1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:00,040

2 00:01:00,040 --> 00:01:03,846 So when you grew up, you experienced antisemitism

3 00:01:03,846 --> 00:01:04,560 among--

4 00:01:04,560 --> 00:01:06,450 was it mainly Polish children?

00:01:06,450 --> 00:01:10,280 Or you experienced with adults, your teachers in school?

6 00:01:10,280 --> 00:01:10,780 OK.

00:01:10,780 --> 00:01:11,995 What was it like for you?

8 00:01:11,995 --> 00:01:15,385 The antisemitism in Poland was overt and covert.

9 00:01:15,385 --> 00:01:18,340

10 00:01:18,340 --> 00:01:20,920 Poland, before it was came to be--

11 00:01:20,920 --> 00:01:23,710 it used to be under the Russians.

12 00:01:23,710 --> 00:01:26,750 And they used to have pogroms, as you know, and all this. 13 00:01:26,750 --> 00:01:31,360 So the antisemitism was instilled in the population.

14 00:01:31,360 --> 00:01:36,370 And when-- we felt it in--

15 00:01:36,370 --> 00:01:39,880 you can call it, maybe in the beginning, in a subtle way,

16 00:01:39,880 --> 00:01:44,650 like being assaulted and getting sometimes beat up--

17 00:01:44,650 --> 00:01:47,740 not me, but some of the Jews.

18 00:01:47,740 --> 00:01:49,330 They discriminated.

19 00:01:49,330 --> 00:01:54,310 They constantly used to be called [POLISH] and something

20 00:01:54,310 --> 00:01:55,450 like that.

21 00:01:55,450 --> 00:01:57,790 But they did allow--

22 00:01:57,790 --> 00:02:00,640 this time, it was under the Marshal Pilsudski,

23 00:02:00,640 --> 00:02:02,440 who was [INAUDIBLE] Poland.

24 00:02:02,440 --> 00:02:06,220 They did allow Jews to have property, you know? 25 00:02:06,220 --> 00:02:10,300 But it was a very uncomfortable feeling.

26 00:02:10,300 --> 00:02:13,640 Parents wanted their children to--

27 00:02:13,640 --> 00:02:15,080 eventually, to migrate.

28 00:02:15,080 --> 00:02:16,940 They would have liked to migrate, too,

29 00:02:16,940 --> 00:02:19,400 but they wanted their children to grow up

30 00:02:19,400 --> 00:02:22,070 in a free atmosphere.

31 00:02:22,070 --> 00:02:30,480 And until Pilsudski, the marshal, died, it was still OK.

32 00:02:30,480 --> 00:02:32,910 They loved him, the Polish people.

33 00:02:32,910 --> 00:02:35,200 And we felt more comfortable.

34 00:02:35,200 --> 00:02:39,030 And then when he died, it was tragedy to the--

35 00:02:39,030 --> 00:02:40,530 everybody cried.

36 00:02:40,530 --> 00:02:44,490 And then a new leader came in, Smigly-Rydz.

37 00:02:44,490 --> 00:02:49,050 And he was the disaster for Poland.

38 00:02:49,050 --> 00:02:51,870 First of all, they don't even know where he-- how he came

39 00:02:51,870 --> 00:02:56,880 to be in the head of Poland, but as you

40 00:02:56,880 --> 00:03:01,440 know, that Poland gave up, after eight years of resistance

41 00:03:01,440 --> 00:03:04,590 to the Nazis.

42 00:03:04,590 --> 00:03:09,750 And when he came in, it became much more difficult

43 00:03:09,750 --> 00:03:11,460 for the Jews.

44 00:03:11,460 --> 00:03:13,980 I don't remember it myself, experience,

45 00:03:13,980 --> 00:03:15,390 but I remember tell--

46 00:03:15,390 --> 00:03:18,420 reading that Jewish students-- they only

47 00:03:18,420 --> 00:03:21,870 took in so many Jewish students, the universities, 48 00:03:21,870 --> 00:03:25,230 and they would tell them to sit in a certain place.

49 00:03:25,230 --> 00:03:30,270 So it became more and more known.

50 00:03:30,270 --> 00:03:35,340 My father and my uncle and my grandfather were very assertive

51 00:03:35,340 --> 00:03:38,370 people, and didn't-- they wouldn't let anybody push them

52 00:03:38,370 --> 00:03:39,570 around.

53 00:03:39,570 --> 00:03:42,750 And they were very--

54 00:03:42,750 --> 00:03:44,610 the people know it, like if he--

55 00:03:44,610 --> 00:03:47,310 somebody would do something which is wrong,

56 00:03:47,310 --> 00:03:48,840 they would speak up.

57 00:03:48,840 --> 00:03:51,060 Like I told my family the other day,

58 00:03:51,060 --> 00:03:54,540 my father came to a post office one time to pick up something.

59 00:03:54,540 --> 00:03:57,240 And it was 10 minutes before closing time.

60 00:03:57,240 --> 00:04:01,290 And the master there says to him, well, I'm sorry.

61 00:04:01,290 --> 00:04:02,640 It's closing time.

62 00:04:02,640 --> 00:04:04,800 And my father says to him, no, it isn't.

63 00:04:04,800 --> 00:04:06,480 There's still 10 minutes to go.

64 00:04:06,480 --> 00:04:08,880 He says, no, well, I am not going to wait on you.

65 00:04:08,880 --> 00:04:13,445 My father took him to court, which is a very unusual

66 00:04:13,445 --> 00:04:14,160 [INAUDIBLE].

67 00:04:14,160 --> 00:04:18,618 And he won the case, because he had no right to refuse service.

68 00:04:18,618 --> 00:04:20,160 They wouldn't do it to Polish people,

69 00:04:20,160 --> 00:04:22,140 but they pushed the Jews around.

70 00:04:22,140 --> 00:04:23,970 I'm just giving you a little sample.

```
71
00:04:23,970 --> 00:04:27,210
But my father and,
I said my uncle,
```

72 00:04:27,210 --> 00:04:30,300 they were assertive and very proud of themselves.

73 00:04:30,300 --> 00:04:32,370 And they weren't meek, you know?

74 00:04:32,370 --> 00:04:33,360 They could stand up.

75 00:04:33,360 --> 00:04:37,050 Plus, they-- all the people there needed us, too.

