,
took us to the train station.

238
00:14:02,200 --> 00:14:06,710
Because we had the
means to get there.

239
00:14:06,710 --> 00:14:12,070
And one word what really
comes back and plagues me--

240
00:14:12,070 --> 00:14:15,100
by saying goodbye,
the father said,

241
00:14:15,100 --> 00:14:17,740
almost like
addressing all of us,

242
00:14:17,740 --> 00:14:22,340
look, children, we wouldn't
run away and leave us behind,

243
00:14:22,340 --> 00:14:23,970
but you are you going.

244
00:14:23,970 --> 00:14:25,700
But [SPEAKING YIDDISH].

245
00:14:25,700 --> 00:14:29,050

246
00:14:29,050 --> 00:14:32,980
And this is just embedded in me.

247
00:14:32,980 --> 00:14:34,930

And we started to travel.

248

00:14:34,930 --> 00:14:37,150

We started to travel.

249

00:14:37,150 --> 00:14:39,370

Were your sisters and
brother with you, also?

250

00:14:39,370 --> 00:14:42,520

This was a very big, big thing.

251

00:14:42,520 --> 00:14:47,560

My sister was engaged
to our cousin,

252

00:14:47,560 --> 00:14:50,320

and they both wanted
to come with us, too,

253

00:14:50,320 --> 00:14:52,660

and were prepared
already, would have

254

00:14:52,660 --> 00:14:54,820

your shoes and everything else.

255

00:14:54,820 --> 00:14:58,510

And the last minute my
aunt, my cousin's mother,

256

00:14:58,510 --> 00:15:03,200

said, we depend on
you for our survival.

257

00:15:03,200 --> 00:15:05,510

So where are you going?

258

00:15:05,510 --> 00:15:08,860

And the last minute,
they changed their mind

259

00:15:08,860 --> 00:15:12,170
because of that, and
they stayed behind.

260
00:15:12,170 --> 00:15:12,670
So.

261
00:15:12,670 --> 00:15:15,410

262
00:15:15,410 --> 00:15:16,910
This was your oldest sister?

263
00:15:16,910 --> 00:15:18,610
My oldest sister, yeah.

264
00:15:18,610 --> 00:15:19,970
And what about the others?

265
00:15:19,970 --> 00:15:21,950
Oh, the others were too young.

266
00:15:21,950 --> 00:15:23,510
The others were too young.

267
00:15:23,510 --> 00:15:25,110
I see.

268
00:15:25,110 --> 00:15:27,770
So you and your brother
were part of the--

269
00:15:27,770 --> 00:15:31,310
No, my brother was not
part of me, only myself.

270
00:15:31,310 --> 00:15:33,650
My brother was not part of me.

271
00:15:33,650 --> 00:15:35,600
My brother had his own story.

272

00:15:35,600 --> 00:15:38,650

273

00:15:38,650 --> 00:15:42,290

It was a law that
every Jewish man

274

00:15:42,290 --> 00:15:46,820

has to go to work
for the Germans

275

00:15:46,820 --> 00:15:50,150

to clear the debris from--

276

00:15:50,150 --> 00:15:52,490

whatever they needed.

277

00:15:52,490 --> 00:15:56,420

And when it came to my
father's turn, he was sick.

278

00:15:56,420 --> 00:15:58,790

As I said that he was sick.

279

00:15:58,790 --> 00:16:02,720

Somebody had to go, so
my brother volunteered.

280

00:16:02,720 --> 00:16:08,150

And this is the reason that
my brother is alive today.

281

00:16:08,150 --> 00:16:11,510

They sent wherever
he was sent to work,

282

00:16:11,510 --> 00:16:14,180

but then he has his story, too.

283

00:16:14,180 --> 00:16:21,410

Because a while later,
there was the [NON-ENGLISH],,

284
00:16:21,410 --> 00:16:25,130
where they close the ghetto.

285
00:16:25,130 --> 00:16:29,120
And they were sent to the place
where my brother was working.

286
00:16:29,120 --> 00:16:30,750
And the trains, the--

287
00:16:30,750 --> 00:16:32,270
[COUGHS] excuse me.

288
00:16:32,270 --> 00:16:35,900
And the cattle trains
were waiting for them.

289
00:16:35,900 --> 00:16:41,050
And my brother, as young
as he was, this is--

290
00:16:41,050 --> 00:16:42,570
those are almost his words.

291
00:16:42,570 --> 00:16:43,820
I wasn't there.

292
00:16:43,820 --> 00:16:46,880
And he saw the family.

293
00:16:46,880 --> 00:16:51,620
And he saw my father taking
the youngest child by his hand,

294
00:16:51,620 --> 00:16:55,280
and trying to walk
away from the train.

295
00:16:55,280 --> 00:16:58,160
And the Polacks--
it was not a German,

296
00:16:58,160 --> 00:17:06,270
but they had a name by
themselves, Volksdeutschen.

297
00:17:06,270 --> 00:17:06,770
Yes.

298
00:17:06,770 --> 00:17:09,619
He came and grabbed my father.

299
00:17:09,619 --> 00:17:12,020
And he pushed him
back into the train.

300
00:17:12,020 --> 00:17:16,250
My brother seen this,
and to this day,

301
00:17:16,250 --> 00:17:19,730
he said the older he gets,
the more it bothers him.

302
00:17:19,730 --> 00:17:22,579
And I don't have to
say from Treblinka,

303
00:17:22,579 --> 00:17:27,109
we had very, very
little survivors.

304
00:17:27,109 --> 00:17:30,350
Yeah, that was the last
time they saw each other.

305
00:17:30,350 --> 00:17:33,410
Each and every one
of them went there.

306
00:17:33,410 --> 00:17:38,600
And when I came to
my sister, my older

307

00:17:38,600 --> 00:17:41,480

sister with my cousin,
which she was--

308

00:17:41,480 --> 00:17:46,130

looks like they got married,
because when she went to--

309

00:17:46,130 --> 00:17:48,410

I don't know where she
disappeared, because she did

310

00:17:48,410 --> 00:17:52,220

not go together with my family.

311

00:17:52,220 --> 00:17:55,080

She was pregnant, and
they sent her to--

312

00:17:55,080 --> 00:17:59,310

so this is how my
immediate family.

313

00:17:59,310 --> 00:18:03,450

But everybody from
Jedrzejów was in Treblinka.

314

00:18:03,450 --> 00:18:03,950

Yeah.

315

00:18:03,950 --> 00:18:06,550

316

00:18:06,550 --> 00:18:08,710

And what happened to you?

317

00:18:08,710 --> 00:18:12,520

OK, well, we were traveling
and going somewhere.

318

00:18:12,520 --> 00:18:16,510

So first, we met up with

people, strange people.

319
00:18:16,510 --> 00:18:18,820
And one of them said
that I had an idea

320
00:18:18,820 --> 00:18:23,860
to go and try to cross
the Russian border,

321
00:18:23,860 --> 00:18:26,410
go to the Russian side.

322
00:18:26,410 --> 00:18:29,140
We started off going there.

323
00:18:29,140 --> 00:18:34,480
And we traveled
very, very scared,

324
00:18:34,480 --> 00:18:38,920
because on the trains
was no way to be Jewish.

325
00:18:38,920 --> 00:18:40,960
Right.

326
00:18:40,960 --> 00:18:47,000
Well, we finally came to
[? Lzhansk ?] and down there,

327
00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:49,050
the Germans were already.

328
00:18:49,050 --> 00:18:52,400
And this is where they
got us to work for them.

329
00:18:52,400 --> 00:18:53,990
They came to us.

330
00:18:53,990 --> 00:19:00,740

We came-- [? Lzhansk ?] was completely clear of Jews.

331
00:19:00,740 --> 00:19:04,910
But it was a Jewish committee for people like us

332
00:19:04,910 --> 00:19:09,890
that travel, to give them a night where to sleep

333
00:19:09,890 --> 00:19:11,010
or whatever.

334
00:19:11,010 --> 00:19:16,760
And this place is where the SS came and picked us up.

335
00:19:16,760 --> 00:19:20,090
And we had to go to their headquarters.

336
00:19:20,090 --> 00:19:21,770
In the back of their headquarters,

337
00:19:21,770 --> 00:19:24,290
there were a well.

338
00:19:24,290 --> 00:19:29,210
And we had just fetch the water a whole day, our whole day,

339
00:19:29,210 --> 00:19:33,200
with very deep well.

340
00:19:33,200 --> 00:19:38,450
And you only-- and this is what we did.

341
00:19:38,450 --> 00:19:40,520
What was the name of the place we went to?

342
00:19:40,520 --> 00:19:41,250
[? Lzhansk. ?]

343
00:19:41,250 --> 00:19:42,770
Can you spell it, please?

344
00:19:42,770 --> 00:19:45,450
Oh, let me write it if I can.

345
00:19:45,450 --> 00:19:46,460
If you would.

