

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:26,710

2  
00:00:26,710 --> 00:00:27,680  
Good morning.

3  
00:00:27,680 --> 00:00:29,980  
I am Joseph Preil.

4  
00:00:29,980 --> 00:00:33,970  
I'm privileged to serve as  
the director of the Holocaust

5  
00:00:33,970 --> 00:00:36,700  
Resource Center here  
at Kean University,

6  
00:00:36,700 --> 00:00:38,710  
in Union, New Jersey.

7  
00:00:38,710 --> 00:00:45,610  
And this morning, we are  
privileged to have with us two

8  
00:00:45,610 --> 00:00:49,600  
of our distinguished  
survivors, Mrs. Elizabeth Suzie

9  
00:00:49,600 --> 00:00:54,970  
Wilf and Mr. Erwin  
Fisch, and they are also

10  
00:00:54,970 --> 00:01:03,430  
going to be talking about their  
heroic mother, Mrs. Miriam

11  
00:01:03,430 --> 00:01:08,170  
[? Link ?] Fisch,  
of blessed memory.

12  
00:01:08,170 --> 00:01:13,180

Mrs. Wilf, you brought  
some pictures here today,

13  
00:01:13,180 --> 00:01:15,350  
and you want to  
tell us about them.

14  
00:01:15,350 --> 00:01:22,560  
And Erwin you'll join in  
when you feel it appropriate.

15  
00:01:22,560 --> 00:01:23,060  
All right.

16  
00:01:23,060 --> 00:01:31,280  
Well, this is a picture of  
our mother, Miriam Fisch, that

17  
00:01:31,280 --> 00:01:36,140  
helped us survive the  
Holocaust through her efforts,

18  
00:01:36,140 --> 00:01:40,130  
and this here, he  
made it through.

19  
00:01:40,130 --> 00:01:44,690  
And we'll hear about  
her heroism shortly,

20  
00:01:44,690 --> 00:01:50,210  
but I want to point out  
for non-family members

21  
00:01:50,210 --> 00:01:55,010  
that this wonderful lady  
in this picture is how old?

22  
00:01:55,010 --> 00:01:57,570  
Oh, maybe 96.

23  
00:01:57,570 --> 00:02:01,220  
She passed away

at the age of 97.

24

00:02:01,220 --> 00:02:04,250

So this probably  
was done a year ago.

25

00:02:04,250 --> 00:02:06,980

And I understand she  
was driving her car.

26

00:02:06,980 --> 00:02:09,570

Almost to the last--

27

00:02:09,570 --> 00:02:10,820

She lived [INTERPOSING VOICES]

28

00:02:10,820 --> 00:02:11,500

About the year.

29

00:02:11,500 --> 00:02:13,250

Yes, yes she lived.

30

00:02:13,250 --> 00:02:14,510

All right.

31

00:02:14,510 --> 00:02:17,720

Now, this next picture.

32

00:02:17,720 --> 00:02:20,660

This is our father,  
Marcos Fisch,

33

00:02:20,660 --> 00:02:25,480

in our lumber yard,  
Lwow, Lemberg.

34

00:02:25,480 --> 00:02:30,500

And that lumber yard was  
passed down from father to son?

35

00:02:30,500 --> 00:02:31,000

All right.

36  
00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:32,020  
Yes, yes.

37  
00:02:32,020 --> 00:02:34,700

38  
00:02:34,700 --> 00:02:36,720  
Whom do we have in this picture?

39  
00:02:36,720 --> 00:02:43,730  
In this picture is our mother,  
Miriam Fisch, my brother Erwin,

40  
00:02:43,730 --> 00:02:48,450  
and myself, and walking  
on the streets of Wolf,

41  
00:02:48,450 --> 00:02:53,690  
it must have been just  
before the war started.

42  
00:02:53,690 --> 00:02:55,340  
Do you remember this picture?

43  
00:02:55,340 --> 00:02:58,130  
Of course, and I  
think I was maybe

44  
00:02:58,130 --> 00:03:00,820  
five years old all the time  
or something like that.

45  
00:03:00,820 --> 00:03:07,040

46  
00:03:07,040 --> 00:03:08,540  
We'll have an  
interesting time later

47  
00:03:08,540 --> 00:03:10,730  
talking about which

one or two pictures

48

00:03:10,730 --> 00:03:14,120

are we going to keep  
for the publication.

49

00:03:14,120 --> 00:03:15,650

Whom do we have here?

50

00:03:15,650 --> 00:03:18,890

These are our parents,  
Miriam and Marcos Fisch.

51

00:03:18,890 --> 00:03:25,820

And this was made in Augsburg  
on our way to America.

52

00:03:25,820 --> 00:03:29,630

He left Poland, he  
stayed in Germany

53

00:03:29,630 --> 00:03:32,210

before we emigrated to America.

54

00:03:32,210 --> 00:03:34,793

Augsburg was a DP  
camp in Germany.

55

00:03:34,793 --> 00:03:38,510

Augsburg-- No, this was  
already outside the DP camp

56

00:03:38,510 --> 00:03:42,590

in the private the apartment.

57

00:03:42,590 --> 00:03:45,170

This was taken  
probably in maybe--

58

00:03:45,170 --> 00:03:46,940

Just before we came to America.

59

00:03:46,940 --> 00:03:49,550  
48, 49-- 1948 or 49.

60  
00:03:49,550 --> 00:03:51,420  
And you came here in 1950.

61  
00:03:51,420 --> 00:03:54,200  
1950, yes.

62  
00:03:54,200 --> 00:03:57,380  
Now we're getting to other  
members of the family.

63  
00:03:57,380 --> 00:03:58,490  
These members.

64  
00:03:58,490 --> 00:03:59,300  
Can you see it?

65  
00:03:59,300 --> 00:04:01,340  
Yes.

66  
00:04:01,340 --> 00:04:08,480  
This is my mother and  
I, my grandmother,

67  
00:04:08,480 --> 00:04:13,150  
my mother's mother, my  
mother's oldest sister, Å»enia,

68  
00:04:13,150 --> 00:04:17,320  
and her two children,  
Lila and Marcel,

69  
00:04:17,320 --> 00:04:22,029  
and they all perished  
in the Lemberg Ghetto,

70  
00:04:22,029 --> 00:04:23,020  
in the Lwow Ghetto.

71  
00:04:23,020 --> 00:04:23,950

In the ghetto.

72

00:04:23,950 --> 00:04:24,730

In the ghetto.

73

00:04:24,730 --> 00:04:25,305

Yes, yes.

74

00:04:25,305 --> 00:04:26,340

Do you remember them?

75

00:04:26,340 --> 00:04:28,450

The, Germans, yes, of course, they took--

76

00:04:28,450 --> 00:04:32,500

The little boy, Marcel, went to a soup kitchen

77

00:04:32,500 --> 00:04:34,460

and never came back.

78

00:04:34,460 --> 00:04:36,460

They rounded up all the children.

79

00:04:36,460 --> 00:04:41,050

It was a terrible blow all the time to the family.

80

00:04:41,050 --> 00:04:45,490

Of course, they all later perished as well, but then

81

00:04:45,490 --> 00:04:47,280

my mother and I here in this picture

82

00:04:47,280 --> 00:04:50,690

are the only, from this picture, surviving.

83

00:04:50,690 --> 00:04:53,810  
That was in the same  
ghetto that we were in,

84  
00:04:53,810 --> 00:04:57,680  
and, fortunately, we were  
able to escape from the ghetto

85  
00:04:57,680 --> 00:04:58,233  
later on.

86  
00:04:58,233 --> 00:04:59,150  
But this picture was--

87  
00:04:59,150 --> 00:05:01,490  
That's how we survived by  
escaping from the ghetto

88  
00:05:01,490 --> 00:05:04,130  
before the Germans  
liquidated it.

89  
00:05:04,130 --> 00:05:08,330  
But this picture was done  
much before the war started.

90  
00:05:08,330 --> 00:05:11,870

91  
00:05:11,870 --> 00:05:13,640  
Another family picture.

92  
00:05:13,640 --> 00:05:14,570  
Another family.

93  
00:05:14,570 --> 00:05:17,270  
This is in the resort place.

94  
00:05:17,270 --> 00:05:20,480

95  
00:05:20,480 --> 00:05:24,080



My parents, my  
father holding me.

96

00:05:24,080 --> 00:05:31,560  
Again, my mother's older sister,  
Å»enia, her husband, Dolek.

97

00:05:31,560 --> 00:05:35,230  
And they had two  
children, Lila and Marcel.

98

00:05:35,230 --> 00:05:37,870  
They perished.

99

00:05:37,870 --> 00:05:40,690  
These look like familiar people.

100

00:05:40,690 --> 00:05:45,610  
This is my brother, Erwin  
and I, in the DP camp

101

00:05:45,610 --> 00:05:53,770  
Ainring near Reichenhall  
Berchtesgaden area in Germany.

102

00:05:53,770 --> 00:05:58,138  
1957.

103

00:05:58,138 --> 00:05:59,506  
No, '40s.

104

00:05:59,506 --> 00:06:01,220  
'47, '48.

105

00:06:01,220 --> 00:06:01,740  
Yes.

106

00:06:01,740 --> 00:06:02,480  
Yes.

107

00:06:02,480 --> 00:06:05,410  
See, we'll help

you on the dates.

108

00:06:05,410 --> 00:06:07,470

Even I can help you on that one.

109

00:06:07,470 --> 00:06:10,230

110

00:06:10,230 --> 00:06:13,340

And this looks like we're in--

111

00:06:13,340 --> 00:06:15,540

In Forrest Hills.

112

00:06:15,540 --> 00:06:21,600

My parents, my oldest  
son, Ziggy, and I.

113

00:06:21,600 --> 00:06:27,900

And we'll hear about Ziggy's  
birth later in the interview.

114

00:06:27,900 --> 00:06:29,900

All right, thank you very much.

115

00:06:29,900 --> 00:06:30,400

All right.

116

00:06:30,400 --> 00:06:38,010

Now at the outset we'll start  
with you as the older child.

117

00:06:38,010 --> 00:06:40,730

When and where were you born?

118

00:06:40,730 --> 00:06:43,200

Tell us something about  
your home background.

119

00:06:43,200 --> 00:06:43,890

OK.

120

00:06:43,890 --> 00:06:52,468

I was born in Lwow, Lemberg,  
Poland and what else?

121

00:06:52,468 --> 00:06:53,510

I don't know what to say.

122

00:06:53,510 --> 00:06:55,790

Well, that was a big city.

123

00:06:55,790 --> 00:06:57,560

Was a big city, yes.

124

00:06:57,560 --> 00:06:59,270

How large?

125

00:06:59,270 --> 00:07:04,930

I would say I just don't know  
that the population number.

126

00:07:04,930 --> 00:07:06,520

I wouldn't know.

127

00:07:06,520 --> 00:07:08,440

Would you have an  
idea of the population

128

00:07:08,440 --> 00:07:13,427

of the total population and  
specifically Jewish population?

129

00:07:13,427 --> 00:07:15,760

The general population I think  
was maybe 200,000 people.

130

00:07:15,760 --> 00:07:16,630

It was a large city.

131

00:07:16,630 --> 00:07:17,795

The total population?

132

00:07:17,795 --> 00:07:18,295  
200,000?

133  
00:07:18,295 --> 00:07:22,180  
The Jewish population,  
I don't know.

134  
00:07:22,180 --> 00:07:23,050  
I'm not sure.

135  
00:07:23,050 --> 00:07:26,635  
There's the total population  
or the Jewish population?

136  
00:07:26,635 --> 00:07:27,290  
Not 100,000.

137  
00:07:27,290 --> 00:07:28,880  
Well, I don't know exactly.

138  
00:07:28,880 --> 00:07:30,300  
Yeah, we don't know.

139  
00:07:30,300 --> 00:07:33,545  
I should have come  
prepared better with that.

140  
00:07:33,545 --> 00:07:35,510  
It's all right.

141  
00:07:35,510 --> 00:07:38,600  
What kind of a city was it?

142  
00:07:38,600 --> 00:07:43,750  
It was a very vibrant city.

143  
00:07:43,750 --> 00:07:46,100  
Vibrant, modern.

144  
00:07:46,100 --> 00:07:48,560  
At that time, it  
was a modern city.

145  
00:07:48,560 --> 00:07:50,300  
What did people do?

146  
00:07:50,300 --> 00:07:53,300  
Commerce, business commerce.

147  
00:07:53,300 --> 00:07:59,650  
Was a very advanced city for the  
'20s and the '30s at that time.

148  
00:07:59,650 --> 00:08:01,760  
In what respect was it advanced?

149  
00:08:01,760 --> 00:08:05,000  
Well, from what I  
know is obviously

150  
00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:08,660  
there were the large population  
centers like Lemberg, Krakow,

151  
00:08:08,660 --> 00:08:10,160  
you know?

152  
00:08:10,160 --> 00:08:10,820  
Warsaw.

153  
00:08:10,820 --> 00:08:12,020  
Warsaw.

154  
00:08:12,020 --> 00:08:16,010  
And outside of those centers,  
the other parts of the country

155  
00:08:16,010 --> 00:08:21,620  
were a little bit more not  
as advanced as the centers.

156  
00:08:21,620 --> 00:08:25,160  
We are talking possibly  
culture, medicine,

157  
00:08:25,160 --> 00:08:29,510  
those were the centers that  
those advances were going on

158  
00:08:29,510 --> 00:08:32,820  
and Lemberg was part of that.

159  
00:08:32,820 --> 00:08:36,020  
So in the Russian zone,  
Lemberg was the largest--

160  
00:08:36,020 --> 00:08:38,815  
or Lwow was the largest city.

161  
00:08:38,815 --> 00:08:39,440  
I would say so.

162  
00:08:39,440 --> 00:08:41,661  
Because you mentioned  
Krakow and Warsaw,

163  
00:08:41,661 --> 00:08:42,869  
they were in the German zone.

164  
00:08:42,869 --> 00:08:43,869  
This was before the war.

165  
00:08:43,869 --> 00:08:45,410  
Talking about before the war.

