

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,750

2
00:00:02,750 --> 00:00:05,540
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:05,540 --> 00:00:07,940
interview with Wes Orlowski.

4
00:00:07,940 --> 00:00:14,030
It's being conducted by Nancy
Cooley on August 15, 2018.

5
00:00:14,030 --> 00:00:18,270
Wes, can you start off by you
telling me your name at birth?

6
00:00:18,270 --> 00:00:26,040
I was born-- my original first
name and last name sounded--

7
00:00:26,040 --> 00:00:27,930
and it still does--

8
00:00:27,930 --> 00:00:30,030
Wiesław Orlowski.

9
00:00:30,030 --> 00:00:36,930
My middle name is Józef
In about 45 years ago,

10
00:00:36,930 --> 00:00:39,030
when I was already
in this country,

11
00:00:39,030 --> 00:00:43,110
I acquired a nickname
Wes, because it was easier

12
00:00:43,110 --> 00:00:46,230
for Americans to remember.

13

00:00:46,230 --> 00:00:53,640

So returning to
my date of birth,

14

00:00:53,640 --> 00:00:59,310

I was born on May 17, 1935.

15

00:00:59,310 --> 00:01:01,880

I am 83 years old now.

16

00:01:01,880 --> 00:01:05,740

I was born, obviously,
before World War

17

00:01:05,740 --> 00:01:10,420

II in a small Polish
town which was about

18

00:01:10,420 --> 00:01:18,460

half and half Polish Catholics
and Jews, mostly Orthodox.

19

00:01:18,460 --> 00:01:23,790

One of the most important things
to know about this town that

20

00:01:23,790 --> 00:01:33,390

was a very historic town, which
these two religions coexisted

21

00:01:33,390 --> 00:01:37,410

with the best harmony
one can imagine.

22

00:01:37,410 --> 00:01:44,850

There are no recorded
incidents of any conflicts

23

00:01:44,850 --> 00:01:48,250

between these two religions
in that small town.

24

00:01:48,250 --> 00:01:56,550

And the town was located about
20 miles southeast of Warsaw.

25

00:01:56,550 --> 00:02:05,040

My mother came to this town in 1929 or 1930.

26

00:02:05,040 --> 00:02:16,560

My father was born nearby and live most of his adult life

27

00:02:16,560 --> 00:02:21,270

either in town, or in concentration camps,

28

00:02:21,270 --> 00:02:26,060

or in western Poland, where he resettled.

29

00:02:26,060 --> 00:02:26,560

Wait.

30

00:02:26,560 --> 00:02:28,770

What year were your parents born?

31

00:02:28,770 --> 00:02:40,740

My father was born in year 1905 and my mother was born in 1910.

32

00:02:40,740 --> 00:02:44,910

And my mother came to town, as I said,

33

00:02:44,910 --> 00:02:50,520

from southern Poland, which used to be called,

34

00:02:50,520 --> 00:02:54,930

before 1918, before Poland regained its independence,

35

00:02:54,930 --> 00:02:58,740

was called Galicia, which was part

36

00:02:58,740 --> 00:03:01,140

of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

37

00:03:01,140 --> 00:03:03,790

38

00:03:03,790 --> 00:03:07,140

Those who know history would
know that Poland didn't exist

39

00:03:07,140 --> 00:03:14,100

on the maps for about 125 years,
and when it regain independence

40

00:03:14,100 --> 00:03:25,650

in 1918, was made up of three
previously partitioned parts--

41

00:03:25,650 --> 00:03:32,320

Prussian on the west, Russia on
the east, and Austro-Hungarian

42

00:03:32,320 --> 00:03:35,530

Empire on the south,
which included Galicia.

43

00:03:35,530 --> 00:03:37,390

How did your parents meet?

44

00:03:37,390 --> 00:03:42,610

My parents met, most likely,
if I can recall it well,

45

00:03:42,610 --> 00:03:45,370

in the post office
of Góra Kalwaria.

46

00:03:45,370 --> 00:03:49,590

My mother was a teacher
in a nearby village,

47

00:03:49,590 --> 00:03:53,650

and my father, at the time,
was working at the post office.

48

00:03:53,650 --> 00:04:00,780

My father was a

bachelor at that time

49

00:04:00,780 --> 00:04:05,740
and he had great ease of
communication with people.

50

00:04:05,740 --> 00:04:10,500
So I am not surprised they met.

51

00:04:10,500 --> 00:04:12,840
They married in 1931.

52

00:04:12,840 --> 00:04:17,010
I have a beautiful picture
showing their wedding.

53

00:04:17,010 --> 00:04:22,360
And I was born four years later.

54

00:04:22,360 --> 00:04:25,300
My father was an accountant.

55

00:04:25,300 --> 00:04:30,780
He worked in the bank for some
time and also in post office.

56

00:04:30,780 --> 00:04:34,510
And my mother was
grammar school teacher.

57

00:04:34,510 --> 00:04:39,030
She was really gifted and
praised by many parents

58

00:04:39,030 --> 00:04:42,540
for having exceptional
human skills

59

00:04:42,540 --> 00:04:47,980
and ability to communicate with
children and motivate children.

60

00:04:47,980 --> 00:04:55,770
So my first memories
were started

61
00:04:55,770 --> 00:05:04,960
with the age about three
when my father was assigned

62
00:05:04,960 --> 00:05:09,930
a job, temporary job
outside of our town,

63
00:05:09,930 --> 00:05:19,420
and I was sent to the store,
and at I, already at that time,

64
00:05:19,420 --> 00:05:20,710
I had the good sense of humor.

65
00:05:20,710 --> 00:05:24,580
I was kind of
cracking jokes, which

66
00:05:24,580 --> 00:05:30,260
I believe were told to me.

67
00:05:30,260 --> 00:05:36,500
And then I think I remember,
but I'm not sure which was it.

68
00:05:36,500 --> 00:05:41,990
My first major
shocking experiences

69
00:05:41,990 --> 00:05:47,930
were related to the
war, because in 1939

70
00:05:47,930 --> 00:05:54,200
at the beginning of September,
when Germans were bombing

71
00:05:54,200 --> 00:06:02,850
Polish cities, and they
attacking Poland from the West,

72
00:06:02,850 --> 00:06:08,610
Warsaw was attacked

relatively early by bombers.

73

00:06:08,610 --> 00:06:14,030
And although there was only 20
miles between Warsaw and Góra

74

00:06:14,030 --> 00:06:21,960
Kalwaria, German bombers
apparently made a mistake,

75

00:06:21,960 --> 00:06:28,770
and they were looking
for military objects.

76

00:06:28,770 --> 00:06:32,460
They bomb the residential
part of our town,

77

00:06:32,460 --> 00:06:36,780
although there were military
barracks on the other end

78

00:06:36,780 --> 00:06:39,990
of the town, they were
all made of bricks

79

00:06:39,990 --> 00:06:50,880
covered with the yellow
shingles made of clay.

80

00:06:50,880 --> 00:06:52,530
And from the air,
they could have

81

00:06:52,530 --> 00:06:59,280
looked identical to the
big hospital area which

82

00:06:59,280 --> 00:07:02,310
was next to my house.

83

00:07:02,310 --> 00:07:06,270
So they made a mistake and
they drop several bombs.

84

00:07:06,270 --> 00:07:11,790
And one of them landed
very near of my house,

85
00:07:11,790 --> 00:07:20,170
where family of 11 people,
escapees from Warsaw,

86
00:07:20,170 --> 00:07:20,795
were hiding.

87
00:07:20,795 --> 00:07:23,660

88
00:07:23,660 --> 00:07:27,500
The escapees from
Warsaw, when they

89
00:07:27,500 --> 00:07:31,550
thought they saved their
life by running from Warsaw,

90
00:07:31,550 --> 00:07:36,200
however, the German bomb
dropped on that house,

91
00:07:36,200 --> 00:07:37,700
killed all of them.

92
00:07:37,700 --> 00:07:42,050
10 of them were killed,
only one person was saved.

93
00:07:42,050 --> 00:07:45,057
Before we get too far into
your memories of the war

94
00:07:45,057 --> 00:07:47,390
and the beginning of the war,
can you tell me more about

95
00:07:47,390 --> 00:07:53,480
your family background, your
father's family and where they

96

00:07:53,480 --> 00:07:56,270
came from as well
as your mother's?

97
00:07:56,270 --> 00:08:07,360
So starting with my father,
my father's family was--

98
00:08:07,360 --> 00:08:14,060
it's a long history,
because one of my uncles

99
00:08:14,060 --> 00:08:16,420
was keeping the
history of our family.

100
00:08:16,420 --> 00:08:19,490
Unfortunately, this
book, which was

101
00:08:19,490 --> 00:08:22,340
handwritten book which
was keeping notes,

102
00:08:22,340 --> 00:08:26,465
was destroyed after the war.

103
00:08:26,465 --> 00:08:29,390

104
00:08:29,390 --> 00:08:34,840
But what I remember,
what was read to me

105
00:08:34,840 --> 00:08:45,470
was that Polish kings
nominated in 17th century

106
00:08:45,470 --> 00:08:49,040
one of our ancestors.

107
00:08:49,040 --> 00:09:02,790
He was a general, Józef Orłowski
as a commander of an old town

108

00:09:02,790 --> 00:09:07,470
which had the medieval
walls around there,

109
00:09:07,470 --> 00:09:08,955
and then there
was water around--

110
00:09:08,955 --> 00:09:11,020
I'm missing terms--

111
00:09:11,020 --> 00:09:11,820
The moat.

112
00:09:11,820 --> 00:09:12,320
The moat.

113
00:09:12,320 --> 00:09:15,090

114
00:09:15,090 --> 00:09:24,510
And this structure survive
for several centuries

115
00:09:24,510 --> 00:09:27,300
defending eastern
territories of Poland

116
00:09:27,300 --> 00:09:35,430
against the invasions of
Tartars and other armies which

117
00:09:35,430 --> 00:09:39,436
were coming, trying to
conquer Europe from eastern.

118
00:09:39,436 --> 00:09:39,936

119
00:09:39,936 --> 00:09:42,950
Was it in Góra Kalwaria
also, or elsewhere?

120
00:09:42,950 --> 00:09:47,280
No, Góra Kalwaria was more to

the west, on Vistula River.

121
00:09:47,280 --> 00:09:50,760
Góra Kalwaria was in
[? the east, ?] located

122
00:09:50,760 --> 00:09:54,450
on the western shore
of Vistula River,

123
00:09:54,450 --> 00:09:59,730
which was the main
river in Poland,

124
00:09:59,730 --> 00:10:06,900
running from the almost the
border with Czech Republic--

125
00:10:06,900 --> 00:10:10,830
and now was Czechoslovakia,
at that time--

126
00:10:10,830 --> 00:10:13,500
to Baltic Sea.

127
00:10:13,500 --> 00:10:17,280
So where did this ancestor live?

128
00:10:17,280 --> 00:10:19,140
Some of them, they
lived in this area.

129
00:10:19,140 --> 00:10:23,610
Others lived in which
is called Ukraina.

130
00:10:23,610 --> 00:10:35,972
And my great-grandfather was
participant in 1970-71 uprising

131
00:10:35,972 --> 00:10:36,680
against Russians.

132
00:10:36,680 --> 00:10:37,440
1871?

133
00:10:37,440 --> 00:10:39,010
1870.

134
00:10:39,010 --> 00:10:42,880
There was called powstanie
styczniowe, which is--

135
00:10:42,880 --> 00:10:50,540
in translation it's
January Uprising.

136
00:10:50,540 --> 00:10:54,640
But was 1870-1871.

137
00:10:54,640 --> 00:10:58,705
And he was caught by
Russians and sent to Siberia.

138
00:10:58,705 --> 00:11:01,480

139
00:11:01,480 --> 00:11:05,020
He was very intelligent man.

140
00:11:05,020 --> 00:11:08,230
And he learned Russian quickly.