346
00:19:46,460 --> 00:19:47,330
Where should I?

347
00:19:47,330 --> 00:19:48,750
Right here is fine.

348
00:19:48,750 --> 00:19:49,290
On top?

349
00:19:49,290 --> 00:19:49,790
Yes.

350
00:19:49,790 --> 00:19:57,550

351
00:19:57,550 --> 00:20:01,908
All right, and this was in
Russian and Soviet territory,

352
00:20:01,908 --> 00:20:02,575
or this was in--

353
00:20:02,575 --> 00:20:04,060
No, this was not in Soviet.

354
00:20:04,060 --> 00:20:05,860
This was still German.

355

00:20:05,860 --> 00:20:08,750

356

00:20:08,750 --> 00:20:15,700

Yeah, and to this place was--
looked like Jews from Lodz

357

00:20:15,700 --> 00:20:18,340

were coming in
droves, running away.

358

00:20:18,340 --> 00:20:21,610

Must have been very
close to them, too.

359

00:20:21,610 --> 00:20:23,680

So we met up with them.

360

00:20:23,680 --> 00:20:29,260

And from there, after they
didn't need us already

361

00:20:29,260 --> 00:20:31,420

to fetch the water
for them, they

362

00:20:31,420 --> 00:20:35,260

send us to the border
line with the Russians

363

00:20:35,260 --> 00:20:42,580

to dig ditches or trenches,
shooting somebody.

364

00:20:42,580 --> 00:20:50,290

And down there, at
night, we ran away.

365

00:20:50,290 --> 00:20:54,530

366

00:20:54,530 --> 00:20:55,430

We ran away.

367

00:20:55,430 --> 00:20:58,820

And this must have been
probably the outskirts

368

00:20:58,820 --> 00:21:02,840

from [? Lzhansk, ?] from
the other side of the water.

369

00:21:02,840 --> 00:21:07,400

OK, and down there, we also
find right, not too far away

370

00:21:07,400 --> 00:21:08,220

from the--

371

00:21:08,220 --> 00:21:10,790

372

00:21:10,790 --> 00:21:13,070

I don't know, was
not a deep water,

373

00:21:13,070 --> 00:21:16,910

but we had to go
through a water.

374

00:21:16,910 --> 00:21:22,010

And down there, they took
us in, also for the night,

375

00:21:22,010 --> 00:21:26,600

because they were afraid
that if the Russians find us

376

00:21:26,600 --> 00:21:31,150

in the streets, they would
arrest us and take us

377

00:21:31,150 --> 00:21:33,390

into the police station.

378

00:21:33,390 --> 00:21:35,360

So we were there a night.

379

00:21:35,360 --> 00:21:37,460

So who took you in?

380

00:21:37,460 --> 00:21:39,090

They allow us to stay there.

381

00:21:39,090 --> 00:21:43,730

They had like a big warehouse
with something, whatever.

382

00:21:43,730 --> 00:21:47,900

They probably were business
before and we stayed there,

383

00:21:47,900 --> 00:21:50,000

not only myself--

384

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:51,380

These are Poles.

385

00:21:51,380 --> 00:21:52,890

No, no, those are Jewish.

386

00:21:52,890 --> 00:21:53,390

Jewish.

387

00:21:53,390 --> 00:21:56,330

Those were Jews,
yeah, those were Jews.

388

00:21:56,330 --> 00:22:01,910

And we stayed there, a big
group, almost a big group,

389

00:22:01,910 --> 00:22:06,920

until they said that
they have a time which--

390

00:22:06,920 --> 00:22:08,330
they arrested people.

391
00:22:08,330 --> 00:22:12,020
What the Russian arrested,
they let them go, take them

392
00:22:12,020 --> 00:22:13,160
to the train.

393
00:22:13,160 --> 00:22:18,080
And they are singly
or two in a line.

394
00:22:18,080 --> 00:22:23,690
So they'll tell us when
and how to join that line

395
00:22:23,690 --> 00:22:26,660
and go to the train with them.

396
00:22:26,660 --> 00:22:31,370
And they did so, one by one.

397
00:22:31,370 --> 00:22:34,800
And not even-- it
was a big group,

398
00:22:34,800 --> 00:22:38,870
so not even the whole group
managed to go this time.

399
00:22:38,870 --> 00:22:42,830
Well, the train
took us to the Lviv.

400
00:22:42,830 --> 00:22:47,510
OK, and then in Lviv,
we came in to Lviv,

401
00:22:47,510 --> 00:22:52,160
and we came into a
bombed-out church--

402

00:22:52,160 --> 00:22:55,040

no windows, maybe
not even doors.

403

00:22:55,040 --> 00:22:59,810

But no windows I remember, like
it just would be right now.

404

00:22:59,810 --> 00:23:03,200

And we stayed there.

405

00:23:03,200 --> 00:23:04,340

And we had to--

406

00:23:04,340 --> 00:23:08,690

we went right away to sleep,
because it took quite a while.

407

00:23:08,690 --> 00:23:11,510

When we came
already, it was dark.

408

00:23:11,510 --> 00:23:16,760

And the next morning, we
start going out in Lviv

409

00:23:16,760 --> 00:23:22,250

and seek to buy some
bread or whatever to eat.

410

00:23:22,250 --> 00:23:26,490

So we already couldn't
because the Russians--

411

00:23:26,490 --> 00:23:31,550

how should I say it, that the
money was completely worthless.

412

00:23:31,550 --> 00:23:34,970

They recalled the Polish
money and you couldn't do--

413

00:23:34,970 --> 00:23:39,190
on trucks with a loudspeaker,
they announced that you cannot

414

00:23:39,190 --> 00:23:42,100
spend Polish money anymore.

415

00:23:42,100 --> 00:23:44,920
Behind this truck
came another truck

416

00:23:44,920 --> 00:23:51,280
and said if you want to have
passes to buy some food,

417

00:23:51,280 --> 00:23:54,850
come with us and
register to go to Russia.

418

00:23:54,850 --> 00:23:56,890
And you'll get all
the privileges,

419

00:23:56,890 --> 00:23:59,560
what they allow you to.

420

00:23:59,560 --> 00:24:05,230
So of course, if you're
hungry, this is what you do.

421

00:24:05,230 --> 00:24:08,290
So we waited there in line,
took probably more than a

422

00:24:08,290 --> 00:24:11,780
day to wait because all
the people were doing that.

423

00:24:11,780 --> 00:24:15,920
And by the time they documented
each and every one of them,

424

00:24:15,920 --> 00:24:23,890
of us, so the next day, we
got cards from them for food.

425
00:24:23,890 --> 00:24:27,970
And when they finished
registering everybody,

426
00:24:27,970 --> 00:24:33,670
they just got us
together and put us

427
00:24:33,670 --> 00:24:39,010
on a train, a cattle train.

428
00:24:39,010 --> 00:24:43,780
And we were traveling probably
three, four, five days.

429
00:24:43,780 --> 00:24:46,750
So we wind up in Ural.

430
00:24:46,750 --> 00:24:48,520
In the Urals, Ural Mountains.

431
00:24:48,520 --> 00:24:50,660
Yeah, Nizhny Tagil.

432
00:24:50,660 --> 00:24:54,040
Yeah, that's right.

433
00:24:54,040 --> 00:24:57,640
And down there, there
were also single people,

434
00:24:57,640 --> 00:25:01,880
got between single
people to live, single.

435
00:25:01,880 --> 00:25:06,010
And if you were married,
you got a room for yourself.

436

00:25:06,010 --> 00:25:09,100

They right away said that.

437

00:25:09,100 --> 00:25:11,020

Now, what year was this?

438

00:25:11,020 --> 00:25:13,480

This was the beginning of 1940.

439

00:25:13,480 --> 00:25:15,490

1940, yeah.

440

00:25:15,490 --> 00:25:18,730

1939, we left home.

441

00:25:18,730 --> 00:25:20,540

This was the beginning of 1940.

442

00:25:20,540 --> 00:25:21,850

So it was wintertime.

443

00:25:21,850 --> 00:25:26,500

Oh, sure, very much wintertime,
yes, very much winter time.

444

00:25:26,500 --> 00:25:31,240

When we came to
the Urals, Poland

445

00:25:31,240 --> 00:25:38,720

has a very, very cold climate,
too, with a lot of snow.

446

00:25:38,720 --> 00:25:42,310

But what we really witnessed
there was impossible.

447

00:25:42,310 --> 00:25:46,010

448

00:25:46,010 --> 00:25:51,290

And this is how we
started in Russia.

449
00:25:51,290 --> 00:25:57,560
We had to go to work,
and very hard work.

450
00:25:57,560 --> 00:26:00,230
And if you worked,
you got your--

451
00:26:00,230 --> 00:26:06,150
I think 4 grams of
bread and a soup.

452
00:26:06,150 --> 00:26:09,390
And if you didn't work,
you didn't get anything.

