

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:23,480

2
00:00:23,480 --> 00:00:24,050
Good morning.

3
00:00:24,050 --> 00:00:27,890

4
00:00:27,890 --> 00:00:30,920
Good morning, I am
Joseph Preil, Director

5
00:00:30,920 --> 00:00:33,110
of the Holocaust
Resource Center here

6
00:00:33,110 --> 00:00:35,450
at King College of New Jersey.

7
00:00:35,450 --> 00:00:39,920
This morning
December 16th, 1993,

8
00:00:39,920 --> 00:00:44,960
the eighth day of Hanukkah, we
are privileged to have with us

9
00:00:44,960 --> 00:00:49,940
Mrs. Celina Rosenblum,
a resident of Clifton,

10
00:00:49,940 --> 00:00:55,640
who will tell us about her
experiences in World War two

11
00:00:55,640 --> 00:01:00,860
when she was a young
girl in Poland.

12
00:01:00,860 --> 00:01:05,300

Mrs. Rosenblum to
begin with, tell us

13

00:01:05,300 --> 00:01:10,643
which members of your immediate
family were alive in Poland

14

00:01:10,643 --> 00:01:11,810
at the beginning of the war?

15

00:01:11,810 --> 00:01:14,970

16

00:01:14,970 --> 00:01:15,643
My parents.

17

00:01:15,643 --> 00:01:16,185
Your parents.

18

00:01:16,185 --> 00:01:17,970
My parents, my brother.

19

00:01:17,970 --> 00:01:19,200
So there were four of you?

20

00:01:19,200 --> 00:01:20,850
There were four of us, yes.

21

00:01:20,850 --> 00:01:23,430
And you survived?

22

00:01:23,430 --> 00:01:24,810
Yes, with my mother.

23

00:01:24,810 --> 00:01:27,150
Both you and your
mother survived.

24

00:01:27,150 --> 00:01:30,300
And of your extended
family, which

25

00:01:30,300 --> 00:01:34,740
would mean grandparents, uncles,
aunts, and first cousins,

26

00:01:34,740 --> 00:01:35,640
how many were there?

27

00:01:35,640 --> 00:01:38,520
My grandparents did not survive.

28

00:01:38,520 --> 00:01:40,240
How many grandparents
were alive in 39?

29

00:01:40,240 --> 00:01:40,740
I had three.

30

00:01:40,740 --> 00:01:41,530
Three.

31

00:01:41,530 --> 00:01:42,840
Yes.

32

00:01:42,840 --> 00:01:50,310
And my mother had two
brothers, and one survived.

33

00:01:50,310 --> 00:01:55,050
My father had a sister
and three brothers,

34

00:01:55,050 --> 00:01:58,350
which one brother survived.

35

00:01:58,350 --> 00:02:00,900
He was in Russia during the war.

36

00:02:00,900 --> 00:02:03,960
How many of the uncles
and aunts were married?

37

00:02:03,960 --> 00:02:08,160

38

00:02:08,160 --> 00:02:10,590

All of them except one.

39

00:02:10,590 --> 00:02:12,960

No, no, all of
them, all of them.

40

00:02:12,960 --> 00:02:14,970

You had six uncles and aunts.

41

00:02:14,970 --> 00:02:15,700

Yes.

42

00:02:15,700 --> 00:02:17,400

Five spouses.

43

00:02:17,400 --> 00:02:18,010

That's 11.

44

00:02:18,010 --> 00:02:19,530

No I had six spouses.

45

00:02:19,530 --> 00:02:21,608

I remember he just married
just before the war.

46

00:02:21,608 --> 00:02:22,650

So they were all married?

47

00:02:22,650 --> 00:02:23,775

Yes, they were all married.

48

00:02:23,775 --> 00:02:26,405

So there were 6 and 6 are 12.

49

00:02:26,405 --> 00:02:27,820

And 3 grandparents.

50

00:02:27,820 --> 00:02:28,320
15.

51
00:02:28,320 --> 00:02:28,830
Right.

52
00:02:28,830 --> 00:02:30,960
Yes, yes.

53
00:02:30,960 --> 00:02:35,460
12, 15 and how
many first cousins?

54
00:02:35,460 --> 00:02:36,400
How many?

55
00:02:36,400 --> 00:02:36,900
Three.

56
00:02:36,900 --> 00:02:39,530

57
00:02:39,530 --> 00:02:40,460
I think five.

58
00:02:40,460 --> 00:02:42,050
There were five children.

59
00:02:42,050 --> 00:02:42,965
So that's 20.

60
00:02:42,965 --> 00:02:45,650

61
00:02:45,650 --> 00:02:50,450
To 3 and 12, 6 and 6,
and 5 gives you 20.

62
00:02:50,450 --> 00:02:52,580
Of the 20, how many survived?

63

00:02:52,580 --> 00:02:54,600

How many survived?

64

00:02:54,600 --> 00:03:01,910

The two brothers and one cousin.

65

00:03:01,910 --> 00:03:06,680

So three out of
those 20 survived.

66

00:03:06,680 --> 00:03:12,170

Now if we put your four people
in your immediate family,

67

00:03:12,170 --> 00:03:14,570

five out of 24 survived?

68

00:03:14,570 --> 00:03:15,910

Right.

69

00:03:15,910 --> 00:03:17,540

All right.

70

00:03:17,540 --> 00:03:19,340

Let us begin from the beginning.

71

00:03:19,340 --> 00:03:21,390

When and where were you born?

72

00:03:21,390 --> 00:03:28,280

I was born in Krakow
on December 23, 1929.

73

00:03:28,280 --> 00:03:31,170

So you were just
about 10 years old--

74

00:03:31,170 --> 00:03:33,320

close to 10 years old
when the war began?

75

00:03:33,320 --> 00:03:34,460

Right.

76

00:03:34,460 --> 00:03:38,240

Tell us about life in Krakow
and your family before the war.

77

00:03:38,240 --> 00:03:42,770

Well, my parents had a
furniture store in Krakow.

78

00:03:42,770 --> 00:03:48,140

And I had a very
wonderful childhood.

79

00:03:48,140 --> 00:03:49,280

I went to Hebrew school.

80

00:03:49,280 --> 00:03:52,000

81

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:56,300

Not after the school, I mean,
it was a whole day outside

82

00:03:56,300 --> 00:03:59,350

of piano lessons
and dancing lessons.

83

00:03:59,350 --> 00:04:02,740

And we were quite well off.

84

00:04:02,740 --> 00:04:05,980

We were a wonderful family.

85

00:04:05,980 --> 00:04:09,308

And that's all I remember now.

86

00:04:09,308 --> 00:04:11,350

So the only school you
went to was Hebrew school?

87

00:04:11,350 --> 00:04:12,490

Yes, yes.

88

00:04:12,490 --> 00:04:14,200

You had general
studies there too?

89

00:04:14,200 --> 00:04:15,130

Yes.

90

00:04:15,130 --> 00:04:16,360

I see.

91

00:04:16,360 --> 00:04:18,880

And your brother was how old?

92

00:04:18,880 --> 00:04:19,825

He was only five.

93

00:04:19,825 --> 00:04:21,700

And in Europe, you didn't
really start school

94

00:04:21,700 --> 00:04:22,750

till you were seven.

95

00:04:22,750 --> 00:04:24,770

So he didn't begin school?

96

00:04:24,770 --> 00:04:26,080

No, no.

97

00:04:26,080 --> 00:04:30,220

He only was taking piano lessons
and doing absolutely wonderful.

98

00:04:30,220 --> 00:04:33,250

99

00:04:33,250 --> 00:04:35,230

All right, tell
us what happened,

100

00:04:35,230 --> 00:04:40,570

what you recall of events
beginning in September '39?

101

00:04:40,570 --> 00:04:41,620

No.

102

00:04:41,620 --> 00:04:44,560

September 1, the war broke out.

103

00:04:44,560 --> 00:04:48,610

In the morning, we woke
up, and we heard shooting.

104

00:04:48,610 --> 00:04:51,160

We didn't realize what
really was happening,

105

00:04:51,160 --> 00:04:54,400

but then everybody
realized what happened.

106

00:04:54,400 --> 00:04:57,310

And we were hiding
in the basement

107

00:04:57,310 --> 00:05:00,640

until all the bombing stopped.

108

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

And then the war continues.

109

00:05:05,630 --> 00:05:08,630

My parents decided that we
were going to leave Krakow.

110

00:05:08,630 --> 00:05:13,190

111

00:05:13,190 --> 00:05:16,580

We hired a taxi, and we
went to a certain point.

112
00:05:16,580 --> 00:05:19,160
I don't remember where it was.

113
00:05:19,160 --> 00:05:21,920
And the taxi just left us there.

114
00:05:21,920 --> 00:05:28,400
And we were going and going
on horse and carriages loaded

115
00:05:28,400 --> 00:05:29,180
with ammunition.

116
00:05:29,180 --> 00:05:33,230
We were traveling
with the Polish army.

117
00:05:33,230 --> 00:05:35,420
Let's understand.

118
00:05:35,420 --> 00:05:36,800
Who was in the taxi?

119
00:05:36,800 --> 00:05:39,115
You, your brother,
and two parents.

120
00:05:39,115 --> 00:05:39,740
And my parents.

121
00:05:39,740 --> 00:05:40,240
Right.

122
00:05:40,240 --> 00:05:41,780
Four people.

123
00:05:41,780 --> 00:05:44,810
Now, where did the Polish army
come into the picture here?

124

00:05:44,810 --> 00:05:48,960
Because the taxi left us right
in the middle of nowhere.

125
00:05:48,960 --> 00:05:50,570
And we had to go.

126
00:05:50,570 --> 00:05:51,680
There were no gasoline.

127
00:05:51,680 --> 00:05:52,880
There was nothing.

128
00:05:52,880 --> 00:05:54,545
We wanted to go towards Russia.

129
00:05:54,545 --> 00:05:57,290

130
00:05:57,290 --> 00:06:01,040
And the Polish army
was traveling obviously

131
00:06:01,040 --> 00:06:02,970
in that direction.

132
00:06:02,970 --> 00:06:05,330
So we were sitting on
top of the ammunition

133
00:06:05,330 --> 00:06:09,848
and traveling with them
all for maybe a few days.

134
00:06:09,848 --> 00:06:11,390
And they allowed
you to go with them?

135
00:06:11,390 --> 00:06:12,090
Yes, they did.

136
00:06:12,090 --> 00:06:12,590

Yes.

137

00:06:12,590 --> 00:06:13,760

There was a lot of people.

138

00:06:13,760 --> 00:06:17,450

A lot of people were running
away and doing the same thing.

139

00:06:17,450 --> 00:06:18,740

Yes, yes, yes.

140

00:06:18,740 --> 00:06:24,680

Finally somehow we
reached the city of Lvov.

141

00:06:24,680 --> 00:06:27,710

And there were Russians there.

142

00:06:27,710 --> 00:06:31,790

And we stayed there for
quite some time, I remember.

143

00:06:31,790 --> 00:06:38,270

And then my grandparents
decided and my parents

144

00:06:38,270 --> 00:06:39,980

that we should go back.

145

00:06:39,980 --> 00:06:45,200

Now Lvov, that's also it
was known then as Lemberg?

146

00:06:45,200 --> 00:06:46,070

Right.

147

00:06:46,070 --> 00:06:47,150

That's right.

148

00:06:47,150 --> 00:06:49,550

That was in the Russian

section of Poland?

149
00:06:49,550 --> 00:06:52,100
Yes, yes.

150
00:06:52,100 --> 00:06:54,350
And we were there
for a few months.

151
00:06:54,350 --> 00:06:56,870
I don't know exactly
how many months.

152
00:06:56,870 --> 00:06:59,180
Then we decided--
my parents decided

153
00:06:59,180 --> 00:07:00,440
that we were going to go back.

154
00:07:00,440 --> 00:07:05,150
And my grandparents
paid a fortune to a man

155
00:07:05,150 --> 00:07:09,365
to bring us back to Krakow which
was a big mistake because we

156
00:07:09,365 --> 00:07:10,490
should have gone to Russia.

157
00:07:10,490 --> 00:07:13,280
But that was the way it was.

158
00:07:13,280 --> 00:07:18,170
And we were going through
snow up to the waist.

159
00:07:18,170 --> 00:07:19,310
Going through the border.

160
00:07:19,310 --> 00:07:24,500

161

00:07:24,500 --> 00:07:28,630

We reached Krakow after a few days walking in the snow.

162

00:07:28,630 --> 00:07:33,920

Do you have any idea of the date, about what time this was?

163

00:07:33,920 --> 00:07:35,660

It was in the winter.

164

00:07:35,660 --> 00:07:40,970

It was probably in 1940.

165

00:07:40,970 --> 00:07:42,920

It was in the winter of 1940.

166

00:07:42,920 --> 00:07:44,910

A year after the war began.

167

00:07:44,910 --> 00:07:45,410

Yeah.

168

00:07:45,410 --> 00:07:48,600

Because the war began in '39 of September.

169

00:07:48,600 --> 00:07:50,230

So this was that year.

170

00:07:50,230 --> 00:07:51,200

A year plus?

171

00:07:51,200 --> 00:07:52,910

No it was not the year.