141
00:11:08,230 --> 00:11:18,780
He changed his physiognomy by
starting a beard, sideburns,

142
00:11:18,780 --> 00:11:26,010
and hairstyle, and
acquire false documents,

143
00:11:26,010 --> 00:11:28,800
and then ran away
from this camp,

144
00:11:28,800 --> 00:11:31,850
and then was traveling
mostly by foot,

145

00:11:31,850 --> 00:11:35,490
sometime working as
a handyman on the way

146
00:11:35,490 --> 00:11:37,710
to earn some money for food.

147
00:11:37,710 --> 00:11:41,400
But it took him 11
and 1/2 months by foot

148
00:11:41,400 --> 00:11:44,370
to get from Siberia
back to the area which

149
00:11:44,370 --> 00:11:45,860
he lived near Warsaw.

150
00:11:45,860 --> 00:11:48,390

151
00:11:48,390 --> 00:11:51,480
Meanwhile, all his
property, including

152
00:11:51,480 --> 00:11:55,800
quite an amount of land,
was confiscated by Russians.

153
00:11:55,800 --> 00:11:59,760
So he had to start his
life from square one.

154
00:11:59,760 --> 00:12:05,400
He managed to have two
children, a boy and girl,

155
00:12:05,400 --> 00:12:08,700
which were raised by somebody
else because he became ill.

156
00:12:08,700 --> 00:12:12,220
And he died very
shortly afterwards.

157

00:12:12,220 --> 00:12:16,827

So I still visit his
grave when I am in Warsaw.

158

00:12:16,827 --> 00:12:18,820

And it's one of the--

159

00:12:18,820 --> 00:12:19,750

What was his name?

160

00:12:19,750 --> 00:12:20,250

Pardon me?

161

00:12:20,250 --> 00:12:21,370

What was his name?

162

00:12:21,370 --> 00:12:28,560

His name was-- so the one which
was nominated by Polish kings

163

00:12:28,560 --> 00:12:34,890

was Józef And my
grandfather was Karel.

164

00:12:34,890 --> 00:12:40,590

And the one which
is at the cemetery--

165

00:12:40,590 --> 00:12:44,535

my memory now escaped.

166

00:12:44,535 --> 00:12:47,600

I will recall, probably,
during this conversation.

167

00:12:47,600 --> 00:12:51,005

168

00:12:51,005 --> 00:12:54,926

So did your mother's family have
a colorful past much like that?

169

00:12:54,926 --> 00:12:56,300

Just returning to my father--

170

00:12:56,300 --> 00:12:56,800

Oh, sure.

171

00:12:56,800 --> 00:13:03,420

--to my grandfather's, they
came from impoverished nobility

172

00:13:03,420 --> 00:13:07,230

of medium kind of the level.

173

00:13:07,230 --> 00:13:11,820

They had their own coat of arms,
and everything was a recorded.

174

00:13:11,820 --> 00:13:14,550

And my uncle was keeping
these records, which

175

00:13:14,550 --> 00:13:17,700

unfortunately were destroyed.

176

00:13:17,700 --> 00:13:21,180

On my mother's side,
my mother came--

177

00:13:21,180 --> 00:13:26,580

my mother was raised on a
small farm in the mountains.

178

00:13:26,580 --> 00:13:29,290

179

00:13:29,290 --> 00:13:30,290

I would call it--

180

00:13:30,290 --> 00:13:31,550

she was a mountaineer.

181

00:13:31,550 --> 00:13:36,080

I was visiting this area
many times after the war,

182

00:13:36,080 --> 00:13:39,110

and I met all her cousins.

183

00:13:39,110 --> 00:13:43,370

Family was rather big.

184

00:13:43,370 --> 00:13:47,090

When my father was
born he was the oldest.

185

00:13:47,090 --> 00:13:48,250

And he had three sisters.

186

00:13:48,250 --> 00:13:53,480

My mother had one sister
and four brothers.

187

00:13:53,480 --> 00:13:56,660

And there were two
or three who died

188

00:13:56,660 --> 00:14:02,040

because of the illnesses at
the time and bad medical care,

189

00:14:02,040 --> 00:14:04,890

obviously.

190

00:14:04,890 --> 00:14:13,080

So it was, I would say, strange
combination of the history

191

00:14:13,080 --> 00:14:14,906

of these two families.

192

00:14:14,906 --> 00:14:19,640

And I have to admit they--

193

00:14:19,640 --> 00:14:25,050

my parents were not
the best matched couple

194

00:14:25,050 --> 00:14:29,170

as I see it, especially
from the distance of time.

195

00:14:29,170 --> 00:14:32,700

However, I loved
my both parents.

196

00:14:32,700 --> 00:14:40,000

And when my father was
arrested in 1943 in Warsaw--

197

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:47,500

he was traveling between
Warsaw and Góra Kalwaria often

198

00:14:47,500 --> 00:14:50,890

and trading with
different items.

199

00:14:50,890 --> 00:14:53,410

One of the most important
items he was trading

200

00:14:53,410 --> 00:15:03,460

was golden coins, because
those who know life in Poland

201

00:15:03,460 --> 00:15:07,630

during occupation-- they
would know that everybody

202

00:15:07,630 --> 00:15:10,000

was trading, even children.

203

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,600

It was either barter or cash.

204

00:15:13,600 --> 00:15:16,630

Everybody knew value
of everything else.

205

00:15:16,630 --> 00:15:18,260

All was illegal.

206

00:15:18,260 --> 00:15:23,170

Germans absolutely
didn't allow trading

207

00:15:23,170 --> 00:15:25,900
unless it was sanctioned
by them, by stores

208
00:15:25,900 --> 00:15:27,190
which they would approve.

209
00:15:27,190 --> 00:15:33,420
And you have to be either
confidant or some other--

210
00:15:33,420 --> 00:15:37,530
doing some other functions
useful for Germans.

211
00:15:37,530 --> 00:15:40,230
All the trades was illegal.

212
00:15:40,230 --> 00:15:44,960
But everybody was really
smuggling to survive.

213
00:15:44,960 --> 00:15:47,690
Jobs were very scarce.

214
00:15:47,690 --> 00:15:52,370
Food was difficult to obtain
even if you had money.

215
00:15:52,370 --> 00:15:58,480
You couldn't enter the store
and buy what you wanted.

216
00:15:58,480 --> 00:16:02,310
So my mother was in early--

217
00:16:02,310 --> 00:16:05,280

218
00:16:05,280 --> 00:16:09,975
when my father was traveling
between Warsaw and Góra

219
00:16:09,975 --> 00:16:17,680
Kalwaria my mother was very

involved in social movements.

220

00:16:17,680 --> 00:16:23,970

My mother was involved
in the trade--

221

00:16:23,970 --> 00:16:27,570

the labor union, the
teachers' labor union.

222

00:16:27,570 --> 00:16:35,490

She was demonstrating in 1937-8,
I know from her memories.

223

00:16:35,490 --> 00:16:37,500

I was too small
to remember that.

224

00:16:37,500 --> 00:16:41,010

225

00:16:41,010 --> 00:16:45,900

There were demonstrations
for higher salaries,

226

00:16:45,900 --> 00:16:49,380

for better working
conditions, and so on--

227

00:16:49,380 --> 00:16:51,990

partially successful.

228

00:16:51,990 --> 00:16:56,870

During the war my mother
relatively quickly

229

00:16:56,870 --> 00:16:59,810

joined underground
movement which

230

00:16:59,810 --> 00:17:04,290

was led by the Polish
government in exile in London.

231

00:17:04,290 --> 00:17:04,790

Can you--

232

00:17:04,790 --> 00:17:06,670
That was pro-Western.

233

00:17:06,670 --> 00:17:08,510
It was called Armia Krajowa.

234

00:17:08,510 --> 00:17:12,319
In English-- The acronym was AK.

235

00:17:12,319 --> 00:17:19,609
In English was National Army.

236

00:17:19,609 --> 00:17:20,500
Yes?

237

00:17:20,500 --> 00:17:23,180
Can you tell me about
your mother's occupation

238

00:17:23,180 --> 00:17:27,260
as a teacher-- what
she taught and her role

239

00:17:27,260 --> 00:17:29,990
within the community?

240

00:17:29,990 --> 00:17:38,420
Before war my mother was
teaching grades 1 to 5,

241

00:17:38,420 --> 00:17:40,070
I believe--

242

00:17:40,070 --> 00:17:41,240
4 or 5.

243

00:17:41,240 --> 00:17:45,380
And she was teaching all basic--

244

00:17:45,380 --> 00:17:49,210
usually teachers on that level,
they will have specialties.

245
00:17:49,210 --> 00:17:54,740
So she was teaching history,
geography, Polish language--

246
00:17:54,740 --> 00:17:57,780

247
00:17:57,780 --> 00:17:59,760
less sciences.

248
00:17:59,760 --> 00:18:05,180

249
00:18:05,180 --> 00:18:09,011
However, during
the war Germans--

250
00:18:09,011 --> 00:18:13,860
it was very lucky
that in our town

251
00:18:13,860 --> 00:18:16,710
they were somehow more liberal.

252
00:18:16,710 --> 00:18:19,230
And we had two schools.

253
00:18:19,230 --> 00:18:24,460
And each was-- had
classes 1 to 7.

254
00:18:24,460 --> 00:18:27,270
However, what I heard--

255
00:18:27,270 --> 00:18:31,280
at the same time in
different parts of Poland,

256
00:18:31,280 --> 00:18:32,580
they were allowed--

257
00:18:32,580 --> 00:18:35,670
the classes were

only from 1 to 4.

258

00:18:35,670 --> 00:18:41,040
And obviously, they wouldn't
teaching history, geography,

259

00:18:41,040 --> 00:18:43,870
anything which would
enlighten people.

260

00:18:43,870 --> 00:18:48,000
They wanted Poles to
just read and write

261

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:50,520
and do the basic calculus.

262

00:18:50,520 --> 00:18:54,150
All middle schools,
all universities

263

00:18:54,150 --> 00:18:55,770
were all forbidden.

264

00:18:55,770 --> 00:19:01,710
However, there was a lot
of underground schooling.

265

00:19:01,710 --> 00:19:05,400
There were regular classes
in people's houses.

266

00:19:05,400 --> 00:19:07,050
Some of them denounced.

267

00:19:07,050 --> 00:19:11,520
People were arrested,
tortured sometime.

268

00:19:11,520 --> 00:19:13,140
There were all
kinds of sanctions.

269

00:19:13,140 --> 00:19:16,830
But many, many of the schools,

because of the solidarity

270

00:19:16,830 --> 00:19:18,480

between the people--
everybody was

271

00:19:18,480 --> 00:19:23,250

interested having the
children educated in spite

272

00:19:23,250 --> 00:19:26,670

of German restrictions.

273

00:19:26,670 --> 00:19:29,970

Most of the schools,
I would say, survive.

274

00:19:29,970 --> 00:19:31,740

And there were all
different levels.

275

00:19:31,740 --> 00:19:33,140

Diplomas were given.

276

00:19:33,140 --> 00:19:39,210

Exams were passed.

277

00:19:39,210 --> 00:19:45,640

It was just very normal
and popular for--

278

00:19:45,640 --> 00:19:50,370

and people were chipping
in in different ways.

279

00:19:50,370 --> 00:19:53,540

For example, the parents
of this-- for example,

280

00:19:53,540 --> 00:19:59,390

my mother was giving tutorials
after the regular school hours.

281

00:19:59,390 --> 00:20:02,620

There are different kids

are coming different days,

282

00:20:02,620 --> 00:20:05,400
different hours to my house.

283

00:20:05,400 --> 00:20:09,800
And my mom was
teaching them, helping

284

00:20:09,800 --> 00:20:14,390
them to catch up to the
level which was expected.

285

00:20:14,390 --> 00:20:17,175
And they were
either less talented

286

00:20:17,175 --> 00:20:22,460
or they had harder
conditions at home,

287

00:20:22,460 --> 00:20:25,400
parents which are uneducated
and they couldn't help them

288

00:20:25,400 --> 00:20:27,980
with homework.

