

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,100

2
00:00:02,100 --> 00:00:05,700
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:05,700 --> 00:00:09,900
interview with Mrs. Regina
Plawner on March 2nd,

4
00:00:09,900 --> 00:00:14,010
2017 in Aventura, Florida.

5
00:00:14,010 --> 00:00:17,820
Thank you very, very much,
Mrs. Plawner for agreeing

6
00:00:17,820 --> 00:00:19,510
to speak with us today.

7
00:00:19,510 --> 00:00:21,360
You're welcome.

8
00:00:21,360 --> 00:00:24,240
I'm going to start our
interview at the very beginning

9
00:00:24,240 --> 00:00:27,330
with the most basic
questions and we'll

10
00:00:27,330 --> 00:00:30,250
develop your story from there.

11
00:00:30,250 --> 00:00:34,590
So my first question is, can you
tell me the date of your birth?

12
00:00:34,590 --> 00:00:36,570
9/5/31.

13
00:00:36,570 --> 00:00:37,580
What does that mean?

14
00:00:37,580 --> 00:00:38,622
Does that mean September?

15
00:00:38,622 --> 00:00:39,390
September, yeah.

16
00:00:39,390 --> 00:00:41,850
September 5th, 1931.

17
00:00:41,850 --> 00:00:45,860
And what was your name at birth?

18
00:00:45,860 --> 00:00:48,140
My name in Hebrew, Rivka.

19
00:00:48,140 --> 00:00:50,090
All right, and your last name?

20
00:00:50,090 --> 00:00:51,150
Rosenberg.

21
00:00:51,150 --> 00:00:52,070
Rosenberg.

22
00:00:52,070 --> 00:00:55,850
And so you were known
as Rivka Rosenberg.

23
00:00:55,850 --> 00:00:57,235
And when did you become Regina?

24
00:00:57,235 --> 00:01:00,230

25
00:01:00,230 --> 00:01:03,900
I became always Regina
since I started school.

26
00:01:03,900 --> 00:01:04,560
I see.

27
00:01:04,560 --> 00:01:05,510
OK.

28
00:01:05,510 --> 00:01:07,710
And where were you born?

29
00:01:07,710 --> 00:01:10,970
I was born in Ulanov.

30
00:01:10,970 --> 00:01:17,510
This is a small town,
a very nice town.

31
00:01:17,510 --> 00:01:22,260
And I have nice
memories from childhood,

32
00:01:22,260 --> 00:01:25,800
but that's all I remember.

33
00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:26,750
OK.

34
00:01:26,750 --> 00:01:30,200
We'll get to we'll get to
talking about these things.

35
00:01:30,200 --> 00:01:34,130
Tell me a little bit about
your immediate family.

36
00:01:34,130 --> 00:01:36,290
Did you have
brothers and sisters?

37
00:01:36,290 --> 00:01:39,320
I had three brothers
and I had three sisters,

38
00:01:39,320 --> 00:01:42,590
and I was the youngest one.

39
00:01:42,590 --> 00:01:45,530
You were the baby.

40
00:01:45,530 --> 00:01:49,530
Can you tell me their names by
order of oldest to youngest?

41
00:01:49,530 --> 00:01:50,420
Yes.

42
00:01:50,420 --> 00:01:51,560
Charles.

43
00:01:51,560 --> 00:01:53,000
Shia was his name.

44
00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:53,570
Shia.

45
00:01:53,570 --> 00:01:54,320
Yes.

46
00:01:54,320 --> 00:01:55,280
Leon.

47
00:01:55,280 --> 00:01:56,890
Leo.

48
00:01:56,890 --> 00:01:57,620
Mina.

49
00:01:57,620 --> 00:01:58,680
Mina.

50
00:01:58,680 --> 00:01:59,660
Sudek.

51
00:01:59,660 --> 00:02:00,980
Sudek.

52
00:02:00,980 --> 00:02:01,910
Esther.

53
00:02:01,910 --> 00:02:02,570
Esther.

54
00:02:02,570 --> 00:02:04,640
And myself, Regina.

55
00:02:04,640 --> 00:02:07,070
And when was the
oldest one born?

56
00:02:07,070 --> 00:02:12,485
The oldest one was
born, I think, in 1920.

57
00:02:12,485 --> 00:02:15,770
Oh, so within a decade?

58
00:02:15,770 --> 00:02:17,240
Just a little more
than a decade,

59
00:02:17,240 --> 00:02:18,590
all the children were born?

60
00:02:18,590 --> 00:02:19,250
Correct.

61
00:02:19,250 --> 00:02:20,930
OK.

62
00:02:20,930 --> 00:02:23,600
Your mother and your father's
name, can you tell me that?

63
00:02:23,600 --> 00:02:27,080

My mother's name
was Klara Rosenberg.

64
00:02:27,080 --> 00:02:29,300
Her maiden name was Graf.

65
00:02:29,300 --> 00:02:29,930
OK.

66
00:02:29,930 --> 00:02:35,480
And my father was
Moshe, Moses Rosenberg.

67
00:02:35,480 --> 00:02:35,980
OK.

68
00:02:35,980 --> 00:02:40,700

69
00:02:40,700 --> 00:02:42,510
How did your parents
make a living?

70
00:02:42,510 --> 00:02:44,180
How did they put
food on the table?

71
00:02:44,180 --> 00:02:46,295
Well, my father was in business.

72
00:02:46,295 --> 00:02:50,540

73
00:02:50,540 --> 00:02:59,210
What I remember, they were
in the wheat and fruit.

74
00:02:59,210 --> 00:03:02,180
In my time, what
I remember, they

75
00:03:02,180 --> 00:03:06,920

had been delivering to
the army or so in Poland.

76
00:03:06,920 --> 00:03:10,190
So you say wheat and fruit?

77
00:03:10,190 --> 00:03:10,880
Yes.

78
00:03:10,880 --> 00:03:12,930
So they supplied food?

79
00:03:12,930 --> 00:03:13,430
Yes.

80
00:03:13,430 --> 00:03:15,320
OK.

81
00:03:15,320 --> 00:03:20,300
Did your father have customers
outside of the Polish army?

82
00:03:20,300 --> 00:03:21,200
Did he supply--

83
00:03:21,200 --> 00:03:23,060
This I don't know.

84
00:03:23,060 --> 00:03:25,220
So you don't know if
there was a store?

85
00:03:25,220 --> 00:03:25,760
No, no.

86
00:03:25,760 --> 00:03:26,690
There was no store?

87
00:03:26,690 --> 00:03:29,260
No.

88

00:03:29,260 --> 00:03:32,500
Do you know much about what
your father's business involved,

89
00:03:32,500 --> 00:03:34,330
how he got his goods?

90
00:03:34,330 --> 00:03:35,590
No, no.

91
00:03:35,590 --> 00:03:38,460
I would not remember that
and I would not know.

92
00:03:38,460 --> 00:03:39,700
OK.

93
00:03:39,700 --> 00:03:43,030
And did your mother help
him in this business?

94
00:03:43,030 --> 00:03:44,060
I think so.

95
00:03:44,060 --> 00:03:45,060
I think so.

96
00:03:45,060 --> 00:03:45,560
OK.

97
00:03:45,560 --> 00:03:49,150
Did he have any other employees?

98
00:03:49,150 --> 00:03:50,940
I don't think so.

99
00:03:50,940 --> 00:03:54,100
I think it was more
of a family business.

100
00:03:54,100 --> 00:03:55,960
OK.

101
00:03:55,960 --> 00:04:00,370
Had your parents lived in
Ulanov their whole lives?

102
00:04:00,370 --> 00:04:03,240
My father was born in Frampol.

103
00:04:03,240 --> 00:04:06,580
This is near Lublin.

104
00:04:06,580 --> 00:04:10,150
And my mother was
born in Ulanov.

105
00:04:10,150 --> 00:04:12,460
And their parents?

106
00:04:12,460 --> 00:04:18,070
Their parents, I
think my grandmother

107
00:04:18,070 --> 00:04:19,930
was born in Holoshitsa.

108
00:04:19,930 --> 00:04:25,540
This is quite a few
kilometers away.

109
00:04:25,540 --> 00:04:28,690
And my grandfather,
I don't know.

110
00:04:28,690 --> 00:04:30,280
OK.

111
00:04:30,280 --> 00:04:32,230
By asking these
questions, I'm trying

112
00:04:32,230 --> 00:04:36,580
to establish whether

or not the families had

113
00:04:36,580 --> 00:04:39,520
been in the same
place for generations.

114
00:04:39,520 --> 00:04:40,270
Yes.

115
00:04:40,270 --> 00:04:40,780
OK.

116
00:04:40,780 --> 00:04:41,280
Yes.

117
00:04:41,280 --> 00:04:46,240
I was there since I was born
and until the war started.

118
00:04:46,240 --> 00:04:51,250
OK, and for generations back,
so that they're not newcomers

119
00:04:51,250 --> 00:04:51,920
to the area.

120
00:04:51,920 --> 00:04:52,630
No.

121
00:04:52,630 --> 00:04:54,130
All right.

122
00:04:54,130 --> 00:04:58,240
Did your father
serve in World War I?

123
00:04:58,240 --> 00:04:59,440
I don't think so.

124
00:04:59,440 --> 00:05:00,520
OK.

125

00:05:00,520 --> 00:05:02,440

And do you know what part--

126

00:05:02,440 --> 00:05:07,090

Poland was divided
before 1918, I believe.

127

00:05:07,090 --> 00:05:11,790

Do you know which
force occupied?

128

00:05:11,790 --> 00:05:16,062

Well, I know my mother was on
the German, the Austrian side.

129

00:05:16,062 --> 00:05:17,020

The Austrian-Hungarian.

130

00:05:17,020 --> 00:05:19,810

My father was in Poland.

131

00:05:19,810 --> 00:05:21,470

I think more on
the Russian side.

132

00:05:21,470 --> 00:05:24,740

OK, so the Russians would
have occupied it beforehand?

133

00:05:24,740 --> 00:05:27,700

I don't know if they
occupied, but I know--

134

00:05:27,700 --> 00:05:28,585

maybe they did.

135

00:05:28,585 --> 00:05:31,600

136

00:05:31,600 --> 00:05:33,060

You're asking me
about separation.

137
00:05:33,060 --> 00:05:36,550
So I know my mother
is from Galicia

138
00:05:36,550 --> 00:05:40,060
and my father is
from Congress Poland.

139
00:05:40,060 --> 00:05:43,660
This means the eastern
part of Poland.

140
00:05:43,660 --> 00:05:47,740

141
00:05:47,740 --> 00:05:50,080
Did your parents
tell you many stories

142
00:05:50,080 --> 00:05:52,360
about their own childhoods?

143
00:05:52,360 --> 00:05:55,460
Not really.

144
00:05:55,460 --> 00:05:59,580
They didn't have
time, first of all.

145
00:05:59,580 --> 00:06:03,030
When the war started, we were
the first one to be bombed.

146
00:06:03,030 --> 00:06:04,710
We're talking about 1939?

147
00:06:04,710 --> 00:06:05,853
1939.

148
00:06:05,853 --> 00:06:07,020
I'm going to go before that.

149

00:06:07,020 --> 00:06:08,610

We'll hold on to that.

150

00:06:08,610 --> 00:06:12,400

When you're a little
girl and life is normal,

151

00:06:12,400 --> 00:06:14,350

I want to dwell on that part.

152

00:06:14,350 --> 00:06:14,850

Yes.

153

00:06:14,850 --> 00:06:15,720

OK.

154

00:06:15,720 --> 00:06:18,690

So were they too busy?

155

00:06:18,690 --> 00:06:20,070

Was your father
too busy making--

156

00:06:20,070 --> 00:06:24,330

I'm sure they were busy having
six children and then business.

157

00:06:24,330 --> 00:06:26,820

I'm sure they were very busy.

158

00:06:26,820 --> 00:06:29,370

I'm sure they couldn't
give attention to everybody

159

00:06:29,370 --> 00:06:30,640

the same way.

160

00:06:30,640 --> 00:06:32,730

OK.

161

00:06:32,730 --> 00:06:36,630
In your family, your brothers
and sisters, did one of them

162
00:06:36,630 --> 00:06:39,190
look after you more
than the others?

163
00:06:39,190 --> 00:06:40,110
Yes.

164
00:06:40,110 --> 00:06:44,910
Older sister, Mina,
when I went to school.

165
00:06:44,910 --> 00:06:50,460
She used to bring me lunch, and
she was like my second mother.

166
00:06:50,460 --> 00:06:51,780
OK.

167
00:06:51,780 --> 00:06:55,590
Was she a greater influence
on you than your own parents?

168
00:06:55,590 --> 00:06:56,190
No.

169
00:06:56,190 --> 00:06:58,420
I was very close
with my parents.

170
00:06:58,420 --> 00:07:01,050
I was very close with my
mother, with my father,

171
00:07:01,050 --> 00:07:03,240
and with my brothers
and sisters.

172
00:07:03,240 --> 00:07:06,630
We had a very close family.

173
00:07:06,630 --> 00:07:09,660
Tell me a little bit about
your parents' personalities.

174
00:07:09,660 --> 00:07:12,240

175
00:07:12,240 --> 00:07:17,040
For example, was your father
somebody who was an extrovert?

176
00:07:17,040 --> 00:07:19,380
Was he somebody
who laughed a lot?

177
00:07:19,380 --> 00:07:22,420
Or was he a more
serious type of person?

178
00:07:22,420 --> 00:07:26,910
I think he was genuine.

179
00:07:26,910 --> 00:07:28,410
When he had to live, he lived.

180
00:07:28,410 --> 00:07:31,710
But I wouldn't say
that he was always--

181
00:07:31,710 --> 00:07:32,530
Happy.

182
00:07:32,530 --> 00:07:33,300
Yeah.

183
00:07:33,300 --> 00:07:36,720
And that's all I remember.

184
00:07:36,720 --> 00:07:38,000
OK.

185

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:39,450

What about your mother?

186

00:07:39,450 --> 00:07:40,400

My mother was more.

187

00:07:40,400 --> 00:07:41,720

She was more talkative.

188

00:07:41,720 --> 00:07:46,430

She was more storytelling.

189

00:07:46,430 --> 00:07:53,510

And being the youngest, I was more leaning to my mother.

190

00:07:53,510 --> 00:07:54,380

Yeah.

191

00:07:54,380 --> 00:07:59,810

Did your mother have help at home hired from the outside?

192

00:07:59,810 --> 00:08:03,410

We had someone who came in once a week who did it,

193

00:08:03,410 --> 00:08:05,070

but not steady.

194

00:08:05,070 --> 00:08:06,380

OK.

195

00:08:06,380 --> 00:08:12,110

And describe for me a little bit what your home looked like,

196

00:08:12,110 --> 00:08:13,730

from your own memory.

197

00:08:13,730 --> 00:08:16,280

That is, did you
live in an apartment?

198
00:08:16,280 --> 00:08:18,680
Did you live in a house?

199
00:08:18,680 --> 00:08:20,600
And I'll ask more
questions from there.

200
00:08:20,600 --> 00:08:22,230
We lived in a house.

201
00:08:22,230 --> 00:08:22,730
OK.

202
00:08:22,730 --> 00:08:25,850
And as far as I remember--

203
00:08:25,850 --> 00:08:29,870
I don't remember if it
belonged to my parents.

204
00:08:29,870 --> 00:08:36,320
I think it belonged
to German owners.

205
00:08:36,320 --> 00:08:40,850
When the war broke out,
they came back from Germany

206
00:08:40,850 --> 00:08:41,750
to Portland.

207
00:08:41,750 --> 00:08:43,070
Oh, to claim the house?

208
00:08:43,070 --> 00:08:44,480
No, they didn't claim it.

209
00:08:44,480 --> 00:08:46,260
We were living

together at that time.

210
00:08:46,260 --> 00:08:48,350
OK.

211
00:08:48,350 --> 00:08:50,510
And what kind of a house?

212
00:08:50,510 --> 00:08:52,310
Was it a stone house
or a wooden one?

213
00:08:52,310 --> 00:08:53,450
A stone house.

214
00:08:53,450 --> 00:08:54,590
OK.

215
00:08:54,590 --> 00:08:57,900
And was it close to the center
of Ulanov or in the district?

216
00:08:57,900 --> 00:08:59,390
Yes, it was in the center.

217
00:08:59,390 --> 00:09:00,840
It was in the center.

218
00:09:00,840 --> 00:09:01,340
Yes.

219
00:09:01,340 --> 00:09:04,190
Well then, maybe you can
paint a picture for me

220
00:09:04,190 --> 00:09:09,920
a little bit about what Ulanov
looked like and how modern

221
00:09:09,920 --> 00:09:14,090
or how not modern
it might have been.

222
00:09:14,090 --> 00:09:17,580
Were many of the surrounding
houses also from stone?

223
00:09:17,580 --> 00:09:20,600
Yes, as far as I remember.

224
00:09:20,600 --> 00:09:21,470
OK.

225
00:09:21,470 --> 00:09:22,250
Two stories?

226
00:09:22,250 --> 00:09:23,000
Three stories?

227
00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:26,840
Well, it was mostly, that I
remember, I think one stories.

228
00:09:26,840 --> 00:09:28,640
Maybe there were some
with two stories,

229
00:09:28,640 --> 00:09:31,790
but I would not remember that.

230
00:09:31,790 --> 00:09:38,450
Because all I remember is
every Shabbat, every Saturday,

231
00:09:38,450 --> 00:09:40,400
I used to go to my
grandmother, which

232
00:09:40,400 --> 00:09:42,170
she didn't live too far away.

233
00:09:42,170 --> 00:09:45,240
As a matter of fact,
I went by myself,

234
00:09:45,240 --> 00:09:47,810
so it was a safe place to walk.

235
00:09:47,810 --> 00:09:50,390
To walk, yeah.

236
00:09:50,390 --> 00:09:51,395
Were the streets paved?

237
00:09:51,395 --> 00:09:54,010

238
00:09:54,010 --> 00:09:54,760
The street?

239
00:09:54,760 --> 00:09:56,290
I think so.

240
00:09:56,290 --> 00:09:57,070
OK.

241
00:09:57,070 --> 00:09:58,840
I think so.

242
00:09:58,840 --> 00:10:01,470
Were there many cars?

243
00:10:01,470 --> 00:10:03,480
I wouldn't say a lot of cars.

244
00:10:03,480 --> 00:10:05,510
There were cars,
but not too many.

245
00:10:05,510 --> 00:10:12,750
There was mostly horse and
buggy, but there were cars.

246
00:10:12,750 --> 00:10:14,460
OK.

247
00:10:14,460 --> 00:10:18,570
Was Ulanov large enough to
have public transportation?

248
00:10:18,570 --> 00:10:19,980
I don't think so.

249
00:10:19,980 --> 00:10:21,030
OK.

250
00:10:21,030 --> 00:10:22,230
OK.

251
00:10:22,230 --> 00:10:25,590
And in your own house,
can you describe it

252
00:10:25,590 --> 00:10:27,720
for me, how many rooms it had?

253
00:10:27,720 --> 00:10:34,740
Well, everybody didn't
have a separate room.

254
00:10:34,740 --> 00:10:42,120
We had a nice size, but
we were a big family.

255
00:10:42,120 --> 00:10:43,800
I think we were
pretty comfortable,

256
00:10:43,800 --> 00:10:46,410
and that's all I can say.

257
00:10:46,410 --> 00:10:49,530
OK, I'll be more specific than.

258
00:10:49,530 --> 00:10:53,610
Did you have, let's say, the
girls slept in one bedroom

259

00:10:53,610 --> 00:10:56,530

and the boys slept in another?

260

00:10:56,530 --> 00:10:57,990

I don't know if it was bedrooms.

261

00:10:57,990 --> 00:10:59,670

It was different arrangements.

262

00:10:59,670 --> 00:11:04,980

The homes were built
differently than they are here.

263

00:11:04,980 --> 00:11:06,630

In what way?

264

00:11:06,630 --> 00:11:08,530

Everything was on one floor.

265

00:11:08,530 --> 00:11:09,255

OK.

266

00:11:09,255 --> 00:11:14,460

And the rooms, I remember I
was with my sisters in one room

267

00:11:14,460 --> 00:11:16,200

and my brothers in another room.

268

00:11:16,200 --> 00:11:17,330

All right.

269

00:11:17,330 --> 00:11:19,555

Was there a separate
living area?

270

00:11:19,555 --> 00:11:22,460

271

00:11:22,460 --> 00:11:23,890

Like a living room?

272

00:11:23,890 --> 00:11:25,570

The living room

I don't remember.

273

00:11:25,570 --> 00:11:26,610

I remember the kitchen.

274

00:11:26,610 --> 00:11:29,590

275

00:11:29,590 --> 00:11:33,200

Did you have running water?

276

00:11:33,200 --> 00:11:34,227

I wouldn't remember.

