

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:26,235

2  
00:00:26,235 --> 00:00:27,730  
Good morning.

3  
00:00:27,730 --> 00:00:29,450  
Good morning.

4  
00:00:29,450 --> 00:00:36,520  
It's March 8th, 2000 now,  
just about a month since we

5  
00:00:36,520 --> 00:00:40,300  
met last time, and we  
received the main body

6  
00:00:40,300 --> 00:00:43,120  
of the story of what  
happened to the Fisch family

7  
00:00:43,120 --> 00:00:44,770  
during the Holocaust.

8  
00:00:44,770 --> 00:00:50,740  
Again, I want to greet Mrs.  
Elizabeth Susie Wilf and Erwin

9  
00:00:50,740 --> 00:00:55,930  
Fisch, the two representatives  
of the Fisch family.

10  
00:00:55,930 --> 00:01:01,540  
And we felt when we wrote it  
up with all your mother's seven

11  
00:01:01,540 --> 00:01:07,930  
incidents that we have two more  
questions that we want to make

12  
00:01:07,930 --> 00:01:10,360

sure get proper treatment.

13  
00:01:10,360 --> 00:01:14,945  
The first question was  
the role of your father

14  
00:01:14,945 --> 00:01:15,820  
during the Holocaust.

15  
00:01:15,820 --> 00:01:18,350  
The story, as it's told--

16  
00:01:18,350 --> 00:01:20,710  
and for good reason,  
which we'll go into--

17  
00:01:20,710 --> 00:01:25,790  
is that your mother was so very  
active in saving the family.

18  
00:01:25,790 --> 00:01:30,380  
And she was the one who went out  
to get the food and so forth.

19  
00:01:30,380 --> 00:01:35,200  
But I was sure that  
your father had a lot

20  
00:01:35,200 --> 00:01:39,100  
to do with the  
experience of the family.

21  
00:01:39,100 --> 00:01:45,310  
And how would you describe his  
role during this very terrible

22  
00:01:45,310 --> 00:01:45,970  
experience?

23  
00:01:45,970 --> 00:01:52,060  
Well, he was  
supportive, encouraging,

24

00:01:52,060 --> 00:01:55,330  
and gave her the will to fight.

25

00:01:55,330 --> 00:02:00,760  
And you had to get  
it from someplace.

26

00:02:00,760 --> 00:02:06,340  
Even she had it in her own,  
a lot of fight and will

27

00:02:06,340 --> 00:02:09,520  
to do what she  
did, but my father

28

00:02:09,520 --> 00:02:12,505  
was really very  
supportive and very--

29

00:02:12,505 --> 00:02:16,510

30

00:02:16,510 --> 00:02:22,900  
gave her a lot of  
courage and guidance.

31

00:02:22,900 --> 00:02:27,910  
She had to talk things out  
with him, certain things

32

00:02:27,910 --> 00:02:30,040  
that she did or  
had to do, or this,

33

00:02:30,040 --> 00:02:34,810  
and all this was easier to  
talk it out with my father

34

00:02:34,810 --> 00:02:36,970  
that he said, is it OK?

35

00:02:36,970 --> 00:02:43,740

It's not so OK, and the  
guidance that he gave her

36  
00:02:43,740 --> 00:02:50,700  
helped her tremendously,  
and that was the support.

37  
00:02:50,700 --> 00:02:54,270  
Well, some of the people  
that helped us eventually

38  
00:02:54,270 --> 00:02:55,990  
get out of the  
ghetto and survive.

39  
00:02:55,990 --> 00:02:59,190  
And of course, he knew them.

40  
00:02:59,190 --> 00:03:01,950

41  
00:03:01,950 --> 00:03:03,690  
As far as we know,  
he and my mother

42  
00:03:03,690 --> 00:03:06,720  
made some of the arrangements  
with them to set it

43  
00:03:06,720 --> 00:03:09,960  
all in place, the one instance  
we told you the last time

44  
00:03:09,960 --> 00:03:12,750  
how this Jewish  
friend of ours that he

45  
00:03:12,750 --> 00:03:17,833  
knew and the family knew helped  
us get out through the gates.

46  
00:03:17,833 --> 00:03:19,500  
You know, that that's

the type of things

47

00:03:19,500 --> 00:03:23,940  
that had to be prearranged and  
set up so that it would work,

48

00:03:23,940 --> 00:03:26,910  
otherwise, you know we  
wouldn't be successful.

49

00:03:26,910 --> 00:03:31,020  
And of course he worked,  
he worked outside,

50

00:03:31,020 --> 00:03:35,550  
and that obviously contributed  
because, as a working person,

51

00:03:35,550 --> 00:03:38,280  
they needed some people to  
work and some of the things

52

00:03:38,280 --> 00:03:39,600  
that they were doing.

53

00:03:39,600 --> 00:03:45,540  
So we were able to survive  
longer maybe because he was

54

00:03:45,540 --> 00:03:47,640  
working and they needed him.

55

00:03:47,640 --> 00:03:52,060  
So it was sort of a pass,  
a daily pass on life,

56

00:03:52,060 --> 00:03:54,760  
and obviously he  
was the one who was

57

00:03:54,760 --> 00:03:57,610  
working until he got  
hurt the one time where

58

00:03:57,610 --> 00:03:59,410

he couldn't work anymore.

59

00:03:59,410 --> 00:04:03,580

But a critical  
factor in the story

60

00:04:03,580 --> 00:04:11,050

is the fact that men  
could not be as involved

61

00:04:11,050 --> 00:04:13,040

in terms of public appearance--

62

00:04:13,040 --> 00:04:13,540

Right.

63

00:04:13,540 --> 00:04:17,110

--of going out, and your mother  
would go out and buy food.