76 00:04:37,050 --> 00:04:38,340 They were poor.

77 00:04:38,340 --> 00:04:41,400 And they would come to us and say,

78 00:04:41,400 --> 00:04:43,800 would you do something, for-- like,

79 00:04:43,800 --> 00:04:47,640 make flour out of the corn?

80 00:04:47,640 --> 00:04:50,430 But I don't have money to pay now.

81 00:04:50,430 --> 00:04:55,050 And my uncle's-- my father said, don't worry about it.

82 00:04:55,050 --> 00:04:55,710 Go ahead. 83 00:04:55,710 --> 00:04:57,863 So we did a lot of favors for them.

84 00:04:57,863 --> 00:05:00,030 Sometimes, they would bring a chicken to pay for it,

85 00:05:00,030 --> 00:05:04,350 but basically, they depended in some help on us too.

86 00:05:04,350 --> 00:05:07,920 When they came and stayed on our farm for a while,

87 00:05:07,920 --> 00:05:10,210 until everything was done for them.

88 00:05:10,210 --> 00:05:12,180 They slept down there, too.

89 00:05:12,180 --> 00:05:13,680 Was some quarters, I don't know.

90 00:05:13,680 --> 00:05:15,900 But we were very good to them.

91 00:05:15,900 --> 00:05:21,870 And that showed later during the Holocaust, that they--

92 00:05:21,870 --> 00:05:24,840 some of them helped us, and--

93 00:05:24,840 --> 00:05:26,820 when we were hiding in the forest.

94 00:05:26,820 --> 00:05:32,310 In fact, my father had his own rifle from-- given--

95 00:05:32,310 --> 00:05:35,640 he traded something off with another family.

96 00:05:35,640 --> 00:05:38,970 He gave something, and they give us a rifle to--

97 00:05:38,970 --> 00:05:40,570 so-- which is very unusual.

98 00:05:40,570 --> 00:05:43,920 You didn't see a Jew hiding in the forest with a rifle.

99 00:05:43,920 --> 00:05:47,880 And so it's a mutual sort of codependence,

100 00:05:47,880 --> 00:05:51,330 you can say, between the people there.

101 00:05:51,330 --> 00:05:53,340 They also-- they worked on our farm.

102 00:05:53,340 --> 00:05:55,530 They helped with the growing things

103 00:05:55,530 --> 00:05:57,750 and whatever had to be done.

104 00:05:57,750 --> 00:06:03,330 They were help, tending to the animals, or something this.

105 00:06:03,330 --> 00:06:06,080 106 00:06:06,080 --> 00:06:08,820 Did you do things with your father by yourself?

107 00:06:08,820 --> 00:06:11,810 Did you go for walks, or did he read to you?

108 00:06:11,810 --> 00:06:14,690 That was an honor, when my father would take me with him,

109 00:06:14,690 --> 00:06:17,195 because he was a very busy man, and he wasn't--

110 00:06:17,195 --> 00:06:19,850

111 00:06:19,850 --> 00:06:20,780 what you call it?

112 00:06:20,780 --> 00:06:23,270 I knew he loved me, but he wasn't, as I told you,

113 00:06:23,270 --> 00:06:24,860 overpowering.

114 00:06:24,860 --> 00:06:27,910 And he would take me sometimes to show me the horses

115 00:06:27,910 --> 00:06:32,480 or take me into the place where they made the fabric out

116 00:06:32,480 --> 00:06:35,870 of the wool, show me-- he-how they do it, you know? 00:06:35,870 --> 00:06:39,680 So he was, in a different way-- yes, I adored my father.

118 00:06:39,680 --> 00:06:41,000 I adored my father.

119 00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:44,030 And, well, if he had the time to take me for a walk

120 00:06:44,030 --> 00:06:48,650 or take d show me how the old industrial things worked,

121 00:06:48,650 --> 00:06:51,860 I was very, very happy, yeah.

122 00:06:51,860 --> 00:06:54,680 Because as I said, as much as I loved my mother, this--

123 00:06:54,680 --> 00:06:58,670 being so overprotective, I would [CHUCKLES] just

124 00:06:58,670 --> 00:07:01,940 take off, you know, somewhere and play somewhere else, yes.

125 00:07:01,940 --> 00:07:04,580 And did your mother take you for walks or read to you?

126 00:07:04,580 --> 00:07:05,210 Oh, yeah.

127 00:07:05,210 --> 00:07:05,765 My mother--

128 00:07:05,765 --> 00:07:06,080 She did. 129

00:07:06,080 --> 00:07:06,530 Yes.

130

00:07:06,530 --> 00:07:07,072 [INAUDIBLE]--

131

00:07:07,072 --> 00:07:10,820 My mother would take me with her shopping, "shopping"

132

00:07:10,820 --> 00:07:13,600 meaning you go to the center of Malyns'k where there--

133

00:07:13,600 --> 00:07:17,120 they had a store to buy products.

134

00:07:17,120 --> 00:07:19,490 And she'd take me, yes, and--

135

00:07:19,490 --> 00:07:22,040 because they wouldn't let me go alone, God forbid, you know?

136

00:07:22,040 --> 00:07:24,110 So she would-- yeah, I was very happy.

137

00:07:24,110 --> 00:07:26,680 She would take me or visit--

138

00:07:26,680 --> 00:07:29,300 something, you know, had to do, seamstress or something.

139

00:07:29,300 --> 00:07:30,920 Yeah, she-- it was different.

140

00:07:30,920 --> 00:07:33,910

My father was more intellectual, you know?

141 00:07:33,910 --> 00:07:36,440 Bringing up things and telling me.

142 00:07:36,440 --> 00:07:43,130 And it's amazing how different in personality they were.

143 00:07:43,130 --> 00:07:44,820 And they got along well?

144 00:07:44,820 --> 00:07:48,350 As far as your recollection, they got along well?

145 00:07:48,350 --> 00:07:55,670 They got along well, as much as marriages can be.

146 00:07:55,670 --> 00:07:57,980 There was always some friction in the family,

147 00:07:57,980 --> 00:08:02,480 you know, because they had different ideals.

148 00:08:02,480 --> 00:08:05,810 But the family ties were very strong.

149 00:08:05,810 --> 00:08:10,370 To give you an example, when the Russians came--

150 00:08:10,370 --> 00:08:14,660 no, when the Germans came to-- invaded Poland in 1941.