277

00:11:34,227 --> 00:11:35,060

I wouldn't remember.

278

00:11:35,060 --> 00:11:36,890

What about indoor plumbing?

279

00:11:36,890 --> 00:11:38,250

The plumbing.

280

00:11:38,250 --> 00:11:42,740

As a matter of fact, I
was thinking about it,

281

00:11:42,740 --> 00:11:49,610

but I don't remember, really,
if there was plumbing or not.

282

00:11:49,610 --> 00:11:50,300

Of course.

283

00:11:50,300 --> 00:11:53,330

I know, these are, in some
ways, unfair questions.

284

00:11:53,330 --> 00:11:56,270

It's unfair and I can only
answer what I remember.

285

00:11:56,270 --> 00:11:57,140

That's fine.

286

00:11:57,140 --> 00:11:58,050

That's fine.

287

00:11:58,050 --> 00:11:59,520

And if you don't,
it's fine, too.

288

00:11:59,520 --> 00:12:00,080

That's OK.

289

00:12:00,080 --> 00:12:00,950

It's OK.

290

00:12:00,950 --> 00:12:06,020

My attempt is to try and get
a picture, through words,

291

00:12:06,020 --> 00:12:07,230

of what it looked like.

292

00:12:07,230 --> 00:12:08,030

I understand.

293

00:12:08,030 --> 00:12:12,620

So forgive me, I'll ask
a few more like that.

294

00:12:12,620 --> 00:12:15,440

Do you remember how
people took a bath?

295

00:12:15,440 --> 00:12:18,830

Did you have a separate
bathroom or you had it

296

00:12:18,830 --> 00:12:20,570
in some other way?

297

00:12:20,570 --> 00:12:23,930
I guess I wouldn't say
a separate bathroom,

298

00:12:23,930 --> 00:12:28,730
but some other way there
was a bathtub, I guess.

299

00:12:28,730 --> 00:12:29,600
You don't remember?

300

00:12:29,600 --> 00:12:30,330
No.

301

00:12:30,330 --> 00:12:30,920
OK.

302

00:12:30,920 --> 00:12:33,470
Some other people have
mentioned to us that they--

303

00:12:33,470 --> 00:12:38,960
See, I left Ulanov when
I was eight years old,

304

00:12:38,960 --> 00:12:41,270
or maybe a little more.

305

00:12:41,270 --> 00:12:44,900
And I was involved with
my friends with school,

306

00:12:44,900 --> 00:12:46,310
and that's all I remember.

307

00:12:46,310 --> 00:12:47,920
OK.

308

00:12:47,920 --> 00:12:49,210
What about electricity.

309
00:12:49,210 --> 00:12:50,590
Did you have electric lights?

310
00:12:50,590 --> 00:12:51,760
I don't think so.

311
00:12:51,760 --> 00:12:52,810
OK, did you have a radio?

312
00:12:52,810 --> 00:12:56,150

313
00:12:56,150 --> 00:13:00,480
I wouldn't say no or yes
because I don't remember.

314
00:13:00,480 --> 00:13:01,220
You don't know.

315
00:13:01,220 --> 00:13:01,770
I don't know.

316
00:13:01,770 --> 00:13:02,270
OK.

317
00:13:02,270 --> 00:13:06,030

318
00:13:06,030 --> 00:13:12,750
The washing, do you remember how
the washing was done at home?

319
00:13:12,750 --> 00:13:15,990
That's a tough
question, washing.

320
00:13:15,990 --> 00:13:18,460
I guess it was a different kind.

321

00:13:18,460 --> 00:13:21,900

There was no washing
machines, but I'm

322

00:13:21,900 --> 00:13:25,320

sure it was a different way
of washing clothes there.

323

00:13:25,320 --> 00:13:26,190

OK.

324

00:13:26,190 --> 00:13:27,700

What about around your house?

325

00:13:27,700 --> 00:13:29,290

Did you have a garden?

326

00:13:29,290 --> 00:13:29,790

Yes.

327

00:13:29,790 --> 00:13:32,880

We had, I wouldn't
say garden, but we

328

00:13:32,880 --> 00:13:35,730

lived in the center
of the city and there

329

00:13:35,730 --> 00:13:38,370

was like a little park.

330

00:13:38,370 --> 00:13:41,830

We lived in this area.

331

00:13:41,830 --> 00:13:42,960

OK.

332

00:13:42,960 --> 00:13:47,160

And tell me a little bit
about the population,

333

00:13:47,160 --> 00:13:49,530
as far as you remember.

334
00:13:49,530 --> 00:13:52,470
Was it all Jewish
or was it mixed?

335
00:13:52,470 --> 00:13:52,970
Mixed.

336
00:13:52,970 --> 00:13:55,095
OK.

337
00:13:55,095 --> 00:13:58,410
Did you get a sense, were
there many Jews in Ulanov?

338
00:13:58,410 --> 00:14:01,050
I think there were
many Jews in Ulanov,

339
00:14:01,050 --> 00:14:05,940
but I wasn't mingling too
much because I was mostly

340
00:14:05,940 --> 00:14:08,340
with my friends at school.

341
00:14:08,340 --> 00:14:09,870
And they were.

342
00:14:09,870 --> 00:14:10,470
They were.

343
00:14:10,470 --> 00:14:13,050
I went to first grade.

344
00:14:13,050 --> 00:14:15,870
First grade I
finished in Poland,

345
00:14:15,870 --> 00:14:22,380

and I had a mixture of friends.

346
00:14:22,380 --> 00:14:25,050
They were Polish and
they were Jewish.

347
00:14:25,050 --> 00:14:28,980
Polish Gentile and
Polish Jewish, OK.

348
00:14:28,980 --> 00:14:32,880
What do you remember
from school?

349
00:14:32,880 --> 00:14:34,560
You say you had one class.

350
00:14:34,560 --> 00:14:38,830
I had only one, and the rest
I'll tell you as we go along.

351
00:14:38,830 --> 00:14:43,230
So what do you remember
from your first year

352
00:14:43,230 --> 00:14:45,690
in Polish school?

353
00:14:45,690 --> 00:14:47,340
Well, it was very nice.

354
00:14:47,340 --> 00:14:49,740
I enjoyed the school there.

355
00:14:49,740 --> 00:14:54,250
Although it was mixed,
we got along really well.

356
00:14:54,250 --> 00:14:56,325
We had nice teachers.

357
00:14:56,325 --> 00:14:59,100

358
00:14:59,100 --> 00:15:01,290
Do you remember anything
about the subjects

359
00:15:01,290 --> 00:15:03,480
you were being taught?

360
00:15:03,480 --> 00:15:04,540
Not really.

361
00:15:04,540 --> 00:15:05,320
Not really.

362
00:15:05,320 --> 00:15:09,280
But what can you remember
so many years ago?

363
00:15:09,280 --> 00:15:10,770
If someone asked
me, I wouldn't be

364
00:15:10,770 --> 00:15:12,310
able to answer that question.

365
00:15:12,310 --> 00:15:12,390
[LAUGHS]

366
00:15:12,390 --> 00:15:13,390
Well, I try to remember.

367
00:15:13,390 --> 00:15:16,920

368
00:15:16,920 --> 00:15:20,880
What else did I want
to ask about school?

369
00:15:20,880 --> 00:15:23,560
Can you describe the
school building to me?

370
00:15:23,560 --> 00:15:27,330
It was a pretty big
building, and there

371
00:15:27,330 --> 00:15:29,475
were quite a bit of students.

372
00:15:29,475 --> 00:15:32,990

373
00:15:32,990 --> 00:15:34,820
Was it also stone?

374
00:15:34,820 --> 00:15:35,750
Yes.

375
00:15:35,750 --> 00:15:36,950
OK.

376
00:15:36,950 --> 00:15:39,310
And you said you could
walk to it from home?

377
00:15:39,310 --> 00:15:40,100
Yes.

378
00:15:40,100 --> 00:15:40,600
OK.

379
00:15:40,600 --> 00:15:50,660

380
00:15:50,660 --> 00:15:54,680
What kind of-- well,
how shall I say this?

381
00:15:54,680 --> 00:15:57,750
The children that
you played with,

382

00:15:57,750 --> 00:16:00,960
were they mostly school
friends or in the neighborhood?

383
00:16:00,960 --> 00:16:03,750
I had school friends and I
had from the neighborhood.

384
00:16:03,750 --> 00:16:06,293
OK, and were they both
Polish and Jewish,

385
00:16:06,293 --> 00:16:07,210
or Gentile and Jewish?

386
00:16:07,210 --> 00:16:09,600
I mostly mingled
between the Jewish

387
00:16:09,600 --> 00:16:13,170
because I went to basiankov.

388
00:16:13,170 --> 00:16:14,010
What is that?

389
00:16:14,010 --> 00:16:17,820
A Hebrew school, a
religious Hebrew school.

390
00:16:17,820 --> 00:16:21,810
And then when I
started first grade,

391
00:16:21,810 --> 00:16:25,800
I went to the Polish
school, and the afternoon

392
00:16:25,800 --> 00:16:27,300
to a Hebrew school.

393
00:16:27,300 --> 00:16:29,750
OK, so that's a lot of
schooling for a little girl.

394
00:16:29,750 --> 00:16:30,590
Yes, yes.

395
00:16:30,590 --> 00:16:31,500
Yeah.

396
00:16:31,500 --> 00:16:33,480
Was your family very religious?

397
00:16:33,480 --> 00:16:34,740
Yes.

398
00:16:34,740 --> 00:16:35,640
OK.

399
00:16:35,640 --> 00:16:36,570
In what way?

400
00:16:36,570 --> 00:16:37,620
Describe it to me.

401
00:16:37,620 --> 00:16:41,400
Well, my parents, they
were very observant.

402
00:16:41,400 --> 00:16:43,080
Were they orthodox?

403
00:16:43,080 --> 00:16:44,580
Yes.

404
00:16:44,580 --> 00:16:48,600
Every Shabbat, we
went to synagogue.

405
00:16:48,600 --> 00:16:55,470
And we observed the kosher
thing, very much so,

406
00:16:55,470 --> 00:16:59,900

because both my parents
come from religious homes.

407
00:16:59,900 --> 00:17:00,790
OK.

408
00:17:00,790 --> 00:17:01,380
OK.

409
00:17:01,380 --> 00:17:03,630
And what language did
you speak at home?

410
00:17:03,630 --> 00:17:07,500
At home I spoke Yiddish, and
outside, when I went to school,

411
00:17:07,500 --> 00:17:08,970
I spoke Polish.

412
00:17:08,970 --> 00:17:12,060
And did both of them
simultaneously or did you

413
00:17:12,060 --> 00:17:14,760
learn one after the other?

414
00:17:14,760 --> 00:17:18,670
Well, I wouldn't remember when
I was five, six years old.

415
00:17:18,670 --> 00:17:20,650
I'm sure I spoke Yiddish.

416
00:17:20,650 --> 00:17:24,359
But when I started
school, I spoke Polish.

417
00:17:24,359 --> 00:17:33,690
When I started school, of course
I had both friends and school

418

00:17:33,690 --> 00:17:39,470
friends, so we had to speak
either English or Polish.

419
00:17:39,470 --> 00:17:40,820
Excuse me, please, for a second.

420
00:17:40,820 --> 00:17:42,404
Can I cut?

421
00:17:42,404 --> 00:17:44,870
[INAUDIBLE]

422
00:17:44,870 --> 00:17:45,770
It's OK.

423
00:17:45,770 --> 00:17:46,580
All right.

424
00:17:46,580 --> 00:17:48,470
We're rolling.

425
00:17:48,470 --> 00:17:53,990
Tell me about not being
Jewish, and certainly not

426
00:17:53,990 --> 00:17:58,220
knowing about traditions
that were there

427
00:17:58,220 --> 00:18:00,920
in Poland at that time.

428
00:18:00,920 --> 00:18:03,560
I'm not as familiar
as others would be

429
00:18:03,560 --> 00:18:05,390
about what some of them were.

430
00:18:05,390 --> 00:18:09,920
Off camera, someone said that

your mother had a shagel?

431
00:18:09,920 --> 00:18:10,430
Yes.

432
00:18:10,430 --> 00:18:11,940
Can you tell me what that is?

433
00:18:11,940 --> 00:18:12,440
Yes.

434
00:18:12,440 --> 00:18:13,710
This is a wig.

435
00:18:13,710 --> 00:18:14,210
OK.

436
00:18:14,210 --> 00:18:19,530
And my mother had the
nice, blonde, long hair

437
00:18:19,530 --> 00:18:21,590
from the stories I know.

438
00:18:21,590 --> 00:18:26,390
And she was a religious
woman, so she cut her hair

439
00:18:26,390 --> 00:18:28,100
and she made wigs out of it.

440
00:18:28,100 --> 00:18:29,210
More than one?

441
00:18:29,210 --> 00:18:30,860
I guess so.

442
00:18:30,860 --> 00:18:32,330
I mean, I wonder
how one would make

443

00:18:32,330 --> 00:18:36,740
a wig from human hair at that
time, if it's your own hair.

444
00:18:36,740 --> 00:18:38,600
Yes, yes.

445
00:18:38,600 --> 00:18:42,060
That's what I
remember, I was told.

446
00:18:42,060 --> 00:18:42,560
OK.

447
00:18:42,560 --> 00:18:44,990
Now when you know,
and what you remember,

448
00:18:44,990 --> 00:18:47,810
you remember her
always wearing a wig?

449
00:18:47,810 --> 00:18:48,890
Yes.

450
00:18:48,890 --> 00:18:49,640
OK.

451
00:18:49,640 --> 00:18:51,590
At home did she take it off?

452
00:18:51,590 --> 00:18:52,800
Sometimes.

453
00:18:52,800 --> 00:18:53,930
OK.

454
00:18:53,930 --> 00:18:56,930
And what was the purpose
of wearing a wig?

455
00:18:56,930 --> 00:19:04,340

A wig-- if you're religious,
you are not allowed to have long

456
00:19:04,340 --> 00:19:09,800
hair because you have
to do certain rituals,

457
00:19:09,800 --> 00:19:12,626
like bathing or--

458
00:19:12,626 --> 00:19:17,180

459
00:19:17,180 --> 00:19:20,510
this is a subject that
I cannot talk about it,

460
00:19:20,510 --> 00:19:25,070
but this has a lot to
do with the religion.

461
00:19:25,070 --> 00:19:27,888
And was her dress a
particular kind of dress?

462
00:19:27,888 --> 00:19:29,180
Did she dress in a certain way?

463
00:19:29,180 --> 00:19:31,030
No, she dressed normally.

464
00:19:31,030 --> 00:19:33,140
OK, and your father as well?

465
00:19:33,140 --> 00:19:33,980
Yes.

466
00:19:33,980 --> 00:19:39,680
My father, he didn't
have no payes.

467
00:19:39,680 --> 00:19:44,840

He had like a goatee, a
little longer than that.

468
00:19:44,840 --> 00:19:46,550
Just a little goatee?

469
00:19:46,550 --> 00:19:49,640
Goatee sometimes he had,
but not a very big beard.

470
00:19:49,640 --> 00:19:50,360
OK.

471
00:19:50,360 --> 00:19:52,400
For those of us who don't
know what payes are,

472
00:19:52,400 --> 00:19:53,150
could you explain?

473
00:19:53,150 --> 00:19:54,440
No, he did not have.

474
00:19:54,440 --> 00:19:55,670
I know what payes are.

475
00:19:55,670 --> 00:19:56,330
What are they?

476
00:19:56,330 --> 00:20:00,290
Payes, you let grow some hair.

477
00:20:00,290 --> 00:20:03,290

478
00:20:03,290 --> 00:20:05,600
If you go out, you put
them behind the ear.

479
00:20:05,600 --> 00:20:08,870
If you're home or
you're in the synagogue,

480
00:20:08,870 --> 00:20:10,340
you wear them normally.

481
00:20:10,340 --> 00:20:12,020
And this is for men?

482
00:20:12,020 --> 00:20:13,550
Men, just for men.

483
00:20:13,550 --> 00:20:18,740
But in my family, not my father,
not my brothers had payes.

484
00:20:18,740 --> 00:20:19,640
OK.

485
00:20:19,640 --> 00:20:23,910
Do you know how
your parents met?

486
00:20:23,910 --> 00:20:24,480
No.

487
00:20:24,480 --> 00:20:26,430
Do you think it was
an arranged marriage?

488
00:20:26,430 --> 00:20:27,790
I think so.

489
00:20:27,790 --> 00:20:29,020
OK.

490
00:20:29,020 --> 00:20:31,540
OK.

491
00:20:31,540 --> 00:20:36,400
Tell me a little bit about
the values that they thought

492

00:20:36,400 --> 00:20:38,590
were important.

493
00:20:38,590 --> 00:20:41,320
What are the things
that your father thought

494
00:20:41,320 --> 00:20:46,690
were important for his children
to observe, to know about?

495
00:20:46,690 --> 00:20:48,790
Do you have a sense of that?

496
00:20:48,790 --> 00:20:52,600
Well, my father comes
from a very religious home

497
00:20:52,600 --> 00:20:54,805
and he married very young.

498
00:20:54,805 --> 00:21:00,690

499
00:21:00,690 --> 00:21:03,640
At a young age, he
had a big family.

500
00:21:03,640 --> 00:21:11,770
And of course, he tried
to teach his children

501
00:21:11,770 --> 00:21:15,460
the same way, the same
religion, and the same thing.

502
00:21:15,460 --> 00:21:17,030
That's what I remember.

503
00:21:17,030 --> 00:21:18,100
OK.

504

00:21:18,100 --> 00:21:19,990
Same question applies
for your mother.

505
00:21:19,990 --> 00:21:20,930
Yes.

506
00:21:20,930 --> 00:21:22,180
My mother was more--

507
00:21:22,180 --> 00:21:25,060

508
00:21:25,060 --> 00:21:29,500
she was religious, but she
was more modern religious.

509
00:21:29,500 --> 00:21:33,690

510
00:21:33,690 --> 00:21:36,540
Was she somebody who
liked going to the theater

511
00:21:36,540 --> 00:21:37,540
or liked going to--

512
00:21:37,540 --> 00:21:38,070
No.

513
00:21:38,070 --> 00:21:40,200
When my mother was
young, she did.

514
00:21:40,200 --> 00:21:43,650
But when she married,
as I understand,

515
00:21:43,650 --> 00:21:46,440
she had six children.

516
00:21:46,440 --> 00:21:49,800

But I remember going on shabbat.

517

00:21:49,800 --> 00:21:52,620

I went to the synagogue.

518

00:21:52,620 --> 00:21:55,230

519

00:21:55,230 --> 00:21:57,870

Very nicely dressed, very nice.

520

00:21:57,870 --> 00:22:01,090

She observed it.

521

00:22:01,090 --> 00:22:02,130

We had a good time.

522

00:22:02,130 --> 00:22:04,830

I was always with my mother.

523

00:22:04,830 --> 00:22:09,720

Would you say your family
was well-to-do or not?

524

00:22:09,720 --> 00:22:10,920

I wouldn't say.

525

00:22:10,920 --> 00:22:12,600

I'd say it's a middle class.

526

00:22:12,600 --> 00:22:14,770

I wouldn't say well-to-do.

527

00:22:14,770 --> 00:22:16,860

OK.

528

00:22:16,860 --> 00:22:21,280

But they made a nice living
and they raised their children,

529

00:22:21,280 --> 00:22:23,280

and that's about it.

530
00:22:23,280 --> 00:22:24,390
OK.

531
00:22:24,390 --> 00:22:26,850
And what kind of
contact did your family

532
00:22:26,850 --> 00:22:32,820
have, if any as a family,
with Gentile Poles?

533
00:22:32,820 --> 00:22:34,420
Well, we had neighbors.

534
00:22:34,420 --> 00:22:39,660
We had some that
were very friendly.

535
00:22:39,660 --> 00:22:43,750
And the rest I
really don't know.

536
00:22:43,750 --> 00:22:44,250
OK.

537
00:22:44,250 --> 00:22:48,750
I wouldn't know who
they mingled with.

538
00:22:48,750 --> 00:22:53,190
In your family, was there
talk of needing to be careful,

539
00:22:53,190 --> 00:22:57,330
that there could be people
who would make fun of you

540
00:22:57,330 --> 00:23:01,800
because you're Jewish, of
instances of anti-Semitism?

541

00:23:01,800 --> 00:23:05,590

Not that I remember, but I
was protected by my brothers.

542

00:23:05,590 --> 00:23:08,940

So when I went to
school, nobody was--

543

00:23:08,940 --> 00:23:09,990

Nobody picked on you.

544

00:23:09,990 --> 00:23:13,440

Nobody picked on me and
nobody would say anything,

545

00:23:13,440 --> 00:23:16,290

because I guess my
brothers were protecting me

546

00:23:16,290 --> 00:23:18,350

and they wouldn't dare.