64

00:04:17,110 --> 00:04:17,709

Right.

65

00:04:17,709 --> 00:04:23,810

And this was a major undertaking  
with her Ukrainian language

66

00:04:23,810 --> 00:04:24,310

and--

67

00:04:24,310 --> 00:04:24,810

Yes.

68

00:04:24,810 --> 00:04:25,330

--and so on.

69

00:04:25,330 --> 00:04:28,540

She was able to  
maneuver, but she was--

70

00:04:28,540 --> 00:04:31,150

what you said last  
time it seemed to me

71

00:04:31,150 --> 00:04:36,880

was that she could do it,  
and she looked Ukrainian.

72

00:04:36,880 --> 00:04:37,420

Is that it?

73

00:04:37,420 --> 00:04:38,500

Well, she--

74

00:04:38,500 --> 00:04:41,210

She didn't-- it's hard to say.

75

00:04:41,210 --> 00:04:44,830

Would you say her  
appearance was one that

76

00:04:44,830 --> 00:04:46,870

wasn't as obviously Jewish--

77

00:04:46,870 --> 00:04:47,370

Right.

78

00:04:47,370 --> 00:04:48,116

That's true.

79

00:04:48,116 --> 00:04:48,824

--as some people.

80

00:04:48,824 --> 00:04:49,324

Right.

81

00:04:49,324 --> 00:04:49,860

That's true.

82

00:04:49,860 --> 00:04:51,550

But a man couldn't do this.

83  
00:04:51,550 --> 00:04:57,600  
Yes, for a man it was easily  
physically identifiable

84  
00:04:57,600 --> 00:04:59,830  
of being a Jew.

85  
00:04:59,830 --> 00:05:02,330  
Even in that small  
town, Legnica.

86  
00:05:02,330 --> 00:05:02,830  
Every place.

87  
00:05:02,830 --> 00:05:05,420  
--they wanted to check  
you out over there.

88  
00:05:05,420 --> 00:05:05,920  
Right.

89  
00:05:05,920 --> 00:05:06,420  
Absolutely.

90  
00:05:06,420 --> 00:05:09,490  
So as soon as the  
strangers came--

91  
00:05:09,490 --> 00:05:10,320  
Right.

92  
00:05:10,320 --> 00:05:13,810  
We had to be a little bit  
not so visible with strangers

93  
00:05:13,810 --> 00:05:17,120  
because we never knew what  
their approach will be

94  
00:05:17,120 --> 00:05:20,410  
toward us, and questions, or--



95  
00:05:20,410 --> 00:05:22,750  
We had to be vigilant  
at all times.

96  
00:05:22,750 --> 00:05:23,380  
At all times.

97  
00:05:23,380 --> 00:05:24,730  
It instilled in us--

98  
00:05:24,730 --> 00:05:28,630  
my father and my mother,  
and we were small children.

99  
00:05:28,630 --> 00:05:30,250  
It was just like--

100  
00:05:30,250 --> 00:05:33,250  
I don't even know  
how we were so lucky

101  
00:05:33,250 --> 00:05:36,580  
that we could understand it,  
but it was like second nature.

102  
00:05:36,580 --> 00:05:37,840  
A stranger talked to you.

103  
00:05:37,840 --> 00:05:40,330  
Don't say anything,  
don't reveal anything,

104  
00:05:40,330 --> 00:05:45,280  
because we were told that it's  
a matter of surviving, and--

105  
00:05:45,280 --> 00:05:47,440  
You mean you could talk  
but don't say anything?

106  
00:05:47,440 --> 00:05:48,610

[LAUGHS] That's [INAUDIBLE].

107  
00:05:48,610 --> 00:05:51,430  
Well, even talk less  
because, you know--

108  
00:05:51,430 --> 00:05:54,400  
And if possible, to be--

109  
00:05:54,400 --> 00:05:58,090  
if somebody strange  
came to the house

110  
00:05:58,090 --> 00:06:01,810  
that we were, if we knew  
that somebody is coming,

111  
00:06:01,810 --> 00:06:05,650  
we made ourselves unavailable.

112  
00:06:05,650 --> 00:06:09,490  
We went into the woods to  
pick mushrooms or things

113  
00:06:09,490 --> 00:06:12,670  
like that, or just an  
excuse to be out of--

114  
00:06:12,670 --> 00:06:16,380

115  
00:06:16,380 --> 00:06:19,440  
Well, there was  
always a situation

116  
00:06:19,440 --> 00:06:23,010  
where we knew that,  
whether it's the Poles

117  
00:06:23,010 --> 00:06:26,790  
or whoever would come, they  
had no good intentions.

118

00:06:26,790 --> 00:06:29,160

They were looking are they  
Jewish or are they not.

119

00:06:29,160 --> 00:06:32,670

That was just a normal  
way of life during the war

120

00:06:32,670 --> 00:06:34,770

and so forth,  
especially when we were

121

00:06:34,770 --> 00:06:38,010

on the farm among Gentiles.

122

00:06:38,010 --> 00:06:40,290

I mean, that's just  
the way it was.

123

00:06:40,290 --> 00:06:43,110

So we were told--

124

00:06:43,110 --> 00:06:45,430

I mean, obviously  
the fear was always

125

00:06:45,430 --> 00:06:49,020

on our parents part-- that maybe  
would come out with something,

126

00:06:49,020 --> 00:06:50,430

that it was not proper.

127

00:06:50,430 --> 00:06:51,330

Mhm.

