

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:59,840

2

00:00:59,840 --> 00:01:04,760

You were talking about when the
Germans came in, and eventually

3

00:01:04,760 --> 00:01:08,220

you had to leave Malyns'k
and go to the ghetto.

4

00:01:08,220 --> 00:01:09,223

Is that correct?

5

00:01:09,223 --> 00:01:09,890

Berezne correct.

6

00:01:09,890 --> 00:01:11,090

Berezne ghetto.

7

00:01:11,090 --> 00:01:16,160

This came about the time
when the order came up,

8

00:01:16,160 --> 00:01:20,090

and all throughout Europe it
was I think August something.

9

00:01:20,090 --> 00:01:26,360

Heinrich came out
with the villa,

10

00:01:26,360 --> 00:01:29,030

when he they got
together all the Nazis

11

00:01:29,030 --> 00:01:33,080

and decided they're going
to exterminate all the Jews.

12

00:01:33,080 --> 00:01:36,322

And Heinrich was the
mastermind of all this

13
00:01:36,322 --> 00:01:37,030
Heinrich Himmler?

14
00:01:37,030 --> 00:01:38,578
Heinrich, Heinrich.

15
00:01:38,578 --> 00:01:39,078
Heydrich?

16
00:01:39,078 --> 00:01:39,578
Heydrich?

17
00:01:39,578 --> 00:01:40,968
Is it Heydrich?

18
00:01:40,968 --> 00:01:41,510
I don't know.

19
00:01:41,510 --> 00:01:42,980
Maybe I'm pronouncing it wrong.

20
00:01:42,980 --> 00:01:43,730
It doesn't matter.

21
00:01:43,730 --> 00:01:45,500
I know how to write
it, but not to spell.

22
00:01:45,500 --> 00:01:47,570
Anyhow, the order came
out throughout Europe

23
00:01:47,570 --> 00:01:51,050
that all the Jews have
to be exterminated.

24
00:01:51,050 --> 00:01:55,640
What they did ghetto, Berezne
was a bigger place than

25
00:01:55,640 --> 00:01:57,050
Malyns'k.

26
00:01:57,050 --> 00:02:00,290
They already had maybe about
3,000 Jews or something.

27
00:02:00,290 --> 00:02:03,230
They were already all
put together sort of

28
00:02:03,230 --> 00:02:07,450
in like a ghetto.

29
00:02:07,450 --> 00:02:10,030
So they brought
us from Malyns'k--

30
00:02:10,030 --> 00:02:14,290
in comparison, we
were a small group--

31
00:02:14,290 --> 00:02:15,650
into the Berezne Ghetto.

32
00:02:15,650 --> 00:02:17,500
Do you remember that day?

33
00:02:17,500 --> 00:02:19,330
I remember one thing.

34
00:02:19,330 --> 00:02:26,890
Yes, they had horses
pulling buggies,

35
00:02:26,890 --> 00:02:28,885
so the people who
couldn't walk-- it

36
00:02:28,885 --> 00:02:31,000
was about 20 kilometers

or something.

37

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:33,940

And I think I was sitting there
right in one of those too,

38

00:02:33,940 --> 00:02:38,650

where people could sit on it,
and the man would walk next it.

39

00:02:38,650 --> 00:02:43,780

And there were horses pulling
the buggies and the carriages.

40

00:02:43,780 --> 00:02:47,680

And we got to Berezne.

41

00:02:47,680 --> 00:02:49,510

What was it like for you?

42

00:02:49,510 --> 00:02:50,800

Was it frightening?

43

00:02:50,800 --> 00:02:52,930

Were people nervous?

44

00:02:52,930 --> 00:02:53,948

Were people upset?

45

00:02:53,948 --> 00:02:54,490

Very nervous.

46

00:02:54,490 --> 00:02:55,900

The people were apprehensive.

47

00:02:55,900 --> 00:02:59,770

The people were afraid,
leaving your own environment,

48

00:02:59,770 --> 00:03:00,640

no matter how bad.

49

00:03:00,640 --> 00:03:05,590

But your family, you have people
who came to see, gentle people.

50

00:03:05,590 --> 00:03:07,420

When they're grouped
together we knew

51

00:03:07,420 --> 00:03:11,020

it's a bad sign,
based on the rumors

52

00:03:11,020 --> 00:03:14,890

were heard from other
people that this is no good.

53

00:03:14,890 --> 00:03:17,200

Whenever they bring
all the Jews together,

54

00:03:17,200 --> 00:03:20,110

that something is
going to happen.

55

00:03:20,110 --> 00:03:22,000

So they brought
our whole family,

56

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:27,130

everybody who lives they bring
to Berezne, and they had--

57

00:03:27,130 --> 00:03:30,610

maybe just they were
packed two families

58

00:03:30,610 --> 00:03:32,260

in one room or something.

59

00:03:32,260 --> 00:03:36,490

But they put this all
together in one area.

60

00:03:36,490 --> 00:03:39,220

And they delineated
the area, which

61

00:03:39,220 --> 00:03:43,930

was going to be Berezne Ghetto.

62

00:03:43,930 --> 00:03:48,160

My father and my uncle
and some other men

63

00:03:48,160 --> 00:03:51,100

were sent to work
outside of the ghetto

64

00:03:51,100 --> 00:03:55,210

in a place called Polany,
because they could work.

65

00:03:55,210 --> 00:03:56,590

There was a farm there.

66

00:03:56,590 --> 00:04:01,750

But also they were doing
something with trees, whatever.

67

00:04:01,750 --> 00:04:04,150

They were working
outside of the ghetto.

68

00:04:04,150 --> 00:04:08,170

And I begged, can I go
and be with my father,

69

00:04:08,170 --> 00:04:10,480

and I will help on the farm.

70

00:04:10,480 --> 00:04:15,650

I feel more secure with my
father than be with the women

71

00:04:15,650 --> 00:04:18,370

hysterical and yelling
and this and that.

72
00:04:18,370 --> 00:04:21,279
And there was more freedom,
because you were out

73
00:04:21,279 --> 00:04:22,240
in the open.

74
00:04:22,240 --> 00:04:24,110
So they let me go.

75
00:04:24,110 --> 00:04:28,270
And I stayed with my
father on that big farm.