453
00:26:09,390 --> 00:26:13,730
But the work that we
got was very hard.

454
00:26:13,730 --> 00:26:21,110
Ural has a lot of
hills, which they have

455
00:26:21,110 --> 00:26:25,580
there ore, which is there, too.

456
00:26:25,580 --> 00:26:29,540
And not only just ore,
but this place was ore.

457
00:26:29,540 --> 00:26:36,650
And they were just blasting
those hills to uncover that.

458
00:26:36,650 --> 00:26:40,850
And we had to work with
that, which is very heavy.

459
00:26:40,850 --> 00:26:42,980

And I worked.

460
00:26:42,980 --> 00:26:48,950
As a young lady,
I worked put down

461
00:26:48,950 --> 00:26:55,130
tracks for the little wagons
to pass by full with ore.

462
00:26:55,130 --> 00:26:57,530
And they will go and
shipped, probably, somewhere

463
00:26:57,530 --> 00:27:00,220
to make something out of it.

464
00:27:00,220 --> 00:27:01,940
Yeah, I was going
to ask you what

465
00:27:01,940 --> 00:27:03,620
they were using the ore for.

466
00:27:03,620 --> 00:27:06,560
well, this is very,
very expensive metal.

467
00:27:06,560 --> 00:27:08,670
I don't know what
they were using for.

468
00:27:08,670 --> 00:27:09,170
For weapons?

469
00:27:09,170 --> 00:27:11,080
I have absolutely no idea.

470
00:27:11,080 --> 00:27:17,160
They wouldn't let us know where
this is going or whatever.

471

00:27:17,160 --> 00:27:21,180
But this is very precious metal.

472
00:27:21,180 --> 00:27:22,490
And it's not only ore.

473
00:27:22,490 --> 00:27:27,420
They had those hills all over
the place in Nizhny Tagil

474
00:27:27,420 --> 00:27:27,920
with--

475
00:27:27,920 --> 00:27:33,530

476
00:27:33,530 --> 00:27:41,160
and from that heavy
work, and I got sick.

477
00:27:41,160 --> 00:27:47,490
Because the rocks were so big
and heavy that you couldn't

478
00:27:47,490 --> 00:27:50,610
get it with the
shovel, but you have

479
00:27:50,610 --> 00:27:52,620
to pick it up with your hands.

480
00:27:52,620 --> 00:27:55,110
And just bending,
and picking up,

481
00:27:55,110 --> 00:28:00,330
and throwing into that
basket till you fill it up

482
00:28:00,330 --> 00:28:02,920
in a whole day, it's
very heavy work.

483

00:28:02,920 --> 00:28:06,630
And I did something to my back.

484

00:28:06,630 --> 00:28:09,405
And that time, the
manager from this place--

485

00:28:09,405 --> 00:28:12,560

486

00:28:12,560 --> 00:28:15,860
I remember his name till today--

487

00:28:15,860 --> 00:28:18,950
was [? Grazhdanin ?]
[? Rogozin. ?] And I

488

00:28:18,950 --> 00:28:21,110
don't know, he took
some kind of a liking.

489

00:28:21,110 --> 00:28:25,700
And he said, if I get better,
I don't go back to this work,

490

00:28:25,700 --> 00:28:31,220
but he will give me something
light, which he did, too.

491

00:28:31,220 --> 00:28:35,660
And that time he took
me in to a factory

492

00:28:35,660 --> 00:28:40,610
with just machinery, which
those machineries were

493

00:28:40,610 --> 00:28:48,410
helping those hills to get
power to bast the hills open.

494

00:28:48,410 --> 00:28:53,570

And there was there probably
more than 10 machines.

495
00:28:53,570 --> 00:28:56,810
It was easier work, but
you have to be very quick.

496
00:28:56,810 --> 00:28:59,180
You have to oil a whole day.

497
00:28:59,180 --> 00:29:01,050
You start with one side.

498
00:29:01,050 --> 00:29:02,160
Can I use my hands?

499
00:29:02,160 --> 00:29:02,660
Sure.

500
00:29:02,660 --> 00:29:03,170
Of course.

501
00:29:03,170 --> 00:29:05,600
I can start with one side.

502
00:29:05,600 --> 00:29:08,000
By the time you came
around this way,

503
00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:10,880
it was time to start again.

504
00:29:10,880 --> 00:29:13,590
And you have to be very quick.

505
00:29:13,590 --> 00:29:17,630
If not, the machine would
break down if it's not oiled.

506
00:29:17,630 --> 00:29:20,780
So it's almost like
running in a factory

507
00:29:20,780 --> 00:29:27,050
probably as big as a
football stadium to run.

508
00:29:27,050 --> 00:29:30,320
But it was much better
than being outside.

509
00:29:30,320 --> 00:29:34,280
This was already
hot water in there

510
00:29:34,280 --> 00:29:36,140
and warm from the machinery.

511
00:29:36,140 --> 00:29:39,500
It was already like--

512
00:29:39,500 --> 00:29:46,550
In this place I worked till
the war, Germany and Russia

513
00:29:46,550 --> 00:29:48,170
starting the war.

514
00:29:48,170 --> 00:29:54,320
So the Russians had ammunitions
and who knows what else,

515
00:29:54,320 --> 00:29:56,120
and the Ukraines.

516
00:29:56,120 --> 00:30:00,830
And they were moving everything
from down there deeper

517
00:30:00,830 --> 00:30:04,590
into Russia that the Germans
shouldn't take a hold of it.

518
00:30:04,590 --> 00:30:06,320

OK, so we had to--

519
00:30:06,320 --> 00:30:09,290
So now we're in 1941.

520
00:30:09,290 --> 00:30:12,178
This one-- maybe
not right away '41.

521
00:30:12,178 --> 00:30:13,220
You know what I'm saying?

522
00:30:13,220 --> 00:30:13,940
Yeah.

523
00:30:13,940 --> 00:30:19,100
No, it couldn't be in '41,
because I tell you exactly.

524
00:30:19,100 --> 00:30:20,690
When we first
came, I should have

525
00:30:20,690 --> 00:30:25,100
mentioned that I got
married with a friend that

526
00:30:25,100 --> 00:30:26,270
came from home.

527
00:30:26,270 --> 00:30:32,240
And 1941 June, my
daughter was born.

528
00:30:32,240 --> 00:30:39,140
And she was a year old when
they really made us move.

529
00:30:39,140 --> 00:30:41,785
Because she was very
little when she--

530

00:30:41,785 --> 00:30:43,880
she didn't even walk then.

531
00:30:43,880 --> 00:30:45,660
And we had to move
away from there.

532
00:30:45,660 --> 00:30:49,700
So we start traveling
all through Russia,

533
00:30:49,700 --> 00:30:53,070
through Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan.

534
00:30:53,070 --> 00:30:55,820

535
00:30:55,820 --> 00:30:59,570
If you maybe know by now
which this place is very, very

536
00:30:59,570 --> 00:31:02,120
familiar, it's Frunze.

537
00:31:02,120 --> 00:31:03,860
It's a big city.

538
00:31:03,860 --> 00:31:06,140
And also from
people where we go.

539
00:31:06,140 --> 00:31:09,530
And we had enough cold
weather, so we started off

540
00:31:09,530 --> 00:31:11,490
for warm weather.

541
00:31:11,490 --> 00:31:16,910
So we went to Tashkent.

542
00:31:16,910 --> 00:31:18,710

And down there, we went.

543

00:31:18,710 --> 00:31:20,600

Nobody knew.

544

00:31:20,600 --> 00:31:23,180

There was thousands of
people sleeping really

545

00:31:23,180 --> 00:31:27,810

outside in a park,
just like that.

546

00:31:27,810 --> 00:31:31,050

And from there, we
were there a while,

547

00:31:31,050 --> 00:31:34,550

which I cannot recall
exactly how long.

548

00:31:34,550 --> 00:31:37,940

And then we wind up in Bukhara.

549

00:31:37,940 --> 00:31:40,460

And this is where
we stayed already

550

00:31:40,460 --> 00:31:46,850

till the end of the war, when
we try to-- but not right away.

551

00:31:46,850 --> 00:31:50,150

The Russian-- everything
was if they let you do it.

552

00:31:50,150 --> 00:31:51,140

If they let you do it.

553

00:31:51,140 --> 00:31:56,510

Then there came word that
whoever wants to go home,

554

00:31:56,510 --> 00:31:57,440
register.

555

00:31:57,440 --> 00:31:59,000
You have to register.

556

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:00,800
So we registered.

557

00:32:00,800 --> 00:32:03,800
But registered,
they came probably--

558

00:32:03,800 --> 00:32:14,090
it took as long as the letter
time from '45, because we came

559

00:32:14,090 --> 00:32:16,850
to Germany still back, was '45.

560

00:32:16,850 --> 00:32:19,310
Then finally, our
papers came through

561

00:32:19,310 --> 00:32:21,740
and we could travel home.

