

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:52,576

2
00:00:52,576 --> 00:00:54,790
Good Morning, Rose.

3
00:00:54,790 --> 00:00:55,790
Good morning, Joan.

4
00:00:55,790 --> 00:00:57,130
Welcome.

5
00:00:57,130 --> 00:01:01,870
Tell me where you were
born and what year--

6
00:01:01,870 --> 00:01:07,470
your birth date-- and what
your name was at birth.

7
00:01:07,470 --> 00:01:15,180
I was born in Warsaw,
July 22nd, 1914.

8
00:01:15,180 --> 00:01:19,170
My name was-- probably,
I don't know exactly--

9
00:01:19,170 --> 00:01:24,930
Rachel or-- was never
called this way.

10
00:01:24,930 --> 00:01:28,260
Always Rozka, I
was called at home.

11
00:01:28,260 --> 00:01:31,120

12
00:01:31,120 --> 00:01:32,650
And what was your maiden name?

13
00:01:32,650 --> 00:01:33,490
Perczykow.

14
00:01:33,490 --> 00:01:36,040

15
00:01:36,040 --> 00:01:41,650
Can you tell me something about
your family, your parents?

16
00:01:41,650 --> 00:01:44,320
Yes.

17
00:01:44,320 --> 00:01:46,930
My father was a watchmaker.

18
00:01:46,930 --> 00:01:49,480
My mother was a housewife.

19
00:01:49,480 --> 00:01:55,840
We were six children,
five girls, one boy.

20
00:01:55,840 --> 00:01:57,220
I was the fifth one.

21
00:01:57,220 --> 00:02:01,230

22
00:02:01,230 --> 00:02:04,450
And eight years later,
my younger sister

23
00:02:04,450 --> 00:02:07,460
was born unexpectedly.

24
00:02:07,460 --> 00:02:08,125
So we're six.

25
00:02:08,125 --> 00:02:12,690

26
00:02:12,690 --> 00:02:21,750
My oldest sister was a teacher.

27
00:02:21,750 --> 00:02:28,420
The second one, she finished
the commercial school.

28
00:02:28,420 --> 00:02:29,865
The third one was in fashion--

29
00:02:29,865 --> 00:02:32,580

30
00:02:32,580 --> 00:02:34,970
hats.

31
00:02:34,970 --> 00:02:38,570
My brother, finished
vocational school--

32
00:02:38,570 --> 00:02:40,400
was an electrician.

33
00:02:40,400 --> 00:02:44,638
And I was the fifth one,
and then the youngest one.

34
00:02:44,638 --> 00:02:45,555
Can you give us names?

35
00:02:45,555 --> 00:02:46,640
What was the oldest name?

36
00:02:46,640 --> 00:02:57,290
Sure, the oldest one was Genia,
Anka, Guta, Beniek, myself,

37
00:02:57,290 --> 00:03:02,650
Rozka, and Sala, which
was later called Krysia.

38

00:03:02,650 --> 00:03:04,470

She didn't like the name Sala.

39

00:03:04,470 --> 00:03:08,240

And she called herself Krysia.

40

00:03:08,240 --> 00:03:15,350

The atmosphere at home
was very lovely, really.

41

00:03:15,350 --> 00:03:18,590

I was for a long time like a
mascot to my [NON-ENGLISH]..

42

00:03:18,590 --> 00:03:21,710

For eight years, I
was the youngest one.

43

00:03:21,710 --> 00:03:25,580

And really the oldest one,
Genia, the teacher, she really

44

00:03:25,580 --> 00:03:29,180

raised me, so-called.

45

00:03:29,180 --> 00:03:37,190

And Anka used to take me always
to the theater, to the opera--

46

00:03:37,190 --> 00:03:40,230

all over whenever she
went with her boyfriend.

47

00:03:40,230 --> 00:03:41,480

I was wondering why.

48

00:03:41,480 --> 00:03:43,640

But this was it.

49

00:03:43,640 --> 00:03:45,590

I was always with them.

50
00:03:45,590 --> 00:03:51,660
And they really gave me a lot
of meaning how to grow up.

51
00:03:51,660 --> 00:03:58,670
But Genia was the one who
gave me really the education.

52
00:03:58,670 --> 00:04:02,720
And she was my
role model, really,

53
00:04:02,720 --> 00:04:06,830
as I was later on for
my younger sister.

54
00:04:06,830 --> 00:04:08,270
I was a role model.

55
00:04:08,270 --> 00:04:11,226
I was really raising her.

56
00:04:11,226 --> 00:04:13,800
And what was your relationship
to your mother and father,

57
00:04:13,800 --> 00:04:15,840
if you were so close
to your siblings?

58
00:04:15,840 --> 00:04:18,140
Very warm.

59
00:04:18,140 --> 00:04:22,860
My mother used to say later
on, you were my best child,

60
00:04:22,860 --> 00:04:24,050
somehow.

61
00:04:24,050 --> 00:04:28,250

I was like my mother,
very organized.

62
00:04:28,250 --> 00:04:32,005
She was sewing for all of us.

63
00:04:32,005 --> 00:04:33,380
She was very good
with her hands.

64
00:04:33,380 --> 00:04:35,810
And so am I up to now--

65
00:04:35,810 --> 00:04:38,600
not exactly up to--

66
00:04:38,600 --> 00:04:41,865
and Father was a little
distant because he had

67
00:04:41,865 --> 00:04:44,480
to make a living for all of us.

68
00:04:44,480 --> 00:04:49,730
He passed away in 1927 when
I was a young child still.

69
00:04:49,730 --> 00:04:54,020
And the old one-- so education
meant a lot to all of us.

70
00:04:54,020 --> 00:04:58,640
And we tried-- even
after he passed away,

71
00:04:58,640 --> 00:05:02,330
I was the one who
couldn't go to gymnasium.

72
00:05:02,330 --> 00:05:05,570
But my older sister,
Genia, she arranged for me

73

00:05:05,570 --> 00:05:09,380

all the teachers, the tutor.

74

00:05:09,380 --> 00:05:13,700

And I could pass the
exam, external called,

75

00:05:13,700 --> 00:05:19,430

in the ministry of education
to go for my matriculation.

76

00:05:19,430 --> 00:05:25,310

At the same time, I was
also tutoring children

77

00:05:25,310 --> 00:05:30,710

to make some money in
usually the Polish language

78

00:05:30,710 --> 00:05:32,420

and arithmetic.

79

00:05:32,420 --> 00:05:34,790

My sister always
had in the school

80

00:05:34,790 --> 00:05:38,690

many children who needed
help in education.

81

00:05:38,690 --> 00:05:42,140

82

00:05:42,140 --> 00:05:46,850

Always many boyfriends
came to my sisters.

83

00:05:46,850 --> 00:05:50,870

It was always
lively and pleasant.

84

00:05:50,870 --> 00:05:55,130

My mother was very hospitable
and always had something

85
00:05:55,130 --> 00:05:57,200
for the people who came in--

86
00:05:57,200 --> 00:05:59,120
the gathering.

87
00:05:59,120 --> 00:06:02,360
So we were a happy family.

88
00:06:02,360 --> 00:06:05,450
Difficult later on after
my father passed away,

89
00:06:05,450 --> 00:06:08,450
but we kept together.

90
00:06:08,450 --> 00:06:10,400
Did your mother work
after your father died?

91
00:06:10,400 --> 00:06:10,900
No.

92
00:06:10,900 --> 00:06:12,530
So how did you get along?

93
00:06:12,530 --> 00:06:13,810
The children working.

94
00:06:13,810 --> 00:06:15,680
Or they were grown up.

95
00:06:15,680 --> 00:06:20,330
And they always
supported the home.

96
00:06:20,330 --> 00:06:22,490
Little by little,
when they got married,

97

00:06:22,490 --> 00:06:26,840

they always provided the
rest of us with money.

98

00:06:26,840 --> 00:06:34,430

And we all supported the
family until the war broke out.

99

00:06:34,430 --> 00:06:35,900

What did you like
to do as a kid?

100

00:06:35,900 --> 00:06:38,480

101

00:06:38,480 --> 00:06:41,290

I did a lot of-- first of
all, I was reading a lot.

102

00:06:41,290 --> 00:06:44,090

103

00:06:44,090 --> 00:06:47,810

And this was because
of my sister.

104

00:06:47,810 --> 00:06:50,570

She led the road to it.

105

00:06:50,570 --> 00:06:53,070

And then we played
Potsy, it's so called.

106

00:06:53,070 --> 00:06:53,570

Yes?

107

00:06:53,570 --> 00:06:56,410

Potsy, in the street.

108

00:06:56,410 --> 00:06:57,530

What is that?

109
00:06:57,530 --> 00:07:05,450
It's we jump from on the
sidewalk-- you jump and so on.

110
00:07:05,450 --> 00:07:11,660
All kinds of things in the
place and the running--

111
00:07:11,660 --> 00:07:15,470
ball, of course-- playing ball.

112
00:07:15,470 --> 00:07:25,220
And this was-- and then I
joined the Hashomer Hatzair.

113
00:07:25,220 --> 00:07:26,600
How old were you
when you joined?

114
00:07:26,600 --> 00:07:28,380
Do you remember?

115
00:07:28,380 --> 00:07:35,290
Very young, about 14,
15, something like that.

116
00:07:35,290 --> 00:07:39,450
And then we went to even for
camps and learned Hebrew.

117
00:07:39,450 --> 00:07:42,000
And I spoke very well
Hebrew because we

118
00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:44,610
had some kind of a
leader from Israel

119
00:07:44,610 --> 00:07:49,320
who didn't let us speak
Polish at all, just Hebrew.

120
00:07:49,320 --> 00:07:50,640
It was rough.

121
00:07:50,640 --> 00:07:52,350
But we learned.

122
00:07:52,350 --> 00:07:55,080
And I didn't have any
difficulties to see a Hebrew

123
00:07:55,080 --> 00:07:58,530
play or listen to a lecture.

124
00:07:58,530 --> 00:08:02,850
He was very intensive about
that and very serious.

125
00:08:02,850 --> 00:08:07,980
So I had always my days filled.

126
00:08:07,980 --> 00:08:10,320
And homework-- first
of all, homework

127
00:08:10,320 --> 00:08:14,100
had to do because my sister
was very strict about this,

128
00:08:14,100 --> 00:08:16,980
that they can
matriculate later on.

129
00:08:16,980 --> 00:08:21,000
And this was that.

130
00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:22,440
I went to Maccabi also.

131
00:08:22,440 --> 00:08:26,640
Maccabi is a sport club,
a Zionist sport club.

132

00:08:26,640 --> 00:08:28,200

I was very good in it--

133

00:08:28,200 --> 00:08:28,950

jumping.

134

00:08:28,950 --> 00:08:31,352

What kind of sports did you do?