547

00:23:18,350 --> 00:23:19,200

Yeah.

548

00:23:19,200 --> 00:23:21,330

This is nice to
have older brothers.

549

00:23:21,330 --> 00:23:23,040

Yes.

550

00:23:23,040 --> 00:23:29,340

And did anybody at home
talk about politics at all,

551

00:23:29,340 --> 00:23:32,790

about what was
going on in Poland?

552

00:23:32,790 --> 00:23:37,870

Maybe they did, but I don't

think I was involved in it

553

00:23:37,870 --> 00:23:41,340

and I don't think

I was interested.

554

00:23:41,340 --> 00:23:43,710

Did the name Pilsudski ever--

555

00:23:43,710 --> 00:23:44,290

Yes.

556

00:23:44,290 --> 00:23:47,100

OK, what did people

think of Pilsudski?

557

00:23:47,100 --> 00:23:50,860

Pilsudski, I don't know

if he was a general

558

00:23:50,860 --> 00:23:55,740

or he was something, but he was

very well liked by the Jews.

559

00:23:55,740 --> 00:23:59,520

I remember I learned in

school, even the first grade,

560

00:23:59,520 --> 00:24:04,050

and he was very well liked.

561

00:24:04,050 --> 00:24:04,800

OK.

562

00:24:04,800 --> 00:24:08,230

Yeah, he died in 1935.

563

00:24:08,230 --> 00:24:08,730

Yes.

564

00:24:08,730 --> 00:24:09,420

I believe.

565
00:24:09,420 --> 00:24:11,510
Yes.

566
00:24:11,510 --> 00:24:13,830
He had been an important leader.

567
00:24:13,830 --> 00:24:15,600
Yes, very much so.

568
00:24:15,600 --> 00:24:16,770
OK.

569
00:24:16,770 --> 00:24:22,050
What about new Polish history,
since its independence?

570
00:24:22,050 --> 00:24:24,900
Was that taught in
school, that is,

571
00:24:24,900 --> 00:24:27,390
trying to develop
the country, trying

572
00:24:27,390 --> 00:24:30,150
to make it rise economically,
or things like that?

573
00:24:30,150 --> 00:24:33,180
Well, the first grade
that I attended,

574
00:24:33,180 --> 00:24:35,205
I don't think the
subjects weren't--

575
00:24:35,205 --> 00:24:37,890
[LAUGHS] They weren't
economic development.

576
00:24:37,890 --> 00:24:40,470

I don't think the first graders, that they

577
00:24:40,470 --> 00:24:44,040
discussed those subjects.

578
00:24:44,040 --> 00:24:44,940
Yes, I know.

579
00:24:44,940 --> 00:24:47,400
[LAUGHS] Yes, and I know.

580
00:24:47,400 --> 00:24:49,710
And what do you think of economic development?

581
00:24:49,710 --> 00:24:50,400
Yes.

582
00:24:50,400 --> 00:24:58,590
Economic development, I cannot give an opinion because I

583
00:24:58,590 --> 00:25:01,110
don't remember and I don't know what went on.

584
00:25:01,110 --> 00:25:05,880
I only know salaries what I heard at home, what I heard.

585
00:25:05,880 --> 00:25:07,260
Kind of that's what I'm after.

586
00:25:07,260 --> 00:25:07,830
That's all.

587
00:25:07,830 --> 00:25:09,540
That's all.

588
00:25:09,540 --> 00:25:12,690
Did you belong to any

youth organizations?

589

00:25:12,690 --> 00:25:14,850

No, I belonged to
the Hebrew school.

590

00:25:14,850 --> 00:25:17,430

This was a Hebrew school.

591

00:25:17,430 --> 00:25:19,590

And what did you learn
in Hebrew school?

592

00:25:19,590 --> 00:25:24,090

Hebrew, and we learned
history, from Israel history,

593

00:25:24,090 --> 00:25:26,820

and general.

594

00:25:26,820 --> 00:25:28,440

OK.

595

00:25:28,440 --> 00:25:29,730

Did you go to camps?

596

00:25:29,730 --> 00:25:31,560

Were there camps for children?

597

00:25:31,560 --> 00:25:32,190

No.

598

00:25:32,190 --> 00:25:33,030

No.

599

00:25:33,030 --> 00:25:33,530

OK.

600

00:25:33,530 --> 00:25:37,610

601

00:25:37,610 --> 00:25:44,990
So in 1939, the summer
of 1939, you are not yet

602
00:25:44,990 --> 00:25:46,730
eight years old,
something like that?

603
00:25:46,730 --> 00:25:47,230
Yes.

604
00:25:47,230 --> 00:25:49,730
Not yet eight years old.

605
00:25:49,730 --> 00:25:52,250
And September 1st--

606
00:25:52,250 --> 00:25:53,300
This I remember.

607
00:25:53,300 --> 00:25:54,450
Tell me about that.

608
00:25:54,450 --> 00:25:59,240
Well, I remember I
was with my father.

609
00:25:59,240 --> 00:26:02,460
He went to the dentist
and I went with him.

610
00:26:02,460 --> 00:26:07,580
And we heard some heavy planes.

611
00:26:07,580 --> 00:26:10,190
Now I understand
they were bombers.

612
00:26:10,190 --> 00:26:13,610
And the first thing
they wanted to bomb

613

00:26:13,610 --> 00:26:23,030
was our area, because there were
armed storages there or depots

614
00:26:23,030 --> 00:26:24,890
or so, whatever, I don't know.

615
00:26:24,890 --> 00:26:27,440
So this was the first
area they bombed.

616
00:26:27,440 --> 00:26:29,880
And the first bomb
fell in our house.

617
00:26:29,880 --> 00:26:30,680
No, really?

618
00:26:30,680 --> 00:26:31,190
Yes.

619
00:26:31,190 --> 00:26:35,000
And as a matter of fact, there
were a lot of injured people.

620
00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:42,050
My cousin, Manya, who
my cousin will tell you,

621
00:26:42,050 --> 00:26:45,830
she was wounded that time.

622
00:26:45,830 --> 00:26:50,420
When the bombs came,
the house was on fire

623
00:26:50,420 --> 00:26:52,760
and we ran to the woods.

624
00:26:52,760 --> 00:26:55,890
And we stayed in the woods
I don't remember how long.

625

00:26:55,890 --> 00:26:58,250

And then when the
bombing stopped,

626

00:26:58,250 --> 00:27:04,070

the house wasn't there anymore,
so we went to the grandparents.

627

00:27:04,070 --> 00:27:05,960

And we stayed with
the grandparents

628

00:27:05,960 --> 00:27:16,445

until we went to
the Russian side.

629

00:27:16,445 --> 00:27:16,945

OK.

630

00:27:16,945 --> 00:27:18,100

We'll get to this.

631

00:27:18,100 --> 00:27:19,420

Yeah, we'll get to this.

632

00:27:19,420 --> 00:27:21,670

We'll get to this.

633

00:27:21,670 --> 00:27:23,830

So was your house
completely destroyed?

634

00:27:23,830 --> 00:27:25,990

Yes.

635

00:27:25,990 --> 00:27:29,170

Do you think the arms
depots were very close by?

636

00:27:29,170 --> 00:27:30,220

Yes.

637

00:27:30,220 --> 00:27:33,220

It was maybe a few
kilometers, or maybe more.

638

00:27:33,220 --> 00:27:35,620

Maybe five, maybe
10, I don't know.

639

00:27:35,620 --> 00:27:38,290

But that's what I heard
they were talking at home.

640

00:27:38,290 --> 00:27:38,860

OK.

641

00:27:38,860 --> 00:27:40,560

So you lost all your
goods, everything?

642

00:27:40,560 --> 00:27:43,370

Yes, everything.

643

00:27:43,370 --> 00:27:44,330

Wow.

644

00:27:44,330 --> 00:27:46,070

OK.

645

00:27:46,070 --> 00:27:51,900

And did the Germans
march into Ulanov?

646

00:27:51,900 --> 00:27:53,200

After a while.

647

00:27:53,200 --> 00:27:54,150

After a while.

648

00:27:54,150 --> 00:27:58,380

I don't remember how long
it took them to march in.

649

00:27:58,380 --> 00:27:59,940

Were they the
first ones to come?

650

00:27:59,940 --> 00:28:01,200

Yes.

651

00:28:01,200 --> 00:28:03,330

Do you remember seeing
German soldiers?

652

00:28:03,330 --> 00:28:04,440

Yes.

653

00:28:04,440 --> 00:28:06,700

What did they look like?

654

00:28:06,700 --> 00:28:08,440

They looked like
normal soldiers.

655

00:28:08,440 --> 00:28:14,420

But being at my
grandparents' house,

656

00:28:14,420 --> 00:28:18,610

when we were sleeping
there, at night we

657

00:28:18,610 --> 00:28:22,660

heard a lot of
robbing and killing

658

00:28:22,660 --> 00:28:25,360

and people are screaming.

659

00:28:25,360 --> 00:28:26,545

I was very much afraid.

660

00:28:26,545 --> 00:28:30,040

661

00:28:30,040 --> 00:28:33,680

I was hiding behind my sister.

662

00:28:33,680 --> 00:28:34,180

Mina?

663

00:28:34,180 --> 00:28:34,680

Yes.

664

00:28:34,680 --> 00:28:37,660

665

00:28:37,660 --> 00:28:42,010

And the one incident that I
remember, it was in the day

666

00:28:42,010 --> 00:28:49,480

time, when a soldier was beating
a religious Jew with the payes.

667

00:28:49,480 --> 00:28:53,860

And he was beaten very
badly, very badly.

668

00:28:53,860 --> 00:28:58,180

And this is the only
incident I remember.

669

00:28:58,180 --> 00:29:01,240

Did your grandparents
live in a neighborhood

670

00:29:01,240 --> 00:29:02,830

that was predominantly Jewish?

671

00:29:02,830 --> 00:29:03,580

Yes.

672

00:29:03,580 --> 00:29:06,290

It was also some Poles.

673

00:29:06,290 --> 00:29:08,590
OK.

674
00:29:08,590 --> 00:29:10,050
But mostly Jews, yeah.

675
00:29:10,050 --> 00:29:10,550
OK.

676
00:29:10,550 --> 00:29:14,851

677
00:29:14,851 --> 00:29:18,040
Did other things
change in your life?

678
00:29:18,040 --> 00:29:20,710
Was your grandparents'
home large enough

679
00:29:20,710 --> 00:29:22,300
to accommodate eight people?

680
00:29:22,300 --> 00:29:22,870
No.

681
00:29:22,870 --> 00:29:24,610
No.

682
00:29:24,610 --> 00:29:31,400
Well, we were staying
there for a short time.

683
00:29:31,400 --> 00:29:34,170
Then the Germans left
and the Russians came in.

684
00:29:34,170 --> 00:29:36,910

685
00:29:36,910 --> 00:29:41,240
said, It was like an exchanging.

686
00:29:41,240 --> 00:29:43,300
Russians went out
and the Germans

687
00:29:43,300 --> 00:29:46,340
came in, and vice versa.

688
00:29:46,340 --> 00:29:52,230
But then the Russians came in,
and then they had to disappear.

689
00:29:52,230 --> 00:29:55,490
So they said to the
Jewish population

690
00:29:55,490 --> 00:29:59,660
that the Germans killed
the men, not the women.

691
00:29:59,660 --> 00:30:00,770
They killed the men.

692
00:30:00,770 --> 00:30:03,530
So the men went
with the Russians.

693
00:30:03,530 --> 00:30:08,330
So the Russians told
the Jewish population

694
00:30:08,330 --> 00:30:10,890
that the men are
being killed by the--

695
00:30:10,890 --> 00:30:12,890
That the Germans kill men.

696
00:30:12,890 --> 00:30:16,010
If you want to come
with us, you can do so.

697

00:30:16,010 --> 00:30:18,980
So in other words, Ulanov sounds
like it passed through hands

698
00:30:18,980 --> 00:30:20,010
a couple of times.

699
00:30:20,010 --> 00:30:20,840
Yes.

700
00:30:20,840 --> 00:30:23,125
First Germans, then
Russians, then Germans.

701
00:30:23,125 --> 00:30:24,230
Correct.

702
00:30:24,230 --> 00:30:24,830
Correct.

703
00:30:24,830 --> 00:30:25,760
OK.

704
00:30:25,760 --> 00:30:28,290
And did that affect
your family at all?

705
00:30:28,290 --> 00:30:29,130
Of course.

706
00:30:29,130 --> 00:30:31,880
So when they heard
this, what did they do?

707
00:30:31,880 --> 00:30:35,510
Well, my father and my brothers
went with the Russians,

708
00:30:35,510 --> 00:30:40,050
and my mother and my
sisters remained in Ulanov

709

00:30:40,050 --> 00:30:42,530
at the grandparents.

710
00:30:42,530 --> 00:30:43,400
OK.

711
00:30:43,400 --> 00:30:44,570
All right.

712
00:30:44,570 --> 00:30:47,090
And you remember this
time, about just the women

713
00:30:47,090 --> 00:30:47,670
being there?

714
00:30:47,670 --> 00:30:49,160
I remember this.

715
00:30:49,160 --> 00:30:52,720
And your grandfather, did
he go, too, or did he stay?

716
00:30:52,720 --> 00:30:56,570
No, he was of age
and I don't think

717
00:30:56,570 --> 00:30:59,090
he was able to travel
that far, and he

718
00:30:59,090 --> 00:31:00,770
wouldn't leave his house.

719
00:31:00,770 --> 00:31:02,930
And what about the
others who did left?

720
00:31:02,930 --> 00:31:04,235
Did you know where they went?

721
00:31:04,235 --> 00:31:06,695

Were they able to tell
you where they're going?

722
00:31:06,695 --> 00:31:08,750
Well, they lived
with the Russians.

723
00:31:08,750 --> 00:31:11,210
They went to a town.

724
00:31:11,210 --> 00:31:15,730
It was Szerzec near
Lvov, a smaller town.

725
00:31:15,730 --> 00:31:18,710

726
00:31:18,710 --> 00:31:20,930
At first they were
in [? Rubatchov. ?]

727
00:31:20,930 --> 00:31:24,380
This is the smaller
town before this.

728
00:31:24,380 --> 00:31:30,860
And most of the men stayed
there with the children.

729
00:31:30,860 --> 00:31:37,280
But I had a brother, the second
one, who just missed my mother

730
00:31:37,280 --> 00:31:39,350
and missed the
family, and he did not

731
00:31:39,350 --> 00:31:43,820
want to stay on the Russian
side until he reunites us.

732
00:31:43,820 --> 00:31:44,900
What's his name?

733
00:31:44,900 --> 00:31:45,660
Leon.

734
00:31:45,660 --> 00:31:46,550
Leon.

735
00:31:46,550 --> 00:31:47,270
OK.

736
00:31:47,270 --> 00:31:53,210
And one night, I think
he had to smuggle himself

737
00:31:53,210 --> 00:31:54,980
through the border.

738
00:31:54,980 --> 00:31:59,510
And as a matter of fact,
my uncle was there,

739
00:31:59,510 --> 00:32:02,390
and he couldn't come.

740
00:32:02,390 --> 00:32:05,820
He wasn't able to come
across the border.

741
00:32:05,820 --> 00:32:11,270
And my brother, on the way,
he hired a horse and buggy.

742
00:32:11,270 --> 00:32:13,970
He was blond.

743
00:32:13,970 --> 00:32:15,990
He didn't look Jewish.

744
00:32:15,990 --> 00:32:21,920
So he came with this
man in the evening,

745

00:32:21,920 --> 00:32:25,460

and he gave us a couple
hours and he said,

746

00:32:25,460 --> 00:32:29,240

I have to leave at
12 o'clock from here.

747

00:32:29,240 --> 00:32:30,020

Midnight.

748

00:32:30,020 --> 00:32:31,790

Midnight.

749

00:32:31,790 --> 00:32:35,240

So he said, but I have to
take my aunt and the children

750

00:32:35,240 --> 00:32:37,737

because I promised my uncle.

751

00:32:37,737 --> 00:32:39,320

So my mother said,
where are you going

752

00:32:39,320 --> 00:32:41,610

to put on this horse
and buggy everybody?

753

00:32:41,610 --> 00:32:43,820

He said, I don't care.

754

00:32:43,820 --> 00:32:46,580

We'll make it, and
that's what we did.

755

00:32:46,580 --> 00:32:48,910

We went on the horse and buggy.

756

00:32:48,910 --> 00:32:50,840

How many of you?

757

00:32:50,840 --> 00:32:51,590

How many?

758

00:32:51,590 --> 00:32:55,790

We were three, four.

759

00:32:55,790 --> 00:32:59,840

And they were, let's say, five.

760

00:32:59,840 --> 00:33:01,040

Nine people?

761

00:33:01,040 --> 00:33:01,850

Yes.

762

00:33:01,850 --> 00:33:02,420

Nine people.

763

00:33:02,420 --> 00:33:06,530

So it was your own family,
the women in your own family,

764

00:33:06,530 --> 00:33:08,240

and your uncle's family?

765

00:33:08,240 --> 00:33:08,930

Yes.

766

00:33:08,930 --> 00:33:13,280

OK, so it would have been
the two of them, the two men.

767

00:33:13,280 --> 00:33:17,210

Your older brother and your
uncle would have come together,

768

00:33:17,210 --> 00:33:19,680

one to take his family and
your brother to take yours.

769

00:33:19,680 --> 00:33:20,180

Yes.

770

00:33:20,180 --> 00:33:24,470

My uncle couldn't make it
because they caught him once.

771

00:33:24,470 --> 00:33:28,100

And he tried a second time,
but he couldn't make it.

772

00:33:28,100 --> 00:33:29,300

So who caught him?

773

00:33:29,300 --> 00:33:31,460

Who was the one who was
watching the border?

774

00:33:31,460 --> 00:33:32,240

The Germans.

775

00:33:32,240 --> 00:33:37,250

There was a border between
the Russians and the Germans.

776

00:33:37,250 --> 00:33:41,660

And did you cross
this border yourself?

777

00:33:41,660 --> 00:33:42,260

No.

778

00:33:42,260 --> 00:33:44,960

My brother hired this guy.

779

00:33:44,960 --> 00:33:47,390

It was a very small, small--

780

00:33:47,390 --> 00:33:49,100

it wasn't really a river.

781

00:33:49,100 --> 00:33:50,810

It was like a small--

782
00:33:50,810 --> 00:33:52,460
I don't know how you call it.

783
00:33:52,460 --> 00:33:57,950
And he smuggled
us early at dawn.

784
00:33:57,950 --> 00:34:04,880
He put like wood across,
and he took one by one

785
00:34:04,880 --> 00:34:07,220
on the other side
to the Russian side.

786
00:34:07,220 --> 00:34:09,904
And it had to be in a
certain amount of time.

787
00:34:09,904 --> 00:34:12,420

788
00:34:12,420 --> 00:34:15,420
Was it like a plank
that he put across?

789
00:34:15,420 --> 00:34:17,210
Probably, a few.

790
00:34:17,210 --> 00:34:18,620
A few planks.

791
00:34:18,620 --> 00:34:22,580
And the guy took everyone.

792
00:34:22,580 --> 00:34:25,580
One by one, they
crossed the river.

793
00:34:25,580 --> 00:34:28,040
So in other words, the man

who had the horse and buggy

794

00:34:28,040 --> 00:34:30,949

was also a guide to
help get you across?

795

00:34:30,949 --> 00:34:31,550

Correct.

796

00:34:31,550 --> 00:34:34,190

There was a lot of trust that
must have been put in this guy.

797

00:34:34,190 --> 00:34:34,815

That's correct.

798

00:34:34,815 --> 00:34:36,100

Of course, he was paid.

799

00:34:36,100 --> 00:34:36,620

Yeah.

800

00:34:36,620 --> 00:34:38,120

Yeah.

801

00:34:38,120 --> 00:34:40,310

Sometimes that
didn't mean anything.

802

00:34:40,310 --> 00:34:43,815

I know, but I think
he did it for money.

803

00:34:43,815 --> 00:34:44,989

OK.

804

00:34:44,989 --> 00:34:48,860

And how old was your
brother at the time?

805

00:34:48,860 --> 00:34:50,810

My brother, I don't know.

806
00:34:50,810 --> 00:34:51,515
It was '40.

807
00:34:51,515 --> 00:34:54,810

808
00:34:54,810 --> 00:34:59,960
He could have been 16,
17, something like this.

809
00:34:59,960 --> 00:35:02,570
How old was he?

810
00:35:02,570 --> 00:35:05,990
Let's see, 1921 born.

811
00:35:05,990 --> 00:35:09,500
Oh, if it's '21, he would have
been like 17 or 18 years old.

812
00:35:09,500 --> 00:35:10,960
17 years old, yes.

813
00:35:10,960 --> 00:35:11,750
OK.