172

00:07:52,910 --> 00:07:54,110

It wasn't even the year.

173

00:07:54,110 --> 00:07:57,570

Oh, was that same the
winter of '39, '40,

174

00:07:57,570 --> 00:07:59,200

just a few months
after the war began?

175

00:07:59,200 --> 00:07:59,950

'40, right, right.

176

00:07:59,950 --> 00:08:00,860

Exactly.

177

00:08:00,860 --> 00:08:06,530

And we came back, and we
stayed with my grandmother

178

00:08:06,530 --> 00:08:15,200

because our apartment was
taken over by a German

179

00:08:15,200 --> 00:08:17,750

by the name of Mr Frank.

180

00:08:17,750 --> 00:08:22,250

He was, I think, the
governor of Krakow.

181

00:08:22,250 --> 00:08:25,430

And he liked our apartment
because it was beautifully

182

00:08:25,430 --> 00:08:27,260

furnished, and he took it over.

183

00:08:27,260 --> 00:08:31,040

And since then, we
never could go back.

184

00:08:31,040 --> 00:08:33,980

And we stayed with
my grandmother

185
00:08:33,980 --> 00:08:42,390
until they were starting to talk
about a ghetto being formed.

186
00:08:42,390 --> 00:08:43,650
This is in the winter of 40.

187
00:08:43,650 --> 00:08:47,510
This was the winter of 40.

188
00:08:47,510 --> 00:08:49,550
But we did not go to ghetto.

189
00:08:49,550 --> 00:08:51,650
We packed up our things.

190
00:08:51,650 --> 00:08:55,550
My grandmother and
my mother's brothers,

191
00:08:55,550 --> 00:08:58,660
both of them, we went
through Wieliczka.

192
00:08:58,660 --> 00:09:01,950

193
00:09:01,950 --> 00:09:04,890
You were very good
at spelling earlier.

194
00:09:04,890 --> 00:09:05,390
Yes.

195
00:09:05,390 --> 00:09:06,640
Can you spell this one for me.

196
00:09:06,640 --> 00:09:07,260
Yes, yes.

197

00:09:07,260 --> 00:09:08,160
Oh, that's wonderful.

198
00:09:08,160 --> 00:09:09,725
OK, how do you spell it?

199
00:09:09,725 --> 00:09:18,640
W-I-E-L-I-C-Z-K-A.

200
00:09:18,640 --> 00:09:19,210
All right.

201
00:09:19,210 --> 00:09:20,080
I have it.

202
00:09:20,080 --> 00:09:22,350
OK.

203
00:09:22,350 --> 00:09:24,600
And we stayed.

204
00:09:24,600 --> 00:09:28,740
We lived there in the
very communal life.

205
00:09:28,740 --> 00:09:32,890
One house was maybe
was 20 families.

206
00:09:32,890 --> 00:09:37,480
Each family had a
room and a kitchen

207
00:09:37,480 --> 00:09:39,870
that's quite a
few families used,

208
00:09:39,870 --> 00:09:42,570
which was my mother's
brother and her mother, which

209
00:09:42,570 --> 00:09:43,405

was great.

210

00:09:43,405 --> 00:09:44,280

So it was all family?

211

00:09:44,280 --> 00:09:47,310

For us, it was all family.

212

00:09:47,310 --> 00:09:51,540

Then it had to be

Judenrein, right?

213

00:09:51,540 --> 00:10:01,260

This must have been

the beginning of 1943

214

00:10:01,260 --> 00:10:08,550

or the end of 1942, because

we went to ghetto in Krakow.

215

00:10:08,550 --> 00:10:13,740

And we lived there in

such horrible conditions

216

00:10:13,740 --> 00:10:15,660

that is unbelievable.

217

00:10:15,660 --> 00:10:17,350

But then we were broke.

218

00:10:17,350 --> 00:10:21,600

Everything was

taken away from us.

219

00:10:21,600 --> 00:10:27,060

And my father was taken

away at that point too.

220

00:10:27,060 --> 00:10:30,660

He went to Stalowa Wola.

221

00:10:30,660 --> 00:10:38,200

And we stayed in the
ghetto until March of 1943.

222
00:10:38,200 --> 00:10:44,420
But you are Wieliczka in
the first winter of the war.

223
00:10:44,420 --> 00:10:44,920
Right.

224
00:10:44,920 --> 00:10:48,522
And how long were
you in Wieliczka?

225
00:10:48,522 --> 00:10:51,700
Would you say?

226
00:10:51,700 --> 00:10:54,010
Till sometimes in 42.

227
00:10:54,010 --> 00:10:55,090
All right.

228
00:10:55,090 --> 00:10:57,730
So you were there from--

229
00:10:57,730 --> 00:11:00,160
that was at least two years.

230
00:11:00,160 --> 00:11:03,530
Because you came to Wieliczka
at the beginning of 40.

231
00:11:03,530 --> 00:11:04,030
Right.

232
00:11:04,030 --> 00:11:04,930
At the beginning of winter.

233
00:11:04,930 --> 00:11:05,820
We were there long time.

234

00:11:05,820 --> 00:11:06,080

Yes, yes.

235

00:11:06,080 --> 00:11:07,600

So were in Wieliczka
a long time?

236

00:11:07,600 --> 00:11:08,920

Yes.

237

00:11:08,920 --> 00:11:11,300

I am not sure if
it was two years,

238

00:11:11,300 --> 00:11:16,560

but it was quite some time.

239

00:11:16,560 --> 00:11:17,890

Then you came back to Krakow?

240

00:11:17,890 --> 00:11:19,720

Yes, then we went
back because we

241

00:11:19,720 --> 00:11:22,180

had to go back to ghetto
because no Jew was

242

00:11:22,180 --> 00:11:25,360

allowed to live in any of
those little towns anymore.

243

00:11:25,360 --> 00:11:27,185

So they emptied out
all those towns?

244

00:11:27,185 --> 00:11:27,685

Yes, yes.

245

00:11:27,685 --> 00:11:30,730

They emptied out all
those towns and we

246
00:11:30,730 --> 00:11:33,350
had to go back to the ghetto.

247
00:11:33,350 --> 00:11:36,507
What was your family doing
during those during that-- that

248
00:11:36,507 --> 00:11:38,965
was quite a long period of time
that you were in Wieliczka?

249
00:11:38,965 --> 00:11:39,673
Nothing, nothing.

250
00:11:39,673 --> 00:11:40,720
What did you live from?

251
00:11:40,720 --> 00:11:43,900
We were selling our
possessions all the time

252
00:11:43,900 --> 00:11:47,020
because Jews were
not allowed to work.

253
00:11:47,020 --> 00:11:49,840
What did your family
do the whole day?

254
00:11:49,840 --> 00:11:50,500
Nothing.

255
00:11:50,500 --> 00:11:54,760
I had a teacher
coming to the house

256
00:11:54,760 --> 00:11:57,640
to teach the children
because we were not

257
00:11:57,640 --> 00:11:59,710

allowed to go to school.

258

00:11:59,710 --> 00:12:02,410

And my parents did nothing.

259

00:12:02,410 --> 00:12:07,240

Play cards, sitting, we were
not allowed to do anything.

260

00:12:07,240 --> 00:12:13,330

Sometimes they took a few
men to work, to shovel snow,

261

00:12:13,330 --> 00:12:19,870

you know slave labor, but we
were just at home all the time.

262

00:12:19,870 --> 00:12:21,280

It was a very difficult life.

263

00:12:21,280 --> 00:12:24,460

You have to bring
water from the well.

264

00:12:24,460 --> 00:12:27,430

There were no toilets, you
had to go out to the toilets.

265

00:12:27,430 --> 00:12:33,430

There were chores that
have to be done at home.

266

00:12:33,430 --> 00:12:35,890

We were not allowed
to have any help.

267

00:12:35,890 --> 00:12:37,490

So my mother worked very hard.

268

00:12:37,490 --> 00:12:39,370

I had to help her.

269

00:12:39,370 --> 00:12:43,570

And I had to study
as much as possible.

270

00:12:43,570 --> 00:12:47,140

And at one point when I
was sitting with my teacher

271

00:12:47,140 --> 00:12:50,470

and studying, somebody said
that the German is coming.

272

00:12:50,470 --> 00:12:53,050

So we had to hide
all those books.

273

00:12:53,050 --> 00:12:55,570

And he was just our friend.

274

00:12:55,570 --> 00:12:57,580

He was not the teacher anymore.

275

00:12:57,580 --> 00:13:02,080

Because it was against the
law to teach Jewish children.

276

00:13:02,080 --> 00:13:04,240

The teacher was Jewish or not?

277

00:13:04,240 --> 00:13:05,260

Yes, yes.

278

00:13:05,260 --> 00:13:11,590

Professor [? Marimijnski ?]
He was a professor of Hebrew

279

00:13:11,590 --> 00:13:13,180

in the Hebrew school I think.

280

00:13:13,180 --> 00:13:14,620

But he taught everything.

281

00:13:14,620 --> 00:13:18,960
At this point we couldn't have
a choice of any other teacher.

282
00:13:18,960 --> 00:13:20,460
How many children
were in the group?

283
00:13:20,460 --> 00:13:23,200

284
00:13:23,200 --> 00:13:24,070
Two.

285
00:13:24,070 --> 00:13:24,780
Not many.

286
00:13:24,780 --> 00:13:27,900
No, no, no, no no, no.

287
00:13:27,900 --> 00:13:30,730
How do you remember
the mood of the--

288
00:13:30,730 --> 00:13:32,470
it was basically your family.

289
00:13:32,470 --> 00:13:33,090
Yes.

290
00:13:33,090 --> 00:13:36,400
How do you remember the mood
of the group day by day?

291
00:13:36,400 --> 00:13:39,860

292
00:13:39,860 --> 00:13:44,930
I think that they were fighting
just to go through the time.

293
00:13:44,930 --> 00:13:47,630

You know it was very sad.

294

00:13:47,630 --> 00:13:52,700

And we were hoping that
the war will be through.

295

00:13:52,700 --> 00:14:00,980

They will be finished very soon,
and we were living day by day.

296

00:14:00,980 --> 00:14:03,290

We didn't know what's
going to be tomorrow.

297

00:14:03,290 --> 00:14:08,190

So these approximately two
years were relatively calm?

298

00:14:08,190 --> 00:14:09,350

Yeah, yeah.

299

00:14:09,350 --> 00:14:10,370

Boring but calm.

300

00:14:10,370 --> 00:14:12,728

Right, Right.

301

00:14:12,728 --> 00:14:13,520

Then what happened?

302

00:14:13,520 --> 00:14:15,020

They were not so
calm believe me.

303

00:14:15,020 --> 00:14:18,080

It was not that calm
because the Germans came in

304

00:14:18,080 --> 00:14:20,720

and they were looking
for gold in between.

305

00:14:20,720 --> 00:14:25,310

And they usually come in
the middle of the night.

306

00:14:25,310 --> 00:14:31,230

And there was some of the owner
of the house that we lived in,

307

00:14:31,230 --> 00:14:34,280

and I don't know they were
looking for him constantly.

308

00:14:34,280 --> 00:14:37,580

He didn't do anything,
but for some reason,

309

00:14:37,580 --> 00:14:40,375

he jumped out the window,
and he was hiding.

310

00:14:40,375 --> 00:14:42,000

And they were looking
for him all over.

311

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:44,060

So you know the whole
house was affected.

312

00:14:44,060 --> 00:14:47,000

313

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:48,230

But basically--

314

00:14:48,230 --> 00:14:50,570

Even when it's calm it
can be nerve-racking.

315

00:14:50,570 --> 00:14:52,700

Nerve-racking constantly.

316

00:14:52,700 --> 00:14:54,980

Constantly nerve-racking.

317
00:14:54,980 --> 00:14:57,950
And then you
received instructions

318
00:14:57,950 --> 00:15:01,220
that you're to leave
Wieliczka and you

319
00:15:01,220 --> 00:15:03,665
had to go back to Krakow
and to the ghetto.

320
00:15:03,665 --> 00:15:04,640
To the ghetto, yes.

321
00:15:04,640 --> 00:15:08,180
What did the ghetto consist of?

322
00:15:08,180 --> 00:15:13,910
It was surrounded by
either a wall or a wire.

323
00:15:13,910 --> 00:15:15,540
The conditions was horrible.

324
00:15:15,540 --> 00:15:20,450
It was like maybe five, six
families in one apartment.

325
00:15:20,450 --> 00:15:23,840
We had wall-to-wall beds.

326
00:15:23,840 --> 00:15:27,320
And we had to go to work.

327
00:15:27,320 --> 00:15:35,120
So I and my mother we worked
in an upholstery shop.

328
00:15:35,120 --> 00:15:39,950
And then my mother got sick.

329
00:15:39,950 --> 00:15:42,560
I think she had pneumonia.

330
00:15:42,560 --> 00:15:46,310
And she was taken
to the hospital.

331
00:15:46,310 --> 00:15:50,060
There's a very famous hospital.

332
00:15:50,060 --> 00:15:52,640
And me and my brother
was left alone,

333
00:15:52,640 --> 00:15:55,500
and I had to take care of him.

334
00:15:55,500 --> 00:15:57,020
He was a little boy.