135

00:08:31,352 --> 00:08:33,266

Regular gymnastic.

136

00:08:33,266 --> 00:08:34,020

Yes?

137

00:08:34,020 --> 00:08:36,240

Yes, regular gymnastics.

138

00:08:36,240 --> 00:08:38,460

But this was for a while.

139

00:08:38,460 --> 00:08:40,650

and when they put up--
even with Hashomer Hatzair

140

00:08:40,650 --> 00:08:42,093

we went to Hachshara.

141

00:08:42,093 --> 00:08:43,260

You know what's a Hachshara?

142

00:08:43,260 --> 00:08:44,490

No, explain it, please.

143

00:08:44,490 --> 00:08:47,760

This is you go--

144

00:08:47,760 --> 00:08:51,570

the whole group goes to a farm.

145

00:08:51,570 --> 00:08:56,160
And we work on the farm,
preparing to go to Israel.

146
00:08:56,160 --> 00:08:58,410
And we work very hard.

147
00:08:58,410 --> 00:09:02,680
It was about two years I went,
summertime, to the Hachshara.

148
00:09:02,680 --> 00:09:05,640
And then I realized that
I'll never go to Israel.

149
00:09:05,640 --> 00:09:07,950
I would never leave my family.

150
00:09:07,950 --> 00:09:12,360
I stopped being a member
of Hashomer Hatzair.

151
00:09:12,360 --> 00:09:18,330
And I joined the
sport club Jutrznia.

152
00:09:18,330 --> 00:09:22,770
This is on the Bundist auspices.

153
00:09:22,770 --> 00:09:27,390
And I was very active there
in different committees.

154
00:09:27,390 --> 00:09:32,670
This is where I met
the Blum, Abrasza Blum,

155
00:09:32,670 --> 00:09:34,320
the father of Olek,
who's supposed

156
00:09:34,320 --> 00:09:36,960
to speak now at the conference.

157
00:09:36,960 --> 00:09:43,890
And because they had
also a dancing group--

158
00:09:43,890 --> 00:09:45,450
and I loved dancing--

159
00:09:45,450 --> 00:09:47,970
up to now I love ballet--

160
00:09:47,970 --> 00:09:52,170
and our instructor
was one of the best.

161
00:09:52,170 --> 00:09:55,230
She was instructed
in the ballet school

162
00:09:55,230 --> 00:09:59,010
just like modern dancing
with Martha Graham.

163
00:09:59,010 --> 00:10:00,750
This was the style.

164
00:10:00,750 --> 00:10:03,090
And she was our instructor.

165
00:10:03,090 --> 00:10:04,830
So I joined this.

166
00:10:04,830 --> 00:10:08,496
And in this, I became
one of the best also.

167
00:10:08,496 --> 00:10:11,460
This-- any solace, I got.

168
00:10:11,460 --> 00:10:15,480
Once a year we had performances.

169

00:10:15,480 --> 00:10:19,260

And this was under
the Bund auspices.

170

00:10:19,260 --> 00:10:22,950

171

00:10:22,950 --> 00:10:24,240

It was marvelous.

172

00:10:24,240 --> 00:10:27,180

I loved every minute of it.

173

00:10:27,180 --> 00:10:29,730

Was that the first time you
were doing modern dance?

174

00:10:29,730 --> 00:10:31,070

Or had you done it before?

175

00:10:31,070 --> 00:10:32,400

No, never.

176

00:10:32,400 --> 00:10:34,530

This was in Jutrznia.

177

00:10:34,530 --> 00:10:39,558

I lived in that group
under this theater.

178

00:10:39,558 --> 00:10:42,910

Do you remember a particular
role that you took?

179

00:10:42,910 --> 00:10:48,400

All this was Chopin's Waltz,
played very soft things.

180

00:10:48,400 --> 00:10:53,950

And it was the March
of Mendelssohn's--

181

00:10:53,950 --> 00:10:57,640

182

00:10:57,640 --> 00:10:59,260

many of them.

183

00:10:59,260 --> 00:11:02,740

My partner is
still in Australia.

184

00:11:02,740 --> 00:11:06,040

She's still there.

185

00:11:06,040 --> 00:11:11,392

So this was what I did.

186

00:11:11,392 --> 00:11:12,340

Rose, tell--

187

00:11:12,340 --> 00:11:15,970

At the same time also, I
was working in the library.

188

00:11:15,970 --> 00:11:20,950

Also this was the Bund library
under the name of Grosser.

189

00:11:20,950 --> 00:11:27,010

Grosser was a very
famous Bundist--

190

00:11:27,010 --> 00:11:29,770

leader from Bund.

191

00:11:29,770 --> 00:11:33,580

And under his name was
the library for mostly

192

00:11:33,580 --> 00:11:37,840

came the workers over there--

193

00:11:37,840 --> 00:11:39,100
tremendous library.

194
00:11:39,100 --> 00:11:41,470
And I worked there
as a volunteer

195
00:11:41,470 --> 00:11:52,390
and cataloged and categorized
the books where they belonged.

196
00:11:52,390 --> 00:11:54,460
Sometimes I was
helping out people

197
00:11:54,460 --> 00:11:58,300
who gave me something to
read, something like that.

198
00:11:58,300 --> 00:11:59,530
You were a teenager then?

199
00:11:59,530 --> 00:12:01,210
You were 14 or 15 or 16?

200
00:12:01,210 --> 00:12:02,180
No, I was older.

201
00:12:02,180 --> 00:12:03,130
Oh, you were older?

202
00:12:03,130 --> 00:12:10,570
This is I'm going
through the years.

203
00:12:10,570 --> 00:12:11,800
So this was--

204
00:12:11,800 --> 00:12:13,390
Can I go back a little bit?

205
00:12:13,390 --> 00:12:14,050

Yes.

206

00:12:14,050 --> 00:12:17,420

Your sisters and brother,
were they all Bundists?

207

00:12:17,420 --> 00:12:20,350

208

00:12:20,350 --> 00:12:22,150

Only one sister wasn't.

209

00:12:22,150 --> 00:12:23,300

She was a communist.

210

00:12:23,300 --> 00:12:25,780

It was Guta.

211

00:12:25,780 --> 00:12:30,390

She married later on
also a communist lawyer,

212

00:12:30,390 --> 00:12:32,560

Rosenfeld, Buziek Rosenfeld--

213

00:12:32,560 --> 00:12:34,510

Bernard Rosenfeld.

214

00:12:34,510 --> 00:12:36,970

But the rest were all Bundist.

215

00:12:36,970 --> 00:12:39,940

And my mother used to go
to also to the meetings

216

00:12:39,940 --> 00:12:46,630

of the Jewish, the Judischer
Abeter Freu, the Jewish workers

217

00:12:46,630 --> 00:12:48,100

woman--

218

00:12:48,100 --> 00:12:50,260
to the meetings.

219

00:12:50,260 --> 00:12:54,420
But my father wasn't
around at the time already.

220

00:12:54,420 --> 00:12:56,350
Were there a lot of
political discussions

221

00:12:56,350 --> 00:12:57,600
in your house because of this?

222

00:12:57,600 --> 00:13:00,850
Yes, it was because
of my sister.

223

00:13:00,850 --> 00:13:05,680
We never were fighting, but
you're doing what you're doing,

224

00:13:05,680 --> 00:13:06,460
but you--

225

00:13:06,460 --> 00:13:07,840
those kinds of things.

226

00:13:07,840 --> 00:13:12,670
Particularly my brother was very
strong about it and Anka too.

227

00:13:12,670 --> 00:13:17,770
Anka was still in
Australia and now is sick.

228

00:13:17,770 --> 00:13:22,090
And her husband Bachrach,
he passed away long ago.

229

00:13:22,090 --> 00:13:26,500
But they're very strong on this.

230
00:13:26,500 --> 00:13:30,710
And my brother and my older
sister and her husband,

231
00:13:30,710 --> 00:13:33,730
it was a Bundist
atmosphere at home.

232
00:13:33,730 --> 00:13:38,080
And I somehow felt so when
I stopped with Hachshara,

233
00:13:38,080 --> 00:13:39,700
with Hashomer Hatzair.

234
00:13:39,700 --> 00:13:42,160
I was never a
member of the Bund.

235
00:13:42,160 --> 00:13:45,580
But when I met Michal--

236
00:13:45,580 --> 00:13:48,400
so this was already--

237
00:13:48,400 --> 00:13:51,820
I was going more
in this direction.

238
00:13:51,820 --> 00:13:54,640
What do you mean when you say
it was a Bundist household?

239
00:13:54,640 --> 00:13:57,550
What would that
mean to somebody?

240
00:13:57,550 --> 00:14:03,850
To somebody, politically,
we were not religious.

241

00:14:03,850 --> 00:14:06,160
Traditional, always
for the holidays,

242
00:14:06,160 --> 00:14:10,450
even when my father passed
away, we came always together

243
00:14:10,450 --> 00:14:15,640
and observed Passover
when my father was alive.

244
00:14:15,640 --> 00:14:17,350
He had to have God
and everything,

245
00:14:17,350 --> 00:14:20,830
but not in a religious way.

246
00:14:20,830 --> 00:14:23,470
But traditionally, we were.

247
00:14:23,470 --> 00:14:29,440
And politically this
is where we stand,

248
00:14:29,440 --> 00:14:35,270
voting and demonstrations
and something like that.

249
00:14:35,270 --> 00:14:36,980
So it was very activist
in a certain way?

250
00:14:36,980 --> 00:14:37,480
Yes.

251
00:14:37,480 --> 00:14:39,070
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

252
00:14:39,070 --> 00:14:41,260
Yeah, the whole family
was very active.

253
00:14:41,260 --> 00:14:43,150
And you spoke Polish--

254
00:14:43,150 --> 00:14:44,130
Polish, yeah.

255
00:14:44,130 --> 00:14:45,340
--amongst yourselves?

256
00:14:45,340 --> 00:14:45,880
Always.

257
00:14:45,880 --> 00:14:49,450
When we turned around
from mother, father,

258
00:14:49,450 --> 00:14:51,250
we spoke immediately Polish.

259
00:14:51,250 --> 00:14:53,080
And what did you speak
with your parents?

260
00:14:53,080 --> 00:14:55,300
Yiddish.

261
00:14:55,300 --> 00:14:57,410
Were they upset that you
were speaking Polish?

262
00:14:57,410 --> 00:15:00,280
No.

263
00:15:00,280 --> 00:15:03,850
This was a way of life,
our friends and all that.

264
00:15:03,850 --> 00:15:07,470
This was our way of life.

265

00:15:07,470 --> 00:15:15,040
Rose, after your father died,
and you're a little bit older--

266
00:15:15,040 --> 00:15:17,260
you're now--

267
00:15:17,260 --> 00:15:18,940
I was 12 years old.

268
00:15:18,940 --> 00:15:21,790
But still a kid, I guess.