289

00:20:27,980 --> 00:20:31,910
So my mother was
fulfilling that role.

290

00:20:31,910 --> 00:20:37,130
And she was paid with
real goods, usually food

291

00:20:37,130 --> 00:20:45,860
like farmer's cheese, homemade
bread, eggs, carrots, onions--

292

00:20:45,860 --> 00:20:49,220
chicken, sometime,
which was already

293

00:20:49,220 --> 00:20:55,550

plucked and ready to cook
for soup or whatever.

294
00:20:55,550 --> 00:20:57,412
So we are relatively--

295
00:20:57,412 --> 00:21:01,670

296
00:21:01,670 --> 00:21:04,710
and there were periods of time
when it was shortage of food,

297
00:21:04,710 --> 00:21:10,680
where there were no
tutorials and they, depending

298
00:21:10,680 --> 00:21:15,460
on the tension and what was
happening in outside world,

299
00:21:15,460 --> 00:21:18,370
especially at the
beginning of the war

300
00:21:18,370 --> 00:21:21,930
and just before the end
of war, when there were

301
00:21:21,930 --> 00:21:25,170
first uprisings
in Warsaw ghetto,

302
00:21:25,170 --> 00:21:29,590
and then Warsaw
Uprising of 1944,

303
00:21:29,590 --> 00:21:32,860
which were major
upheaval for the Warsaw

304
00:21:32,860 --> 00:21:37,830
and near surroundings,
where we lived.

305

00:21:37,830 --> 00:21:41,870
So starting at the
beginning of the war,

306
00:21:41,870 --> 00:21:44,580
do you remember
hearing about the war?

307
00:21:44,580 --> 00:21:49,830
Like, hearing about the
tensions between the Germans

308
00:21:49,830 --> 00:21:53,390
on the radio, or the rise
of anti-Semitism in Germany?

309
00:21:53,390 --> 00:21:56,730
We were not allowed
to have radios.

310
00:21:56,730 --> 00:21:57,750
Before the war?

311
00:21:57,750 --> 00:21:59,380
Before war, yes.

312
00:21:59,380 --> 00:22:00,880
Oh, you're talking
about before war.

313
00:22:00,880 --> 00:22:03,480
Yeah, just, did you have
any sense that a war was

314
00:22:03,480 --> 00:22:07,740
coming before September 1?

315
00:22:07,740 --> 00:22:08,700
Yes and no.

316
00:22:08,700 --> 00:22:10,650
There were some talks.

317
00:22:10,650 --> 00:22:19,640
But most of the population

were kept in the belief--

318

00:22:19,640 --> 00:22:22,500
and that included
Jewish population.

319

00:22:22,500 --> 00:22:27,000
I mean, all citizens
were kept under belief

320

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:31,760
that if Germans attack--

321

00:22:31,760 --> 00:22:36,450
that was considered
such a possibility--

322

00:22:36,450 --> 00:22:42,000
French and English are going
to attack from the West,

323

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:45,330
because there were
international agreements signed

324

00:22:45,330 --> 00:22:52,020
between the governments where
the Western powers declare

325

00:22:52,020 --> 00:22:55,270
that if Poland is
attacked they're

326

00:22:55,270 --> 00:22:59,390
going to attack, as well.

327

00:22:59,390 --> 00:23:02,930
However, what we learned later--

328

00:23:02,930 --> 00:23:10,910
and obviously Hitler and
his intelligence services

329

00:23:10,910 --> 00:23:17,120
had very good

recognition of the mood

330

00:23:17,120 --> 00:23:20,690
and plans which
French and German had.

331

00:23:20,690 --> 00:23:23,460
And that's what I learned
was later, obviously.

332

00:23:23,460 --> 00:23:27,410
When I was 4, 5, 6 years
old I didn't know that.

333

00:23:27,410 --> 00:23:32,260
But I knew it shortly
after the war.

334

00:23:32,260 --> 00:23:39,360
Germans kept [93%] of the
armies in the Eastern Front.

335

00:23:39,360 --> 00:23:43,560
And they were absolutely
vulnerable from the West.

336

00:23:43,560 --> 00:23:49,300
And Poles, Polish
army and civilians

337

00:23:49,300 --> 00:23:53,500
who were defending Warsaw
for several weeks--

338

00:23:53,500 --> 00:23:55,930
Warsaw was encircled
by German army,

339

00:23:55,930 --> 00:24:01,370
but there were
organized resistance.

340

00:24:01,370 --> 00:24:07,120
And there were some war--
the ammunition and the arms

341

00:24:07,120 --> 00:24:11,650
to protect Warsaw
against the German army.

342

00:24:11,650 --> 00:24:13,690
And it was very heroic defense.

343

00:24:13,690 --> 00:24:17,510
However, Germans had
superiority in the air.

344

00:24:17,510 --> 00:24:19,060
They were bombing.

345

00:24:19,060 --> 00:24:21,890
And they have superior tanks.

346

00:24:21,890 --> 00:24:26,110
So in spite of the barricades
and all these fortifications

347

00:24:26,110 --> 00:24:29,850
which were built
around the outskirts--

348

00:24:29,850 --> 00:24:36,400
on the outskirts of
center of the city,

349

00:24:36,400 --> 00:24:39,390
Warsaw was conquered
after several weeks.

350

00:24:39,390 --> 00:24:41,800
So what was the response
from your parents

351

00:24:41,800 --> 00:24:43,000
when the war began?

352

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:46,980
Was there any talk about fleeing
the area and going elsewhere?

353

00:24:46,980 --> 00:24:47,950
Yes.

354
00:24:47,950 --> 00:24:50,410
That's very good question,
because what happened--

355
00:24:50,410 --> 00:24:55,060
after the first bombs were
dropped on Góra Kalwaria there

356
00:24:55,060 --> 00:24:56,140
was real.

357
00:24:56,140 --> 00:24:59,380
It stopped to be
just somewhere else--

358
00:24:59,380 --> 00:25:03,130
Germans are attacking and
they come here eventually,

359
00:25:03,130 --> 00:25:05,180
or maybe Polish army
would defend them.

360
00:25:05,180 --> 00:25:10,270
Maybe French and Germans
would attack from the West.

361
00:25:10,270 --> 00:25:14,470
The whole resistance was
hinging on that promise,

362
00:25:14,470 --> 00:25:17,170
because otherwise
Poland realized,

363
00:25:17,170 --> 00:25:19,510
its population
realized that they

364
00:25:19,510 --> 00:25:24,700
didn't have any chance, because
the Germans with huge amount

365

00:25:24,700 --> 00:25:30,730
of the very well trained
and well equipped,

366

00:25:30,730 --> 00:25:37,360
quite modern arms, artillery,
airplanes, and so on.

367

00:25:37,360 --> 00:25:40,210
And so what happens here--

368

00:25:40,210 --> 00:25:44,160
that my parents, at
the very beginning,

369

00:25:44,160 --> 00:25:52,520
after the first bombing
organize a group of families.

370

00:25:52,520 --> 00:25:57,650
Perhaps was six, seven
people in that group,

371

00:25:57,650 --> 00:26:00,910
plus the owner of
the big truck--

372

00:26:00,910 --> 00:26:04,790
Mr. Viktor [? Habalitski ?]
was his name.

373

00:26:04,790 --> 00:26:08,900
We packed our belongings within
hours, packed our belongings

374

00:26:08,900 --> 00:26:10,540
on the top of the truck.

375

00:26:10,540 --> 00:26:13,545
And we are running towards
Russia to escape Germans.

376

00:26:13,545 --> 00:26:16,640

377

00:26:16,640 --> 00:26:21,100

On the roads-- and the
roads were narrow--

378

00:26:21,100 --> 00:26:24,350

whole traffic was
mostly towards East.

379

00:26:24,350 --> 00:26:27,390

And there were
columns and columns.

380

00:26:27,390 --> 00:26:30,870

Sometime trucks,
which were rarity.

381

00:26:30,870 --> 00:26:32,660

Smaller cars were also rarity.

382

00:26:32,660 --> 00:26:38,870

Mostly was carts pulled
by horses and people

383

00:26:38,870 --> 00:26:40,400

loading their belongings.

384

00:26:40,400 --> 00:26:46,000

And there were cars as long
as you can reach by sight.

385

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:53,990

What German firefights--
the planes were doing,

386

00:26:53,990 --> 00:27:01,340

they were running along,
flying along these roads.

387

00:27:01,340 --> 00:27:04,340

And from the machine guns
and also smaller bombs

388

00:27:04,340 --> 00:27:08,090

they were dropped
on these convoys.

389
00:27:08,090 --> 00:27:10,100
So whenever we heard--

390
00:27:10,100 --> 00:27:13,000
and we could distinguish
between Polish aircraft

391
00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:13,900
and German aircraft.

392
00:27:13,900 --> 00:27:14,930
They were sounding differently.

393
00:27:14,930 --> 00:27:15,472
By the sound?

394
00:27:15,472 --> 00:27:15,980
Yeah.

395
00:27:15,980 --> 00:27:21,230
And my task, on the top of the
track, was to look to the west

396
00:27:21,230 --> 00:27:25,450
and watch and listen
for the sounds.

397
00:27:25,450 --> 00:27:28,570
And I was the one
who was bringing

398
00:27:28,570 --> 00:27:31,450
attention of the adults.

399
00:27:31,450 --> 00:27:32,880
And then what
people were doing--

400
00:27:32,880 --> 00:27:35,920
they running quickly to the
left and the right side,

401
00:27:35,920 --> 00:27:39,250

leaving truck in the side--

402

00:27:39,250 --> 00:27:41,140
the center of the road.

403

00:27:41,140 --> 00:27:48,310
And they were hiding in between
the potato or rye or wheat,

404

00:27:48,310 --> 00:27:50,725
whenever we could-- or
trees, if it was nearby.

405

00:27:50,725 --> 00:27:51,690
Yeah, the fields.

406

00:27:51,690 --> 00:27:54,160
And we're sitting there
waiting until they go away,

407

00:27:54,160 --> 00:27:57,820
because they came for a couple
minutes and they were gone.

408

00:27:57,820 --> 00:27:59,520
And then maybe next
time, whether it

409

00:27:59,520 --> 00:28:02,740
would be the same day or
maybe three times next day--

410

00:28:02,740 --> 00:28:05,980
was nothing regular
or not unpredictable.

411

00:28:05,980 --> 00:28:11,670
This way we reached
Russian borders, which

412

00:28:11,670 --> 00:28:13,230
was Soviet Union at that time.

413

00:28:13,230 --> 00:28:15,420
But we call it Russian.

414

00:28:15,420 --> 00:28:22,620
And since Russians entered
Poland from the east

415

00:28:22,620 --> 00:28:28,110
on September 17, we were at
that time in Russia already--

416

00:28:28,110 --> 00:28:29,130
not deep.

417

00:28:29,130 --> 00:28:31,960

418

00:28:31,960 --> 00:28:37,480
And we were ordered to go back
towards west, towards Poland

419

00:28:37,480 --> 00:28:39,890
itself--

420

00:28:39,890 --> 00:28:44,650
which was still Poland, but
there was already occupied

421

00:28:44,650 --> 00:28:47,170
by Russians, that territory.

422

00:28:47,170 --> 00:28:53,710
And not many people know that
the Russia took more territory

423

00:28:53,710 --> 00:28:59,050
in 1939, September, than
Germans took before that.

424

00:28:59,050 --> 00:29:02,080
However, the population
density was much higher

425

00:29:02,080 --> 00:29:05,050
in the Western territories
then were Eastern territories.

426

00:29:05,050 --> 00:29:08,590

Also, Eastern territories
had much more minorities.

427

00:29:08,590 --> 00:29:13,190

428

00:29:13,190 --> 00:29:17,820

And Russia started
to resettle Poles

429

00:29:17,820 --> 00:29:24,180

to Siberia or towards
the Kazakhstan and this--

430

00:29:24,180 --> 00:29:29,920

towards Siberia, towards--
they were less organized than

431

00:29:29,920 --> 00:29:35,190

German, but they had trains
which were equipped with big--

432

00:29:35,190 --> 00:29:40,140

with cars adapted
to transport pigs.