335
00:15:57,020 --> 00:16:01,340
I was going to work, coming
back taking care of him.

336
00:16:01,340 --> 00:16:04,040
It just so happened
that the hospital

337
00:16:04,040 --> 00:16:09,770
was in the same
building that we worked.

338
00:16:09,770 --> 00:16:17,930
And it was a back way
staircase into the hospital.

339
00:16:17,930 --> 00:16:19,280
And it was not known.

340
00:16:19,280 --> 00:16:20,810
Nobody knew about it.

341

00:16:20,810 --> 00:16:24,280

Only the people did work because
it was right in the same room.

342

00:16:24,280 --> 00:16:27,370

343

00:16:27,370 --> 00:16:30,550

And of course my
father was not--

344

00:16:30,550 --> 00:16:32,890

I mean, he was not with us.

345

00:16:32,890 --> 00:16:36,310

He was in Stalowa Wola.

346

00:16:36,310 --> 00:16:40,330

And he died there of starvation.

347

00:16:40,330 --> 00:16:43,090

When did he go to
Stalowa Wola again?

348

00:16:43,090 --> 00:16:47,380

He went straight from Wieliczka
because he was never in ghetto

349

00:16:47,380 --> 00:16:49,690

with us, as far as I remember.

350

00:16:49,690 --> 00:16:53,860

351

00:16:53,860 --> 00:16:57,050

Was he given any reason for
being taken or he just taken?

352

00:16:57,050 --> 00:16:57,550

No, no.

353

00:16:57,550 --> 00:16:58,810

He was just taken.

354

00:16:58,810 --> 00:17:00,910

The Germans didn't

ask any reasons.

355

00:17:00,910 --> 00:17:05,500

When he went to Stalowa Wola did
you have any dealings with him

356

00:17:05,500 --> 00:17:06,109

after that?

357

00:17:06,109 --> 00:17:06,609

No.

358

00:17:06,609 --> 00:17:07,359

That was the last?

359

00:17:07,359 --> 00:17:08,180

That was the last.

360

00:17:08,180 --> 00:17:10,000

Yes, yes, yes.

361

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:11,380

And he died exactly--

362

00:17:11,380 --> 00:17:12,980

And exactly where
was Stalowa Wola.

363

00:17:12,980 --> 00:17:15,130

It was not far from Krakow.

364

00:17:15,130 --> 00:17:17,349

I don't know the
proximity exactly.

365

00:17:17,349 --> 00:17:18,200

I really don't know.

366

00:17:18,200 --> 00:17:20,349

And that was a labor camp?

367

00:17:20,349 --> 00:17:22,160

That was a labor camp.

368

00:17:22,160 --> 00:17:23,950

Yes, yes.

369

00:17:23,950 --> 00:17:27,970

It was a vernichtung camp
because very few people really

370

00:17:27,970 --> 00:17:30,400

came out of there.

371

00:17:30,400 --> 00:17:33,190

They did not get food.

372

00:17:33,190 --> 00:17:37,420

They ate leaves from the ground.

373

00:17:37,420 --> 00:17:40,090

What this man that I
told you before he was--

374

00:17:40,090 --> 00:17:42,610

375

00:17:42,610 --> 00:17:45,910

my mother wanted to send
a coat for my father,

376

00:17:45,910 --> 00:17:50,200

and the man said that he's not
going to take the cold anymore

377

00:17:50,200 --> 00:17:53,230

because my father is not alive,
that he died of starvation.

378
00:17:53,230 --> 00:17:54,832
He was completely swollen.

379
00:17:54,832 --> 00:17:56,290
You mean when he
went with the cold

380
00:17:56,290 --> 00:17:57,490
he came back and gave that.

381
00:17:57,490 --> 00:17:58,400
No, no, no.

382
00:17:58,400 --> 00:18:02,320
My mother went to his
house, to this man's house.

383
00:18:02,320 --> 00:18:03,850
He was a Jewish policeman.

384
00:18:03,850 --> 00:18:06,910
My mother went to his house
to bring the coat because he

385
00:18:06,910 --> 00:18:08,830
was going back to Stalowa Wola.

386
00:18:08,830 --> 00:18:11,740
For some reason this
one man was allowed

387
00:18:11,740 --> 00:18:15,680
to go back between
ghetto and Stalowa Wola.

388
00:18:15,680 --> 00:18:19,130
I don't know what
was the reason.

389
00:18:19,130 --> 00:18:22,900
And my mother wanted to

send that coat to my father.

390

00:18:22,900 --> 00:18:26,710

And he said that he's not
going to take the coat.

391

00:18:26,710 --> 00:18:29,380

He was a very nice man because
he could have taken the coat

392

00:18:29,380 --> 00:18:32,080

and taken it for himself.

393

00:18:32,080 --> 00:18:34,600

But he saw a woman
with two children.

394

00:18:34,600 --> 00:18:37,090

What, is he going to take it?

395

00:18:37,090 --> 00:18:41,620

And a coat was a
very big deal there.

396

00:18:41,620 --> 00:18:45,700

And so that's how we know that
he died of starvation there.

397

00:18:45,700 --> 00:18:47,440

But he knew it all along?

398

00:18:47,440 --> 00:18:49,072

Yes, he knew it all along.

399

00:18:49,072 --> 00:18:50,530

That's the way he
told your mother.

400

00:18:50,530 --> 00:18:52,210

He probably thought
that my mother

401

00:18:52,210 --> 00:18:56,650
will forget about the coat
and she's not going to bother.

402
00:18:56,650 --> 00:19:00,550
But when he saw that she is
bringing the coat for him,

403
00:19:00,550 --> 00:19:02,413
he had no choice.

404
00:19:02,413 --> 00:19:04,080
When he saw as she
is bringing the coat.

405
00:19:04,080 --> 00:19:05,800
Yes, yes.

406
00:19:05,800 --> 00:19:06,700
All right.

407
00:19:06,700 --> 00:19:10,750
So now you're in the
ghetto with your mother

408
00:19:10,750 --> 00:19:12,760
and your little brother.

409
00:19:12,760 --> 00:19:15,150
Your mother caught
something like pneumonia,

410
00:19:15,150 --> 00:19:16,150
she was in the hospital.

411
00:19:16,150 --> 00:19:19,010
How old was your mother?

412
00:19:19,010 --> 00:19:22,315
My mother was born 1905.

413
00:19:22,315 --> 00:19:23,530

So she was in her middle 30s?

414

00:19:23,530 --> 00:19:24,250

Right.

415

00:19:24,250 --> 00:19:25,250

A young woman.

416

00:19:25,250 --> 00:19:25,990

A young woman.

417

00:19:25,990 --> 00:19:27,820

Yes, yes.

418

00:19:27,820 --> 00:19:31,600

And she was in the
hospital she was very sick.

419

00:19:31,600 --> 00:19:34,750

And then came-- this
was just a few months

420

00:19:34,750 --> 00:19:36,925

before the liquidation
of the ghetto.

421

00:19:36,925 --> 00:19:40,550

422

00:19:40,550 --> 00:19:43,000

And we knew what
happens to hospitals,

423

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:45,820

that people would get shot.

424

00:19:45,820 --> 00:19:53,230

So I went through the back door,
so I told you the stairway,

425

00:19:53,230 --> 00:19:56,470

and I wanted to take her

out from the hospital.

426

00:19:56,470 --> 00:19:59,690

But her clothes was
locked up in the locker.

427

00:19:59,690 --> 00:20:02,470

In the steel locker
was the lock.

428

00:20:02,470 --> 00:20:04,430

I have no idea how I did it.

429

00:20:04,430 --> 00:20:09,130

I caught a corner from the
locker, and I bended it.

430

00:20:09,130 --> 00:20:11,620

Till today, I have no
idea how I did that,

431

00:20:11,620 --> 00:20:16,930

and I took out her coat and
her clothes, and I dressed her.

432

00:20:16,930 --> 00:20:18,910

And I took her out
from the hospital.

433

00:20:18,910 --> 00:20:25,960

Within hours, the Germans came
in and they shot everybody.

434

00:20:25,960 --> 00:20:26,960

Within hours.

435

00:20:26,960 --> 00:20:28,030

So a miracle.

436

00:20:28,030 --> 00:20:29,900

A miracle.

437

00:20:29,900 --> 00:20:32,925
When I talk I get goose
pimples when I talk about it.

438
00:20:32,925 --> 00:20:34,600
And you were 11 years old.

439
00:20:34,600 --> 00:20:38,200
I was-- no this was 1943.

440
00:20:38,200 --> 00:20:39,894
It was 1943, I was 13.

441
00:20:39,894 --> 00:20:41,830
13 or so.

442
00:20:41,830 --> 00:20:43,770
You look at 13-year-old
children today.

443
00:20:43,770 --> 00:20:44,920
Today they're babies.

444
00:20:44,920 --> 00:20:45,730
Yeah.

445
00:20:45,730 --> 00:20:46,840
And how did you do it?

446
00:20:46,840 --> 00:20:47,890
I don't know.

447
00:20:47,890 --> 00:20:51,940
I guess the adrenaline
or something.

448
00:20:51,940 --> 00:20:53,150
I don't know how I did it.

449
00:20:53,150 --> 00:20:58,970
Until today I have no idea
how I bent the steel locker.

450
00:20:58,970 --> 00:21:04,350
And I took her out
and she was so sick.

451
00:21:04,350 --> 00:21:07,730
And we had some
acquaintances, friends

452
00:21:07,730 --> 00:21:11,570
and I took her under one arm
and the other woman took her

453
00:21:11,570 --> 00:21:17,090
on that other arm and we were
marching towards the ghetto.

454
00:21:17,090 --> 00:21:20,330
I mean towards
concentration camp.

455
00:21:20,330 --> 00:21:21,080
From the ghetto.

456
00:21:21,080 --> 00:21:22,250
From the ghetto.

457
00:21:22,250 --> 00:21:24,380
Now, my little
brother was with us.

458
00:21:24,380 --> 00:21:27,200

459
00:21:27,200 --> 00:21:30,500
But the Germans
didn't let him go.

460
00:21:30,500 --> 00:21:32,630
So my mother had to
make a decision--

461

00:21:32,630 --> 00:21:35,540
to go with me to a
concentration camp

462
00:21:35,540 --> 00:21:37,100
or to stay with
my little brother.

463
00:21:37,100 --> 00:21:41,050

464
00:21:41,050 --> 00:21:42,890
You had to go to a
concentration camp.

465
00:21:42,890 --> 00:21:43,390
Yeah.

466
00:21:43,390 --> 00:21:45,360
But your mother had a choice.

467
00:21:45,360 --> 00:21:48,322
She had the choice to stay.

468
00:21:48,322 --> 00:21:50,280
How is it that she had
a choice and you didn't?

469
00:21:50,280 --> 00:21:51,930
I had the choice to stay, too.

470
00:21:51,930 --> 00:21:54,330
I had the choice to
stay or not to go.

471
00:21:54,330 --> 00:21:57,600
But if you stay, you know that
you are going to be killed.

472
00:21:57,600 --> 00:21:59,040
In the camp?

473

00:21:59,040 --> 00:22:00,060
This was in ghetto.

474
00:22:00,060 --> 00:22:03,060
In the ghetto, I mean.

475
00:22:03,060 --> 00:22:05,670
And you thought that by going
to the concentration camps--

476
00:22:05,670 --> 00:22:07,410
That we might still be alive.

477
00:22:07,410 --> 00:22:08,370
Yes.

478
00:22:08,370 --> 00:22:13,860
So my mother had to make
the decision to go with me

479
00:22:13,860 --> 00:22:17,250
or to stay all of
us with my brother.

480
00:22:17,250 --> 00:22:21,360
But this happened so fast
that we left my little brother

481
00:22:21,360 --> 00:22:24,360
standing in the
middle of the street

482
00:22:24,360 --> 00:22:29,170
and obviously she
decided to go with me.

483
00:22:29,170 --> 00:22:35,550
And if you would see how
the child was crying,

484
00:22:35,550 --> 00:22:38,340
it was just terrible.

485

00:22:38,340 --> 00:22:40,020

And he stayed.

486

00:22:40,020 --> 00:22:42,930

But for some reason somebody,
one of our friends--

487

00:22:42,930 --> 00:22:45,760

we had a lot of friends--

488

00:22:45,760 --> 00:22:49,330

it was a woman, Mrs Green
I remember her name.

489

00:22:49,330 --> 00:22:52,320

She came to concentration camp.

490

00:22:52,320 --> 00:22:57,120

Her husband was a policeman,
a Jewish policeman.

491

00:22:57,120 --> 00:23:00,720

And she came to concentration
camp with both children

492

00:23:00,720 --> 00:23:03,090

and she took my little
brother with her.

493

00:23:03,090 --> 00:23:05,860

Because she knew who we were.

494

00:23:05,860 --> 00:23:09,210

So she said that this
little kid is hers.

495

00:23:09,210 --> 00:23:15,030

So he came to concentration camp
and we were together for a time

496

00:23:15,030 --> 00:23:19,620

until they made a kinderheim.

497
00:23:19,620 --> 00:23:22,690
Was your brother allowed to
remain with you and your mother

498
00:23:22,690 --> 00:23:23,190
in the camp?