151 00:08:14,660 --> 00:08:16,830 You know the Barbarossa and he-- 152

00:08:16,830 --> 00:08:18,290 and all this thing.

153

00:08:18,290 --> 00:08:22,040 A lot of Jewish men left from Malyn'sk or anywhere,

154

00:08:22,040 --> 00:08:24,650 and they followed the Russian army,

155

00:08:24,650 --> 00:08:29,000 because we were told that the Germans kill--

156

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:32,030 take away the Jewish men, and they kill them, or something.

157

00:08:32,030 --> 00:08:36,200 So a lot of the men, including the very religious shochet,

158

00:08:36,200 --> 00:08:39,919 they all ran and left their families and children

159

00:08:39,919 --> 00:08:41,480 all alone.

160

00:08:41,480 --> 00:08:42,770 And I cried.

161

00:08:42,770 --> 00:08:45,710 And I said, Daddy, are you going to leave us and also go away

162

00:08:45,710 --> 00:08:47,270 with [? everyone? ?]

163

00:08:47,270 --> 00:08:50,810 And he says-- Daddy says, no, I'm not going to leave you.

164 00:08:50,810 --> 00:08:53,420 I will stay with you no matter what.

165 00:08:53,420 --> 00:08:54,470 And he stayed.

166 00:08:54,470 --> 00:08:55,430 He did.

167 00:08:55,430 --> 00:08:57,980 And my uncle stayed, also.

168 00:08:57,980 --> 00:09:02,190 But those others decided they're going

169 00:09:02,190 --> 00:09:06,030 to follow the Russians, because they felt much more comfortable

170 00:09:06,030 --> 00:09:08,880 with the Russian army.

171 00:09:08,880 --> 00:09:13,260 The Russians at least did not tell you-- they killed them.

172 00:09:13,260 --> 00:09:14,850 They had their own problems.

173 00:09:14,850 --> 00:09:19,730 So, yes, he was very protective of us, too.

174 00:09:19,730 --> 00:09:21,180 Very protective.

175 00:09:21,180 --> 00:09:25,620 Did you hear a lot about Germany when you were growing up?

176 00:09:25,620 --> 00:09:30,390 Because you were born in 1929 and the Nazis take over in '33,

177 00:09:30,390 --> 00:09:32,400 and you're still a little kid.

178 00:09:32,400 --> 00:09:36,270 But by the time 1939 comes, you're 10 years old.

179 00:09:36,270 --> 00:09:39,947 So in between '33 and '39, do you hear things about

180 00:09:39,947 --> 00:09:41,280 what's going on in Germany, or--

181 00:09:41,280 --> 00:09:42,660 We heard a little bit.

182 00:09:42,660 --> 00:09:45,895 My father used to subscribe to a Jewish paper.

183 00:09:45,895 --> 00:09:46,770 This was a big thing.

184 00:09:46,770 --> 00:09:49,140 And whenever the paper would come once a month,

185 00:09:49,140 --> 00:09:50,730 my father would sit at the table.

186 00:09:50,730 --> 00:09:51,720 It was Yiddish.

187 00:09:51,720 --> 00:09:55,110 And he would put-- sit me on his lap, and my mother,

188

00:09:55,110 --> 00:09:59,490 and he would read to me all the happenings in Europe.

189

00:09:59,490 --> 00:10:01,980 And I remember him talking something--

190

00:10:01,980 --> 00:10:03,240 my mother cursed this guy.

191

00:10:03,240 --> 00:10:05,670 She was saying Chamberlain-was it Chamber-something?

192

00:10:05,670 --> 00:10:07,290 Something with the umbrella?

193

00:10:07,290 --> 00:10:10,050 I didn't know, as a child, what his--

194

00:10:10,050 --> 00:10:12,540 this person's title was.

195

00:10:12,540 --> 00:10:15,030 But my mother was cursing.

196

00:10:15,030 --> 00:10:19,690 And I knew he was probably antisemite or something.

197

00:10:19,690 --> 00:10:22,200 And he would tell me what was happening in Europe,

198

00:10:22,200 --> 00:10:26,970 that, I think, the Germans came into Czechoslovakia

199

00:10:26,970 --> 00:10:28,050 or something.

200

00:10:28,050 --> 00:10:32,130 And then I think maybe Austria, too.

201

00:10:32,130 --> 00:10:36,630 And we always were--

202

00:10:36,630 --> 00:10:39,720 felt very insecure and unsure of ourself.

203

00:10:39,720 --> 00:10:42,480 And as a child, I was very curious

204

00:10:42,480 --> 00:10:45,500 about the world situation.

205

00:10:45,500 --> 00:10:50,120 We didn't know how far the-what this is going to end up.

206

00:10:50,120 --> 00:10:56,810 Will the Nazis just take over part of Czechoslovakia, some--

207

00:10:56,810 --> 00:10:59,150 well, we didn't know where it was going to go.

208

00:10:59,150 --> 00:11:03,280 But this is how the Jews always lived, in fear

209

00:11:03,280 --> 00:11:05,210 and never knowing what--

210

00:11:05,210 --> 00:11:06,950 we would always say when a new--

211 00:11:06,950 --> 00:11:10,640 some official would come into power,

212

00:11:10,640 --> 00:11:13,190 would-- the first question was, are they going--

213

00:11:13,190 --> 00:11:15,050 is he going to be good to the Jews?

214

00:11:15,050 --> 00:11:16,910 Does he like Jews?

215

00:11:16,910 --> 00:11:22,560 Because they had the power to do what he wanted.

216

00:11:22,560 --> 00:11:26,900 So we-- the only thing I had, the--

217

00:11:26,900 --> 00:11:30,780 we-- I didn't know about Hitler, but I knew that the Germany--

218

00:11:30,780 --> 00:11:34,310 we knew, was expanding in Europe.

219

00:11:34,310 --> 00:11:36,680 This was maybe in the--

220

00:11:36,680 --> 00:11:39,770 well, in the middle '30s, never thinking

221

00:11:39,770 --> 00:11:44,780 that they would come to Poland, or even

222

00:11:44,780 --> 00:11:47,590 take over the whole world.

223

00:11:47,590 --> 00:11:49,390

This was--

224

00:11:49,390 --> 00:11:51,370 Were you worried about war?