76
00:04:28,270 --> 00:04:33,370
And I supposedly
worked in the field.

77
00:04:33,370 --> 00:04:36,490
But my father was
there and my uncle.

78
00:04:36,490 --> 00:04:42,290
And shortly after,
we heard the rumor,

79
00:04:42,290 --> 00:04:47,780
somebody came and told
my father that there

80
00:04:47,780 --> 00:04:50,840
is an order came out
in Berezne Ghetto

81
00:04:50,840 --> 00:04:56,960
that all the Jews must be
gathered in the ghetto,

82
00:04:56,960 --> 00:05:03,470
must stay, and that also

they saw that a lot of police

83

00:05:03,470 --> 00:05:08,270

was coming to Berezne
and also the--

84

00:05:08,270 --> 00:05:11,120

I don't know how the German
word is-- the troops ,

85

00:05:11,120 --> 00:05:12,680

German troops do.

86

00:05:12,680 --> 00:05:16,070

So they were closing
up the ghetto,

87

00:05:16,070 --> 00:05:20,420

wouldn't let people out, so
we knew that things are bad.

88

00:05:20,420 --> 00:05:25,260

My mother was still left
there, my aunt uncle in here.

89

00:05:25,260 --> 00:05:27,830

And so we never went back
to Berezne regardless

90

00:05:27,830 --> 00:05:29,300

they said you all have to.

91

00:05:29,300 --> 00:05:30,440

We just stayed.

92

00:05:30,440 --> 00:05:34,100

We were fortunate to
be near a forest that

93

00:05:34,100 --> 00:05:36,440

would save a lot of
Jews from our area,

94

00:05:36,440 --> 00:05:38,880
that we were in the forest.

95

00:05:38,880 --> 00:05:42,800
We were not stuck in a
ghetto like in the big cities

96

00:05:42,800 --> 00:05:43,910
or something.

97

00:05:43,910 --> 00:05:45,980
We could only sneak
into the forest.

98

00:05:45,980 --> 00:05:48,740
So we never went
back to Berezne.

99

00:05:48,740 --> 00:05:50,660
And the Germans
didn't come there?

100

00:05:50,660 --> 00:05:52,070
They didn't come to get us.

101

00:05:52,070 --> 00:05:53,270
There was just a few of us.

102

00:05:53,270 --> 00:05:57,410
They were too busy rounding
up people in Berezne.

103

00:05:57,410 --> 00:06:00,710
How my mother got out of
there is a story of it itself.

104

00:06:00,710 --> 00:06:03,860
I had a cousin, a
year older than me,

105

00:06:03,860 --> 00:06:06,530
and he was there in

Berezne, Benjamin,

106
00:06:06,530 --> 00:06:08,840
and he was very shrewd.

107
00:06:08,840 --> 00:06:12,110
He would go up and down the
street and see what's going on.

108
00:06:12,110 --> 00:06:13,700
He came back to
the house, and he

109
00:06:13,700 --> 00:06:18,860
says to his mother, and my
mother, and to his sister,

110
00:06:18,860 --> 00:06:21,630
we're getting out of here.

111
00:06:21,630 --> 00:06:24,330
And he could see that
something's happening.

112
00:06:24,330 --> 00:06:26,790
You could see the preparations.

113
00:06:26,790 --> 00:06:29,060
So how do you get out
of the ghettos of Jews?

114
00:06:29,060 --> 00:06:31,616
So my mother and
and my aunt, they

115
00:06:31,616 --> 00:06:33,140
put a kerchief on their heads.

116
00:06:33,140 --> 00:06:35,180
They looked like peasant women.

117
00:06:35,180 --> 00:06:40,200

And they had on the shoulder
to carry the thing that you dig

118
00:06:40,200 --> 00:06:43,250
the ground hose or something.

119
00:06:43,250 --> 00:06:48,442
And they all looked
like they were Ukrainian

120
00:06:48,442 --> 00:06:49,400
or the native peasants.

121
00:06:49,400 --> 00:06:52,070

122
00:06:52,070 --> 00:06:53,480
And they started leaving.

123
00:06:53,480 --> 00:06:55,910
Nobody suspected
them as being Jews,

124
00:06:55,910 --> 00:07:00,590
because they looked like they
blended in with the others.

125
00:07:00,590 --> 00:07:04,640

126
00:07:04,640 --> 00:07:06,500
And they ran in the forest.

127
00:07:06,500 --> 00:07:10,760
It didn't matter who, or
what, just be in the forest,

128
00:07:10,760 --> 00:07:13,580
because they knew that
in the forest, at least

129
00:07:13,580 --> 00:07:15,800

they were safer.

130
00:07:15,800 --> 00:07:18,230
We didn't know if
my father didn't

131
00:07:18,230 --> 00:07:21,770
know a thing that my mother
ran away from the ghetto

132
00:07:21,770 --> 00:07:23,090
and all us--.

133
00:07:23,090 --> 00:07:24,990
We went to right away
in the forest too.

134
00:07:24,990 --> 00:07:28,280
We stayed alone, my
uncle, my father, and me.

135
00:07:28,280 --> 00:07:30,320
And we thought that
they were all killed.

136
00:07:30,320 --> 00:07:34,610
We knew that they were
killing people in the Berezne.

137
00:07:34,610 --> 00:07:35,940
And you knew this?

138
00:07:35,940 --> 00:07:36,440
We knew it.

139
00:07:36,440 --> 00:07:37,640
You knew it?

140
00:07:37,640 --> 00:07:39,500
We knew it already after this.

141
00:07:39,500 --> 00:07:45,230

We knew what was going on
because people, peasants, would

142
00:07:45,230 --> 00:07:47,550
tell and to bring us the news.

143
00:07:47,550 --> 00:07:50,470
So when we were in the forest,
there was interesting story.

144
00:07:50,470 --> 00:07:53,570
My uncle, we thought that
the whole family was dead.

145
00:07:53,570 --> 00:08:01,640
So my uncle picked 10 trees
to represent a minyan.

146
00:08:01,640 --> 00:08:02,900
He put on the Tallis--

147
00:08:02,900 --> 00:08:04,850
he always carried the Tallis.