269
00:15:21,790 --> 00:15:24,970
And there are things
going on in Germany.

270
00:15:24,970 --> 00:15:28,990
And clearly a few years later--
in 1933 when the Nazis take

271
00:15:28,990 --> 00:15:29,620
over--

272
00:15:29,620 --> 00:15:32,170
are there discussions
among the Bundists

273
00:15:32,170 --> 00:15:35,530
or in your household about--

274
00:15:35,530 --> 00:15:37,520
We read the newspapers.

275
00:15:37,520 --> 00:15:40,105
But it never touch
us so directly.

276
00:15:40,105 --> 00:15:42,770

277
00:15:42,770 --> 00:15:45,980

We're always talking with the
newspapers and the literature

278
00:15:45,980 --> 00:15:47,030
about it.

279
00:15:47,030 --> 00:15:53,240
But it didn't touch
us so directly.

280
00:15:53,240 --> 00:15:55,115
We were going on
with our normal life.

281
00:15:55,115 --> 00:15:59,490

282
00:15:59,490 --> 00:16:00,570
People often say that--

283
00:16:00,570 --> 00:16:01,710
I--

284
00:16:01,710 --> 00:16:03,030
Go ahead.

285
00:16:03,030 --> 00:16:06,700
I remember that even my
sister-- the oldest one, Genia,

286
00:16:06,700 --> 00:16:07,800
the teacher--

287
00:16:07,800 --> 00:16:08,730
she came home.

288
00:16:08,730 --> 00:16:12,060
And she said, I think
it was '75 or '76

289
00:16:12,060 --> 00:16:17,590
that Birobidzan was looking for

teachers and so on and so on.

290

00:16:17,590 --> 00:16:20,280

And she says, I'm not
thinking about this.

291

00:16:20,280 --> 00:16:22,050

But we all screamed, no.

292

00:16:22,050 --> 00:16:24,390

You're not going anyplace.

293

00:16:24,390 --> 00:16:31,020

So this is how we
worked together really.

294

00:16:31,020 --> 00:16:33,870

Did you feel
antisemitism in Poland?

295

00:16:33,870 --> 00:16:35,520

Of course we felt it.

296

00:16:35,520 --> 00:16:38,340

Of course we did.

297

00:16:38,340 --> 00:16:41,400

All the time, we did.

298

00:16:41,400 --> 00:16:43,500

We used to go--

299

00:16:43,500 --> 00:16:48,210

I wouldn't go by myself
in the other area,

300

00:16:48,210 --> 00:16:51,180

unless in the same--

301

00:16:51,180 --> 00:16:58,590

but we were afraid of the boys
who were throwing stones when

302
00:16:58,590 --> 00:17:00,570
they saw the Jews and so on.

303
00:17:00,570 --> 00:17:03,030
And first of all,
it was, let's say,

304
00:17:03,030 --> 00:17:07,680
1978 already came
the Kristallnacht.

305
00:17:07,680 --> 00:17:18,109
And this was in 1977.

306
00:17:18,109 --> 00:17:23,780
But 1978 was the ghetto
benches at the universities.

307
00:17:23,780 --> 00:17:25,670
So we knew about it.

308
00:17:25,670 --> 00:17:28,190
We did something
for demonstrations.

309
00:17:28,190 --> 00:17:30,470
But life was going on.

310
00:17:30,470 --> 00:17:34,190
When you were younger,
however, in the '20s and in

311
00:17:34,190 --> 00:17:37,910
the early '30s, there
was a big separation

312
00:17:37,910 --> 00:17:43,310
between Polish Christians
and Jewish Poles, yes?

313
00:17:43,310 --> 00:17:45,630

Did you have friends who
were Polish, non-Jews?

314
00:17:45,630 --> 00:17:46,130
No.

315
00:17:46,130 --> 00:17:49,340

316
00:17:49,340 --> 00:17:51,920
Not at all.

317
00:17:51,920 --> 00:17:53,660
First I was in the
Hashomer Hatzair.

318
00:17:53,660 --> 00:17:58,303
And then I was in the Jutrznia,
which is only Jewish people.

319
00:17:58,303 --> 00:17:59,220
No, I didn't have any.

320
00:17:59,220 --> 00:18:03,020
So your school was Jewish,
where you went to school?

321
00:18:03,020 --> 00:18:04,970
Yes, it was-- but not the Jews.

322
00:18:04,970 --> 00:18:07,790
It was a public
school in Polish.

323
00:18:07,790 --> 00:18:12,040
But mostly we were Jewish kids.

324
00:18:12,040 --> 00:18:12,750
This was mostly.

325
00:18:12,750 --> 00:18:15,320

326
00:18:15,320 --> 00:18:19,760
But we constantly-- there
were fights between the boys.

327
00:18:19,760 --> 00:18:23,090
They were playing ball
in the certain places,

328
00:18:23,090 --> 00:18:27,145
and they came, the
shkotzim they called them--

329
00:18:27,145 --> 00:18:28,040
What did they call?

330
00:18:28,040 --> 00:18:30,470
A shkotz, a shkotz, yeah.

331
00:18:30,470 --> 00:18:33,740
This is the Polish young boys.

332
00:18:33,740 --> 00:18:36,590
And they were throwing stones.

333
00:18:36,590 --> 00:18:37,640
And they were fighting.

334
00:18:37,640 --> 00:18:39,260
They were just fighting.

335
00:18:39,260 --> 00:18:43,250
I remember that my brother used
to take me to a ball game--

336
00:18:43,250 --> 00:18:46,160
not a ball game
official, but the boys

337
00:18:46,160 --> 00:18:48,390
were playing among themselves.

338

00:18:48,390 --> 00:18:53,400

And he always was holding my
hand and took me to look at it.

339

00:18:53,400 --> 00:18:56,240

And I was sitting in the
corner watching them.

340

00:18:56,240 --> 00:18:57,650

They always laughed.

341

00:18:57,650 --> 00:19:01,560

Beniek brought
his little sister.

342

00:19:01,560 --> 00:19:06,060

And girls, were their
problems among girls?

343

00:19:06,060 --> 00:19:08,160

Or it was usually the boys?

344

00:19:08,160 --> 00:19:11,010

Usually the boys, yeah.

345

00:19:11,010 --> 00:19:15,240

But I never had at that
time Polish friends, always

346

00:19:15,240 --> 00:19:18,630

among ourselves.

347

00:19:18,630 --> 00:19:23,070

Particularly, I'm saying from
Hashomer Hatzair and then

348

00:19:23,070 --> 00:19:25,380

Jutrznia.

349

00:19:25,380 --> 00:19:27,970

And I was also--

350

00:19:27,970 --> 00:19:31,230

busy with the library,
with this and that.

351

00:19:31,230 --> 00:19:35,850

Did you have particularly
favorite books?

352

00:19:35,850 --> 00:19:37,680

I read everything.

353

00:19:37,680 --> 00:19:46,410

I read all kinds of literature,
the Scandinavian, the Russian,

354

00:19:46,410 --> 00:19:47,260

American--

355

00:19:47,260 --> 00:19:52,180

Dreiser, I remember, Mann.

356

00:19:52,180 --> 00:19:53,950

I read constantly.

357

00:19:53,950 --> 00:19:57,070

And there is a lot of Polish
literature-- good books,

358

00:19:57,070 --> 00:20:03,070

even one got the Nobel Prize,
Reymont, for his three volumes,

359

00:20:03,070 --> 00:20:04,570

I think it was--

360

00:20:04,570 --> 00:20:07,510

Peasants-- Chlopi.

361

00:20:07,510 --> 00:20:10,450

This was tremendous.

362

00:20:10,450 --> 00:20:11,650
I read everything.

363
00:20:11,650 --> 00:20:14,390

364
00:20:14,390 --> 00:20:16,430
Did you go to films?

365
00:20:16,430 --> 00:20:17,540
Yes, we went.

366
00:20:17,540 --> 00:20:18,950
Did you like that?

367
00:20:18,950 --> 00:20:20,540
I liked.

368
00:20:20,540 --> 00:20:22,460
After the war,
particularly, it was so

369
00:20:22,460 --> 00:20:24,950
many Russian films coming here.

370
00:20:24,950 --> 00:20:27,830
But I always went to see films.

371
00:20:27,830 --> 00:20:31,790
And the theater was
a very great part

372
00:20:31,790 --> 00:20:34,790
of my life because
of my sisters.

373
00:20:34,790 --> 00:20:39,260
They always schlepped me
all over to see the museums.

374
00:20:39,260 --> 00:20:44,610
And they gave me a very

good cultural basis.

375

00:20:44,610 --> 00:20:47,690
So it became part of the normal
part of your life it seems.

376

00:20:47,690 --> 00:20:48,710
Right.

377

00:20:48,710 --> 00:20:49,940
Yeah.

378

00:20:49,940 --> 00:20:51,470
Did you ever act?

379

00:20:51,470 --> 00:20:52,425
No.

380

00:20:52,425 --> 00:20:53,770
It was that--

381

00:20:53,770 --> 00:20:57,800
We were playing Sleeping
Beauty-- made a little play.

382

00:20:57,800 --> 00:21:02,160
When we were 7, 8, 9
years old, we played.

383

00:21:02,160 --> 00:21:05,930
Then we charge \$0.05
for the other kids

384

00:21:05,930 --> 00:21:08,750
to come to take a look.

385

00:21:08,750 --> 00:21:12,800
But this was-- dance was my--

386

00:21:12,800 --> 00:21:14,760
Had you thought about
it professionally?

387
00:21:14,760 --> 00:21:15,260
No.

388
00:21:15,260 --> 00:21:19,890

389
00:21:19,890 --> 00:21:23,640
Guta was extremely talented.

390
00:21:23,640 --> 00:21:30,090
She went to a film school.

391
00:21:30,090 --> 00:21:33,150
She even gave herself a name.

392
00:21:33,150 --> 00:21:34,560
The studio gave her a name--

393
00:21:34,560 --> 00:21:36,890
Geri Pik-- Geri--

394
00:21:36,890 --> 00:21:39,760
Guta, Pik-- Perczykow.

395
00:21:39,760 --> 00:21:42,180
But she was excellent.

396
00:21:42,180 --> 00:21:49,080
I remember her once being
at home, just a young woman,

397
00:21:49,080 --> 00:21:54,120
and many of her friends
came-- boys and girls--

398
00:21:54,120 --> 00:21:58,020
and she was reciting for them.

399
00:21:58,020 --> 00:22:02,820
She was reciting a poem

about the French Revolution.

400

00:22:02,820 --> 00:22:06,510

And I was sitting on a
little chair in the corner--

401

00:22:06,510 --> 00:22:07,920

she let me in--

402

00:22:07,920 --> 00:22:10,260

in the corner, listening to her.

403

00:22:10,260 --> 00:22:12,360

And she said something.