166  
00:08:45,410 --> 00:08:48,710  
Before the war we  
were all in Poland.

167  
00:08:48,710 --> 00:08:53,650  
When the war started, Poland was  
divided So we were in the part

168  
00:08:53,650 --> 00:08:54,620  
that Russia took over.

169

00:08:54,620 --> 00:08:59,865

And in that part, I gather  
Lwow was the largest city.

170

00:08:59,865 --> 00:09:00,740

Was the largest city.

171

00:09:00,740 --> 00:09:01,600

Taken over, yes.

172

00:09:01,600 --> 00:09:03,230

Yeah, of the Russian zone.

173

00:09:03,230 --> 00:09:03,750

Right.

174

00:09:03,750 --> 00:09:04,400

Right.

175

00:09:04,400 --> 00:09:05,720

OK.

176

00:09:05,720 --> 00:09:09,170

And it was considered to be  
a modern, up to date city?

177

00:09:09,170 --> 00:09:10,040

Yes.

178

00:09:10,040 --> 00:09:10,640

Yes.

179

00:09:10,640 --> 00:09:14,750

As Warsaw and Krakow  
considered to the modern,

180

00:09:14,750 --> 00:09:16,430

up-to-date cities.

181

00:09:16,430 --> 00:09:18,740

But the smaller

towns, the shtetlach

182  
00:09:18,740 --> 00:09:22,020  
could be 19th  
century communities.

183  
00:09:22,020 --> 00:09:22,520  
Exactly.

184  
00:09:22,520 --> 00:09:24,260  
Exactly.

185  
00:09:24,260 --> 00:09:30,130  
They were the communities  
without the infrastructure,

186  
00:09:30,130 --> 00:09:34,300  
maybe the electricity or  
maybe the water resources

187  
00:09:34,300 --> 00:09:38,230  
that the cities had already  
and so that's to that aspect

188  
00:09:38,230 --> 00:09:40,990  
Before the war did everybody  
have a phone in Lemberg?

189  
00:09:40,990 --> 00:09:41,490  
Or Lwow?

190  
00:09:41,490 --> 00:09:41,890  
No.

191  
00:09:41,890 --> 00:09:42,270  
No.

192  
00:09:42,270 --> 00:09:42,660  
No.

193  
00:09:42,660 --> 00:09:43,370  
Not that modern.



194  
00:09:43,370 --> 00:09:44,194  
Not that modern?

195  
00:09:44,194 --> 00:09:45,018  
No, no.

196  
00:09:45,018 --> 00:09:46,480  
Not that.

197  
00:09:46,480 --> 00:09:50,620  
You're talking modern for  
1930's, not for the '90s.

198  
00:09:50,620 --> 00:09:51,120  
Oh, OK.

199  
00:09:51,120 --> 00:09:53,500  
Exactly.

200  
00:09:53,500 --> 00:09:55,330  
You said your father  
had a lumber yard.

201  
00:09:55,330 --> 00:09:57,190  
What do you remember  
about the lumber yard?

202  
00:09:57,190 --> 00:10:00,630

203  
00:10:00,630 --> 00:10:01,630  
What do you want me to--

204  
00:10:01,630 --> 00:10:04,310

205  
00:10:04,310 --> 00:10:06,908  
Evidently, it was a  
good business that--

206

00:10:06,908 --> 00:10:07,700  
Good business, yes.

207  
00:10:07,700 --> 00:10:09,290  
--was going from father to son.

208  
00:10:09,290 --> 00:10:12,290  
Delivering lumber  
to the places that

209  
00:10:12,290 --> 00:10:20,210  
were building up homes and  
businesses and houses and so.

210  
00:10:20,210 --> 00:10:24,600  
Now let's see.

211  
00:10:24,600 --> 00:10:28,130  
You were born in 1932.

212  
00:10:28,130 --> 00:10:32,060  
That means you were already in  
school when the war broke out.

213  
00:10:32,060 --> 00:10:32,860  
Certainly.

214  
00:10:32,860 --> 00:10:34,010  
Yes, in the beginning.

215  
00:10:34,010 --> 00:10:39,300  
Even when the Germans invaded  
in '39, you were seven years old

216  
00:10:39,300 --> 00:10:44,810  
and it really came to your part  
of Poland in '41, June '41.

217  
00:10:44,810 --> 00:10:49,310  
When the Russians came back,  
they moved our grades back

218

00:10:49,310 --> 00:10:52,580  
one year because in  
Russia they started

219  
00:10:52,580 --> 00:10:58,640  
school I think at 7 or 8 and  
in Poland they started earlier.

220  
00:10:58,640 --> 00:11:03,730  
So when Russia took  
over Lwow, children

221  
00:11:03,730 --> 00:11:07,520  
were pushed back one year.

222  
00:11:07,520 --> 00:11:13,830  
What do you remember of  
your life until the war?

223  
00:11:13,830 --> 00:11:16,870  
What kept you going?

224  
00:11:16,870 --> 00:11:20,280  
What did you look forward to?

225  
00:11:20,280 --> 00:11:24,570  
Playing with other children,  
having fun, doing homework.

226  
00:11:24,570 --> 00:11:27,240  
Doing well,  
hopefully, in school.

227  
00:11:27,240 --> 00:11:29,260  
And I remember my cousins.

228  
00:11:29,260 --> 00:11:32,240

229  
00:11:32,240 --> 00:11:37,380  
That with Sam we were close,  
and Sam did not live in Lwow.

230

00:11:37,380 --> 00:11:40,580

It was not so close.

231

00:11:40,580 --> 00:11:41,930

But life was pleasant?

232

00:11:41,930 --> 00:11:43,460

Very pleasant, yes, yes.

233

00:11:43,460 --> 00:11:44,990

And what do you remember?

234

00:11:44,990 --> 00:11:47,480

For you it's more difficult  
but do you remember something?

235

00:11:47,480 --> 00:11:48,380

Well, it's a little  
more difficult,

236

00:11:48,380 --> 00:11:50,480

but to the extent that  
I didn't go to school,

237

00:11:50,480 --> 00:11:52,100

I don't remember  
going to school.

238

00:11:52,100 --> 00:11:54,560

But as a toddler  
or a young four,

239

00:11:54,560 --> 00:11:59,180

five-year-old I remember  
playing and I remember

240

00:11:59,180 --> 00:12:01,670

the streets and the  
few friends that we

241

00:12:01,670 --> 00:12:03,750

played with and with

my sister, of course.

242

00:12:03,750 --> 00:12:07,370

So I do remember that  
part and it was pleasant.

243

00:12:07,370 --> 00:12:14,030

We were very comfortable,  
had a loving family.

244

00:12:14,030 --> 00:12:16,560

What do you remember  
of Jewish life?

245

00:12:16,560 --> 00:12:17,300

Jewish life?

246

00:12:17,300 --> 00:12:22,250

There was a synagogue  
around the corner, holidays,

247

00:12:22,250 --> 00:12:27,360

and this is what I remember.

248

00:12:27,360 --> 00:12:34,023

My grandmother  
coming over and so.

249

00:12:34,023 --> 00:12:35,060

And you?

250

00:12:35,060 --> 00:12:35,910

Same.

251

00:12:35,910 --> 00:12:39,985

Well, not as much  
as my sister, but I

252

00:12:39,985 --> 00:12:42,930

remember those happy  
occasions of course.

253

00:12:42,930 --> 00:12:48,920  
What do you remember in  
terms of comparing first

254  
00:12:48,920 --> 00:12:53,520  
to the Russian takeover, and  
then the German takeover?

255  
00:12:53,520 --> 00:12:57,360  
Well, the Russians came  
over, they were not a threat

256  
00:12:57,360 --> 00:12:59,190  
to our lives.

257  
00:12:59,190 --> 00:13:02,130  
Of course, the Germans  
came, then that was it.

258  
00:13:02,130 --> 00:13:04,790

259  
00:13:04,790 --> 00:13:14,070  
Because all the neighbors that  
were Ukrainian or non-Jewish

260  
00:13:14,070 --> 00:13:21,110  
were happy that the Germans came  
and screaming in the streets

261  
00:13:21,110 --> 00:13:28,000  
that it will be  
bad for the Jews.

262  
00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:29,470  
They were glad about it.

263  
00:13:29,470 --> 00:13:32,800  
Was that the impression  
that you had,

264  
00:13:32,800 --> 00:13:38,530  
that the population

saw the events of 1941

265

00:13:38,530 --> 00:13:40,880

as a turn against the Jews?

266

00:13:40,880 --> 00:13:43,310

Was that the whole thing?

267

00:13:43,310 --> 00:13:45,546

Well.

268

00:13:45,546 --> 00:13:46,046

That they--

269

00:13:46,046 --> 00:13:47,068

They were not in danger.

270

00:13:47,068 --> 00:13:48,610

--were pleased with  
this development?

271

00:13:48,610 --> 00:13:48,885

Yes.

272

00:13:48,885 --> 00:13:49,610

We did feel that.

273

00:13:49,610 --> 00:13:49,945

Yes.

274

00:13:49,945 --> 00:13:50,600

We did feel that.

275

00:13:50,600 --> 00:13:51,267

We had to have--

276

00:13:51,267 --> 00:13:53,930

I don't think in the  
other population,

277

00:13:53,930 --> 00:13:56,420

the others were in  
danger of their lives.

278  
00:13:56,420 --> 00:13:59,840

279  
00:13:59,840 --> 00:14:01,760  
And there's not--

280  
00:14:01,760 --> 00:14:07,360  
Anti-Semitism reared its ugly  
head when the Germans came in.

281  
00:14:07,360 --> 00:14:12,970  
It was just Carte Blanche  
and opened everything up.

282  
00:14:12,970 --> 00:14:15,630  
You mean they could help  
themselves to your belongings?

283  
00:14:15,630 --> 00:14:16,550  
They certainly did.

284  
00:14:16,550 --> 00:14:17,440  
Eventually they did.

285  
00:14:17,440 --> 00:14:17,700  
They eventually did.

286  
00:14:17,700 --> 00:14:19,690  
And one of the first  
things, of course, we

287  
00:14:19,690 --> 00:14:24,130  
know the Germans did is  
create and form the ghetto

288  
00:14:24,130 --> 00:14:27,760  
and the orders went out  
to the Jewish communities

289



00:14:27,760 --> 00:14:30,370  
that everybody had to  
move into the ghettos.

290  
00:14:30,370 --> 00:14:31,720  
So we had to leave.

291  
00:14:31,720 --> 00:14:35,890  
So when Jews family's  
businesses left,

292  
00:14:35,890 --> 00:14:39,220  
whoever took it over, whether  
it's the Poles or Ukrainians

293  
00:14:39,220 --> 00:14:40,600  
or Germans.

294  
00:14:40,600 --> 00:14:43,970  
Just like my father the  
lumber yard, who knows

295  
00:14:43,970 --> 00:14:44,720  
who took it over?

296  
00:14:44,720 --> 00:14:49,110  
But we certainly didn't  
see any benefit of it.

297  
00:14:49,110 --> 00:14:53,200  
So that that's the sense  
and it's not the sense.

298  
00:14:53,200 --> 00:14:55,330  
It's in the reality,  
that's what happened.

299  
00:14:55,330 --> 00:14:59,890  
We all know that during the  
actions that the Germans had,

300  
00:14:59,890 --> 00:15:01,600  
let's say even in

the ghetto when

301

00:15:01,600 --> 00:15:03,370

they would come in  
and take our children

302

00:15:03,370 --> 00:15:07,270

or elderly people, different  
times, different segments

303

00:15:07,270 --> 00:15:10,900

of the population they  
wanted to take out,

304

00:15:10,900 --> 00:15:15,670

there was always some  
Gentile Poles or Ukrainians

305

00:15:15,670 --> 00:15:19,840

with the Germans and  
they were the ones who--

306

00:15:19,840 --> 00:15:20,920

Rounded up Jews.

307

00:15:20,920 --> 00:15:24,310

--helped more than anybody else  
to round them up and take them

308

00:15:24,310 --> 00:15:24,850

out.

309

00:15:24,850 --> 00:15:33,130

Would you say that what  
the Germans did was--

310

00:15:33,130 --> 00:15:36,940

while Poland was really  
a defeated country,

311

00:15:36,940 --> 00:15:39,790

a vanquished country  
at this time,

312  
00:15:39,790 --> 00:15:42,640  
the Germans succeeded  
in blinding them

313  
00:15:42,640 --> 00:15:46,240  
to what was taking  
place with them

314  
00:15:46,240 --> 00:15:48,130  
by giving them the  
Carte Blanche to do

315  
00:15:48,130 --> 00:15:49,480  
what they wanted with the Jews?

316  
00:15:49,480 --> 00:15:50,350  
Right, right.

317  
00:15:50,350 --> 00:15:52,240  
I would agree with  
that general statement

318  
00:15:52,240 --> 00:15:56,770  
and of course, I would also  
say not the entire population.

319  
00:15:56,770 --> 00:16:00,460  
I'm sure there were good people  
and people were helping us

320  
00:16:00,460 --> 00:16:03,640  
and even in our own case, there  
were some Gentile families who

321  
00:16:03,640 --> 00:16:06,140  
helped us get out and survive.

322  
00:16:06,140 --> 00:16:08,330  
And so it's not everybody, but--

323  
00:16:08,330 --> 00:16:11,100

Excuse me, Erwin.

324

00:16:11,100 --> 00:16:14,710

To get out from the  
ghetto nobody helped us.

325

00:16:14,710 --> 00:16:16,372

Well, but the one  
time, for instance--

326

00:16:16,372 --> 00:16:17,330

That they took me over.

327

00:16:17,330 --> 00:16:19,680

--somebody took you for  
a few days, you know?

328

00:16:19,680 --> 00:16:21,180

They were Gentile.

329

00:16:21,180 --> 00:16:22,780

They were Gentile.

330

00:16:22,780 --> 00:16:26,650

But generally  
speaking, they were not

331

00:16:26,650 --> 00:16:30,310

unhappy with the situation with  
the Germans coming in and doing

332

00:16:30,310 --> 00:16:32,080

what they were doing.