148
00:08:04,850 --> 00:08:09,360
And he put it, and he said
Kaddish for his family

149
00:08:09,360 --> 00:08:12,270
and for us because we
thought that they're probably

150
00:08:12,270 --> 00:08:14,890
dead by now and
they'll never come out.

151
00:08:14,890 --> 00:08:18,610
And he said Kaddish
for the family.

152
00:08:18,610 --> 00:08:21,580
We will for a little
while just along

153

00:08:21,580 --> 00:08:24,440
going for sometimes to a farm.

154

00:08:24,440 --> 00:08:28,255
And then we heard that my mother
and my aunt, they did survive,

155

00:08:28,255 --> 00:08:30,100
and they were hiding
somewhere, so we

156

00:08:30,100 --> 00:08:33,220
had a reunion in the forest,
a very happy reunion.

157

00:08:33,220 --> 00:08:35,500
At least they were
alive, and all this

158

00:08:35,500 --> 00:08:38,530
because my cousin, who was
only a year older than me,

159

00:08:38,530 --> 00:08:42,970
had enough sense and enough
presence of mind to say,

160

00:08:42,970 --> 00:08:45,130
we're getting out.

161

00:08:45,130 --> 00:08:47,650
If they would have
stayed overnight,

162

00:08:47,650 --> 00:08:49,600
they would have had to
dig their own ditches

163

00:08:49,600 --> 00:08:51,520
and would have been
shot like everyone,

164

00:08:51,520 --> 00:08:53,350
all the Jews in the ghetto.

165

00:08:53,350 --> 00:08:55,880
When you were older,
did you ask your mother,

166

00:08:55,880 --> 00:08:58,730
why did you listen
to this little boy?

167

00:08:58,730 --> 00:09:01,950
Because he was 11 years,
12 years old or something.

168

00:09:01,950 --> 00:09:02,840
No, she listened.

169

00:09:02,840 --> 00:09:03,470
She went.

170

00:09:03,470 --> 00:09:05,410
She followed my cousin.

171

00:09:05,410 --> 00:09:06,330
Why did she listen?

172

00:09:06,330 --> 00:09:09,470
Because nobody was smart.

173

00:09:09,470 --> 00:09:13,340
He could have gone
out of the ghetto

174

00:09:13,340 --> 00:09:16,220
and then stabbed by the
police or shot on the highway.

175

00:09:16,220 --> 00:09:18,055
There was nothing foolproof.

176

00:09:18,055 --> 00:09:20,150

But you live in the
ghetto, you got out,

177

00:09:20,150 --> 00:09:21,990

you were taking a chance.

178

00:09:21,990 --> 00:09:23,870

And when you're
still alive, you say

179

00:09:23,870 --> 00:09:26,330

maybe it's just a false rumor.

180

00:09:26,330 --> 00:09:29,060

Maybe they want-- we
lived by the rumors.

181

00:09:29,060 --> 00:09:32,870

Maybe they just came to
relocate us, maybe something.

182

00:09:32,870 --> 00:09:37,220

Nobody right away wanted
to accept the fact

183

00:09:37,220 --> 00:09:39,140

that this was it.

184

00:09:39,140 --> 00:09:42,480

So once we were reunited,
we stayed together,

185

00:09:42,480 --> 00:09:45,920

my uncle, and his wife,
and his three children,

186

00:09:45,920 --> 00:09:47,660

and my mother, and
father, and us.

187

00:09:47,660 --> 00:09:50,690

And we were going

from farmer to farmer.

188
00:09:50,690 --> 00:09:53,210
Some of them were
very kind and would

189
00:09:53,210 --> 00:09:58,550
let us stay, spend a
couple of nights in there

190
00:09:58,550 --> 00:10:02,160
of hiding in hay.

191
00:10:02,160 --> 00:10:02,870
What do you it?

192
00:10:02,870 --> 00:10:04,550
The barn.

193
00:10:04,550 --> 00:10:06,710
And then at night,
they would come out

194
00:10:06,710 --> 00:10:08,550
and they would
give us some food.

195
00:10:08,550 --> 00:10:11,030
They were taking a
chance of their lives,

196
00:10:11,030 --> 00:10:14,270
because if a neighbor's child
would come over and see us

197
00:10:14,270 --> 00:10:19,550
there, they could tell on us.

198
00:10:19,550 --> 00:10:23,840
And they would kill
not us, but also

199

00:10:23,840 --> 00:10:26,330
kill the people
who were hiding us.

200
00:10:26,330 --> 00:10:27,350
Life was cheap.

201
00:10:27,350 --> 00:10:34,380
For a pound of salt,
anybody could turn in to do.

202
00:10:34,380 --> 00:10:35,770
Salt was a big commodity.

203
00:10:35,770 --> 00:10:36,937
What did they care?

204
00:10:36,937 --> 00:10:38,770
Got the Jew, they give
them a pound of salt.

205
00:10:38,770 --> 00:10:40,560
So they would let
us stay sometimes

206
00:10:40,560 --> 00:10:44,850
for a few nights, until
they felt it was dangerous.

207
00:10:44,850 --> 00:10:46,800
And I recall one
thing as a child.

208
00:10:46,800 --> 00:10:50,340
I was sitting in hiding
in the barn in the hay,

209
00:10:50,340 --> 00:10:53,310
and I made a little opening
to see what's doing.

210
00:10:53,310 --> 00:10:54,640
This was daytime.

211
00:10:54,640 --> 00:10:57,210
And I see all the
chicken running around.

212
00:10:57,210 --> 00:11:02,820
And I said, God, why don't
you change me into a chicken,

213
00:11:02,820 --> 00:11:04,080
because take a look.

214
00:11:04,080 --> 00:11:09,150
They can be free and run around,
and I have to sit in here.

215
00:11:09,150 --> 00:11:13,460
God, make me one of the
domestic animals or something,

216
00:11:13,460 --> 00:11:14,670
the wishful thing.

217
00:11:14,670 --> 00:11:17,610
But we would stay in one
place, then go to the forest

218
00:11:17,610 --> 00:11:20,020
and stay a few days,
then go somewhere else.

219
00:11:20,020 --> 00:11:24,210
But basically what we
tried to do is go east.

220
00:11:24,210 --> 00:11:27,680
Maybe we'll still
catch up somewhere.