814
00:35:11,750 --> 00:35:13,700
And how many months
had you lived

815
00:35:13,700 --> 00:35:15,860
in Ulanov, just the women?

816
00:35:15,860 --> 00:35:21,190
The women, we lived maybe--

817
00:35:21,190 --> 00:35:24,745
I know it started in
1939 in September.

818

00:35:24,745 --> 00:35:25,810
Then your birthday.

819
00:35:25,810 --> 00:35:32,640
I know by the end of the year,
maybe a little earlier, we--

820
00:35:32,640 --> 00:35:33,940
You were there.

821
00:35:33,940 --> 00:35:35,470
We left.

822
00:35:35,470 --> 00:35:38,440
OK, so you left before 1940?

823
00:35:38,440 --> 00:35:40,720
You left before
January 1st, 1940?

824
00:35:40,720 --> 00:35:41,620
Correct.

825
00:35:41,620 --> 00:35:44,620
Do you remember whether it
was very cold outside when

826
00:35:44,620 --> 00:35:45,320
you went there?

827
00:35:45,320 --> 00:35:50,500
I don't remember, because when
we left, I know it was rainy.

828
00:35:50,500 --> 00:35:52,870
It was bad weather.

829
00:35:52,870 --> 00:35:53,620
Miserable.

830
00:35:53,620 --> 00:35:55,180
Yes.

831
00:35:55,180 --> 00:35:59,740
I didn't see no snow that
time, but I know it was cold.

832
00:35:59,740 --> 00:36:00,490
OK.

833
00:36:00,490 --> 00:36:01,360
OK.

834
00:36:01,360 --> 00:36:04,900
Well, the weather in
Eastern Europe in the fall

835
00:36:04,900 --> 00:36:06,340
can be very raw.

836
00:36:06,340 --> 00:36:06,910
Yes.

837
00:36:06,910 --> 00:36:07,750
Very raw.

838
00:36:07,750 --> 00:36:08,620
It was raining.

839
00:36:08,620 --> 00:36:09,820
That's what I remember.

840
00:36:09,820 --> 00:36:10,600
All right.

841
00:36:10,600 --> 00:36:13,410
How many things could you
take with you, anything?

842
00:36:13,410 --> 00:36:14,560
Very little.

843
00:36:14,560 --> 00:36:15,550

Very little.

844

00:36:15,550 --> 00:36:17,362
And who did you leave behind?

845

00:36:17,362 --> 00:36:18,445
Was there anyone you left?

846

00:36:18,445 --> 00:36:22,180
Yes, my grandparents
and my aunt,

847

00:36:22,180 --> 00:36:25,990
because she was the
youngest from my parents,

848

00:36:25,990 --> 00:36:28,210
a sister of my mother.

849

00:36:28,210 --> 00:36:32,230
And they didn't want to
leave the parents alone

850

00:36:32,230 --> 00:36:35,200
so she stayed with them.

851

00:36:35,200 --> 00:36:37,420
And what was her name?

852

00:36:37,420 --> 00:36:38,620
Rachel, Ruchl.

853

00:36:38,620 --> 00:36:39,880
Ruchl.

854

00:36:39,880 --> 00:36:44,020
And your grandparents'
names, do you remember?

855

00:36:44,020 --> 00:36:46,190
My grandmother is Ilyeta.

856
00:36:46,190 --> 00:36:46,690
Ilyeta.

857
00:36:46,690 --> 00:36:50,470
And my grandfather's Rafael.

858
00:36:50,470 --> 00:36:51,730
Rafael.

859
00:36:51,730 --> 00:36:54,810
And what happened to them?

860
00:36:54,810 --> 00:36:55,867
They perished.

861
00:36:55,867 --> 00:36:56,450
They perished.

862
00:36:56,450 --> 00:37:00,960

863
00:37:00,960 --> 00:37:06,030
I had stories at home that they
died from hunger in the street

864
00:37:06,030 --> 00:37:10,560
or someplace, I don't know,
and was taken probably

865
00:37:10,560 --> 00:37:12,280
to a concentration camp.

866
00:37:12,280 --> 00:37:16,520
That's what I remember from
telling stories at home.

867
00:37:16,520 --> 00:37:17,250
OK.

868
00:37:17,250 --> 00:37:19,110
So no one really knew?

869
00:37:19,110 --> 00:37:20,280
No.

870
00:37:20,280 --> 00:37:21,840
OK.

871
00:37:21,840 --> 00:37:26,190
When you got to the
other side of the plank,

872
00:37:26,190 --> 00:37:27,930
what happened then
on the Russian side?

873
00:37:27,930 --> 00:37:31,710
Then the Russians
came, and they took us

874
00:37:31,710 --> 00:37:38,460
because it was illegal
to cross the border.

875
00:37:38,460 --> 00:37:39,750
So they came.

876
00:37:39,750 --> 00:37:41,320
It was or was not illegal?

877
00:37:41,320 --> 00:37:42,420
It was not legal.

878
00:37:42,420 --> 00:37:43,410
It was not legal?

879
00:37:43,410 --> 00:37:43,950
No.

880
00:37:43,950 --> 00:37:44,470
OK.

881

00:37:44,470 --> 00:37:46,740
So they came from
the Russian side.

882
00:37:46,740 --> 00:37:53,770
The Russians came, and
they counted one by one.

883
00:37:53,770 --> 00:37:56,730
And I was the
youngest, and my aunt

884
00:37:56,730 --> 00:38:00,600
gave me a painting that she
had, her favorite painting.

885
00:38:00,600 --> 00:38:02,100
She said, bring it with me.

886
00:38:02,100 --> 00:38:07,050
But I was young and little.

887
00:38:07,050 --> 00:38:11,250
It was a hill that
you had to climb up.

888
00:38:11,250 --> 00:38:14,090
So I was holding
onto this painting.

889
00:38:14,090 --> 00:38:17,430
And then my brother,
one habit he had.

890
00:38:17,430 --> 00:38:20,100
He counted how
many people he had,

891
00:38:20,100 --> 00:38:22,220
and he saw one was missing.

892
00:38:22,220 --> 00:38:22,860
Was that you?

893
00:38:22,860 --> 00:38:24,750
I was the one who was missing.

894
00:38:24,750 --> 00:38:29,130
He came back and threw
the paper in the water.

895
00:38:29,130 --> 00:38:30,630
And he grabbed me.

896
00:38:30,630 --> 00:38:33,900
There was only a certain
time that you could do it.

897
00:38:33,900 --> 00:38:38,385
And then the Russians put
us in jail for 24 hours.

898
00:38:38,385 --> 00:38:41,790

899
00:38:41,790 --> 00:38:43,750
When you say there was
only a certain time,

900
00:38:43,750 --> 00:38:45,840
does that mean that you
had to try and cross

901
00:38:45,840 --> 00:38:48,600
this place at
nighttime before dawn?

902
00:38:48,600 --> 00:38:49,575
No, at dawn.

903
00:38:49,575 --> 00:38:50,100
At dawn.

904
00:38:50,100 --> 00:38:53,460
Because you couldn't

see at night.

905
00:38:53,460 --> 00:38:55,290
OK.

906
00:38:55,290 --> 00:38:58,440
Did you enter a town or
did you enter a forest?

907
00:38:58,440 --> 00:39:00,150
On the other side,
what did it look like?

908
00:39:00,150 --> 00:39:00,990
A forest.

909
00:39:00,990 --> 00:39:01,837
A forest.

910
00:39:01,837 --> 00:39:03,670
How could the Russians
find you in a forest?

911
00:39:03,670 --> 00:39:04,960
Because they know.

912
00:39:04,960 --> 00:39:06,570
They were there they.

913
00:39:06,570 --> 00:39:08,940
They were on the border.

914
00:39:08,940 --> 00:39:11,190
This was their mission.

915
00:39:11,190 --> 00:39:12,000
OK.

916
00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:14,670
So it was both the
Germans and the Russians

917
00:39:14,670 --> 00:39:18,720
who had an agreement to
keep people from crossing

918
00:39:18,720 --> 00:39:19,790
one way or the other?

919
00:39:19,790 --> 00:39:20,290
Correct.

920
00:39:20,290 --> 00:39:22,980

921
00:39:22,980 --> 00:39:25,950
But you didn't see any
Germans at the border

922
00:39:25,950 --> 00:39:27,430
on the other side?

923
00:39:27,430 --> 00:39:30,360
If we would see Germans,
we wouldn't do it.

924
00:39:30,360 --> 00:39:31,660
OK.

925
00:39:31,660 --> 00:39:34,090
And was this far from Ulanov?

926
00:39:34,090 --> 00:39:35,340
Do you remember traveling far?

927
00:39:35,340 --> 00:39:35,840
Yes.

928
00:39:35,840 --> 00:39:39,600

929
00:39:39,600 --> 00:39:42,150
I don't remember

exactly how long

930
00:39:42,150 --> 00:39:46,200
it took us to travel to,
because we were staying

931
00:39:46,200 --> 00:39:48,150
overnight someplace there.

932
00:39:48,150 --> 00:39:50,100
I wouldn't know exactly.

933
00:39:50,100 --> 00:39:52,050
But it was a day or two.

934
00:39:52,050 --> 00:39:53,370
OK.

935
00:39:53,370 --> 00:39:55,805
It took a day or two to get
to the-- is this better?

936
00:39:55,805 --> 00:39:57,180
Yeah, that's a
little bit better.

937
00:39:57,180 --> 00:39:58,830
It was just like [INAUDIBLE].

938
00:39:58,830 --> 00:39:59,640
Muffling.

939
00:39:59,640 --> 00:40:00,150
Muffling.

940
00:40:00,150 --> 00:40:00,650
OK.

941
00:40:00,650 --> 00:40:03,480

942

00:40:03,480 --> 00:40:04,410
So it's OK.

943
00:40:04,410 --> 00:40:06,480
OK.

944
00:40:06,480 --> 00:40:10,290
Was this a day or two until
you got to this border,

945
00:40:10,290 --> 00:40:11,350
or afterwards?

946
00:40:11,350 --> 00:40:11,850
Yeah.

947
00:40:11,850 --> 00:40:14,580
I think it was a day or two
after we got to this border,

948
00:40:14,580 --> 00:40:21,000
because we slept overnight
in this guide's house

949
00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:23,610
because we couldn't
do it at night.

950
00:40:23,610 --> 00:40:28,710
We had to do it very early in
the morning, as I remember.

951
00:40:28,710 --> 00:40:32,790
And this guide, did
he have a family?

952
00:40:32,790 --> 00:40:33,630
I think so.

953
00:40:33,630 --> 00:40:34,770
Did you see them?

954

00:40:34,770 --> 00:40:36,120
Do you remember?

955
00:40:36,120 --> 00:40:36,660
No.

956
00:40:36,660 --> 00:40:39,720
If I saw them, I didn't
pay any attention.

957
00:40:39,720 --> 00:40:40,510
OK.

958
00:40:40,510 --> 00:40:42,870
OK.

959
00:40:42,870 --> 00:40:45,990
Oh, I didn't realize
that it wasn't

960
00:40:45,990 --> 00:40:48,300
right across from Ulanov.

961
00:40:48,300 --> 00:40:49,870
It took a while to get there.

962
00:40:49,870 --> 00:40:52,170
Yes, yes, a couple
of small towns.

963
00:40:52,170 --> 00:40:53,340
OK.

964
00:40:53,340 --> 00:40:57,180
And you would
travel at nighttime?

965
00:40:57,180 --> 00:40:59,740
We left at midnight.

966
00:40:59,740 --> 00:41:00,990
From your own house in Ulanov?

967
00:41:00,990 --> 00:41:04,200
From our own house,
through the night, I guess.

968
00:41:04,200 --> 00:41:04,970
OK.

969
00:41:04,970 --> 00:41:06,750
OK.

970
00:41:06,750 --> 00:41:11,130
So after that 24 hours,
you were in the jail

971
00:41:11,130 --> 00:41:14,730
that the Russians controlled.

972
00:41:14,730 --> 00:41:17,550
Do you have any memories
of being in that jail?

973
00:41:17,550 --> 00:41:18,090
No.

974
00:41:18,090 --> 00:41:22,350
I remember, but we
didn't speak Russian.

975
00:41:22,350 --> 00:41:25,860
And they didn't speak Polish
and they didn't speak Yiddish.

976
00:41:25,860 --> 00:41:30,210
But my brother knew a few words,
so he said, I will work hard

977
00:41:30,210 --> 00:41:33,090
and I will do this, so
they finally accepted us.

978
00:41:33,090 --> 00:41:33,660

OK.

979

00:41:33,660 --> 00:41:39,030

And he wanted to unite us with
my father and the brothers

980

00:41:39,030 --> 00:41:40,830

and with my uncle.

981

00:41:40,830 --> 00:41:47,970

But in order to convince them,
he took one of my cousins,

982

00:41:47,970 --> 00:41:57,360

and with him as a witness,
that he did the job.

983

00:41:57,360 --> 00:41:59,540

Did what kind of job?

984

00:41:59,540 --> 00:42:03,260

That he smuggled us
from the Germans.

985

00:42:03,260 --> 00:42:05,390

Otherwise, if he
would come by himself,

986

00:42:05,390 --> 00:42:08,600

they wouldn't believe it,
that he brought the family.

987

00:42:08,600 --> 00:42:11,180

Oh, I see what you're saying.

988

00:42:11,180 --> 00:42:13,605

And do you remember their
manner, whether or not

989

00:42:13,605 --> 00:42:15,230

they were frightening
or whether or not

990

00:42:15,230 --> 00:42:17,300
they were just matter of fact?

991

00:42:17,300 --> 00:42:19,320
The Russian soldiers.

992

00:42:19,320 --> 00:42:19,820
No.

993

00:42:19,820 --> 00:42:23,630
They did their job and
they put us to jail.

994

00:42:23,630 --> 00:42:24,950
And then they had, of course--

995

00:42:24,950 --> 00:42:28,250

996

00:42:28,250 --> 00:42:31,220
I don't know who was there.

997

00:42:31,220 --> 00:42:33,980
They probably
discussed the incident.

998

00:42:33,980 --> 00:42:36,952
And then they decided
that they'd let us go.

999

00:42:36,952 --> 00:42:39,160
Were there more people in
jail or were you the only--

1000

00:42:39,160 --> 00:42:40,430
I have no idea.

1001

00:42:40,430 --> 00:42:41,200
Got it.

1002

00:42:41,200 --> 00:42:42,260

OK.

1003
00:42:42,260 --> 00:42:43,830
And then what happened?

1004
00:42:43,830 --> 00:42:51,350
And then another horse and buggy
came, and they took all of us

1005
00:42:51,350 --> 00:42:55,520
and united us in this town.

1006
00:42:55,520 --> 00:42:57,600
And again, tell
me the name of it.

1007
00:42:57,600 --> 00:42:58,100
I forgot.

1008
00:42:58,100 --> 00:42:59,880
It was Holoshitsa.

1009
00:42:59,880 --> 00:43:00,380
Holoshitsa.

1010
00:43:00,380 --> 00:43:01,700
Yes.

1011
00:43:01,700 --> 00:43:05,810
Or [? Szerzec ?] I don't
really remember exactly.

1012
00:43:05,810 --> 00:43:06,330
OK.

1013
00:43:06,330 --> 00:43:07,520
One of those towns.

1014
00:43:07,520 --> 00:43:10,610
Where did you live, then,
once you were reunited?

1015

00:43:10,610 --> 00:43:13,730

What kind of accommodations?

1016

00:43:13,730 --> 00:43:18,080

At first we were like refugees.

1017

00:43:18,080 --> 00:43:23,690

And then they let us go
and we could go and rent

1018

00:43:23,690 --> 00:43:27,290

an apartment or so,
and that's what we did.

1019

00:43:27,290 --> 00:43:28,070

OK.

1020

00:43:28,070 --> 00:43:30,710

Now, did you have
any money with you?

1021

00:43:30,710 --> 00:43:33,210

I don't remember, to
be honest with you.

1022

00:43:33,210 --> 00:43:34,610

OK.

1023

00:43:34,610 --> 00:43:36,620

Do you remember going
hungry at that time?

1024

00:43:36,620 --> 00:43:38,340

I mean, how did they get food?

1025

00:43:38,340 --> 00:43:42,470

Well, at that time, I'm
sure it wasn't that but.

1026

00:43:42,470 --> 00:43:44,118

I wasn't hungry.

1027
00:43:44,118 --> 00:43:44,618
OK.

1028
00:43:44,618 --> 00:43:47,600

1029
00:43:47,600 --> 00:43:49,550
I know I wasn't hungry.

1030
00:43:49,550 --> 00:43:53,600
I don't know what my parents
did, but we were fed.

1031
00:43:53,600 --> 00:43:56,090
It sounds to me, because
you were so young

1032
00:43:56,090 --> 00:43:58,430
and because you were the
baby, that in many ways

1033
00:43:58,430 --> 00:43:59,690
you were protected.

1034
00:43:59,690 --> 00:44:01,500
Yes.

1035
00:44:01,500 --> 00:44:06,900
The older ones-- the less
worry that you had, the better.

1036
00:44:06,900 --> 00:44:07,400
Yes.

1037
00:44:07,400 --> 00:44:08,720
I was always looking up.

1038
00:44:08,720 --> 00:44:12,110
As long as I was between my
family, that's what matters.

1039

00:44:12,110 --> 00:44:13,130
OK.

1040
00:44:13,130 --> 00:44:16,010
Was the only time,
up until then,

1041
00:44:16,010 --> 00:44:18,590
when you might have been
frightened when you first

1042
00:44:18,590 --> 00:44:21,440
heard the German soldiers
beating others in the streets?

1043
00:44:21,440 --> 00:44:22,590
Of course I was frightened.

1044
00:44:22,590 --> 00:44:23,090
OK.

1045
00:44:23,090 --> 00:44:25,190
Any time after that?

1046
00:44:25,190 --> 00:44:28,130
I was afraid to go out.

1047
00:44:28,130 --> 00:44:29,945
We didn't go out too
much in the street.

1048
00:44:29,945 --> 00:44:33,590

1049
00:44:33,590 --> 00:44:36,200
We tried to wait and see
what's going to happen.

1050
00:44:36,200 --> 00:44:37,520
OK.

1051
00:44:37,520 --> 00:44:40,730

So there you are in
this town, and you're

1052
00:44:40,730 --> 00:44:43,880
able to eventually
rent an apartment.

1053
00:44:43,880 --> 00:44:46,630

1054
00:44:46,630 --> 00:44:47,590
Near Lvov.

1055
00:44:47,590 --> 00:44:48,310
Near Lvov.

1056
00:44:48,310 --> 00:44:50,230
This was already the next town.

1057
00:44:50,230 --> 00:44:51,400
That's right.

1058
00:44:51,400 --> 00:44:55,060
And how long were you
able to stay there?

1059
00:44:55,060 --> 00:44:56,800
How long did you stay there?

1060
00:44:56,800 --> 00:44:58,540
We stayed there--

1061
00:44:58,540 --> 00:45:00,640
I don't know how
long it took, but I

1062
00:45:00,640 --> 00:45:04,990
know that one of these
days, the Russians

1063
00:45:04,990 --> 00:45:13,000
said, if you want to go

back, you can go back.

1064
00:45:13,000 --> 00:45:17,980
If you want to go with us
or stay here, you can stay.

1065
00:45:17,980 --> 00:45:20,650
But my oldest brother,
he wanted to go back.

1066
00:45:20,650 --> 00:45:24,290

1067
00:45:24,290 --> 00:45:34,360
If you said you want to go back,
they treated you as traitors.

1068
00:45:34,360 --> 00:45:35,735
[BOTH TALKING]

1069
00:45:35,735 --> 00:45:41,220
So one night, without
even knowing anything,

1070
00:45:41,220 --> 00:45:43,980
the Russians came.

1071
00:45:43,980 --> 00:45:46,890
They always did
come at midnight.

1072
00:45:46,890 --> 00:45:52,560
And they took us, everybody,
and they put us on a train

1073
00:45:52,560 --> 00:45:55,620
with cattle.

1074
00:45:55,620 --> 00:45:56,890
Cattle cars.

1075
00:45:56,890 --> 00:46:00,120

And we didn't know
where we were going,

1076
00:46:00,120 --> 00:46:04,380
but later on we found out
that we're going someplace,

1077
00:46:04,380 --> 00:46:07,490
and we wound up in Siberia.

1078
00:46:07,490 --> 00:46:10,050
How long were you on
those cattle cars?

1079
00:46:10,050 --> 00:46:12,130
It was quite a few days.

1080
00:46:12,130 --> 00:46:13,630
Were there are other
people in them?

1081
00:46:13,630 --> 00:46:15,050
Of course.

1082
00:46:15,050 --> 00:46:17,390
OK.