128

00:06:51,330 --> 00:06:54,000

So obviously we were  
always on the side,

129

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:59,070

and so that's how we spent the

war times, just kind of laying

130  
00:06:59,070 --> 00:07:04,710  
low, and fortunately the  
place where we were at,

131  
00:07:04,710 --> 00:07:08,010  
the farm where we were at,  
was so isolated that not

132  
00:07:08,010 --> 00:07:10,740  
too often people came,  
strangers came visiting,

133  
00:07:10,740 --> 00:07:13,500  
so that was very fortunate.

134  
00:07:13,500 --> 00:07:18,420  
Let's talk about daily life  
for you during the time

135  
00:07:18,420 --> 00:07:25,150  
that you were in Legnica  
About how many months

136  
00:07:25,150 --> 00:07:28,570  
would you-- first of all,  
you had no idea of dates

137  
00:07:28,570 --> 00:07:29,070  
at the time.

138  
00:07:29,070 --> 00:07:30,030  
No.

139  
00:07:30,030 --> 00:07:30,800  
Not me.

140  
00:07:30,800 --> 00:07:32,160  
My mother, maybe yes.

141  
00:07:32,160 --> 00:07:34,440

As children or in general.

142  
00:07:34,440 --> 00:07:38,310  
Even adults probably didn't  
have an idea of dates.

143  
00:07:38,310 --> 00:07:39,840  
My mother had the dates.

144  
00:07:39,840 --> 00:07:41,700  
My mother and father  
had completely dates,

145  
00:07:41,700 --> 00:07:45,255  
and every day was like a year.

146  
00:07:45,255 --> 00:07:46,920  
But for us children  
to know the dates--

147  
00:07:46,920 --> 00:07:47,910  
What do you mean?

148  
00:07:47,910 --> 00:07:48,840  
What did they have?

149  
00:07:48,840 --> 00:07:53,280  
The date-- a day was like a  
year because it was a daily

150  
00:07:53,280 --> 00:08:03,360  
struggle, a daily concern  
how to do that day, how to--

151  
00:08:03,360 --> 00:08:06,030  
it was not like  
sitting on your laurels

152  
00:08:06,030 --> 00:08:09,720  
and just being for  
sure that you're safe.

153

00:08:09,720 --> 00:08:14,460  
But your mother could have told  
us the day you came to Legnica

154  
00:08:14,460 --> 00:08:15,490  
and the day you got out?

155  
00:08:15,490 --> 00:08:16,260  
Possible.

156  
00:08:16,260 --> 00:08:20,760  
More my father maybe more than  
mother in her later years.

157  
00:08:20,760 --> 00:08:26,250  
But my father I'm sure knew  
the day and the dates much--

158  
00:08:26,250 --> 00:08:29,670  
she always said my father  
had a good memory for dates.

159  
00:08:29,670 --> 00:08:30,450  
Oh.

160  
00:08:30,450 --> 00:08:32,447  
She didn't, but--

161  
00:08:32,447 --> 00:08:33,280  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

162  
00:08:33,280 --> 00:08:34,380  
--but you didn't have the dates.

163  
00:08:34,380 --> 00:08:35,422  
We didn't have the dates.

164  
00:08:35,422 --> 00:08:37,440  
All you know is  
that was '43 until--

165  
00:08:37,440 --> 00:08:38,829

Yes, more or less.

166  
00:08:38,829 --> 00:08:39,329  
Right.

167  
00:08:39,329 --> 00:08:40,990  
--until sometime in '45.

168  
00:08:40,990 --> 00:08:41,490  
Right.

169  
00:08:41,490 --> 00:08:41,909  
Right.

170  
00:08:41,909 --> 00:08:42,390  
May, or was it--

171  
00:08:42,390 --> 00:08:43,604  
Liberated by the Russians.

172  
00:08:43,604 --> 00:08:44,610  
I think May of '45.

173  
00:08:44,610 --> 00:08:45,290  
So let's--

174  
00:08:45,290 --> 00:08:45,790  
No, no.

175  
00:08:45,790 --> 00:08:46,500  
No?

176  
00:08:46,500 --> 00:08:48,544  
January or February.

177  
00:08:48,544 --> 00:08:49,300  
January.

178  
00:08:49,300 --> 00:08:49,800  
January.

179

00:08:49,800 --> 00:08:50,880

It was winter snow.

180

00:08:50,880 --> 00:08:52,710

We were walking  
through the woods,

181

00:08:52,710 --> 00:08:54,030

going out from the village.

182

00:08:54,030 --> 00:08:58,890

And what time of year  
approximately in '43

183

00:08:58,890 --> 00:09:01,260

do you think you went there?

184

00:09:01,260 --> 00:09:02,370

It could have been summer.

185

00:09:02,370 --> 00:09:03,673

I cannot recall.

186

00:09:03,673 --> 00:09:04,590

It was the summertime.

187

00:09:04,590 --> 00:09:06,360

Could have been summertime.

188

00:09:06,360 --> 00:09:11,490

So July '43 till January of '45.

189

00:09:11,490 --> 00:09:14,880

You're talking about a year  
and a half, 18 or 19 months.

190

00:09:14,880 --> 00:09:15,420

Yes.

191

00:09:15,420 --> 00:09:16,680

It might have been.



192  
00:09:16,680 --> 00:09:21,360  
What did you do every  
day for 18, 19 months?

193  
00:09:21,360 --> 00:09:24,730  
There must've been some kind of  
routine that you came up with.

194  
00:09:24,730 --> 00:09:30,990  
We tended to the farm animals,  
and we gathered firewood

195  
00:09:30,990 --> 00:09:35,670  
in the forest for hours.

196  
00:09:35,670 --> 00:09:37,530  
And just--

197  
00:09:37,530 --> 00:09:38,970  
You had responsibility?

198  
00:09:38,970 --> 00:09:41,310  
We had responsibilities.