221
00:11:27,680 --> 00:11:30,330
We wanted to be on
the Russian territory,

222

00:11:30,330 --> 00:11:33,330

pre-war Russian territory,
because they were not

223

00:11:33,330 --> 00:11:35,370

so anti-Semitic.

224

00:11:35,370 --> 00:11:38,610

So we would stay in there.

225

00:11:38,610 --> 00:11:41,550

Some other people would come
and join us, the survivors,

226

00:11:41,550 --> 00:11:42,420

stay a little.

227

00:11:42,420 --> 00:11:43,640

We'll hear the stories.

228

00:11:43,640 --> 00:11:47,190

And they will go away,
hoping they can find

229

00:11:47,190 --> 00:11:49,180

some relatives in the forest.

230

00:11:49,180 --> 00:11:51,300

So this was an ongoing thing.

231

00:11:51,300 --> 00:11:54,970

What we needed the most
for survival in the forest

232

00:11:54,970 --> 00:11:59,280

is two very important things,
is to have an ax, so we

233

00:11:59,280 --> 00:12:06,300

can chop wood and then make
a tipi or something, and also

234

00:12:06,300 --> 00:12:10,600

a shovel to dig a hole,
so we can have water.

235

00:12:10,600 --> 00:12:12,660

So those things were
essential for survival.

236

00:12:12,660 --> 00:12:14,490

So you made something
like a tent?

237

00:12:14,490 --> 00:12:16,440

Correct, yeah, we
had it like this.

238

00:12:16,440 --> 00:12:20,160

We put all the trees and
just left and opening to in.

239

00:12:20,160 --> 00:12:23,580

The fire was always
in the center.

240

00:12:23,580 --> 00:12:25,660

And it would come out
through the chimney.

241

00:12:25,660 --> 00:12:29,280

So we were laying with
our heads to the fire.

242

00:12:29,280 --> 00:12:32,280

And then to eat, if
we didn't have food,

243

00:12:32,280 --> 00:12:34,920

there were always mushrooms.

244

00:12:34,920 --> 00:12:37,350

There were berries.

245

00:12:37,350 --> 00:12:42,150
And then at night,
the grown ups would

246
00:12:42,150 --> 00:12:43,650
leave me and my
little cousin alone,

247
00:12:43,650 --> 00:12:47,760
and they would go into the
fields to look for food.

248
00:12:47,760 --> 00:12:50,700
They could dig up potatoes.

249
00:12:50,700 --> 00:12:55,930
They could dig up corn, because
at night, they felt secure.

250
00:12:55,930 --> 00:12:57,750
And if they knew
somebody who would

251
00:12:57,750 --> 00:13:00,960
be sympathetic to the
Jews, they would go in

252
00:13:00,960 --> 00:13:05,160
and then the person give
them maybe some other food.

253
00:13:05,160 --> 00:13:06,690
But you had to be careful.

254
00:13:06,690 --> 00:13:10,230
You never knew even who's
going to turn you in.

255
00:13:10,230 --> 00:13:12,570
And then all these
people who all

256
00:13:12,570 --> 00:13:14,970

stay together, they
would come back

257
00:13:14,970 --> 00:13:16,940
when the sun would come out.

258
00:13:16,940 --> 00:13:20,310
You had to return to the
forest before the sun--

259
00:13:20,310 --> 00:13:24,120

260
00:13:24,120 --> 00:13:27,490
before it was daytime
to get out of there.

261
00:13:27,490 --> 00:13:29,790
And then we'll all sit
down and told rumors.

262
00:13:29,790 --> 00:13:31,680
So what did you hear?

263
00:13:31,680 --> 00:13:33,690
So where is the front now?

264
00:13:33,690 --> 00:13:35,560
So where is this going?

265
00:13:35,560 --> 00:13:40,080
And then we also used to--

266
00:13:40,080 --> 00:13:45,520
it's silly, but we gave a
lot of credence to dreams.

267
00:13:45,520 --> 00:13:47,760
We'd get up in the morning,
and we would say, so

268
00:13:47,760 --> 00:13:49,170

what did you dream?

269

00:13:49,170 --> 00:13:51,480

And this person said,
I had a dream of this.

270

00:13:51,480 --> 00:13:52,020

That's good.

271

00:13:52,020 --> 00:13:53,500

That's a good sign.

272

00:13:53,500 --> 00:13:58,650

Jews have this
capacity of always

273

00:13:58,650 --> 00:14:02,415

we survived so many wars
that to interpret it,

274

00:14:02,415 --> 00:14:03,540

something will be for good.

275

00:14:03,540 --> 00:14:04,260

That's a good sign.

276

00:14:04,260 --> 00:14:05,925

If you dreamed about
this and this and this,

277

00:14:05,925 --> 00:14:08,490

it's going to be good for us,
or maybe we won't be caught,

278

00:14:08,490 --> 00:14:10,400

or maybe we'll get one.

279

00:14:10,400 --> 00:14:14,550

So we also would exchange
stories about dreams.

280

00:14:14,550 --> 00:14:16,050

We had the food.

281

00:14:16,050 --> 00:14:20,020

And at night, when all the
grownups went to look for food,

282

00:14:20,020 --> 00:14:22,740

and I was left alone with my
little cousin, who was maybe

283

00:14:22,740 --> 00:14:26,760

about four years younger
than me, we sat by the fire,

284

00:14:26,760 --> 00:14:29,580

just all alone,
and we could hear

285

00:14:29,580 --> 00:14:34,890

the bears howling, because
they saw people in the wood.

286

00:14:34,890 --> 00:14:37,313

But they never came in, inside.

287

00:14:37,313 --> 00:14:37,980

They were there.

288

00:14:37,980 --> 00:14:39,570

But could see them all running.

289

00:14:39,570 --> 00:14:43,500

And we had to be very quiet
while we were in the woods,

290

00:14:43,500 --> 00:14:46,920

so nobody would find,
because anybody,

291

00:14:46,920 --> 00:14:49,500

shepherds who were
tending to cows

292

00:14:49,500 --> 00:14:52,240
or whatever, if they would
see a Jew, they can come home

293

00:14:52,240 --> 00:14:52,740
and tell.