1083
00:46:17,390 --> 00:46:20,120
Do you remember what they
looked like, those cattle cars?

1084
00:46:20,120 --> 00:46:22,490
They were the cattle
cars, you know.

1085
00:46:22,490 --> 00:46:26,120
It was a few
families in each car.

1086
00:46:26,120 --> 00:46:30,790
They had like sleeping on
the top, sleeping on the--

1087
00:46:30,790 --> 00:46:32,570
it depends.

1088
00:46:32,570 --> 00:46:36,170
It wasn't a pretty picture.

1089
00:46:36,170 --> 00:46:38,840
It sounds like everybody
was taken by surprise.

1090
00:46:38,840 --> 00:46:40,310
Yes.

1091
00:46:40,310 --> 00:46:43,220
What was it like when
they came into the house

1092
00:46:43,220 --> 00:46:45,270
after coming at
midnight, or whenever?

1093
00:46:45,270 --> 00:46:47,440
We didn't know.

1094
00:46:47,440 --> 00:46:48,350
I don't know.

1095
00:46:48,350 --> 00:46:48,940
Did they say?

1096
00:46:48,940 --> 00:46:50,040
They didn't say anything.

1097
00:46:50,040 --> 00:46:52,448
They said, you're
going to go back home.

1098
00:46:52,448 --> 00:46:53,990
Oh, they said you're
going back home?

1099

00:46:53,990 --> 00:46:54,490
Yes.

1100
00:46:54,490 --> 00:46:57,900

1101
00:46:57,900 --> 00:46:58,440
Huh.

1102
00:46:58,440 --> 00:47:01,200
So that's how you knew to
connect it to your brother,

1103
00:47:01,200 --> 00:47:05,370
saying that he wants to go back.

1104
00:47:05,370 --> 00:47:06,210
He wants to go back.

1105
00:47:06,210 --> 00:47:06,710
Yes.

1106
00:47:06,710 --> 00:47:07,320
All right.

1107
00:47:07,320 --> 00:47:10,830
So that was the reason
that they gave for coming?

1108
00:47:10,830 --> 00:47:14,260
And then when you
get on the train,

1109
00:47:14,260 --> 00:47:18,700
when did people realize
that they're not going back?

1110
00:47:18,700 --> 00:47:22,270
We saw we're not going
the same direction.

1111
00:47:22,270 --> 00:47:24,610

There were no windows,
too many windows

1112
00:47:24,610 --> 00:47:25,850
to look out of the cars.

1113
00:47:25,850 --> 00:47:28,450

1114
00:47:28,450 --> 00:47:32,900
We weren't familiar with the
surroundings, with nothing.

1115
00:47:32,900 --> 00:47:34,660
We didn't know
where we're going,

1116
00:47:34,660 --> 00:47:38,860
but one day we
wound up in Siberia.

1117
00:47:38,860 --> 00:47:41,530
And the other people
who were on the train,

1118
00:47:41,530 --> 00:47:43,015
were they also Jewish refugees?

1119
00:47:43,015 --> 00:47:44,260
Of course.

1120
00:47:44,260 --> 00:47:45,780
Were there any
Poles on that train?

1121
00:47:45,780 --> 00:47:47,500
Not that I know of.

1122
00:47:47,500 --> 00:47:48,800
OK.

1123
00:47:48,800 --> 00:47:51,470

OK.

1124
00:47:51,470 --> 00:47:54,400
And can you describe the
atmosphere a little bit

1125
00:47:54,400 --> 00:47:55,060
on that train?

1126
00:47:55,060 --> 00:47:57,850
It was a very tense atmosphere.

1127
00:47:57,850 --> 00:48:02,815
I mean, we didn't get
enough food, enough water.

1128
00:48:02,815 --> 00:48:03,985
It was three days.

1129
00:48:03,985 --> 00:48:06,490

1130
00:48:06,490 --> 00:48:10,630
Finally, when we
arrived, you know

1131
00:48:10,630 --> 00:48:13,840
how they treat refugees,
like anybody else,

1132
00:48:13,840 --> 00:48:15,820
until you settle down.

1133
00:48:15,820 --> 00:48:18,700
And then we found
out we're in Siberia.

1134
00:48:18,700 --> 00:48:22,350
And what time of year was it
that you were taken by train?

1135
00:48:22,350 --> 00:48:24,350

I wouldn't know exactly.

1136
00:48:24,350 --> 00:48:27,080
Was it cold or hot?

1137
00:48:27,080 --> 00:48:29,900
I don't remember
being warm there.

1138
00:48:29,900 --> 00:48:32,225
Believe me, it was always cold.

1139
00:48:32,225 --> 00:48:35,276

1140
00:48:35,276 --> 00:48:39,170
It was so cold in the winter
that we didn't go out,

1141
00:48:39,170 --> 00:48:42,200
because the snow was very deep.

1142
00:48:42,200 --> 00:48:46,610
And in Siberia, there's
very little summer.

1143
00:48:46,610 --> 00:48:49,760
What was the place in
Siberia that you eventually

1144
00:48:49,760 --> 00:48:50,855
were taken to?

1145
00:48:50,855 --> 00:48:52,400
To Novosibirsk.

1146
00:48:52,400 --> 00:48:54,080
Novosibirsk.

1147
00:48:54,080 --> 00:48:56,550
And is Novosibirsk
a town or a city?

1148
00:48:56,550 --> 00:48:59,810
Yeah, a very big, city but
we weren't in the city.

1149
00:48:59,810 --> 00:49:03,590
We were on the outskirts
of the city, like a camp.

1150
00:49:03,590 --> 00:49:04,790
Was it a camp, yes?

1151
00:49:04,790 --> 00:49:06,080
Probably.

1152
00:49:06,080 --> 00:49:07,170
And what did it look like?

1153
00:49:07,170 --> 00:49:08,415
Can you describe it for me?

1154
00:49:08,415 --> 00:49:09,290
It was like barracks.

1155
00:49:09,290 --> 00:49:13,850

1156
00:49:13,850 --> 00:49:17,960
All the people were
in the same barracks.

1157
00:49:17,960 --> 00:49:19,880
I'm sure they were more there.

1158
00:49:19,880 --> 00:49:23,960
And this was it.

1159
00:49:23,960 --> 00:49:28,850
Those barracks, about
how large were they,

1160

00:49:28,850 --> 00:49:30,770
and how many people
in any one barrack?

1161
00:49:30,770 --> 00:49:33,065
Are a lot of people, and
they were pretty large.

1162
00:49:33,065 --> 00:49:35,780

1163
00:49:35,780 --> 00:49:39,710
I was always trying to
be between my brothers

1164
00:49:39,710 --> 00:49:40,490
and my sisters.

1165
00:49:40,490 --> 00:49:42,140
I was always being--

1166
00:49:42,140 --> 00:49:43,550
Hiding, huh?

1167
00:49:43,550 --> 00:49:44,930
Hiding to be sheltered.

1168
00:49:44,930 --> 00:49:49,190
So I really cannot tell
you how many people,

1169
00:49:49,190 --> 00:49:50,660
but I know it was a lot.

1170
00:49:50,660 --> 00:49:52,700
So it was more than
one family per barrack?

1171
00:49:52,700 --> 00:49:53,640
Oh, yest.

1172
00:49:53,640 --> 00:49:54,770

OK.

1173

00:49:54,770 --> 00:49:56,985

Was it like an army-looking
type of balance?

1174

00:49:56,985 --> 00:49:57,620

It looks like.

1175

00:49:57,620 --> 00:49:58,400

It looks like.

1176

00:49:58,400 --> 00:50:00,290

OK, and it was cold inside?

1177

00:50:00,290 --> 00:50:01,460

Very cold.

1178

00:50:01,460 --> 00:50:02,150

Very cold.

1179

00:50:02,150 --> 00:50:06,600

But I don't know what they did.

1180

00:50:06,600 --> 00:50:12,230

In Siberia, there's a lot of
wood, so they were making--

1181

00:50:12,230 --> 00:50:14,010

the heat was from the woods.

1182

00:50:14,010 --> 00:50:16,490

OK.

1183

00:50:16,490 --> 00:50:18,520

Were there stoves
inside the barracks?

1184

00:50:18,520 --> 00:50:20,150

I have no idea.

1185

00:50:20,150 --> 00:50:22,130
What was the food?

1186
00:50:22,130 --> 00:50:27,260
The food, we had rations,
and every family got rations.

1187
00:50:27,260 --> 00:50:28,565
Such as?

1188
00:50:28,565 --> 00:50:32,480
A certain amount of
bread, a certain amount

1189
00:50:32,480 --> 00:50:36,490
of the other food.

1190
00:50:36,490 --> 00:50:38,940
It wasn't enough.

1191
00:50:38,940 --> 00:50:42,480
Can you tell me,
did anybody tell you

1192
00:50:42,480 --> 00:50:46,830
why you had been taken
there, rather than back home?

1193
00:50:46,830 --> 00:50:50,188
Did any official ever come
and say now you are here

1194
00:50:50,188 --> 00:50:51,480
and you are going to be doing--

1195
00:50:51,480 --> 00:50:53,510
No, not that I know of.

1196
00:50:53,510 --> 00:50:55,190
OK.

1197
00:50:55,190 --> 00:51:01,130

And did any part of your family have to work?

1198
00:51:01,130 --> 00:51:02,090
Yes.

1199
00:51:02,090 --> 00:51:04,400
They all had to work in the woods.

1200
00:51:04,400 --> 00:51:06,750
And what were they doing?

1201
00:51:06,750 --> 00:51:09,617
They were cutting trees.

1202
00:51:09,617 --> 00:51:10,325
The whole family?

1203
00:51:10,325 --> 00:51:13,170

1204
00:51:13,170 --> 00:51:14,810
Not myself.

1205
00:51:14,810 --> 00:51:19,250
My older sister and my brother, the three of my--

1206
00:51:19,250 --> 00:51:22,700
two brothers and one sister.

1207
00:51:22,700 --> 00:51:25,130
So there were four of you or three of you who could--

1208
00:51:25,130 --> 00:51:29,660
There was six of us, but just the older ones, because we

1209
00:51:29,660 --> 00:51:33,140
weren't eligible to cut trees.

1210
00:51:33,140 --> 00:51:34,370
OK.

1211
00:51:34,370 --> 00:51:37,570
And what did you do during
the time they were all gone?

1212
00:51:37,570 --> 00:51:39,110
We were in the barracks.

1213
00:51:39,110 --> 00:51:40,950
Did you get rations, too?

1214
00:51:40,950 --> 00:51:41,450
Yes.

1215
00:51:41,450 --> 00:51:43,400
Everybody got rations.

1216
00:51:43,400 --> 00:51:48,350
Every child and every grown
up, they got the rations.

1217
00:51:48,350 --> 00:51:52,850
And how we survived is because
my brothers were older,

1218
00:51:52,850 --> 00:51:57,230
so my mother just
maneuvered around

1219
00:51:57,230 --> 00:51:59,800
to give the boys
more than the girls.

1220
00:51:59,800 --> 00:52:01,950
So that's how we survived.

1221
00:52:01,950 --> 00:52:03,330
I see.

1222
00:52:03,330 --> 00:52:05,730
They needed more food.

1223
00:52:05,730 --> 00:52:06,960
To work.

1224
00:52:06,960 --> 00:52:08,250
To work, and they were older.

1225
00:52:08,250 --> 00:52:08,750
Yeah.

1226
00:52:08,750 --> 00:52:14,080

1227
00:52:14,080 --> 00:52:15,400
Let's see.

1228
00:52:15,400 --> 00:52:19,300
Did you come in contact
with any of the people who

1229
00:52:19,300 --> 00:52:24,250
were minding the camp or
in charge of the camp?

1230
00:52:24,250 --> 00:52:26,510
I have no idea.

1231
00:52:26,510 --> 00:52:29,050
I have no idea.

1232
00:52:29,050 --> 00:52:31,270
If my brothers would
be here, maybe they

1233
00:52:31,270 --> 00:52:33,240
would be able to tell you.

1234
00:52:33,240 --> 00:52:35,080
I really don't know.

1235
00:52:35,080 --> 00:52:38,560
What kind of
conversations were going

1236
00:52:38,560 --> 00:52:41,530
on when everyone would come
home and you were together?

1237
00:52:41,530 --> 00:52:46,180
Well, I guess everybody
was miserable, you know.

1238
00:52:46,180 --> 00:52:48,940
And everybody came home,
probably they were tired

1239
00:52:48,940 --> 00:52:53,530
and they were glad to go
to sleep or something.

1240
00:52:53,530 --> 00:52:56,380
I don't remember too
many conversations

1241
00:52:56,380 --> 00:52:58,600
that went on, what I know.

1242
00:52:58,600 --> 00:53:02,290
I'm sure they did,
but I don't know.

1243
00:53:02,290 --> 00:53:05,680
Were the children-- did you
have any chance to go to school?

1244
00:53:05,680 --> 00:53:07,060
Not in Siberia.

1245
00:53:07,060 --> 00:53:08,500
Not in Siberia.

1246

00:53:08,500 --> 00:53:10,720
So how did you spend your days?

1247
00:53:10,720 --> 00:53:14,110
Well, we weren't inside
until they transferred us

1248
00:53:14,110 --> 00:53:15,200
to the Urals.

1249
00:53:15,200 --> 00:53:17,920
Oh.

1250
00:53:17,920 --> 00:53:21,190
I don't know how long it
was, a half a year, 3/4,

1251
00:53:21,190 --> 00:53:22,390
I have no idea.

1252
00:53:22,390 --> 00:53:22,900
That's OK.

1253
00:53:22,900 --> 00:53:25,810
And they transferred
us to the Urals.

1254
00:53:25,810 --> 00:53:26,930
As a whole family?

1255
00:53:26,930 --> 00:53:28,120
The whole family.

1256
00:53:28,120 --> 00:53:28,840
The whole camp?

1257
00:53:28,840 --> 00:53:32,530
I guess the whole camp.

1258
00:53:32,530 --> 00:53:35,830
I still didn't go to school
there because we were still

1259
00:53:35,830 --> 00:53:37,300
in the woods.

1260
00:53:37,300 --> 00:53:41,300
My peers still had to work.

1261
00:53:41,300 --> 00:53:42,730
Was it still cold?

1262
00:53:42,730 --> 00:53:46,930
Very cold, but not
as cold as Siberia.

1263
00:53:46,930 --> 00:53:48,070
OK.

1264
00:53:48,070 --> 00:53:50,230
Where in the Urals
were you transfer to?

1265
00:53:50,230 --> 00:53:53,140
In Sverdlovsk.

1266
00:53:53,140 --> 00:53:55,580
But we weren't in the city.

1267
00:53:55,580 --> 00:53:57,970
We were outside.

1268
00:53:57,970 --> 00:53:59,800
Did you ever go to the city?

1269
00:53:59,800 --> 00:54:01,340
I mean, did anyone
from the family?

1270
00:54:01,340 --> 00:54:01,840
No.

1271
00:54:01,840 --> 00:54:03,840

Were they allowed out
of the camp at all?

1272
00:54:03,840 --> 00:54:05,200
No, I don't think so.

1273
00:54:05,200 --> 00:54:05,890
OK.

1274
00:54:05,890 --> 00:54:10,060
Some people you see, who
had such experiences,

1275
00:54:10,060 --> 00:54:12,340
would meet with
locals, whether when

1276
00:54:12,340 --> 00:54:15,370
they were in Novosibirsk
or in Sverdlovs,

1277
00:54:15,370 --> 00:54:18,280
and they would be able
to exchange or barter

1278
00:54:18,280 --> 00:54:19,600
some goods for more food.

1279
00:54:19,600 --> 00:54:22,060
Did you know if
anything like that--

1280
00:54:22,060 --> 00:54:23,050
I don't know.

1281
00:54:23,050 --> 00:54:23,960
You don't know.

1282
00:54:23,960 --> 00:54:24,460
OK.

1283
00:54:24,460 --> 00:54:27,550

1284
00:54:27,550 --> 00:54:29,440
You weren't in an
environment then where

1285
00:54:29,440 --> 00:54:31,450
you could learn
Russian, because if you

1286
00:54:31,450 --> 00:54:33,320
were at home all the time.

1287
00:54:33,320 --> 00:54:33,820
Yes.

1288
00:54:33,820 --> 00:54:37,180
But here and there,
you are familiar

1289
00:54:37,180 --> 00:54:38,570
with the Russian words.

1290
00:54:38,570 --> 00:54:40,630
Not too many.

1291
00:54:40,630 --> 00:54:42,700
What were the first
ones you learned?

1292
00:54:42,700 --> 00:54:43,270
Pardon me?

1293
00:54:43,270 --> 00:54:47,470
The first Russian
words you learned.

1294
00:54:47,470 --> 00:54:48,775
Hello.

1295
00:54:48,775 --> 00:54:50,525
OK, you don't remember

any, in particular?

1296

00:54:50,525 --> 00:54:52,720

Thank you, spasiba.

1297

00:54:52,720 --> 00:54:56,140

Spasiba and puzhalsta.

1298

00:54:56,140 --> 00:55:02,110

Anyway, when we were
liberated as Polish citizens,

1299

00:55:02,110 --> 00:55:06,250

by General Sikorsky--
you're probably in familiar.

1300

00:55:06,250 --> 00:55:08,330

I may know, but tell
the people who will

1301

00:55:08,330 --> 00:55:09,730

be watching this who this is.

1302

00:55:09,730 --> 00:55:15,220

Anyway, from the Urals, we
were Polish citizens still.

1303

00:55:15,220 --> 00:55:18,730

This general, was
in England, and he

1304

00:55:18,730 --> 00:55:23,200

tried to liberate the
citizens of Poland.

1305

00:55:23,200 --> 00:55:26,530

And finally, we got liberated
and we could travel, only

1306

00:55:26,530 --> 00:55:30,190

in Russia, wherever we wanted.

1307

00:55:30,190 --> 00:55:32,020
Do you remember when
you got liberated,

1308
00:55:32,020 --> 00:55:33,340
when you got this news?

1309
00:55:33,340 --> 00:55:36,256

1310
00:55:36,256 --> 00:55:38,590
I wouldn't be able to tell you.

1311
00:55:38,590 --> 00:55:40,180
Like you remembered
the day the war

1312
00:55:40,180 --> 00:55:42,820
started, that you went to
the dentist with your father.

1313
00:55:42,820 --> 00:55:43,320
Yes.

1314
00:55:43,320 --> 00:55:47,260
This I remember, but that time
was a different environment.

1315
00:55:47,260 --> 00:55:51,430
It was completely different.

1316
00:55:51,430 --> 00:55:53,710
My brothers and sisters,
they went to work

1317
00:55:53,710 --> 00:55:54,550
and they came home.

1318
00:55:54,550 --> 00:55:55,450
I didn't see them.

1319
00:55:55,450 --> 00:55:56,440

They came home late.

1320
00:55:56,440 --> 00:55:57,820
They went out early.

1321
00:55:57,820 --> 00:56:01,480
So it was a different situation.

1322
00:56:01,480 --> 00:56:06,040
In any of this time, did you
see anybody die from the time--

1323
00:56:06,040 --> 00:56:06,640
Yes, yes.

1324
00:56:06,640 --> 00:56:09,670
I saw, even close in my family.

1325
00:56:09,670 --> 00:56:12,910
Not my immediate,
but distant family.

1326
00:56:12,910 --> 00:56:14,530
What did they die of?

1327
00:56:14,530 --> 00:56:20,110
There was, I think, a lady,
who she died probably from food

1328
00:56:20,110 --> 00:56:21,400
poisoning or something.

1329
00:56:21,400 --> 00:56:22,270
I don't know.

1330
00:56:22,270 --> 00:56:23,420
OK.

1331
00:56:23,420 --> 00:56:23,920
All right.

1332

00:56:23,920 --> 00:56:27,280

1333

00:56:27,280 --> 00:56:33,400

When you got this word, that
General Sikorsky had arranged

1334

00:56:33,400 --> 00:56:38,680

for this liberation, do you know
how he was able to do it, why?

1335

00:56:38,680 --> 00:56:40,930

I don't know.

1336

00:56:40,930 --> 00:56:45,450

Were you liberated from
the second place where

1337

00:56:45,450 --> 00:56:47,020

you were sent, from the Urals?

1338

00:56:47,020 --> 00:56:48,010

Correct.

1339

00:56:48,010 --> 00:56:52,240

And so when that
word came through,

1340

00:56:52,240 --> 00:56:54,230

what happened with your family?

1341

00:56:54,230 --> 00:56:58,750

Well, my family, we
always were together

1342

00:56:58,750 --> 00:57:02,950

with my uncle and
aunt and his family.

1343

00:57:02,950 --> 00:57:04,600

So all of you, not
just one family.

1344
00:57:04,600 --> 00:57:05,100
Yeah.