333

00:16:32,080 --> 00:16:38,200

Even though they were defeated  
country, your view of it

334

00:16:38,200 --> 00:16:45,690

is that this made their defeat  
more than palatable for them?

335

00:16:45,690 --> 00:16:46,750  
Yes.

336  
00:16:46,750 --> 00:16:47,910  
Yes.

337  
00:16:47,910 --> 00:16:51,090  
The Germans didn't need  
to do much the work

338  
00:16:51,090 --> 00:16:52,770  
at liquidating Jews.

339  
00:16:52,770 --> 00:16:55,540  
Well, they had the  
plan and everything,

340  
00:16:55,540 --> 00:17:00,510  
but they had tremendous  
cooperation with the Gentile,

341  
00:17:00,510 --> 00:17:02,020  
Ukrainians, and the Poles.

342  
00:17:02,020 --> 00:17:02,640  
All right.

343  
00:17:02,640 --> 00:17:08,700  
Let's consider now the  
members of your family.

344  
00:17:08,700 --> 00:17:12,420  
You know, your father's  
family, your mother's family.

345  
00:17:12,420 --> 00:17:14,910  
We were talking about  
this a little while ago.

346  
00:17:14,910 --> 00:17:27,380

347

00:17:27,380 --> 00:17:30,330  
Let's go to your father's  
family first, may we?

348  
00:17:30,330 --> 00:17:34,100

349  
00:17:34,100 --> 00:17:37,070  
Your father's family  
consisted of what?

350  
00:17:37,070 --> 00:17:39,140  
Of a brother and sister.

351  
00:17:39,140 --> 00:17:40,430  
Brother and a sister.

352  
00:17:40,430 --> 00:17:41,540  
What happened to them?

353  
00:17:41,540 --> 00:17:45,790  
The brother perished  
with his family.

354  
00:17:45,790 --> 00:17:49,480  
The sister survived in  
Russia with her family.

355  
00:17:49,480 --> 00:17:53,470  
OK, so they were married  
and they had children?

356  
00:17:53,470 --> 00:17:55,000  
Each had two children.

357  
00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:55,780  
All right.

358  
00:17:55,780 --> 00:17:59,440  
So you're talking about  
two families of four?

359

00:17:59,440 --> 00:18:00,880  
Right.

360  
00:18:00,880 --> 00:18:03,490  
One family of four  
escaped to Russia--

361  
00:18:03,490 --> 00:18:04,450  
Of three.

362  
00:18:04,450 --> 00:18:07,810  
My father was one of three.

363  
00:18:07,810 --> 00:18:09,000  
There was another--

364  
00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:12,500  
Oh, no I'm talking about  
his brother and his sister.

365  
00:18:12,500 --> 00:18:13,030  
Right.

366  
00:18:13,030 --> 00:18:16,320  
So the brother  
escaped to Russia?

367  
00:18:16,320 --> 00:18:17,370  
No, the brother perished.

368  
00:18:17,370 --> 00:18:18,355  
The sister.

369  
00:18:18,355 --> 00:18:19,230  
The sister in Russia.

370  
00:18:19,230 --> 00:18:21,915  
So the sister and her  
husband and children--

371  
00:18:21,915 --> 00:18:23,010  
--two children survived.

372  
00:18:23,010 --> 00:18:24,990  
--left, fled to Russia.

373  
00:18:24,990 --> 00:18:25,750  
And survived.

374  
00:18:25,750 --> 00:18:26,250  
All right.

375  
00:18:26,250 --> 00:18:27,210  
That's the sister.

376  
00:18:27,210 --> 00:18:29,310  
The brother and his wife

377  
00:18:29,310 --> 00:18:30,870  
And two children

378  
00:18:30,870 --> 00:18:31,440  
Perished.

379  
00:18:31,440 --> 00:18:31,940  
Perished.

380  
00:18:31,940 --> 00:18:33,180  
You don't know where?

381  
00:18:33,180 --> 00:18:38,117  
Stanislav, but I don't  
know how and what.

382  
00:18:38,117 --> 00:18:40,200  
You don't know if it's a  
ghetto or if it's a camp.

383  
00:18:40,200 --> 00:18:42,570  
You just know that they  
weren't around after the war.

384  
00:18:42,570 --> 00:18:43,320



Right.

385  
00:18:43,320 --> 00:18:44,820  
OK.

386  
00:18:44,820 --> 00:18:47,280  
Now your mother's family  
was a larger family.

387  
00:18:47,280 --> 00:18:50,160  
Larger family, she  
was one of seven

388  
00:18:50,160 --> 00:18:55,145  
and only she and  
her sister survived.

389  
00:18:55,145 --> 00:18:58,450

390  
00:18:58,450 --> 00:19:00,968  
Your mother survived with  
her husband and two children.

391  
00:19:00,968 --> 00:19:01,510  
Two children.

392  
00:19:01,510 --> 00:19:06,710  
The sister survived  
with a daughter

393  
00:19:06,710 --> 00:19:12,110  
and a ex-husband, which was in  
a different part of the world.

394  
00:19:12,110 --> 00:19:12,950  
OK.

395  
00:19:12,950 --> 00:19:18,830  
And now five siblings, and  
that's-- they perished.

396

00:19:18,830 --> 00:19:20,570  
Perished, yes.

397  
00:19:20,570 --> 00:19:22,445  
Different part of the world.

398  
00:19:22,445 --> 00:19:24,070  
With their husbands,  
with their wives--

399  
00:19:24,070 --> 00:19:24,290  
Children--

400  
00:19:24,290 --> 00:19:24,905  
--and with the children.

401  
00:19:24,905 --> 00:19:26,130  
--wives, with their spouses.

402  
00:19:26,130 --> 00:19:26,690  
Yes.

403  
00:19:26,690 --> 00:19:32,200  
So that's where the the  
losses were greatest.

404  
00:19:32,200 --> 00:19:35,120  
And of course, my  
mother's mother perished.

405  
00:19:35,120 --> 00:19:36,020  
Grandmother.

406  
00:19:36,020 --> 00:19:39,430  
She was the only member of that  
generation who was still alive?

407  
00:19:39,430 --> 00:19:43,210  
Yes, yes, yes.

408  
00:19:43,210 --> 00:19:47,920  
Now you were in

the ghetto in Lwow.

409

00:19:47,920 --> 00:19:48,670

Yes.

410

00:19:48,670 --> 00:19:51,070

What happened there?

411

00:19:51,070 --> 00:19:56,080

Well, daily life was very  
tough from day-to-day,

412

00:19:56,080 --> 00:20:00,130

but of course, worse  
was the aktion that

413

00:20:00,130 --> 00:20:03,100

were rounding our people, and  
there was no place to hide

414

00:20:03,100 --> 00:20:08,710

and whoever was open were taken  
away and never heard of again.

415

00:20:08,710 --> 00:20:17,360

But at one time we  
were hiding in a attic

416

00:20:17,360 --> 00:20:19,920

and we survived that aktion.

417

00:20:19,920 --> 00:20:23,880

Other aktion were  
hiding other places,

418

00:20:23,880 --> 00:20:27,660

and eventually my parents  
decided to leave the ghetto

419

00:20:27,660 --> 00:20:31,100

and to take that chance.

420

00:20:31,100 --> 00:20:32,760  
To escape.

421  
00:20:32,760 --> 00:20:37,620  
Now, all the Jews of  
the Lwow were rounded up

422  
00:20:37,620 --> 00:20:40,050  
and settled in the ghetto?

423  
00:20:40,050 --> 00:20:41,580  
Ghetto, yes.

424  
00:20:41,580 --> 00:20:46,230  
What do you remember of  
what the life consisted

425  
00:20:46,230 --> 00:20:47,770  
of in the ghetto?

426  
00:20:47,770 --> 00:20:49,630  
I think struggle  
from day-to-day.

427  
00:20:49,630 --> 00:20:53,220  
I remember my  
parents, my mother was

428  
00:20:53,220 --> 00:20:56,220  
able to get out from the  
ghetto and bring food inside

429  
00:20:56,220 --> 00:21:00,000  
because food was a shortage.

430  
00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:02,850  
Shortage of food,  
shortage of medicine.

431  
00:21:02,850 --> 00:21:04,060  
Shortage of everything.

432

00:21:04,060 --> 00:21:07,380  
But I don't remember  
ever being, or you

433  
00:21:07,380 --> 00:21:11,220  
being hungry because  
mother always

434  
00:21:11,220 --> 00:21:15,900  
were able to go out and  
bring bread, potatoes,

435  
00:21:15,900 --> 00:21:17,550  
and all kinds of things.

436  
00:21:17,550 --> 00:21:19,770  
Was everybody in the  
ghetto able to do it?

437  
00:21:19,770 --> 00:21:22,410  
No.

438  
00:21:22,410 --> 00:21:24,510  
How did she manage it?

439  
00:21:24,510 --> 00:21:29,740  
When she was going out, she  
pretended to be not Jewish

440  
00:21:29,740 --> 00:21:33,530  
and she had the look  
about her that way.

441  
00:21:33,530 --> 00:21:38,230  
So she was able to mingle  
with the non-Jewish population

442  
00:21:38,230 --> 00:21:43,520  
outside the ghetto and  
to just get things.

443  
00:21:43,520 --> 00:21:46,820  
With maybe some

money we had she was

444

00:21:46,820 --> 00:21:48,310  
able to buy outside the ghetto.

445

00:21:48,310 --> 00:21:51,480

446

00:21:51,480 --> 00:21:56,070  
So people didn't know  
her outside the ghetto?

447

00:21:56,070 --> 00:21:58,470  
She was always  
afraid that somebody

448

00:21:58,470 --> 00:22:00,970  
will recognize her, a neighbor.

449

00:22:00,970 --> 00:22:05,760  
Which at one time, it  
happened and she miraculously

450

00:22:05,760 --> 00:22:08,400  
escaped that person  
that followed her.

451

00:22:08,400 --> 00:22:16,090  
A non-Jewish neighbor saw her  
and followed her all over town,

452

00:22:16,090 --> 00:22:19,793  
but mother did  
manage to escape her.

453

00:22:19,793 --> 00:22:21,210  
That was a frightening  
experience.

454

00:22:21,210 --> 00:22:22,585  
That was a  
frightening experience

455

00:22:22,585 --> 00:22:28,630

that people will-- that's why  
when we did leave the ghetto,

456

00:22:28,630 --> 00:22:34,330

we had to go out outside Lwow  
because it was always a danger

457

00:22:34,330 --> 00:22:35,680

that someone will recognize.

458

00:22:35,680 --> 00:22:41,490

A neighbor, a mother  
of a school child

459

00:22:41,490 --> 00:22:43,100

will eventually give us out.

460

00:22:43,100 --> 00:22:45,530

I believe in your  
mother's writing

461

00:22:45,530 --> 00:22:48,230

we have a number of  
incidents that took place

462

00:22:48,230 --> 00:22:52,970

while the family was  
still in the ghetto,

463

00:22:52,970 --> 00:22:58,430

but the way I understand it,  
you were outside the ghetto--

464

00:22:58,430 --> 00:23:00,290

Just for one aktion.

465

00:23:00,290 --> 00:23:02,030

For one aktion I--

466

00:23:02,030 --> 00:23:03,660

You were in the ghetto.

467  
00:23:03,660 --> 00:23:04,290  
Yes.

468  
00:23:04,290 --> 00:23:05,820  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

469  
00:23:05,820 --> 00:23:08,000  
And the other aktion, you  
were out of the ghetto.

470  
00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:09,410  
One aktion was outside.

471  
00:23:09,410 --> 00:23:12,440  
Mostly I was in, just  
one aktion was out.

472  
00:23:12,440 --> 00:23:15,470  
When did you leave the ghetto?

473  
00:23:15,470 --> 00:23:19,520  
There was a rumor that the Nazi  
is coming up and my mother--

474  
00:23:19,520 --> 00:23:21,080  
I don't remember  
if somebody came

475  
00:23:21,080 --> 00:23:23,120  
to get me out from the ghetto.

476  
00:23:23,120 --> 00:23:29,720  
Mother took me out to family.

477  
00:23:29,720 --> 00:23:31,310  
Family from before the war.

478  
00:23:31,310 --> 00:23:31,970  
Yes.

479



00:23:31,970 --> 00:23:32,672  
They took me--

480  
00:23:32,672 --> 00:23:33,255  
Polish family?

481  
00:23:33,255 --> 00:23:34,400  
Polish family, yes.

482  
00:23:34,400 --> 00:23:35,390  
A Gentile family?

483  
00:23:35,390 --> 00:23:36,390  
Yes, Gentile family.

484  
00:23:36,390 --> 00:23:36,890  
Yes.

485  
00:23:36,890 --> 00:23:37,880  
A Gentile Polish family,  
and they sheltered her.

486  
00:23:37,880 --> 00:23:40,130  
Yes, for the time of the aktion.

487  
00:23:40,130 --> 00:23:41,270  
Then they took me back.

488  
00:23:41,270 --> 00:23:43,280  
So basically you were  
together the whole time?

489  
00:23:43,280 --> 00:23:44,650  
Yes, yes, yes.

490  
00:23:44,650 --> 00:23:46,530  
Except maybe for  
two days, let's say.

491  
00:23:46,530 --> 00:23:47,030  
Exactly.

492

00:23:47,030 --> 00:23:47,655

Exactly, right.

493

00:23:47,655 --> 00:23:48,890

OK.

494

00:23:48,890 --> 00:23:51,360

And at a certain point--

495

00:23:51,360 --> 00:23:54,860

so you'll live

through and the family

496

00:23:54,860 --> 00:24:00,890

lived through, survived

several aktions in the ghetto,

497

00:24:00,890 --> 00:24:05,300

and then the family

left the ghetto.

498

00:24:05,300 --> 00:24:06,410

How did that come about?

499

00:24:06,410 --> 00:24:09,050

That's the key to your survival.

500

00:24:09,050 --> 00:24:09,890

Leaving the ghetto?

501

00:24:09,890 --> 00:24:10,390

Yeah.

502

00:24:10,390 --> 00:24:11,045

Yes.