562

00:32:21,740 --> 00:32:25,640
And also with cattle cars.

563

00:32:25,640 --> 00:32:29,700
And on the train
heading home, the train

564

00:32:29,700 --> 00:32:33,630
started already, and
looks like the SS--

565

00:32:33,630 --> 00:32:37,100
and no, this is the
[INAUDIBLE] or just simply

566

00:32:37,100 --> 00:32:39,170
people who were there.

567

00:32:39,170 --> 00:32:46,910
And they asked for all paperwork
we had completely to surrender.

568

00:32:46,910 --> 00:32:50,180
And if you didn't surrender,
or sometimes you didn't, it

569

00:32:50,180 --> 00:32:53,310
looked like to them
like it's not enough,

570

00:32:53,310 --> 00:32:55,130
they were looking
through your belongings.

571

00:32:55,130 --> 00:32:57,110
And they took all our documents.

572

00:32:57,110 --> 00:33:00,080
If we ever had a
picture or whatever,

573

00:33:00,080 --> 00:33:02,800
they took everything away.

574

00:33:02,800 --> 00:33:07,970
And then finally,
we came with Poland.

575

00:33:07,970 --> 00:33:12,260
The train stopped in Poland,
which was not in our city,

576

00:33:12,260 --> 00:33:15,050
but in Silesia.

577

00:33:15,050 --> 00:33:20,690
But I didn't want to go, because

we started to hear what's--

578

00:33:20,690 --> 00:33:22,600

when we're starting
to travel back home,

579

00:33:22,600 --> 00:33:26,750

we found out what happened,
what happened with everybody,

580

00:33:26,750 --> 00:33:29,660

what happened in Poland.

581

00:33:29,660 --> 00:33:35,450

Part in Russia, we didn't know
that the atrocities are so bad.

582

00:33:35,450 --> 00:33:37,430

As a fact, when
the war stopped, I

583

00:33:37,430 --> 00:33:43,970

wrote a letter to one of
our friends, a Christian.

584

00:33:43,970 --> 00:33:47,340

And I figure if somebody is
alive, this is the place,

585

00:33:47,340 --> 00:33:47,840

probably.

586

00:33:47,840 --> 00:33:51,590

But they are going to come
and look for somebody else.

587

00:33:51,590 --> 00:33:58,338

Sure enough, my brother when he
was released, his last place,

588

00:33:58,338 --> 00:33:58,880

I don't know.

589

00:33:58,880 --> 00:34:01,250

I know he was in Buchenwald.

590

00:34:01,250 --> 00:34:04,340

So he went and he
found mail from me.

591

00:34:04,340 --> 00:34:08,060

But he suspected, because
they knew that I am in Russia.

592

00:34:08,060 --> 00:34:13,040

Because when I arrived in
Russia, I wrote letters home.

593

00:34:13,040 --> 00:34:17,750

But I never received any from
them, any letters from them.

594

00:34:17,750 --> 00:34:19,679

So that's--

595

00:34:19,679 --> 00:34:22,620

And then we started to
look for one another.

596

00:34:22,620 --> 00:34:28,159

Any place we traveled, in
Germany, and in Poland,

597

00:34:28,159 --> 00:34:31,580

any place there was a little
committee in a little room,

598

00:34:31,580 --> 00:34:36,260

no paper to write, so
everybody wrote on the walls.

599

00:34:36,260 --> 00:34:40,820

"I am so-and-so with my name and
looking for family so-and-so."

600

00:34:40,820 --> 00:34:43,909

And when I moved from
one city to another,

601

00:34:43,909 --> 00:34:48,929

find another little
committee, something Jewish.

602

00:34:48,929 --> 00:34:50,570

And I wrote.

603

00:34:50,570 --> 00:34:55,670

This is how I found my brother,
through the joint, too.

604

00:34:55,670 --> 00:34:57,020

We registered.

605

00:34:57,020 --> 00:35:03,260

And when I came to Germany, I
was in a concentration camp--

606

00:35:03,260 --> 00:35:06,650

not that we couldn't go, but
there was a concentration camp

607

00:35:06,650 --> 00:35:10,700

there, which is
Ziegenhain in Germany.

608

00:35:10,700 --> 00:35:14,480

And this is where
we occupied the--

609

00:35:14,480 --> 00:35:17,420

we were there until
I found my brother.

610

00:35:17,420 --> 00:35:20,180

When I found my
brother, he came for me.

611

00:35:20,180 --> 00:35:22,700

At that time, I already
had another child,

612
00:35:22,700 --> 00:35:23,930
my other daughter.

613
00:35:23,930 --> 00:35:27,680
Was this a concentration
camp or a DP camp?

614
00:35:27,680 --> 00:35:29,360
I think a DP camp.

615
00:35:29,360 --> 00:35:30,230
Yeah, that's right.

616
00:35:30,230 --> 00:35:33,650
That's why I say that we were
allowed to-- yeah, a DP camp.

617
00:35:33,650 --> 00:35:35,930
Yes, was a kitchen
[? fine. ?] You know,

618
00:35:35,930 --> 00:35:38,540
you went for some food.

619
00:35:38,540 --> 00:35:42,680
Well, living was
not exactly living

620
00:35:42,680 --> 00:35:47,245
but it was better than being--

621
00:35:47,245 --> 00:35:48,350
they fed us.

622
00:35:48,350 --> 00:35:50,720
And then when my
broth-- the same day

623
00:35:50,720 --> 00:35:56,090

that he was notified
from the HIAS where I am,

624
00:35:56,090 --> 00:35:58,830
because I did that.

625
00:35:58,830 --> 00:36:00,035
And he did that.

626
00:36:00,035 --> 00:36:02,630

627
00:36:02,630 --> 00:36:03,950
I was notified, too.

628
00:36:03,950 --> 00:36:07,890
And the same day I was notified,
maybe a half hour later,

629
00:36:07,890 --> 00:36:11,400
my brother walked in right
to the camp, to my door.

630
00:36:11,400 --> 00:36:14,000
He came probably to the
office, and they told them

631
00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:16,470
in which barrack
I am or whatever.

632
00:36:16,470 --> 00:36:17,180
And he came.

633
00:36:17,180 --> 00:36:21,950
It was-- and I used to walk
around and look at people,

634
00:36:21,950 --> 00:36:26,915
and say maybe this is my brother
and I don't recognize him.

635

00:36:26,915 --> 00:36:28,070
Maybe it's him.

636
00:36:28,070 --> 00:36:29,720
Maybe it looks like him.

637
00:36:29,720 --> 00:36:33,200
Or finally, when he came,
I did recognize him.

638
00:36:33,200 --> 00:36:37,380
He looked like half his
weight and everything else,

639
00:36:37,380 --> 00:36:38,840
but I recognized him.

640
00:36:38,840 --> 00:36:40,220
And he said, "This is it.

641
00:36:40,220 --> 00:36:42,320
You're not staying here."

642
00:36:42,320 --> 00:36:46,070
There were no street, no
sidewalks, no nothing-- mud

643
00:36:46,070 --> 00:36:47,810
up to the knees.

644
00:36:47,810 --> 00:36:50,420
"And you pack in, and
you come with me,"

645
00:36:50,420 --> 00:36:56,540
because he was in Landsberg,
Landsberg am Lech.

646
00:36:56,540 --> 00:36:59,720
And down there, the fact
that they had to move out

647

00:36:59,720 --> 00:37:02,090
of their room-- they
didn't have room--

648
00:37:02,090 --> 00:37:03,590
and give me the room.

649
00:37:03,590 --> 00:37:07,100
And they went into a very
small quarters to live.

650
00:37:07,100 --> 00:37:13,310
Because they didn't have,
that time, extra room to live.

651
00:37:13,310 --> 00:37:15,920
Because you have to register,
and you have to get food

652
00:37:15,920 --> 00:37:18,710
for yourself, and everything.

653
00:37:18,710 --> 00:37:23,450
Since then, we were
in the camp till--

654
00:37:23,450 --> 00:37:26,360
it was still 1949.

655
00:37:26,360 --> 00:37:27,760
I think we all were--

656
00:37:27,760 --> 00:37:30,650
my brother was the
very first one.

657
00:37:30,650 --> 00:37:33,290
We all registered the
same time, but my brother

658
00:37:33,290 --> 00:37:35,690
was the very first
one got papers

659

00:37:35,690 --> 00:37:38,750
to come to the United States.

660

00:37:38,750 --> 00:37:41,810
How did you find out about
the rest of your family?

661

00:37:41,810 --> 00:37:42,740
From my brother.

662

00:37:42,740 --> 00:37:43,490
From your brother.

663

00:37:43,490 --> 00:37:44,750
From my brother, sure--

664

00:37:44,750 --> 00:37:48,470
how and when, exactly how it
happened, and everything else.