294

00:14:52,740 --> 00:14:55,560
And the minute we saw
that somebody saw us,

295

00:14:55,560 --> 00:15:02,100
we had to change the place,
run, because the chances of them

296

00:15:02,100 --> 00:15:04,500
telling us were very great.

297

00:15:04,500 --> 00:15:07,050
So we just walked,
and we decided

298

00:15:07,050 --> 00:15:12,270
to go on Russian territory,
Russian pre-war territory,

299

00:15:12,270 --> 00:15:15,660
which meant to cross
the River Sluch.

300

00:15:15,660 --> 00:15:17,830
To cross the river,
there was no bridge.

301

00:15:17,830 --> 00:15:20,880
There was just a
very narrow railroad,

302

00:15:20,880 --> 00:15:25,270
because the Polish people
used it to transport something

303

00:15:25,270 --> 00:15:26,200
from carriage.

304
00:15:26,200 --> 00:15:27,840
They were building
fortifications.

305
00:15:27,840 --> 00:15:30,750
They thought they were going
to fight with the Russians.

306
00:15:30,750 --> 00:15:33,840
So the river was very wide.

307
00:15:33,840 --> 00:15:36,300
And we had to cross it.

308
00:15:36,300 --> 00:15:40,500
And to go from one of--

309
00:15:40,500 --> 00:15:42,600
what we call this thing
in here-- to another,

310
00:15:42,600 --> 00:15:46,270
you could see the
water underneath.

311
00:15:46,270 --> 00:15:49,870
So if you missed and
you didn't step right--

312
00:15:49,870 --> 00:15:50,790
Was there stones?

313
00:15:50,790 --> 00:15:51,290
No.

314
00:15:51,290 --> 00:15:53,970
There were just two tracks,
and there were ties.

315

00:15:53,970 --> 00:15:55,320
Is that what you call them?

316
00:15:55,320 --> 00:15:56,850
So you had to walk on these?

317
00:15:56,850 --> 00:16:00,960
We had to walk on the ties,
make sure not to miss,

318
00:16:00,960 --> 00:16:05,510
because if you missed it, you
would fall into the river.

319
00:16:05,510 --> 00:16:10,332
My uncle carried my
little cousin on her back.

320
00:16:10,332 --> 00:16:11,040
So wait a minute.

321
00:16:11,040 --> 00:16:15,000
That's above the water.

322
00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:16,410
Above the water.

323
00:16:16,410 --> 00:16:18,270
So you could really
fall and hurt yourself?

324
00:16:18,270 --> 00:16:20,340
We could have, if
you don't fall.

325
00:16:20,340 --> 00:16:21,540
This was little.

326
00:16:21,540 --> 00:16:23,160
It was a very narrow.

327
00:16:23,160 --> 00:16:26,610

This was the little
tracks, and there were just

328
00:16:26,610 --> 00:16:27,360
ties going across.

329
00:16:27,360 --> 00:16:28,860
It wasn't meant to walk on.

330
00:16:28,860 --> 00:16:32,050
They used to push
little carts with sand,

331
00:16:32,050 --> 00:16:34,650
the samples they were building.

332
00:16:34,650 --> 00:16:40,230
Until we crossed the river, we
felt already being on Russian--

333
00:16:40,230 --> 00:16:42,950
so-called Russian, it wasn't
Russian anymore-- territory,

334
00:16:42,950 --> 00:16:44,700
we were relieved,
because we knew

335
00:16:44,700 --> 00:16:50,730
the people will be kind to us,
that they will not turn us in.

336
00:16:50,730 --> 00:16:56,440
And they were, after all,
former Russian citizens.

337
00:16:56,440 --> 00:17:02,050
So they were not buddy
buddy with the Nazis.

338
00:17:02,050 --> 00:17:08,270
So once we came there
and we sat , down,

339

00:17:08,270 --> 00:17:12,380
the Germans did know more that
there were a lot of Jews hiding

340

00:17:12,380 --> 00:17:13,119
in the forest.

341

00:17:13,119 --> 00:17:13,619
They knew?

342

00:17:13,619 --> 00:17:14,300
They knew it.

343

00:17:14,300 --> 00:17:15,170
They did, yeah.

344

00:17:15,170 --> 00:17:19,760
They knew it through the Ukraine
and whoever used to tell them.

345

00:17:19,760 --> 00:17:22,220
They knew the Jews, there
were a lot of Jews hiding.

346

00:17:22,220 --> 00:17:27,865
But there used to be a rumor
saying that Germans are not

347

00:17:27,865 --> 00:17:28,490
country people.

348

00:17:28,490 --> 00:17:29,450
They're city people.

349

00:17:29,450 --> 00:17:32,480
They will never go
into a forest to look

350

00:17:32,480 --> 00:17:36,860
for people, because they
don't know how to get around.

351

00:17:36,860 --> 00:17:40,340

So if anything, they relied
on sometimes the plane

352

00:17:40,340 --> 00:17:45,380

would fly over our heads,
because just looking in.

353

00:17:45,380 --> 00:17:50,720

And sometimes you
could hear troops,

354

00:17:50,720 --> 00:17:52,970

and we hear this going
on, we knew it's time

355

00:17:52,970 --> 00:17:55,160

to move to another place.

356

00:17:55,160 --> 00:18:02,640

And once we came, as I said,
on this Russian territory,

357

00:18:02,640 --> 00:18:07,290

some person told us that if
you go in this and this house,

358

00:18:07,290 --> 00:18:13,210

there are some Russian
partisans and to meet them,

359

00:18:13,210 --> 00:18:16,750

and maybe they can help
your or whatever it is.

360

00:18:16,750 --> 00:18:18,100

We were elated.

361

00:18:18,100 --> 00:18:21,030

Anything Russian
felt good to us.

362

00:18:21,030 --> 00:18:23,550

It meant that the Germans
were left way behind us.

363

00:18:23,550 --> 00:18:27,600

They were on the other
side of the Sluch River.

364

00:18:27,600 --> 00:18:31,950

And we didn't even think that
they were anywhere around here.

365

00:18:31,950 --> 00:18:35,280

So my father and my uncle
went into this house,

366

00:18:35,280 --> 00:18:37,770

and they met with the partisans.

367

00:18:37,770 --> 00:18:40,560

They were-- I don't know
who the exact people.