499
00:23:23,190 --> 00:23:24,570
For a time.

500
00:23:24,570 --> 00:23:26,020
For a time, yes.

501
00:23:26,020 --> 00:23:30,210
Because generally I thought
they separated male from female.

502
00:23:30,210 --> 00:23:32,370
Very short time,
very short time.

503
00:23:32,370 --> 00:23:33,810
But this is right
at the beginning

504
00:23:33,810 --> 00:23:35,185
that they weren't
that organized.

505
00:23:35,185 --> 00:23:36,270
That's right, exactly.

506
00:23:36,270 --> 00:23:37,890
Right in the beginning.

507
00:23:37,890 --> 00:23:40,170
And I tell you
what else happened.

508
00:23:40,170 --> 00:23:45,058
As soon as we came to

concentration camp to Plasz³w,

509

00:23:45,058 --> 00:23:46,350

my mother went to the hospital.

510

00:23:46,350 --> 00:23:47,892

And the camp you
went to was Plasz³w?

511

00:23:47,892 --> 00:23:49,140

Yes, yes.

512

00:23:49,140 --> 00:23:50,820

My mother had to
go to the hospital

513

00:23:50,820 --> 00:23:52,990

because she was very sick.

514

00:23:52,990 --> 00:23:54,810

So I stayed with
my little brother.

515

00:23:54,810 --> 00:23:56,160

I was taking care of him.

516

00:23:56,160 --> 00:23:59,580

517

00:23:59,580 --> 00:24:04,500

There was a Doctor Gross
which was hung after the war

518

00:24:04,500 --> 00:24:08,380

for doing experiments on people.

519

00:24:08,380 --> 00:24:15,090

I don't know why he took care
of my mother and she survived.

520

00:24:15,090 --> 00:24:17,130

She got well.

521
00:24:17,130 --> 00:24:22,080
And then she came
out of the hospital

522
00:24:22,080 --> 00:24:31,260
and we worked again in
the upholstery shop.

523
00:24:31,260 --> 00:24:34,830
Well, actually we both
went to the kinderheim

524
00:24:34,830 --> 00:24:39,180
and my mother was working
at the upholstery shop.

525
00:24:39,180 --> 00:24:42,840
But at one point
I was bored and I

526
00:24:42,840 --> 00:24:45,240
couldn't stay any longer there.

527
00:24:45,240 --> 00:24:48,910
So I told my mother that
I want out from there.

528
00:24:48,910 --> 00:24:49,980
And it was allowed.

529
00:24:49,980 --> 00:24:52,360
At that time you could
have gone back and forth.

530
00:24:52,360 --> 00:24:55,260
And I was already a big girl.

531
00:24:55,260 --> 00:24:56,910
And my mother used to dress me--

532
00:24:56,910 --> 00:24:57,990

A big girl of how old?

533

00:24:57,990 --> 00:24:59,520

Of how old?

534

00:24:59,520 --> 00:25:02,605

This was in 1944.

535

00:25:02,605 --> 00:25:05,610

So I was 15.

536

00:25:05,610 --> 00:25:07,170

So you are in Plasz³w.

537

00:25:07,170 --> 00:25:10,200

You went in '43.

538

00:25:10,200 --> 00:25:11,490

43.

539

00:25:11,490 --> 00:25:12,117

Yes.

540

00:25:12,117 --> 00:25:13,200

How long were you Plasz³w?

541

00:25:13,200 --> 00:25:14,880

I think till 1944.

542

00:25:14,880 --> 00:25:16,230

About a year or so?

543

00:25:16,230 --> 00:25:18,010

A little bit more than a year.

544

00:25:18,010 --> 00:25:19,440

A little bit more.

545

00:25:19,440 --> 00:25:22,440

We were there a year and
maybe three or four months.

546
00:25:22,440 --> 00:25:23,760
Yeah.

547
00:25:23,760 --> 00:25:26,175
The commandant was Amon Goeth.

548
00:25:26,175 --> 00:25:27,780
Do you remember him?

549
00:25:27,780 --> 00:25:29,070
Of course I remember him.

550
00:25:29,070 --> 00:25:31,320
He were a murdered.

551
00:25:31,320 --> 00:25:32,890
He was such a killer.

552
00:25:32,890 --> 00:25:34,680
We were so scared of him.

553
00:25:34,680 --> 00:25:36,780
Only to look at
him, we were dying.

554
00:25:36,780 --> 00:25:39,810

555
00:25:39,810 --> 00:25:47,340
And when he came into our
shop where we were working,

556
00:25:47,340 --> 00:25:49,500
we were so scared
because he just

557
00:25:49,500 --> 00:25:51,750
took out the gun
and shot anybody

558

00:25:51,750 --> 00:25:54,210
that he didn't like the look of.

559
00:25:54,210 --> 00:25:55,695
He just took out
the gun and shot.

560
00:25:55,695 --> 00:25:59,130

561
00:25:59,130 --> 00:26:00,690
Oh, I remember him.

562
00:26:00,690 --> 00:26:01,800
How he was a dog.

563
00:26:01,800 --> 00:26:03,390
Was a Dalmatian.

564
00:26:03,390 --> 00:26:06,090
Was a wild animal.

565
00:26:06,090 --> 00:26:09,060
It's considered that Dalmatian
should be a nice dog,

566
00:26:09,060 --> 00:26:10,770
you know calm.

567
00:26:10,770 --> 00:26:15,450
This dog was trained
to be a killer.

568
00:26:15,450 --> 00:26:20,940
And then there
came time that they

569
00:26:20,940 --> 00:26:23,430
took all the children
about maybe two

570
00:26:23,430 --> 00:26:25,980

or three days after I left.

571

00:26:25,980 --> 00:26:30,630

They took all the children
from the kinderheim.

572

00:26:30,630 --> 00:26:33,150

I don't know how you call it.

573

00:26:33,150 --> 00:26:35,940

Children's home or
the children home.

574

00:26:35,940 --> 00:26:38,940

It was a barrack.

575

00:26:38,940 --> 00:26:42,960

And they took all the children,
and none of them ever survived.

576

00:26:42,960 --> 00:26:43,650

None.

577

00:26:43,650 --> 00:26:45,000

Not even one.

578

00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:47,770

But Plasza³w was a
labor camp, wasn't it?

579

00:26:47,770 --> 00:26:49,425

Yes, yes, yes.

580

00:26:49,425 --> 00:26:52,620

581

00:26:52,620 --> 00:26:55,110

How did the children perish?

582

00:26:55,110 --> 00:27:00,810

They loaded them on the
trucks, and all the people

583
00:27:00,810 --> 00:27:05,070
from that camp had to
stand in a big field, which

584
00:27:05,070 --> 00:27:06,480
was called the appellplatz.

585
00:27:06,480 --> 00:27:11,400
We were lined up five in
a row, you know, big rows.

586
00:27:11,400 --> 00:27:13,080
Each were five in a row.

587
00:27:13,080 --> 00:27:15,900
And we had to watch when they
were taking out the children

588
00:27:15,900 --> 00:27:18,090
and loading them on trucks.

589
00:27:18,090 --> 00:27:21,210
And the music was playing.

590
00:27:21,210 --> 00:27:26,400
And we heard the kids
crying and screaming.

591
00:27:26,400 --> 00:27:29,790
Look, you have 3 years old,
5 years old, 10-year-old.

592
00:27:29,790 --> 00:27:33,000
They think they were
being taken away.

593
00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:39,510
And we had to stand there, and
listen to all those screams,

594
00:27:39,510 --> 00:27:42,660

and not to move.

595

00:27:42,660 --> 00:27:44,550

So you can imagine that.

596

00:27:44,550 --> 00:27:47,490

And did they drive them away?

597

00:27:47,490 --> 00:27:48,465

Yes.

598

00:27:48,465 --> 00:27:49,740

Do you know where?

599

00:27:49,740 --> 00:27:53,160

600

00:27:53,160 --> 00:27:54,850

That was it.

601

00:27:54,850 --> 00:27:55,680

That was it.

602

00:27:55,680 --> 00:27:56,670

Hundreds of kids.

603

00:27:56,670 --> 00:27:59,760

There were few trucks that
they were loading the children.

604

00:27:59,760 --> 00:28:03,400

And the screams were
unbelievable, those screams.

605

00:28:03,400 --> 00:28:06,390

606

00:28:06,390 --> 00:28:16,590

That's the last that I saw of
my one cousin and my brother.

607

00:28:16,590 --> 00:28:18,240
Your brother's name was?

608
00:28:18,240 --> 00:28:18,740
Daniel.

609
00:28:18,740 --> 00:28:22,040

610
00:28:22,040 --> 00:28:24,320
I never saw him again.

611
00:28:24,320 --> 00:28:26,670
Although we made up
that whoever survived

612
00:28:26,670 --> 00:28:32,060
we should meet in Poland after
the war at a certain person's

613
00:28:32,060 --> 00:28:36,470
house in Krakow, but
he never showed up.

614
00:28:36,470 --> 00:28:39,170
Because my mother
drilled it into us.

615
00:28:39,170 --> 00:28:42,880
You know we had a
family meeting whoever

616
00:28:42,880 --> 00:28:46,760
survive should go
to this man, he

617
00:28:46,760 --> 00:28:51,210
was a Polish man that
worked for us for years.

618
00:28:51,210 --> 00:28:53,240
And the only person
that ever showed up it

619
00:28:53,240 --> 00:28:54,440
was my mother's brother.

620
00:28:54,440 --> 00:28:56,330
That's it.

621
00:28:56,330 --> 00:28:58,520
And we met by him.

622
00:28:58,520 --> 00:29:00,740
He was he was a contact between.

623
00:29:00,740 --> 00:29:03,250

624
00:29:03,250 --> 00:29:08,470
So you are in Plasza³w for
a year and a few months.

625
00:29:08,470 --> 00:29:09,430
Right.

626
00:29:09,430 --> 00:29:12,310
You were doing some
kind of upholstery work?

627
00:29:12,310 --> 00:29:12,850
Yes.

628
00:29:12,850 --> 00:29:16,020
What kind of business did your
father have before the war?

629
00:29:16,020 --> 00:29:17,620
We had a furniture store.

630
00:29:17,620 --> 00:29:19,900
Was that related to upholstery?

631
00:29:19,900 --> 00:29:21,190

Not really.

632
00:29:21,190 --> 00:29:24,310
Not directly.

633
00:29:24,310 --> 00:29:26,890
And what happened after
a year and a quarter?

634
00:29:26,890 --> 00:29:30,160
After the year and a quarter,
they loaded us in trains

635
00:29:30,160 --> 00:29:33,588
to go to Auschwitz.

636
00:29:33,588 --> 00:29:35,005
Which wasn't too
far from Plasz³w.

637
00:29:35,005 --> 00:29:36,380
It wasn't near,
but we were going

638
00:29:36,380 --> 00:29:37,745
for two days and two nights.

639
00:29:37,745 --> 00:29:40,120
How did they manage to make
it in two days and two night?

640
00:29:40,120 --> 00:29:40,662
I don't know.

641
00:29:40,662 --> 00:29:41,870
I have no idea.

642
00:29:41,870 --> 00:29:42,790
I don't know.

643
00:29:42,790 --> 00:29:44,190
I understand it is 45 minutes.

644
00:29:44,190 --> 00:29:45,170
Yes.

645
00:29:45,170 --> 00:29:45,670
Yeah.

646
00:29:45,670 --> 00:29:46,390
Normally.

647
00:29:46,390 --> 00:29:49,060
But we were in those
trains for days.

648
00:29:49,060 --> 00:29:49,900
I'm telling you.

649
00:29:49,900 --> 00:29:52,270
I think it was two
days and one night,

650
00:29:52,270 --> 00:29:53,500
or two nights and one day.

651
00:29:53,500 --> 00:29:55,510
I don't remember exactly.

652
00:29:55,510 --> 00:29:57,100
Who was in the train with you?

653
00:29:57,100 --> 00:30:02,320
My mother and some other
people that I don't know

654
00:30:02,320 --> 00:30:03,340
who they were.

655
00:30:03,340 --> 00:30:07,840
We were picked I think
100 people to one wagon.

656

00:30:07,840 --> 00:30:08,980
That was meant for--

657
00:30:08,980 --> 00:30:11,380
It was meant for animals.

658
00:30:11,380 --> 00:30:13,268
For how many?

659
00:30:13,268 --> 00:30:13,810
I don't know.

660
00:30:13,810 --> 00:30:16,150
Maybe five, six animals
could fit in there.

661
00:30:16,150 --> 00:30:21,160
And the window was about
this big, there was no air.

662
00:30:21,160 --> 00:30:23,770
We were dying every minute.

663
00:30:23,770 --> 00:30:25,030
There were no toilets.

664
00:30:25,030 --> 00:30:27,110
There was no water.

665
00:30:27,110 --> 00:30:31,240
There was absolutely nothing
there and people were fainting.

666
00:30:31,240 --> 00:30:35,200
And after we were unloaded,
a few people were dead.

667
00:30:35,200 --> 00:30:39,930
If anybody had any sickness
or anything, they died.

668
00:30:39,930 --> 00:30:44,410

And finally we
came to Auschwitz.

669
00:30:44,410 --> 00:30:46,660
And of course,
there was Mengele.