665

00:37:48,470 --> 00:37:54,550

666

00:37:54,550 --> 00:38:00,190
It was not news to
laugh about, to find out

667

00:38:00,190 --> 00:38:02,740
the way and everything else.

668

00:38:02,740 --> 00:38:04,810
And it was an unbelievable--

669

00:38:04,810 --> 00:38:10,450
it's probably unbelievable, to
believe that one human being

670

00:38:10,450 --> 00:38:12,320
can do this to another.

671

00:38:12,320 --> 00:38:13,330
And this is a country--

672
00:38:13,330 --> 00:38:16,000

673
00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:22,300
literate, intelligent,
and but they did it.

674
00:38:22,300 --> 00:38:24,220
They did it.

675
00:38:24,220 --> 00:38:27,715
They are part of six
million, not only us.

676
00:38:27,715 --> 00:38:31,960
They are part of six million
that perished the same way.

677
00:38:31,960 --> 00:38:37,310

678
00:38:37,310 --> 00:38:41,000
Probably between the family
from both sides, probably

679
00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:43,940
not less than some
close to 200 people.

680
00:38:43,940 --> 00:38:50,310
That's all we know, is about
just myself and my brother.

681
00:38:50,310 --> 00:38:52,370
And we were looking.

682
00:38:52,370 --> 00:38:54,950
We were searching-- nobody else.

683

00:38:54,950 --> 00:38:57,480

684

00:38:57,480 --> 00:38:59,508

So it must have all
come as a great shock

685

00:38:59,508 --> 00:39:01,050

to you to realize
what was happening.

686

00:39:01,050 --> 00:39:01,900

Very much.

687

00:39:01,900 --> 00:39:04,650

Very much.

688

00:39:04,650 --> 00:39:11,890

Never, never did I wanted
to go back to Poland,

689

00:39:11,890 --> 00:39:14,860

just see the place where they
lived and somebody else is

690

00:39:14,860 --> 00:39:23,240

there, and noticing
how, the way and how,

691

00:39:23,240 --> 00:39:25,020

and what all this happened.

692

00:39:25,020 --> 00:39:27,730

693

00:39:27,730 --> 00:39:29,660

It's trying.

694

00:39:29,660 --> 00:39:33,102

It's just an unbelievable story.

695

00:39:33,102 --> 00:39:35,560

I assume you didn't know what happened to the Russian Jews,

696

00:39:35,560 --> 00:39:41,590
either, the Jews who were living in places like Kiev and--

697

00:39:41,590 --> 00:39:46,190
The ones that were surrounding, the ones that I was with?

698

00:39:46,190 --> 00:39:46,690
Mm-hmm.

699

00:39:46,690 --> 00:39:53,800
Well, unless they died with natural death, which

700

00:39:53,800 --> 00:39:57,190
quite a bit, because of the cold weather and being older,

701

00:39:57,190 --> 00:40:02,020
some were families that are older people.

702

00:40:02,020 --> 00:40:06,910
To young people, if somebody is 40 years old, is old already.

703

00:40:06,910 --> 00:40:12,550
And yeah, some passed away, but natural causes.

704

00:40:12,550 --> 00:40:14,830
Natural causes-- you can't stop them,

705

00:40:14,830 --> 00:40:17,350
or if you inflict it on yourself.

706

00:40:17,350 --> 00:40:20,620

If you, for some reason,
didn't want to go to work,

707
00:40:20,620 --> 00:40:25,280
you did not have any help
from the government, medical

708
00:40:25,280 --> 00:40:27,770
or nothing whatsoever.

709
00:40:27,770 --> 00:40:34,960
So if you chose a way to
beg, and not to go to work,

710
00:40:34,960 --> 00:40:40,690
and you died because of
that, it's your own choosing.

711
00:40:40,690 --> 00:40:45,430
What nobody in your
right mind wants to.

712
00:40:45,430 --> 00:40:49,660
And I'm talking about
the place where I was.

713
00:40:49,660 --> 00:40:53,140
There were places
deeper in Siberia

714
00:40:53,140 --> 00:40:59,100
that maybe they even had it
much worse than I had it, too.

715
00:40:59,100 --> 00:41:02,020
They were really prisoners.

716
00:41:02,020 --> 00:41:06,400
They were really
prisoners to the point--

717
00:41:06,400 --> 00:41:11,060
we were prisoners not to

get out of the vicinity.

718
00:41:11,060 --> 00:41:13,090
I can go to town.

719
00:41:13,090 --> 00:41:18,010
I can go to the main
city, but I cannot travel.

720
00:41:18,010 --> 00:41:22,030
Traveling outside, you
had to have a permission.

721
00:41:22,030 --> 00:41:24,820
But this was not considering--

722
00:41:24,820 --> 00:41:28,360
consider what other people did.

723
00:41:28,360 --> 00:41:31,510
We didn't consider
this being prisoners.

724
00:41:31,510 --> 00:41:33,820
We had a room for ourselves.

725
00:41:33,820 --> 00:41:36,910
I know we were watched
because none of us

726
00:41:36,910 --> 00:41:39,640
had rooms separate
from a Russian family.

727
00:41:39,640 --> 00:41:43,810
There has to be three--

728
00:41:43,810 --> 00:41:46,330
this is how the buildings are--

729
00:41:46,330 --> 00:41:48,910
there's an apartment

for four families.

730

00:41:48,910 --> 00:41:52,840
So three of them were Russians
and one was a newcomer

731

00:41:52,840 --> 00:41:56,050
to watch him, how and what.

732

00:41:56,050 --> 00:41:57,790
Are they spies?

733

00:41:57,790 --> 00:42:00,550
Are they working?

734

00:42:00,550 --> 00:42:01,450
What are they doing?

735

00:42:01,450 --> 00:42:03,050
Who is coming to them?

736

00:42:03,050 --> 00:42:04,660
We realized that.

737

00:42:04,660 --> 00:42:06,010
We realized.

738

00:42:06,010 --> 00:42:08,100
So you were always
on your guard.

739

00:42:08,100 --> 00:42:08,800
Always.

740

00:42:08,800 --> 00:42:12,970
And by us was a couple,
but the man was not

741

00:42:12,970 --> 00:42:15,280
watching as much as the woman.

742

00:42:15,280 --> 00:42:21,690

She was a really party
member and she was watching.

743

00:42:21,690 --> 00:42:28,450

What were they watching you for,
for being possible agents or--

744

00:42:28,450 --> 00:42:32,710

I suspect so, but
what else or whatever?

745

00:42:32,710 --> 00:42:37,150

Wherever we work, if we don't
maybe bring something home.

746

00:42:37,150 --> 00:42:39,670

747

00:42:39,670 --> 00:42:41,800

Well, none of us can
bring anything home.

748

00:42:41,800 --> 00:42:44,950

Was nothing to eat
that we worked with.

749

00:42:44,950 --> 00:42:48,580

You don't bring home a
piece of rock or whatever.

750

00:42:48,580 --> 00:42:51,520

How were you treated
there as Jews?

751

00:42:51,520 --> 00:42:53,920

Were you able to practice
any aspect of the religion?

752

00:42:53,920 --> 00:42:56,230

No, no, no.

753

00:42:56,230 --> 00:42:58,648

You don't practice nothing.

754

00:42:58,648 --> 00:42:59,440

You are an atheist.

755

00:42:59,440 --> 00:43:00,370

You observe nothing.

756

00:43:00,370 --> 00:43:01,990

You don't observe nothing.

757

00:43:01,990 --> 00:43:03,520

You observe if you remember.

758

00:43:03,520 --> 00:43:08,560

We had a family, which there
were a father and a mother.

759

00:43:08,560 --> 00:43:12,370

So we sort of-- if it
was exactly or not,

760

00:43:12,370 --> 00:43:15,580

but we knew when a
holiday is coming you

761

00:43:15,580 --> 00:43:16,960

didn't light no candles.

762

00:43:16,960 --> 00:43:20,440

First of all, you
probably didn't have it.

763

00:43:20,440 --> 00:43:24,580

No, you became like one
of them and they atheist.

764

00:43:24,580 --> 00:43:26,080

They didn't believe in anything.

765

00:43:26,080 --> 00:43:28,660

You became one of them.

766
00:43:28,660 --> 00:43:31,330
Were you able to
keep track of time?

767
00:43:31,330 --> 00:43:32,020
Of time?

768
00:43:32,020 --> 00:43:32,530
Yes.

769
00:43:32,530 --> 00:43:34,390
Oh, that's a funny
think about it.

770
00:43:34,390 --> 00:43:38,350
We learned to tell-- no
watches, but by the sun.

771
00:43:38,350 --> 00:43:41,770
We knew exactly
when 12 o'clock is.

772
00:43:41,770 --> 00:43:42,460
Yes.

773
00:43:42,460 --> 00:43:45,430
And you really guess.