404

00:22:12,360 --> 00:22:15,030

She said, [NON-ENGLISH].

405

00:22:15,030 --> 00:22:19,620

And I said in Polish,
[POLISH] meaning,

406

00:22:19,620 --> 00:22:22,500

let the goat eat your face.

407

00:22:22,500 --> 00:22:24,240

But it was a rhyme.

408

00:22:24,240 --> 00:22:26,490

She got so angry.

409

00:22:26,490 --> 00:22:29,070

She threw me out
and went to Mother.

410

00:22:29,070 --> 00:22:33,900

And Mother was keeping me in the
back and said, leave her alone.

411

00:22:33,900 --> 00:22:35,910

You go back.

412

00:22:35,910 --> 00:22:39,765

But this was what's happening,
always gathering at home.

413

00:22:39,765 --> 00:22:41,730

It was a very warm atmosphere.

414

00:22:41,730 --> 00:22:45,520

415

00:22:45,520 --> 00:22:47,530

But acting, no.

416

00:22:47,530 --> 00:22:51,010

She was the one who was really--

417

00:22:51,010 --> 00:22:54,280

first of all, she would
be an excellent lawyer.

418

00:22:54,280 --> 00:23:00,420

I think she was the most
talented than all of us.

419

00:23:00,420 --> 00:23:04,320

She was very around.

420

00:23:04,320 --> 00:23:05,650

She knew a lot.

421

00:23:05,650 --> 00:23:07,300

She read a lot.

422

00:23:07,300 --> 00:23:09,640

She performed.

423

00:23:09,640 --> 00:23:13,030

She's in the fashion, hats--

424

00:23:13,030 --> 00:23:14,450

she had something in herself.

425
00:23:14,450 --> 00:23:22,790

426
00:23:22,790 --> 00:23:24,540
Was Michal your first boyfriend?

427
00:23:24,540 --> 00:23:25,460
No.

428
00:23:25,460 --> 00:23:25,910
Do you want to tell me what--

429
00:23:25,910 --> 00:23:26,820
Do you have to know?

430
00:23:26,820 --> 00:23:27,320
What?

431
00:23:27,320 --> 00:23:28,220
Do you have to know?

432
00:23:28,220 --> 00:23:30,860
[LAUGHS] You don't have to say.

433
00:23:30,860 --> 00:23:31,820
No.

434
00:23:31,820 --> 00:23:36,830
I had-- in the Hashomer
Hatzair, it was a photographer.

435
00:23:36,830 --> 00:23:40,550
I used to have photos
of him, you'll see.

436
00:23:40,550 --> 00:23:45,590
And he was very excellent
photographer, and artist

437
00:23:45,590 --> 00:23:46,625

photographer, really.

438

00:23:46,625 --> 00:23:49,250

He made beautiful pictures.

439

00:23:49,250 --> 00:23:51,440

And I had the whole album.

440

00:23:51,440 --> 00:23:55,760

But during the war, I
gave it to our maid.

441

00:23:55,760 --> 00:24:00,080

She was later on so-called--

442

00:24:00,080 --> 00:24:03,770

she was taking
care of buildings.

443

00:24:03,770 --> 00:24:06,680

And I gave her the album.

444

00:24:06,680 --> 00:24:08,360

And she got scared later on.

445

00:24:08,360 --> 00:24:09,140

And she burned it.

446

00:24:09,140 --> 00:24:12,440

447

00:24:12,440 --> 00:24:14,220

This is the only
thing I took out.

448

00:24:14,220 --> 00:24:17,830

But this is how it was.

449

00:24:17,830 --> 00:24:20,080

No, he was a very nice guy.

450

00:24:20,080 --> 00:24:22,940

451

00:24:22,940 --> 00:24:25,550

But then came Michal.

452

00:24:25,550 --> 00:24:27,115

And I met him in Jutrznia.

453

00:24:27,115 --> 00:24:29,710

454

00:24:29,710 --> 00:24:31,450

Can you tell us about it?

455

00:24:31,450 --> 00:24:32,240

About him?

456

00:24:32,240 --> 00:24:32,800

How--

457

00:24:32,800 --> 00:24:33,910

How you met him--

458

00:24:33,910 --> 00:24:35,558

Oh, how I met him.

459

00:24:35,558 --> 00:24:36,100

I don't know.

460

00:24:36,100 --> 00:24:39,280

He probably saw me before
dancing or whatever

461

00:24:39,280 --> 00:24:40,690

because he had the rights.

462

00:24:40,690 --> 00:24:47,380

He was in the board of Jutrznia.

463

00:24:47,380 --> 00:24:53,260

And I was an academic already
and the Polytechnikum.

464

00:24:53,260 --> 00:25:00,340

And he used to come up and look
at the whole class dancing.

465

00:25:00,340 --> 00:25:02,980

So many people came up.

466

00:25:02,980 --> 00:25:04,630

So what?

467

00:25:04,630 --> 00:25:06,470

And then he was after me.

468

00:25:06,470 --> 00:25:15,590

And one day a whole group of
us went on sleds around Warsaw.

469

00:25:15,590 --> 00:25:16,850

And he came.

470

00:25:16,850 --> 00:25:17,570

He was skiing.

471

00:25:17,570 --> 00:25:20,840

472

00:25:20,840 --> 00:25:23,120

And he came at that time also.

473

00:25:23,120 --> 00:25:24,920

I don't know how he found out.

474

00:25:24,920 --> 00:25:26,900

That I don't know.

475

00:25:26,900 --> 00:25:28,680

But he saw me.

476

00:25:28,680 --> 00:25:31,370

We were going down
with the sleds.

477

00:25:31,370 --> 00:25:32,990

So he went with the skis.

478

00:25:32,990 --> 00:25:35,190

He wanted to throw me
out from the sleds.

479

00:25:35,190 --> 00:25:38,730

I was furious.

480

00:25:38,730 --> 00:25:40,280

I was screaming at him.

481

00:25:40,280 --> 00:25:41,150

I couldn't let him.

482

00:25:41,150 --> 00:25:43,230

And then he was running
for a long time.

483

00:25:43,230 --> 00:25:44,750

And I didn't want to.

484

00:25:44,750 --> 00:25:45,830

I had a boyfriend.

485

00:25:45,830 --> 00:25:49,610

486

00:25:49,610 --> 00:25:52,340

But this is how it happened.

487

00:25:52,340 --> 00:25:55,630

And then I cut off with my--

488

00:25:55,630 --> 00:25:57,740

with Adam Rubin.

489

00:25:57,740 --> 00:26:00,380

He was a marvelous guy, really.

490

00:26:00,380 --> 00:26:02,690

But Michal was very--

491

00:26:02,690 --> 00:26:05,390

492

00:26:05,390 --> 00:26:08,210

he was so romantic.

493

00:26:08,210 --> 00:26:11,810

He always explained
to me the skies,

494

00:26:11,810 --> 00:26:14,600

astronomy, which I had nothing--

495

00:26:14,600 --> 00:26:17,510

I didn't know
anything about it--

496

00:26:17,510 --> 00:26:23,780

and took me for
long walks for miles

497

00:26:23,780 --> 00:26:26,420

through bridges, to the
other side to Prague.

498

00:26:26,420 --> 00:26:30,990

499

00:26:30,990 --> 00:26:36,030

And this is how it started.

500

00:26:36,030 --> 00:26:41,730

But he was really
amazing, how he can always

501

00:26:41,730 --> 00:26:42,690
make you feel good.

502
00:26:42,690 --> 00:26:52,050
He was a great optimist
and to the last drop

503
00:26:52,050 --> 00:26:53,910
of his blood, a Bundist.

504
00:26:53,910 --> 00:26:58,950
He believed in a better
world and socialism,

505
00:26:58,950 --> 00:26:59,855
that it will come.

506
00:26:59,855 --> 00:27:02,760

507
00:27:02,760 --> 00:27:03,960
This is what he was.

508
00:27:03,960 --> 00:27:05,205
And he took me by that.

509
00:27:05,205 --> 00:27:07,765

510
00:27:07,765 --> 00:27:10,890
And did you believe it too?

511
00:27:10,890 --> 00:27:12,290
He made me believe it.

512
00:27:12,290 --> 00:27:15,090

513
00:27:15,090 --> 00:27:18,420
I was always more
realistic than he was.

514

00:27:18,420 --> 00:27:21,870

And we had two things.

515

00:27:21,870 --> 00:27:26,700

He was a scientist.

516

00:27:26,700 --> 00:27:28,410

I was literature.

517

00:27:28,410 --> 00:27:30,670

He wanted to know
about the book.

518

00:27:30,670 --> 00:27:34,010

He used to call me
Mala, meaning petite.

519

00:27:34,010 --> 00:27:35,820

He never called me by my name.

520

00:27:35,820 --> 00:27:38,760

He picked up his arm, and I
put the book under his arm.

521

00:27:38,760 --> 00:27:42,030

He was tall, handsome--

522

00:27:42,030 --> 00:27:47,100

and he used to say,
who published this?

523

00:27:47,100 --> 00:27:48,600

What was the name of it.

524

00:27:48,600 --> 00:27:50,670

Open your drawer and
take out the card.

525

00:27:50,670 --> 00:27:51,570

Take a look.

526

00:27:51,570 --> 00:27:53,700
So I told him.

527
00:27:53,700 --> 00:27:56,700
I remembered.

528
00:27:56,700 --> 00:28:04,220
He really was-- he was
very unusual, really.

529
00:28:04,220 --> 00:28:05,590
Were you about the same age?

530
00:28:05,590 --> 00:28:06,970
Or was he a bit older?

531
00:28:06,970 --> 00:28:08,370
He was a year older.

532
00:28:08,370 --> 00:28:10,150
It was 1913.

533
00:28:10,150 --> 00:28:11,350
He was born '18.

534
00:28:11,350 --> 00:28:14,620
I was born the same
time as he was.

535
00:28:14,620 --> 00:28:16,450
April 17.

536
00:28:16,450 --> 00:28:20,770
So when you first met, you
were 17 or 18 years old?

537
00:28:20,770 --> 00:28:25,130
I met him in probably 1931.

538
00:28:25,130 --> 00:28:27,250
So how old was I?

539

00:28:27,250 --> 00:28:30,895

So I was 11 and 6--

540

00:28:30,895 --> 00:28:33,590

18 years old, probably
something like that.

541

00:28:33,590 --> 00:28:35,860

Yeah.

542

00:28:35,860 --> 00:28:38,890

So you went together
for how many years?

543

00:28:38,890 --> 00:28:41,125

Oh, we went together
for about five years.

544

00:28:41,125 --> 00:28:44,785

545

00:28:44,785 --> 00:28:46,660

Did you live together
before you got married?

546

00:28:46,660 --> 00:28:49,510

No.

547

00:28:49,510 --> 00:28:50,410

How could I?