670
00:30:46,660 --> 00:30:49,315
There were ghetto,
a whole staff.

671
00:30:49,315 --> 00:30:51,580
How do you know it was Mengele?

672
00:30:51,580 --> 00:30:52,970
Because I know him.

673
00:30:52,970 --> 00:30:55,057
I know who he was.

674
00:30:55,057 --> 00:30:56,390
Everybody said that was Mengele?

675
00:30:56,390 --> 00:30:57,370
Yes.

676
00:30:57,370 --> 00:30:58,600
He was known at the time?

677
00:30:58,600 --> 00:31:00,100
Yes, yes.

678
00:31:00,100 --> 00:31:03,790
Before you came there
people heard of him?

679
00:31:03,790 --> 00:31:06,880
I heard of him but I
didn't know who he was.

680
00:31:06,880 --> 00:31:08,620
But everybody knew that it him.

681
00:31:08,620 --> 00:31:11,530
Today everybody I talked to
says they came to Auschwitz

682
00:31:11,530 --> 00:31:12,610
and there was Mengele.

683
00:31:12,610 --> 00:31:13,750
Because he was there.

684
00:31:13,750 --> 00:31:15,300
But there were others also.

685
00:31:15,300 --> 00:31:16,300
There was a whole staff.

686
00:31:16,300 --> 00:31:17,920
There were maybe
10 Germans there.

687
00:31:17,920 --> 00:31:21,820
Very high-high ranking officers.

688
00:31:21,820 --> 00:31:24,040
And we were told.

689
00:31:24,040 --> 00:31:25,690
We knew that it was Mengele.

690
00:31:25,690 --> 00:31:27,447
Then you went from the train.

691
00:31:27,447 --> 00:31:28,030
What happened?

692
00:31:28,030 --> 00:31:29,470
For the selection.

693
00:31:29,470 --> 00:31:30,130
Immediately.

694
00:31:30,130 --> 00:31:30,880
Immediately.

695
00:31:30,880 --> 00:31:35,020
Right straight from the train,
we went for a selection.

696
00:31:35,020 --> 00:31:37,780
And I always said--

697
00:31:37,780 --> 00:31:38,830
Men and women?

698
00:31:38,830 --> 00:31:40,270
No, no, no, no, no.

699
00:31:40,270 --> 00:31:41,237
We were only women.

700
00:31:41,237 --> 00:31:42,070
You were only women.

701
00:31:42,070 --> 00:31:43,870
Even on the train?

702
00:31:43,870 --> 00:31:44,870
Yes.

703
00:31:44,870 --> 00:31:45,700
Your car.

704
00:31:45,700 --> 00:31:48,310
Your kind of car was all women.

705
00:31:48,310 --> 00:31:49,150
You know something?

706
00:31:49,150 --> 00:31:50,470
I don't remember that.

707

00:31:50,470 --> 00:31:53,160

708

00:31:53,160 --> 00:31:59,560

But I know that at the selection
we were only women I think so.

709

00:31:59,560 --> 00:32:03,290

I don't remember that.

710

00:32:03,290 --> 00:32:07,600

And I had to fight with
my mother all the times.

711

00:32:07,600 --> 00:32:10,900

Because I always
pushed her first.

712

00:32:10,900 --> 00:32:13,750

I wanted to know
where she was selected

713

00:32:13,750 --> 00:32:16,330

to go to so I would follow.

714

00:32:16,330 --> 00:32:19,750

And she always screams at
me, no, you don't follow me.

715

00:32:19,750 --> 00:32:23,150

You go where there is life
because I'm a little bit older.

716

00:32:23,150 --> 00:32:25,180

She was 30 some years old.

717

00:32:25,180 --> 00:32:27,490

And she says, but
you have to survive.

718

00:32:27,490 --> 00:32:29,770

I said, no I don't want

to survive without you

719

00:32:29,770 --> 00:32:32,170

because there is
nobody else left.

720

00:32:32,170 --> 00:32:35,080

And every time we went
through a selection

721

00:32:35,080 --> 00:32:38,460

there was this discussion
constantly, constantly.

722

00:32:38,460 --> 00:32:42,050

And we went through
a few selections.

723

00:32:42,050 --> 00:32:44,320

I said, no you have to survive.

724

00:32:44,320 --> 00:32:46,213

Somebody will show
up after the war.

725

00:32:46,213 --> 00:32:47,380

I don't want you to be dead.

726

00:32:47,380 --> 00:32:49,270

I said, no I don't
want to survive

727

00:32:49,270 --> 00:32:50,740

because I want to be with you.

728

00:32:50,740 --> 00:32:54,220

And this was
constantly going on.

729

00:32:54,220 --> 00:33:00,580

But anyway we both survived
that particular selection.

730

00:33:00,580 --> 00:33:05,590
We were shaven off all the hair.

731

00:33:05,590 --> 00:33:10,900
We were taken to the baths
which it was like not guess.

732

00:33:10,900 --> 00:33:14,320
And we stayed for quite
a few months in Auschwitz

733

00:33:14,320 --> 00:33:21,250
working outside carrying
stones back and forth, which

734

00:33:21,250 --> 00:33:25,060
I have no idea we were taking
stones from this place putting

735

00:33:25,060 --> 00:33:28,540
them there, taking from
there, and bringing them back.

736

00:33:28,540 --> 00:33:31,690
That was our work.

737

00:33:31,690 --> 00:33:39,910
And at one point when they
were giving out clothes

738

00:33:39,910 --> 00:33:43,960
after the selection, I
received a red dress.

739

00:33:43,960 --> 00:33:47,530
And red was-- everybody
saw it so whenever

740

00:33:47,530 --> 00:33:51,610
they needed the dress, I want
that girl with the red dress.

741

00:33:51,610 --> 00:33:54,040

Whatever they needed
to do they called me.

742

00:33:54,040 --> 00:33:57,400

And I had no choice because
I couldn't change clothes.

743

00:33:57,400 --> 00:34:00,610

This was my only cloth.

744

00:34:00,610 --> 00:34:02,820

You mean the Germans wanted you.

745

00:34:02,820 --> 00:34:03,320

Yeah.

746

00:34:03,320 --> 00:34:05,140

And what do they want you to do?

747

00:34:05,140 --> 00:34:06,550

A little bit extra work.

748

00:34:06,550 --> 00:34:07,750

To stay a little bit longer.

749

00:34:07,750 --> 00:34:10,360

750

00:34:10,360 --> 00:34:12,639

But I was lucky I was never hit.

751

00:34:12,639 --> 00:34:16,239

And I was never really
hit by a German.

752

00:34:16,239 --> 00:34:17,230

You know why?

753

00:34:17,230 --> 00:34:18,250

No.

754

00:34:18,250 --> 00:34:19,989

I have no idea why.

755

00:34:19,989 --> 00:34:21,100

I really don't know.

756

00:34:21,100 --> 00:34:23,770

You know why others were hit?

757

00:34:23,770 --> 00:34:25,120

For no reason at all.

758

00:34:25,120 --> 00:34:27,460

Absolutely no reason at all.

759

00:34:27,460 --> 00:34:31,330

Because I remember when
we were in Plasz³w still,

760

00:34:31,330 --> 00:34:34,810

we had to go to this big
field with appellplatz,

761

00:34:34,810 --> 00:34:39,580

and a girl right next to me
her name was Martha Fresh.

762

00:34:39,580 --> 00:34:41,630

She was she was standing
right next to me.

763

00:34:41,630 --> 00:34:46,330

And we were standing in the
row of five, beautiful girl,

764

00:34:46,330 --> 00:34:51,790

they took her out and they
gave her 25 on the behind.

765

00:34:51,790 --> 00:34:52,659

No reason at all.

766

00:34:52,659 --> 00:34:56,199

She was standing
right next to me.

767

00:34:56,199 --> 00:34:59,490

They were taking out
people constantly.

768

00:34:59,490 --> 00:35:02,080

This was the mood of Mr Goeth.

769

00:35:02,080 --> 00:35:04,630

He wanted to hit a few people.

770

00:35:04,630 --> 00:35:06,310

And now you're a Plasz³w victim?

771

00:35:06,310 --> 00:35:07,916

Yeah.

772

00:35:07,916 --> 00:35:10,420

This was Plasz³w.

773

00:35:10,420 --> 00:35:15,590

Now, in Plasz³w, I would
imagine everybody was Polish.

774

00:35:15,590 --> 00:35:16,990

All the Jews were from Poland?

775

00:35:16,990 --> 00:35:17,950

Yes, yes, yes.

776

00:35:17,950 --> 00:35:23,710

But at one point they had
some Hungarian people coming.

777

00:35:23,710 --> 00:35:26,620

Yes, yes, very few.

778

00:35:26,620 --> 00:35:28,870

But it didn't mean anything.

779

00:35:28,870 --> 00:35:31,550

And in Auschwitz where
were the people from?

780

00:35:31,550 --> 00:35:33,040

From all over.

781

00:35:33,040 --> 00:35:35,740

We met people from
Czechoslovakia.

782

00:35:35,740 --> 00:35:42,380

We met people from Hungary,
from Romania, from Holland,

783

00:35:42,380 --> 00:35:49,600

from the Island of
Rhodes, and someplace.

784

00:35:49,600 --> 00:35:51,740

There were people from--
there were French people.

785

00:35:51,740 --> 00:35:56,150

Were you aware of people
coming and people going?

786

00:35:56,150 --> 00:35:58,160

Yes, yes, we were.

787

00:35:58,160 --> 00:35:59,180

Yes.

788

00:35:59,180 --> 00:36:00,020

Every day.

789

00:36:00,020 --> 00:36:00,710

Every day.

790

00:36:00,710 --> 00:36:02,510

Every day there
were people coming.

791
00:36:02,510 --> 00:36:05,000
And there were people
being taken away.

792
00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:08,780
A big transport of people
and we did not know where.

793
00:36:08,780 --> 00:36:10,700
Did you discover later on where?

794
00:36:10,700 --> 00:36:11,670
No.

795
00:36:11,670 --> 00:36:12,170
No.

796
00:36:12,170 --> 00:36:17,390
The most of them were taken
to other camps to work.

797
00:36:17,390 --> 00:36:20,180
Like now when you
came to Auschwitz,

798
00:36:20,180 --> 00:36:27,110
do you have an idea
of what day it was?

799
00:36:27,110 --> 00:36:29,210
I think it was in July.

800
00:36:29,210 --> 00:36:30,110
July of--

801
00:36:30,110 --> 00:36:31,720
1944.

802
00:36:31,720 --> 00:36:37,038

In July 1944, the war was
going very badly for Germany.

803
00:36:37,038 --> 00:36:37,830
But we didn't know.

804
00:36:37,830 --> 00:36:38,690
But you didn't know it.

805
00:36:38,690 --> 00:36:39,190
No.

806
00:36:39,190 --> 00:36:41,660

807
00:36:41,660 --> 00:36:48,100
And Auschwitz was
operating how at that time?

808
00:36:48,100 --> 00:36:50,260
I'm trying to get
the picture of how

809
00:36:50,260 --> 00:36:54,670
the famous camp of
Auschwitz was functioning

810
00:36:54,670 --> 00:36:57,350
at a time the Germans knew
that they were losing the war.

811
00:36:57,350 --> 00:36:58,558
It was functioning very well.

812
00:36:58,558 --> 00:37:00,010
Very well organized.

813
00:37:00,010 --> 00:37:01,780
Absolutely very well.

814
00:37:01,780 --> 00:37:03,280
It was busy.

815
00:37:03,280 --> 00:37:05,450
It was very busy.

816
00:37:05,450 --> 00:37:06,830
It was very busy.

817
00:37:06,830 --> 00:37:08,650
The chimneys were going.

818
00:37:08,650 --> 00:37:09,848
The smoke was coming out.

819
00:37:09,848 --> 00:37:11,140
You knew exactly what that was.

820
00:37:11,140 --> 00:37:12,160
Oh, yes, yes.

821
00:37:12,160 --> 00:37:13,060
Everybody knew.

822
00:37:13,060 --> 00:37:13,810
Everybody knew.

823
00:37:13,810 --> 00:37:16,300
There was no secret about it.

824
00:37:16,300 --> 00:37:17,830
There was no secret.

825
00:37:17,830 --> 00:37:20,020
The smell I could just--

826
00:37:20,020 --> 00:37:22,730
the smell was so horrible.

827
00:37:22,730 --> 00:37:25,440
Everybody knew about it.

828

00:37:25,440 --> 00:37:28,210

Everybody knew that
they were making soap

829

00:37:28,210 --> 00:37:31,010

out those Jewish fat.

830

00:37:31,010 --> 00:37:32,900

This was the soap that
they were giving out.

831

00:37:32,900 --> 00:37:40,610

It was mark R-I-F,
Rein Judisches Fett.

832

00:37:40,610 --> 00:37:43,260

Maybe you didn't know about it.

833

00:37:43,260 --> 00:37:46,730

And we knew about it,
but we had no choice.

834

00:37:46,730 --> 00:37:48,830

At one point when we
were in Auschwitz,

835

00:37:48,830 --> 00:37:51,060

my mother was becoming gray.

836

00:37:51,060 --> 00:37:52,880

She got gray very young.