774
00:43:45,430 --> 00:43:48,130
There were clocks in
the offices, maybe,

775
00:43:48,130 --> 00:43:50,455
but nobody had a watch
or a clock in the house.

776
00:43:50,455 --> 00:43:53,390

777
00:43:53,390 --> 00:43:57,910
And no different-- this

was absolutely no different

778

00:43:57,910 --> 00:44:00,970
than the Russians lived.

779

00:44:00,970 --> 00:44:02,650
They had a little
more in the house,

780

00:44:02,650 --> 00:44:06,640
like maybe a carpet or whatever.

781

00:44:06,640 --> 00:44:08,830
We lived the way they gave us.

782

00:44:08,830 --> 00:44:14,020
They gave us a bed and a stove.

783

00:44:14,020 --> 00:44:20,230
And the wood, we got
permission to go to the forest

784

00:44:20,230 --> 00:44:25,060
to cut, and bring home, and
chop up the wood to have it.

785

00:44:25,060 --> 00:44:27,420
If you didn't go,
you didn't have it.

786

00:44:27,420 --> 00:44:30,870
But you were allotted
so much, so many trees

787

00:44:30,870 --> 00:44:32,640
that you can have.

788

00:44:32,640 --> 00:44:36,300
And the rest of it you do with
it what you're supposed to do.

789

00:44:36,300 --> 00:44:41,760

But if we want to have a
little warmth, then we did it.

790
00:44:41,760 --> 00:44:44,460
The only thing we didn't
do it is for the kitchen.

791
00:44:44,460 --> 00:44:47,820
There were four rooms,
people living in,

792
00:44:47,820 --> 00:44:51,390
and one kitchen for everybody.

793
00:44:51,390 --> 00:44:53,340
It's for the
Russians and myself.

794
00:44:53,340 --> 00:44:54,420
And it works.

795
00:44:54,420 --> 00:44:55,770
It works.

796
00:44:55,770 --> 00:45:02,000
Everybody gets the time to go
in to do your little cooking

797
00:45:02,000 --> 00:45:02,500
or whatever.

798
00:45:02,500 --> 00:45:08,730

799
00:45:08,730 --> 00:45:15,300
Coming back to your
place in your family,

800
00:45:15,300 --> 00:45:19,500
I see that you were a year
younger than your oldest

801

00:45:19,500 --> 00:45:23,460
sister, and that your brother
was some five or six years--

802
00:45:23,460 --> 00:45:24,570
I left it open.

803
00:45:24,570 --> 00:45:27,650
I left it open
because this is what--

804
00:45:27,650 --> 00:45:30,330
remember, I said I made
myself older two years?

805
00:45:30,330 --> 00:45:31,410
Yes.

806
00:45:31,410 --> 00:45:33,840
Which way do you want
it, because according

807
00:45:33,840 --> 00:45:36,300
to my brother, it
wouldn't fit in.

808
00:45:36,300 --> 00:45:42,150
Either you want my regular,
normal time, which was 1921.

809
00:45:42,150 --> 00:45:43,230
This is mine.

810
00:45:43,230 --> 00:45:45,780
But I made myself 1919.

811
00:45:45,780 --> 00:45:48,000
I thought maybe I'm
too young to go to work

812
00:45:48,000 --> 00:45:50,610
and I'm not going to
get anything to eat.

813
00:45:50,610 --> 00:45:52,830
Who in the world is
making themselves older?

814
00:45:52,830 --> 00:45:55,170
Everybody's making
themselves younger.

815
00:45:55,170 --> 00:45:56,050
Yes.

816
00:45:56,050 --> 00:45:57,400
So which way should I put it?

817
00:45:57,400 --> 00:45:59,700
That's why I left it open.

818
00:45:59,700 --> 00:46:02,670
Put it as you really were.

819
00:46:02,670 --> 00:46:03,540
However--

820
00:46:03,540 --> 00:46:07,260
Because all the
documents here are 1919.

821
00:46:07,260 --> 00:46:07,890
Yes.

822
00:46:07,890 --> 00:46:09,040
So would it interfere?

823
00:46:09,040 --> 00:46:09,540
No.

824
00:46:09,540 --> 00:46:13,230
OK, so I'll give you
the proper thing.

825

00:46:13,230 --> 00:46:14,850
I know what I did there.

826
00:46:14,850 --> 00:46:17,640
1921, because--
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

827
00:46:17,640 --> 00:46:21,690
I was only going to remark
that it seems just so

828
00:46:21,690 --> 00:46:28,200
remarkable that your life
was really saved by the fact

829
00:46:28,200 --> 00:46:32,730
that you were in a position
to be able to get away.

830
00:46:32,730 --> 00:46:37,350
And you didn't have
the attachment,

831
00:46:37,350 --> 00:46:40,440
let's say, that your sister had,
the older one who was getting

832
00:46:40,440 --> 00:46:42,070
married, or engaged and--

833
00:46:42,070 --> 00:46:43,860
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

834
00:46:43,860 --> 00:46:48,240
She was already engaged, so
whatever he was doing, too.

835
00:46:48,240 --> 00:46:51,218
I did what the group
of my friends did.

836
00:46:51,218 --> 00:46:52,260
You know what I'm saying?

837
00:46:52,260 --> 00:46:52,760
Yeah.

838
00:46:52,760 --> 00:46:54,510
OK.

839
00:46:54,510 --> 00:47:02,010
Yeah, tell me about how you
got to the United States.

840
00:47:02,010 --> 00:47:08,430
Oh, how I got-- well, I
registered with the joint

841
00:47:08,430 --> 00:47:10,265
or whatever, I think so.

842
00:47:10,265 --> 00:47:10,890
And waited my--

843
00:47:10,890 --> 00:47:11,550
In Germany.

844
00:47:11,550 --> 00:47:15,360
In Germany, and waited my time.

845
00:47:15,360 --> 00:47:19,740
And we all did this.

846
00:47:19,740 --> 00:47:24,210
My sister-in-law happens to
have a sister, too, down there.

847
00:47:24,210 --> 00:47:29,520
So my brother and his wife, they
were the first one to leave.

848
00:47:29,520 --> 00:47:32,280

849

00:47:32,280 --> 00:47:39,120

My sister-in-law's sister
followed six months later.

850

00:47:39,120 --> 00:47:44,400

And I was left in Germany with
my husband and two children.

851

00:47:44,400 --> 00:47:46,410

And exactly to the six month--

852

00:47:46,410 --> 00:47:50,790

December-- I got
the papers to leave.

853

00:47:50,790 --> 00:47:56,160

And we all came with the
same boat, same ship,

854

00:47:56,160 --> 00:47:59,020

that looks like made
the trip back and forth,

855

00:47:59,020 --> 00:48:02,220

and then the next
one was ready to go.

856

00:48:02,220 --> 00:48:04,720

So both of your children
were born in Germany.

857

00:48:04,720 --> 00:48:07,380

No, no, my older one
was born in Russia.

858

00:48:07,380 --> 00:48:11,400

In Russia, yeah,
and the younger one

859

00:48:11,400 --> 00:48:17,250

was born in Germany
in a DP camp.

860

00:48:17,250 --> 00:48:20,190

Did they have any
memories of that time?

861

00:48:20,190 --> 00:48:22,000

From the older one?

862

00:48:22,000 --> 00:48:22,500

Yeah.

863

00:48:22,500 --> 00:48:26,410

The older one a little bit, more
from Germany than from Russia.

864

00:48:26,410 --> 00:48:30,690

I don't think she
remembers much from Russia.

865

00:48:30,690 --> 00:48:33,810

And the younger one was
exactly three years old

866

00:48:33,810 --> 00:48:38,670

when we left, so a little.

867

00:48:38,670 --> 00:48:41,610

What did you and your
husband do when you got here?

868

00:48:41,610 --> 00:48:42,140

To here?

869

00:48:42,140 --> 00:48:42,640

Yes.

870

00:48:42,640 --> 00:48:43,140

OK.

871

00:48:43,140 --> 00:48:45,330

In the beginning, well,
I had two children,

872

00:48:45,330 --> 00:48:47,940
so I right away
didn't do anything.

873
00:48:47,940 --> 00:48:51,840
My husband got a
job in a factory,

874
00:48:51,840 --> 00:48:55,620
I think in a shoe
factory, if I'm not right,

875
00:48:55,620 --> 00:48:58,270
just made \$17 a week.

876
00:48:58,270 --> 00:49:04,440
And from \$17 a week,
my husband's niece,

877
00:49:04,440 --> 00:49:07,770
sister's daughter,
was in Israel.

878
00:49:07,770 --> 00:49:12,150
And we sent packages
to them, because they

879
00:49:12,150 --> 00:49:16,590
had hard times in the
beginning in Israel, too.

880
00:49:16,590 --> 00:49:21,990
Yes, and it was
enough for everything.

881
00:49:21,990 --> 00:49:25,770
So you were actually taking
care of them or helping them.