225

00:11:51,370 --> 00:11:52,750

Did you-- did--

226

00:11:52,750 --> 00:11:54,220

We were always-- yes.

227

00:11:54,220 --> 00:11:58,330

We were very

apprehensive about war,

228

00:11:58,330 --> 00:12:04,190

because we were

unsure where Poland--

229

00:12:04,190 --> 00:12:05,810

what's going to

happen to Poland.

230

00:12:05,810 --> 00:12:07,430

Poland was shaky.

231

00:12:07,430 --> 00:12:09,350

The government was shaky.

232

00:12:09,350 --> 00:12:13,280

And when-- we didn't think

that they would come to Poland.

233

00:12:13,280 --> 00:12:14,990

Maybe they were just going to--

234

00:12:14,990 --> 00:12:19,000

the fascist concentrated the central Europe.

235

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:19,690 We didn't know.

236

00:12:19,690 --> 00:12:24,310 But yet, when you're a Jew, you're always apprehensive.

237

00:12:24,310 --> 00:12:27,001 You didn't know where--

238

00:12:27,001 --> 00:12:29,860 how far they will go and what we'll--

239

00:12:29,860 --> 00:12:33,490 and where the Jews were beaten up, where they were-- burned

240

00:12:33,490 --> 00:12:34,700 synagogues.

241

00:12:34,700 --> 00:12:39,680 We used to hear about that, burning synagogues in Germany,

242

00:12:39,680 --> 00:12:41,670 and maybe beating up.

243

00:12:41,670 --> 00:12:48,520 But yes, we were never, never secure in Poland.

244

00:12:48,520 --> 00:12:50,530 Did it affect your sleep?

245

00:12:50,530 --> 00:12:51,280 My sleep?

246

00:12:51,280 --> 00:12:51,920

No.

247

00:12:51,920 --> 00:12:52,420 It didn't?

248

00:12:52,420 --> 00:12:52,920

No.

249

00:12:52,920 --> 00:12:54,180 So you didn't have bad dreams?

250

00:12:54,180 --> 00:12:55,090

No.

251

 $00:12:55,090 \longrightarrow 00:12:58,750$

At this time, we didn't know anything about--

252

00:12:58,750 --> 00:13:00,070

what you call it--

253

00:13:00,070 --> 00:13:01,510

concentration camps.

254

00:13:01,510 --> 00:13:03,190

Of course, they

didn't exist yet,

255

00:13:03,190 --> 00:13:04,910

but even ghettos, so nothing.

256

00:13:04,910 --> 00:13:08,680

It was just the beginning

of the fascist rule.

257

 $00:13:08,680 \longrightarrow 00:13:13,240$

And we knew that Jews were discriminated or beaten up.

258

00:13:13,240 --> 00:13:18,310

At that time, we didn't know-and in fact, I, personally--

259 00:13:18,310 --> 00:13:19,330 our part--

260

00:13:19,330 --> 00:13:23,980 we, in-- around Poland didn't know about concentration camps

261

00:13:23,980 --> 00:13:26,530 until after the war.

262

00:13:26,530 --> 00:13:28,840 We knew that the Germans were putting

263

00:13:28,840 --> 00:13:32,650 people, Jews, in ghettos, and they were shooting them.

264

00:13:32,650 --> 00:13:33,880 They told them to--

265

00:13:33,880 --> 00:13:36,670 [CLEARS THROAT] excuse me-- to dig ditches,

266

00:13:36,670 --> 00:13:39,430 and they would kill them, like [INAUDIBLE] [? here, ?]

267

00:13:39,430 --> 00:13:42,430 because people would run away, come and tell us.

268

00:13:42,430 --> 00:13:44,420 But as far as concentration camps,

269

00:13:44,420 --> 00:13:46,990 we didn't know until after the war.

270

00:13:46,990 --> 00:13:50,890 So Jews were never secure in Poland.

271

00:13:50,890 --> 00:13:53,080 This is why they wanted their children go to Israel.

272

00:13:53,080 --> 00:13:57,760 This is-- we wanted to migrate to America for--

273

00:13:57,760 --> 00:14:00,730 first of all, because my mother had two brothers and two

274

00:14:00,730 --> 00:14:03,910 sisters who came to America to Washington, right

275

00:14:03,910 --> 00:14:06,610 after the First World War, with the idea

276

00:14:06,610 --> 00:14:11,080 that as soon as they get settled, they'll bring us over.

277

00:14:11,080 --> 00:14:15,370 And it took, as I told you, 10 years

278

00:14:15,370 --> 00:14:18,390 to do, because then my mother got married and all,

279

00:14:18,390 --> 00:14:19,210 and until--

280

00:14:19,210 --> 00:14:22,450 America didn't open the doors so easy to everybody. 00:14:22,450 --> 00:14:25,487 You know, they took you to--

282

00:14:25,487 --> 00:14:26,320 what do you call it?

283

00:14:26,320 --> 00:14:28,270 In New Jersey, what was this called?

284

00:14:28,270 --> 00:14:32,710 The-- well, anyhow, you couldn't come in so easily to America,

285

00:14:32,710 --> 00:14:34,690 so we just stuck it out.

286

00:14:34,690 --> 00:14:41,700 But we-- everybody wished to leave Poland, or even the--

287

00:14:41,700 --> 00:14:44,590

288

00:14:44,590 --> 00:14:49,413 Ukraine, particularly, was very, very antisemitic.

289

00:14:49,413 --> 00:14:50,830 They carried this-my mother used

290

00:14:50,830 --> 00:14:55,360 to talk about the Cossacks and the pogroms.

291

00:14:55,360 --> 00:14:58,150 But she used to call the Germans,

292

00:14:58,150 --> 00:15:02,360

before the war, the good Germans. 293

00:15:02,360 --> 00:15:04,910 She says, those were the good Germans.

294

00:15:04,910 --> 00:15:06,540

You know, after First World War, they

295

00:15:06,540 --> 00:15:08,582 were the good ones, because they were persecuted,

296

00:15:08,582 --> 00:15:09,510 and all, and all.

297

00:15:09,510 --> 00:15:11,660 Now, the ones became-this was already

298

00:15:11,660 --> 00:15:14,120 became, of course, the bad Germans.