837

00:37:52,880 --> 00:37:55,520

And we were afraid
that something--

838

00:37:55,520 --> 00:37:59,150

you know when they see gray hair
although the face was young,

839

00:37:59,150 --> 00:38:00,170

they'll kill her.

840

00:38:00,170 --> 00:38:02,810

841

00:38:02,810 --> 00:38:10,220

We had a woman doctor that was
working in one of the hospitals

842

00:38:10,220 --> 00:38:11,090

there.

843

00:38:11,090 --> 00:38:17,240

And she brought gentian violet.

844

00:38:17,240 --> 00:38:20,540

And my mother mixed it
somehow and she puts it

845

00:38:20,540 --> 00:38:26,180

on her hair it was violet
but it wasn't gray.

846

00:38:26,180 --> 00:38:28,250

There was all kinds
of things that we had

847

00:38:28,250 --> 00:38:31,190

to do to make our cheeks red.

848

00:38:31,190 --> 00:38:33,860

You know when the German come--

849

00:38:33,860 --> 00:38:35,970

How did you do it?

850

00:38:35,970 --> 00:38:37,400

How did we do it?

851

00:38:37,400 --> 00:38:39,860

There were bricks.

852

00:38:39,860 --> 00:38:41,980

I know my mother
was mixing something

853
00:38:41,980 --> 00:38:44,750
but I didn't need it
because I was very young.

854
00:38:44,750 --> 00:38:47,670
But my mother was helping
other people with gray hair.

855
00:38:47,670 --> 00:38:49,097
I remember that.

856
00:38:49,097 --> 00:38:50,180
There were a lot of women.

857
00:38:50,180 --> 00:38:53,870
They saw what my mother did,
so they wanted to do it, too.

858
00:38:53,870 --> 00:38:56,390
So my mother used to
do it for all the women

859
00:38:56,390 --> 00:38:58,550
who wanted it because
for some reason

860
00:38:58,550 --> 00:39:00,860
she had access to
the gentian violet.

861
00:39:00,860 --> 00:39:03,210
But it was not in a liquid form.

862
00:39:03,210 --> 00:39:05,360
It was in the powder form.

863
00:39:05,360 --> 00:39:07,610
And so she mixed it.

864

00:39:07,610 --> 00:39:10,550

Here you buy it, it's
in the liquid form.

865

00:39:10,550 --> 00:39:14,180

And something they were doing
from the redbrick something.

866

00:39:14,180 --> 00:39:18,890

I don't remember exactly
what to make the cheek red

867

00:39:18,890 --> 00:39:22,130

and they put it on
the lips that they

868

00:39:22,130 --> 00:39:24,230

should look like presentable.

869

00:39:24,230 --> 00:39:27,830

870

00:39:27,830 --> 00:39:29,540

Of course, we were working.

871

00:39:29,540 --> 00:39:32,090

And we stayed there till--

872

00:39:32,090 --> 00:39:37,010

I know it winter but I don't
know what month it was.

873

00:39:37,010 --> 00:39:40,580

Did you understand
why with all that

874

00:39:40,580 --> 00:39:44,240

was going on with
the murder rate that

875

00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:48,390

was going on that you were
allowed to continue working?

876
00:39:48,390 --> 00:39:48,890
No.

877
00:39:48,890 --> 00:39:50,510
I did not understand it.

878
00:39:50,510 --> 00:39:51,710
Did you ever think about it?

879
00:39:51,710 --> 00:39:53,630
No never.

880
00:39:53,630 --> 00:39:56,810
Never even thought about it.

881
00:39:56,810 --> 00:39:58,910
You and your mother
in that group.

882
00:39:58,910 --> 00:40:01,040
I don't know whether my
mother thought about it.

883
00:40:01,040 --> 00:40:05,210
I'm sure she was older
and she thought about it.

884
00:40:05,210 --> 00:40:07,640
But I just--

885
00:40:07,640 --> 00:40:09,110
I did not understand it.

886
00:40:09,110 --> 00:40:10,160
I really didn't.

887
00:40:10,160 --> 00:40:15,020
You knew that Goeth was
the commandant in Plasz³w.

888

00:40:15,020 --> 00:40:18,190
Did know who the commandant
was in Auschwitz?

889
00:40:18,190 --> 00:40:19,330
No.

890
00:40:19,330 --> 00:40:20,970
Man's name was Hoss.

891
00:40:20,970 --> 00:40:21,790
Hoss.

892
00:40:21,790 --> 00:40:23,410
Yeah.

893
00:40:23,410 --> 00:40:25,120
I heard the name.

894
00:40:25,120 --> 00:40:26,790
I heard the name.

895
00:40:26,790 --> 00:40:30,370
So what was the difference that
the commandant in Plaszc³w was

896
00:40:30,370 --> 00:40:32,630
so well known to the people.

897
00:40:32,630 --> 00:40:36,880
Because this was-- you see
Auschwitz was very big.

898
00:40:36,880 --> 00:40:37,810
Much bigger Plaszc³w.

899
00:40:37,810 --> 00:40:41,140
Much bigger than Plaszc³w, and we
were actually not in Auschwitz,

900
00:40:41,140 --> 00:40:43,150
we were in Birkenau.

901
00:40:43,150 --> 00:40:44,380
Birkenau was worse.

902
00:40:44,380 --> 00:40:45,520
Right.

903
00:40:45,520 --> 00:40:47,680
But we never had the
contact with Hoss.

904
00:40:47,680 --> 00:40:48,610
I never saw him.

905
00:40:48,610 --> 00:40:50,890
I heard about him
but I never saw him.

906
00:40:50,890 --> 00:40:52,750
What did you hear about him?

907
00:40:52,750 --> 00:40:55,930
Not much, not much.

908
00:40:55,930 --> 00:40:57,880
But Goeth, we saw him.

909
00:40:57,880 --> 00:40:59,260
We saw him shooting people.

910
00:40:59,260 --> 00:41:01,960
We saw him killing people.

911
00:41:01,960 --> 00:41:04,780
So we saw him much more than--

912
00:41:04,780 --> 00:41:08,110
I never saw Hoss in my life.

913
00:41:08,110 --> 00:41:11,620
So that's how we know.

914
00:41:11,620 --> 00:41:15,120
I just remembered something
to say and I forgot it.

915
00:41:15,120 --> 00:41:17,230
I forgot something
very important.

916
00:41:17,230 --> 00:41:19,675
I just thought about
it and I forgot.

917
00:41:19,675 --> 00:41:23,940

918
00:41:23,940 --> 00:41:35,360
When we left Auschwitz, we were
loaded again into cattle cars.

919
00:41:35,360 --> 00:41:40,670
But not as many
people as before.

920
00:41:40,670 --> 00:41:44,450
We were maybe 40 or 50
people, which was wonderful

921
00:41:44,450 --> 00:41:46,810
because we could have sat down.

922
00:41:46,810 --> 00:41:55,280
Also my mother had
some few diamonds

923
00:41:55,280 --> 00:42:04,140
and some dollars wrapped up
as a wound on her finger.

924
00:42:04,140 --> 00:42:06,270
You know it was all wrapped up.

925

00:42:06,270 --> 00:42:12,040
And in Auschwitz, my mother
was a very smart woman.

926
00:42:12,040 --> 00:42:17,610
In Auschwitz she had contact
with some men over the wires.

927
00:42:17,610 --> 00:42:20,340
You see we had no contact
with men but over the wires

928
00:42:20,340 --> 00:42:21,810
we saw a few men.

929
00:42:21,810 --> 00:42:26,310
So she made a deal with one man.

930
00:42:26,310 --> 00:42:27,900
We don't know who he was.

931
00:42:27,900 --> 00:42:33,810
That she will give him \$10,
and he would bring 1/2 a pound

932
00:42:33,810 --> 00:42:37,570
of sugar and four
loaves of bread.

933
00:42:37,570 --> 00:42:41,730
So she took the money, wrapped
it up in the paper with a stone

934
00:42:41,730 --> 00:42:46,500
and she threw it over and then
he brought and he threw over.

935
00:42:46,500 --> 00:42:47,250
It was lucky.

936
00:42:47,250 --> 00:42:49,050
We could have been shot, also.

937

00:42:49,050 --> 00:42:51,060

It was lucky that nobody saw it.

938

00:42:51,060 --> 00:42:57,540

So when we went on the
train out from Auschwitz,

939

00:42:57,540 --> 00:43:00,300

we had enough bread
to hold us over

940

00:43:00,300 --> 00:43:03,390

until we got to Czechoslovakia.

941

00:43:03,390 --> 00:43:07,090

So that was a little
bit of a help.

942

00:43:07,090 --> 00:43:09,670

That the man was a German?

943

00:43:09,670 --> 00:43:10,800

No, no, no.

944

00:43:10,800 --> 00:43:12,750

It was a Jew, a prisoner.

945

00:43:12,750 --> 00:43:13,710

A prisoner.

946

00:43:13,710 --> 00:43:15,600

And he could get so much bread?

947

00:43:15,600 --> 00:43:16,860

Yes.

948

00:43:16,860 --> 00:43:19,860

He probably worked someplace.

949

00:43:19,860 --> 00:43:23,250

Or maybe it was not a

Jew, maybe he was non-Jew.

950

00:43:23,250 --> 00:43:25,210

But it doesn't matter
he was a prisoner.

951

00:43:25,210 --> 00:43:27,930

It didn't matter whether he was
a Jew because he had the same--

952

00:43:27,930 --> 00:43:31,470

How did she know he could
be part of this deal?

953

00:43:31,470 --> 00:43:34,770

My mother knew everything.

954

00:43:34,770 --> 00:43:36,690

You have no idea
how smart she was.

955

00:43:36,690 --> 00:43:39,110

She was a businesswoman
before the war

956

00:43:39,110 --> 00:43:40,560

together with my father.

957

00:43:40,560 --> 00:43:44,940

As a matter of fact, she
was the businesswoman.

958

00:43:44,940 --> 00:43:47,400

My mother had a
contact with everybody.

959

00:43:47,400 --> 00:43:54,690

She was a very smart woman, and
she knew how to wheel and deal

960

00:43:54,690 --> 00:43:55,740

to survive.

961

00:43:55,740 --> 00:43:58,140

Did this have something
to do-- and this

962

00:43:58,140 --> 00:44:01,260

has a lot to do with
her ability to survive.

963

00:44:01,260 --> 00:44:02,560

I think so.

964

00:44:02,560 --> 00:44:03,600

I think so.

965

00:44:03,600 --> 00:44:05,910

Yes, yes.

966

00:44:05,910 --> 00:44:08,700

All right, and now I know
what I was going to say.

967

00:44:08,700 --> 00:44:12,690

When we were in
Auschwitz, first of all

968

00:44:12,690 --> 00:44:16,500

when they were taking
transport of people

969

00:44:16,500 --> 00:44:20,220

to take away to different
concentration camp,

970

00:44:20,220 --> 00:44:23,370

for some reason my mother
didn't want to go yet.

971

00:44:23,370 --> 00:44:25,020

She was not ready to go yet.

972

00:44:25,020 --> 00:44:30,990

We had the choice to

stay the last ones.

973

00:44:30,990 --> 00:44:36,602

So at one time, we were
hiding under the beds.

974

00:44:36,602 --> 00:44:37,560

What do you call those?

975

00:44:37,560 --> 00:44:38,040

Bunks.

976

00:44:38,040 --> 00:44:38,550

The bunks.

977

00:44:38,550 --> 00:44:40,980

The bunks.

978

00:44:40,980 --> 00:44:43,560

And we did not go.

979

00:44:43,560 --> 00:44:46,000

And there were very
few people left.

980

00:44:46,000 --> 00:44:47,110

So we had no choice.

981

00:44:47,110 --> 00:44:54,990

We couldn't stay any longer,
and we went 1,000 women.

982

00:44:54,990 --> 00:44:58,440

We were sent to this other
camp in Czechoslovakia

983

00:44:58,440 --> 00:44:59,505

by the name of Kratzau.

984

00:44:59,505 --> 00:45:02,590

985
00:45:02,590 --> 00:45:03,760
Yeah.

986
00:45:03,760 --> 00:45:05,200
In Czechoslovakia.

987
00:45:05,200 --> 00:45:06,490
Right.

988
00:45:06,490 --> 00:45:07,930
That was in--

989
00:45:07,930 --> 00:45:09,380
This was in 1944.

990
00:45:09,380 --> 00:45:09,880
Yeah.

991
00:45:09,880 --> 00:45:13,180
I think he told me that
it was November '44.

992
00:45:13,180 --> 00:45:15,760
I think so I'm not sure
maybe it was October.

993
00:45:15,760 --> 00:45:17,442
October then you changed it.

994
00:45:17,442 --> 00:45:19,630
You know months, days
didn't mean anything.

995
00:45:19,630 --> 00:45:23,050
You knew it was cold, or
it was warm, or it was hot.

996
00:45:23,050 --> 00:45:24,040
There was no date.

997
00:45:24,040 --> 00:45:26,120

It was towards the end of 1944.

998
00:45:26,120 --> 00:45:26,950
Yes.

999
00:45:26,950 --> 00:45:28,175
So we went to the--

1000
00:45:28,175 --> 00:45:29,800
We've said a lot about October.