433

00:29:40,140 --> 00:29:42,300

There were no passenger cars.

434

00:29:42,300 --> 00:29:46,110

And they were sent to--

435

00:29:46,110 --> 00:29:52,560

which they later was
called kulaks, right?

436

00:29:52,560 --> 00:29:53,340

Yeah.

437

00:29:53,340 --> 00:29:53,840

Gulags.

438

00:29:53,840 --> 00:29:56,790

So during this
evacuation and when

439
00:29:56,790 --> 00:30:00,480
you were listening out
for the airplanes coming,

440
00:30:00,480 --> 00:30:01,870
do you remember being scared?

441
00:30:01,870 --> 00:30:02,995
Weren't you frightened or--

442
00:30:02,995 --> 00:30:05,820
Well, scared is understatement.

443
00:30:05,820 --> 00:30:11,695
I had my shorts full of--

444
00:30:11,695 --> 00:30:12,195
almost.

445
00:30:12,195 --> 00:30:13,390
[LAUGHTER]

446
00:30:13,390 --> 00:30:15,250

447
00:30:15,250 --> 00:30:18,550
Were you able to comprehend it?

448
00:30:18,550 --> 00:30:20,920
What's a child's
reaction when sees

449
00:30:20,920 --> 00:30:25,000
front of the plane
going towards you

450
00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:27,670
and the almost aiming at you?

451
00:30:27,670 --> 00:30:30,760
And they were coming

very low sometime.

452

00:30:30,760 --> 00:30:35,830

So when they coming low we
are definitely out of truck

453

00:30:35,830 --> 00:30:36,970

already.

454

00:30:36,970 --> 00:30:39,880

But it was very, very
scary experience,

455

00:30:39,880 --> 00:30:44,010

and one which you cannot forget
till the end of your life.

456

00:30:44,010 --> 00:30:46,030

Do you remember what
your parents told you?

457

00:30:46,030 --> 00:30:48,040

Do you remember them
communicating with you

458

00:30:48,040 --> 00:30:48,610

at this time?

459

00:30:48,610 --> 00:30:50,260

They were scared themself.

460

00:30:50,260 --> 00:30:53,590

So this is the
time when children

461

00:30:53,590 --> 00:30:58,210

mature much faster than their
chronological calendars.

462

00:30:58,210 --> 00:31:01,510

463

00:31:01,510 --> 00:31:08,090

During the war my father
was already in Auschwitz.

464

00:31:08,090 --> 00:31:10,970

My mother was part of
this underground movement.

465

00:31:10,970 --> 00:31:15,590

And during the day, quite
often, when she was at work

466

00:31:15,590 --> 00:31:18,410

my house looked normal.

467

00:31:18,410 --> 00:31:20,360

There's nothing unusual.

468

00:31:20,360 --> 00:31:25,140

But on occasion, once every
week, every two weeks,

469

00:31:25,140 --> 00:31:31,550

on an irregular basis we have
a crew coming to our house.

470

00:31:31,550 --> 00:31:36,980

Crew-- those are the members of
the same underground movement

471

00:31:36,980 --> 00:31:38,300

which my mother belonged.

472

00:31:38,300 --> 00:31:38,990

Yeah, AK.

473

00:31:38,990 --> 00:31:44,270

And they were coming with
the radio transmitter

474

00:31:44,270 --> 00:31:47,270

receiver in pieces.

475

00:31:47,270 --> 00:31:51,620

Some of the pieces were
hidden in our house.

476

00:31:51,620 --> 00:31:54,920
Some they were bringing and
putting together in minutes,

477
00:31:54,920 --> 00:31:55,810
literally.

478
00:31:55,810 --> 00:31:58,250
And they are starting
communication

479
00:31:58,250 --> 00:32:03,950
by Morse code with a radio
base which was located

480
00:32:03,950 --> 00:32:06,890
on the outskirts of London.

481
00:32:06,890 --> 00:32:12,170
And they were communicating
forth and back

482
00:32:12,170 --> 00:32:15,230
information which is coded--

483
00:32:15,230 --> 00:32:17,480
also, besides the
Morse code, they

484
00:32:17,480 --> 00:32:19,775
were also using some coded--

485
00:32:19,775 --> 00:32:23,780

486
00:32:23,780 --> 00:32:25,340
so there was not easy.

487
00:32:25,340 --> 00:32:30,050
However, Germans knew
about these stations,

488
00:32:30,050 --> 00:32:31,250
that they exist.

489

00:32:31,250 --> 00:32:34,070

However, they couldn't
easily find them

490

00:32:34,070 --> 00:32:37,310

because there are
villages, small towns.

491

00:32:37,310 --> 00:32:39,810

They couldn't be
everywhere all the time.

492

00:32:39,810 --> 00:32:45,410

So my task was that as soon as
this station was ready to go

493

00:32:45,410 --> 00:32:49,600

I was told to go outside.

494

00:32:49,600 --> 00:32:52,300

Although I remember
sometime the Morse code,

495

00:32:52,300 --> 00:32:54,840

I can hear it today--
dee-dee-dee da, da, da,

496

00:32:54,840 --> 00:32:58,830

da are the key.

497

00:32:58,830 --> 00:33:00,970

My task was to go outside--

498

00:33:00,970 --> 00:33:03,905

and I had friends who were
fulfilling similar role,

499

00:33:03,905 --> 00:33:08,080

although sometimes they didn't
know all the details because we

500

00:33:08,080 --> 00:33:13,210

didn't talk among
ourselves all the details

501
00:33:13,210 --> 00:33:14,170
for obvious reasons--

502
00:33:14,170 --> 00:33:17,740

503
00:33:17,740 --> 00:33:21,880
and was to look for the German--

504
00:33:21,880 --> 00:33:23,950
they look like a
pickup truck today,

505
00:33:23,950 --> 00:33:31,000
but it was a low truck,
small truck which

506
00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:36,250
dipole antenna,
antenna which allows

507
00:33:36,250 --> 00:33:39,970
to determine from which
direction signal is coming

508
00:33:39,970 --> 00:33:41,470
from that station.

509
00:33:41,470 --> 00:33:44,470
So to determine where
is exact location

510
00:33:44,470 --> 00:33:47,440
of that station of
that transmitter

511
00:33:47,440 --> 00:33:49,870
they had to have
two measurements

512
00:33:49,870 --> 00:33:51,400
from different angles.

513
00:33:51,400 --> 00:33:56,470

And then, on the map they could identify very exactly which--

514

00:33:56,470 --> 00:34:01,960
almost which house that this transmitter was located.

515

00:34:01,960 --> 00:34:05,590
So my task and my friends' task was

516

00:34:05,590 --> 00:34:11,420
to detect existence of these German trucks

517

00:34:11,420 --> 00:34:16,449
nearby and notify my mother--

518

00:34:16,449 --> 00:34:18,120
one to another one.

519

00:34:18,120 --> 00:34:20,800
We're standing on the corners of the streets.

520

00:34:20,800 --> 00:34:26,290
So within seconds my mother knew that there is a truck nearby.

521

00:34:26,290 --> 00:34:29,860
And my mother was running inside of our house

522

00:34:29,860 --> 00:34:30,940
and telling the crew.

523

00:34:30,940 --> 00:34:36,610
They were taking apart that radio station, hiding

524

00:34:36,610 --> 00:34:38,920
whatever they could, take the rest of them.

525

00:34:38,920 --> 00:34:41,929

And they-- obviously, they are
not running along the streets.

526
00:34:41,929 --> 00:34:44,350
They were going in
the back of our house

527
00:34:44,350 --> 00:34:46,300
through the orchards--

528
00:34:46,300 --> 00:34:48,639
orchard to orchard,
orchard to orchard,

529
00:34:48,639 --> 00:34:53,530
never going to the town
itself, but on the outskirts,

530
00:34:53,530 --> 00:34:54,969
through the dense--

531
00:34:54,969 --> 00:34:57,290
whatever the first forest.

532
00:34:57,290 --> 00:35:01,690
And usually there were
no Germans in this area.

533
00:35:01,690 --> 00:35:05,440
Besides, they knew exactly where
the concentration German were,

534
00:35:05,440 --> 00:35:06,520
police headquarters.

535
00:35:06,520 --> 00:35:10,900
When they're coming to town
they knew exactly where to go

536
00:35:10,900 --> 00:35:12,730
and not to go.

537
00:35:12,730 --> 00:35:15,160
So how often--
well, how many times

538

00:35:15,160 --> 00:35:17,408
do you remember seeing a
truck and having to warn

539

00:35:17,408 --> 00:35:18,700
your mother that it was coming?

540

00:35:18,700 --> 00:35:25,000
Fortunately, not even once we
detected this truck at the time

541

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:26,480
when a radio station--

542

00:35:26,480 --> 00:35:28,310
I saw these trucks.

543

00:35:28,310 --> 00:35:32,920
But at that time there was
never that station in my house.

544

00:35:32,920 --> 00:35:34,370
So we were lucky.

545

00:35:34,370 --> 00:35:37,480
This same crew which came
to us several times--

546

00:35:37,480 --> 00:35:40,410
we learned they were shot when
they were jumping through--

547

00:35:40,410 --> 00:35:41,662
were escaping.

548

00:35:41,662 --> 00:35:42,870
And they were machine gunned.

549

00:35:42,870 --> 00:35:45,520
They were decimated,
all of them.

550

00:35:45,520 --> 00:35:49,220

Two or three were
coming to our house.

551
00:35:49,220 --> 00:35:50,380
Another crew was coming.

552
00:35:50,380 --> 00:35:52,750
But they were
detected and killed

553
00:35:52,750 --> 00:35:57,098
in some neighboring small town.

554
00:35:57,098 --> 00:35:59,140
So it was in a different
town that that happened?

555
00:35:59,140 --> 00:35:59,640
Yes.

556
00:35:59,640 --> 00:36:01,300
They were going
from town to town,

557
00:36:01,300 --> 00:36:03,760
from different places
on a regular basis

558
00:36:03,760 --> 00:36:06,670
unpredictable for anybody else.

559
00:36:06,670 --> 00:36:09,100
But they have their
own system which

560
00:36:09,100 --> 00:36:13,000
allowed them to coordinate
with the house owner

561
00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:17,830
and having a system of people
who were protecting them from--

562
00:36:17,830 --> 00:36:20,070
this one case the system

failed, obviously.

563

00:36:20,070 --> 00:36:21,810
And they were killed.

564

00:36:21,810 --> 00:36:25,550
So I'm sure you talked to
your mother at some point,

565

00:36:25,550 --> 00:36:27,820
especially after the war,
about her experience.

566

00:36:27,820 --> 00:36:31,180
Did she share with you
how she got involved

567

00:36:31,180 --> 00:36:32,500
with the underground movement?

568

00:36:32,500 --> 00:36:34,900
Yes.

569

00:36:34,900 --> 00:36:39,545
My mom was very friendly
with the principal

570

00:36:39,545 --> 00:36:41,170
of the school in
which she was teaching

571

00:36:41,170 --> 00:36:43,820
and his wife, who was
a teacher as well.

572

00:36:43,820 --> 00:36:49,960
And this lady-- she was the
head of that women's division

573

00:36:49,960 --> 00:36:52,950
in support of other
girl fighters,

574

00:36:52,950 --> 00:36:55,510
because my mom didn't have--

575

00:36:55,510 --> 00:36:56,680
she didn't train.

576

00:36:56,680 --> 00:36:59,230
She knew how to shoot,
but she was not really

577

00:36:59,230 --> 00:37:01,510
specially trained.

578

00:37:01,510 --> 00:37:04,300
And there was not a
role for the women.

579

00:37:04,300 --> 00:37:06,940
There was mostly role for men.

580

00:37:06,940 --> 00:37:09,940
The women had a lot
of supportive roles.