199  
00:09:41,310 --> 00:09:42,315  
We had to take care--

200  
00:09:42,315 --> 00:09:43,148  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

201  
00:09:43,148 --> 00:09:45,052  
--whatever mother told  
us to do on the day--

202  
00:09:45,052 --> 00:09:46,260  
That was your responsibility.

203  
00:09:46,260 --> 00:09:48,040  
--or that morning, that was it.

204

00:09:48,040 --> 00:09:48,630  
Yes.

205  
00:09:48,630 --> 00:09:53,130  
Or the farm woman that  
needed to be done something,

206  
00:09:53,130 --> 00:09:55,080  
so she told us.

207  
00:09:55,080 --> 00:09:58,740  
I remember that my  
kind of small chore

208  
00:09:58,740 --> 00:10:00,625  
was getting water  
almost every day.

209  
00:10:00,625 --> 00:10:01,500  
I was getting water--

210  
00:10:01,500 --> 00:10:02,417  
Water out of the well.

211  
00:10:02,417 --> 00:10:05,130  
--from the well, which  
was maybe 1,000 yards

212  
00:10:05,130 --> 00:10:07,320  
from the house down the hill.

213  
00:10:07,320 --> 00:10:10,193  
And I used to get two buckets--

214  
00:10:10,193 --> 00:10:11,610  
Two buckets on the  
shoulders was--

215  
00:10:11,610 --> 00:10:12,402  
--on the shoulders.

216  
00:10:12,402 --> 00:10:13,110

Right.

217

00:10:13,110 --> 00:10:15,015

Such a stick across  
the shoulder.

218

00:10:15,015 --> 00:10:16,140

Strap thing to carry those.

219

00:10:16,140 --> 00:10:18,473

It was just easier to carry,  
and I would bring water in.

220

00:10:18,473 --> 00:10:20,580

It was kind of a thing  
that I used to do.

221

00:10:20,580 --> 00:10:24,082

Was it tiring at times  
for a youngster to do it?

222

00:10:24,082 --> 00:10:24,790

I don't think so.

223

00:10:24,790 --> 00:10:27,330

Probably-- no, I don't think so.

224

00:10:27,330 --> 00:10:28,740

It was small buckets.

225

00:10:28,740 --> 00:10:30,140

We carried as much as we could--

226

00:10:30,140 --> 00:10:30,640

Right.

227

00:10:30,640 --> 00:10:32,820

--and if not, we went twice.

228

00:10:32,820 --> 00:10:34,950

Sometimes during  
those trips that I

229

00:10:34,950 --> 00:10:37,170  
would have to go down  
to the well, which

230

00:10:37,170 --> 00:10:41,580  
was right near the barn  
where my father was hidden,

231

00:10:41,580 --> 00:10:46,110  
my mother would put in some  
food or something in the bucket.

232

00:10:46,110 --> 00:10:49,710  
And I would go down there  
and drop it off for him,

233

00:10:49,710 --> 00:10:52,090  
and that's how we got  
food to him sometimes.

234

00:10:52,090 --> 00:10:53,840  
Other times, she would  
take it down there.

235

00:10:53,840 --> 00:10:54,030  
Right.

236

00:10:54,030 --> 00:10:56,160  
Sounds like you had a  
job like Rivka and Rachel

237

00:10:56,160 --> 00:10:56,940  
had in the Torah.

238

00:10:56,940 --> 00:10:58,110  
[LAUGHS]

239

00:10:58,110 --> 00:11:00,900  
They had to go bring the  
water from the well, too.

240

00:11:00,900 --> 00:11:01,400  
Water.

241  
00:11:01,400 --> 00:11:02,250  
[LAUGHS] Yes, yes.

242  
00:11:02,250 --> 00:11:03,420  
I remember doing that.

243  
00:11:03,420 --> 00:11:04,080  
I also--

244  
00:11:04,080 --> 00:11:09,390  
What I'm saying is that  
Legnica in the 1940s

245  
00:11:09,390 --> 00:11:10,560  
sounds like the same--

246  
00:11:10,560 --> 00:11:11,370  
Biblical.

247  
00:11:11,370 --> 00:11:12,841  
--but biblical times.

248  
00:11:12,841 --> 00:11:13,383  
Times, right.

249  
00:11:13,383 --> 00:11:14,090  
Absolutely.

250  
00:11:14,090 --> 00:11:18,850  
In terms of the way people had  
to get the necessities of life.

251  
00:11:18,850 --> 00:11:19,350  
Right.

252  
00:11:19,350 --> 00:11:19,850  
Absolutely.

253

00:11:19,850 --> 00:11:21,120  
It was very primitive.

254  
00:11:21,120 --> 00:11:23,490  
I think we mentioned it in the--

255  
00:11:23,490 --> 00:11:24,130  
Previous state.

256  
00:11:24,130 --> 00:11:24,880  
--first interview.

257  
00:11:24,880 --> 00:11:26,310  
Right.

258  
00:11:26,310 --> 00:11:28,650  
I mean, obviously no phones.

259  
00:11:28,650 --> 00:11:31,740  
I mean, just it was  
primitive, everything was.

260  
00:11:31,740 --> 00:11:35,850  
But in the '40s, 1940s,  
Poland and most of it

261  
00:11:35,850 --> 00:11:39,030  
other than big cities  
probably was that way, farms

262  
00:11:39,030 --> 00:11:39,600  
and so forth.

263  
00:11:39,600 --> 00:11:42,240  
It's not the way it is here.

264  
00:11:42,240 --> 00:11:44,960  
So how did you feel  
when you were there.

265  
00:11:44,960 --> 00:11:47,940  
In other words, what

was life like for you?

266

00:11:47,940 --> 00:11:49,290

You woke up in the morning.