1001
00:45:29,800 --> 00:45:31,060
Right.

1002
00:45:31,060 --> 00:45:35,590
And we went to
Kratzau, which we were

1003
00:45:35,590 --> 00:45:39,970
working in the
ammunition and parts

1004
00:45:39,970 --> 00:45:42,910
for the aeroplane factory.

1005
00:45:42,910 --> 00:45:46,580
We were 1,000 women.

1006
00:45:46,580 --> 00:45:49,220
It was not the worst camp
because they were not

1007
00:45:49,220 --> 00:45:50,390
shooting anybody.

1008
00:45:50,390 --> 00:45:52,790
Whoever died, died.

1009
00:45:52,790 --> 00:45:54,545
But they were not killing us.

1010

00:45:54,545 --> 00:45:57,260

1011

00:45:57,260 --> 00:45:59,280

At one point,
there was a German.

1012

00:45:59,280 --> 00:46:01,790

I don't know his name.

1013

00:46:01,790 --> 00:46:07,340

There was a woman
from Greece I think.

1014

00:46:07,340 --> 00:46:09,260

Either Greece or Turkey.

1015

00:46:09,260 --> 00:46:13,400

She was working
with me, and we were

1016

00:46:13,400 --> 00:46:17,960

moving parts of an aeroplane
big tremendous triangles

1017

00:46:17,960 --> 00:46:19,280

for some reason.

1018

00:46:19,280 --> 00:46:20,990

They were part of aeroplane.

1019

00:46:20,990 --> 00:46:24,890

He took us from one
storage to move them over

1020

00:46:24,890 --> 00:46:28,100

to another storage, which was
hundreds and hundreds of feet.

1021

00:46:28,100 --> 00:46:31,790

Just the two of us, and
the woman was pregnant.

1022

00:46:31,790 --> 00:46:35,780

And this killer used
to step on our toes

1023

00:46:35,780 --> 00:46:41,000

all the times while we
were taking those parts.

1024

00:46:41,000 --> 00:46:42,920

There was hundreds of them.

1025

00:46:42,920 --> 00:46:43,790

So we finished.

1026

00:46:43,790 --> 00:46:45,620

He says, now I
decide that they have

1027

00:46:45,620 --> 00:46:49,480

to go back to the other side.

1028

00:46:49,480 --> 00:46:54,010

He was doing exactly
the same thing.

1029

00:46:54,010 --> 00:46:58,180

My mother was with me, but
she was not working with me.

1030

00:46:58,180 --> 00:47:00,860

For some reason,
we were divided.

1031

00:47:00,860 --> 00:47:03,190

So she was working
on a night shift.

1032

00:47:03,190 --> 00:47:08,140

And I was working on the day
shift and I never saw her.

1033

00:47:08,140 --> 00:47:11,500

So with me was a Hungarian
girl, very lovely girl

1034
00:47:11,500 --> 00:47:14,170
that worked in the
same place as I did.

1035
00:47:14,170 --> 00:47:17,920
And her mother also
worked with my mother.

1036
00:47:17,920 --> 00:47:19,570
So we made a deal.

1037
00:47:19,570 --> 00:47:23,950
I said listen, if you want
to work with my mother

1038
00:47:23,950 --> 00:47:29,410
but if I go to the German,
Meister was his name.

1039
00:47:29,410 --> 00:47:31,840
I don't know the boss of the--

1040
00:47:31,840 --> 00:47:38,380
not the boss-- it was the
manager of the department.

1041
00:47:38,380 --> 00:47:41,350
I was very brave at that time.

1042
00:47:41,350 --> 00:47:44,140
I said, I'll go to
him but my mother

1043
00:47:44,140 --> 00:47:47,530
will have to work on the day
shift and you go to your mother

1044
00:47:47,530 --> 00:47:48,200
there.

1045

00:47:48,200 --> 00:47:49,340

If I take care of it.

1046

00:47:49,340 --> 00:47:51,250

This is the deal.

1047

00:47:51,250 --> 00:47:52,240

So she says, OK.

1048

00:47:52,240 --> 00:47:54,700

She had no choice, because
she wouldn't go to him.

1049

00:47:54,700 --> 00:47:59,500

So I went to this manager,
and I spoke quite well German.

1050

00:47:59,500 --> 00:48:01,480

And I told him, I said,
listen my mother is

1051

00:48:01,480 --> 00:48:03,520

working on the night shift.

1052

00:48:03,520 --> 00:48:06,310

Would you mind if I
exchange those two?

1053

00:48:06,310 --> 00:48:08,230

He said, you do
whatever you want to.

1054

00:48:08,230 --> 00:48:10,450

I didn't see it.

1055

00:48:10,450 --> 00:48:12,550

He was a very nice man.

1056

00:48:12,550 --> 00:48:16,810

So when we were going home--

1057

00:48:16,810 --> 00:48:19,227
yeah, we were going home
and my mother was coming--

1058
00:48:19,227 --> 00:48:19,810
What was home?

1059
00:48:19,810 --> 00:48:21,940
Home, to the barrack to sleep.

1060
00:48:21,940 --> 00:48:24,010
Oh, what am I talking about?

1061
00:48:24,010 --> 00:48:27,730
We were going back from
work to the barrack

1062
00:48:27,730 --> 00:48:31,330
and I saw my mother going
I was going down the stairs

1063
00:48:31,330 --> 00:48:34,000
and she was coming
up the stairs.

1064
00:48:34,000 --> 00:48:40,450
So I took her out and
pushed the girl in.

1065
00:48:40,450 --> 00:48:41,740
And she worked all the time.

1066
00:48:41,740 --> 00:48:45,190
She was so happy because we
saw each other on a weekend.

1067
00:48:45,190 --> 00:48:49,490
She was happy and I was happy
because we were together.

1068
00:48:49,490 --> 00:48:49,990
Yeah.

1069

00:48:49,990 --> 00:48:51,550

As you tell the
story, I can't help

1070

00:48:51,550 --> 00:48:53,390

but think the German was nice.

1071

00:48:53,390 --> 00:48:54,970

He said he didn't want nobody.

1072

00:48:54,970 --> 00:48:56,740

They were losing
the war at the time.

1073

00:48:56,740 --> 00:48:57,910

Possible.

1074

00:48:57,910 --> 00:48:58,960

That's possible.

1075

00:48:58,960 --> 00:49:02,350

So things started
happening like this?

1076

00:49:02,350 --> 00:49:05,050

But he was not a very bad man.

1077

00:49:05,050 --> 00:49:10,870

Because he only took care
of what we were doing.

1078

00:49:10,870 --> 00:49:12,750

He was only taking care.

1079

00:49:12,750 --> 00:49:16,180

Do this, and do this, and
do this, and he didn't--

1080

00:49:16,180 --> 00:49:19,390

I think he was only
a military man.

1081

00:49:19,390 --> 00:49:20,890

He was not a Nazi.

1082

00:49:20,890 --> 00:49:23,330

But two years earlier, he
would have followed orders

1083

00:49:23,330 --> 00:49:23,830

completely.

1084

00:49:23,830 --> 00:49:25,090

Probably, yes.

1085

00:49:25,090 --> 00:49:27,163

Now already the discipline
was giving away.

1086

00:49:27,163 --> 00:49:28,080

Yes, it was given way.

1087

00:49:28,080 --> 00:49:28,826

Yes, yes.

1088

00:49:28,826 --> 00:49:29,480

It's true.

1089

00:49:29,480 --> 00:49:30,605

That's what it sounds like.

1090

00:49:30,605 --> 00:49:31,840

Yes, yes, yes, yes.

1091

00:49:31,840 --> 00:49:33,100

You're absolutely right.

1092

00:49:33,100 --> 00:49:39,580

Also when we came from
Auschwitz to Kratzau,

1093

00:49:39,580 --> 00:49:42,970

we only had a dress.

1094
00:49:42,970 --> 00:49:45,490
And it was getting to be winter.

1095
00:49:45,490 --> 00:49:46,570
We had no coats.

1096
00:49:46,570 --> 00:49:48,850
We had no shoes.

1097
00:49:48,850 --> 00:49:51,760
And I said to my mother,
we have to do something.

1098
00:49:51,760 --> 00:49:53,390
If not, we're going to die.

1099
00:49:53,390 --> 00:49:57,430
So I went to the
same German, and I

1100
00:49:57,430 --> 00:50:04,880
said, listen would
you give us a letter

1101
00:50:04,880 --> 00:50:07,970
because there was a
magazine of clothes--

1102
00:50:07,970 --> 00:50:11,840
to give us a letter that we
should go to that storage room

1103
00:50:11,840 --> 00:50:14,990
and give us coats.

1104
00:50:14,990 --> 00:50:17,060
So he says, how
many do you want?

1105
00:50:17,060 --> 00:50:20,600
I said-- there was a group

of us working together.

1106
00:50:20,600 --> 00:50:22,010
I think we were eight.

1107
00:50:22,010 --> 00:50:25,130
I said, I need eight.

1108
00:50:25,130 --> 00:50:26,610
So he gave me a letter.

1109
00:50:26,610 --> 00:50:29,690
And all of us went
into that storage room

1110
00:50:29,690 --> 00:50:32,600
and there was a German woman
giving out those stuff.

1111
00:50:32,600 --> 00:50:35,120
So how did you get
it so I showed it

1112
00:50:35,120 --> 00:50:38,450
to her who gave it to us and
obviously she listened and she

1113
00:50:38,450 --> 00:50:41,430
gave us those coats.

1114
00:50:41,430 --> 00:50:44,090
But there were
1,000 women there.

1115
00:50:44,090 --> 00:50:47,600
I couldn't get it
for 1,000 women.

1116
00:50:47,600 --> 00:50:50,680
And the next morning
we all wore them.

1117

00:50:50,680 --> 00:50:51,870

You should see those coats.

1118

00:50:51,870 --> 00:50:55,880

But at least they were warm
with those big sleeves.

1119

00:50:55,880 --> 00:50:57,920

But who cared?

1120

00:50:57,920 --> 00:51:00,140

So they all ask me,
how did you do it?

1121

00:51:00,140 --> 00:51:01,520

How did you get it?

1122

00:51:01,520 --> 00:51:04,950

I said I went to him
and he gave it to me.

1123

00:51:04,950 --> 00:51:07,670

But they couldn't go to
this guy because he was only

1124

00:51:07,670 --> 00:51:09,780

in our group taking care of.

1125

00:51:09,780 --> 00:51:12,800

I said go to your manager
maybe he'll give it.

1126

00:51:12,800 --> 00:51:14,060

Nobody got it.

1127

00:51:14,060 --> 00:51:17,280

Absolutely nobody wanted
to give it to them.

1128

00:51:17,280 --> 00:51:20,030

So that's what I'm
saying this man was not

1129

00:51:20,030 --> 00:51:23,495
as bad as all the other ones.

1130

00:51:23,495 --> 00:51:26,900
And you were all of
what age at this time?

1131

00:51:26,900 --> 00:51:28,400
I was the youngest one there.

1132

00:51:28,400 --> 00:51:30,110
You were about 15, maybe 16.

1133

00:51:30,110 --> 00:51:31,160
15.

1134

00:51:31,160 --> 00:51:31,940
I was 15.

1135

00:51:31,940 --> 00:51:33,750
You grew up very early.

1136

00:51:33,750 --> 00:51:36,260
I never was a child.

1137

00:51:36,260 --> 00:51:39,170
I was a child until when
I was nine years old.

1138

00:51:39,170 --> 00:51:42,830
Then I was I don't remember
being a child anymore.

1139

00:51:42,830 --> 00:51:47,400

1140

00:51:47,400 --> 00:51:52,550
And then we were liberated.

1141

00:51:52,550 --> 00:51:54,350
But what happened?

1142
00:51:54,350 --> 00:51:57,770
But before we get to
that, in Auschwitz

1143
00:51:57,770 --> 00:52:00,620
you said there were people
coming from all over Europe.

1144
00:52:00,620 --> 00:52:05,780
Did you see differences
among the people coming?

1145
00:52:05,780 --> 00:52:08,420
What do you mean by differences?

1146
00:52:08,420 --> 00:52:13,590
In terms of being able to
take the difficult living

1147
00:52:13,590 --> 00:52:14,090
over there?

1148
00:52:14,090 --> 00:52:16,640
Oh, yes, yes, yes,
yes, yes, yes.

1149
00:52:16,640 --> 00:52:17,940
We were used to it.

1150
00:52:17,940 --> 00:52:20,450
So we got used to it slowly.

1151
00:52:20,450 --> 00:52:24,800
From Wieliczka to
ghetto to Auschwitz.

1152
00:52:24,800 --> 00:52:28,910
But there were people that came
from Holland, to people that

1153
00:52:28,910 --> 00:52:33,110

came from Island
of Rhodes and they

1154
00:52:33,110 --> 00:52:36,350
were taken straight from homes.

1155
00:52:36,350 --> 00:52:40,130
From luxurious homes straight
into the concentration camp.

1156
00:52:40,130 --> 00:52:43,250
And they died so fast
the Germans didn't even

1157
00:52:43,250 --> 00:52:45,450
have a chance to kill them.

1158
00:52:45,450 --> 00:52:50,600
They were dying because they
were starving constantly.