1345
00:57:05,100 --> 00:57:08,800
We always stayed together--
before the war, during the war,

1346
00:57:08,800 --> 00:57:10,020
and after the war.

1347
00:57:10,020 --> 00:57:12,550

1348
00:57:12,550 --> 00:57:17,460
So my uncle said--

1349
00:57:17,460 --> 00:57:21,970
we were cold so long-- how
about going to warm climate?

1350
00:57:21,970 --> 00:57:23,110
So many said that.

1351
00:57:23,110 --> 00:57:23,610
Yes.

1352
00:57:23,610 --> 00:57:26,050
So we wanted to
go to Tajikistan.

1353
00:57:26,050 --> 00:57:27,940
Any reason why there?

1354
00:57:27,940 --> 00:57:29,470
Because it was warm.

1355
00:57:29,470 --> 00:57:31,557
OK.

1356
00:57:31,557 --> 00:57:32,140
You were free.

1357
00:57:32,140 --> 00:57:36,505
You could maybe work
or do something.

1358
00:57:36,505 --> 00:57:44,280
So they took us
on the train, also

1359
00:57:44,280 --> 00:57:46,620
the same kind of cattle
trains and everything,

1360
00:57:46,620 --> 00:57:51,550
and they went to
Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

1361
00:57:51,550 --> 00:57:54,630
But that time, the
refugees were so

1362
00:57:54,630 --> 00:57:58,980
overwhelmed that Tashkent
couldn't absorb any more.

1363
00:57:58,980 --> 00:58:00,550
So there were so
many coming to--

1364
00:58:00,550 --> 00:58:04,230
There were so many coming to
them, so we went to Tajikistan,

1365
00:58:04,230 --> 00:58:06,130
and that's where
we settled down.

1366
00:58:06,130 --> 00:58:07,620
Where in Tajikistan?

1367
00:58:07,620 --> 00:58:08,770
Stanovat.

1368

00:58:08,770 --> 00:58:13,650

It was a smaller town,
Kaktash they call it.

1369

00:58:13,650 --> 00:58:19,680

This was like a few miles from
Stanovat, which was a big city.

1370

00:58:19,680 --> 00:58:22,140

And can you paint
a picture for me,

1371

00:58:22,140 --> 00:58:24,750

in words, what
Stanovat looked like?

1372

00:58:24,750 --> 00:58:27,730

Like a normal big city.

1373

00:58:27,730 --> 00:58:29,740

So it could have been Ulanov.

1374

00:58:29,740 --> 00:58:30,490

No.

1375

00:58:30,490 --> 00:58:32,230

OK, what made it
different from there?

1376

00:58:32,230 --> 00:58:34,420

Different, it was a big city.

1377

00:58:34,420 --> 00:58:35,800

And Unalov was town.

1378

00:58:35,800 --> 00:58:38,440

Yes, it was a big city.

1379

00:58:38,440 --> 00:58:44,710

It was, I think, the
capital of Tajikistan.

1380

00:58:44,710 --> 00:58:49,300

And where did you
live in that big city?

1381

00:58:49,300 --> 00:58:53,660

Well, we had an apartment,
not a very big one.

1382

00:58:53,660 --> 00:58:59,350

We stayed in this small
thing, and my brother

1383

00:58:59,350 --> 00:59:03,970

started working,
and my father, to be

1384

00:59:03,970 --> 00:59:07,250

able to have food on the table.

1385

00:59:07,250 --> 00:59:10,660

What kind of work
were they doing?

1386

00:59:10,660 --> 00:59:11,950

I wouldn't remember.

1387

00:59:11,950 --> 00:59:13,365

My brother was working--

1388

00:59:13,365 --> 00:59:16,650

1389

00:59:16,650 --> 00:59:20,100

I know he was working
in the factory.

1390

00:59:20,100 --> 00:59:24,564

He was like a chauffeur for--

1391

00:59:24,564 --> 00:59:28,110

I don't know how they call
it-- the lieutenant or captain.

1392
00:59:28,110 --> 00:59:29,880
I don't know.

1393
00:59:29,880 --> 00:59:31,590
A Communist Party official?

1394
00:59:31,590 --> 00:59:33,750
Some kind of a party official.

1395
00:59:33,750 --> 00:59:34,440
OK.

1396
00:59:34,440 --> 00:59:36,690
And he was working there.

1397
00:59:36,690 --> 00:59:40,950
And then through him,
we moved to Staninabar.

1398
00:59:40,950 --> 00:59:43,020
This was the biggest
city of the [INAUDIBLE]

1399
00:59:43,020 --> 00:59:45,030
There, in the
smaller town, that's

1400
00:59:45,030 --> 00:59:48,750
when I started going to school.

1401
00:59:48,750 --> 00:59:52,110
Let's say I started
in second grade.

1402
00:59:52,110 --> 00:59:54,780
I skipped to the third,
and from the third,

1403
00:59:54,780 --> 00:59:57,140
I skipped to the fifth.

1404
00:59:57,140 --> 01:00:01,610
Yes, so I was good in Russian.

1405
01:00:01,610 --> 01:00:03,290
I was a learning type.

1406
01:00:03,290 --> 01:00:06,320

1407
01:00:06,320 --> 01:00:07,595
I did OK in school.

1408
01:00:07,595 --> 01:00:12,440

1409
01:00:12,440 --> 01:00:13,790
Describe the school for me.

1410
01:00:13,790 --> 01:00:14,810
Describe the school.

1411
01:00:14,810 --> 01:00:17,310
The school was normal.

1412
01:00:17,310 --> 01:00:20,120
I didn't have enough
bread as I wanted.

1413
01:00:20,120 --> 01:00:25,700
I always waited for recess
to get a rationing of bread.

1414
01:00:25,700 --> 01:00:28,370
Of course, it wasn't easy
to study when you're hungry.

1415
01:00:28,370 --> 01:00:29,270
No.

1416
01:00:29,270 --> 01:00:32,810
But that's how it was.

1417
01:00:32,810 --> 01:00:39,890
And then the Polish government
subsidized or something,

1418
01:00:39,890 --> 01:00:43,280
like a camp for the
children, that they

1419
01:00:43,280 --> 01:00:47,250
could stay there and have enough
food, and things like that.

1420
01:00:47,250 --> 01:00:49,190
And from there,
I went to school.

1421
01:00:49,190 --> 01:00:50,660
From this camp?

1422
01:00:50,660 --> 01:00:54,500
From this camp, which was
in the city, the same city.

1423
01:00:54,500 --> 01:00:56,000
So you didn't live at home?

1424
01:00:56,000 --> 01:00:57,170
You lived at this camp?

1425
01:00:57,170 --> 01:00:58,470
A certain time.

1426
01:00:58,470 --> 01:00:59,390
A certain time.

1427
01:00:59,390 --> 01:01:02,450
And when we moved to the
biggest city, to Stanovat,

1428
01:01:02,450 --> 01:01:05,250
then I did not go

anymore to this camp.

1429
01:01:05,250 --> 01:01:06,100
OK.

1430
01:01:06,100 --> 01:01:06,680
OK.

1431
01:01:06,680 --> 01:01:08,940
So there was a
supplementary food given?

1432
01:01:08,940 --> 01:01:09,440
Correct.

1433
01:01:09,440 --> 01:01:10,760
OK.

1434
01:01:10,760 --> 01:01:17,240
Were there people who were
leaving Tajikistan and leaving

1435
01:01:17,240 --> 01:01:19,580
the Soviet Union, as
well, when they got

1436
01:01:19,580 --> 01:01:21,008
released from the labor camps?

1437
01:01:21,008 --> 01:01:22,550
They couldn't leave
the Soviet Union.

1438
01:01:22,550 --> 01:01:23,633
You weren't able to leave.

1439
01:01:23,633 --> 01:01:27,230
The war was still going on.

1440
01:01:27,230 --> 01:01:28,850
Your family could not.

1441
01:01:28,850 --> 01:01:30,800
Nobody, not that I know of.

1442
01:01:30,800 --> 01:01:31,550
OK.

1443
01:01:31,550 --> 01:01:33,810
No, there were some
Polish people who were--

1444
01:01:33,810 --> 01:01:34,700
Maybe they did.

1445
01:01:34,700 --> 01:01:35,690
Maybe they did.

1446
01:01:35,690 --> 01:01:36,670
But not--

1447
01:01:36,670 --> 01:01:37,860
Not anyone you knew.

1448
01:01:37,860 --> 01:01:38,360
OK.

1449
01:01:38,360 --> 01:01:41,480

1450
01:01:41,480 --> 01:01:47,630
Was there any news at this time
of what was going on in Poland,

1451
01:01:47,630 --> 01:01:50,300
what kind of
situation was there?

1452
01:01:50,300 --> 01:01:52,130
Well, we didn't
know for a while.

1453
01:01:52,130 --> 01:01:53,205

We didn't even know.

1454
01:01:53,205 --> 01:01:55,080
For the time being, we
didn't know that there

1455
01:01:55,080 --> 01:01:56,750
were concentration camps.

1456
01:01:56,750 --> 01:02:03,380
But when we heard that the
Russians got closer to Berlin,

1457
01:02:03,380 --> 01:02:07,160
or I don't know where it was.

1458
01:02:07,160 --> 01:02:08,200
What was it?

1459
01:02:08,200 --> 01:02:10,400
A very big city.

1460
01:02:10,400 --> 01:02:12,680
And then they got
closer to Berlin,

1461
01:02:12,680 --> 01:02:18,590
that's when we started
to get to know that they

1462
01:02:18,590 --> 01:02:22,140
were concentration camps.

1463
01:02:22,140 --> 01:02:26,070
But we couldn't imagine what
kind of concentration camp.

1464
01:02:26,070 --> 01:02:32,203
Well, there were some
Soviet journalists

1465
01:02:32,203 --> 01:02:33,120

going with the troops.

1466
01:02:33,120 --> 01:02:33,620
Yes.

1467
01:02:33,620 --> 01:02:36,930
So as they were liberating,
there was some news coming out.

1468
01:02:36,930 --> 01:02:37,450
Yes.

1469
01:02:37,450 --> 01:02:42,210
So as far back as
Tajikistan, some of that news

1470
01:02:42,210 --> 01:02:43,470
filtered through.

1471
01:02:43,470 --> 01:02:44,550
Possibly.

1472
01:02:44,550 --> 01:02:46,000
Possibly.

1473
01:02:46,000 --> 01:02:48,427
That's when your family started
to learn of these things?

1474
01:02:48,427 --> 01:02:49,260
We started to learn.

1475
01:02:49,260 --> 01:02:58,050
This was already almost end
of 1944, maybe beginning 1945.

1476
01:02:58,050 --> 01:03:01,050
I don't know exactly the time.

1477
01:03:01,050 --> 01:03:06,600
But during the war, what went
on really, we did not know.

1478
01:03:06,600 --> 01:03:09,930
Now, after you were
liberated and were

1479
01:03:09,930 --> 01:03:13,830
able to leave the Urals,
did your brothers,

1480
01:03:13,830 --> 01:03:14,910
where they drafted?

1481
01:03:14,910 --> 01:03:20,460
Or did they face any
possibility or pressure

1482
01:03:20,460 --> 01:03:22,350
to join the Soviet army?

1483
01:03:22,350 --> 01:03:24,230
No.

1484
01:03:24,230 --> 01:03:26,120
And do you know why
that would have been?

1485
01:03:26,120 --> 01:03:28,060
I have no idea.

1486
01:03:28,060 --> 01:03:30,300
OK.

1487
01:03:30,300 --> 01:03:32,950
I'm sure there were plenty
of people who could.

1488
01:03:32,950 --> 01:03:34,900
Maybe they could.

1489
01:03:34,900 --> 01:03:36,400
But my brother's weren't yet--

1490

01:03:36,400 --> 01:03:40,180

I think, at that age, they
were older, the older ones.

1491

01:03:40,180 --> 01:03:41,570

Maybe they did.

1492

01:03:41,570 --> 01:03:42,070

OK.

1493

01:03:42,070 --> 01:03:44,530

Well, some of them sound like
they could have been the age.

1494

01:03:44,530 --> 01:03:45,062

Yes, yes.

1495

01:03:45,062 --> 01:03:46,270

They could have been the age.

1496

01:03:46,270 --> 01:03:50,230

1497

01:03:50,230 --> 01:03:52,300

When you were in
Tajikistan, did your mother

1498

01:03:52,300 --> 01:03:54,700

also go out to work,
and your older sisters?

1499

01:03:54,700 --> 01:03:55,650

No.

1500

01:03:55,650 --> 01:03:57,000

OK.

1501

01:03:57,000 --> 01:03:58,210

My sister worked.

1502

01:03:58,210 --> 01:03:58,710

She did?

1503

01:03:58,710 --> 01:03:59,490

What did she do?

1504

01:03:59,490 --> 01:04:00,600

My older sister.

1505

01:04:00,600 --> 01:04:03,492

She worked in a kolkhoz.

1506

01:04:03,492 --> 01:04:04,200

What's a kolkhoz?

1507

01:04:04,200 --> 01:04:05,550

It's like a community.

1508

01:04:05,550 --> 01:04:09,310

This is like a
government community.

1509

01:04:09,310 --> 01:04:17,160

This was very much known
in the Muslim community.

1510

01:04:17,160 --> 01:04:18,100

A kolkhoz?

1511

01:04:18,100 --> 01:04:18,600

Yes.

1512

01:04:18,600 --> 01:04:24,480

This is like a community
that they grow food.

1513

01:04:24,480 --> 01:04:26,890

It was a regular, like
an administration.

1514

01:04:26,890 --> 01:04:29,290

And my sister worked
in the office.

1515
01:04:29,290 --> 01:04:29,790
Oh.

1516
01:04:29,790 --> 01:04:34,330
So a kolkhoz, what I understand,
is a farm, a Soviet farm.

1517
01:04:34,330 --> 01:04:35,950
Something like this.

1518
01:04:35,950 --> 01:04:38,760
Yeah, OK.

1519
01:04:38,760 --> 01:04:40,130
And she worked in the office.

1520
01:04:40,130 --> 01:04:40,740
In the office.

1521
01:04:40,740 --> 01:04:42,930
That sounds like it could have
been a good job, if you're

1522
01:04:42,930 --> 01:04:43,470
in the office.

1523
01:04:43,470 --> 01:04:43,970
Yes.

1524
01:04:43,970 --> 01:04:47,160
And she was the one who brought
home food, a lot of food

1525
01:04:47,160 --> 01:04:51,150
that she got there, and
she brought it home always.

1526
01:04:51,150 --> 01:04:51,850
That helps.

1527

01:04:51,850 --> 01:04:52,350

Yes.

1528

01:04:52,350 --> 01:04:53,250

That helps.

1529

01:04:53,250 --> 01:04:55,110

What were your
living quarters like?

1530

01:04:55,110 --> 01:04:59,340

Can you describe those
to me, in Tajikistan?

1531

01:04:59,340 --> 01:05:01,085

Not very pleasant.

1532

01:05:01,085 --> 01:05:03,120

It was very few rooms.

1533

01:05:03,120 --> 01:05:08,400

We had to squeeze
in one or two rooms.

1534

01:05:08,400 --> 01:05:08,910

OK.

1535

01:05:08,910 --> 01:05:13,260

Not too enjoyable.

1536

01:05:13,260 --> 01:05:14,190

All right.

1537

01:05:14,190 --> 01:05:16,110

Let me ask this.

1538

01:05:16,110 --> 01:05:18,480

Remember I asked all those
questions about did you have

1539

01:05:18,480 --> 01:05:20,460

electricity, did you have--

1540
01:05:20,460 --> 01:05:23,350
so over there in Tajikistan,
was there electricity?

1541
01:05:23,350 --> 01:05:24,780
Not in the small.

1542
01:05:24,780 --> 01:05:27,930
Not at first, but
in Stanovat, we had.

1543
01:05:27,930 --> 01:05:28,800
OK.

1544
01:05:28,800 --> 01:05:34,190
What about indoor plumbing?

1545
01:05:34,190 --> 01:05:35,930
I don't think so.

1546
01:05:35,930 --> 01:05:38,450
Do you remember
how people bathed?

1547
01:05:38,450 --> 01:05:39,820
I don't know.

1548
01:05:39,820 --> 01:05:40,630
OK.

1549
01:05:40,630 --> 01:05:41,330
OK.

1550
01:05:41,330 --> 01:05:43,870
And how did you heat things?

1551
01:05:43,870 --> 01:05:45,620
You said that when you
were in the Gulags,

1552

01:05:45,620 --> 01:05:46,790
then you there was wood.

1553
01:05:46,790 --> 01:05:47,330
Yes.

1554
01:05:47,330 --> 01:05:53,090
Well, in Tajikistan, I don't
think it was that cold.

1555
01:05:53,090 --> 01:05:56,360
It wasn't that cold.

1556
01:05:56,360 --> 01:05:59,300
The winter time, I
wouldn't remember.

1557
01:05:59,300 --> 01:06:01,760
I cannot tell you
what they used.

1558
01:06:01,760 --> 01:06:02,720
OK.

1559
01:06:02,720 --> 01:06:03,220
All right.

1560
01:06:03,220 --> 01:06:06,200

1561
01:06:06,200 --> 01:06:08,790
In general, what was the--

1562
01:06:08,790 --> 01:06:10,940
OK, let me step
back a little bit.

1563
01:06:10,940 --> 01:06:14,930
When you were in the Gulags,
and everybody went out to work

1564
01:06:14,930 --> 01:06:17,810

and they came home
and they're tired,

1565
01:06:17,810 --> 01:06:21,140
did people, nevertheless, talk
with one another about what

1566
01:06:21,140 --> 01:06:25,430
was going on and what
they felt about it all

1567
01:06:25,430 --> 01:06:27,190
and how they ended up?

1568
01:06:27,190 --> 01:06:32,570
I'm sure they did, but
I personally was not

1569
01:06:32,570 --> 01:06:37,250
in the circle at this age.

1570
01:06:37,250 --> 01:06:40,160
And what about when you
were already released

1571
01:06:40,160 --> 01:06:41,480
and you were in Tajikistan?

1572
01:06:41,480 --> 01:06:44,490
Did people watch their
words then, too, or not?

1573
01:06:44,490 --> 01:06:45,440
Did what?

1574
01:06:45,440 --> 01:06:50,090
Did they talk freely about
how you ended up in Poland--

1575
01:06:50,090 --> 01:06:52,280
how you ended up in
the Soviet Union?

1576

01:06:52,280 --> 01:06:53,840
Did people share their opinions?

1577

01:06:53,840 --> 01:06:55,110
Yes, I think so.

1578

01:06:55,110 --> 01:06:56,810
I think so.

1579

01:06:56,810 --> 01:06:57,440
Yes.

1580

01:06:57,440 --> 01:06:59,840
I'm sure they were
talking about it.

1581

01:06:59,840 --> 01:07:05,710
Did you ever have any kind
of experience with the NKVD?

1582

01:07:05,710 --> 01:07:09,130

1583

01:07:09,130 --> 01:07:11,600
Not that I know of.

1584

01:07:11,600 --> 01:07:15,950
I was always in school, and
when I came home from school,

1585

01:07:15,950 --> 01:07:17,420
I had to study.

1586

01:07:17,420 --> 01:07:19,880
So I wasn't in this circle.

1587

01:07:19,880 --> 01:07:21,335
You were a child.

1588

01:07:21,335 --> 01:07:21,920
Yes.

1589
01:07:21,920 --> 01:07:26,360
I was concentrating on my
homework, on my studies,

1590
01:07:26,360 --> 01:07:28,890
on my thing, because
I lost many years.

1591
01:07:28,890 --> 01:07:30,530
I wanted to catch up.

1592
01:07:30,530 --> 01:07:32,360
And what about the teachers?

1593
01:07:32,360 --> 01:07:34,280
Do you have any memory
of those teachers?

1594
01:07:34,280 --> 01:07:36,045
Yes, wonderful
teachers in Russia.

1595
01:07:36,045 --> 01:07:36,545
Yeah?

1596
01:07:36,545 --> 01:07:37,520
Yes, very nice.

1597
01:07:37,520 --> 01:07:39,290
I had Jewish teachers.

1598
01:07:39,290 --> 01:07:41,600
I had non-Jewish teachers.

1599
01:07:41,600 --> 01:07:44,360
Were the Jewish teachers
different than the Jews

1600
01:07:44,360 --> 01:07:47,010
in Poland?

1601
01:07:47,010 --> 01:07:48,510
I don't know.

1602
01:07:48,510 --> 01:07:49,740
I don't know.

1603
01:07:49,740 --> 01:07:53,890
I think they were
more maybe communist.

1604
01:07:53,890 --> 01:07:57,430
Maybe they had to do what
they were told to do.

1605
01:07:57,430 --> 01:07:58,030
I don't know.

1606
01:07:58,030 --> 01:08:01,870
But one thing I can tell you,
they were very good teachers.