368

00:18:40,560 --> 00:18:45,150

That were just Russian,
just local people

369

00:18:45,150 --> 00:18:47,320

who worked for the partisans.

370

00:18:47,320 --> 00:18:52,230

They were keeping guard
to let the partisans know

371

00:18:52,230 --> 00:18:54,550

the Germans are
coming or something.

372

00:18:54,550 --> 00:18:57,960

So when my father and my
uncle came and asked could we

373

00:18:57,960 --> 00:19:02,220

join the partisans,
they took us in,

374

00:19:02,220 --> 00:19:06,240

because we were a three member
family, my parents and myself.

375

00:19:06,240 --> 00:19:08,580

First of all, I was
not a baby anymore.

376

00:19:08,580 --> 00:19:12,570

And my father had
a rifle, or a gun.

377

00:19:12,570 --> 00:19:15,270

So he knew how to shoot.

378

00:19:15,270 --> 00:19:18,270

My mother knew how to cook.

379

00:19:18,270 --> 00:19:20,460

So we were really
a help to them.

380

00:19:20,460 --> 00:19:22,260

So they took us in.

381

00:19:22,260 --> 00:19:23,760

But they wouldn't
take in my uncle,

382

00:19:23,760 --> 00:19:27,510

because they didn't
come to save the Jews.

383

00:19:27,510 --> 00:19:31,800

They took us as more if we
can help them for something,

384

00:19:31,800 --> 00:19:33,420

which makes sense.

385
00:19:33,420 --> 00:19:36,000
So once we got
into the partisan,

386
00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:39,120
they were just elated
to know that there

387
00:19:39,120 --> 00:19:44,860
were some people here who
actually came from Moscow.

388
00:19:44,860 --> 00:19:46,500
How much can you ask for?

389
00:19:46,500 --> 00:19:50,610
We just absolutely couldn't
believe the good fortune.

390
00:19:50,610 --> 00:19:54,060
And this is what happened
once we got there.

391
00:19:54,060 --> 00:19:56,550
There was still a very
small group of people,

392
00:19:56,550 --> 00:20:00,270
because the Medvedev
partisans were just beginning

393
00:20:00,270 --> 00:20:04,170
to form, maybe about 50 people.

394
00:20:04,170 --> 00:20:09,070
And we were also
anxious to help to them.

395
00:20:09,070 --> 00:20:10,740
So my mother cooked.

396

00:20:10,740 --> 00:20:12,150
My father had the rifle.

397
00:20:12,150 --> 00:20:14,430
And whenever the people
were going to look for food

398
00:20:14,430 --> 00:20:17,310
or whatever they wanted,
he was going with them.

399
00:20:17,310 --> 00:20:19,290
And I worked with sick people.

400
00:20:19,290 --> 00:20:21,270
They called it [INAUDIBLE].

401
00:20:21,270 --> 00:20:27,135
And what I used to do is
we didn't have bandages.

402
00:20:27,135 --> 00:20:30,870
Whenever somebody
was hurt or wounded,

403
00:20:30,870 --> 00:20:34,180
you take off the bandage,
you wash it by hand,

404
00:20:34,180 --> 00:20:36,810
you put it in a pot
where the bandages

405
00:20:36,810 --> 00:20:39,810
would boil, sterilize them,
and dry it, and roll it

406
00:20:39,810 --> 00:20:42,100
up, and reuse them over again.

407
00:20:42,100 --> 00:20:43,950
So I was helpful in this way.

408

00:20:43,950 --> 00:20:48,180

I would sit with the sick
people and change the bandage.

409

00:20:48,180 --> 00:20:50,700

I used to know how to do
[? cupping ?],, as I told you,

410

00:20:50,700 --> 00:20:52,330

[? banki ?],, as
we say in Russian,

411

00:20:52,330 --> 00:20:54,690

all out cure for everything.

412

00:20:54,690 --> 00:20:57,270

I also you'll have to
take a rifle apart,

413

00:20:57,270 --> 00:21:01,875

to take a rifle apart, clean
it, and put it together.

414

00:21:01,875 --> 00:21:03,870

So I learned that too.

415

00:21:03,870 --> 00:21:06,900

And then, just before
leaving for Moscow,

416

00:21:06,900 --> 00:21:10,330

I remember I was trying to
learn how to ride a horse.

417

00:21:10,330 --> 00:21:12,460

And it didn't go very well.

418

00:21:12,460 --> 00:21:16,950

But the idea was we were so
grateful that they took us in,

419

00:21:16,950 --> 00:21:22,950

and they protected us after all,
they were in touch with Moscow.

420
00:21:22,950 --> 00:21:26,570
They had a few people who
were in constant radio

421
00:21:26,570 --> 00:21:32,120
contact with Moscow and
taking orders what to do.

422
00:21:32,120 --> 00:21:34,660
And we were not alone anymore.

423
00:21:34,660 --> 00:21:37,362

424
00:21:37,362 --> 00:21:41,070
Out of gratitude, we didn't
know what to do more.

425
00:21:41,070 --> 00:21:43,460
So I felt very good too.

426
00:21:43,460 --> 00:21:46,490
I was needed too, even
as young as I was.

427
00:21:46,490 --> 00:21:48,470
You were 12 by then.

428
00:21:48,470 --> 00:21:49,370
Let's se in 19--

429
00:21:49,370 --> 00:21:53,510
I was about 12, yeah, 12,
13, something like that.

430
00:21:53,510 --> 00:21:58,430
And then I remember I learned--

431
00:21:58,430 --> 00:22:01,670

it was on the job training.

432

00:22:01,670 --> 00:22:06,110

They even taught me once,
I remember, to give a shot.

433

00:22:06,110 --> 00:22:08,590

But we didn't have
any penicillin.

434

00:22:08,590 --> 00:22:10,790

We didn't have any
of the latest thing.

435

00:22:10,790 --> 00:22:14,780

Sometimes a plane would
come in at night and land

436

00:22:14,780 --> 00:22:16,220

and bring us some--

437

00:22:16,220 --> 00:22:18,110

I don't know if maybe--

438

00:22:18,110 --> 00:22:22,710

I don't think penicillin
even existed then, but bring

439

00:22:22,710 --> 00:22:24,440

some medication.