267

00:11:49,290 --> 00:11:51,390

You were there for  
a year and a half.

268

00:11:51,390 --> 00:11:53,460

Did you have any thoughts  
go through your mind

269

00:11:53,460 --> 00:11:56,010

as to why you're  
there, or you just

270

00:11:56,010 --> 00:11:57,570

figured you had to be there?

271

00:11:57,570 --> 00:12:02,670

We just had to get  
through the day,

272

00:12:02,670 --> 00:12:06,210

and I don't think we  
worked for the next day,

273

00:12:06,210 --> 00:12:11,490

but that they had to be taken  
care of, whatever that they

274

00:12:11,490 --> 00:12:13,150

had to be done.

275

00:12:13,150 --> 00:12:20,400

So, for the children, once  
we were with the parents,

276

00:12:20,400 --> 00:12:25,080

the parents did all the  
worries, the arranging.

277

00:12:25,080 --> 00:12:28,440

So it's not so much--

278

00:12:28,440 --> 00:12:32,160

for us children, we just obeyed  
what we're supposed to do,

279

00:12:32,160 --> 00:12:34,860

and that was it.

280

00:12:34,860 --> 00:12:38,280

When you were in Lvov, you  
had been in school already?

281

00:12:38,280 --> 00:12:38,850

Yes, yes.

282

00:12:38,850 --> 00:12:40,240

And you were also in school?

283

00:12:40,240 --> 00:12:40,740

No.

284

00:12:40,740 --> 00:12:41,448

I don't think so.

285

00:12:41,448 --> 00:12:42,350

No, no.

286

00:12:42,350 --> 00:12:42,850

No.

287

00:12:42,850 --> 00:12:43,290

No, Erwin was not.

288

00:12:43,290 --> 00:12:44,498

I just started, and he just--

289

00:12:44,498 --> 00:12:46,697

Prior to before  
the war, I don't--



290  
00:12:46,697 --> 00:12:48,280  
So you don't remember  
being in school?

291  
00:12:48,280 --> 00:12:48,780  
No, no.

292  
00:12:48,780 --> 00:12:49,660  
I don't think so.

293  
00:12:49,660 --> 00:12:50,493  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

294  
00:12:50,493 --> 00:12:51,360  
--started.

295  
00:12:51,360 --> 00:12:52,020  
I just started.

296  
00:12:52,020 --> 00:12:52,880  
You were in school in Lvov.

297  
00:12:52,880 --> 00:12:53,130  
Yes.

298  
00:12:53,130 --> 00:12:54,588  
And now you're not  
going to school?

299  
00:12:54,588 --> 00:12:55,260  
No, not at all.

300  
00:12:55,260 --> 00:12:57,990  
Did you ever think about  
the fact that you--

301  
00:12:57,990 --> 00:12:58,620  
Personally?

302  
00:12:58,620 --> 00:13:01,740

Mother, yes, but I  
personally didn't think.

303  
00:13:01,740 --> 00:13:05,230  
Didn't think of school at  
all because we were not

304  
00:13:05,230 --> 00:13:06,430  
permitted to go to school.

305  
00:13:06,430 --> 00:13:09,880  
I mean, it would be dangerous  
for us to go to school,

306  
00:13:09,880 --> 00:13:12,662  
to be exposed to people and--

307  
00:13:12,662 --> 00:13:14,880  
no, no.

308  
00:13:14,880 --> 00:13:18,150  
During that period,  
we knew it was war,

309  
00:13:18,150 --> 00:13:19,440  
and we were always told that--

310  
00:13:19,440 --> 00:13:20,482  
But if I'm not mistaken--

311  
00:13:20,482 --> 00:13:23,940  
--we needed to survive, and  
someday the war will end,

312  
00:13:23,940 --> 00:13:28,867  
and we'll go back to  
Lvov, and I remember that.

313  
00:13:28,867 --> 00:13:30,450  
That's what we were  
thinking we'll do.

314

00:13:30,450 --> 00:13:33,690  
We'll go back to Lvov as  
soon as the war is over,

315  
00:13:33,690 --> 00:13:35,820  
and we knew that.

316  
00:13:35,820 --> 00:13:37,887  
So it was a matter of  
every day doing whatever

317  
00:13:37,887 --> 00:13:38,970  
had to be done to survive.

318  
00:13:38,970 --> 00:13:40,050  
To survive.

319  
00:13:40,050 --> 00:13:43,620  
Did you have any understanding  
of what was happening

320  
00:13:43,620 --> 00:13:46,210  
to Jewish people outside of--

321  
00:13:46,210 --> 00:13:46,710  
Yes.

322  
00:13:46,710 --> 00:13:47,040  
Yes.

323  
00:13:47,040 --> 00:13:47,655  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

324  
00:13:47,655 --> 00:13:48,170  
Absolutely.

325  
00:13:48,170 --> 00:13:48,900  
Sure, sure.

326  
00:13:48,900 --> 00:13:49,830  
You were aware of--

327

00:13:49,830 --> 00:13:50,660

Frightening thing.

328

00:13:50,660 --> 00:13:51,780

Yes, yes.

329

00:13:51,780 --> 00:13:54,360

From the experiences that  
we had throughout the ghetto

330

00:13:54,360 --> 00:13:57,480

times, where we saw  
people being taken away.

331

00:13:57,480 --> 00:13:58,480

People had to hide also.

332

00:13:58,480 --> 00:13:59,820

And we were hiding.

333

00:13:59,820 --> 00:14:01,500

And we were told  
if we don't hide,

334

00:14:01,500 --> 00:14:03,000

then they'll take us away.

335

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:03,870

And it's

336

00:14:03,870 --> 00:14:04,980

Was very frightening.

337

00:14:04,980 --> 00:14:06,120

So we of course, we knew.