548

00:28:50,410 --> 00:28:55,420

549

00:28:55,420 --> 00:28:59,800

Was he close with the rest of
your family, and you with his?

550

00:28:59,800 --> 00:29:04,390

When my mother heard about
that, and she saw us a few times

551

00:29:04,390 --> 00:29:05,530
from the far--

552

00:29:05,530 --> 00:29:08,230
he took me home, and
my mother was up late--

553

00:29:08,230 --> 00:29:11,230
she said, why do you have
to go with a Polish guy?

554

00:29:11,230 --> 00:29:14,200
Don't do that.

555

00:29:14,200 --> 00:29:18,556
It looked like this
is a way he could

556

00:29:18,556 --> 00:29:23,245
go through the war like that
because he looked blue eyes

557

00:29:23,245 --> 00:29:23,780
and blond.

558

00:29:23,780 --> 00:29:27,761

559

00:29:27,761 --> 00:29:32,090
But he was close, yeah,
with all my sisters.

560

00:29:32,090 --> 00:29:33,940
We used to come to each other.

561

00:29:33,940 --> 00:29:39,220
And yeah, it wasn't a
long time after all.

562

00:29:39,220 --> 00:29:40,712
But when we were
going together, he

563

00:29:40,712 --> 00:29:41,920

used to come when I was sick.

564

00:29:41,920 --> 00:29:49,570

He used to come home and visit
me, brought me flowers winter

565

00:29:49,570 --> 00:29:52,540

time when we couldn't
get anything.

566

00:29:52,540 --> 00:29:55,475

He came in with--

567

00:29:55,475 --> 00:29:57,100

So it was a very
romantic relationship?

568

00:29:57,100 --> 00:29:58,600

He was always romantic.

569

00:29:58,600 --> 00:30:00,430

This is what I'm saying.

570

00:30:00,430 --> 00:30:07,030

Even his whole death
wasn't a realistic one.

571

00:30:07,030 --> 00:30:09,112

Absolutely, I'll do it.

572

00:30:09,112 --> 00:30:11,710

What he did.

573

00:30:11,710 --> 00:30:14,320

He was always romantic.

574

00:30:14,320 --> 00:30:18,980

Idealistic-- he believed
in a better world.

575

00:30:18,980 --> 00:30:19,985

Says he can do that.

576

00:30:19,985 --> 00:30:23,100

577

00:30:23,100 --> 00:30:25,250

This is how it was.

578

00:30:25,250 --> 00:30:29,220

What was your marriage
like-- your wedding?

579

00:30:29,220 --> 00:30:31,830

Oh, we got married--

580

00:30:31,830 --> 00:30:37,300

it was my mother and
his mother and father.

581

00:30:37,300 --> 00:30:43,170

Genia, at that time, I think
she was working in the hospital.

582

00:30:43,170 --> 00:30:44,820

She couldn't go.

583

00:30:44,820 --> 00:30:49,170

The next day he had
to go to Bialystok

584

00:30:49,170 --> 00:30:53,250

because he had to oversee
something, what they're

585

00:30:53,250 --> 00:30:56,280

building for drying mushrooms.

586

00:30:56,280 --> 00:30:59,920

He was an engineer at
the time he was working.

587

00:30:59,920 --> 00:31:01,200

And he was going to school.

588

00:31:01,200 --> 00:31:03,190

And he was working.

589

00:31:03,190 --> 00:31:07,140

And so we went to the rabbi.

590

00:31:07,140 --> 00:31:10,890

And we went first to the Civil--

591

00:31:10,890 --> 00:31:13,750

we had to go-- and

then the rabbi--

592

00:31:13,750 --> 00:31:14,750

or the other way around.

593

00:31:14,750 --> 00:31:15,458

I don't remember.

594

00:31:15,458 --> 00:31:17,460

It was the same day.

595

00:31:17,460 --> 00:31:20,520

And he left the same night.

596

00:31:20,520 --> 00:31:24,555

But we later on went on

our honeymoon to Paris.

597

00:31:24,555 --> 00:31:27,750

It was the worldwide exhibit.

598

00:31:27,750 --> 00:31:28,860

The World's Fair?

599

00:31:28,860 --> 00:31:30,990

The World's Fair, yes.

600

00:31:30,990 --> 00:31:33,930

And for a honeymoon,
for a whole month--

601

00:31:33,930 --> 00:31:37,410

his aunt was working for
the Institut Pasteur.

602

00:31:37,410 --> 00:31:40,620

And we were living with
her on the same street--

603

00:31:40,620 --> 00:31:44,040

the doctor who was in Paris.

604

00:31:44,040 --> 00:31:45,790

And we went for a whole month.

605

00:31:45,790 --> 00:31:48,120

And then we went to the fair.

606

00:31:48,120 --> 00:31:50,410

And we parted under Eiffel.

607

00:31:50,410 --> 00:31:54,570

I said, I'm going to the
fashion and literature.

608

00:31:54,570 --> 00:31:57,270

And you go to the
science this way.

609

00:31:57,270 --> 00:31:58,290

And then we met again.

610

00:31:58,290 --> 00:32:01,580

611

00:32:01,580 --> 00:32:03,570

But it was beautiful.

612

00:32:03,570 --> 00:32:05,150
We took a trip on the Sekwan--

613
00:32:05,150 --> 00:32:11,540
Sekwana, on this-- with
the-- all the colors.

614
00:32:11,540 --> 00:32:13,190
And it was beautiful.

615
00:32:13,190 --> 00:32:14,400
It was really beautiful.

616
00:32:14,400 --> 00:32:18,140
We went before to
Belgium to Antwerp.

617
00:32:18,140 --> 00:32:21,830
It was a sport
Olympiad at that time.

618
00:32:21,830 --> 00:32:23,180
Before you got to Paris?

619
00:32:23,180 --> 00:32:26,780
Before we got to
Paris, yes, 1937.

620
00:32:26,780 --> 00:32:29,115
So when you first started
seeing each other,

621
00:32:29,115 --> 00:32:31,490
was he going to school at that
time to study engineering?

622
00:32:31,490 --> 00:32:33,440
Yes, he was the first year.

623
00:32:33,440 --> 00:32:36,830
And this is the picture
of him on his index book.

624

00:32:36,830 --> 00:32:39,500

625

00:32:39,500 --> 00:32:45,740

And this was saved because this
picture was here in the States

626

00:32:45,740 --> 00:32:48,166

by his aunt.

627

00:32:48,166 --> 00:32:49,700

He became a student.

628

00:32:49,700 --> 00:32:52,370

And we sent the pictures.

629

00:32:52,370 --> 00:32:55,270

These are the students.

630

00:32:55,270 --> 00:32:59,510

Now were you going to school
at this time when you met?

631

00:32:59,510 --> 00:33:00,500

No.

632

00:33:00,500 --> 00:33:03,020

I was still tutoring.

633

00:33:03,020 --> 00:33:05,410

I was having to tutor
at that time still.

634

00:33:05,410 --> 00:33:08,600

635

00:33:08,600 --> 00:33:15,590

He helped me a little bit with
the algebra and that sometimes.

636

00:33:15,590 --> 00:33:19,100

When did you start working
in the Bundist library?

637
00:33:19,100 --> 00:33:20,215
Oh, I was still--

638
00:33:20,215 --> 00:33:25,370

639
00:33:25,370 --> 00:33:28,220
I was maybe-- I don't know.

640
00:33:28,220 --> 00:33:31,190
Let's see what year could it be?

641
00:33:31,190 --> 00:33:35,780
It was 18, something like that.

642
00:33:35,780 --> 00:33:37,880
And you worked there
for a number of years?

643
00:33:37,880 --> 00:33:40,160
Yes, a few years, I
was working there.

644
00:33:40,160 --> 00:33:42,200
Now after you got
married, and after--

645
00:33:42,200 --> 00:33:43,970
Also working still
in the library.

646
00:33:43,970 --> 00:33:44,570
You were?

647
00:33:44,570 --> 00:33:45,320
Oh, yes.

648
00:33:45,320 --> 00:33:46,470
I was going to the library.

649

00:33:46,470 --> 00:33:49,640

And where'd the two of you
live once you got married?

650

00:33:49,640 --> 00:33:50,810

Oh, with his parents.

651

00:33:50,810 --> 00:33:53,600

They had a six-room apartment.

652

00:33:53,600 --> 00:33:56,180

They were teachers.

653

00:33:56,180 --> 00:34:04,510

And I was always here or
there, working as a nurse.

654

00:34:04,510 --> 00:34:08,949

And they had six rooms.

655

00:34:08,949 --> 00:34:11,260

And they gave us the best room.

656

00:34:11,260 --> 00:34:12,100

And I was working.

657

00:34:12,100 --> 00:34:13,050

There was a maid.

658

00:34:13,050 --> 00:34:15,489

I didn't have any
obligations to do--

659

00:34:15,489 --> 00:34:18,067

not many.

660

00:34:18,067 --> 00:34:19,650

So they were fairly
well off, I guess?

661

00:34:19,650 --> 00:34:22,540

662

00:34:22,540 --> 00:34:24,050

They weren't rich.

663

00:34:24,050 --> 00:34:26,199

But they were teachers.

664

00:34:26,199 --> 00:34:29,320

She was once-- not
once, but she was up

665

00:34:29,320 --> 00:34:33,070

to the end, the president
of the teachers union.

666

00:34:33,070 --> 00:34:34,239

She was very active--

667

00:34:34,239 --> 00:34:35,010

also Bundist.

668

00:34:35,010 --> 00:34:38,199

669

00:34:38,199 --> 00:34:40,389

They didn't speak
Yiddish at all.

670

00:34:40,389 --> 00:34:43,250

Michal didn't know
Yiddish until he was 21.

671

00:34:43,250 --> 00:34:47,650

She started to learn
by himself to read.

672

00:34:47,650 --> 00:34:50,946

They spoke Polish all the time.

673

00:34:50,946 --> 00:34:54,420

So was Genia.

674
00:34:54,420 --> 00:34:56,650
But he learned by himself.

675
00:34:56,650 --> 00:34:59,370
When he was 21, he
said, that's enough.

676
00:34:59,370 --> 00:35:01,110
It's interesting
that the leaders--

677
00:35:01,110 --> 00:35:05,910
that Bundist leaders, the
children never spoke Yiddish.

678
00:35:05,910 --> 00:35:08,190
Even the Ehrlich and Alter--

679
00:35:08,190 --> 00:35:09,840
you know who they are.

680
00:35:09,840 --> 00:35:13,110
They were the great leaders
of the Bund, both of them

681
00:35:13,110 --> 00:35:17,695
were killed by the Russians
during the war in 1941.

682
00:35:17,695 --> 00:35:20,640
Alter was an engineer.

683
00:35:20,640 --> 00:35:24,000
And Ehrlich, his
two sons were here.