440

00:22:24,440 --> 00:22:28,580

But we relied on
ourselves with the people.

441

00:22:28,580 --> 00:22:33,200

We had two doctors on the
premises, one doctor who

442

00:22:33,200 --> 00:22:37,080

flown in from Moscow,
Dr. [? Sasarki. ?]

443

00:22:37,080 --> 00:22:38,890

He was handsome tall man.

444

00:22:38,890 --> 00:22:41,940

He was an artist
in private life.

445

00:22:41,940 --> 00:22:47,490

But he volunteered to go ahead
and be in the path to help.

446

00:22:47,490 --> 00:22:50,250

They called it the Motherland.

447

00:22:50,250 --> 00:22:52,500

So he was parachuted in.

448

00:22:52,500 --> 00:22:56,220

Then we had a Jewish
family with us, Dr. Martin.

449

00:22:56,220 --> 00:22:59,880

And they took him in with
the two tiny children, two

450

00:22:59,880 --> 00:23:02,970

or three years old,
because they needed him.

451

00:23:02,970 --> 00:23:05,230

He was an all round too.

452

00:23:05,230 --> 00:23:09,450

He could do operations.

453

00:23:09,450 --> 00:23:15,210

He could do whatever was
needed, to amputate legs.

454

00:23:15,210 --> 00:23:16,620

He could do abortions.

455

00:23:16,620 --> 00:23:18,930

He could do everything
that was needed.

456

00:23:18,930 --> 00:23:23,610

It was a makeshift little place,
where they put branches along.

457

00:23:23,610 --> 00:23:27,780

And he didn't even
have any instruments.

458

00:23:27,780 --> 00:23:36,630

They used the saw that you use
for sawing wood or something.

459

00:23:36,630 --> 00:23:38,790

And they sort of wiped
it and sterilized it.

460

00:23:38,790 --> 00:23:43,980

They did have maybe some
alcohol and maybe set a match,

461

00:23:43,980 --> 00:23:45,540

and anyhow to try to--

462

00:23:45,540 --> 00:23:51,300

and they amputated the legs
for one guy I know very well.

463

00:23:51,300 --> 00:23:54,570

I used to change his
bandages below the knee,

464

00:23:54,570 --> 00:23:56,430

because he got gangrene.

465

00:23:56,430 --> 00:24:01,710

And if he didn't cut off
the legs, and he survived.

466

00:24:01,710 --> 00:24:03,750
They sent him later to Moscow.

467
00:24:03,750 --> 00:24:05,970
God knows how this happened.

468
00:24:05,970 --> 00:24:09,630
But we had no medicine.

469
00:24:09,630 --> 00:24:11,820
People did get sick.

470
00:24:11,820 --> 00:24:13,770
They had scarlet fever.

471
00:24:13,770 --> 00:24:20,550
They had typhoid fever because
of the dirt, the water.

472
00:24:20,550 --> 00:24:22,650
And if you had anything,
like I remember,

473
00:24:22,650 --> 00:24:25,900
I had a scratch or
a sore on my leg.

474
00:24:25,900 --> 00:24:27,180
There was no bandages too.

475
00:24:27,180 --> 00:24:32,000
But by word of mouth,
my father told me

476
00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:36,270
you took certain leaves that
have medicinal properties,

477
00:24:36,270 --> 00:24:42,460
and you put that leaf on
it and just cover it up,

478

00:24:42,460 --> 00:24:48,340
and by God, after a while,
the sore would disappear.

479
00:24:48,340 --> 00:24:51,250
I still see that
leaf in front of me.

480
00:24:51,250 --> 00:24:54,220
But my parents
living on the farm

481
00:24:54,220 --> 00:24:59,860
knew, and my uncle, certain
things about vegetations

482
00:24:59,860 --> 00:25:01,990
and all on their property.

483
00:25:01,990 --> 00:25:05,980
So this was the
medicine for sores.

484
00:25:05,980 --> 00:25:06,940
This guy survived.

485
00:25:06,940 --> 00:25:10,390

486
00:25:10,390 --> 00:25:14,920
As I said, I used to take
off this, and his bandage,

487
00:25:14,920 --> 00:25:20,200
take it off, wash it, and
dry it, and another one,

488
00:25:20,200 --> 00:25:21,850
and then put it back on.

489
00:25:21,850 --> 00:25:24,580
The only thing I
was told to do is

490
00:25:24,580 --> 00:25:27,550
take cotton dip it in
alcohol or something

491
00:25:27,550 --> 00:25:31,060
and just wipe the wound
and put it back on.

492
00:25:31,060 --> 00:25:34,690
And he had a sense of humor.

493
00:25:34,690 --> 00:25:37,960
The reason why this
happened to him,

494
00:25:37,960 --> 00:25:44,160
because one time the Germans
did find out where we were.

495
00:25:44,160 --> 00:25:47,720
And they start closing in on us.

496
00:25:47,720 --> 00:25:52,700
And we, the partisans,
started to run.

497
00:25:52,700 --> 00:25:56,120
He got, for some reason,
detached from the group.

498
00:25:56,120 --> 00:25:58,790
He got lost in the forest.

499
00:25:58,790 --> 00:26:00,710
And he was a radio operator.

500
00:26:00,710 --> 00:26:03,107
He carried his
radio on his back.

501
00:26:03,107 --> 00:26:04,190

He got lost in the forest.

502

00:26:04,190 --> 00:26:08,450

For about two or three
days, he couldn't find us.

503

00:26:08,450 --> 00:26:10,760

So he got frostbitten.

504

00:26:10,760 --> 00:26:12,740

He legs got frostbitten.

505

00:26:12,740 --> 00:26:14,870

By the time he did
find us already,

506

00:26:14,870 --> 00:26:17,030

the rest of the group
of the partisans,

507

00:26:17,030 --> 00:26:20,990

he was already had
gangrene set in his legs.

508

00:26:20,990 --> 00:26:24,500

And they had to, as I said,
they amputated his legs.

509

00:26:24,500 --> 00:26:26,690

And he survived.

510

00:26:26,690 --> 00:26:30,350

He used to sit and
tell some jokes.

511

00:26:30,350 --> 00:26:34,550

And then he was
sent to Moscow later

512

00:26:34,550 --> 00:26:38,402

on with some other
wounded people.