299

00:15:14,120 --> 00:15:18,700 And it was just serious--

300

00:15:18,700 --> 00:15:20,910 a whole lot of events that took place.

301

00:15:20,910 --> 00:15:22,540 It was-- put us on guard.

302

00:15:22,540 --> 00:15:24,700

We could feel it.

303

00:15:24,700 --> 00:15:26,280 And you felt it as a child?

304

00:15:26,280 --> 00:15:27,330

Oh, yes.

305

00:15:27,330 --> 00:15:27,930 Oh, yes.

306

00:15:27,930 --> 00:15:29,970 I grew up with antisemitism.

307

00:15:29,970 --> 00:15:34,170 But I was very protected by my parents, by the family.

308

00:15:34,170 --> 00:15:36,810 We were sort of clinging together.

309

00:15:36,810 --> 00:15:40,715 And we started to make an attempt to come to America.

310

00:15:40,715 --> 00:15:41,670 Right.

311

00:15:41,670 --> 00:15:45,640 I had-- we had wonderful family here in Washington who came.

312

00:15:45,640 --> 00:15:50,880 And they were relentless in trying to bring us to America.

313

00:15:50,880 --> 00:15:53,760 And we got, finally, our visa.

314

00:15:53,760 --> 00:15:58,230 And we missed the boat by three days.

315

00:15:58,230 --> 00:16:05,510 But we-- my mother's family was-- the two brothers and two

316

 $00:16:05,510 \longrightarrow 00:16:09,050$

sisters were already established in Washington.

317

00:16:09,050 --> 00:16:12,140 But one uncle of mine,
[? Asca ?] [? Rosenski-- ?] he

318

00:16:12,140 --> 00:16:16,730 was the elected leader in trying to bring us down there.

319

00:16:16,730 --> 00:16:18,110 It was very hard.

320

00:16:18,110 --> 00:16:22,490 Roosevelt, you know, was not very too keen about letting--

321

00:16:22,490 --> 00:16:24,140 in general, letting people--

322

00:16:24,140 --> 00:16:27,410 to come to America, before the war, you had to have--

323

00:16:27,410 --> 00:16:32,270 who would vouch that you will have a job waiting for you.

324

00:16:32,270 --> 00:16:36,620 You couldn't come to America and become a burden to the country.

325

00:16:36,620 --> 00:16:37,490 Right.

326

00:16:37,490 --> 00:16:40,850 So-- even after the war, you know?

327

00:16:40,850 --> 00:16:44,180 Which is-- maybe you want me to tell you later about if.

328 00:16:44,180 --> 00:16:47,780 We could-- we stayed for three years in Paris

329

00:16:47,780 --> 00:16:50,990 waiting to get a visa to come to America,

330

00:16:50,990 --> 00:16:56,060 because we thought maybe they'll honor our first visas in 1939.

331

00:16:56,060 --> 00:16:57,500 No, nothing of the sort.

332

00:16:57,500 --> 00:16:59,390 You had to show--

333

00:16:59,390 --> 00:17:01,490 the family here in the United States

334

00:17:01,490 --> 00:17:03,890 had to show that when we come there,

335

00:17:03,890 --> 00:17:05,780 there'll be a job waiting for my father.

336

00:17:05,780 --> 00:17:08,030 And was a lot of work.

337

00:17:08,030 --> 00:17:12,020 And finally, my parents came in '48,

338

00:17:12,020 --> 00:17:15,119 and I came-- then they brought me over 1949.

00:17:15,119 --> 00:17:15,619 So--

340

00:17:15,619 --> 00:17:21,470 But before the-- was it before the Germans attacked

341

00:17:21,470 --> 00:17:25,550 Poland, September 1939, that you were on a boat and the boat

342

00:17:25,550 --> 00:17:26,569 had to turn around?

343

00:17:26,569 --> 00:17:28,310 No, I'll tell you.

344

00:17:28,310 --> 00:17:35,060 In 1939, we finally got to rid of our-- whatever property we

345

00:17:35,060 --> 00:17:37,400 had and packed up our things.

346

00:17:37,400 --> 00:17:40,340 And we were heading to Gdynia--

347

00:17:40,340 --> 00:17:41,275 Gdansk?

348

00:17:41,275 --> 00:17:42,560 Was it Gdynia or Gdansk?

349

00:17:42,560 --> 00:17:46,610 One of the Polish ports, to take the boat and to come.

350

00:17:46,610 --> 00:17:50,780 We never got on the boat, because we were on our way

351

00:17:50,780 --> 00:17:53,120

to the port, and the--

352

00:17:53,120 --> 00:17:57,650 as you know, the Germans came in the first of September.

353

00:17:57,650 --> 00:17:59,630 There was no point going.

354

00:17:59,630 --> 00:18:01,580 They were bombing, there, the ports,

355

00:18:01,580 --> 00:18:04,760 and even if we got on it, who knows if the boat would even

356

00:18:04,760 --> 00:18:06,740 be able to take off?

357

00:18:06,740 --> 00:18:08,810 So nothing.

358

00:18:08,810 --> 00:18:09,900 So you went back?

359

00:18:09,900 --> 00:18:10,490 We went back.

360

00:18:10,490 --> 00:18:13,260 At least our home was still there.

361

00:18:13,260 --> 00:18:15,440 My aunt and uncle were still there.

362

00:18:15,440 --> 00:18:21,290 There was still family in here, so we just, regretfully,

363

00:18:21,290 --> 00:18:24,480

had to pick up where we left off.

364

00:18:24,480 --> 00:18:26,600 But your father didn't sell the property?

365

00:18:26,600 --> 00:18:27,707 He gave it to his brother.

366

00:18:27,707 --> 00:18:28,790 He gave it to his brother.

367

00:18:28,790 --> 00:18:29,290 I see.

368

00:18:29,290 --> 00:18:32,330 So when he came back, did the brother give it back?

369

00:18:32,330 --> 00:18:38,540 We came back-- our property was confiscated by the Russians,

370

00:18:38,540 --> 00:18:39,390 you know, in 19--

371

00:18:39,390 --> 00:18:40,190 Oh, because they had an agreement--

372

00:18:40,190 --> 00:18:42,482 Yeah, but then the Russians came, as you know, in 1939,

373

00:18:42,482 --> 00:18:43,810 and they divided up Poland.