684
00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:25,320
One son is still alive.

685
00:35:25,320 --> 00:35:32,190

Victor, he's a
professor at Yale.

686
00:35:32,190 --> 00:35:34,680
And the children
never spoke Yiddish.

687
00:35:34,680 --> 00:35:36,870
This was very interesting.

688
00:35:36,870 --> 00:35:40,360
Of course, they were sent to
the best schools and gymnasiums,

689
00:35:40,360 --> 00:35:41,880
this and that.

690
00:35:41,880 --> 00:35:46,890
So Michal didn't
speak Yiddish at all.

691
00:35:46,890 --> 00:35:49,950
And he never really spoke
Yiddish because she was afraid

692
00:35:49,950 --> 00:35:53,850
that he-- my eyes are tearing--

693
00:35:53,850 --> 00:35:58,230
that he will make mistakes.

694
00:35:58,230 --> 00:36:01,110
And he didn't want
to make any mistakes.

695
00:36:01,110 --> 00:36:02,190
But he could read.

696
00:36:02,190 --> 00:36:04,590
In the end, he could read.

697
00:36:04,590 --> 00:36:07,130

Did you sometimes speak
Yiddish between each other?

698
00:36:07,130 --> 00:36:08,070
Michal, and I?

699
00:36:08,070 --> 00:36:09,047
No.

700
00:36:09,047 --> 00:36:11,382
No.

701
00:36:11,382 --> 00:36:13,250
Never.

702
00:36:13,250 --> 00:36:15,130
Never.

703
00:36:15,130 --> 00:36:17,290
And luckily, we both
started to speak

704
00:36:17,290 --> 00:36:21,070
to Irena Polish, not Yiddish.

705
00:36:21,070 --> 00:36:22,795
She didn't know a
word of Yiddish.

706
00:36:22,795 --> 00:36:26,200

707
00:36:26,200 --> 00:36:30,640
She started to learn
Yiddish here in the States,

708
00:36:30,640 --> 00:36:34,690
not before, because
in Sweden also--

709
00:36:34,690 --> 00:36:39,760
Swedish and Polish-- this

is how he spoke to her.

710
00:36:39,760 --> 00:36:45,850
So what is happening in your
life between 1937 and '39?

711
00:36:45,850 --> 00:36:49,720
Are the two of you thinking
about the war possibly

712
00:36:49,720 --> 00:36:50,470
coming there?

713
00:36:50,470 --> 00:36:51,178
Or did you both--

714
00:36:51,178 --> 00:36:52,600
We wanted to come--

715
00:36:52,600 --> 00:36:58,900
1939 was the World
Fair in the States.

716
00:36:58,900 --> 00:37:02,170
And we intended to
come at that time.

717
00:37:02,170 --> 00:37:06,530
But we were a little late
because he had an aunt

718
00:37:06,530 --> 00:37:10,490
here too, his mother's sister.

719
00:37:10,490 --> 00:37:12,850
One was in Paris.

720
00:37:12,850 --> 00:37:15,580
And the other one was here.

721
00:37:15,580 --> 00:37:18,445
And we intended to

come the World Fair.

722

00:37:18,445 --> 00:37:20,350

It started in September.

723

00:37:20,350 --> 00:37:23,530

And he for some reason
couldn't make it.

724

00:37:23,530 --> 00:37:25,420

I don't know exams,
or registration,

725

00:37:25,420 --> 00:37:27,940

or whatever it was--

726

00:37:27,940 --> 00:37:33,190

because he finished
Polytechnic almost 1979

727

00:37:33,190 --> 00:37:35,440

because he was also working.

728

00:37:35,440 --> 00:37:39,890

Being married he has to work,
has to support the wife.

729

00:37:39,890 --> 00:37:41,990

So we intended to come.

730

00:37:41,990 --> 00:37:44,260

But for some reason
we were late.

731

00:37:44,260 --> 00:37:48,670

If we would come at that
time, we wouldn't be there.

732

00:37:48,670 --> 00:37:51,220

We would stay here.

733

00:37:51,220 --> 00:37:53,290

But we were late.

734

00:37:53,290 --> 00:37:55,960

Were you intending to
come to the United States

735

00:37:55,960 --> 00:37:57,090

just for the World's Fair?

736

00:37:57,090 --> 00:37:57,590

Just for--

737

00:37:57,590 --> 00:37:58,340

Just for vacation?

738

00:37:58,340 --> 00:37:59,530

He would never leave.

739

00:37:59,530 --> 00:38:03,010

He has to fight for
a better Poland,

740

00:38:03,010 --> 00:38:05,680

for a righteous-- you know,
those kinds of things.

741

00:38:05,680 --> 00:38:09,820

He would never leave
Poland at that time.

742

00:38:09,820 --> 00:38:12,925

Thinking what
happened at that time,

743

00:38:12,925 --> 00:38:14,275

he would never leave Poland.

744

00:38:14,275 --> 00:38:17,590

745

00:38:17,590 --> 00:38:21,160

So then the war starts?

746
00:38:21,160 --> 00:38:23,000
Then the war starts, yeah.

747
00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:24,250
And what is that like?

748
00:38:24,250 --> 00:38:27,380
What's the beginning like
for you and your family?

749
00:38:27,380 --> 00:38:28,690
It was tragic.

750
00:38:28,690 --> 00:38:33,720
Meanwhile, my sisters got
married, got out of the house.

751
00:38:33,720 --> 00:38:36,130
Genia had the marvelous
husband, Dubnikow.

752
00:38:36,130 --> 00:38:39,940
And they had a son,
Majus, because he

753
00:38:39,940 --> 00:38:43,030
was born in the month of May.

754
00:38:43,030 --> 00:38:44,230
So they called him Majus.

755
00:38:44,230 --> 00:38:47,260
You see, it wasn't for
religious or business.

756
00:38:47,260 --> 00:38:52,780
Then Anka was married also
to Bachrach, a marvelous man.

757
00:38:52,780 --> 00:38:56,600
He just died being 90 years old.

758
00:38:56,600 --> 00:38:59,110
He was writing to
the end of his day.

759
00:38:59,110 --> 00:39:02,950

760
00:39:02,950 --> 00:39:03,880
This was Bachrach.

761
00:39:03,880 --> 00:39:06,730
And they had a daughter, Genia.

762
00:39:06,730 --> 00:39:11,410
They went through Shanghai,
came to the States.

763
00:39:11,410 --> 00:39:17,620
Guta was married to
Bernard Rosenfeld.

764
00:39:17,620 --> 00:39:23,770
He was a lawyer, a communist,
and also a marvelous man,

765
00:39:23,770 --> 00:39:27,340
so well-educated.

766
00:39:27,340 --> 00:39:30,070
As much as I loved
literature, we always

767
00:39:30,070 --> 00:39:32,610
had some kinds of games.

768
00:39:32,610 --> 00:39:36,220

769
00:39:36,220 --> 00:39:37,660
I always lost.

770

00:39:37,660 --> 00:39:40,180

He was always on
top of everything,

771

00:39:40,180 --> 00:39:45,100

all kinds of literature,
and a marvelous man.

772

00:39:45,100 --> 00:39:53,950

And my brother was also married
and had a son before the war.

773

00:39:53,950 --> 00:39:57,580

So everybody was really out.

774

00:39:57,580 --> 00:39:59,980

And I was married.

775

00:39:59,980 --> 00:40:01,860

So this is when
the war broke out.

776

00:40:01,860 --> 00:40:07,530

It was only my youngest
sister with my mother.

777

00:40:07,530 --> 00:40:08,320

Sala?

778

00:40:08,320 --> 00:40:09,140

Sala.

779

00:40:09,140 --> 00:40:12,140

Krysia, she called
herself Krysia, yes.

780

00:40:12,140 --> 00:40:13,880

Only my mother was with her.

781

00:40:13,880 --> 00:40:19,610

But everybody took
care of the household.

782
00:40:19,610 --> 00:40:28,520
And it so happens that on
the 7th or 8th of September,

783
00:40:28,520 --> 00:40:30,995
it was an order by the mayor.

784
00:40:30,995 --> 00:40:36,560
It was a mayor, that all
the men who were still

785
00:40:36,560 --> 00:40:41,960
at the age of military
should get out of the city

786
00:40:41,960 --> 00:40:45,650
because the Germans
were coming very close.

787
00:40:45,650 --> 00:40:48,090
And they'll take all the men.

788
00:40:48,090 --> 00:40:55,940
So better you get out to
the the east side of Poland

789
00:40:55,940 --> 00:41:00,830
because maybe still Poland will
win the war with the Germans.

790
00:41:00,830 --> 00:41:06,180
And so Michal and
all the husbands--

791
00:41:06,180 --> 00:41:12,440
only the oldest one, Genia, and
Dubnikow, they went together.

792
00:41:12,440 --> 00:41:13,300
They didn't leave.

793

00:41:13,300 --> 00:41:15,830
Anka stayed.

794
00:41:15,830 --> 00:41:18,830
And Guta stayed.

795
00:41:18,830 --> 00:41:19,580
And I stayed.

796
00:41:19,580 --> 00:41:22,340

797
00:41:22,340 --> 00:41:25,670
And all of them left.

798
00:41:25,670 --> 00:41:27,020
They went for--

799
00:41:27,020 --> 00:41:29,715
Michal left with
his two friends,

800
00:41:29,715 --> 00:41:32,630
with Jerzy Lipszyc, with
whom he was studying.

801
00:41:32,630 --> 00:41:37,460
They were students and studying
together in the university.

802
00:41:37,460 --> 00:41:44,185
And Mietek Katowicz,
two marvelous guys--

803
00:41:44,185 --> 00:41:46,460
the ones I met were nice.

804
00:41:46,460 --> 00:41:48,200
Mietek died.

805
00:41:48,200 --> 00:41:50,850
But I met Jerzy.

806
00:41:50,850 --> 00:41:52,730
When I went with
Irena to Poland.

807
00:41:52,730 --> 00:41:53,390
He came up.

808
00:41:53,390 --> 00:41:56,950

809
00:41:56,950 --> 00:41:57,880
They all left.

810
00:41:57,880 --> 00:42:00,130
They were all married.

811
00:42:00,130 --> 00:42:02,800
But they all left the wives.

812
00:42:02,800 --> 00:42:05,410
They went to the east side.

813
00:42:05,410 --> 00:42:09,055
And after a few weeks--

814
00:42:09,055 --> 00:42:12,680
maybe a month, six
weeks, I don't know--

815
00:42:12,680 --> 00:42:13,810
they all came back.

816
00:42:13,810 --> 00:42:18,330

817
00:42:18,330 --> 00:42:20,250
Mietek Katowicz's
wife was pregnant.

818
00:42:20,250 --> 00:42:23,070

819
00:42:23,070 --> 00:42:24,030
Michal came back.