581

00:37:09,940 --> 00:37:13,240
One of them, for example, was--

582

00:37:13,240 --> 00:37:15,810
and there was, as a part
of underground movement

583

00:37:15,810 --> 00:37:18,590
but also as an
interest of my mother--

584

00:37:18,590 --> 00:37:23,620
because as a teacher she
had a lot of Jewish kids

585

00:37:23,620 --> 00:37:26,920
as her pupils.

586

00:37:26,920 --> 00:37:30,940
By average in her classes
was around 50% of the kids

587

00:37:30,940 --> 00:37:37,180
were Jewish before ghetto
was created in 1940.

588
00:37:37,180 --> 00:37:40,820
And it did exist
for about half a year.

589
00:37:40,820 --> 00:37:44,290
So my mom had a lot of
good acquaintances--

590
00:37:44,290 --> 00:37:47,260
I wouldn't say closest
friends, but a lot

591
00:37:47,260 --> 00:37:53,830
of people who respected
her from both religions,

592
00:37:53,830 --> 00:37:56,950
including orthodox Jews.

593
00:37:56,950 --> 00:37:59,320
Many of them, they were
sending their kids not only

594
00:37:59,320 --> 00:38:01,850
to cheder, Jewish
school, but they're

595
00:38:01,850 --> 00:38:05,440
sending them to
the public schools

596
00:38:05,440 --> 00:38:08,320
to learn Polish because
they were doing business.

597
00:38:08,320 --> 00:38:12,880
Most of the stores in our
town were Jewish owned.

598
00:38:12,880 --> 00:38:15,130
There were excellent
relationship

599

00:38:15,130 --> 00:38:17,160
between both religions.

600

00:38:17,160 --> 00:38:21,130
And as I mentioned,
no accidents.

601

00:38:21,130 --> 00:38:24,760
So my mom was involved--

602

00:38:24,760 --> 00:38:30,470
at the very beginning, there
was a lot of smuggling going

603

00:38:30,470 --> 00:38:34,350
on between Warsaw, which was the
biggest center where you could

604

00:38:34,350 --> 00:38:41,140
get food, or from countryside
farms to the ghetto in Góra

605

00:38:41,140 --> 00:38:41,640
Kalwaria.

606

00:38:41,640 --> 00:38:45,570
Ghetto in Góra Kalwaria was
very unusual because it did have

607

00:38:45,570 --> 00:38:50,950
sections with the barbed
wire fences, however,

608

00:38:50,950 --> 00:38:56,110
especially during the night
the traffic was unbelievable.

609

00:38:56,110 --> 00:39:00,090
Somehow people were able
to bribe the guards, which

610

00:39:00,090 --> 00:39:05,880
were part of
Judenrat organization

611
00:39:05,880 --> 00:39:10,800
which was set up to
communicate between Germans

612
00:39:10,800 --> 00:39:12,050
and Jewish populations.

613
00:39:12,050 --> 00:39:14,070
So the guards were
mostly Jewish police.

614
00:39:14,070 --> 00:39:18,120
Jewish with the bands
on the arm, a civilian,

615
00:39:18,120 --> 00:39:20,900
or semi-civilian dressed.

616
00:39:20,900 --> 00:39:23,760
But during the night
was like a shift.

617
00:39:23,760 --> 00:39:27,750
And I had a friend who had--

618
00:39:27,750 --> 00:39:32,640
his house windows were
looking at the ghetto fence.

619
00:39:32,640 --> 00:39:33,990
And I had to pass--

620
00:39:33,990 --> 00:39:37,110
my house was located
less than half a mile

621
00:39:37,110 --> 00:39:39,720
from border of the ghetto.

622
00:39:39,720 --> 00:39:41,713
What streets was the ghetto on?

623
00:39:41,713 --> 00:39:42,500

Do you remember?

624

00:39:42,500 --> 00:39:43,470

Piarska.

625

00:39:43,470 --> 00:39:49,420

626

00:39:49,420 --> 00:39:51,730

There are descriptions of that.

627

00:39:51,730 --> 00:39:59,320

For example, good
friend of my mother

628

00:39:59,320 --> 00:40:02,740

is a gentleman
who died recently.

629

00:40:02,740 --> 00:40:06,760

His name was Henryk Price.

630

00:40:06,760 --> 00:40:09,350

Here's article about him.

631

00:40:09,350 --> 00:40:18,530

And I always admiring him.

632

00:40:18,530 --> 00:40:21,020

He ran away from ghetto.

633

00:40:21,020 --> 00:40:23,910

634

00:40:23,910 --> 00:40:29,780

And there's one recording
in Holocaust Museum

635

00:40:29,780 --> 00:40:34,070

which you sent to me the URL.

636

00:40:34,070 --> 00:40:38,870

And his-- the gentleman's
name is Felix Kartman.

637

00:40:38,870 --> 00:40:41,600

He describes in much better--

638

00:40:41,600 --> 00:40:44,930

in greater detail which I would
be able to describe what was

639

00:40:44,930 --> 00:40:48,590

going on inside, because
I was not inside,

640

00:40:48,590 --> 00:40:52,400

Polish of non-Jewish--

641

00:40:52,400 --> 00:40:55,400

non-Jews who are not
allowed to enter.

642

00:40:55,400 --> 00:41:05,180

643

00:41:05,180 --> 00:41:08,240

So can you tell me a bit more
about your mother's involvement

644

00:41:08,240 --> 00:41:11,000

in the underground movement
and some of the tasks

645

00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:14,270

that she was given to do?

646

00:41:14,270 --> 00:41:19,340

So one of the tasks my
mother took, and also she

647

00:41:19,340 --> 00:41:26,300

was assigned later, officially,
by the underground movement

648

00:41:26,300 --> 00:41:34,040

was to find people who would be
actively involved in smuggling

649

00:41:34,040 --> 00:41:42,400

food to ghetto either from
countryside, by her knowledge

650

00:41:42,400 --> 00:41:50,260

of the farmers who were parents
of the children which she was

651

00:41:50,260 --> 00:41:53,080

teaching in the
school, or people

652

00:41:53,080 --> 00:41:58,380

who were traveling regularly
or willing to travel to Warsaw

653

00:41:58,380 --> 00:42:03,730

and bring some items
which were not regularly

654

00:42:03,730 --> 00:42:06,670

available locally.

655

00:42:06,670 --> 00:42:13,920

And there's too many
names to mention here.

656

00:42:13,920 --> 00:42:22,560

But they are people
still alive, my peers,

657

00:42:22,560 --> 00:42:32,340

or people who already recorded
in the archives of Holocaust

658

00:42:32,340 --> 00:42:43,650

Museum, like Mr. Felix Kartman
and Mr. Abram Henryk Price.

659

00:42:43,650 --> 00:42:47,330

660

00:42:47,330 --> 00:42:53,110

The YouTubes-- they are very
detailed interviews with him.

661
00:42:53,110 --> 00:42:55,720

662
00:42:55,720 --> 00:42:59,330
My mother was on very
good terms with him.

663
00:42:59,330 --> 00:43:02,340
Last time I visited
him about 10 years ago.

664
00:43:02,340 --> 00:43:04,950

665
00:43:04,950 --> 00:43:13,110
And I spoke to his sister a
couple weeks ago by phone.

666
00:43:13,110 --> 00:43:20,010
This gentleman died in
the age of 101 and half.

667
00:43:20,010 --> 00:43:21,360
Unbelievable.

668
00:43:21,360 --> 00:43:25,020
And he's strong
physically and mentally.

669
00:43:25,020 --> 00:43:29,300
He describes his life
in great details.

670
00:43:29,300 --> 00:43:31,680
And there is so
much to be learned

671
00:43:31,680 --> 00:43:35,820
about his life and the
life of other people.

672
00:43:35,820 --> 00:43:37,650
So your mother worked with him?

673

00:43:37,650 --> 00:43:43,390

My mother work with
him after the war

674

00:43:43,390 --> 00:43:45,540

in different organizations.

675

00:43:45,540 --> 00:43:48,840

And but my mother knew him.

676

00:43:48,840 --> 00:43:52,950

And he knew both my
parents because I

677

00:43:52,950 --> 00:43:58,450

talked to him about my father,
especially, from before war.

678

00:43:58,450 --> 00:44:01,530

He knew my father quite well.

679

00:44:01,530 --> 00:44:04,140

680

00:44:04,140 --> 00:44:07,350

Did your mother ever
go to the ghetto

681

00:44:07,350 --> 00:44:10,560

when she was trying to get
food into the ghetto from all

682

00:44:10,560 --> 00:44:11,470

these farmers?

683

00:44:11,470 --> 00:44:17,412

As I mentioned, the
non-Jews were restricted.

684

00:44:17,412 --> 00:44:19,750

They were not allowed to enter.

685

00:44:19,750 --> 00:44:25,920

So but through mutual friends

and mutual acquaintances

686

00:44:25,920 --> 00:44:30,600
there was quite
good communication.

687

00:44:30,600 --> 00:44:34,470
And again, in spite
of German regulations

688

00:44:34,470 --> 00:44:38,880
people tried to
conduct normal life.

689

00:44:38,880 --> 00:44:44,280
By normal life I mean people
are working in ghetto.

690

00:44:44,280 --> 00:44:53,925
People are trying to
preserve food, to sell items.

691

00:44:53,925 --> 00:44:57,780

692

00:44:57,780 --> 00:45:02,580
Everybody believed in
the ghetto that this just

693

00:45:02,580 --> 00:45:05,160
temporary solution,
that they will be

694

00:45:05,160 --> 00:45:07,660
resettled to a different place.

695

00:45:07,660 --> 00:45:12,620
They will be saved from--

696

00:45:12,620 --> 00:45:15,560
people didn't want
to admit that this

697

00:45:15,560 --> 00:45:20,480
is any of the

organized massacre,

698

00:45:20,480 --> 00:45:25,510
and they are going to be killed.

699

00:45:25,510 --> 00:45:26,980
Everybody had hope.

700

00:45:26,980 --> 00:45:32,350
And as you well known, that
kept people going and living,

701

00:45:32,350 --> 00:45:38,490
because once you remove
the hope from human beings

702

00:45:38,490 --> 00:45:42,160
our life doesn't make sense.

703

00:45:42,160 --> 00:45:51,330
So obviously, there were moments
when people becoming depressed

704

00:45:51,330 --> 00:45:59,950
or they stopped to be
positive and optimistic.

705

00:45:59,950 --> 00:46:05,840
But there was role of others
to keep their spirit alive.

706

00:46:05,840 --> 00:46:10,910
And so there were all kind
of the preoccupations,

707

00:46:10,910 --> 00:46:18,950
including small theater, singing
groups, educational aspects,

708

00:46:18,950 --> 00:46:22,280
organizations were
getting together

709

00:46:22,280 --> 00:46:24,380
and having discussions.

710
00:46:24,380 --> 00:46:25,620
Outside the ghetto or inside?

711
00:46:25,620 --> 00:46:25,900
Inside.

712
00:46:25,900 --> 00:46:26,650
Inside the ghetto.

713
00:46:26,650 --> 00:46:28,340
Everything inside of the ghetto.

714
00:46:28,340 --> 00:46:31,340
And unbelievable overcrowding.

715
00:46:31,340 --> 00:46:33,880
People were living sometime 8--

716
00:46:33,880 --> 00:46:40,840
6, 8, up to 10
people in one room.

717
00:46:40,840 --> 00:46:41,710
Incredible.

718
00:46:41,710 --> 00:46:45,500

719
00:46:45,500 --> 00:46:48,260
But this gentlemen,
like these three people

720
00:46:48,260 --> 00:46:51,980
whom I am well familiar
and I knew them,

721
00:46:51,980 --> 00:47:00,880
was Henryk Price, Felix
Kartman, and Henryk Majewski

722
00:47:00,880 --> 00:47:04,525
So they were friends of
yours who were in the ghetto?

723

00:47:04,525 --> 00:47:09,240

Those are the people who
were able to escape, hide.