338

00:14:06,120 --> 00:14:06,690

Yes.

339

00:14:06,690 --> 00:14:11,310

That's why probably how during

the period of the ghetto,

340  
00:14:11,310 --> 00:14:14,400  
we were incubated--  
sort of-- that we had

341  
00:14:14,400 --> 00:14:17,890  
to be careful on the outside.

342  
00:14:17,890 --> 00:14:20,532  
And that's how the fear of  
doing everything correctly--

343  
00:14:20,532 --> 00:14:23,370  
About our Jewish identity--  
about our Jewish identity.

344  
00:14:23,370 --> 00:14:25,050  
--in order to survive,  
probably that's

345  
00:14:25,050 --> 00:14:26,805  
how it was instilled  
during that period.

346  
00:14:26,805 --> 00:14:28,020  
Yeah.

347  
00:14:28,020 --> 00:14:31,530  
Completely hide  
our Jewish identity

348  
00:14:31,530 --> 00:14:37,200  
and to present  
ourselves that way.

349  
00:14:37,200 --> 00:14:42,110  
And you felt that this  
period was coming to an end?

350  
00:14:42,110 --> 00:14:43,950  
Did you have a  
feeling of optimism.

351  
00:14:43,950 --> 00:14:47,820  
That this is temporary, or--

352  
00:14:47,820 --> 00:14:51,240  
do you have any  
recollection of how you

353  
00:14:51,240 --> 00:14:54,210  
understood this period of time?

354  
00:14:54,210 --> 00:14:57,630  
Only from what the parents were  
talking between each other--

355  
00:14:57,630 --> 00:15:00,180  
our mother.

356  
00:15:00,180 --> 00:15:05,250  
When we heard the  
artillery shots,

357  
00:15:05,250 --> 00:15:09,930  
there was-- and Lvov was taken,  
liberated, by the Russians.

358  
00:15:09,930 --> 00:15:13,590  
And we were, I think,  
a year later liberated.

359  
00:15:13,590 --> 00:15:16,470  
So they were saying,  
they're getting closer.

360  
00:15:16,470 --> 00:15:17,820  
Liberation comes closer.

361  
00:15:17,820 --> 00:15:20,010  
But of course, it  
took a year for us

362  
00:15:20,010 --> 00:15:22,380

to be liberated after Lvov--

363  
00:15:22,380 --> 00:15:24,000  
Lemberg.

364  
00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:27,720  
And so this I remember  
hearing our parents

365  
00:15:27,720 --> 00:15:29,645  
talking whenever they--

366  
00:15:29,645 --> 00:15:30,270  
About the war--

367  
00:15:30,270 --> 00:15:30,770  
The war.

368  
00:15:30,770 --> 00:15:32,550  
Some rumors that the  
neighbors would say.

369  
00:15:32,550 --> 00:15:35,215  
Oh, the Russians did this  
or that somewhere-- so

370  
00:15:35,215 --> 00:15:35,840  
sort of rumors.

371  
00:15:35,840 --> 00:15:37,008  
That they come closer, yes.

372  
00:15:37,008 --> 00:15:37,550  
So there was-

373  
00:15:37,550 --> 00:15:39,508  
But generally speaking--  
what I'm trying to get

374  
00:15:39,508 --> 00:15:44,895  
at-- generally speaking, people  
have to have a feeling of--

375  
00:15:44,895 --> 00:15:47,670

376  
00:15:47,670 --> 00:15:53,580  
At best, the ideal would be to  
have a feeling of optimism--

377  
00:15:53,580 --> 00:15:56,770  
that life can be good and  
there's a role for me in life,

378  
00:15:56,770 --> 00:15:59,910  
and so on.

379  
00:15:59,910 --> 00:16:04,620  
Here, to say that  
there was optimism

380  
00:16:04,620 --> 00:16:07,770  
would be very difficult because  
it was such a difficult time

381  
00:16:07,770 --> 00:16:09,300  
that you were going through.

382  
00:16:09,300 --> 00:16:15,240  
So what did you think  
your parents were feeling?

383  
00:16:15,240 --> 00:16:19,560  
Your father was hidden  
underground in water.

384  
00:16:19,560 --> 00:16:23,550  
And I guess you people, even  
though you were children,

385  
00:16:23,550 --> 00:16:25,180  
you used to take  
food out to him too.

386



00:16:25,180 --> 00:16:25,390

Yes.

387

00:16:25,390 --> 00:16:25,645

Yes.

388

00:16:25,645 --> 00:16:26,370

Yes, sure.

389

00:16:26,370 --> 00:16:28,860

So you saw this the whole time.

390

00:16:28,860 --> 00:16:31,570

391

00:16:31,570 --> 00:16:32,280

We had to feel.

392

00:16:32,280 --> 00:16:34,030

How did you go through  
life at that point?

393

00:16:34,030 --> 00:16:35,615

There was always hope.

394

00:16:35,615 --> 00:16:36,240

There was hope.

395

00:16:36,240 --> 00:16:36,865

There was hope.

396

00:16:36,865 --> 00:16:38,920

Hope, yes-- hope  
that we'll make it.

397

00:16:38,920 --> 00:16:43,340

Our parents would always  
say, hopefully soon.

398

00:16:43,340 --> 00:16:44,270

Soon, it's not long.

399

00:16:44,270 --> 00:16:44,770

It's sooner.

400

00:16:44,770 --> 00:16:46,780

And this why on a  
daily basis, every day

401

00:16:46,780 --> 00:16:48,430

was important to keep going.

402

00:16:48,430 --> 00:16:49,090

Yes.

403

00:16:49,090 --> 00:16:51,260

And nobody knew.