882
00:49:25,770 --> 00:49:26,520
Yes.

883
00:49:26,520 --> 00:49:30,180

Not anymore, but in the
beginning, yes, sure,

884
00:49:30,180 --> 00:49:34,440
to the point that we send them
chocolate for the children.

885
00:49:34,440 --> 00:49:38,000

886
00:49:38,000 --> 00:49:39,780
And you worked in a factory.

887
00:49:39,780 --> 00:49:40,830
I worked in a--

888
00:49:40,830 --> 00:49:41,330
yes.

889
00:49:41,330 --> 00:49:47,750
When my younger daughter
started school, in Newark,

890
00:49:47,750 --> 00:49:50,330
I went to work in a factory--

891
00:49:50,330 --> 00:49:51,500
dresses, I think.

892
00:49:51,500 --> 00:49:52,250
Dresses, yeah.

893
00:49:52,250 --> 00:49:56,820

894
00:49:56,820 --> 00:50:04,350
As you look back on
your experience now,

895
00:50:04,350 --> 00:50:07,340
what do you think?

896

00:50:07,340 --> 00:50:12,710

How do you think your life
has changed as a result of all

897

00:50:12,710 --> 00:50:14,270

that you've been through?

898

00:50:14,270 --> 00:50:18,260

What can you tell us about--

899

00:50:18,260 --> 00:50:20,330

In general, from
the beginning on?

900

00:50:20,330 --> 00:50:20,960

Yes.

901

00:50:20,960 --> 00:50:23,930

I mean, what has this--

902

00:50:23,930 --> 00:50:26,550

how has this influenced you?

903

00:50:26,550 --> 00:50:29,660

The beginning was
very, very trying.

904

00:50:29,660 --> 00:50:35,510

Very "disappointed"
is a very mild word,

905

00:50:35,510 --> 00:50:39,560

that all this happened,
that by that time,

906

00:50:39,560 --> 00:50:43,040

no more sisters, no parents.

907

00:50:43,040 --> 00:50:45,620

You do everything on your own.

908

00:50:45,620 --> 00:50:48,440

And the worst part,
when the children start

909

00:50:48,440 --> 00:50:51,890

to grow up, no grandparents.

910

00:50:51,890 --> 00:50:52,842

How?

911

00:50:52,842 --> 00:50:53,810

What?

912

00:50:53,810 --> 00:50:56,300

Not even picture.

913

00:50:56,300 --> 00:50:58,220

Did they ask questions
when they were younger?

914

00:50:58,220 --> 00:51:01,220

Yeah, when they start getting
a little more, you know--

915

00:51:01,220 --> 00:51:02,570

yeah.

916

00:51:02,570 --> 00:51:06,210

I remember putting my
older daughter to school.

917

00:51:06,210 --> 00:51:08,040

I didn't speak English.

918

00:51:08,040 --> 00:51:12,230

Neither did she, at all.

919

00:51:12,230 --> 00:51:17,960

And they put her right
away in the first class,

920

00:51:17,960 --> 00:51:19,910

what she belonged.

921

00:51:19,910 --> 00:51:24,290

And the child felt very bad, not understanding, nothing at all.

922

00:51:24,290 --> 00:51:30,830

But soon enough she was a top school student, went to school.

923

00:51:30,830 --> 00:51:33,290

And we learned the language.

924

00:51:33,290 --> 00:51:42,950

But the hurt does not go away, no matter how much you try.

925

00:51:42,950 --> 00:51:46,370

You have a little naches from kids and everything else.

926

00:51:46,370 --> 00:51:52,100

And you try to put it where it belongs and everything,

927

00:51:52,100 --> 00:51:54,460

grandchildren and everything else.

928

00:51:54,460 --> 00:51:56,570

But the hurt doesn't go away.

929

00:51:56,570 --> 00:51:58,400

Do you still have memories of it?

930

00:51:58,400 --> 00:52:05,090

Well, I have memories that I cannot explain.

931

00:52:05,090 --> 00:52:08,390

I only seen it in the beginning, what happened.

932
00:52:08,390 --> 00:52:12,650
I didn't see him being killed.

933
00:52:12,650 --> 00:52:17,000
I didn't see him being
chased out of the house.

934
00:52:17,000 --> 00:52:20,400

935
00:52:20,400 --> 00:52:24,540
But I know step by step, step
by step, because of my brother,

936
00:52:24,540 --> 00:52:26,100
how and where.

937
00:52:26,100 --> 00:52:32,460
We even go through the whole
city, I can almost by name

938
00:52:32,460 --> 00:52:38,121
call every street in the city,
who was living and where.

939
00:52:38,121 --> 00:52:40,680
So it's all very vivid to you.

940
00:52:40,680 --> 00:52:43,530
Yeah, every little thing,
every little thing.

941
00:52:43,530 --> 00:52:47,380
I even know my Christian
neighbors' last names

942
00:52:47,380 --> 00:52:48,600
till today, too.

943
00:52:48,600 --> 00:52:51,950

944
00:52:51,950 --> 00:52:59,240
And it changed, but
hopefully, and especially

945
00:52:59,240 --> 00:53:05,420
now with what's going on now,
almost you can't get rid of it.

946
00:53:05,420 --> 00:53:10,470
Of course, I wasn't
beaten up or whatever,

947
00:53:10,470 --> 00:53:15,770
but just to see things going on.

948
00:53:15,770 --> 00:53:21,620
And living through something
like that was unbelievable.

949
00:53:21,620 --> 00:53:24,050
Yeah.

950
00:53:24,050 --> 00:53:27,322
Have you been able to talk to
your children about what you--

951
00:53:27,322 --> 00:53:28,280
and your grandchildren?

952
00:53:28,280 --> 00:53:30,230
I've been able to talk to them.

953
00:53:30,230 --> 00:53:31,850
Has affected-- my
younger daughter

954
00:53:31,850 --> 00:53:37,700
bought me an album to
record all my things.

955
00:53:37,700 --> 00:53:41,608

And each day, she said, mom,
did you already start it?

956
00:53:41,608 --> 00:53:42,650
Did you already start it?

957
00:53:42,650 --> 00:53:43,790
We have to have this.

958
00:53:43,790 --> 00:53:44,990
We have to have this.

959
00:53:44,990 --> 00:53:48,620

960
00:53:48,620 --> 00:53:50,880
You have three grandchildren.

961
00:53:50,880 --> 00:53:51,380
Three.

962
00:53:51,380 --> 00:53:54,410
My older one has one
daughter, and she's a widow.

963
00:53:54,410 --> 00:53:57,110
She lost her husband.

964
00:53:57,110 --> 00:54:00,505
And the younger one has two.

965
00:54:00,505 --> 00:54:02,380
Do you talk to your
grandchildren about this?

966
00:54:02,380 --> 00:54:06,920
Oh, the older granddaughter
from my younger daughter

967
00:54:06,920 --> 00:54:09,020
is already in college.

968

00:54:09,020 --> 00:54:12,140

She's in Ithaca, New York.

969

00:54:12,140 --> 00:54:18,500

The first thing she did is
joined Hillel on the campus.

970

00:54:18,500 --> 00:54:25,660

The first thing she did
is went to the museum,

971

00:54:25,660 --> 00:54:31,169

and the first thing she did
is seeing Schindler's List.

972

00:54:31,169 --> 00:54:37,270

973

00:54:37,270 --> 00:54:40,480

And hopefully, they go straight.

974

00:54:40,480 --> 00:54:41,920

You know what's going on.

975

00:54:41,920 --> 00:54:47,200

I don't like the idea
about mixed marriages,

976

00:54:47,200 --> 00:54:50,150

and it happens so much.

977

00:54:50,150 --> 00:54:56,410

And hopefully, it stops
already, because it's eaten away

978

00:54:56,410 --> 00:54:58,450

on the Jewish population.

979

00:54:58,450 --> 00:55:01,730

980

00:55:01,730 --> 00:55:03,705
And who knows what it brings?

981
00:55:03,705 --> 00:55:08,050

982
00:55:08,050 --> 00:55:11,980
Is there anything
you would like to say

983
00:55:11,980 --> 00:55:14,470
as a final message of your take?

984
00:55:14,470 --> 00:55:19,210
I would like to talk
to all humanity,

985
00:55:19,210 --> 00:55:25,210
and especially to the
Jewish people of America,

986
00:55:25,210 --> 00:55:33,250
to be vigilant that another
Holocaust should never

987
00:55:33,250 --> 00:55:35,020
come to being.

988
00:55:35,020 --> 00:55:39,940
I don't like the idea,
what I've seen in Sarajevo

989
00:55:39,940 --> 00:55:42,160
and nobody responded.

990
00:55:42,160 --> 00:55:45,040
People were killed,
and regardless

991
00:55:45,040 --> 00:55:49,360
of their nationality.