503

00:24:11,045 --> 00:24:13,460

Well, mother writes in

here that the decision

504

00:24:13,460 --> 00:24:19,950

came when my father was injured  
while being transported out

505

00:24:19,950 --> 00:24:23,920  
of the ghetto to a work  
outside the ghetto.

506

00:24:23,920 --> 00:24:28,760  
And it was a big incident  
that some truck fell over him

507

00:24:28,760 --> 00:24:31,080  
and he was badly injured.

508

00:24:31,080 --> 00:24:34,780  
So while recuperating  
back in the ghetto,

509

00:24:34,780 --> 00:24:38,280  
my parents decided  
there's the time.

510

00:24:38,280 --> 00:24:40,140  
Because nobody will  
be missing him at

511

00:24:40,140 --> 00:24:42,930  
work knowing that  
he's recuperating.

512

00:24:42,930 --> 00:24:45,120  
And we decided to leave.

513

00:24:45,120 --> 00:24:52,310  
We obtained some-- partially,  
mother obtained Aryan papers,

514

00:24:52,310 --> 00:24:54,320  
which were not so--

515

00:24:54,320 --> 00:24:55,585  
For you two?

516

00:24:55,585 --> 00:24:59,150  
For herself as an Aryan person.

517

00:24:59,150 --> 00:25:02,690  
And so at least  
she had something

518

00:25:02,690 --> 00:25:05,600  
to show if caught outside.

519

00:25:05,600 --> 00:25:06,980  
And what about the two of you?

520

00:25:06,980 --> 00:25:08,790  
But those papers  
were only for her

521

00:25:08,790 --> 00:25:10,520  
and for my sister and myself.

522

00:25:10,520 --> 00:25:11,510  
Not for my father.

523

00:25:11,510 --> 00:25:12,410  
Not for my father.

524

00:25:12,410 --> 00:25:13,220  
Why was that?

525

00:25:13,220 --> 00:25:15,325  
Well, the papers  
were for a woman--

526

00:25:15,325 --> 00:25:16,325  
From a separate family--

527

00:25:16,325 --> 00:25:16,825  
--her age.

528

00:25:16,825 --> 00:25:18,140  
--that they gave us.

529  
00:25:18,140 --> 00:25:20,120  
They gave you their papers?

530  
00:25:20,120 --> 00:25:20,640  
No.

531  
00:25:20,640 --> 00:25:21,140  
No.

532  
00:25:21,140 --> 00:25:24,433  
The papers were not so--

533  
00:25:24,433 --> 00:25:24,933  
Legitimate?

534  
00:25:24,933 --> 00:25:26,900  
--legitimate They  
were very safe,

535  
00:25:26,900 --> 00:25:28,910  
but were safe in the packet.

536  
00:25:28,910 --> 00:25:32,150  
Once they had to be shown  
and if they will just

537  
00:25:32,150 --> 00:25:37,400  
follow all the details of  
those papers, wouldn't be good.

538  
00:25:37,400 --> 00:25:43,070  
But for the first glance, the  
papers were OK, let's say.

539  
00:25:43,070 --> 00:25:46,940  
For a family of a boy  
and a girl and a mother.

540  
00:25:46,940 --> 00:25:48,800  
Mother and my father was just--

541

00:25:48,800 --> 00:25:50,750

Who prepared the papers?

542

00:25:50,750 --> 00:25:53,240

We had somebody  
that did it for us.

543

00:25:53,240 --> 00:25:56,075

This was from a deceased  
family, they got a copy.

544

00:25:56,075 --> 00:25:57,690

Oh, these were real people.

545

00:25:57,690 --> 00:25:58,950

These were real papers.

546

00:25:58,950 --> 00:26:04,250

Real paper of people that if  
you would really look through,

547

00:26:04,250 --> 00:26:06,860

they were non-existence,  
partially existing.

548

00:26:06,860 --> 00:26:11,510

I'm not sure how, but they were  
not from people that were alive

549

00:26:11,510 --> 00:26:15,200

and that they gave  
up their own papers.

550

00:26:15,200 --> 00:26:17,360

Were just false papers, false--

551

00:26:17,360 --> 00:26:21,860

maybe one was in the K-paper,  
but for the two of us maybe

552

00:26:21,860 --> 00:26:23,960

it was a little bit falsified.

553

00:26:23,960 --> 00:26:27,410

Well, I can understand it  
because if the people weren't

554

00:26:27,410 --> 00:26:29,430

alive, that means  
they were dead.

555

00:26:29,430 --> 00:26:31,280

And you were children  
who were just

556

00:26:31,280 --> 00:26:34,130

born within the past decade.

557

00:26:34,130 --> 00:26:40,160

I don't know how exactly  
which paper was the right one.

558

00:26:40,160 --> 00:26:41,480

Probably mothers.

559

00:26:41,480 --> 00:26:45,680

And the two of our papers  
maybe were falsified or just

560

00:26:45,680 --> 00:26:46,730

made up for.

561

00:26:46,730 --> 00:26:49,060

And your father had no papers?

562

00:26:49,060 --> 00:26:50,570

No papers, no.

563

00:26:50,570 --> 00:26:53,950

Just went out on a chance.

564

00:26:53,950 --> 00:27:00,490

And in the film that  
was in the video for--

565  
00:27:00,490 --> 00:27:00,990  
Stern.

566  
00:27:00,990 --> 00:27:01,980  
--Stern College.

567  
00:27:01,980 --> 00:27:06,930  
Your mother was very  
clear with the statement

568  
00:27:06,930 --> 00:27:09,570  
"here we have no  
chance to survive.

569  
00:27:09,570 --> 00:27:11,220  
Outside is 50-50.

570  
00:27:11,220 --> 00:27:12,860  
I'll take the 50-50."

571  
00:27:12,860 --> 00:27:15,200  
Exactly.

572  
00:27:15,200 --> 00:27:17,760  
So it was her decision?

573  
00:27:17,760 --> 00:27:18,690  
Yes.

574  
00:27:18,690 --> 00:27:19,480  
Yes.

575  
00:27:19,480 --> 00:27:19,980  
Yes.

576  
00:27:19,980 --> 00:27:21,968

577  
00:27:21,968 --> 00:27:23,010  
She was very strong, yes.



578  
00:27:23,010 --> 00:27:26,550  
Do you remember her always  
being the decisive person

579  
00:27:26,550 --> 00:27:28,110  
and making moves?

580  
00:27:28,110 --> 00:27:31,980  
Never came to our mind  
before the war how strong

581  
00:27:31,980 --> 00:27:36,480  
and how decisive she was  
till the occasion came for--

582  
00:27:36,480 --> 00:27:37,273  
In those

583  
00:27:37,273 --> 00:27:38,190  
--emergency like that.

584  
00:27:38,190 --> 00:27:39,930  
--moments of crisis  
and everything,

585  
00:27:39,930 --> 00:27:41,790  
of course she discussed  
it with her father,

586  
00:27:41,790 --> 00:27:43,320  
I'm sure, and so forth.

587  
00:27:43,320 --> 00:27:44,373  
With her father?

588  
00:27:44,373 --> 00:27:45,165  
Oh, you mean with--

589  
00:27:45,165 --> 00:27:45,510  
With our father.

590

00:27:45,510 --> 00:27:46,093

--your father.

591

00:27:46,093 --> 00:27:46,800

My father.

592

00:27:46,800 --> 00:27:47,910

With her husband.

593

00:27:47,910 --> 00:27:48,630

With her husband.

594

00:27:48,630 --> 00:27:51,720

But she really was  
the strong force

595

00:27:51,720 --> 00:27:55,660

in getting things accomplished  
that had to be done.

596

00:27:55,660 --> 00:27:58,890

And first of all, she  
didn't look Jewish.

597

00:27:58,890 --> 00:28:05,550

Which quote, unquote, whatever  
"Jewish" for the non-Jewish

598

00:28:05,550 --> 00:28:08,220

population a Jew looks like.

599

00:28:08,220 --> 00:28:11,610

And being a woman was  
easier to get around

600

00:28:11,610 --> 00:28:15,820

than for a man, which could be,  
of course, for a Jewish man,

601

00:28:15,820 --> 00:28:16,980

male was--

602

00:28:16,980 --> 00:28:20,280

603

00:28:20,280 --> 00:28:22,020

Could be dangerous.

604

00:28:22,020 --> 00:28:24,030

Right, could be  
proven immediately.

605

00:28:24,030 --> 00:28:26,740

606

00:28:26,740 --> 00:28:30,010

So mother had the ability,  
of course the strength,

607

00:28:30,010 --> 00:28:33,010

and everything else that  
she could maneuver easier

608

00:28:33,010 --> 00:28:37,750

than a man, which was my father.

609

00:28:37,750 --> 00:28:39,850

After the war, when  
you came to America,

610

00:28:39,850 --> 00:28:44,160

did you always see your mother  
as being that decisive person?

611

00:28:44,160 --> 00:28:47,200

Because evidently she played  
that key role in your lives.

612

00:28:47,200 --> 00:28:48,280

Yes, she did.

613

00:28:48,280 --> 00:28:48,780

Yes.

614  
00:28:48,780 --> 00:28:49,280  
Yes.

615  
00:28:49,280 --> 00:28:50,200  
You always saw that?

616  
00:28:50,200 --> 00:28:50,610  
Yes.

617  
00:28:50,610 --> 00:28:50,870  
Yes.

618  
00:28:50,870 --> 00:28:51,110  
Yes.

619  
00:28:51,110 --> 00:28:51,650  
Yes.

620  
00:28:51,650 --> 00:28:52,270  
Yes.

621  
00:28:52,270 --> 00:28:57,970  
She was a good guide for  
us, different decisions,

622  
00:28:57,970 --> 00:29:00,730  
where to live,  
settlements, so forth.

623  
00:29:00,730 --> 00:29:02,270  
She was involved all the time.

624  
00:29:02,270 --> 00:29:05,150  
She had a good sense  
about what's right

625  
00:29:05,150 --> 00:29:09,580  
and it's proven that she was  
right in all her decision

626  
00:29:09,580 --> 00:29:10,220

making.

627

00:29:10,220 --> 00:29:12,790

So she was really  
quite a personality?

628

00:29:12,790 --> 00:29:13,960

Yes, she was.

629

00:29:13,960 --> 00:29:18,220

And in the sense  
that in her case,

630

00:29:18,220 --> 00:29:22,210

you could see where the decision  
was made that saved the family.

631

00:29:22,210 --> 00:29:23,810

In the ghetto In the ghetto.

632

00:29:23,810 --> 00:29:27,610

And most people can't do that.

633

00:29:27,610 --> 00:29:30,743

They will throw up their  
hands and say it was luck,

634

00:29:30,743 --> 00:29:32,410

they can't understand  
how they survived.

635

00:29:32,410 --> 00:29:34,590

And mostly people in the ghetto.

636

00:29:34,590 --> 00:29:37,550

Mother used to tell  
us that people said,

637

00:29:37,550 --> 00:29:41,290

whatever happened with everybody  
else will happen with us.

638

00:29:41,290 --> 00:29:45,100  
Of course, not thinking that  
such a final thing will happen.

639  
00:29:45,100 --> 00:29:47,120  
They couldn't absorb it,  
what was taking place.

640  
00:29:47,120 --> 00:29:47,950  
Couldn't.

641  
00:29:47,950 --> 00:29:49,990  
Even if they knew  
somehow, said, well, it

642  
00:29:49,990 --> 00:29:53,620  
would not maybe happen to  
us, maybe soon it'll end,

643  
00:29:53,620 --> 00:29:57,490  
maybe just part of us  
will perish, not all.

644  
00:29:57,490 --> 00:29:59,930  
I don't think they  
thought that it's--

645  
00:29:59,930 --> 00:30:04,360  
This is probably one of  
the most puzzling things

646  
00:30:04,360 --> 00:30:08,560  
from the whole Holocaust,  
just to my mind anyway.

647  
00:30:08,560 --> 00:30:12,790  
How millions and  
millions of people

648  
00:30:12,790 --> 00:30:16,370  
just either didn't  
know what was going on,

649

00:30:16,370 --> 00:30:19,060  
which is quite possible and  
they always thought of, well,

650  
00:30:19,060 --> 00:30:21,200  
if we resist we'll get  
killed immediately.

651  
00:30:21,200 --> 00:30:24,250  
So let's go along.

652  
00:30:24,250 --> 00:30:25,690  
Where was the resistance?

653  
00:30:25,690 --> 00:30:28,750  
There was some, of  
course, we know,

654  
00:30:28,750 --> 00:30:33,358  
but generally  
speaking we were just

655  
00:30:33,358 --> 00:30:35,400  
led to believe that  
everything will be all right.

656  
00:30:35,400 --> 00:30:40,940  
I still don't know how it  
all went that it just--

657  
00:30:40,940 --> 00:30:44,840  
if was even full resistance,  
if we knew all the facts,

658  
00:30:44,840 --> 00:30:47,370  
what was going on.

659  
00:30:47,370 --> 00:30:50,720  
Maybe half our population  
could have been saved.

660  
00:30:50,720 --> 00:30:51,620  
It's hard to believe.

661  
00:30:51,620 --> 00:30:53,750  
You know, Wiesel said  
when he was here,

662  
00:30:53,750 --> 00:30:59,750  
how do unarmed people resist  
the mightiest army in Europe

663  
00:30:59,750 --> 00:31:01,910  
and the greatest  
army until that time?

664  
00:31:01,910 --> 00:31:02,570  
With what?

665  
00:31:02,570 --> 00:31:03,200  
That is true.

666  
00:31:03,200 --> 00:31:05,120  
That is true.

667  
00:31:05,120 --> 00:31:08,620  
It's hard to fight with  
bare hands guns and tanks.

668  
00:31:08,620 --> 00:31:15,030  
The population was hungry,  
scared, and just not organized

669  
00:31:15,030 --> 00:31:16,950  
and just not believing that--

670  
00:31:16,950 --> 00:31:22,290  
Not organized, we  
didn't have backing.

671  
00:31:22,290 --> 00:31:28,580  
We didn't have countries,  
nations, saying this is wrong.

672  
00:31:28,580 --> 00:31:29,580



We have to do something.