724

00:47:09,240 --> 00:47:11,930

And they were able to survive.

725

00:47:11,930 --> 00:47:14,660

And they returned to
Góra Kalwaria after.

726

00:47:14,660 --> 00:47:20,030

Out of around three and a half
thousand Jewish people who

727

00:47:20,030 --> 00:47:25,070

lived in pre-war Poland,
that's what people who--

728

00:47:25,070 --> 00:47:27,550

were people who were able to--

729

00:47:27,550 --> 00:47:32,290

So did you have friends
who were in the ghetto?

730

00:47:32,290 --> 00:47:36,760

Not in my age and
not my classmates.

731

00:47:36,760 --> 00:47:45,530

But they were friends
of my friends,

732

00:47:45,530 --> 00:47:51,040

a lot of people whom I
knew because of my parents'

733

00:47:51,040 --> 00:47:53,745

acquaintance being of--

734

00:47:53,745 --> 00:47:56,235

there's very interesting story.

735

00:47:56,235 --> 00:48:03,110

One of my three or four best
friends, they live in this--

736

00:48:03,110 --> 00:48:05,400

closer to center of town.

737

00:48:05,400 --> 00:48:08,335

And they had a house
with several rooms.

738

00:48:08,335 --> 00:48:11,250

739

00:48:11,250 --> 00:48:17,250

My friends-- and his last
name is Ptak, Witold Ptak.

740

00:48:17,250 --> 00:48:18,870

How do you spell that?

741

00:48:18,870 --> 00:48:26,570

P-T-A-K, which in translation
means a bird, a bird.

742

00:48:26,570 --> 00:48:27,070

Ptak.

743

00:48:27,070 --> 00:48:28,830

And his first name was?

744

00:48:28,830 --> 00:48:30,240

His name is Witold.

745

00:48:30,240 --> 00:48:38,420

W-I-T-O-L-D, Witold.

746

00:48:38,420 --> 00:48:40,770

I was quite often visiting him.

747

00:48:40,770 --> 00:48:43,410

And one of the reasons
was that his grandma

748

00:48:43,410 --> 00:48:51,990

was doing excellent white
borscht, which is made of--

749

00:48:51,990 --> 00:48:58,150

it's like a sourdough
soup, kind of.

750

00:48:58,150 --> 00:49:01,240

I don't know how to
translate it even in English.

751

00:49:01,240 --> 00:49:08,700

It's made of the
sourdough bread, which

752

00:49:08,700 --> 00:49:13,725

was added some aging, some--

753

00:49:13,725 --> 00:49:16,700

754

00:49:16,700 --> 00:49:20,106

like you make kefir or--

755

00:49:20,106 --> 00:49:21,580

Oh, it was fermented?

756

00:49:21,580 --> 00:49:22,760

Ferment.

757

00:49:22,760 --> 00:49:24,930

Went through the
process of fermentation.

758

00:49:24,930 --> 00:49:30,530

So to get the essence of that
I was coming to their house

759

00:49:30,530 --> 00:49:35,750

and bringing empty bottle,
like one-liter bottle.

760

00:49:35,750 --> 00:49:38,360

I was paying for it
whatever was asked.

761
00:49:38,360 --> 00:49:44,210
And then it was a broth for
making soup, potatoes added.

762
00:49:44,210 --> 00:49:49,310
And one of my [INAUDIBLE]
when my mother was in school,

763
00:49:49,310 --> 00:49:50,990
I was doing the cooking.

764
00:49:50,990 --> 00:49:53,060
I was preparing dinner.

765
00:49:53,060 --> 00:49:58,100
And my mother-- and I was
six, seven, eight years old,

766
00:49:58,100 --> 00:49:59,540
but I was preparing dinner.

767
00:49:59,540 --> 00:50:02,830
My mother came from
school quite often,

768
00:50:02,830 --> 00:50:09,440
either dinner was ready or not
much left to finish the dinner.

769
00:50:09,440 --> 00:50:18,050
So my friend's uncle, which
was brother of his mother's--

770
00:50:18,050 --> 00:50:21,580
mother's brother--
he fell with--

771
00:50:21,580 --> 00:50:24,770
in love with a Jewish girl.

772
00:50:24,770 --> 00:50:28,820
At the beginning of ghetto,

when she was surrounded

773

00:50:28,820 --> 00:50:32,750
and she was forced to resettle
and live in the ghetto,

774

00:50:32,750 --> 00:50:33,770
she escaped--

775

00:50:33,770 --> 00:50:37,796
like a lot of people did,
but not high percentage.

776

00:50:37,796 --> 00:50:40,470

777

00:50:40,470 --> 00:50:43,140
And it was interesting
that people

778

00:50:43,140 --> 00:50:46,410
who were escaping from
ghetto, they either

779

00:50:46,410 --> 00:50:51,650
tried to be in countryside,
which was easier to hide,

780

00:50:51,650 --> 00:50:56,420
living with a farmer like
this gentleman, Henryk Price.

781

00:50:56,420 --> 00:50:57,620
He was adopted.

782

00:50:57,620 --> 00:51:00,470
He got a false
document and he was

783

00:51:00,470 --> 00:51:07,640
adopted by a family of farmers
who had son of similar age

784

00:51:07,640 --> 00:51:11,090
who didn't return from war.

785

00:51:11,090 --> 00:51:15,150

He was part of the Polish
army and he did not return.

786

00:51:15,150 --> 00:51:20,900

And this family
adopted Mr. Price.

787

00:51:20,900 --> 00:51:24,015

So what happened to
the uncle's girlfriend?

788

00:51:24,015 --> 00:51:27,710

789

00:51:27,710 --> 00:51:31,640

When she escaped from Góra
Kalwaria she went to another

790

00:51:31,640 --> 00:51:35,340

ghetto in a small town on
the other side of the Vistula

791

00:51:35,340 --> 00:51:35,840

River.

792

00:51:35,840 --> 00:51:38,960

There was no bridge,
so you had to be--

793

00:51:38,960 --> 00:51:42,020

there were some special
people who, for a fee,

794

00:51:42,020 --> 00:51:44,470

they took you in the small boat.

795

00:51:44,470 --> 00:51:46,010

Oh, a ferry.

796

00:51:46,010 --> 00:51:49,430

One, two person-- three people
they could fit on that ferry.

797

00:51:49,430 --> 00:51:55,220

So it was just basically like a major canoe, and a long stick.

798

00:51:55,220 --> 00:51:59,690

And that's the way they got on the other side of the river.

799

00:51:59,690 --> 00:52:01,860

The river was quite substantial.

800

00:52:01,860 --> 00:52:03,560

And you could get in troubles if you

801

00:52:03,560 --> 00:52:06,350

tried to swim through, across.

802

00:52:06,350 --> 00:52:12,110

Anyhow, so she went to another ghetto which was much more

803

00:52:12,110 --> 00:52:14,670

liberal, so to speak, much easier

804

00:52:14,670 --> 00:52:17,330

to get in and out and so on.

805

00:52:17,330 --> 00:52:23,230

And then, again, she escaped from there

806

00:52:23,230 --> 00:52:27,040

because he was able--

807

00:52:27,040 --> 00:52:31,030

he was working at the cemeteries of smaller towns.

808

00:52:31,030 --> 00:52:36,070

And he found, on the grave, a name of the Polish woman--

809

00:52:36,070 --> 00:52:39,620
and her name was Janina--

810
00:52:39,620 --> 00:52:41,570
fitting the age.

811
00:52:41,570 --> 00:52:46,640
He went to the priest and
he got falsified document

812
00:52:46,640 --> 00:52:48,020
for the name of Janina--

813
00:52:48,020 --> 00:52:49,890
I forgot the name.

814
00:52:49,890 --> 00:52:53,930
And she was under that name till
they got married, this couple.

815
00:52:53,930 --> 00:52:54,790
Wow.

816
00:52:54,790 --> 00:52:57,500
But meanwhile-- that was
not the end of the story.

817
00:52:57,500 --> 00:53:04,670
Meanwhile, she was sent
under that falsified name--

818
00:53:04,670 --> 00:53:09,560
and there was Jews not
as much as non-Jews.

819
00:53:09,560 --> 00:53:15,100
They were sent to Germany
to work on the farms

820
00:53:15,100 --> 00:53:19,510
because Germans were
short of manual--

821
00:53:19,510 --> 00:53:22,060
menial workers.

822

00:53:22,060 --> 00:53:26,950
And so a lot of Poles,
depending on the historian,

823

00:53:26,950 --> 00:53:29,320
but there are calculations--

824

00:53:29,320 --> 00:53:32,920
at least one million Poles
work on the farms in Germany

825

00:53:32,920 --> 00:53:34,420
during the war.

826

00:53:34,420 --> 00:53:37,660
And were obviously all forced.

827

00:53:37,660 --> 00:53:42,040
They were paid a little
bit, a tiny bit, given food

828

00:53:42,040 --> 00:53:42,760
and shelter.

829

00:53:42,760 --> 00:53:44,995
And many of them survive.

830

00:53:44,995 --> 00:53:50,410
And to the extent that
the family of bakers

831

00:53:50,410 --> 00:53:53,830
who own the bakery,
German, in the small town--

832

00:53:53,830 --> 00:53:57,070
they love her so
much that they--

833

00:53:57,070 --> 00:54:01,810
being older, they wanted
to give the bakery to her.

834

00:54:01,810 --> 00:54:04,330
However, she didn't
want to stay in Germany.

835
00:54:04,330 --> 00:54:07,360
She returned after the
war to Góra Kalwaria.

836
00:54:07,360 --> 00:54:11,540
And she married
my friend's uncle.

837
00:54:11,540 --> 00:54:14,590
And her name is
Salomea or Salika,

838
00:54:14,590 --> 00:54:17,390
they call her-- her real name.

839
00:54:17,390 --> 00:54:20,920
And again, I forgot
her real last name.

840
00:54:20,920 --> 00:54:23,410
But they had two children.

841
00:54:23,410 --> 00:54:24,880
They had children again.

842
00:54:24,880 --> 00:54:32,570
And my friend was baptizing--

843
00:54:32,570 --> 00:54:33,320
you know, he was--

844
00:54:33,320 --> 00:54:34,410
A godfather?

845
00:54:34,410 --> 00:54:36,350
Godfather, exactly.

846
00:54:36,350 --> 00:54:41,450
He was godfather of one of
the children of that Salika.

847

00:54:41,450 --> 00:54:46,640

So were a lot of people in your town sent to work in Germany?

848

00:54:46,640 --> 00:54:48,780

Of non-Jews?

849

00:54:48,780 --> 00:54:51,470

Surprisingly, I cannot recall many.

850

00:54:51,470 --> 00:54:54,890

But I know many others, including my cousins, which

851

00:54:54,890 --> 00:54:58,100

I visited later in Belgium.

852

00:54:58,100 --> 00:55:02,360

My cousin met her husband, who came from Belgium.

853

00:55:02,360 --> 00:55:03,780

He was of Polish descent.

854

00:55:03,780 --> 00:55:05,810

She was of Polish descent from Poland.

855

00:55:05,810 --> 00:55:09,170

They married and they settled in Belgium.

856

00:55:09,170 --> 00:55:10,400

They had two daughters.

857

00:55:10,400 --> 00:55:15,590

And I visited them after the war several times in Belgium.

858

00:55:15,590 --> 00:55:17,690

Not from our town.

859

00:55:17,690 --> 00:55:24,560

Somehow-- if they were I
was not familiar with them.

860
00:55:24,560 --> 00:55:25,610
Small percentage.

861
00:55:25,610 --> 00:55:33,900
But I've heard about many, many
others who went and returned.

862
00:55:33,900 --> 00:55:39,640
A lot of people in our
town were in hiding.

863
00:55:39,640 --> 00:55:42,310
I wouldn't say majority--
definitely not.

864
00:55:42,310 --> 00:55:47,220
But in my family, one
of my cousins was--

865
00:55:47,220 --> 00:55:50,010
most of the German occupation
he was just hiding.