1159
00:52:50,600 --> 00:52:53,660
We were used to
starvation already.

1160
00:52:53,660 --> 00:52:55,460
And they were not.

1161
00:52:55,460 --> 00:52:56,870
They were not like--

1162
00:52:56,870 --> 00:52:58,880
I'm telling you like
my mother had contact.

1163
00:52:58,880 --> 00:53:01,460
Other people had different
contact with somebody.

1164
00:53:01,460 --> 00:53:05,420
And those people were
not used to it yet.

1165

00:53:05,420 --> 00:53:08,960

And by the time they
realized what's happening,

1166

00:53:08,960 --> 00:53:12,760

they were dying like flies.

1167

00:53:12,760 --> 00:53:15,940

So from which countries--

1168

00:53:15,940 --> 00:53:17,860

Mostly from Holland.

1169

00:53:17,860 --> 00:53:21,820

From which countries
besides Poland

1170

00:53:21,820 --> 00:53:27,790

were they able to suffer better?

1171

00:53:27,790 --> 00:53:32,350

1172

00:53:32,350 --> 00:53:33,640

There was no language.

1173

00:53:33,640 --> 00:53:34,990

There is no language.

1174

00:53:34,990 --> 00:53:37,690

I think the Hungarians.

1175

00:53:37,690 --> 00:53:40,570

And that was a time that
many Hungarians were coming.

1176

00:53:40,570 --> 00:53:41,817

This was in summer of 44.

1177

00:53:41,817 --> 00:53:42,400

They survived.

1178
00:53:42,400 --> 00:53:44,020
They really survived.

1179
00:53:44,020 --> 00:53:46,660
They were lovely girls.

1180
00:53:46,660 --> 00:53:51,850
But they also came from
a rather calm existence.

1181
00:53:51,850 --> 00:53:56,230
I know, but for some reason
they were much stronger.

1182
00:53:56,230 --> 00:54:01,600
They were much stronger,
and they were very shrewd.

1183
00:54:01,600 --> 00:54:04,780
They knew how to get
a little bit extra.

1184
00:54:04,780 --> 00:54:07,880
Better at how to
steal another blanket.

1185
00:54:07,880 --> 00:54:13,780
How to protect themselves,
which the other ones were not.

1186
00:54:13,780 --> 00:54:18,970
In terms of the ones who
were the prison guards,

1187
00:54:18,970 --> 00:54:21,850
you had from which
nationalities?

1188
00:54:21,850 --> 00:54:23,290
You had some Germans there?

1189

00:54:23,290 --> 00:54:25,150
Yes.

1190
00:54:25,150 --> 00:54:26,690
Wait a minute where?

1191
00:54:26,690 --> 00:54:28,710
Wherever you were in
Plasz³w in Auschwitz.

1192
00:54:28,710 --> 00:54:30,700
In Plasz³w were
German and Ukrainian.

1193
00:54:30,700 --> 00:54:31,360
Ukrainian.

1194
00:54:31,360 --> 00:54:32,500
And in Auschwitz?

1195
00:54:32,500 --> 00:54:34,210
Auschwitz were only German.

1196
00:54:34,210 --> 00:54:35,260
Mostly women.

1197
00:54:35,260 --> 00:54:39,270
You dealt with German
women all the time of day?

1198
00:54:39,270 --> 00:54:42,040
I didn't deal with them.

1199
00:54:42,040 --> 00:54:48,098
I tell you in each barrack
there was a woman out there.

1200
00:54:48,098 --> 00:54:49,390
I don't know how you call them.

1201
00:54:49,390 --> 00:54:52,240
Something alteste,

I think that--

1202
00:54:52,240 --> 00:54:53,470
Yes, [NON-ENGLISH].

1203
00:54:53,470 --> 00:54:54,820
That's right.

1204
00:54:54,820 --> 00:55:02,300
Those were mostly
prisoners for some crimes.

1205
00:55:02,300 --> 00:55:04,890

1206
00:55:04,890 --> 00:55:06,275
They were prisoners for crimes.

1207
00:55:06,275 --> 00:55:07,470
For crimes.

1208
00:55:07,470 --> 00:55:08,070
Yes.

1209
00:55:08,070 --> 00:55:09,870
They always, they
were very fine people.

1210
00:55:09,870 --> 00:55:12,095
Yeah, very fine
people, very fine.

1211
00:55:12,095 --> 00:55:14,887

1212
00:55:14,887 --> 00:55:16,470
They were prisoners
of crime, and they

1213
00:55:16,470 --> 00:55:18,330
were taking care of us.

1214

00:55:18,330 --> 00:55:20,910

Oh, what do you mean that
they took care of you?

1215

00:55:20,910 --> 00:55:21,840

Oh, they took care.

1216

00:55:21,840 --> 00:55:22,870

They really took care.

1217

00:55:22,870 --> 00:55:24,150

They didn't let you sleep.

1218

00:55:24,150 --> 00:55:26,430

They woke you up in the
middle of the night.

1219

00:55:26,430 --> 00:55:29,850

They were hitting, and
they were screaming.

1220

00:55:29,850 --> 00:55:35,310

And if came some food,
they gave you half of it.

1221

00:55:35,310 --> 00:55:39,420

Because half of them, each
one of them had a lover.

1222

00:55:39,420 --> 00:55:42,900

A woman, a woman lover.

1223

00:55:42,900 --> 00:55:44,010

This was open?

1224

00:55:44,010 --> 00:55:45,300

There was, yes.

1225

00:55:45,300 --> 00:55:48,930

There was no problems.

1226

00:55:48,930 --> 00:55:50,310
And who cared anyway?

1227
00:55:50,310 --> 00:55:51,330
We were so starved.

1228
00:55:51,330 --> 00:55:53,940
We were so hungry to
even looked at them?

1229
00:55:53,940 --> 00:55:56,400
We didn't care.

1230
00:55:56,400 --> 00:55:58,410
Nobody cared at this point.

1231
00:55:58,410 --> 00:56:00,960
We were so hungry.

1232
00:56:00,960 --> 00:56:04,750
But they were also
very unhappy people?

1233
00:56:04,750 --> 00:56:06,090
I don't think so.

1234
00:56:06,090 --> 00:56:08,880
How could they be happy
with what they were doing?

1235
00:56:08,880 --> 00:56:12,240
Because they had the power.

1236
00:56:12,240 --> 00:56:12,742
You see?

1237
00:56:12,742 --> 00:56:13,950
And this made them feel good?

1238
00:56:13,950 --> 00:56:15,060
Yes, yes.

1239

00:56:15,060 --> 00:56:15,665

You see power.

1240

00:56:15,665 --> 00:56:16,290

Miserable life.

1241

00:56:16,290 --> 00:56:19,470

Miserable life, but

they were not hungry.

1242

00:56:19,470 --> 00:56:23,910

And you see, we slept

maybe 500 or 600 women.

1243

00:56:23,910 --> 00:56:25,950

I don't know how many

we were in one barrack.

1244

00:56:25,950 --> 00:56:29,580

They had a separate

room of their own

1245

00:56:29,580 --> 00:56:31,620

with a bed and a table.

1246

00:56:31,620 --> 00:56:34,990

So they were much

better off than we were.

1247

00:56:34,990 --> 00:56:36,000

And they had the power.

1248

00:56:36,000 --> 00:56:39,240

And power is what they wanted.

1249

00:56:39,240 --> 00:56:40,980

You see.

1250

00:56:40,980 --> 00:56:42,240

And they had food.

1251

00:56:42,240 --> 00:56:45,280

They could do whatever
they wanted to with us.

1252

00:56:45,280 --> 00:56:47,310

They took women to
clean their shoes.

1253

00:56:47,310 --> 00:56:51,360

They would take the women
to clean their rooms.

1254

00:56:51,360 --> 00:56:52,890

And they thought
this was forever?

1255

00:56:52,890 --> 00:56:54,630

Oh, yes, yes, yes.

1256

00:56:54,630 --> 00:56:56,220

They thought it was forever.

1257

00:56:56,220 --> 00:56:57,630

That's right.

1258

00:56:57,630 --> 00:56:58,650

That's right.

1259

00:56:58,650 --> 00:57:00,450

So they were not unhappy.

1260

00:57:00,450 --> 00:57:01,440

You should see.

1261

00:57:01,440 --> 00:57:05,160

I think they were quite
content with their power.

1262

00:57:05,160 --> 00:57:08,280

You know what power
does to people.

1263

00:57:08,280 --> 00:57:11,340

And this is the only
time of their life

1264

00:57:11,340 --> 00:57:13,020

they could have had power.

1265

00:57:13,020 --> 00:57:16,440

Because when they were
in prison before the war,

1266

00:57:16,440 --> 00:57:18,300

they were prisoners.

1267

00:57:18,300 --> 00:57:23,010

And here, they were the ones
that were ruling the prisoners.

1268

00:57:23,010 --> 00:57:25,470

I understand what you're saying.

1269

00:57:25,470 --> 00:57:28,110

But I still hear it is
a miserable existence.

1270

00:57:28,110 --> 00:57:30,000

Of course it's a
miserable existence.

1271

00:57:30,000 --> 00:57:32,490

But it was better than
staying in prison.

1272

00:57:32,490 --> 00:57:35,400

But let's get back
to Czechoslovakia.

1273

00:57:35,400 --> 00:57:37,600

You were working what
kind of a factory?

1274

00:57:37,600 --> 00:57:43,830

In parts of the

airplane and ammunition.

1275

00:57:43,830 --> 00:57:46,510

And some girls were very smart.

1276

00:57:46,510 --> 00:57:49,800

They were packing
the ammunitions.

1277

00:57:49,800 --> 00:57:53,400

And while they were
packing their ammunition,

1278

00:57:53,400 --> 00:57:55,680

they urinate on them.

1279

00:57:55,680 --> 00:57:58,860

So they were not usable.

1280

00:57:58,860 --> 00:58:01,500

That's what they all told me.

1281

00:58:01,500 --> 00:58:04,830

And it makes you feel better.

1282

00:58:04,830 --> 00:58:11,160

You know that somebody had a
little bit of control of maybe

1283

00:58:11,160 --> 00:58:13,613

the war will end sooner.

1284

00:58:13,613 --> 00:58:15,030

I don't know if
it meant anything.

1285

00:58:15,030 --> 00:58:20,640

1286

00:58:20,640 --> 00:58:26,775

Then at one point while
we were there came--

1287
00:58:26,775 --> 00:58:29,680

1288
00:58:29,680 --> 00:58:34,060
I don't remember how many
people came from the Red Cross.

1289
00:58:34,060 --> 00:58:41,260
And they brought us food,
cheese, and a piece of salami.

1290
00:58:41,260 --> 00:58:42,250
When was this?

1291
00:58:42,250 --> 00:58:48,500
This was sometimes maybe
in spring but just maybe

1292
00:58:48,500 --> 00:58:50,630
spring of 45.

1293
00:58:50,630 --> 00:58:51,570
The war was ending.

1294
00:58:51,570 --> 00:58:52,480
Yeah, it was ending.

1295
00:58:52,480 --> 00:58:54,490
Yeah, but we didn't know that.

1296
00:58:54,490 --> 00:58:55,750
We didn't realize that.

1297
00:58:55,750 --> 00:58:57,565
We didn't know that.

1298
00:58:57,565 --> 00:59:00,550
They brought us food,
all kinds of foods.

1299

00:59:00,550 --> 00:59:06,010

And we ate this, and
some people got sick

1300

00:59:06,010 --> 00:59:08,190

because we were not used to it.

1301

00:59:08,190 --> 00:59:15,220

And talking about
food, at one time,

1302

00:59:15,220 --> 00:59:18,700

there was some kind of
a curfew for some reason

1303

00:59:18,700 --> 00:59:20,080

in the concentration camp.

1304

00:59:20,080 --> 00:59:21,880

You were not allowed to go--

1305

00:59:21,880 --> 00:59:25,420

we had the barrack
that had three floors,

1306

00:59:25,420 --> 00:59:28,720

and we were sleeping
on a second floor.

1307

00:59:28,720 --> 00:59:31,690

1308

00:59:31,690 --> 00:59:34,180

I don't know what-- somebody
must have done something.

1309

00:59:34,180 --> 00:59:36,580

I don't know what
it was the reason.

1310

00:59:36,580 --> 00:59:41,470

And they sent my mother up to
the third floor to stay there.

1311
00:59:41,470 --> 00:59:46,540
And she did not get
any food by mistake.

1312
00:59:46,540 --> 00:59:49,990
I think the third floor was
banished from getting food

1313
00:59:49,990 --> 00:59:51,940
on that particular day.

1314
00:59:51,940 --> 00:59:54,610
And by some reason, my
mother was sent up there,

1315
00:59:54,610 --> 00:59:55,960
and I saw it.

1316
00:59:55,960 --> 00:59:58,570
I said, oh my God, if she's
not going to eat the whole day,

1317
00:59:58,570 --> 01:00:00,610
it's going to be a disaster.

1318
01:00:00,610 --> 01:00:02,080
The tape is running out.

1319
01:00:02,080 --> 01:00:06,510
We'll pick up from
here in a few moments.

1320
01:00:06,510 --> 01:00:20,032