673  
00:31:29,580 --> 00:31:32,550  
We didn't have it then.

674  
00:31:32,550 --> 00:31:38,130  
Now your mother made the  
decision and the history

675  
00:31:38,130 --> 00:31:40,590  
has proven that she  
was right and she

676  
00:31:40,590 --> 00:31:45,900  
was original and creative  
in how to save the family.

677  
00:31:45,900 --> 00:31:48,420  
Did she talk to  
others that you know

678  
00:31:48,420 --> 00:31:50,700  
of about what was in her mind?

679  
00:31:50,700 --> 00:31:52,830  
Or she only kept this  
within the family?

680  
00:31:52,830 --> 00:31:54,220  
That was her decision.

681  
00:31:54,220 --> 00:31:57,405  
It was very hard to advise  
anybody else without--

682  
00:31:57,405 --> 00:32:01,360

683  
00:32:01,360 --> 00:32:03,730  
you can't tell people,  
let's get out from ghetto.

684

00:32:03,730 --> 00:32:06,640

685

00:32:06,640 --> 00:32:12,040

She had the will, the  
opportunity as far

686

00:32:12,040 --> 00:32:13,330

as the papers she had.

687

00:32:13,330 --> 00:32:15,460

If somebody didn't have  
papers, how do you go out?

688

00:32:15,460 --> 00:32:18,940

Have you heard of other  
people who escaped the ghetto?

689

00:32:18,940 --> 00:32:19,734

Probably.

690

00:32:19,734 --> 00:32:21,070

Probably, yes.

691

00:32:21,070 --> 00:32:22,450

Of the Lwow ghetto?

692

00:32:22,450 --> 00:32:25,120

We did not hear  
or know of anyone.

693

00:32:25,120 --> 00:32:26,018

Yes, no.

694

00:32:26,018 --> 00:32:27,560

Yeah, you haven't  
come across anyone?

695

00:32:27,560 --> 00:32:30,730

We haven't come across anyone,  
but hopefully some did.

696

00:32:30,730 --> 00:32:32,218

But on the other  
hand, it was not

697

00:32:32,218 --> 00:32:33,760

easy to get out of  
the ghetto either.

698

00:32:33,760 --> 00:32:36,460

You just didn't decide  
I want to get out.

699

00:32:36,460 --> 00:32:38,740

That was not the Germans plan.

700

00:32:38,740 --> 00:32:41,020

Even according to  
her paper here--

701

00:32:41,020 --> 00:32:45,190

we had somebody that was  
in the Jewish militia

702

00:32:45,190 --> 00:32:46,085

and he helped us.

703

00:32:46,085 --> 00:32:46,960

He was our neighbor--

704

00:32:46,960 --> 00:32:48,760

So we needed a lot of  
help and planning--

705

00:32:48,760 --> 00:32:49,740

--and he helped us to get--

706

00:32:49,740 --> 00:32:50,110

--to get out.

707

00:32:50,110 --> 00:32:50,902

--through the gate.

708

00:32:50,902 --> 00:32:52,960  
A lot of help and planning?

709  
00:32:52,960 --> 00:32:55,180  
A lot of help and planning.

710  
00:32:55,180 --> 00:32:59,440  
The timing, so forth, and so  
on and when this particular man

711  
00:32:59,440 --> 00:33:03,940  
was near the guard, near the  
gates to help us get out.

712  
00:33:03,940 --> 00:33:04,870  
She had spoken to him?

713  
00:33:04,870 --> 00:33:07,660  
She had spoken to him,  
made arrangements so that--

714  
00:33:07,660 --> 00:33:08,690  
He didn't make it.

715  
00:33:08,690 --> 00:33:12,040  
He himself perished, but  
he was in the militia,

716  
00:33:12,040 --> 00:33:14,020  
in the Jewish militia of ghetto.

717  
00:33:14,020 --> 00:33:17,020  
And when we came  
up to the gates he

718  
00:33:17,020 --> 00:33:23,350  
told the one that was guarding  
the gate, also Jewish militia,

719  
00:33:23,350 --> 00:33:25,420  
to look other way.

720

00:33:25,420 --> 00:33:27,550

Not to look this  
way or that way,

721

00:33:27,550 --> 00:33:31,985

and he shielded us with  
his back and said, go.

722

00:33:31,985 --> 00:33:32,610

An absolutely--

723

00:33:32,610 --> 00:33:33,777

So we went through the gate.

724

00:33:33,777 --> 00:33:38,470

--remarkable story, how  
she saw what was going on

725

00:33:38,470 --> 00:33:41,740

and saw how to save her family.

726

00:33:41,740 --> 00:33:47,230

Just exactly how she stated,  
that she would take her chance

727

00:33:47,230 --> 00:33:50,290

on living outside,  
because inside she

728

00:33:50,290 --> 00:33:54,820

could see that nobody  
will survive eventually.

729

00:33:54,820 --> 00:33:58,090

We have here quite  
a few incidents

730

00:33:58,090 --> 00:34:01,000

that she talks about I  
think what we decided

731

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:03,820

was that you'd

begin to read them

732

00:34:03,820 --> 00:34:09,070  
and we'd see if we can get some  
clarity as to what took place,

733

00:34:09,070 --> 00:34:11,179  
when it took place,  
and so forth.

734

00:34:11,179 --> 00:34:13,690  
So if you'll be good enough,  
would you read the first one?

735

00:34:13,690 --> 00:34:14,980  
I'd be glad to, certainly.

736

00:34:14,980 --> 00:34:19,810  
These are some  
remembrances and thoughts

737

00:34:19,810 --> 00:34:23,139  
and things that my  
mother at one time

738

00:34:23,139 --> 00:34:30,010  
a few years ago decided to put  
down and she wrote it in Polish

739

00:34:30,010 --> 00:34:34,480  
and she asked me to translate  
it, which I did, into English.

740

00:34:34,480 --> 00:34:38,429  
And being sort of  
a perfectionist

741

00:34:38,429 --> 00:34:42,940  
that my mother was, she  
didn't like my translation.

742

00:34:42,940 --> 00:34:45,760  
In some instances some

phrases weren't quite the way

743

00:34:45,760 --> 00:34:47,830

she wanted them to be.

744

00:34:47,830 --> 00:34:52,900

She edited my translation  
in English and of course,

745

00:34:52,900 --> 00:34:56,529

then we typed this  
up and these are

746

00:34:56,529 --> 00:35:02,680

a few remembrances of the  
Lemberg, Lwow ghetto in Poland.

747

00:35:02,680 --> 00:35:06,670

This is my mother's  
story and I'll

748

00:35:06,670 --> 00:35:10,360

be glad to read it  
for you this morning.

749

00:35:10,360 --> 00:35:12,040

"In the ghetto  
they had a kitchen

750

00:35:12,040 --> 00:35:15,280

for children who came  
with their own container

751

00:35:15,280 --> 00:35:18,550

to receive a little  
soup and bread.

752

00:35:18,550 --> 00:35:22,240

My nephew, Marcel,  
he was six years old,

753

00:35:22,240 --> 00:35:25,240

went one day to this

kitchen with our children

754  
00:35:25,240 --> 00:35:29,350  
and never returned or  
was ever seen again.

755  
00:35:29,350 --> 00:35:35,090  
Tears are swelling in my eyes  
and I cannot write anymore.

756  
00:35:35,090 --> 00:35:37,030  
Further remembrance--"

757  
00:35:37,030 --> 00:35:38,770  
Wait, is that the first one?

758  
00:35:38,770 --> 00:35:39,760  
That's the first one.

759  
00:35:39,760 --> 00:35:43,390  
All right, let's talk  
about that a moment.

760  
00:35:43,390 --> 00:35:46,270  
Tell us about Marcel.

761  
00:35:46,270 --> 00:35:53,410  
Marcel was the youngest child  
of my mother's oldest sister,

762  
00:35:53,410 --> 00:35:55,150  
A»enia.

763  
00:35:55,150 --> 00:35:57,530  
Actually, he was  
close in age to you.

764  
00:35:57,530 --> 00:35:58,030  
He was.

765  
00:35:58,030 --> 00:35:58,572  
Right, right.



766  
00:35:58,572 --> 00:35:59,620  
He was my age.

767  
00:35:59,620 --> 00:36:02,110  
So was her sister  
closer to my age

768  
00:36:02,110 --> 00:36:05,110  
and Marcel was closer  
to Erwin's age.

769  
00:36:05,110 --> 00:36:10,570  
But in our case, we  
never had the need

770  
00:36:10,570 --> 00:36:13,360  
to go to the soup kitchen  
because always mother

771  
00:36:13,360 --> 00:36:16,870  
was able to provide food for  
us and we really never went

772  
00:36:16,870 --> 00:36:19,450  
hungry, even in the ghetto.

773  
00:36:19,450 --> 00:36:26,600  
But that family, somehow  
my mother's older sister

774  
00:36:26,600 --> 00:36:30,435  
didn't have the  
strength or the ability

775  
00:36:30,435 --> 00:36:32,810  
to go out of the ghetto to  
get the food for the children.

776  
00:36:32,810 --> 00:36:37,630  
So the children were forced  
to go to a soup kitchen

777

00:36:37,630 --> 00:36:44,410  
and that was the plan,  
I guess, to round up

778

00:36:44,410 --> 00:36:47,840  
all the children from  
that soup kitchen

779

00:36:47,840 --> 00:36:49,520  
and then take them away.

780

00:36:49,520 --> 00:36:50,270  
They disappeared.

781

00:36:50,270 --> 00:36:51,432  
They disappeared.

782

00:36:51,432 --> 00:36:54,863

783

00:36:54,863 --> 00:36:57,208  
This was our first shock for  
the family, for our family,

784

00:36:57,208 --> 00:36:58,250  
that he didn't come back.

785

00:36:58,250 --> 00:37:01,290  
That was right at the beginning  
of the German occupation then.

786

00:37:01,290 --> 00:37:01,790  
Exactly.

787

00:37:01,790 --> 00:37:02,290  
Yes.

788

00:37:02,290 --> 00:37:02,880  
Exactly.

789

00:37:02,880 --> 00:37:04,970

Many times they would  
have people gathering,

790  
00:37:04,970 --> 00:37:07,430  
receiving some bread  
and soup and so forth

791  
00:37:07,430 --> 00:37:11,300  
and trucks would come up and  
take 20, 30 people and out.

792  
00:37:11,300 --> 00:37:13,830  
So it was just like  
they were there.

793  
00:37:13,830 --> 00:37:16,040  
You saw it?

794  
00:37:16,040 --> 00:37:20,090  
I don't remember seeing it, no.

795  
00:37:20,090 --> 00:37:21,393  
No, I didn't see it.

796  
00:37:21,393 --> 00:37:23,060  
Because you never  
went to the soup line?

797  
00:37:23,060 --> 00:37:24,227  
Never went to the soup line.

798  
00:37:24,227 --> 00:37:26,840  
Right, but my mother and  
father, they talked about.

799  
00:37:26,840 --> 00:37:29,430  
They knew that's how  
things were going on.

800  
00:37:29,430 --> 00:37:30,540  
Right.

801

00:37:30,540 --> 00:37:34,040  
OK, let's go onto second one.

802  
00:37:34,040 --> 00:37:37,460  
Further remembrances and  
dates, unfortunately I

803  
00:37:37,460 --> 00:37:43,350  
do not remember so I wouldn't  
put them here any dates.

804  
00:37:43,350 --> 00:37:49,730  
Her second point is "they  
announced aktion, which

805  
00:37:49,730 --> 00:37:53,240  
means to take hundreds  
of people to the camps

806  
00:37:53,240 --> 00:37:57,050  
and thereby shrinking  
and reducing the ghetto.

807  
00:37:57,050 --> 00:37:59,240  
I took my daughter,  
Zuzia Elizabeth,

808  
00:37:59,240 --> 00:38:03,740  
to my former neighbor who  
lived in my former neighborhood

809  
00:38:03,740 --> 00:38:05,060  
in Lemberg.

810  
00:38:05,060 --> 00:38:09,080  
She hid Zuzia in the basement  
so that her father, who

811  
00:38:09,080 --> 00:38:12,560  
was of German origin,  
should not find out that she

812  
00:38:12,560 --> 00:38:15,140

was hiding a Jewish child.

813

00:38:15,140 --> 00:38:20,360

Me and my little son, Erwin, who remained with me in the ghetto.

814

00:38:20,360 --> 00:38:23,840

Next to the house where we lived was a barn,

815

00:38:23,840 --> 00:38:29,510

so I and my son Irwin climbed into the attic of that barn

816

00:38:29,510 --> 00:38:32,960

to hide from the Ukrainian militia.

817

00:38:32,960 --> 00:38:36,920

We covered ourselves with straw and lay still, barely

818

00:38:36,920 --> 00:38:38,300

breathing.

819

00:38:38,300 --> 00:38:42,680

The Ukrainian militia came and were taking people away.

820

00:38:42,680 --> 00:38:47,060

My husband, who had working papers for the railroad work

821

00:38:47,060 --> 00:38:51,410

which was considered essential work, was outside the ghetto.

822

00:38:51,410 --> 00:38:54,080

Some Ukrainian men raised the ladder

823

00:38:54,080 --> 00:38:58,730

to go up and look into the attic

where I and my son were hiding.

824

00:38:58,730 --> 00:39:01,820

Erwin was seven years  
old at the time.

825

00:39:01,820 --> 00:39:05,360

As one militiaman was  
climbing up the ladder,

826

00:39:05,360 --> 00:39:07,910

another one said  
to him, can't you

827

00:39:07,910 --> 00:39:10,580

see that there is  
a roof up there?

828

00:39:10,580 --> 00:39:14,990

He climbed down and my  
husband took the ladder away

829

00:39:14,990 --> 00:39:17,150

and we were saved.

830

00:39:17,150 --> 00:39:20,930

From the same hiding place, I  
saw through a little opening

831

00:39:20,930 --> 00:39:25,970

how they took my older sister,  
A»enia, and her daughter, Lila,

832

00:39:25,970 --> 00:39:31,070

and how the brutal Ukrainians  
took them for the last walk.