820
00:42:24,030 --> 00:42:26,400
I think that Jerzy
stayed a while.

821
00:42:26,400 --> 00:42:29,520
He was still in London.

822
00:42:29,520 --> 00:42:30,930
His father was a doctor.

823
00:42:30,930 --> 00:42:37,050
And he was a very well off with
some kind of compact he had.

824
00:42:37,050 --> 00:42:40,290
But then he came back.

825
00:42:40,290 --> 00:42:47,850
So one day after a few weeks,
they came back beside Genia

826
00:42:47,850 --> 00:42:49,800
did not come back.

827
00:42:49,800 --> 00:42:51,300
And Bachrach didn't come back.

828
00:42:51,300 --> 00:42:55,140
But he sent for my sister
and the baby somehow.

829
00:42:55,140 --> 00:42:58,000
People were traveling
back and forth

830
00:42:58,000 --> 00:43:02,160
through the borders between

Russia and Germany--

831
00:43:02,160 --> 00:43:04,150
back and forth.

832
00:43:04,150 --> 00:43:07,050
So Anka left to Vilna.

833
00:43:07,050 --> 00:43:09,360
They were in Vilna.

834
00:43:09,360 --> 00:43:10,570
Genia was in Dubno.

835
00:43:10,570 --> 00:43:13,050
This was Ukraine.

836
00:43:13,050 --> 00:43:20,580
And then Guta left with
Buziek also, with her husband,

837
00:43:20,580 --> 00:43:25,140
also to Ukraine,
the fourth member.

838
00:43:25,140 --> 00:43:28,320

839
00:43:28,320 --> 00:43:30,120
And I stayed.

840
00:43:30,120 --> 00:43:32,940
I was there.

841
00:43:32,940 --> 00:43:35,670
And in the end Krysia
had the boyfriend.

842
00:43:35,670 --> 00:43:38,940
And she also left.

843

00:43:38,940 --> 00:43:46,806
So when Michal came back, I
took my mother to our household.

844
00:43:46,806 --> 00:43:47,870
And we stayed together.

845
00:43:47,870 --> 00:43:52,480

846
00:43:52,480 --> 00:43:55,680
So it was a very tragic
situation at that time,

847
00:43:55,680 --> 00:43:57,070
I would say.

848
00:43:57,070 --> 00:44:00,220
First of all, they
bombarded Warsaw.

849
00:44:00,220 --> 00:44:01,330
I was so scared.

850
00:44:01,330 --> 00:44:03,010
Michal wasn't there.

851
00:44:03,010 --> 00:44:06,070
We were in the cellars.

852
00:44:06,070 --> 00:44:09,610
And I was so scared to death.

853
00:44:09,610 --> 00:44:11,590
I got a fever.

854
00:44:11,590 --> 00:44:13,750
I didn't know what's happening.

855
00:44:13,750 --> 00:44:16,960
And Michal wasn't there.

856

00:44:16,960 --> 00:44:19,750

It was scary.

857

00:44:19,750 --> 00:44:22,150

Then suddenly he came back.

858

00:44:22,150 --> 00:44:24,250

They decided they
cannot leave the wives.

859

00:44:24,250 --> 00:44:27,280

And they came back.

860

00:44:27,280 --> 00:44:29,080

And since then it start.

861

00:44:29,080 --> 00:44:33,520

And that was-- then after
a while I got pregnant.

862

00:44:33,520 --> 00:44:38,740

863

00:44:38,740 --> 00:44:40,930

What happens--

864

00:44:40,930 --> 00:44:45,460

And then also we had to
move from our apartment

865

00:44:45,460 --> 00:44:48,200

to the ghetto.

866

00:44:48,200 --> 00:44:55,160

So at that time, I
was already very sick.

867

00:44:55,160 --> 00:44:58,920

And I was out of action.

868

00:44:58,920 --> 00:44:59,420

I was--

869

00:44:59,420 --> 00:45:00,590

What were you sick from?

870

00:45:00,590 --> 00:45:01,595

Thyroid.

871

00:45:01,595 --> 00:45:06,200

So my eyes at that
time became permanent.

872

00:45:06,200 --> 00:45:09,800

I never had this kind of--
this is with the sickness.

873

00:45:09,800 --> 00:45:14,880

My heart-- I was sick.

874

00:45:14,880 --> 00:45:17,690

I was very sick.

875

00:45:17,690 --> 00:45:21,350

But this is already
after Irena was born.

876

00:45:21,350 --> 00:45:26,300

But you moved to
the ghetto in 1940?

877

00:45:26,300 --> 00:45:30,110

No, this was already
later, a little bit--

878

00:45:30,110 --> 00:45:35,390

end of '40, '41, something--
because they did it in parts.

879

00:45:35,390 --> 00:45:41,450

There was a small ghetto, a big
ghetto, and so on, at the time.

880

00:45:41,450 --> 00:45:46,430
We got a tremendous
room from somebody.

881
00:45:46,430 --> 00:45:52,160
They knew my mother-in-law
and my father-in-law--

882
00:45:52,160 --> 00:45:55,370
from people who a tremendous
apartment, six rooms

883
00:45:55,370 --> 00:45:57,470
or something like that.

884
00:45:57,470 --> 00:46:01,950
And we got about two rooms.

885
00:46:01,950 --> 00:46:05,150
It was one-room
later, but divided

886
00:46:05,150 --> 00:46:09,350
the two rooms over there,
when she went to Jerska.

887
00:46:09,350 --> 00:46:13,830
This is where we
all lived together.

888
00:46:13,830 --> 00:46:16,400
So now who was together?

889
00:46:16,400 --> 00:46:21,270
My mother-in-law, my
father-in-law, my mother,

890
00:46:21,270 --> 00:46:25,040
Michal, I, the baby, and Genia.

891
00:46:25,040 --> 00:46:29,810

892

00:46:29,810 --> 00:46:34,220

For a while also
came another sister,

893

00:46:34,220 --> 00:46:37,760

my mother-in-law's,
Guta Schulman.

894

00:46:37,760 --> 00:46:39,590

Her husband was also--

895

00:46:39,590 --> 00:46:42,710

he was an editor in
the Volkszeitung.

896

00:46:42,710 --> 00:46:45,470

897

00:46:45,470 --> 00:46:49,865

Very nice man, but
he died before that.

898

00:46:49,865 --> 00:46:54,800

But she was for a
while in our apartment.

899

00:46:54,800 --> 00:46:59,510

And she was together with my
mother-in-law and my mother

900

00:46:59,510 --> 00:47:02,630

when the raid came, and
they were taken away.

901

00:47:02,630 --> 00:47:05,840

But this was later already.

902

00:47:05,840 --> 00:47:09,770

Rose, when the war
starts, and then they

903

00:47:09,770 --> 00:47:12,800

start having decree's
about the Jews, yes,

904
00:47:12,800 --> 00:47:15,830
and then finally, you have
to go to the ghetto, what

905
00:47:15,830 --> 00:47:17,750
are people talking about?

906
00:47:17,750 --> 00:47:19,340
What kind of--

907
00:47:19,340 --> 00:47:25,680
It was a tremendous
shock to everybody

908
00:47:25,680 --> 00:47:28,840
because the Germans
came into the streets.

909
00:47:28,840 --> 00:47:31,830
They were killing
just like that.

910
00:47:31,830 --> 00:47:36,570
They were tearing
beards from the Jews.

911
00:47:36,570 --> 00:47:39,240
They were coming at
night and taking out

912
00:47:39,240 --> 00:47:42,480
people from the houses.

913
00:47:42,480 --> 00:47:45,180
There were raids
around a few blocks

914
00:47:45,180 --> 00:47:51,240
and taking people for work
to do this, to do that,

915
00:47:51,240 --> 00:47:54,600
before they started to take
them to concentration camps--

916
00:47:54,600 --> 00:47:56,010
for all kinds of work.

917
00:47:56,010 --> 00:47:59,140

918
00:47:59,140 --> 00:48:04,780
It was unbelievable what
was going on in the streets.

919
00:48:04,780 --> 00:48:12,010
The fear-- people
didn't have what to eat.

920
00:48:12,010 --> 00:48:14,680
Immediately stores were closed.

921
00:48:14,680 --> 00:48:18,250
The Germans took away
everything they could.

922
00:48:18,250 --> 00:48:25,420
They came into the stores, into
the homes, and just like that,

923
00:48:25,420 --> 00:48:26,780
didn't do anything.

924
00:48:26,780 --> 00:48:30,310
And it was terrible.

925
00:48:30,310 --> 00:48:35,910
There were keys to stand
in line to get something.

926
00:48:35,910 --> 00:48:41,920
The Jewish-- the Judenrat--

927
00:48:41,920 --> 00:48:45,385
it wasn't the Judenrat yet, but
the people who worked before

928
00:48:45,385 --> 00:48:47,680
in the Judentrat--

929
00:48:47,680 --> 00:48:50,560
tried to keep
everything together.

930
00:48:50,560 --> 00:48:52,660
But you know about the
story of Czerniaków,

931
00:48:52,660 --> 00:48:55,940
who committed suicide because
they said you have to deliver

932
00:48:55,940 --> 00:48:59,770
so-and-so many people
for this, this, and that.

933
00:48:59,770 --> 00:49:01,660
He couldn't do it
because he knew

934
00:49:01,660 --> 00:49:03,700
it's for either camp or death.

935
00:49:03,700 --> 00:49:05,800
And he committed suicide.

936
00:49:05,800 --> 00:49:07,300
Others stayed.

937
00:49:07,300 --> 00:49:09,280
Then the Jewish police came.

938
00:49:09,280 --> 00:49:14,900

939
00:49:14,900 --> 00:49:16,220
It was a terrible thing.

940
00:49:16,220 --> 00:49:20,600
You can't even imagine
what was going on.

941
00:49:20,600 --> 00:49:23,201
And we didn't have--

942
00:49:23,201 --> 00:49:27,050
I know that my mother-in-law was
selling and selling and selling

943
00:49:27,050 --> 00:49:27,830
what we had.

944
00:49:27,830 --> 00:49:29,720
Anything goes.

945
00:49:29,720 --> 00:49:32,010
And people came
from the Aryan side.

946
00:49:32,010 --> 00:49:35,570
They let them in, that
they paid to the--

947
00:49:35,570 --> 00:49:41,750
even Germans were standing then
with the guards, and watching.

948
00:49:41,750 --> 00:49:42,380
They came in.

949
00:49:42,380 --> 00:49:44,300
They were buying up things.

950
00:49:44,300 --> 00:49:46,090
It was a tremendous--

951

00:49:46,090 --> 00:49:48,764

952

00:49:48,764 --> 00:49:52,640

it was tragedy,
completely tragic.