866
00:55:50,010 --> 00:55:54,025
He was not at home because
if he showed at home,

867
00:55:54,025 --> 00:55:57,940
he would be either denounced or
he would be sought by police--

868
00:55:57,940 --> 00:55:58,440
Why?

869
00:55:58,440 --> 00:56:00,210
--and he would be arrested.

870
00:56:00,210 --> 00:56:02,040
Because they had records.

871
00:56:02,040 --> 00:56:07,860
Either they beat somebody,

some German, and they ran away.

872

00:56:07,860 --> 00:56:11,190
And police knew who was he--

873

00:56:11,190 --> 00:56:13,530
came home, he was gone.

874

00:56:13,530 --> 00:56:17,530
So luckily, they-- nobody got--

875

00:56:17,530 --> 00:56:22,260
Germans didn't [? kill ?] the
other members of the family.

876

00:56:22,260 --> 00:56:23,490
But he was gone.

877

00:56:23,490 --> 00:56:25,030
And he's still alive.

878

00:56:25,030 --> 00:56:26,750
He's 90-something.

879

00:56:26,750 --> 00:56:28,500
What's his name?

880

00:56:28,500 --> 00:56:33,660
His name is [Vicek Krlewski.

881

00:56:33,660 --> 00:56:37,470
He was kin to my grandma.

882

00:56:37,470 --> 00:56:42,990
My grandma was Krlewaska
from her maiden name,

883

00:56:42,990 --> 00:56:44,048
before she got married.

884

00:56:44,048 --> 00:56:45,340
How do you spell his last name?

885

00:56:45,340 --> 00:56:46,470
Krawlewska.

886
00:56:46,470 --> 00:56:58,070
K-R-A-L-E-W-S-K-A, Kralewska.

887
00:56:58,070 --> 00:56:59,420
Zuzanna.

888
00:56:59,420 --> 00:57:06,590
Z-U-Z-A-N-N-A, Zuzanna.

889
00:57:06,590 --> 00:57:08,460
So that was your
grandmother, was Zuzanna?

890
00:57:08,460 --> 00:57:09,440
Grandmother.

891
00:57:09,440 --> 00:57:10,700
What, on your--

892
00:57:10,700 --> 00:57:13,810
My father's mother.

893
00:57:13,810 --> 00:57:17,330
So we haven't talked about
your father very much.

894
00:57:17,330 --> 00:57:18,470
That's right.

895
00:57:18,470 --> 00:57:22,250
So my father was
arrested in Warsaw.

896
00:57:22,250 --> 00:57:23,175
And miraculously--

897
00:57:23,175 --> 00:57:25,510
But before that, he--

898
00:57:25,510 --> 00:57:27,390
so that was in 1943

that he was arrested.

899

00:57:27,390 --> 00:57:27,890

Yes.

900

00:57:27,890 --> 00:57:31,310

But before that,
what was he doing

901

00:57:31,310 --> 00:57:33,020

during beginning of the war?

902

00:57:33,020 --> 00:57:36,710

He was traveling between
Warsaw and Góra Kalwaria.

903

00:57:36,710 --> 00:57:41,240

But then, more and more,
he was staying in Warsaw

904

00:57:41,240 --> 00:57:43,070

because he's--

905

00:57:43,070 --> 00:57:50,600

what trading he was doing
involved presence of big--

906

00:57:50,600 --> 00:57:52,465

like a farmer's
market in Warsaw.

907

00:57:52,465 --> 00:57:55,130

908

00:57:55,130 --> 00:57:58,190

Góra Kalwaria had farmer's
market where farmers were

909

00:57:58,190 --> 00:58:09,120

coming once a week with their
horse-pulled car full of goods

910

00:58:09,120 --> 00:58:10,800

which they grew.

911

00:58:10,800 --> 00:58:14,120

Warsaw had market, but
it was less farmers,

912

00:58:14,120 --> 00:58:19,410

but more middlemen and woman.

913

00:58:19,410 --> 00:58:23,490

And we could get a lot
of interesting things

914

00:58:23,490 --> 00:58:26,640

that not everything was exposed.

915

00:58:26,640 --> 00:58:28,440

There are certain
things which are shown

916

00:58:28,440 --> 00:58:32,380

and other things which were the
behind counter or underneath.

917

00:58:32,380 --> 00:58:35,100

Only when you struck
a conversation.

918

00:58:35,100 --> 00:58:38,880

And since people got
familiar with you,

919

00:58:38,880 --> 00:58:43,590

they had some level of
trust that they tell you,

920

00:58:43,590 --> 00:58:45,857

you know, I have this
yet, I have that yet.

921

00:58:45,857 --> 00:58:46,440

I have other--

922

00:58:46,440 --> 00:58:48,220

And those were
contraband materials,

923

00:58:48,220 --> 00:58:50,580
or black market kind of things?

924

00:58:50,580 --> 00:58:52,950
Definitely materials
which Germans didn't

925

00:58:52,950 --> 00:58:56,004
allow, including cold cuts.

926

00:58:56,004 --> 00:58:57,780
Really?

927

00:58:57,780 --> 00:59:00,210
Unfortunately, there
were not refrigerations.

928

00:59:00,210 --> 00:59:03,720
So you can imagine, they
have to be fresh and sold.

929

00:59:03,720 --> 00:59:05,700
They couldn't take them outside.

930

00:59:05,700 --> 00:59:08,670
So by the end of day
they were selling

931

00:59:08,670 --> 00:59:10,830
for less and less and less.

932

00:59:10,830 --> 00:59:15,880
Also, you could bargain.

933

00:59:15,880 --> 00:59:18,160
You could--

934

00:59:18,160 --> 00:59:19,420
Barter.

935

00:59:19,420 --> 00:59:20,590
Not only-- no, no.

936

00:59:20,590 --> 00:59:29,820
I'm talking about in selling
and in Mid-Eastern markets,

937
00:59:29,820 --> 00:59:35,910
if this salesperson
sells at nominal price

938
00:59:35,910 --> 00:59:37,830
they are not fully
satisfied, although they

939
00:59:37,830 --> 00:59:39,060
got fully amount of money.

940
00:59:39,060 --> 00:59:40,393
You mean like haggle for things.

941
00:59:40,393 --> 00:59:41,850
Haggle is the word.

942
00:59:41,850 --> 00:59:42,960
You need to haggle.

943
00:59:42,960 --> 00:59:46,110
And the more you haggle,
you know one another better.

944
00:59:46,110 --> 00:59:50,880
And there is a satisfaction
for both sides involved.

945
00:59:50,880 --> 00:59:56,880
There is a more pleasant
feeling about the transaction

946
00:59:56,880 --> 00:59:57,895
when you haggle.

947
00:59:57,895 --> 00:59:58,395
Yeah.

948
00:59:58,395 --> 01:00:00,187
So it feels like it's
earned on some level.

949

01:00:00,187 --> 01:00:02,600

If you just pay what
you are asked for it's--

950

01:00:02,600 --> 01:00:06,780

you don't get much respect
from the salesperson.

951

01:00:06,780 --> 01:00:12,090

That's the psychology of
especially small town, village.

952

01:00:12,090 --> 01:00:14,850

So your father was acting as
one of these middle people

953

01:00:14,850 --> 01:00:15,960

of selling things?

954

01:00:15,960 --> 01:00:19,050

He was middle people because
he didn't produce anything.

955

01:00:19,050 --> 01:00:20,460

He was buying and selling.

956

01:00:20,460 --> 01:00:23,740

But you need to know where
to buy, at what price.

957

01:00:23,740 --> 01:00:26,070

You need to know
where to go and sell.

958

01:00:26,070 --> 01:00:30,000

And you buy through your
own trusted channels

959

01:00:30,000 --> 01:00:32,060

and you sell where
it's a lot of people.

960

01:00:32,060 --> 01:00:35,640

And you, again, establish

certain relationship.

961

01:00:35,640 --> 01:00:40,740
You sell certain items to
strangers, maybe most of them.

962

01:00:40,740 --> 01:00:44,760
But you have your own
customers who know you, come.

963

01:00:44,760 --> 01:00:48,582
And you are always
standing in the same place.

964

01:00:48,582 --> 01:00:50,910
Or it is the same area.

965

01:00:50,910 --> 01:00:53,610
And people recognize one
another, and they wave.

966

01:00:53,610 --> 01:00:55,710
And they go,
sometimes, to decide--

967

01:00:55,710 --> 01:00:58,380
they don't do transaction
when everybody

968

01:00:58,380 --> 01:01:00,222
is looking at their hands.

969

01:01:00,222 --> 01:01:00,930
Well, that's an--

970

01:01:00,930 --> 01:01:02,730
So there's the whole culture.

971

01:01:02,730 --> 01:01:05,890
That's an occupational shift
for your father, right?

972

01:01:05,890 --> 01:01:06,390
Absolutely.

973

01:01:06,390 --> 01:01:07,440
Because he was an accountant.

974

01:01:07,440 --> 01:01:07,845
Absolutely.

975

01:01:07,845 --> 01:01:09,012
And then he moved into this.

976

01:01:09,012 --> 01:01:10,620
Why did he switch?

977

01:01:10,620 --> 01:01:15,120
Because the pay-- couldn't get
a job at the very beginning.

978

01:01:15,120 --> 01:01:17,160
Pay was poor.

979

01:01:17,160 --> 01:01:19,750
And you could be
much better off.

980

01:01:19,750 --> 01:01:27,670
And later, as I
learn, my father--

981

01:01:27,670 --> 01:01:28,900
and those are--

982

01:01:28,900 --> 01:01:32,350
I don't have 100%
proof, but I think

983

01:01:32,350 --> 01:01:37,330
my father was renting
room from some people,

984

01:01:37,330 --> 01:01:40,370
and then, I think, from a lady.

985

01:01:40,370 --> 01:01:44,350
And there could have
been some relationship

986

01:01:44,350 --> 01:01:49,580

there which he was obviously
hiding from my mother.

987

01:01:49,580 --> 01:01:55,990

My mother-- you know, women have
this instinct and can sense.

988

01:01:55,990 --> 01:01:58,118

However, we did not have proof.

989

01:01:58,118 --> 01:01:59,910

So this was in Warsaw
that he was renting--

990

01:01:59,910 --> 01:02:02,440

It was Warsaw itself.

991

01:02:02,440 --> 01:02:08,670

So when he was arrested, barely
anybody in our small town knew.

992

01:02:08,670 --> 01:02:14,040

Only-- that he was arrested,
because he was not often coming

993

01:02:14,040 --> 01:02:14,910

to Góra Kalwaria.

994

01:02:14,910 --> 01:02:17,340

So he was not coming
for longer time.

995

01:02:17,340 --> 01:02:19,470

He was arrested,
sent to Auschwitz.

996

01:02:19,470 --> 01:02:22,200

And people didn't
know about that.

997

01:02:22,200 --> 01:02:25,980

Only closest, trusted
people knew about that.

998

01:02:25,980 --> 01:02:28,900

We didn't broadcast it.

999

01:02:28,900 --> 01:02:33,110

We didn't spread
that information.

1000

01:02:33,110 --> 01:02:36,520

Obviously, his mother, his
sisters knew about that.

1001

01:02:36,520 --> 01:02:40,060

And they, again, didn't
talk to anybody about that

1002

01:02:40,060 --> 01:02:42,770

because it was nobody's
interest to talk about that.

1003

01:02:42,770 --> 01:02:43,350

Right.

1004

01:02:43,350 --> 01:02:45,130

It was too many questions.

1005

01:02:45,130 --> 01:02:49,720

People were asking
so and so and so on.

1006

01:02:49,720 --> 01:02:54,130

Avoid unnecessary
lying or making

1007

01:02:54,130 --> 01:02:57,370

stories, people rather
avoiding subjects.

1008

01:02:57,370 --> 01:02:59,560

So why was he arrested?

1009

01:02:59,560 --> 01:03:03,580

That's a big mystery which
is mystery to me till today.