404

00:16:51,260 --> 00:16:53,845

Nobody knew it would  
last five years-- the war

405

00:16:53,845 --> 00:16:56,380

or whatever, obviously.

406

00:16:56,380 --> 00:16:57,790

But there was hope.

407

00:16:57,790 --> 00:16:58,578

There was hope.

408

00:16:58,578 --> 00:16:59,620

They would tell us that--

409

00:16:59,620 --> 00:17:00,340

That we'll make it--

410

00:17:00,340 --> 00:17:00,960

that we'll make it through.

411

00:17:00,960 --> 00:17:02,080

--hopefully soon.

412  
00:17:02,080 --> 00:17:03,100  
Nobody knew.

413  
00:17:03,100 --> 00:17:07,800  
Maybe they were saying  
it as encouragement.

414  
00:17:07,800 --> 00:17:09,690  
What was the attitude in the--

415  
00:17:09,690 --> 00:17:12,450  
what was the feeling  
in the family when

416  
00:17:12,450 --> 00:17:17,849  
the Russians came, and  
you were able to leave

417  
00:17:17,849 --> 00:17:18,980  
your prison, really--

418  
00:17:18,980 --> 00:17:19,480  
Relief.

419  
00:17:19,480 --> 00:17:21,480  
--the prison that you  
made for yourself?

420  
00:17:21,480 --> 00:17:22,109  
Freedom.

421  
00:17:22,109 --> 00:17:23,020  
Liberation.

422  
00:17:23,020 --> 00:17:23,520  
You felt it?

423  
00:17:23,520 --> 00:17:24,500  
Well, of course.

424  
00:17:24,500 --> 00:17:26,760

Yes, of course-- of course.

425

00:17:26,760 --> 00:17:29,400

The first thing  
that I remember we

426

00:17:29,400 --> 00:17:34,770

did when we left Legnica is we  
started heading towards Lvov.

427

00:17:34,770 --> 00:17:38,293

So we got on some kind of  
a truck-- a Russian truck--

428

00:17:38,293 --> 00:17:39,210

Yes, a military truck.

429

00:17:39,210 --> 00:17:40,770

--a military truck.

430

00:17:40,770 --> 00:17:43,260

And we started  
heading towards Lvov.

431

00:17:43,260 --> 00:17:45,510

We thought we were  
going back home.

432

00:17:45,510 --> 00:17:46,730

We didn't know.

433

00:17:46,730 --> 00:17:47,580

You know how it is.

434

00:17:47,580 --> 00:17:48,420

There was no news.

435

00:17:48,420 --> 00:17:50,940

There was no information.

436

00:17:50,940 --> 00:17:52,990

There was just some

rumors here and there.

437

00:17:52,990 --> 00:17:55,110

So that was our hope.

438

00:17:55,110 --> 00:18:01,190

And of course, halfway to Lem--  
to Lvov, we stopped off in--

439

00:18:01,190 --> 00:18:02,023

TarnÃ³w.

440

00:18:02,023 --> 00:18:02,850

TarnÃ³w.

441

00:18:02,850 --> 00:18:03,500

TarnÃ³w.

442

00:18:03,500 --> 00:18:06,240

And we found out that there's  
no point in going back to Lvov.

443

00:18:06,240 --> 00:18:06,740

Yes.

444

00:18:06,740 --> 00:18:08,490

There's nothing there for us.

445

00:18:08,490 --> 00:18:11,430

And we didn't go back to Lvov.

446

00:18:11,430 --> 00:18:17,040

From TarnÃ³w, we worked  
our way back to Germany.

447

00:18:17,040 --> 00:18:21,960

And in Germany, we waited to  
come to the United States.

448

00:18:21,960 --> 00:18:27,030

At this point in your lives, you  
had been through three stages--

449  
00:18:27,030 --> 00:18:30,158  
the pre-war stage  
when you, at any rate,

450  
00:18:30,158 --> 00:18:31,200  
had begun school already,

451  
00:18:31,200 --> 00:18:33,340  
Right.

452  
00:18:33,340 --> 00:18:37,110  
Then you had the war-time  
stage in the ghetto.

453  
00:18:37,110 --> 00:18:41,100  
And then the period  
of time in Legnica.

454  
00:18:41,100 --> 00:18:42,120  
Right.

455  
00:18:42,120 --> 00:18:48,018  
How would you compare your  
lives in these three stages?

456  
00:18:48,018 --> 00:18:50,010  
[CHUCKLES] I can--

457  
00:18:50,010 --> 00:18:51,260  
want me to compare war years--

458  
00:18:51,260 --> 00:18:53,130  
Yeah, in other words--

459  
00:18:53,130 --> 00:18:54,100  
--to before the war?

460  
00:18:54,100 --> 00:18:55,600  
--before the war was normal.

461

00:18:55,600 --> 00:18:57,690  
Normal, of course--  
good life, enjoyable.

462  
00:18:57,690 --> 00:18:59,330  
And that was a good  
life-- enjoyable.

463  
00:18:59,330 --> 00:19:03,300  
Children, parents,  
good home, family.

464  
00:19:03,300 --> 00:19:08,010  
Extended family-- the cousins  
and cousins, and uncles,

465  
00:19:08,010 --> 00:19:12,090  
and aunts, and the grandmother.

466  
00:19:12,090 --> 00:19:18,780  
And vacations and just  
going to the park,

467  
00:19:18,780 --> 00:19:22,590  
going visiting family, holidays.

468  
00:19:22,590 --> 00:19:23,550  
Everything was--

469  
00:19:23,550 --> 00:19:24,270  
Life was good.

470  
00:19:24,270 --> 00:19:26,020  
Was very good, yes.

471  
00:19:26,020 --> 00:19:26,563  
Yes.