513

00:26:38,402 --> 00:26:40,360

Would you like to talk
more about the partisans

514

00:26:40,360 --> 00:26:41,215

or am I going too fast?

515

00:26:41,215 --> 00:26:43,215

I'm going to go back a
little bit to the ghetto,

516

00:26:43,215 --> 00:26:44,470

just for a second.

517

00:26:44,470 --> 00:26:48,100

You said that the
women were hysterical,

518

00:26:48,100 --> 00:26:50,080

so you didn't want
to stay with them.

519

00:26:50,080 --> 00:26:52,930

That's why you wanted to go
with your father and uncle.

520

00:26:52,930 --> 00:26:55,090

What were the women like,
versus what the men were

521

00:26:55,090 --> 00:26:56,298

like, as far as what you saw?

522

00:26:56,298 --> 00:26:58,858

I'll tell you, because
men had more strength.

523

00:26:58,858 --> 00:26:59,650

They were stronger.

524

00:26:59,650 --> 00:27:01,810

They were more logical.

525
00:27:01,810 --> 00:27:04,090
And they were more
like presence of mind.

526
00:27:04,090 --> 00:27:07,850
Women, they were helpless.

527
00:27:07,850 --> 00:27:09,850
The men knew the
area or something,

528
00:27:09,850 --> 00:27:13,810
then I had confidence
that no matter

529
00:27:13,810 --> 00:27:17,990
what, I feel more
secure with the men.

530
00:27:17,990 --> 00:27:23,200
The women were always, as
I said, they were crying.

531
00:27:23,200 --> 00:27:24,970
They didn't know
what's going to happen.

532
00:27:24,970 --> 00:27:29,050
They just weren't
strong, psychologically,

533
00:27:29,050 --> 00:27:33,310
to handle something like
that, presence of mind,

534
00:27:33,310 --> 00:27:35,200
and whatever it is.

535
00:27:35,200 --> 00:27:39,550
And I felt that my father was
the stronger between the two,

536

00:27:39,550 --> 00:27:45,330

and he would be able to
protect me or take care of me

537

00:27:45,330 --> 00:27:47,240

until they're all together.

538

00:27:47,240 --> 00:27:49,135

Was your mother upset
when you decided

539

00:27:49,135 --> 00:27:50,510

you didn't want
to stay with her,

540

00:27:50,510 --> 00:27:51,610

you wanted to go
with your father?

541

00:27:51,610 --> 00:27:52,160

No, no.

542

00:27:52,160 --> 00:27:52,970

She wasn't?

543

00:27:52,970 --> 00:27:54,740

I must say one thing.

544

00:27:54,740 --> 00:27:57,740

We had an agreement just
when the war started,

545

00:27:57,740 --> 00:28:03,100

and the Germans
came that we are not

546

00:28:03,100 --> 00:28:04,930

going to cling to each other.

547

00:28:04,930 --> 00:28:10,740

Suppose the Nazis come, and they
want to go ahead and kill us.

548
00:28:10,740 --> 00:28:12,690
We had agreed that
we're going to have

549
00:28:12,690 --> 00:28:15,690
everybody run for himself.

550
00:28:15,690 --> 00:28:18,840
Don't say I'm waiting for Mama,
I'll wait for your sister.

551
00:28:18,840 --> 00:28:20,940
Run for your life.

552
00:28:20,940 --> 00:28:26,580
So she knew that whatever my
father decided, what I did,

553
00:28:26,580 --> 00:28:30,235
is probably the best
for me, because she

554
00:28:30,235 --> 00:28:32,110
knew that my father
would be there, my uncle,

555
00:28:32,110 --> 00:28:36,160
so she didn't protest it.

556
00:28:36,160 --> 00:28:38,980
She wanted me to live,
like all parents.

557
00:28:38,980 --> 00:28:42,790
And if I felt this was better
there for me, by all means,

558
00:28:42,790 --> 00:28:43,740
I could go.

559
00:28:43,740 --> 00:28:45,940

But you made the decision.

560
00:28:45,940 --> 00:28:49,030
The decision was with me and
yes, I asked my father there.

561
00:28:49,030 --> 00:28:51,740
I wanted to be
out near a forest.

562
00:28:51,740 --> 00:28:54,520
If anything happens, we
can just run in the forest.

563
00:28:54,520 --> 00:28:56,860
Once you were in the ghetto,
you were in the city,

564
00:28:56,860 --> 00:28:59,440
they closed in all the
streets or something,

565
00:28:59,440 --> 00:29:01,503
and then what do you do?

566
00:29:01,503 --> 00:29:02,170
There's nothing.

567
00:29:02,170 --> 00:29:06,190
But once you're outside and
you're close near a forest,

568
00:29:06,190 --> 00:29:09,190
you were like half
liberated, can you see?

569
00:29:09,190 --> 00:29:10,180
Because you can go.

570
00:29:10,180 --> 00:29:12,760
The forest in Poland was so--

571

00:29:12,760 --> 00:29:15,700
it would start in the
Ukraine, and it was so deep,

572
00:29:15,700 --> 00:29:18,190
that you can go all the
way through the forest, all

573
00:29:18,190 --> 00:29:21,250
the way deep into Russia,
and never see a human being.

574
00:29:21,250 --> 00:29:24,160
That's how thick
and heavy they were.

575
00:29:24,160 --> 00:29:31,340
So I felt much more
secure with my father.

576
00:29:31,340 --> 00:29:34,640
And when I left,
at that time, we

577
00:29:34,640 --> 00:29:37,300
didn't know that it
was going to be so soon

578
00:29:37,300 --> 00:29:40,240
the Holocaust will take place.

579
00:29:40,240 --> 00:29:42,708
I thought we were just
temporarily there.

580
00:29:42,708 --> 00:29:43,750
There wasn't much really.

581
00:29:43,750 --> 00:29:45,640
Yes, my mother let me go.

582
00:29:45,640 --> 00:29:46,950
She didn't hold on to me.

583

00:29:46,950 --> 00:29:51,260

She felt it was I was
happier to be there.

584

00:29:51,260 --> 00:29:53,200

Stop the tape.

585

00:29:53,200 --> 00:31:17,000