374

00:18:43,810 --> 00:18:45,920 We were under the

Russians, and the Russians

00:18:45,920 --> 00:18:50,190 do not allow personal property.

376

00:18:50,190 --> 00:18:52,100 So we were allowed to leave--

377

00:18:52,100 --> 00:18:53,990 still live on the farm, and this.

378

00:18:53,990 --> 00:18:57,140 But the mill and all this, this was no more.

379

00:18:57,140 --> 00:18:59,330 So before leaving, my father turned over

380

00:18:59,330 --> 00:19:05,270 the-- his share of the mill and all to my father.

381

00:19:05,270 --> 00:19:08,330 Plus, my mother had a sister, because she

382

00:19:08,330 --> 00:19:13,220 couldn't come to America because as a child she had--

383

00:19:13,220 --> 00:19:15,470 she was brain damaged.

384

00:19:15,470 --> 00:19:20,330 And then-- so she had my uncle and aunt--

385

00:19:20,330 --> 00:19:23,780 took her in and said they'll take care of her.

386

00:19:23,780 --> 00:19:26,305 So it was a lot of things, why our delay was--

387

00:19:26,305 --> 00:19:27,680 you know, [INAUDIBLE]

didn't want

388

00:19:27,680 --> 00:19:30,410 to leave her unless

they found somebody who

389

00:19:30,410 --> 00:19:32,135 really can take care of her.

390

00:19:32,135 --> 00:19:36,060

Her name was Rivka.

391

00:19:36,060 --> 00:19:37,800

And did you know her?

392

00:19:37,800 --> 00:19:38,470

Oh, yes.

393

00:19:38,470 --> 00:19:38,970

You did.

394

00:19:38,970 --> 00:19:40,040

She was wonderful.

395

00:19:40,040 --> 00:19:40,590

Was she?

396

 $00:19:40,590 \longrightarrow 00:19:41,700$

She was wonderful.

397

00:19:41,700 --> 00:19:44,520

When I was born, she lived with us.

398

00:19:44,520 --> 00:19:48,930

My mother was her only sister

who was left in Poland.

399

00:19:48,930 --> 00:19:53,400 And she lived with us, and she used to sing songs for me,

400

00:19:53,400 --> 00:19:54,810 and she--

401

00:19:54,810 --> 00:20:01,020 I mean, a very warm person, very, very warm.

402

00:20:01,020 --> 00:20:05,370 But of course, because she had brain damage, her--

403

00:20:05,370 --> 00:20:07,200 she could do things in the house.

404

00:20:07,200 --> 00:20:09,570 She wasn't any threat to anyone.

405

00:20:09,570 --> 00:20:11,940 But all she could to remember was, like,

406

00:20:11,940 --> 00:20:15,960 singing songs and children's games or something.

407

00:20:15,960 --> 00:20:18,930 But she was very protective of me, too, all the time.

408

00:20:18,930 --> 00:20:21,325 And, don't go there, you're gonna, you know,

409

00:20:21,325 --> 00:20:22,213 protect the younger.

410

00:20:22,213 --> 00:20:23,130

You want to fall here?

411

00:20:23,130 --> 00:20:24,780 You'll scratch your knee.

412

00:20:24,780 --> 00:20:26,330 Made you a little crazy?

413

00:20:26,330 --> 00:20:26,830 Yeah, yeah.

414

00:20:26,830 --> 00:20:27,840 All these protective--

415

00:20:27,840 --> 00:20:28,530 Oh, yes.

416

00:20:28,530 --> 00:20:29,230 Oh, yes.

417

00:20:29,230 --> 00:20:30,810 Oh, yes.

418

00:20:30,810 --> 00:20:32,010 So when the Germans--

419

00:20:32,010 --> 00:20:35,910 do you remember the Germans taking over part of Poland?

420

00:20:35,910 --> 00:20:38,580 Or was-- because you were on the Russian side?

421

00:20:38,580 --> 00:20:43,800 Well, I-- we were with the Russians only one year.

422

00:20:43,800 --> 00:20:49,560 In 1939, Hitler and Stalin were pals, and they divided Poland.

00:20:49,560 --> 00:20:52,830 Because we were near the Eastern border, near the border,

424

00:20:52,830 --> 00:20:58,110 we were under the Russians.

425

00:20:58,110 --> 00:21:03,650 And this lasted one year.

426

00:21:03,650 --> 00:21:06,545 And then Hitler decided to--

427

00:21:06,545 --> 00:21:09,060 he wanted to take over all of Europe.

428

00:21:09,060 --> 00:21:10,870 And he launched the--

429

00:21:10,870 --> 00:21:13,310 called Barbarossa, if you--

430

00:21:13,310 --> 00:21:16,790 and he went into--

431

00:21:16,790 --> 00:21:18,470 going east.

432

00:21:18,470 --> 00:21:22,970 And it didn't take very long until they came

433

00:21:22,970 --> 00:21:25,160 to Malyn'sk, too.

434

00:21:25,160 --> 00:21:28,400 We knew that-- we had people staying, sometimes,

435

00:21:28,400 --> 00:21:31,070

with us who ran away from Poland, per se,

436

00:21:31,070 --> 00:21:32,030 Warsaw, something.

437

00:21:32,030 --> 00:21:33,770

And they told us the horrible things

438

00:21:33,770 --> 00:21:36,080 that the Germans do there.

439

00:21:36,080 --> 00:21:39,980 But as long as we were still under the Russians, we were--

440

00:21:39,980 --> 00:21:41,510 felt more secure.

441

00:21:41,510 --> 00:21:43,640 The Russians weren't killing us, at least.

442

00:21:43,640 --> 00:21:45,920 But this lasted only one year.

443

00:21:45,920 --> 00:21:47,172 And then in 194--

444

00:21:47,172 --> 00:21:50,004

445

00:21:50,004 --> 00:21:54,470 I think it's '41, yes--

446

00:21:54,470 --> 00:21:56,900 Hitler decided to go east.

447

00:21:56,900 --> 00:21:59,570

And they took over.

 $00:21:59,570 \longrightarrow 00:22:01,550$

They went east.

449

00:22:01,550 --> 00:22:04,550 They went to Rovno, and then

they came to [? Ostroh. ?]