472  
00:19:26,563 --> 00:19:27,480  
You were a little boy.

473  
00:19:27,480 --> 00:19:28,530

Do you remember this period?

474

00:19:28,530 --> 00:19:29,030

I remember.

475

00:19:29,030 --> 00:19:30,275

I remember that period.

476

00:19:30,275 --> 00:19:31,140

And it was obviously  
normal and good.

477

00:19:31,140 --> 00:19:32,000

OK.

478

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:33,150

And then life changed.

479

00:19:33,150 --> 00:19:34,770

Changed, yes.

480

00:19:34,770 --> 00:19:37,610

And that was the period in Lvov.

481

00:19:37,610 --> 00:19:39,630

Period Lvov to the ghetto.

482

00:19:39,630 --> 00:19:41,970

We had to move  
from our apartment

483

00:19:41,970 --> 00:19:45,120

that we lived to  
the ghetto area.

484

00:19:45,120 --> 00:19:46,820

And from then on  
the ghetto gets--

485

00:19:46,820 --> 00:19:48,920

That was the worst part.



486

00:19:48,920 --> 00:19:50,523

Well, after [INAUDIBLE].

487

00:19:50,523 --> 00:19:52,315

I would say the ghetto  
was the worst part--

488

00:19:52,315 --> 00:19:53,400

The worst part, yes.

489

00:19:53,400 --> 00:19:54,482

--because there we knew.

490

00:19:54,482 --> 00:19:55,440

People were liquidated.

491

00:19:55,440 --> 00:19:56,970

It was instilled in us that--

492

00:19:56,970 --> 00:19:57,928

People were liquidated.

493

00:19:57,928 --> 00:19:59,990

--any day when they took  
you away, that was it.

494

00:19:59,990 --> 00:20:00,532

That's right.

495

00:20:00,532 --> 00:20:02,610

They took you to  
be shot or killed

496

00:20:02,610 --> 00:20:05,820

or never to be seen again.

497

00:20:05,820 --> 00:20:10,410

And how is it that you  
weren't taken away?

498

00:20:10,410 --> 00:20:12,136

Was that because your  
father was working?

499  
00:20:12,136 --> 00:20:13,010  
Working?

500  
00:20:13,010 --> 00:20:14,882  
No, we could hide--

501  
00:20:14,882 --> 00:20:15,844  
hide in the attic.

502  
00:20:15,844 --> 00:20:16,806  
You were hi--

503  
00:20:16,806 --> 00:20:19,560  
In the attic in the  
ghetto-- an attic--

504  
00:20:19,560 --> 00:20:21,842  
In other words, you had  
better hiding places,

505  
00:20:21,842 --> 00:20:22,800  
facilities than others?

506  
00:20:22,800 --> 00:20:24,780  
Some people did  
have hiding places.

507  
00:20:24,780 --> 00:20:29,175  
Some hiding places were  
discovered by a crying child,

508  
00:20:29,175 --> 00:20:31,458  
by different--

509  
00:20:31,458 --> 00:20:32,250  
It's a combination.

510  
00:20:32,250 --> 00:20:34,598  
We were lucky our hiding

place in the attic

511  
00:20:34,598 --> 00:20:35,890  
was not discovered during the--

512  
00:20:35,890 --> 00:20:40,610  
It's a combination of hiding  
places and being very lucky.

513  
00:20:40,610 --> 00:20:42,110  
It's really being very lucky.

514  
00:20:42,110 --> 00:20:43,440  
And that's when your mother--

515  
00:20:43,440 --> 00:20:45,940  
or your parents-- decided--

516  
00:20:45,940 --> 00:20:46,745  
That's right.

517  
00:20:46,745 --> 00:20:47,010  
That's right.

518  
00:20:47,010 --> 00:20:48,900  
--they're not going to depend  
on this luck holding out.

519  
00:20:48,900 --> 00:20:51,060  
Because eventually each  
thing was discovered--

520  
00:20:51,060 --> 00:20:52,440  
That's what she said.

521  
00:20:52,440 --> 00:20:54,360  
--and they would have been.

522  
00:20:54,360 --> 00:20:57,090  
And then you came  
to Legnica, which

523

00:20:57,090 --> 00:20:59,220  
was sort of a holding action.

524

00:20:59,220 --> 00:21:01,410  
Exactly.

525

00:21:01,410 --> 00:21:04,965  
Still dangerous because  
we could have been taken--

526

00:21:04,965 --> 00:21:07,730

527

00:21:07,730 --> 00:21:12,050  
he for his physical examination.

528

00:21:12,050 --> 00:21:17,150  
And the papers were the  
false Aryan papers--

529

00:21:17,150 --> 00:21:21,260  
were the best when they  
were in the pocket without

530

00:21:21,260 --> 00:21:22,160  
had to be shown.

531

00:21:22,160 --> 00:21:25,580  
Because once they  
start really getting

532

00:21:25,580 --> 00:21:28,910  
into the background  
of those papers,

533

00:21:28,910 --> 00:21:32,510  
they were not so secure.

534

00:21:32,510 --> 00:21:36,200  
All right, so that's  
the part of the story

535

00:21:36,200 --> 00:21:40,160

that we did not spend  
any time on last time.

536

00:21:40,160 --> 00:21:43,190

And I'm happy that  
you came down today

537

00:21:43,190 --> 00:21:47,340

to complete the story of what  
happened with your family.

538

00:21:47,340 --> 00:21:48,340

Thank you very much.

539

00:21:48,340 --> 00:21:49,150

OK, thank you.

540

00:21:49,150 --> 00:21:49,650

Thank you.

541

00:21:49,650 --> 00:21:51,200

Yeah.

542

00:21:51,200 --> 00:22:00,000