992

00:55:49,360 --> 00:55:55,030
And anything like that what goes
on, in any country, bothers.

993
00:55:55,030 --> 00:55:57,540

994
00:55:57,540 --> 00:55:59,040
People should have enough--

995
00:55:59,040 --> 00:56:08,090
one Holocaust and forever, not
just sit back, and do nothing,

996
00:56:08,090 --> 00:56:12,770
and see people,
innocent people--

997
00:56:12,770 --> 00:56:23,576
innocent people-- being done
away with for no reason at all.

998
00:56:23,576 --> 00:56:26,440
All right, the
people in Yugoslavia

999
00:56:26,440 --> 00:56:30,370
and all those small
towns didn't go

1000
00:56:30,370 --> 00:56:34,510
through exactly what
the Holocaust was

1001
00:56:34,510 --> 00:56:39,510
in 1939 with the Germans.

1002
00:56:39,510 --> 00:56:43,830
They did not perish
alive in some ovens.

1003
00:56:43,830 --> 00:56:45,680
But it's still something.

1004
00:56:45,680 --> 00:56:50,250

1005
00:56:50,250 --> 00:56:52,590
I want to thank you very
much for coming here

1006
00:56:52,590 --> 00:56:53,695
and for speaking.

1007
00:56:53,695 --> 00:56:54,320
You're welcome.

1008
00:56:54,320 --> 00:56:55,540
And for telling your story.

1009
00:56:55,540 --> 00:56:56,040
OK.

1010
00:56:56,040 --> 00:56:59,430
And I think you have
contributed a great deal--

1011
00:56:59,430 --> 00:57:00,150
Did you?

1012
00:57:00,150 --> 00:57:02,360
--to our understanding.

1013
00:57:02,360 --> 00:57:05,790
You think it was clearly?

1014
00:57:05,790 --> 00:57:08,310
Yes, I believe it was.

1015
00:57:08,310 --> 00:57:09,530
Well, let's hope so.

1016
00:57:09,530 --> 00:57:10,030
Yeah.

1017
00:57:10,030 --> 00:57:11,190
I hope we covered everything
that we want to cover.

1018
00:57:11,190 --> 00:57:12,370
And it's the truth.

1019
00:57:12,370 --> 00:57:13,200
It's the truth.

1020
00:57:13,200 --> 00:57:13,888
Yes.

1021
00:57:13,888 --> 00:57:15,930
I hope we covered everything
you wanted to cover.

1022
00:57:15,930 --> 00:57:20,430
And if not, I'll
probably come back.

1023
00:57:20,430 --> 00:57:24,540
I probably will come back
with one episode, too,

1024
00:57:24,540 --> 00:57:29,290
which happened, which
I got too far away.

1025
00:57:29,290 --> 00:57:29,790
Yeah.

1026
00:57:29,790 --> 00:57:31,020
You want me to mention?

1027
00:57:31,020 --> 00:57:32,020
Would you like to do it?

1028
00:57:32,020 --> 00:57:32,590
Yes.

1029

00:57:32,590 --> 00:57:33,090

Yes.

1030

00:57:33,090 --> 00:57:37,350

When the Germans came
in, and when we ran away,

1031

00:57:37,350 --> 00:57:41,700

so we stayed in a small town
a few days in a synagogue,

1032

00:57:41,700 --> 00:57:45,360

in a bombed-out synagogue--
not only ourselves,

1033

00:57:45,360 --> 00:57:48,510

filled to capacity.

1034

00:57:48,510 --> 00:57:51,780

My brother and my father
wanted to run away

1035

00:57:51,780 --> 00:57:56,280

further, because they said
that men are the biggest.

1036

00:57:56,280 --> 00:57:59,580

And that's all they
do is hunt men.

1037

00:57:59,580 --> 00:58:04,470

And my mother and all the
girls stayed in that synagogue.

1038

00:58:04,470 --> 00:58:09,330

So we stayed for a few
days, maybe the most a week.

1039

00:58:09,330 --> 00:58:11,790

And then my mother said--

1040

00:58:11,790 --> 00:58:14,070

I cannot even say,
"rest in peace,"

1041
00:58:14,070 --> 00:58:16,950
because she doesn't have
a place where she is.

1042
00:58:16,950 --> 00:58:19,940

1043
00:58:19,940 --> 00:58:21,730
"Kids, let's take
everything together

1044
00:58:21,730 --> 00:58:23,410
and we have to go home.

1045
00:58:23,410 --> 00:58:26,750
We have to go home, whatever.

1046
00:58:26,750 --> 00:58:34,990
And let's hope that father and
my son is somewhere safe, too."

1047
00:58:34,990 --> 00:58:38,530
So we start walking home.

1048
00:58:38,530 --> 00:58:40,840
We didn't probably
have any money

1049
00:58:40,840 --> 00:58:42,760
to pay for
transportation, or to look

1050
00:58:42,760 --> 00:58:47,590
for transportation, or whatever,
because my father ran away.

1051
00:58:47,590 --> 00:58:50,230

1052

00:58:50,230 --> 00:58:51,580
We came back.

1053
00:58:51,580 --> 00:58:55,300
It took us, I think,
a day and a half.

1054
00:58:55,300 --> 00:58:56,570
We have one minute more, so--

1055
00:58:56,570 --> 00:58:57,070
Hmm?

1056
00:58:57,070 --> 00:58:59,128
We have about one
minute more so--

1057
00:58:59,128 --> 00:59:01,420
we have about one minute more
on this side of the tape.

1058
00:59:01,420 --> 00:59:03,970
Oh, OK, I don't think a
minute will be enough,

1059
00:59:03,970 --> 00:59:05,420
but I'll try it again.

1060
00:59:05,420 --> 00:59:05,920
Summarize.

1061
00:59:05,920 --> 00:59:12,130
When we finally came on home,
on the outskirts of Jedrzejów,

1062
00:59:12,130 --> 00:59:15,550
our city, it was
still light, daylight.

1063
00:59:15,550 --> 00:59:19,090
And we were afraid to go, that
the Germans shouldn't see us.

1064

00:59:19,090 --> 00:59:22,300

Finally, when it start to
get a little bit darker,

1065

00:59:22,300 --> 00:59:25,210

we came home.

1066

00:59:25,210 --> 00:59:29,710

And we walked into the house,
and we lit our kerosene lamp--

1067

00:59:29,710 --> 00:59:31,300

it shouldn't be too bright--

1068

00:59:31,300 --> 00:59:36,370

and we went to sleep, all
of them in just two beds.

1069

00:59:36,370 --> 00:59:39,160

Not even 10 minutes
later came a knock on

1070

00:59:39,160 --> 00:59:43,210

the door, an SS man by the door.

1071

00:59:43,210 --> 00:59:44,950

And he came in.

1072

00:59:44,950 --> 00:59:46,030

Who sent them?

1073

00:59:46,030 --> 00:59:47,260

Only the Polacks could.

1074

00:59:47,260 --> 00:59:49,630

There were no Jews home.

1075

00:59:49,630 --> 00:59:53,260

They said that somebody came.

1076

00:59:53,260 --> 00:59:54,190

He came in.

1077

00:59:54,190 --> 00:59:58,630

He stays in front of me,
in front of my eyes now--

1078

00:59:58,630 --> 01:00:02,530

not a young person, middle-aged,
and heavy on the side.

1079

01:00:02,530 --> 01:00:05,860

He's walking around
two beds together.

1080

01:00:05,860 --> 01:00:07,010

And he's walking around.

1081

01:00:07,010 --> 01:00:09,580

Mother slept with
two, three children.

1082

01:00:09,580 --> 01:00:12,010

I slept with my sister
in the other bed.

1083

01:00:12,010 --> 01:00:14,230

And he came and he point.

1084

01:00:14,230 --> 01:00:15,110

That's it?

1085

01:00:15,110 --> 01:00:15,610

Almost.

1086

01:00:15,610 --> 01:00:16,450

Go ahead.

1087

01:00:16,450 --> 01:00:21,160

And he said, you, you come
with me, pointing to me.

1088

01:00:21,160 --> 01:00:22,930

I have to finish.

1089
01:00:22,930 --> 01:00:23,740
I have to finish.

1090
01:00:23,740 --> 01:00:24,010
OK.

1091
01:00:24,010 --> 01:00:24,340
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1092
01:00:24,340 --> 01:00:25,215
--a few more minutes.

1093
01:00:25,215 --> 01:00:27,370
Because I'll finish
this some other time.

1094
01:00:27,370 --> 01:00:28,720
You don't want to do it now?

1095
01:00:28,720 --> 01:00:29,780
Oh, you have time?

1096
01:00:29,780 --> 01:00:32,560
We can do it another--
we can do a brief--

1097
01:00:32,560 --> 01:00:35,380
Oh, yes, so then I finish.

1098
01:00:35,380 --> 01:00:37,020
All right.

1099
01:00:37,020 --> 01:00:50,000