1607
01:08:01,870 --> 01:08:02,900
OK.

1608
01:08:02,900 --> 01:08:03,400
OK.

1609
01:08:03,400 --> 01:08:04,560
And I learned a lot.

1610
01:08:04,560 --> 01:08:07,110

1611
01:08:07,110 --> 01:08:10,100
What were your
favorite subjects?

1612
01:08:10,100 --> 01:08:10,940
Everyone.

1613
01:08:10,940 --> 01:08:12,065

I liked history.

1614
01:08:12,065 --> 01:08:14,390
I liked geography.

1615
01:08:14,390 --> 01:08:21,189
I liked algebra, geometry,
all these things.

1616
01:08:21,189 --> 01:08:24,270

1617
01:08:24,270 --> 01:08:25,890
So you have fond memories of it?

1618
01:08:25,890 --> 01:08:27,180
Yes, yes.

1619
01:08:27,180 --> 01:08:27,810
OK.

1620
01:08:27,810 --> 01:08:30,870
And I was thankful that
I could go to school

1621
01:08:30,870 --> 01:08:35,160
because it was very important.

1622
01:08:35,160 --> 01:08:37,979
And did you make friends?

1623
01:08:37,979 --> 01:08:39,210
Oh, yes.

1624
01:08:39,210 --> 01:08:40,710
I had school friends.

1625
01:08:40,710 --> 01:08:41,490
OK.

1626
01:08:41,490 --> 01:08:43,529

And I also had
neighborhood friends.

1627
01:08:43,529 --> 01:08:48,689
And do you have any particular
memories of these friends

1628
01:08:48,689 --> 01:08:51,899
and what their lives were
and what their stories were?

1629
01:08:51,899 --> 01:08:53,399
I don't know what
their lives were,

1630
01:08:53,399 --> 01:08:56,490
but there was plenty
of anti-Semitism.

1631
01:08:56,490 --> 01:08:57,810
There were plenty in school.

1632
01:08:57,810 --> 01:09:03,960
They used to call you yevrey.

1633
01:09:03,960 --> 01:09:05,490
But I didn't pay attention.

1634
01:09:05,490 --> 01:09:07,290
I wasn't afraid.

1635
01:09:07,290 --> 01:09:08,130
OK.

1636
01:09:08,130 --> 01:09:08,999
More than in Poland?

1637
01:09:08,999 --> 01:09:13,387

1638
01:09:13,387 --> 01:09:14,870
I don't know.

1639
01:09:14,870 --> 01:09:18,920
Poland was different because
I was in the lower class

1640
01:09:18,920 --> 01:09:23,420
and I didn't mingle
between them.

1641
01:09:23,420 --> 01:09:24,140
I see.

1642
01:09:24,140 --> 01:09:28,960
Because I had the Jewish, I had
the Hebrew school after school,

1643
01:09:28,960 --> 01:09:30,950
and that's it.

1644
01:09:30,950 --> 01:09:33,370
It wasn't as much mingling?

1645
01:09:33,370 --> 01:09:33,870
No.

1646
01:09:33,870 --> 01:09:35,180
No.

1647
01:09:35,180 --> 01:09:38,720
Not for me, anyway.

1648
01:09:38,720 --> 01:09:42,680
And were most of your
friends, were the Russians

1649
01:09:42,680 --> 01:09:43,920
or were they Tajiks?

1650
01:09:43,920 --> 01:09:45,200
Were they Muslim?

1651

01:09:45,200 --> 01:09:47,000
Mostly were Russians,
the Russians.

1652
01:09:47,000 --> 01:09:48,620
I'm sure there
were Muslims, too,

1653
01:09:48,620 --> 01:09:52,550
but they had to go to school.

1654
01:09:52,550 --> 01:09:54,500
But mostly were Russians.

1655
01:09:54,500 --> 01:10:00,710
And now what about your family
being very religious itself?

1656
01:10:00,710 --> 01:10:03,980
Were they able to, once they
were released, or even maybe

1657
01:10:03,980 --> 01:10:07,370
before, practice any of the--

1658
01:10:07,370 --> 01:10:12,650
Well, my mother did the best
she could, and my father, too.

1659
01:10:12,650 --> 01:10:15,530
We didn't go to shul, to temple.

1660
01:10:15,530 --> 01:10:18,470
We didn't go to
religious gatherings

1661
01:10:18,470 --> 01:10:20,870
because we were not allowed.

1662
01:10:20,870 --> 01:10:24,090
And that's about it.

1663

01:10:24,090 --> 01:10:33,650
And when it came Passover or so,
we were invited to the Muslim--

1664
01:10:33,650 --> 01:10:37,820
were Muslim Jews, and they
invited us for the Seder

1665
01:10:37,820 --> 01:10:42,800
or for this, but it wasn't
the same as normally.

1666
01:10:42,800 --> 01:10:44,300
Well, that's interesting.

1667
01:10:44,300 --> 01:10:50,150
There were Jews who lived in
Tajikistan themselves, who

1668
01:10:50,150 --> 01:10:52,460
had been there for a long time?

1669
01:10:52,460 --> 01:10:54,440
Probably.

1670
01:10:54,440 --> 01:10:57,230
And what was
different about this?

1671
01:10:57,230 --> 01:10:58,020
It was different.

1672
01:10:58,020 --> 01:10:59,360
They were very friendly.

1673
01:10:59,360 --> 01:11:02,660
They were very nice.

1674
01:11:02,660 --> 01:11:04,520
They tried to help.

1675
01:11:04,520 --> 01:11:06,110

And that's about it.

1676

01:11:06,110 --> 01:11:07,820

Was there a synagogue?

1677

01:11:07,820 --> 01:11:09,710

Not that I remember.

1678

01:11:09,710 --> 01:11:10,790

OK.

1679

01:11:10,790 --> 01:11:13,726

Did they speak

Hebrew or Yiddish?

1680

01:11:13,726 --> 01:11:15,680

I don't know.

1681

01:11:15,680 --> 01:11:16,385

I don't know.

1682

01:11:16,385 --> 01:11:17,510

Maybe Hebrew, I don't know.

1683

01:11:17,510 --> 01:11:19,550

But not Yiddish, for sure.

1684

01:11:19,550 --> 01:11:20,580

OK.

1685

01:11:20,580 --> 01:11:21,960

OK.

1686

01:11:21,960 --> 01:11:27,360

And do you remember

the year that you first

1687

01:11:27,360 --> 01:11:28,890

came to Tajikistan?

1688

01:11:28,890 --> 01:11:32,025

Was that 1942 or
'43, do you remember?

1689
01:11:32,025 --> 01:11:35,280
Oh, before that.

1690
01:11:35,280 --> 01:11:36,930
I wouldn't remember
exactly the--

1691
01:11:36,930 --> 01:11:38,070
I wouldn't remember.

1692
01:11:38,070 --> 01:11:43,330
Well, Germany attacked the
Soviet Union in June 1941.

1693
01:11:43,330 --> 01:11:43,890
Yes.

1694
01:11:43,890 --> 01:11:46,800
And it took a while
sometimes for the news

1695
01:11:46,800 --> 01:11:51,480
to get to the various places
where people were imprisoned.

1696
01:11:51,480 --> 01:11:55,620
And then after that,
it took a while

1697
01:11:55,620 --> 01:11:59,550
until people were finally
settled in their final place.

1698
01:11:59,550 --> 01:12:05,250
So I would assume that probably
in the second half of 1941,

1699
01:12:05,250 --> 01:12:11,790
beginning of 1942,
might be about the time.

1700
01:12:11,790 --> 01:12:12,870
But I'm assuming.

1701
01:12:12,870 --> 01:12:14,460
I'm assuming.

1702
01:12:14,460 --> 01:12:18,390
Do you have a sense of how many
years you were in Tajikistan?

1703
01:12:18,390 --> 01:12:29,160
Tajikistan, well, we were we
were from 1940 till about 1946,

1704
01:12:29,160 --> 01:12:31,800
in the spring '46.

1705
01:12:31,800 --> 01:12:32,520
I guess.

1706
01:12:32,520 --> 01:12:34,050
I'm not sure.

1707
01:12:34,050 --> 01:12:36,080
And that's how long
we were in Russia.

1708
01:12:36,080 --> 01:12:36,580
OK.

1709
01:12:36,580 --> 01:12:42,270

1710
01:12:42,270 --> 01:12:45,890
Your families started,
everybody started, to get news,

1711
01:12:45,890 --> 01:12:49,050
as the Soviet army was
approaching Berlin,

1712

01:12:49,050 --> 01:12:52,480
of what was going on in Europe.

1713

01:12:52,480 --> 01:12:56,710
How did things progress
from there for your family?

1714

01:12:56,710 --> 01:12:57,850
How did things develop?

1715

01:12:57,850 --> 01:13:01,720
Well, we looked forward
that the war should end

1716

01:13:01,720 --> 01:13:04,270
and we should be
able to go back.

1717

01:13:04,270 --> 01:13:06,910
Was that assumed that you'd
be able to go back, you'd

1718

01:13:06,910 --> 01:13:08,290
be allowed to go back?

1719

01:13:08,290 --> 01:13:11,470
This we didn't know,
but everybody hoped.

1720

01:13:11,470 --> 01:13:12,985
OK.

1721

01:13:12,985 --> 01:13:18,400
And do you remember where
you were when the war ended?

1722

01:13:18,400 --> 01:13:21,460
We were still in Tajikistan.

1723

01:13:21,460 --> 01:13:27,070
And then when the war
ended, I don't exactly

1724
01:13:27,070 --> 01:13:30,190
remember how it went.

1725
01:13:30,190 --> 01:13:34,135
We wanted to go back to
find out if anybody is alive

1726
01:13:34,135 --> 01:13:38,350
or if anybody is
there from the family.

1727
01:13:38,350 --> 01:13:47,710
But when we came to Poland,
in the town of Stettin--

1728
01:13:47,710 --> 01:13:52,360
OK, before we get to Stettin,
I have a couple of questions.

1729
01:13:52,360 --> 01:13:57,640
Aside from your grandparents
and your aunt Rachel, Ruchl,

1730
01:13:57,640 --> 01:14:00,190
was there anybody else from
your family who had stayed?

1731
01:14:00,190 --> 01:14:01,600
Yes, from my father's side.

1732
01:14:01,600 --> 01:14:02,875
Who had stayed?

1733
01:14:02,875 --> 01:14:03,610
Pardon me?

1734
01:14:03,610 --> 01:14:05,800
Who had stayed in Ulanov?

1735
01:14:05,800 --> 01:14:06,950
Not in Ulanov.

1736
01:14:06,950 --> 01:14:08,650
They were in Frampol.

1737
01:14:08,650 --> 01:14:09,550
In Frampol.

1738
01:14:09,550 --> 01:14:10,870
Yes.

1739
01:14:10,870 --> 01:14:12,100
Brothers and sisters of his?

1740
01:14:12,100 --> 01:14:12,600
Yes.

1741
01:14:12,600 --> 01:14:17,800
They were my father's brothers
and sisters and grandchildren

1742
01:14:17,800 --> 01:14:19,270
and the parents.

1743
01:14:19,270 --> 01:14:21,370
So the larger part
of the family?

1744
01:14:21,370 --> 01:14:22,420
Yes.

1745
01:14:22,420 --> 01:14:24,130
They remained in Poland.

1746
01:14:24,130 --> 01:14:28,390
So it was only your uncle
and your father's, I mean,

1747
01:14:28,390 --> 01:14:31,630
the two of them where the
families had gone east.

1748

01:14:31,630 --> 01:14:32,665
Is that correct?

1749
01:14:32,665 --> 01:14:33,290
[PHONE RINGING]

1750
01:14:33,290 --> 01:14:35,500
Let's cut.

1751
01:14:35,500 --> 01:14:38,950
What do you mean by--

1752
01:14:38,950 --> 01:14:41,770
So from what I understand,
when we spoke off camera--

1753
01:14:41,770 --> 01:14:42,940
excuse me, can we cut?

1754
01:14:42,940 --> 01:14:45,850

1755
01:14:45,850 --> 01:14:46,510
OK.

1756
01:14:46,510 --> 01:14:49,600
So when we spoke
off camera, it seems

1757
01:14:49,600 --> 01:14:54,100
that there were some branches
of the family that did go east

1758
01:14:54,100 --> 01:14:58,510
and did end up in
Uzbekistan or Tajikistan,

1759
01:14:58,510 --> 01:15:00,160
and some who did not.

1760
01:15:00,160 --> 01:15:01,930
Yes.

1761
01:15:01,930 --> 01:15:05,320
You did not know until
you got to Poland?

1762
01:15:05,320 --> 01:15:06,640
From my father's side.

1763
01:15:06,640 --> 01:15:08,890
From your father's side, OK.

1764
01:15:08,890 --> 01:15:10,840
And from my mother's
side, there were not

1765
01:15:10,840 --> 01:15:13,030
too many left in Ulanov.

1766
01:15:13,030 --> 01:15:14,020
OK.

1767
01:15:14,020 --> 01:15:18,130
So when you left Tajikistan,
do you remember the leaving?

1768
01:15:18,130 --> 01:15:21,760
Do you remember what kind of
documents you needed to have,

1769
01:15:21,760 --> 01:15:23,380
how you traveled?

1770
01:15:23,380 --> 01:15:27,265
We traveled by the
same thing, by train.

1771
01:15:27,265 --> 01:15:27,970
Cattle cars?

1772
01:15:27,970 --> 01:15:29,860
The same thing, in cattle cars.

1773

01:15:29,860 --> 01:15:35,620

They didn't give us
the regular train cars.

1774

01:15:35,620 --> 01:15:42,550

And we traveled in those
things until we got,

1775

01:15:42,550 --> 01:15:43,900

I think, to Stettin.

1776

01:15:43,900 --> 01:15:46,630

OK, in Stettin, what
did you learn there?

1777

01:15:46,630 --> 01:15:49,210

In Stettin, we came
there because we

1778

01:15:49,210 --> 01:15:53,620

wanted to find out if
anybody's left in the family.

1779

01:15:53,620 --> 01:16:00,120

We found out that from my
father's side, nobody survived.

1780

01:16:00,120 --> 01:16:03,780

And from my mother's
side, the same thing.

1781

01:16:03,780 --> 01:16:05,100

And we settled.

1782

01:16:05,100 --> 01:16:07,350

We were in Stettin
and we were waiting--

1783

01:16:07,350 --> 01:16:10,830

we wanted to emigrate
to the United States.

1784

01:16:10,830 --> 01:16:11,370
Excuse me.

1785
01:16:11,370 --> 01:16:16,932

1786
01:16:16,932 --> 01:16:18,390
You wanted to to
the United States?

1787
01:16:18,390 --> 01:16:19,200
United States.

1788
01:16:19,200 --> 01:16:25,290
In order to do so, you had
to be in the American zone.

1789
01:16:25,290 --> 01:16:29,940
When the war ended, there was
the English, the Russians,

1790
01:16:29,940 --> 01:16:31,770
and the Americans.

1791
01:16:31,770 --> 01:16:32,850
And the French.

1792
01:16:32,850 --> 01:16:35,070
And the French, yes.

1793
01:16:35,070 --> 01:16:35,610
But we--

1794
01:16:35,610 --> 01:16:36,555
You were in Poland.

1795
01:16:36,555 --> 01:16:37,830
We were in Poland.

1796
01:16:37,830 --> 01:16:41,640
We saw nobody is there, so
what we will do in Poland?

1797

01:16:41,640 --> 01:16:43,740

We didn't want to
stay in Poland.

1798

01:16:43,740 --> 01:16:45,870

Was it easy to leave Poland?

1799

01:16:45,870 --> 01:16:49,380

Well, we had to wait
until the government--

1800

01:16:49,380 --> 01:16:51,270

not the Polish government.

1801

01:16:51,270 --> 01:16:54,420

Maybe the Polish, or maybe
the German government,

1802

01:16:54,420 --> 01:16:56,760

arranged for us to come.

1803

01:16:56,760 --> 01:16:58,470

We went to Berlin.

1804

01:16:58,470 --> 01:17:00,570

OK, what did you remember?

1805

01:17:00,570 --> 01:17:03,142

From being in Berlin,
do you have any--

1806

01:17:03,142 --> 01:17:10,290

We were also like in a DP
camp, waiting for a quota,

1807

01:17:10,290 --> 01:17:13,590

waiting to be able to
go to the United States.

1808

01:17:13,590 --> 01:17:16,110

But in the meantime,

I had a cousin

1809

01:17:16,110 --> 01:17:20,820
who was in Pocking by Passau.

1810

01:17:20,820 --> 01:17:22,650
This was like a DP camp.

1811

01:17:22,650 --> 01:17:25,290
In Passau?

1812

01:17:25,290 --> 01:17:27,410
This was in Pocking,
they call it.

1813

01:17:27,410 --> 01:17:27,910
Pocking.

1814

01:17:27,910 --> 01:17:29,400
Rhinestadt, Pocking, whatever.

1815

01:17:29,400 --> 01:17:35,250
And he heard that
we alive, so he

1816

01:17:35,250 --> 01:17:37,500
started communicating with us.

1817

01:17:37,500 --> 01:17:39,150
And he said, why
don't you come over

1818

01:17:39,150 --> 01:17:45,220
to stay in the meantime
with us, this camp.

1819

01:17:45,220 --> 01:17:47,580
This would have been in Bavaria?

1820

01:17:47,580 --> 01:17:48,720
Yes.

1821

01:17:48,720 --> 01:17:50,500

So was this a cousin?

1822

01:17:50,500 --> 01:17:53,370

I don't know if it's Bavaria,
but it is there some place.

1823

01:17:53,370 --> 01:17:54,420

Somewhere in the south.

1824

01:17:54,420 --> 01:17:58,470

Near the Austrian border, yeah.

1825

01:17:58,470 --> 01:18:00,460

So does this mean.

1826

01:18:00,460 --> 01:18:04,020

This cousin had
survived the Holocaust?

1827

01:18:04,020 --> 01:18:05,158

They were in Russia.

1828

01:18:05,158 --> 01:18:06,200

They also were in Russia?

1829

01:18:06,200 --> 01:18:07,060

They were in Russia.

1830

01:18:07,060 --> 01:18:10,050

This was my aunt
from another town.

1831

01:18:10,050 --> 01:18:14,460

They went completely in
a different direction.

1832

01:18:14,460 --> 01:18:18,180

So they survived in Russia.

1833

01:18:18,180 --> 01:18:19,230

All right.

1834

01:18:19,230 --> 01:18:24,940

So this cousin, he started communicating with us.

1835

01:18:24,940 --> 01:18:29,230

He said, why don't you come stay with us and see what happens?

1836

01:18:29,230 --> 01:18:33,630

And we were staying there until the camp liquidated.

1837

01:18:33,630 --> 01:18:35,520

Oh, that's a long time.

1838

01:18:35,520 --> 01:18:37,530

Well, it wasn't that long.

1839

01:18:37,530 --> 01:18:39,420

It wasn't that long.

1840

01:18:39,420 --> 01:18:42,190

Maybe a year, maybe a year and a half.

1841

01:18:42,190 --> 01:18:44,715

So you got there in 1946 or '47?

1842

01:18:44,715 --> 01:18:48,330

But in '46, we came to Stettin first.

1843

01:18:48,330 --> 01:18:49,693

Then we went to Berlin.

1844

01:18:49,693 --> 01:18:51,610

And how long were you in Berlin, do you think?

1845

01:18:51,610 --> 01:18:54,540

Berlin, I don't know how long.

1846

01:18:54,540 --> 01:18:56,850

A couple of months,
or a couple--

1847

01:18:56,850 --> 01:18:57,660

I don't remember.

1848

01:18:57,660 --> 01:19:00,270

OK, and your whole
family's still together,

1849

01:19:00,270 --> 01:19:02,340

the uncle's family and your own?

1850

01:19:02,340 --> 01:19:03,630

OK.

1851

01:19:03,630 --> 01:19:06,960

And then you all go to the--

1852

01:19:06,960 --> 01:19:08,955

We all went to
Pocking by Passau.

1853

01:19:08,955 --> 01:19:10,200

Poking by Passau.

1854

01:19:10,200 --> 01:19:15,700

And there we were
waiting, but the quota

1855

01:19:15,700 --> 01:19:19,560

was very long to getting
to the United States.

1856

01:19:19,560 --> 01:19:22,110

It was very tough.

1857

01:19:22,110 --> 01:19:24,880

Were you under the Polish quota?

1858
01:19:24,880 --> 01:19:25,680
I think so.

1859
01:19:25,680 --> 01:19:28,620
I think they joined in the HIAS.

1860
01:19:28,620 --> 01:19:30,810
They were involved that time.

1861
01:19:30,810 --> 01:19:33,910
And they helped people
to relocate, also

1862
01:19:33,910 --> 01:19:35,910
if you're going to the
United States or so.