450

00:22:04,550 --> 00:22:08,920

And that was the beginning of our--

451

 $00:22:08,920 \longrightarrow 00:22:10,350$

Let me go back for a minute.

452

 $00:22:10,350 \longrightarrow 00:22:12,440$

Do you remember being under

the Russians as a kid?

453

00:22:12,440 --> 00:22:13,130

Yes.

454

 $00:22:13,130 \longrightarrow 00:22:13,630$

And what--

455

00:22:13,630 --> 00:22:16,700

For a year, from 1939--

456

 $00:22:16,700 \longrightarrow 00:22:23,310$

or from 1940 to '41 we

lived under the Russians.

457

 $00:22:23,310 \longrightarrow 00:22:24,940$

I went to a Russian school.

458

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

Oh, you did?

459

 $00:22:25,550 \longrightarrow 00:22:27,410$

Yeah, but we didn't

have any more--

460

00:22:27,410 --> 00:22:30,560 we couldn't run the mill or the--

461 00:22:30,560 --> 00:22:33,270 I mean, the property was no longer ours,

462 00:22:33,270 --> 00:22:37,760 because the communism doesn't believe in private property.

463 00:22:37,760 --> 00:22:40,420 But your father ran the farm still?

464 00:22:40,420 --> 00:22:43,820 No, we could use the farm just for ourselves.

465 00:22:43,820 --> 00:22:45,500 But my father got a job.

466 00:22:45,500 --> 00:22:49,010 And he was in charge of some kind of dairy

467 00:22:49,010 --> 00:22:50,713 that's making milk.

468 00:22:50,713 --> 00:22:52,130 The peasants would bring the milk.

469 00:22:52,130 --> 00:22:53,660 No, he had a job.

470 00:22:53,660 --> 00:22:56,510 No more mill as private property.

471 00:22:56,510 --> 00:22:58,820 No more-- I don't know who took over.

472 00:22:58,820 --> 00:23:01,460 And probably, nobody even took it over.

473 00:23:01,460 --> 00:23:04,250 So for a year we lived with the Russians, and--

474 00:23:04,250 --> 00:23:05,300 Was this bad for you?

475 00:23:05,300 --> 00:23:07,820 Do you remember it being bad, or--

476 00:23:07,820 --> 00:23:09,050 Bad being with the Russians?

477 00:23:09,050 --> 00:23:09,980 Yeah.

478 00:23:09,980 --> 00:23:14,790 No, because-- well, it was out of the two evils.

479 00:23:14,790 --> 00:23:18,380 We were-- felt lucky to be with the Russians.

480 00:23:18,380 --> 00:23:20,690 The only threat we felt in the beginning

481 00:23:20,690 --> 00:23:23,720 is that the Russians used to--

482 00:23:23,720 --> 00:23:27,440 if somebody was well-to-do in Poland, comfortable, 00:23:27,440 --> 00:23:31,790 they would come in the morning, knock on your door,

484 00:23:31,790 --> 00:23:32,780 and say, pack up.

485 00:23:32,780 --> 00:23:33,640 You're going.

486 00:23:33,640 --> 00:23:36,360 And they send them to Siberia, because you

487 00:23:36,360 --> 00:23:38,930 were considered what they call the Russian "kulak."

488 00:23:38,930 --> 00:23:42,800 Kulak means the-- you know, the wealthy one.

489 00:23:42,800 --> 00:23:45,290 Wealthy by their standards, you know?

490 00:23:45,290 --> 00:23:47,420 So we were always afraid that maybe they

491 00:23:47,420 --> 00:23:52,100 will call us the wealthy ones, and to expatriate us, too,

492 00:23:52,100 --> 00:23:52,737 you know?

493 00:23:52,737 --> 00:23:53,570 Come in the morning.

494 00:23:53,570 --> 00:23:56,330 Some people were sent in--

00:23:56,330 --> 00:23:57,588 to Siberia.

496

00:23:57,588 --> 00:23:58,130 I don't know.

497

00:23:58,130 --> 00:23:59,510 They were suspicious of them.

498

00:23:59,510 --> 00:24:01,850 They didn't trust them, something.

499

00:24:01,850 --> 00:24:05,660 So-- but it's still, I could go to school.

500

00:24:05,660 --> 00:24:08,420 Nobody called me Jew under the Russian.

501

00:24:08,420 --> 00:24:12,800 And this was sort of like a temporary arrangement.

502

00:24:12,800 --> 00:24:15,140 We never knew that the Germans are

503

00:24:15,140 --> 00:24:19,160 going to come in a year later and invade us, too.

504

00:24:19,160 --> 00:24:23,340 So we-- given the choice, we would have preferred

505

00:24:23,340 --> 00:24:24,530 staying with the Russians.

506

00:24:24,530 --> 00:24:25,790

Yes.

507 00:24:25,790 --> 00:24:27,260 Do you remember when the Russians--

508 00:24:27,260 --> 00:24:30,230 when the Germans came into Malyn'sk?

509 00:24:30,230 --> 00:24:31,242 Very well.

510 00:24:31,242 --> 00:24:31,950 What was it like?

511 00:24:31,950 --> 00:24:34,520 We knew they were going to come any day now, because they

512 00:24:34,520 --> 00:24:36,800 were coming from the west.

513 00:24:36,800 --> 00:24:44,270 And I remember our shtetl Malyn'sk only had one road

514 00:24:44,270 --> 00:24:45,830 going across.

515 00:24:45,830 --> 00:24:51,020 And then we hear motorcycles, people-- soldiers

516 00:24:51,020 --> 00:24:52,760 on motorcycles coming in.

517 00:24:52,760 --> 00:24:55,280 We never saw motorcycle in Malyn'sk, you know?

518 00:24:55,280 --> 00:24:59,900 We didn't-- and they came in, and the people in Malyn'sk--

519 00:24:59,900 --> 00:25:02,600 I don't know who they were, whether they

520 00:25:02,600 --> 00:25:06,020 were Ukrainian-- anyhow, sympathizer, Nazi sympathizers,

521 00:25:06,020 --> 00:25:09,950 were standing alongside the road with flowers and greeting them

522 00:25:09,950 --> 00:25:12,020 and applauded.

523 00:25:12,020 --> 00:25:14,100 We stayed tight in the house hiding.

524 00:25:14,100 --> 00:25:16,890 We didn't know what they were going to do.