833

00:39:31,070 --> 00:39:33,380

I can't write any further.

834

00:39:33,380 --> 00:39:36,890

Tears are swelling in my eyes."

835

00:39:36,890 --> 00:39:41,450

This was probably in 1942  
because you were seven.

836

00:39:41,450 --> 00:39:43,740

Wait a minute, you  
became seven in--

837

00:39:43,740 --> 00:39:44,240

In 1941.

838

00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:46,280

--November '41.

839

00:39:46,280 --> 00:39:48,830

So it was probably  
sometime in '42.

840

00:39:48,830 --> 00:39:50,120

'42 I would say.

841

00:39:50,120 --> 00:39:52,707

In the first year of  
the German occupation.

842

00:39:52,707 --> 00:39:53,290

Probably, yes.

843

00:39:53,290 --> 00:39:54,200

Yes.

844

00:39:54,200 --> 00:39:58,010

And this is the one time that  
you were not in the ghetto.

845

00:39:58,010 --> 00:39:58,700

Right, yes.

846

00:39:58,700 --> 00:39:59,680

Yes.

847

00:39:59,680 --> 00:40:00,580  
Yes.

848  
00:40:00,580 --> 00:40:02,780  
But it was maybe  
only for two days

849  
00:40:02,780 --> 00:40:05,000  
because the aktion  
didn't last that long.

850  
00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:10,190  
I mean, it was long enough  
but then I came back.

851  
00:40:10,190 --> 00:40:15,665  
And when you came back, what do  
you recall when you came back?

852  
00:40:15,665 --> 00:40:19,385

853  
00:40:19,385 --> 00:40:21,840  
To tell you the  
truth, just mother

854  
00:40:21,840 --> 00:40:27,980  
telling us that her sister  
and mother and niece

855  
00:40:27,980 --> 00:40:28,970  
were taken away.

856  
00:40:28,970 --> 00:40:30,410  
In the first aktion?

857  
00:40:30,410 --> 00:40:31,440  
Yes.

858  
00:40:31,440 --> 00:40:32,197  
Yes.

859



00:40:32,197 --> 00:40:33,280  
This was the first aktion.

860  
00:40:33,280 --> 00:40:35,430  
One of the first ones, right.

861  
00:40:35,430 --> 00:40:37,730  
That's the first one  
she's talking about.

862  
00:40:37,730 --> 00:40:39,410  
Right, yeah.

863  
00:40:39,410 --> 00:40:42,680  
There may be smaller ones  
before she put this main one up,

864  
00:40:42,680 --> 00:40:43,610  
but this was--

865  
00:40:43,610 --> 00:40:46,100  
Do you have any  
recollection of this aktion?

866  
00:40:46,100 --> 00:40:49,010  
This particular  
incident I do have

867  
00:40:49,010 --> 00:40:53,630  
because I remember being in  
the barn, in the attic with her

868  
00:40:53,630 --> 00:40:55,610  
and just stands out in my mind.

869  
00:40:55,610 --> 00:41:00,200  
But of course, it was reinforced  
by after the war and so forth.

870  
00:41:00,200 --> 00:41:03,020  
We always talked about  
these different pockets,

871  
00:41:03,020 --> 00:41:05,900  
different incidents,  
and that I do remember,

872  
00:41:05,900 --> 00:41:07,790  
being up there with her.

873  
00:41:07,790 --> 00:41:12,650  
And of course,  
being a small child,

874  
00:41:12,650 --> 00:41:16,880  
we were always admonished  
to be quiet and still

875  
00:41:16,880 --> 00:41:19,100  
and all the different  
things that we needed to

876  
00:41:19,100 --> 00:41:22,130  
do in order not to  
give ourselves away.

877  
00:41:22,130 --> 00:41:26,720  
So war creates this  
type of situations.

878  
00:41:26,720 --> 00:41:32,560  
You just know instinctly  
what to do, seems to me like.

879  
00:41:32,560 --> 00:41:36,270  
We had to do all  
the right things.

880  
00:41:36,270 --> 00:41:37,110  
All right.

881  
00:41:37,110 --> 00:41:39,870  
Let's see what else  
Happened Over here

882

00:41:39,870 --> 00:41:43,997  
and see if we begin to  
see any kind of a pattern.

883  
00:41:43,997 --> 00:41:44,830  
What's the next one?

884  
00:41:44,830 --> 00:41:49,380  
She continues, "Another time you  
could hear screaming and crying

885  
00:41:49,380 --> 00:41:51,540  
to the heavens and we  
knew that someone was

886  
00:41:51,540 --> 00:41:53,710  
being tortured and murdered.

887  
00:41:53,710 --> 00:41:55,950  
It was then that  
I and my husband

888  
00:41:55,950 --> 00:42:00,180  
decided that I with my son  
Erwin would leave the ghetto

889  
00:42:00,180 --> 00:42:02,680  
and try to go to the outside.

890  
00:42:02,680 --> 00:42:04,570  
Because if they  
came to our house,

891  
00:42:04,570 --> 00:42:05,670  
they would take us away."

892  
00:42:05,670 --> 00:42:09,390

893  
00:42:09,390 --> 00:42:10,950  
Is that the end of it?

894

00:42:10,950 --> 00:42:11,960  
No.

895  
00:42:11,960 --> 00:42:15,170  
"I was able to obtain a  
passport from a Ukrainian woman

896  
00:42:15,170 --> 00:42:17,960  
acquaintance and  
that of her small boy

897  
00:42:17,960 --> 00:42:20,840  
which fit my son's description.

898  
00:42:20,840 --> 00:42:23,330  
With my knowledge of  
the Ukrainian language,

899  
00:42:23,330 --> 00:42:26,180  
we set out to go  
out of the ghetto

900  
00:42:26,180 --> 00:42:29,720  
for the time of the raids,  
which lasted one or two days.

901  
00:42:29,720 --> 00:42:32,870  
I held Erwin by the hand  
and we started walking

902  
00:42:32,870 --> 00:42:34,730  
toward the outside gate.

903  
00:42:34,730 --> 00:42:37,970  
But before we could  
cross this large field,

904  
00:42:37,970 --> 00:42:42,620  
a band of eight 8 10 Ukrainian  
youths with sticks and razors

905  
00:42:42,620 --> 00:42:46,790  
along with one Ukrainian

militiamen and one

906

00:42:46,790 --> 00:42:49,220

Gestapo officer approached us.

907

00:42:49,220 --> 00:42:53,300

My fear was unbelievable because  
all they were interested in

908

00:42:53,300 --> 00:42:55,670

was beating and killing Jews.

909

00:42:55,670 --> 00:42:58,220

One of the youths shouted, no!

910

00:42:58,220 --> 00:42:58,760

No!

911

00:42:58,760 --> 00:42:59,660

No!

912

00:42:59,660 --> 00:43:02,310

Meaning that we  
might not be Jews.

913

00:43:02,310 --> 00:43:05,450

I showed my passport to  
the Ukrainian militia,

914

00:43:05,450 --> 00:43:07,760

conversing with  
him in Ukrainian.

915

00:43:07,760 --> 00:43:10,250

He looked it over and  
returned the passport to me

916

00:43:10,250 --> 00:43:13,850

and told us we could  
proceed and go ahead.

917

00:43:13,850 --> 00:43:18,420

I held my son Erwin's hand  
tightly so he would feel secure

918  
00:43:18,420 --> 00:43:21,830  
and that is how we left  
the ghetto this time.

919  
00:43:21,830 --> 00:43:24,770  
A few days later when the  
situation in the ghetto

920  
00:43:24,770 --> 00:43:31,100  
was calmer, I returned with both  
my children, Erwin and Zuzia.

921  
00:43:31,100 --> 00:43:35,240  
I picked up my daughter,  
Zuzia, from the woman

922  
00:43:35,240 --> 00:43:37,550  
who hid her in the basement.

923  
00:43:37,550 --> 00:43:41,060  
Upon my return to the ghetto,  
my beloved mother, Branja,

924  
00:43:41,060 --> 00:43:42,410  
was gone."

925  
00:43:42,410 --> 00:43:43,970  
That's my grandmother.

926  
00:43:43,970 --> 00:43:48,560  
"They took her away during  
those two days of raids."

927  
00:43:48,560 --> 00:43:53,540  
So this is the aktion  
that you were away?

928  
00:43:53,540 --> 00:43:54,610  
Probably, yes.

929  
00:43:54,610 --> 00:43:55,130  
Probably.

930  
00:43:55,130 --> 00:44:02,000  
Didn't we say when he was in  
the attic with the mother,

931  
00:44:02,000 --> 00:44:05,420  
you were also away then.

932  
00:44:05,420 --> 00:44:08,210  
Sounds like you  
missed two aktions.

933  
00:44:08,210 --> 00:44:08,970  
Possible.

934  
00:44:08,970 --> 00:44:09,650  
Possible.

935  
00:44:09,650 --> 00:44:11,037  
This I don't recall.

936  
00:44:11,037 --> 00:44:12,890  
This I don't remember  
if it's one or two.

937  
00:44:12,890 --> 00:44:15,210  
And she only talks  
about holding his hand.

938  
00:44:15,210 --> 00:44:16,200  
Yes.

939  
00:44:16,200 --> 00:44:18,270  
And then afterwards  
she picked you up.

940  
00:44:18,270 --> 00:44:18,830  
Yes.

941

00:44:18,830 --> 00:44:21,140  
Because during the time  
that we were returning,

942  
00:44:21,140 --> 00:44:24,990  
she picked her up from when she  
was away for a couple of days.

943  
00:44:24,990 --> 00:44:29,495  
So the aktions were going  
quickly at this point?

944  
00:44:29,495 --> 00:44:31,680  
You were away for a  
short time and she's

945  
00:44:31,680 --> 00:44:33,210  
talking about two aktions here.

946  
00:44:33,210 --> 00:44:33,710  
Yes.

947  
00:44:33,710 --> 00:44:35,520  
They were going on quite often.

948  
00:44:35,520 --> 00:44:36,050  
Yes.

949  
00:44:36,050 --> 00:44:36,770  
Yes.

950  
00:44:36,770 --> 00:44:42,920  
There was a story my mother told  
us that where some people were

951  
00:44:42,920 --> 00:44:47,810  
hiding out and there was a woman  
with a little baby and they

952  
00:44:47,810 --> 00:44:53,780  
said that they cannot take the  
baby because the baby will cry.



953

00:44:53,780 --> 00:44:57,410

So she came up and left  
the baby downstairs.

954

00:44:57,410 --> 00:45:00,540

Of course, the baby was  
gone after the aktion.

955

00:45:00,540 --> 00:45:04,400

There was another incident,  
another woman had a baby

956

00:45:04,400 --> 00:45:07,880

and she took the  
baby up with her.

957

00:45:07,880 --> 00:45:10,220

But when the baby  
started crying,

958

00:45:10,220 --> 00:45:15,260

she put a pillow on the  
baby to be quiet and--

959

00:45:15,260 --> 00:45:16,190

That was it.

960

00:45:16,190 --> 00:45:17,630

--the baby never cried.

961

00:45:17,630 --> 00:45:20,360

I think mother  
writes about it here.

962

00:45:20,360 --> 00:45:25,690

And after that the  
baby never cried again.

963

00:45:25,690 --> 00:45:31,060

Was she rare in the sense  
that she could speak Ukrainian

964

00:45:31,060 --> 00:45:34,310  
and that's what  
saved the family?

965  
00:45:34,310 --> 00:45:37,100  
Yes, I did not speak  
Ukrainian but my mother did.

966  
00:45:37,100 --> 00:45:39,220  
She did, she spoke Ukrainian.

967  
00:45:39,220 --> 00:45:39,940  
Yeah.

968  
00:45:39,940 --> 00:45:43,060  
About what proportion  
of the Jewish population

969  
00:45:43,060 --> 00:45:44,590  
was able to speak Ukraine?

970  
00:45:44,590 --> 00:45:45,610  
Do you have any idea?

971  
00:45:45,610 --> 00:45:47,260  
I would say not too many.

972  
00:45:47,260 --> 00:45:48,250  
She just knew it.

973  
00:45:48,250 --> 00:45:50,470  
I don't know how she  
knew the language.

974  
00:45:50,470 --> 00:45:51,740  
But that saved you.

975  
00:45:51,740 --> 00:45:52,240  
Saved us.

976  
00:45:52,240 --> 00:45:55,180  
Well, each step was a

different situation that--

977

00:45:55,180 --> 00:45:58,800

Her bearing and her able  
communicate Ukrainian

978

00:45:58,800 --> 00:46:04,890

seemed to be what saved  
the family at this point.

979

00:46:04,890 --> 00:46:07,110

And your father was working?

980

00:46:07,110 --> 00:46:08,260

He was in the labor crew.

981

00:46:08,260 --> 00:46:11,100

He was in the labor crew on  
a daily labor work force.

982

00:46:11,100 --> 00:46:13,000

He was considered  
an essential worker?

983

00:46:13,000 --> 00:46:13,500

Yes.

984

00:46:13,500 --> 00:46:15,193

Right, right.

985

00:46:15,193 --> 00:46:16,860

He would go out every  
morning, come back

986

00:46:16,860 --> 00:46:20,730

at the end of the day every day.

987

00:46:20,730 --> 00:46:23,310

Of course, we  
mentioned it earlier

988

00:46:23,310 --> 00:46:27,640

that he was hurt in an accident  
one time outside working.

989  
00:46:27,640 --> 00:46:28,820  
And that was right before--

990  
00:46:28,820 --> 00:46:30,403  
And there was a  
period of time that he

991  
00:46:30,403 --> 00:46:32,460  
was able to stay in the  
ghetto to recuperating

992  
00:46:32,460 --> 00:46:34,490  
and during that period  
is when we got out.

993  
00:46:34,490 --> 00:46:37,470

994  
00:46:37,470 --> 00:46:45,000  
Do you have any idea as to when  
you crossed outside the ghetto?

995  
00:46:45,000 --> 00:46:46,920  
In other words, when--

996  
00:46:46,920 --> 00:46:47,580  
The last time?