1863
01:19:35,910 --> 01:19:38,280
But it was a long wait anyway.

1864
01:19:38,280 --> 01:19:51,240
And this camp was liquidated
in 1947 or beginning '48.

1865
01:19:51,240 --> 01:19:57,480
My sister got engaged to someone
in Nuremberg, by Nuremberg,

1866
01:19:57,480 --> 01:20:00,420
so we went there and
my parents went there,

1867
01:20:00,420 --> 01:20:02,340
and we stayed there.

1868
01:20:02,340 --> 01:20:03,360
In a camp?

1869
01:20:03,360 --> 01:20:04,320
In another camp?

1870

01:20:04,320 --> 01:20:05,670

This wasn't really a camp.

1871

01:20:05,670 --> 01:20:07,065

This was a little more private.

1872

01:20:07,065 --> 01:20:10,020

1873

01:20:10,020 --> 01:20:13,770

But my father's dream was
always to go to Israel.

1874

01:20:13,770 --> 01:20:21,720

And Israel wasn't
born at that time yet,

1875

01:20:21,720 --> 01:20:23,130

and we were still in Nuremberg.

1876

01:20:23,130 --> 01:20:28,920

And the minute Israel
was recognized,

1877

01:20:28,920 --> 01:20:33,000

it was a country
or a state, then

1878

01:20:33,000 --> 01:20:36,210

my father went to
Israel with my mother.

1879

01:20:36,210 --> 01:20:37,800

So here's a question.

1880

01:20:37,800 --> 01:20:42,480

Before the war, I didn't
know whether or not--

1881

01:20:42,480 --> 01:20:46,110

were your parents Zionists?

1882

01:20:46,110 --> 01:20:47,180

Yeah.

1883

01:20:47,180 --> 01:20:49,230

They always had
a love of Israel.

1884

01:20:49,230 --> 01:20:49,860

OK.

1885

01:20:49,860 --> 01:20:52,875

And the search to be
able to go to Palestine,

1886

01:20:52,875 --> 01:20:54,270

as it was at that point.

1887

01:20:54,270 --> 01:20:58,080

Before the war, I don't
know, but after the war.

1888

01:20:58,080 --> 01:21:03,360

But my brothers, they
were in organizations,

1889

01:21:03,360 --> 01:21:06,090

like Bet Tah or the other ones.

1890

01:21:06,090 --> 01:21:07,560

Haganah?

1891

01:21:07,560 --> 01:21:10,080

Not the Haganah.

1892

01:21:10,080 --> 01:21:12,390

This was still in
Poland, normal times.

1893

01:21:12,390 --> 01:21:14,850

Oh, I see, in normal times.

1894

01:21:14,850 --> 01:21:17,990

We were always
educated about Israel,

1895

01:21:17,990 --> 01:21:22,085

my father always
wanted to go to Israel.

1896

01:21:22,085 --> 01:21:25,920

It was a question I had
earlier, but I thought,

1897

01:21:25,920 --> 01:21:28,260

maybe if it was a very
religious family, then--

1898

01:21:28,260 --> 01:21:28,780

Yes.

1899

01:21:28,780 --> 01:21:30,930

Well, you do the best you can.

1900

01:21:30,930 --> 01:21:32,060

Of course.

1901

01:21:32,060 --> 01:21:32,560

Of course.

1902

01:21:32,560 --> 01:21:33,530

That's all.

1903

01:21:33,530 --> 01:21:36,890

If there's anything you
can't do, you don't do.

1904

01:21:36,890 --> 01:21:41,240

Tell me about life in
the DP camp in Bavaria.

1905

01:21:41,240 --> 01:21:43,610

Did you go to school there?

1906

01:21:43,610 --> 01:21:44,540
I didn't go.

1907
01:21:44,540 --> 01:21:46,490
I went only to Hebrew school.

1908
01:21:46,490 --> 01:21:47,540
OK.

1909
01:21:47,540 --> 01:21:48,870
Did you learn German?

1910
01:21:48,870 --> 01:21:49,690
Yes.

1911
01:21:49,690 --> 01:21:52,610
I knew German four years.

1912
01:21:52,610 --> 01:21:53,630
OK.

1913
01:21:53,630 --> 01:21:57,260
So that is you spoke from it
before or you learned it there?

1914
01:21:57,260 --> 01:22:00,790
I learned German in Germany.

1915
01:22:00,790 --> 01:22:03,650
I came late to
the United States.

1916
01:22:03,650 --> 01:22:07,730
I married in between
and I came in 1956.

1917
01:22:07,730 --> 01:22:08,370
Oh, really?

1918
01:22:08,370 --> 01:22:08,870
Yes.

1919

01:22:08,870 --> 01:22:10,940

I came to the United States.

1920

01:22:10,940 --> 01:22:12,710

So you stayed in
Germany after the war?

1921

01:22:12,710 --> 01:22:14,870

Yes, because when I
married my husband,

1922

01:22:14,870 --> 01:22:20,330

he had some business there.

1923

01:22:20,330 --> 01:22:22,220

How did you meet your husband?

1924

01:22:22,220 --> 01:22:23,010

In the camps?

1925

01:22:23,010 --> 01:22:24,602

Did you meet them
in the DP camp?

1926

01:22:24,602 --> 01:22:25,560

Well, through a friend.

1927

01:22:25,560 --> 01:22:28,100

It's a long story.

1928

01:22:28,100 --> 01:22:29,750

Was he also from Poland?

1929

01:22:29,750 --> 01:22:30,830

Yes.

1930

01:22:30,830 --> 01:22:32,120

From the same area?

1931

01:22:32,120 --> 01:22:33,420

No, he was from Bedzin.

1932
01:22:33,420 --> 01:22:33,920
Bedzin.

1933
01:22:33,920 --> 01:22:36,060
And you are probably familiar.

1934
01:22:36,060 --> 01:22:36,560
Where?

1935
01:22:36,560 --> 01:22:37,220
Bedzin.

1936
01:22:37,220 --> 01:22:37,730
Bedzin.

1937
01:22:37,730 --> 01:22:38,438
I've heard of it.

1938
01:22:38,438 --> 01:22:39,050
Yeah.

1939
01:22:39,050 --> 01:22:41,390
But is that on the
western part of Poland?

1940
01:22:41,390 --> 01:22:42,790
I don't know the geography.

1941
01:22:42,790 --> 01:22:43,740
I guess so.

1942
01:22:43,740 --> 01:22:46,900
It's close to Germany,
near Kopilvitsa.

1943
01:22:46,900 --> 01:22:52,700
So in other words, he
survived the Holocaust itself.

1944
01:22:52,700 --> 01:22:57,740

He survived, but not his
parents, not his family.

1945
01:22:57,740 --> 01:22:59,270
Only two brothers.

1946
01:22:59,270 --> 01:23:00,800
He survived, the two brothers.

1947
01:23:00,800 --> 01:23:03,620
They were five children
before the war.

1948
01:23:03,620 --> 01:23:08,120
And when your camp was
liquidated your DP camp,

1949
01:23:08,120 --> 01:23:12,120
did you then already live in
Nuremberg with your parents?

1950
01:23:12,120 --> 01:23:12,950
No no.

1951
01:23:12,950 --> 01:23:16,655
When it was liquidated,
we went to Furth.

1952
01:23:16,655 --> 01:23:18,050
You know Furth.

1953
01:23:18,050 --> 01:23:21,020
It's before Nuremberg.

1954
01:23:21,020 --> 01:23:24,170
Nice sized town, and
that's where we stayed.

1955
01:23:24,170 --> 01:23:29,990
And then when Israel
became a state,

1956

01:23:29,990 --> 01:23:36,650
my parents went to Israel
and I remained in Germany.

1957
01:23:36,650 --> 01:23:39,260
And you remained because
you were married by then?

1958
01:23:39,260 --> 01:23:40,160
I wasn't married.

1959
01:23:40,160 --> 01:23:42,200
I got married.

1960
01:23:42,200 --> 01:23:44,950
And your other brothers
and sisters, what happened?

1961
01:23:44,950 --> 01:23:49,340
Well, my oldest brother, he
came to the United States

1962
01:23:49,340 --> 01:23:55,820
because his wife had a lot of
relatives in the United States,

1963
01:23:55,820 --> 01:23:57,020
so they sponsored them.

1964
01:23:57,020 --> 01:23:59,150
Anyway, it's also a long story.

1965
01:23:59,150 --> 01:24:07,640
So he could emigrate in
1948, I think, or '49.

1966
01:24:07,640 --> 01:24:10,280
And when your
family left Russia,

1967
01:24:10,280 --> 01:24:13,490
were all of the
siblings still single?

1968
01:24:13,490 --> 01:24:14,010
Yes.

1969
01:24:14,010 --> 01:24:14,510
OK.

1970
01:24:14,510 --> 01:24:16,820
So all of the
marriages happened--

1971
01:24:16,820 --> 01:24:17,390
In Germany.

1972
01:24:17,390 --> 01:24:18,380
--in Germany.

1973
01:24:18,380 --> 01:24:19,430
OK.

1974
01:24:19,430 --> 01:24:22,340
And where in Germany
did you stay?

1975
01:24:22,340 --> 01:24:23,570
I stayed in Nuremberg.

1976
01:24:23,570 --> 01:24:24,710
In Nuremberg.

1977
01:24:24,710 --> 01:24:27,170
And what was your
husband's name?

1978
01:24:27,170 --> 01:24:28,790
Carl Plawner.

1979
01:24:28,790 --> 01:24:30,530
Carl Plawner.

1980
01:24:30,530 --> 01:24:33,560

And what was his business
that kept him there?

1981
01:24:33,560 --> 01:24:35,180
He was in the toy business.

1982
01:24:35,180 --> 01:24:36,160
Really?

1983
01:24:36,160 --> 01:24:37,370
Spielzeuger

1984
01:24:37,370 --> 01:24:38,680
Spielzeug.

1985
01:24:38,680 --> 01:24:39,180
Yeah.

1986
01:24:39,180 --> 01:24:40,650
Sprechen ze Deutsch?

1987
01:24:40,650 --> 01:24:41,882
En bisen.

1988
01:24:41,882 --> 01:24:43,160
[LAUGHS]

1989
01:24:43,160 --> 01:24:45,080

1990
01:24:45,080 --> 01:24:49,320
That's a very nice business to
be in after the horrors of war.

1991
01:24:49,320 --> 01:24:51,360
Well, by coincidence.

1992
01:24:51,360 --> 01:24:51,860
Yeah.

1993
01:24:51,860 --> 01:24:52,670

Yes.

1994

01:24:52,670 --> 01:24:56,810

And what was it like
for him, and for you,

1995

01:24:56,810 --> 01:25:00,710

to live in a country
that had almost

1996

01:25:00,710 --> 01:25:03,140

annihilated the Jewish people?

1997

01:25:03,140 --> 01:25:07,910

Well, our plan was always
to go either to Israel

1998

01:25:07,910 --> 01:25:09,170

or to the United States.

1999

01:25:09,170 --> 01:25:10,190

So it was temporary?

2000

01:25:10,190 --> 01:25:12,740

Temporary.

2001

01:25:12,740 --> 01:25:15,140

I could have stayed
and had it easier,

2002

01:25:15,140 --> 01:25:18,770

because starting all over
again was much harder,

2003

01:25:18,770 --> 01:25:21,710

but we always wanted
to leave Germany.

2004

01:25:21,710 --> 01:25:22,400

OK.

2005

01:25:22,400 --> 01:25:23,960

My daughter was born in Germany.

2006

01:25:23,960 --> 01:25:26,720

2007

01:25:26,720 --> 01:25:29,660

We did not want the
children to grow up there.

2008

01:25:29,660 --> 01:25:31,245

Yeah.

2009

01:25:31,245 --> 01:25:33,850

And yet you stayed until 1956.

2010

01:25:33,850 --> 01:25:34,380

Yes.

2011

01:25:34,380 --> 01:25:36,780

And why so long?

2012

01:25:36,780 --> 01:25:39,510

Because we couldn't
get to United States.

2013

01:25:39,510 --> 01:25:41,820

We waited for a visa.

2014

01:25:41,820 --> 01:25:44,910

So you didn't have
anybody sponsor you?

2015

01:25:44,910 --> 01:25:47,700

We had somebody sponsored,
but it took years.

2016

01:25:47,700 --> 01:25:48,390

Wow.

2017

01:25:48,390 --> 01:25:49,350

Yes.

2018

01:25:49,350 --> 01:25:50,690

That's a really long time.

2019

01:25:50,690 --> 01:25:53,760

It's not like now that
they cross the border.

2020

01:25:53,760 --> 01:25:55,320

Yeah.

2021

01:25:55,320 --> 01:25:57,430

How many children do you have?

2022

01:25:57,430 --> 01:25:59,560

I have two, a son
and a daughter.

2023

01:25:59,560 --> 01:26:02,070

And was your son
also born in Germany?

2024

01:26:02,070 --> 01:26:03,210

No.

2025

01:26:03,210 --> 01:26:07,770

I was a year in the States and
my son was born in the States.

2026

01:26:07,770 --> 01:26:10,110

What are your children's names?

2027

01:26:10,110 --> 01:26:11,790

Jacob and Renee.

2028

01:26:11,790 --> 01:26:12,660

Jacob and Renee.

2029

01:26:12,660 --> 01:26:15,450

And where did you settle
in the United States?

2030

01:26:15,450 --> 01:26:17,050
First in Brooklyn.

2031
01:26:17,050 --> 01:26:18,270
OK.

2032
01:26:18,270 --> 01:26:21,030
And did your husband
continue in the toy business?

2033
01:26:21,030 --> 01:26:24,450
Well, when we came here, he
didn't speak the language.

2034
01:26:24,450 --> 01:26:28,590
So he continued in his
profession, not selling toys,

2035
01:26:28,590 --> 01:26:33,750
but he went to work
at night in order

2036
01:26:33,750 --> 01:26:35,940
to go the daytime to school.

2037
01:26:35,940 --> 01:26:38,550
So he went to school
to learn the language.

2038
01:26:38,550 --> 01:26:39,540
OK.

2039
01:26:39,540 --> 01:26:40,470
Tough.

2040
01:26:40,470 --> 01:26:40,980
Yes.

2041
01:26:40,980 --> 01:26:42,720
Yes.

2042
01:26:42,720 --> 01:26:44,130

But he made it.

2043

01:26:44,130 --> 01:26:46,290

Did you ever go back Unalov?

2044

01:26:46,290 --> 01:26:49,275

No, and I have no desire.

2045

01:26:49,275 --> 01:26:51,800

2046

01:26:51,800 --> 01:26:55,170

If I would have family,
of course I would.

2047

01:26:55,170 --> 01:26:57,722

But bad memories.

2048

01:26:57,722 --> 01:27:00,600

I wouldn't be interested.

2049

01:27:00,600 --> 01:27:02,280

What about the Soviet Union?

2050

01:27:02,280 --> 01:27:03,740

Did you ever visit there again?

2051

01:27:03,740 --> 01:27:04,360

No.

2052

01:27:04,360 --> 01:27:04,860

No.

2053

01:27:04,860 --> 01:27:10,600

2054

01:27:10,600 --> 01:27:13,990

Yours is an unusual destiny.

2055

01:27:13,990 --> 01:27:16,960

I mean, it's not unusual

for all those people

2056

01:27:16,960 --> 01:27:21,280

who experienced it,
but you were caught

2057

01:27:21,280 --> 01:27:22,555

between two great powers.

2058

01:27:22,555 --> 01:27:27,800

2059

01:27:27,800 --> 01:27:30,710

How did that shape
you as a person?

2060

01:27:30,710 --> 01:27:32,780

What kind of effect did it have?

2061

01:27:32,780 --> 01:27:35,600

Because you were
experiencing this

2062

01:27:35,600 --> 01:27:38,420

through some of the
most vulnerable years

2063

01:27:38,420 --> 01:27:41,360

that a child has, that is
starting out as a child

2064

01:27:41,360 --> 01:27:43,640

and ending up as
a young teenager,

2065

01:27:43,640 --> 01:27:47,300

and those are very
impressionable years.

2066

01:27:47,300 --> 01:27:51,140

Well, first of all, when my
children were growing up,

2067

01:27:51,140 --> 01:27:54,270

we never talked about it,
especially my husband.

2068

01:27:54,270 --> 01:27:56,665

He never talked about
the concentration camp,

2069

01:27:56,665 --> 01:27:57,530

and we didn't talk.

2070

01:27:57,530 --> 01:28:02,450

We wanted the children to
grow up normal without fear.

2071

01:28:02,450 --> 01:28:07,140

And when they got,
let's say, 14, 15 years,

2072

01:28:07,140 --> 01:28:08,960

they started learning in school.

2073

01:28:08,960 --> 01:28:11,270

That's when we started
discussing all this

2074

01:28:11,270 --> 01:28:14,110

and they got to know everything.

2075

01:28:14,110 --> 01:28:19,120

And they grew up normal,
the way children should.

2076

01:28:19,120 --> 01:28:20,830

Without the fear.

2077

01:28:20,830 --> 01:28:24,920

Without the fear, but you know.

2078

01:28:24,920 --> 01:28:32,930

They also have a love
for Israel the way I did.

2079
01:28:32,930 --> 01:28:34,460
OK.

2080
01:28:34,460 --> 01:28:37,070
I take it you have
gone to Israel.

2081
01:28:37,070 --> 01:28:38,150
Did you ever live there?

2082
01:28:38,150 --> 01:28:38,670
Yeah.

2083
01:28:38,670 --> 01:28:41,690
I didn't live,
but my parents did

2084
01:28:41,690 --> 01:28:43,325
and I went many, many times.

2085
01:28:43,325 --> 01:28:45,950

2086
01:28:45,950 --> 01:28:48,290
I still have a sister
there, my older sister.

2087
01:28:48,290 --> 01:28:51,170

2088
01:28:51,170 --> 01:28:57,880
I love Israel, but it's
getting harder to travel now.

2089
01:28:57,880 --> 01:28:59,570
Yeah.

2090
01:28:59,570 --> 01:29:02,270
We're coming to the
end of our interview.

2091

01:29:02,270 --> 01:29:06,080

Can you tell me, first
of all, is there anything

2092

01:29:06,080 --> 01:29:10,520

that we missed that you
would like to share from what

2093

01:29:10,520 --> 01:29:11,800

we've talked about today?

2094

01:29:11,800 --> 01:29:13,190

No, not really.

2095

01:29:13,190 --> 01:29:17,180

I think within this period
of time, with the two hours,

2096

01:29:17,180 --> 01:29:19,460

I think we covered
a lot of things.

2097

01:29:19,460 --> 01:29:23,000

Of course, there's many more
stories that can be told,

2098

01:29:23,000 --> 01:29:25,490

but I think we covered most.

2099

01:29:25,490 --> 01:29:26,330

OK.

2100

01:29:26,330 --> 01:29:29,240

And are there any
thoughts that you'd

2101

01:29:29,240 --> 01:29:32,780

like to share with others
who do not know much

2102

01:29:32,780 --> 01:29:35,510

about the experience

of the Jews,

2103

01:29:35,510 --> 01:29:41,990
who ran east and then ended
up being caught in the Soviet

2104

01:29:41,990 --> 01:29:44,120
Union and forcibly
deported there?

2105

01:29:44,120 --> 01:29:46,490
What would you like them to
know about your experience?

2106

01:29:46,490 --> 01:29:52,230
Well, my experience is
that no place is safe.

2107

01:29:52,230 --> 01:29:54,980
Nobody knows what's
tomorrow, and we have

2108

01:29:54,980 --> 01:29:59,240
to make the best of every day.

2109

01:29:59,240 --> 01:30:04,250
And of course, the whole
Israel will be strong and safe,

2110

01:30:04,250 --> 01:30:07,310
and the same thing,
the United States,

2111

01:30:07,310 --> 01:30:09,110
because I love
the United States.

2112

01:30:09,110 --> 01:30:18,290
And to raise their children
in a more Jewish way

2113

01:30:18,290 --> 01:30:22,690
and to know what

war can do to them.

2114
01:30:22,690 --> 01:30:23,940
OK.

2115
01:30:23,940 --> 01:30:25,200
Thank you.

2116
01:30:25,200 --> 01:30:26,340
Thank you very much.

2117
01:30:26,340 --> 01:30:26,970
You're welcome.

2118
01:30:26,970 --> 01:30:31,560
And I will say this concludes
the United States Holocaust

2119
01:30:31,560 --> 01:30:36,360
Memorial Museum interview with
Mrs. Regina Plawner on March

2120
01:30:36,360 --> 01:30:40,710
2nd, 2017 in Aventura, Florida.

2121
01:30:40,710 --> 01:30:41,310
Thank you.

2122
01:30:41,310 --> 01:30:43,220
Thank you.

2123
01:30:43,220 --> 01:30:44,000