953

00:49:52,640 --> 00:49:57,110

And then they started
to see that people

954

00:49:57,110 --> 00:50:04,070

in the streets, the children
begging running around--

955

00:50:04,070 --> 00:50:08,270

some didn't have already
any strength to run around.

956

00:50:08,270 --> 00:50:12,410

957

00:50:12,410 --> 00:50:16,170

I was a lot sick at that time.

958

00:50:16,170 --> 00:50:17,375

First of all, I gave birth.

959

00:50:17,375 --> 00:50:21,920

960

00:50:21,920 --> 00:50:27,410

And then I started
with my thyroid.

961

00:50:27,410 --> 00:50:29,145

I was taken to the hospital.

962

00:50:29,145 --> 00:50:29,645

Hospital--

963

00:50:29,645 --> 00:50:30,830
When did you give birth?

964
00:50:30,830 --> 00:50:33,560
It was April 17th, 1941?

965
00:50:33,560 --> 00:50:34,880
Yes.

966
00:50:34,880 --> 00:50:37,220
So it's a few months after
the ghetto was sealed,

967
00:50:37,220 --> 00:50:38,390
that you're in the ghetto.

968
00:50:38,390 --> 00:50:40,980
And then you get sick?

969
00:50:40,980 --> 00:50:41,800
I got sick.

970
00:50:41,800 --> 00:50:44,210
Yeah.

971
00:50:44,210 --> 00:50:44,990
And what happened?

972
00:50:44,990 --> 00:50:47,480
I got sick after that.

973
00:50:47,480 --> 00:50:49,600
After I gave birth, I got sick.

974
00:50:49,600 --> 00:50:51,710
I was afraid what's
going to happen.

975
00:50:51,710 --> 00:50:56,420
Stress, thyroid,
stress-- what's happened

976

00:50:56,420 --> 00:50:58,720
to Irena or this and that.

977

00:50:58,720 --> 00:51:01,160
Michal will be taken away--

978

00:51:01,160 --> 00:51:03,740
you just live without--

979

00:51:03,740 --> 00:51:06,650
not tomorrow or so
the next hour we live.

980

00:51:06,650 --> 00:51:12,350

981

00:51:12,350 --> 00:51:15,920
And this was a terrible--

982

00:51:15,920 --> 00:51:20,240
and the hospital, I was--

983

00:51:20,240 --> 00:51:28,700
when I was operated on, there
was not any antibiotics at all.

984

00:51:28,700 --> 00:51:35,830
They cut me all over because
I was full of infection here.

985

00:51:35,830 --> 00:51:41,390
And it was 1 millimeter
from my main vein.

986

00:51:41,390 --> 00:51:43,700
And the doctor Arik
Heller, as I spoke,

987

00:51:43,700 --> 00:51:46,490
he's in Sweden now he
was at the operation.

988

00:51:46,490 --> 00:51:50,510

He was altogether so that
I'm a miracle that I'm alive.

989

00:51:50,510 --> 00:51:51,694

It was all that.

990

00:51:51,694 --> 00:51:54,420

991

00:51:54,420 --> 00:51:59,270

But this was-- Irena was about,
at the time, a few months old.

992

00:51:59,270 --> 00:52:03,240

993

00:52:03,240 --> 00:52:05,280

It was a terrible--

994

00:52:05,280 --> 00:52:07,410

you didn't know what
tomorrow will bring.

995

00:52:07,410 --> 00:52:11,790

The raids were tremendous.

996

00:52:11,790 --> 00:52:18,300

They surrounded
blocks and blocks.

997

00:52:18,300 --> 00:52:19,800

And you couldn't get out.

998

00:52:19,800 --> 00:52:25,530

And the old people went
one side to the camps.

999

00:52:25,530 --> 00:52:27,230

The young ones went here.

1000

00:52:27,230 --> 00:52:31,110

1001

00:52:31,110 --> 00:52:38,490

You couldn't even figure
out what's going to happen.

1002

00:52:38,490 --> 00:52:40,020

What should they do?

1003

00:52:40,020 --> 00:52:43,280

Nobody knew.

1004

00:52:43,280 --> 00:52:48,020

We knew one thing, we're
all going to perish.

1005

00:52:48,020 --> 00:52:49,880

You knew that?

1006

00:52:49,880 --> 00:52:53,180

It was going on
like that every day.

1007

00:52:53,180 --> 00:52:54,490

They come up--

1008

00:52:54,490 --> 00:52:59,990

Michal was constantly running
to the underground every day

1009

00:52:59,990 --> 00:53:03,470

and keeping with them
what's going on and so on.

1010

00:53:03,470 --> 00:53:06,150

1011

00:53:06,150 --> 00:53:10,130

And the first thing he came back
and said, what about England?

1012

00:53:10,130 --> 00:53:11,800
What about America?

1013
00:53:11,800 --> 00:53:13,160
Didn't you hear anything?

1014
00:53:13,160 --> 00:53:15,810
You're not going to help?

1015
00:53:15,810 --> 00:53:17,180
We were all surprised.

1016
00:53:17,180 --> 00:53:21,430

1017
00:53:21,430 --> 00:53:28,360
So it was a very tragic time.

1018
00:53:28,360 --> 00:53:32,860
They were killing and
killing and killing and more

1019
00:53:32,860 --> 00:53:40,690
and more deaths on the streets
constantly, And more raids,

1020
00:53:40,690 --> 00:53:47,140
and then the Judenrat started to
try to get a little organized.

1021
00:53:47,140 --> 00:53:50,545
And the Jewish militia came.

1022
00:53:50,545 --> 00:53:54,660
And they were so
caught up with it

1023
00:53:54,660 --> 00:53:58,410
because they said if you bring
a certain amount of Jews,

1024
00:53:58,410 --> 00:54:02,400

your family will stay alive,
you know the oldest tricks.

1025
00:54:02,400 --> 00:54:04,430
They believed in it.

1026
00:54:04,430 --> 00:54:10,110
And they brought nothing help.

1027
00:54:10,110 --> 00:54:10,920
There were a few--

1028
00:54:10,920 --> 00:54:16,640

1029
00:54:16,640 --> 00:54:20,680
they bombed the underground
and killed a few policemen.

1030
00:54:20,680 --> 00:54:24,320
But that didn't help.

1031
00:54:24,320 --> 00:54:26,900
One policeman help us.

1032
00:54:26,900 --> 00:54:31,550
But he was once a Bundist
then became a policeman.

1033
00:54:31,550 --> 00:54:33,390
We were also going--

1034
00:54:33,390 --> 00:54:37,010
but this was later
already, towards the end,

1035
00:54:37,010 --> 00:54:41,360
the Umschlagplatz,
Michal holding Irena

1036
00:54:41,360 --> 00:54:47,180
and I. If you want to hear

it now, I'll tell you,

1037
00:54:47,180 --> 00:54:48,570
how they raided.

1038
00:54:48,570 --> 00:54:51,050
But this was the period of--

1039
00:54:51,050 --> 00:55:04,290

1040
00:55:04,290 --> 00:55:09,030
and then when I was in
the hospital at the time--

1041
00:55:09,030 --> 00:55:10,560
it wasn't the hospital.

1042
00:55:10,560 --> 00:55:19,340
It was the pen club,
the tremendous apartment

1043
00:55:19,340 --> 00:55:22,020
they made into the
hospital in the ghetto.

1044
00:55:22,020 --> 00:55:26,070
As I told you, they didn't
have any medications.

1045
00:55:26,070 --> 00:55:28,470
But they had to operate on me.

1046
00:55:28,470 --> 00:55:35,400
And I was lying in a room
for the nurses, which

1047
00:55:35,400 --> 00:55:38,886
is as narrow as this is.

1048
00:55:38,886 --> 00:55:41,550
But they put a cot there

for me, so I wouldn't

1049
00:55:41,550 --> 00:55:43,140
be with all the people.

1050
00:55:43,140 --> 00:55:44,910
And the doctors
came to me there.

1051
00:55:44,910 --> 00:55:50,370

1052
00:55:50,370 --> 00:55:53,040
There came a day when they
said that they're going

1053
00:55:53,040 --> 00:55:55,470
to take away the hospitals.

1054
00:55:55,470 --> 00:55:57,720
And my doctors were
the best surgeons

1055
00:55:57,720 --> 00:55:59,640
in Warsaw because of the nurses.

1056
00:55:59,640 --> 00:56:01,920
And Genia knew them.

1057
00:56:01,920 --> 00:56:04,620
She wanted them
to operate on me.

1058
00:56:04,620 --> 00:56:09,360
They were taken the night
before from their houses away.

1059
00:56:09,360 --> 00:56:12,600
I never heard of them later on.

1060
00:56:12,600 --> 00:56:14,670
And then the next day,

the whole hospital

1061

00:56:14,670 --> 00:56:19,750
would be evacuated with all
the sick to get away with them.

1062

00:56:19,750 --> 00:56:23,910
So Genia and Michal
came the day before.

1063

00:56:23,910 --> 00:56:26,970
And we were on the third floor.

1064

00:56:26,970 --> 00:56:29,130
They put their hands like that.

1065

00:56:29,130 --> 00:56:31,230
They put me on their
hands and brought me up

1066

00:56:31,230 --> 00:56:34,410
to the house at that time.

1067

00:56:34,410 --> 00:56:35,412
What month is that?

1068

00:56:35,412 --> 00:56:36,120
Do you have any--

1069

00:56:36,120 --> 00:56:39,180
22nd of July.

1070

00:56:39,180 --> 00:56:40,470
Oh my.

1071

00:56:40,470 --> 00:56:41,175
My birthday.

1072

00:56:41,175 --> 00:56:42,550
The beginning of
the deportation,

1073

00:56:42,550 --> 00:56:45,450
that's your birthday?

1074

00:56:45,450 --> 00:56:47,160
22nd of July.

1075

00:56:47,160 --> 00:56:51,810
This is the biggest
evacuation for Treblinka.

1076

00:56:51,810 --> 00:56:56,550
This is started, 22nd of July.

1077

00:56:56,550 --> 00:57:00,090
So are you in the
hospital May and June

1078

00:57:00,090 --> 00:57:04,552
after the birth of Irena
for a couple of months--

1079

00:57:04,552 --> 00:57:05,400
Later.

1080

00:57:05,400 --> 00:57:06,790
--or later?

1081

00:57:06,790 --> 00:57:08,580
Irena was born in April.

1082

00:57:08,580 --> 00:57:12,360
Yes, this is when it was.

1083

00:57:12,360 --> 00:57:13,395
This is when it was.

1084

00:57:13,395 --> 00:57:15,900

1085

00:57:15,900 --> 00:57:17,335
Let's take a break now.

1086
00:57:17,335 --> 00:57:17,835
OK.

1087
00:57:17,835 --> 00:57:21,250

1088
00:57:21,250 --> 00:57:24,540
And we'll start with your--

1089
00:57:24,540 --> 00:57:34,000