997  
00:46:47,580 --> 00:46:48,660  
--the date.

998  
00:46:48,660 --> 00:46:50,710  
Do you have an idea of  
a date at this point?

999  
00:46:50,710 --> 00:46:53,970  
Could have been 1943.

1000  
00:46:53,970 --> 00:46:55,230

Could have been 1943.

1001  
00:46:55,230 --> 00:46:58,590  
We were liberated 1945.

1002  
00:46:58,590 --> 00:47:00,330  
'45?

1003  
00:47:00,330 --> 00:47:01,220  
That's pretty late.

1004  
00:47:01,220 --> 00:47:01,720  
Yes.

1005  
00:47:01,720 --> 00:47:02,230  
Yes.

1006  
00:47:02,230 --> 00:47:02,730  
1945.

1007  
00:47:02,730 --> 00:47:04,500  
Yes, we were not in Lwow.

1008  
00:47:04,500 --> 00:47:08,247  
Lwow was liberated before, but  
we had to get out of Lwow--

1009  
00:47:08,247 --> 00:47:09,080  
We were near Krakow.

1010  
00:47:09,080 --> 00:47:10,205  
--to a village near Krakow.

1011  
00:47:10,205 --> 00:47:11,970  
Oh, so you were  
in western Poland.

1012  
00:47:11,970 --> 00:47:14,790  
We were liberated 1945, January.

1013  
00:47:14,790 --> 00:47:15,420

January.

1014  
00:47:15,420 --> 00:47:16,300  
Beginning of '45--

1015  
00:47:16,300 --> 00:47:16,800  
February.

1016  
00:47:16,800 --> 00:47:18,467  
When they were already  
out of Auschwitz.

1017  
00:47:18,467 --> 00:47:19,883  
--by the Russians.

1018  
00:47:19,883 --> 00:47:21,300  
What do you mean  
out of Auschwitz?

1019  
00:47:21,300 --> 00:47:23,190  
That's when they left  
Auschwitz already.

1020  
00:47:23,190 --> 00:47:24,720  
Well, yeah.

1021  
00:47:24,720 --> 00:47:29,230  
Because the part that we left,  
Lwow, was liberated a year

1022  
00:47:29,230 --> 00:47:30,670  
or half a year before us.

1023  
00:47:30,670 --> 00:47:34,840  
And I know the people in  
A»oA,kiew, that talk about '44.

1024  
00:47:34,840 --> 00:47:35,340  
Right.

1025  
00:47:35,340 --> 00:47:38,370  
No, no we were

about a year later.

1026  
00:47:38,370 --> 00:47:39,270  
Different approach.

1027  
00:47:39,270 --> 00:47:41,270  
Winning the war, the  
Russians and the Americans,

1028  
00:47:41,270 --> 00:47:42,910  
there were different  
parts of the--

1029  
00:47:42,910 --> 00:47:43,410  
you know?

1030  
00:47:43,410 --> 00:47:47,290  
But we were one  
of the later ones.

1031  
00:47:47,290 --> 00:47:49,770  
OK, so this was an aktion.

1032  
00:47:49,770 --> 00:47:51,450  
Now I guess what's the next one?

1033  
00:47:51,450 --> 00:47:55,410  
Is the next one where the  
decision is made to leave?

1034  
00:47:55,410 --> 00:47:59,520  
She says another  
instance, another time.

1035  
00:47:59,520 --> 00:48:01,860  
"One evening my husband  
and the children and I

1036  
00:48:01,860 --> 00:48:04,200  
were at home in the ghetto  
and my brother-in-law

1037

00:48:04,200 --> 00:48:05,760  
came to visit.

1038  
00:48:05,760 --> 00:48:09,150  
I wondered why he came so  
late and I asked him, where's

1039  
00:48:09,150 --> 00:48:11,940  
Minka, my younger sister?

1040  
00:48:11,940 --> 00:48:18,570  
He told us that she and their  
four-year-old son are far away.

1041  
00:48:18,570 --> 00:48:20,790  
Upon hearing that,  
I had a premonition

1042  
00:48:20,790 --> 00:48:22,830  
and started crying out her name.

1043  
00:48:22,830 --> 00:48:23,460  
Minka!

1044  
00:48:23,460 --> 00:48:24,120  
Minka!

1045  
00:48:24,120 --> 00:48:26,340  
And now I lost you too.

1046  
00:48:26,340 --> 00:48:28,710  
My brother-in-law  
didn't say anything

1047  
00:48:28,710 --> 00:48:31,890  
upon seeing my despair,  
but looking at him,

1048  
00:48:31,890 --> 00:48:34,110  
I knew what had happened to her.

1049  
00:48:34,110 --> 00:48:38,810



We said goodbye to  
each other and he left.

1050  
00:48:38,810 --> 00:48:41,060  
From a former  
Catholic neighbor I

1051  
00:48:41,060 --> 00:48:43,490  
found out how my  
younger sister, Minka,

1052  
00:48:43,490 --> 00:48:47,480  
and her four-year-old child  
and her sister-in-law died.

1053  
00:48:47,480 --> 00:48:50,690  
My sister, Minka,  
and her sister-in-law

1054  
00:48:50,690 --> 00:48:54,800  
were working as cooks in  
a German officers kitchen

1055  
00:48:54,800 --> 00:48:57,650  
together with a  
third Jewish woman.

1056  
00:48:57,650 --> 00:49:02,210  
One day they let the third  
woman go because they apparently

1057  
00:49:02,210 --> 00:49:03,800  
didn't need her.

1058  
00:49:03,800 --> 00:49:06,500  
This woman was  
caught in a roundup

1059  
00:49:06,500 --> 00:49:08,690  
and they put her on a  
train for the camps.

1060  
00:49:08,690 --> 00:49:12,010

1061  
00:49:12,010 --> 00:49:16,630  
She somehow escaped from  
the train, returned to Lwow,

1062  
00:49:16,630 --> 00:49:18,910  
went to the police,  
and told them

1063  
00:49:18,910 --> 00:49:23,170  
the story of my sister and  
little son and sister-in-law,

1064  
00:49:23,170 --> 00:49:26,530  
that they were working  
in the German kitchens.

1065  
00:49:26,530 --> 00:49:29,650  
The Gestapo immediately  
took them away.

1066  
00:49:29,650 --> 00:49:33,250  
My brother-in-law found out too  
late to do anything about it.

1067  
00:49:33,250 --> 00:49:35,320  
And the night  
before he found out,

1068  
00:49:35,320 --> 00:49:38,410  
they took all of the people  
from the police station

1069  
00:49:38,410 --> 00:49:41,770  
to the Janowska cemetery  
and shot them all.

1070  
00:49:41,770 --> 00:49:45,190  
I now know how my  
younger sister, Minka,

1071  
00:49:45,190 --> 00:49:47,410

and her four-year-old  
baby son died."

1072  
00:49:47,410 --> 00:49:50,920

1073  
00:49:50,920 --> 00:49:53,560  
Do you understand  
this whole story?

1074  
00:49:53,560 --> 00:49:55,130  
Yes, sure.

1075  
00:49:55,130 --> 00:49:56,340  
Maybe you can explain it.

1076  
00:49:56,340 --> 00:50:01,206  
The woman that was dismissed  
from the German kitchen--

1077  
00:50:01,206 --> 00:50:02,180  
A Jewish woman?

1078  
00:50:02,180 --> 00:50:03,610  
A Jewish woman.

1079  
00:50:03,610 --> 00:50:11,700  
Out of revenge when she escaped  
the trains to the camps,

1080  
00:50:11,700 --> 00:50:16,030  
came back and out of  
revenge, told the police

1081  
00:50:16,030 --> 00:50:18,930  
that there's some other Jewish  
people working in the kitchen

1082  
00:50:18,930 --> 00:50:23,420  
by the German officer and  
that was probably not allowed.

1083

00:50:23,420 --> 00:50:25,492  
And it was not an official--

1084  
00:50:25,492 --> 00:50:27,200  
But I know it was the  
German officers who

1085  
00:50:27,200 --> 00:50:31,190  
were satisfied to let them stay  
if nobody would say anything?

1086  
00:50:31,190 --> 00:50:31,940  
Right.

1087  
00:50:31,940 --> 00:50:33,890  
For a while, I don't  
know for how long.

1088  
00:50:33,890 --> 00:50:35,060  
It wasn't a long situation.

1089  
00:50:35,060 --> 00:50:37,040  
But they weren't  
taking any action?

1090  
00:50:37,040 --> 00:50:38,690  
They needed--

1091  
00:50:38,690 --> 00:50:39,650  
They needed the cooks.

1092  
00:50:39,650 --> 00:50:43,760  
--my aunt, the cooks,  
the cleaning and people.

1093  
00:50:43,760 --> 00:50:46,190  
They probably would not  
be there for very long

1094  
00:50:46,190 --> 00:50:49,770  
anyway because with  
a small child--

1095

00:50:49,770 --> 00:50:53,330  
but the woman made it sooner.

1096

00:50:53,330 --> 00:50:56,390  
Out of revenge she  
spilled the beans that--

1097

00:50:56,390 --> 00:51:01,040  
Well, what was the revenge  
against the remaining Jews?

1098

00:51:01,040 --> 00:51:02,130  
In other words--

1099

00:51:02,130 --> 00:51:05,550  
Because she was dismissed  
from that position.

1100

00:51:05,550 --> 00:51:07,640  
It's very hard.

1101

00:51:07,640 --> 00:51:10,310  
It didn't bring out the  
best in all of our people.

1102

00:51:10,310 --> 00:51:12,757  
No, sometimes not.

1103

00:51:12,757 --> 00:51:13,340  
Sometimes not.

1104

00:51:13,340 --> 00:51:14,600  
It just happened that way.

1105

00:51:14,600 --> 00:51:16,530  
It's an incredible story.

1106

00:51:16,530 --> 00:51:19,120  
I mean, it's not easy to--

1107

00:51:19,120 --> 00:51:20,300

you can't understand it.

1108  
00:51:20,300 --> 00:51:24,670  
You cannot understand it, but  
it happened and it participated

1109  
00:51:24,670 --> 00:51:25,612  
in liquidating--

1110  
00:51:25,612 --> 00:51:26,570  
Somehow mother didn't--

1111  
00:51:26,570 --> 00:51:27,112  
--her sister.

1112  
00:51:27,112 --> 00:51:31,790  
--want to write about the  
incident, but she wrote it.

1113  
00:51:31,790 --> 00:51:34,250  
It wasn't easy for her to  
write this particular thing

1114  
00:51:34,250 --> 00:51:38,750  
because it is something  
that's casting some aspersion

1115  
00:51:38,750 --> 00:51:40,700  
against another Jewish person.

1116  
00:51:40,700 --> 00:51:45,890  
But it just somehow  
happened, so she wrote it.

1117  
00:51:45,890 --> 00:51:50,480  
OK, let's go on to the next one.

1118  
00:51:50,480 --> 00:51:51,890  
Another time.

1119  
00:51:51,890 --> 00:51:54,350  
"My neighbor, a widow, lived

with her daughter, Rivka,

1120  
00:51:54,350 --> 00:51:55,250  
for many years.

1121  
00:51:55,250 --> 00:51:57,590  
Rivka worked as a  
bookkeeper in the ghetto

1122  
00:51:57,590 --> 00:52:00,980  
and they lived in a small  
apartment not far from me.

1123  
00:52:00,980 --> 00:52:04,712  
One day when they announced  
an aktion raid, which

1124  
00:52:04,712 --> 00:52:06,170  
meant that they  
would come and take

1125  
00:52:06,170 --> 00:52:09,320  
many people to the Janowska  
camp from which no one ever

1126  
00:52:09,320 --> 00:52:13,490  
returned, Rivka took a few  
neighbors and her mother

1127  
00:52:13,490 --> 00:52:18,330  
and locked them up in a separate  
room and stood watch herself.

1128  
00:52:18,330 --> 00:52:22,010  
When the Gestapo came, she  
showed them her working papers,

1129  
00:52:22,010 --> 00:52:23,750  
which were in order.

1130  
00:52:23,750 --> 00:52:28,400  
When they asked her was there  
any people here, she said no.

1131  
00:52:28,400 --> 00:52:31,730  
Unfortunately, someone  
in the hidden room

1132  
00:52:31,730 --> 00:52:35,900  
coughed and of course, they  
pushed her aside, broke down

1133  
00:52:35,900 --> 00:52:38,360  
the door, and pulled  
out all these people,

1134  
00:52:38,360 --> 00:52:41,270  
among them Rivka's mother.

1135  
00:52:41,270 --> 00:52:43,820  
One of the Gestapo  
pulled out his pistol

1136  
00:52:43,820 --> 00:52:46,220  
and shot Rivka on the spot.

1137  
00:52:46,220 --> 00:52:49,730  
Rivka's mother begged  
them to shoot her too,

1138  
00:52:49,730 --> 00:52:52,130  
they refused her  
and took all of them

1139  
00:52:52,130 --> 00:52:56,410  
to the Janowska  
camp of no return."

1140  
00:52:56,410 --> 00:52:58,090  
Which eventually  
they were killed.

1141  
00:52:58,090 --> 00:53:00,805  
Did you you have something  
to say about this?



1142  
00:53:00,805 --> 00:53:02,410  
No.

1143  
00:53:02,410 --> 00:53:05,680  
Only were incidents that  
mother remembered from ghetto

1144  
00:53:05,680 --> 00:53:09,780  
and talked to us after  
the war, you know?

1145  
00:53:09,780 --> 00:53:10,990  
And then she put--

1146  
00:53:10,990 --> 00:53:12,685  
So Rivka was a--

1147  
00:53:12,685 --> 00:53:13,285  
A neighbor.

1148  
00:53:13,285 --> 00:53:14,020  
Just a neighbor.

1149  
00:53:14,020 --> 00:53:16,455  
A neighbor that she knew  
lived in the ghetto nearby.

1150  
00:53:16,455 --> 00:53:18,772  
She's just relating a  
incidence, just an incidence.

1151  
00:53:18,772 --> 00:53:22,480  
Of which these were  
happening constantly.