525 00:25:16,890 --> 00:25:20,275 They were just passing through this town, city--

526 00:25:20,275 --> 00:25:20,900 city, whatever.

527 00:25:20,900 --> 00:25:21,800 The village.

528 00:25:21,800 --> 00:25:26,120 And just to let them know that they are now in power.

529 00:25:26,120 --> 00:25:31,070 I may say another thing, is what used to scare us all,

00:25:31,070 --> 00:25:35,270 is the time when there's a change of the guard.

531

00:25:35,270 --> 00:25:40,490 When one country leaves, like the Russians have been away

532

00:25:40,490 --> 00:25:43,130 from the Germans, because they knew they were coming.

533

00:25:43,130 --> 00:25:46,220 And until the Germans came and really showed--

534

00:25:46,220 --> 00:25:48,920 say that they are now in power, there was this--

535

00:25:48,920 --> 00:25:51,080 like, it's not normal.

536

00:25:51,080 --> 00:25:54,890 It's like nobody was in charge, and anybody

537

00:25:54,890 --> 00:25:58,010 could go ahead and do anything for somebody, set fire

538

00:25:58,010 --> 00:26:00,800 or something, because there was no law.

539

00:26:00,800 --> 00:26:02,630 It became lawlessness.

540

00:26:02,630 --> 00:26:05,900 So when, finally, the Germans came, as bad as it,

00:26:05,900 --> 00:26:09,650 at least they could control the population.

542 00:26:09,650 --> 00:26:11,420 And that's what happened.

543 00:26:11,420 --> 00:26:14,300 As soon as they came, they didn't

544 00:26:14,300 --> 00:26:17,600 make us move from the house, but the first order they gave

545 00:26:17,600 --> 00:26:21,200 is for the Jews to wear patches, the yellow.

546 00:26:21,200 --> 00:26:24,940 And Jewish children couldn't go to school.

547 00:26:24,940 --> 00:26:27,190 We could still stay in the house for a while.

548 00:26:27,190 --> 00:26:32,560 They would come in sometimes and order something-- cook

549 00:26:32,560 --> 00:26:36,265 something for me, or beat up a jew, like for the fun of it,

550 00:26:36,265 --> 00:26:36,940 or something.

551 00:26:36,940 --> 00:26:40,660 But we could still stay in our house.

552 00:26:40,660 --> 00:26:44,800 This lasted not very long.

553 00:26:44,800 --> 00:26:47,230 I regret it very much, not being able to go

554 00:26:47,230 --> 00:26:48,760 to school or something.

555 00:26:48,760 --> 00:26:54,010 But the young Jewish girls-they used to be hiding and wear

556 00:26:54,010 --> 00:26:56,020 little scarves, not to look young,

557 00:26:56,020 --> 00:26:58,630 because they're afraid maybe they will--

558 00:26:58,630 --> 00:27:02,010 you know, the Nazis would, you know--

559 00:27:02,010 --> 00:27:03,120 Rape you?

560 00:27:03,120 --> 00:27:04,360 Yes, something.

561 00:27:04,360 --> 00:27:06,490 But this was just for a--

562 00:27:06,490 --> 00:27:10,060 they came into us, I think, in June or something.

563 00:27:10,060 --> 00:27:19,690 And then shortly after, in 1942, the order came out for-- 00:27:19,690 --> 00:27:23,500 and they put us in Berezne, in the ghetto.

565 00:27:23,500 --> 00:27:26,680 They took all the Jews from all the small places scattered

566 00:27:26,680 --> 00:27:29,200 and put them all in one place.

567 00:27:29,200 --> 00:27:30,930 Like, we were close to Berezne.

568 00:27:30,930 --> 00:27:32,740 They put us in Berezne.

569 00:27:32,740 --> 00:27:36,730 Some other people were, I think, in other ghettos.

570 00:27:36,730 --> 00:27:43,600 So our stay in Malyn'sk under the Germans was very short.

571 00:27:43,600 --> 00:27:46,990 We still were not hungry, because we had our home,

572 00:27:46,990 --> 00:27:53,230 and we had still our garden, which helped us with food.

573 00:27:53,230 --> 00:27:56,870 And they-- other than just the laws

574 00:27:56,870 --> 00:28:01,520 not to go out late at night, we were not really

575 00:28:01,520 --> 00:28:08,000 yet persecuted until they took us to the ghetto.

576 00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:10,070 You mean persecuted in a hard way?

577

00:28:10,070 --> 00:28:11,088 In a hard way, yes.

578

00:28:11,088 --> 00:28:11,630 They didn't--

579

00:28:11,630 --> 00:28:13,010 Because clearly you were persecuted some.

580

00:28:13,010 --> 00:28:13,940 Oh, we were, yes.

581

00:28:13,940 --> 00:28:14,630 That is right.

582

00:28:14,630 --> 00:28:15,130 Yes.

583

00:28:15,130 --> 00:28:16,130 We knew it.

584

00:28:16,130 --> 00:28:19,880 They were not-- came here with very friendly intention to us.

585

00:28:19,880 --> 00:28:26,150 But they were not going around to get out and something.

586

00:28:26,150 --> 00:28:27,650 They just left it for a while.

587

00:28:27,650 --> 00:28:29,990

It was all hanging.

00:28:29,990 --> 00:28:33,650 And if we didn't have any food, we had a lot--

589

00:28:33,650 --> 00:28:37,580 well, some Gentile friends who used

590

00:28:37,580 --> 00:28:40,310 to come and bring us some food.

591

00:28:40,310 --> 00:28:41,600 Some would be a gift.

592

00:28:41,600 --> 00:28:43,970 Some would be bartering.

593

00:28:43,970 --> 00:28:45,080 I'll give you this.

594

00:28:45,080 --> 00:28:47,510 I'll give it-- and my mother, my parents

595

00:28:47,510 --> 00:28:49,790 would give something from their clothes,

596

00:28:49,790 --> 00:28:51,250 or something like that.

597

00:28:51,250 --> 00:28:54,680 So we were not really hungry while we were still

598

00:28:54,680 --> 00:28:58,240 in Malyn'sk, until the--

599

00:28:58,240 --> 00:28:58,740 OK.

600

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

00:28:58,740 --> 00:29:01,010 We're going to stop the tape.

601 00:29:01,010 --> 00:31:00,000