1152  
00:53:22,480 --> 00:53:23,480  
Of course, but this--

1153  
00:53:23,480 --> 00:53:24,730  
She saw it, she knew about it.

1154

00:53:24,730 --> 00:53:26,430  
She lived this,  
she knew about it.

1155  
00:53:26,430 --> 00:53:29,180  
So that's why she put it down.

1156  
00:53:29,180 --> 00:53:32,330  
Nothing to do with our  
family or anything.

1157  
00:53:32,330 --> 00:53:38,840  
But this is what life or not  
life was like at the time.

1158  
00:53:38,840 --> 00:53:42,660

1159  
00:53:42,660 --> 00:53:46,580  
I'm still disturbed  
by that previous story

1160  
00:53:46,580 --> 00:53:51,290  
about the woman who came back  
and spoke about the cooks

1161  
00:53:51,290 --> 00:53:53,360  
in the officers mess.

1162  
00:53:53,360 --> 00:53:57,290

1163  
00:53:57,290 --> 00:54:02,300  
That woman was being sent away  
to a concentration camp and she

1164  
00:54:02,300 --> 00:54:04,970  
got these people--

1165  
00:54:04,970 --> 00:54:05,720  
Taken away.

1166

00:54:05,720 --> 00:54:06,900  
--taken away and killed.

1167  
00:54:06,900 --> 00:54:08,113  
What happened to her?

1168  
00:54:08,113 --> 00:54:09,280  
I'm sure she didn't make it.

1169  
00:54:09,280 --> 00:54:10,030  
I'm sure she was--

1170  
00:54:10,030 --> 00:54:10,670  
We don't know.

1171  
00:54:10,670 --> 00:54:11,462  
Yeah, I don't know.

1172  
00:54:11,462 --> 00:54:13,450  
But it's not said over here.

1173  
00:54:13,450 --> 00:54:15,290  
No, mother doesn't  
relate about her.

1174  
00:54:15,290 --> 00:54:19,340  
I'm sure she didn't make it  
and she probably knew herself

1175  
00:54:19,340 --> 00:54:21,840  
she's not going to make it.

1176  
00:54:21,840 --> 00:54:22,860  
OK.

1177  
00:54:22,860 --> 00:54:24,660  
We're coming down  
to the tail end

1178  
00:54:24,660 --> 00:54:26,910  
when we're going to get out  
of the ghetto, I think so.

1179  
00:54:26,910 --> 00:54:27,840  
I would say so.

1180  
00:54:27,840 --> 00:54:30,120  
Another incidence my  
mother writes about

1181  
00:54:30,120 --> 00:54:33,840  
is, "A raid was announced.

1182  
00:54:33,840 --> 00:54:36,850  
Myself and my children along  
with many other people,

1183  
00:54:36,850 --> 00:54:39,730  
some of whom I didn't  
know, went into a cellar

1184  
00:54:39,730 --> 00:54:42,780  
to wait and hide until  
the raid was over.

1185  
00:54:42,780 --> 00:54:45,780  
There were between 10 and 15  
people all huddled together

1186  
00:54:45,780 --> 00:54:47,460  
in the pitch dark.

1187  
00:54:47,460 --> 00:54:50,940  
There was one mother with  
her child we did not know.

1188  
00:54:50,940 --> 00:54:53,480

1189  
00:54:53,480 --> 00:54:57,380  
When the Gestapo came together  
with some Jewish militia,

1190  
00:54:57,380 --> 00:55:00,020

we could hear the  
opening and closing doors

1191  
00:55:00,020 --> 00:55:02,270  
and lots of banging going on.

1192  
00:55:02,270 --> 00:55:06,890  
At this moment, we could hear  
the child cry out in the cellar

1193  
00:55:06,890 --> 00:55:12,260  
and at that same time, one  
Jewish militia in Polish

1194  
00:55:12,260 --> 00:55:15,860  
said out loud, I  
hear a child crying.

1195  
00:55:15,860 --> 00:55:17,780  
The mother in the  
cellar, fearing

1196  
00:55:17,780 --> 00:55:22,190  
discovery and the lives of  
many people were in danger,

1197  
00:55:22,190 --> 00:55:25,610  
did put her hand over the  
child's mouth and the child

1198  
00:55:25,610 --> 00:55:26,990  
never cried again."

1199  
00:55:26,990 --> 00:55:28,040  
So that's the story.

1200  
00:55:28,040 --> 00:55:28,938  
Exactly.

1201  
00:55:28,938 --> 00:55:30,980  
I didn't remember if it  
was a pillow she put over

1202

00:55:30,980 --> 00:55:36,560

or her hand over the  
child's crying mouth.

1203

00:55:36,560 --> 00:55:38,690

It's hard to relate  
things like that,

1204

00:55:38,690 --> 00:55:46,460

but when you're in a  
situation like that it's

1205

00:55:46,460 --> 00:55:49,550

to save maybe 10 or 15 people.

1206

00:55:49,550 --> 00:55:51,650

And I suppose if the  
mother didn't do it,

1207

00:55:51,650 --> 00:55:53,990

maybe somebody else would do it.

1208

00:55:53,990 --> 00:55:59,060

It's hard to imagine  
today that those decisions

1209

00:55:59,060 --> 00:56:02,608

and choices probably had to  
be made routinely, maybe.

1210

00:56:02,608 --> 00:56:03,150

I don't know.

1211

00:56:03,150 --> 00:56:05,140

Actually there were no choices.

1212

00:56:05,140 --> 00:56:06,920

No choices.

1213

00:56:06,920 --> 00:56:09,717

But my mother relates  
the story that she saw--

1214  
00:56:09,717 --> 00:56:10,550  
That she knew about.

1215  
00:56:10,550 --> 00:56:11,258  
--she knew about.

1216  
00:56:11,258 --> 00:56:13,010  
She saw, she knew.

1217  
00:56:13,010 --> 00:56:19,130  
I mean, the decision to choke  
the baby is not a choice.

1218  
00:56:19,130 --> 00:56:21,550  
Maybe she didn't realize  
she was choking it

1219  
00:56:21,550 --> 00:56:22,886  
till just to quiet it down.

1220  
00:56:22,886 --> 00:56:24,178  
She kept it quiet for a while--

1221  
00:56:24,178 --> 00:56:30,122  
Probably consciously she didn't  
think she'll it'll happen.

1222  
00:56:30,122 --> 00:56:31,080  
You'll appreciate this.

1223  
00:56:31,080 --> 00:56:34,320  
Our speaker this  
year writes that they

1224  
00:56:34,320 --> 00:56:37,230  
were choiceless choices.

1225  
00:56:37,230 --> 00:56:39,870  
You choose to do something,  
but it's no choice.

1226

00:56:39,870 --> 00:56:42,390

There were no good choices.

1227

00:56:42,390 --> 00:56:46,980

OK, now I think now we're  
getting out of the ghetto.

1228

00:56:46,980 --> 00:56:49,110

I don't think so.

1229

00:56:49,110 --> 00:56:50,250

Might be.

1230

00:56:50,250 --> 00:56:51,030

Another time.

1231

00:56:51,030 --> 00:56:54,300

"We realized that no one would  
ever leave this ghetto alive.

1232

00:56:54,300 --> 00:56:57,870

As time went on, everyone  
knew that on a given day

1233

00:56:57,870 --> 00:57:00,000

they would come and  
close down the ghetto

1234

00:57:00,000 --> 00:57:03,810

and take all the people out  
and that will be the end.

1235

00:57:03,810 --> 00:57:07,380

I feverishly thought about  
how to get out and leave

1236

00:57:07,380 --> 00:57:10,650

certain death behind.

1237

00:57:10,650 --> 00:57:13,170

We waited for an  
opportunity, but this



1238  
00:57:13,170 --> 00:57:15,090  
was easier said than done.

1239  
00:57:15,090 --> 00:57:17,382  
On the other side,  
we had no one.

1240  
00:57:17,382 --> 00:57:20,220  
One accident that  
befell my husband

1241  
00:57:20,220 --> 00:57:23,100  
helped a decision  
on how to get out.

1242  
00:57:23,100 --> 00:57:26,520  
One morning my husband  
was packed into a truck

1243  
00:57:26,520 --> 00:57:30,030  
with other men who went  
to work on the railroad.

1244  
00:57:30,030 --> 00:57:33,630  
One of the truck's  
side racks opened up

1245  
00:57:33,630 --> 00:57:36,990  
and some men fell out, with  
my husband on the bottom.

1246  
00:57:36,990 --> 00:57:41,700  
They took him to a drugstore  
and treated him for his injuries

1247  
00:57:41,700 --> 00:57:45,690  
and militiamen came to my house  
and told me about the accident

1248  
00:57:45,690 --> 00:57:50,770  
and told me to have a few zlotys  
ready to pay for the treatment.

1249  
00:57:50,770 --> 00:57:53,940  
So we went to the drugstore  
to pay for his treatment

1250  
00:57:53,940 --> 00:57:56,550  
and to take my husband home.

1251  
00:57:56,550 --> 00:57:58,920  
The militiamen told us  
that my husband didn't

1252  
00:57:58,920 --> 00:58:01,810  
have to report for work  
for two to three weeks

1253  
00:58:01,810 --> 00:58:03,810  
and it was during  
this time that we

1254  
00:58:03,810 --> 00:58:07,890  
prepared our plan to leave  
and escape from the ghetto.

1255  
00:58:07,890 --> 00:58:11,760  
The accident turned out to  
be a blessing in disguise.

1256  
00:58:11,760 --> 00:58:15,570  
I told my husband not to  
return to work afterward,

1257  
00:58:15,570 --> 00:58:18,450  
as they will probably shut  
the gates to this working

1258  
00:58:18,450 --> 00:58:21,960  
camp with all the people  
in it with my husband

1259  
00:58:21,960 --> 00:58:23,640  
and that will be the end.

1260

00:58:23,640 --> 00:58:26,980

At this time there were less  
people left in the ghetto

1261

00:58:26,980 --> 00:58:29,850

and we came up with  
our escape plan.

1262

00:58:29,850 --> 00:58:32,820

My husband met with  
the Gentile fellow

1263

00:58:32,820 --> 00:58:35,820

who used to work for him  
in the lumber yard business

1264

00:58:35,820 --> 00:58:42,140

before the war on  
Krolowej Jadwigi street."

1265

00:58:42,140 --> 00:58:43,470

"Jad-waga?"

1266

00:58:43,470 --> 00:58:44,100

Jadwiga.

1267

00:58:44,100 --> 00:58:45,540

Jadwiga.

1268

00:58:45,540 --> 00:58:47,700

"This fellow agreed  
to hide us out

1269

00:58:47,700 --> 00:58:50,640

for two days, a  
short period of time,

1270

00:58:50,640 --> 00:58:55,290

if we got out of the ghetto  
until we located elsewhere.

1271

00:58:55,290 --> 00:58:58,200

When my husband recuperated  
from his accident

1272  
00:58:58,200 --> 00:58:59,940  
we decided to leave.

1273  
00:58:59,940 --> 00:59:01,770  
By now, the gates  
were completely

1274  
00:59:01,770 --> 00:59:04,440  
under the control of  
the Jewish militia.

1275  
00:59:04,440 --> 00:59:06,600  
We could only leave  
in the early morning

1276  
00:59:06,600 --> 00:59:10,170  
together with the  
workers who went outside

1277  
00:59:10,170 --> 00:59:12,570  
from the ghetto  
every day to work.

1278  
00:59:12,570 --> 00:59:15,090  
They were checking  
everyone's working papers

1279  
00:59:15,090 --> 00:59:17,220  
and it was not easy to leave.

1280  
00:59:17,220 --> 00:59:20,740  
We had a good friend, who was  
not afraid of the militia,

1281  
00:59:20,740 --> 00:59:25,110  
he told us to meet him by the  
gate on a certain morning.

1282  
00:59:25,110 --> 00:59:28,410  
On a cold, rainy, freezing

day in a December,

1283  
00:59:28,410 --> 00:59:32,850  
I went to the gate  
with my son in my arms,

1284  
00:59:32,850 --> 00:59:36,270  
as he just got over an  
illness, and my daughter

1285  
00:59:36,270 --> 00:59:38,500  
holding my other hand.

1286  
00:59:38,500 --> 00:59:41,010  
We were at the gate  
when a Jewish militiaman

1287  
00:59:41,010 --> 00:59:44,610  
said to me, where are you  
going with the children?

1288  
00:59:44,610 --> 00:59:46,320  
They have no working papers.

1289  
00:59:46,320 --> 00:59:47,640  
Children don't work.

1290  
00:59:47,640 --> 00:59:54,710

1291  
00:59:54,710 --> 00:59:58,590  
Our friend went to the  
militiamen and said to him,

1292  
00:59:58,590 --> 01:00:01,910  
look away the other  
side and let them by,

1293  
01:00:01,910 --> 01:00:04,730  
because if you don't  
look away you will never

1294

01:00:04,730 --> 01:00:06,980  
be able to look again.

1295  
01:00:06,980 --> 01:00:10,590  
This is how we left the  
Lemberg ghetto, Lwow ghetto,

1296  
01:00:10,590 --> 01:00:14,510  
to a new location, eventual  
survival, and life.

1297  
01:00:14,510 --> 01:00:17,840  
Our friend wished us good  
luck in saving ourselves.

1298  
01:00:17,840 --> 01:00:22,130  
Unfortunately, this friend  
was not saved and perished

1299  
01:00:22,130 --> 01:00:23,420  
with all of his family--"

1300  
01:00:23,420 --> 01:00:26,190  
We'll continue later.

1301  
01:00:26,190 --> 01:00:28,190  
It just went off.

1302  
01:00:28,190 --> 01:00:28,890  
Finished?

1303  
01:00:28,890 --> 01:00:30,163  
That's the first hour.

1304  
01:00:30,163 --> 01:00:31,580  
We'll just have a  
few minutes now.

1305  
01:00:31,580 --> 01:00:33,620  
Oh, so now I can relax.

1306  
01:00:33,620 --> 01:00:35,120

Yeah, yeah.

1307

01:00:35,120 --> 01:00:37,180

Well, this--