1010

01:03:03,580 --> 01:03:07,020

I do not have 100%
proof, but there

1011

01:03:07,020 --> 01:03:10,230

are hypotheses which were
my mother's hypotheses.

1012

01:03:10,230 --> 01:03:17,840

And since my mother died
thirty three years ago,

1013

01:03:17,840 --> 01:03:20,810

they are my hypotheses.

1014

01:03:20,810 --> 01:03:25,790

And I never met anybody
who really knew my father

1015

01:03:25,790 --> 01:03:29,360

in Warsaw who would get the--

1016

01:03:29,360 --> 01:03:31,222

from the first hand.

1017

01:03:31,222 --> 01:03:32,930

And your father wouldn't
tell you either?

1018

01:03:32,930 --> 01:03:35,150

My father had
different theories.

1019

01:03:35,150 --> 01:03:37,220

And he was avoiding the subject.

1020

01:03:37,220 --> 01:03:42,260

And besides, in 1946
my parents divorced.

1021

01:03:42,260 --> 01:03:46,640

So my father changed
the location.

1022

01:03:46,640 --> 01:03:52,700
He moved to so-called regained territories from Germany.

1023
01:03:52,700 --> 01:03:56,500
He started a new family in [PLACE NAME]..

1024
01:03:56,500 --> 01:03:59,760

1025
01:03:59,760 --> 01:04:02,210
He had two children there.

1026
01:04:02,210 --> 01:04:09,230
And I maintained very loose relationship to the extent

1027
01:04:09,230 --> 01:04:11,660
that when I immigrated--

1028
01:04:11,660 --> 01:04:15,080
I left Poland in 1970.

1029
01:04:15,080 --> 01:04:17,930
And he died in 1983.

1030
01:04:17,930 --> 01:04:19,970
My mother died 1985.

1031
01:04:19,970 --> 01:04:23,630
My mother died in my home in United States.

1032
01:04:23,630 --> 01:04:30,800
My father died in Poland, 1983, in a town called [PLACE NAME]..

1033
01:04:30,800 --> 01:04:34,550
And I was on his grave.

1034
01:04:34,550 --> 01:04:37,730
However, I didn't maintain the relationship

1035

01:04:37,730 --> 01:04:41,130
with his new family.

1036

01:04:41,130 --> 01:04:45,240
So he was sent to
Auschwitz immediately,

1037

01:04:45,240 --> 01:04:46,620
or was he imprisoned in Warsaw?

1038

01:04:46,620 --> 01:04:52,320
First he was tortured in
Warsaw special headquarters

1039

01:04:52,320 --> 01:04:57,450
where they specialized
in torturing prisoners

1040

01:04:57,450 --> 01:05:02,400
to get the information about
the co-workers, what he knew

1041

01:05:02,400 --> 01:05:04,220
about underground movement.

1042

01:05:04,220 --> 01:05:07,690
They didn't get much
because he didn't know much.

1043

01:05:07,690 --> 01:05:11,970
The underground movement in
Góra Kalwaria didn't accept

1044

01:05:11,970 --> 01:05:12,870
my father.

1045

01:05:12,870 --> 01:05:14,520
He did apply for it.

1046

01:05:14,520 --> 01:05:17,190
And my mother would be--

1047

01:05:17,190 --> 01:05:22,100
wouldn't agree for that

because he was traveling a lot

1048

01:05:22,100 --> 01:05:25,470
and he was talkative.

1049

01:05:25,470 --> 01:05:27,870
And he might not
keep the secrets.

1050

01:05:27,870 --> 01:05:31,290
In underground movement most
of the people who were members,

1051

01:05:31,290 --> 01:05:36,230
they knew only
pseudonyms of one another

1052

01:05:36,230 --> 01:05:39,650
unless they knew
themselves from before.

1053

01:05:39,650 --> 01:05:45,200
But that was rather recommended
that you work together

1054

01:05:45,200 --> 01:05:50,540
with people who you didn't
know before and use pseudonyms

1055

01:05:50,540 --> 01:05:53,060
which were different
from your real names.

1056

01:05:53,060 --> 01:05:56,570
In the case you are
arrested, you are beaten,

1057

01:05:56,570 --> 01:05:59,850
tortured, you couldn't
say if you didn't know.

1058

01:05:59,850 --> 01:06:00,350
Right.

1059

01:06:00,350 --> 01:06:01,820

Did your mother
have a pseudonym?

1060
01:06:01,820 --> 01:06:03,200
My mother had a pseudonym.

1061
01:06:03,200 --> 01:06:04,340
Everything is written.

1062
01:06:04,340 --> 01:06:06,570
I have books
describing [INAUDIBLE]

1063
01:06:06,570 --> 01:06:11,510
by a historian who wrote a
book, Heroes of Two Towns.

1064
01:06:11,510 --> 01:06:14,860
And it describes
especially one--

1065
01:06:14,860 --> 01:06:18,060
it's in Polish.

1066
01:06:18,060 --> 01:06:22,820
[POLISH] in Polish, in original.

1067
01:06:22,820 --> 01:06:25,670
And yes, she did.

1068
01:06:25,670 --> 01:06:40,080
And so after the removal of
the ghetto from Góra Kalwaria,

1069
01:06:40,080 --> 01:06:43,410
as you can imagine, a
lot of real estate left.

1070
01:06:43,410 --> 01:06:45,970
There are 3,000
people very crowded.

1071
01:06:45,970 --> 01:06:50,100
But it was a lot
of empty housing

1072
01:06:50,100 --> 01:06:53,430
which Germans didn't care,
because they were not

1073
01:06:53,430 --> 01:06:55,920
especially high quality housing.

1074
01:06:55,920 --> 01:06:58,020
They are not office buildings.

1075
01:06:58,020 --> 01:07:01,050
They did confiscate my school.

1076
01:07:01,050 --> 01:07:04,780
And they keeping their hospital.

1077
01:07:04,780 --> 01:07:06,930
They keeping, for
a certain time,

1078
01:07:06,930 --> 01:07:12,560
school for German
children, families,

1079
01:07:12,560 --> 01:07:16,440
German officials
who were in town.

1080
01:07:16,440 --> 01:07:20,550
And then there was a hospital
for the German prisoners

1081
01:07:20,550 --> 01:07:22,610
who were returning
from Eastern Front.

1082
01:07:22,610 --> 01:07:27,390
And I vividly remember when
they were getting out the train

1083
01:07:27,390 --> 01:07:29,730
and then walk through
the town, and how

1084

01:07:29,730 --> 01:07:36,090
they were wrapped around up to,
sometime, barely their noses

1085

01:07:36,090 --> 01:07:38,510
were sticking from
the bandages around.

1086

01:07:38,510 --> 01:07:43,020
Those were people who were--
the soldiers who were returning

1087

01:07:43,020 --> 01:07:47,120
from Stalingrad,
when Germans were--

1088

01:07:47,120 --> 01:07:50,210
Russians defended themself.

1089

01:07:50,210 --> 01:07:52,600
And then it was the--

1090

01:07:52,600 --> 01:07:58,220
from the defense mode
they started to press.

1091

01:07:58,220 --> 01:07:59,750
And there was full winter.

1092

01:07:59,750 --> 01:08:06,350
Germans absolutely unprepared to
survive Russian, Siberian type

1093

01:08:06,350 --> 01:08:07,130
of the weather.

1094

01:08:07,130 --> 01:08:11,420
And many of them they
lost parts of the body--

1095

01:08:11,420 --> 01:08:14,350
noses, ears.

1096

01:08:14,350 --> 01:08:17,270

They were all wrapped
around when they were

1097
01:08:17,270 --> 01:08:21,229
coming for the convalescent--

1098
01:08:21,229 --> 01:08:23,910

1099
01:08:23,910 --> 01:08:25,770
for recovery.

1100
01:08:25,770 --> 01:08:28,649
There was a military
hospital there

1101
01:08:28,649 --> 01:08:30,475
when they were staying
for a couple months.

1102
01:08:30,475 --> 01:08:32,808
And they were going
back to Germany,

1103
01:08:32,808 --> 01:08:34,350
because they were
not-- many of them,

1104
01:08:34,350 --> 01:08:36,990
they're not capable
to fight anymore.

1105
01:08:36,990 --> 01:08:41,160
And they had huge
shortage of manpower

1106
01:08:41,160 --> 01:08:44,380
by the end of the year.

1107
01:08:44,380 --> 01:08:47,830
So there were German families
living in Góra Kalwaria?

1108
01:08:47,830 --> 01:08:48,330
Yes.

1109
01:08:48,330 --> 01:08:49,760
But they were all implants.

1110
01:08:49,760 --> 01:08:52,580
There were few
German families who--

1111
01:08:52,580 --> 01:08:53,399
Are native.

1112
01:08:53,399 --> 01:08:54,450
--who are native.

1113
01:08:54,450 --> 01:08:59,340
And most often, they
were cooperation--

1114
01:08:59,340 --> 01:09:01,380
they knew German language.

1115
01:09:01,380 --> 01:09:05,520
And they are cooperating
with authorities.

1116
01:09:05,520 --> 01:09:09,630
But Polish underground
movement's task

1117
01:09:09,630 --> 01:09:18,149
was to watch, monitor,
and eventually execute

1118
01:09:18,149 --> 01:09:19,890
these traitors.

1119
01:09:19,890 --> 01:09:24,840
And one of these German,
his name is Müller.

1120
01:09:24,840 --> 01:09:27,270
He was killed by
underground movement.

1121

01:09:27,270 --> 01:09:30,450
And there was one incident
when, in the school,

1122
01:09:30,450 --> 01:09:37,229
when I was attending, one
boy came and he was crying,

1123
01:09:37,229 --> 01:09:41,149
saying that Germans
killed his older brother.

1124
01:09:41,149 --> 01:09:45,490
It was quite an age difference.

1125
01:09:45,490 --> 01:09:53,640
I knew it from my person who was
temporarily living in my house.

1126
01:09:53,640 --> 01:09:59,300
And they had these conferences
and training sessions

1127
01:09:59,300 --> 01:10:01,360
after curfew.

1128
01:10:01,360 --> 01:10:02,060
In your house.

1129
01:10:02,060 --> 01:10:03,710
In my house.

1130
01:10:03,710 --> 01:10:06,110
So it was part of the
activities of my mother.

1131
01:10:06,110 --> 01:10:08,240
She allowed her
house to be place

1132
01:10:08,240 --> 01:10:15,290
when fighters, underground
movement fighters were

1133
01:10:15,290 --> 01:10:20,180

training, exchanging
information, getting commands

1134
01:10:20,180 --> 01:10:20,780
to do.

1135
01:10:20,780 --> 01:10:23,720
And there was
execution squad came.

1136
01:10:23,720 --> 01:10:27,350
And it was reporting
to this gentleman--

1137
01:10:27,350 --> 01:10:31,890
his name was Jan Zawada
It's written in that book--

1138
01:10:31,890 --> 01:10:33,680
his pseudonym was.

1139
01:10:33,680 --> 01:10:39,620
And he was pre-war officer
which lived under pseudonym Jan

1140
01:10:39,620 --> 01:10:42,830
Zavada But his name was
[? Martoschewski-- ?]

1141
01:10:42,830 --> 01:10:44,030
real name.

1142
01:10:44,030 --> 01:10:48,530
And they were reporting that
they killed two traitors.

1143
01:10:48,530 --> 01:10:52,860
And they left a short
note on the chest--

1144
01:10:52,860 --> 01:10:56,360
this is a traitor
who was warned twice.

1145
01:10:56,360 --> 01:11:01,250

And by underground
court decisions

1146
01:11:01,250 --> 01:11:10,450
he was executed by AK,
which was underground army.

1147
01:11:10,450 --> 01:11:13,910
So this boy was crying,
telling his colleagues

1148
01:11:13,910 --> 01:11:18,920
that his younger brother-- older
brother was killed by Germans.

1149
01:11:18,920 --> 01:11:20,090
And that was not true.

1150
01:11:20,090 --> 01:11:21,890
I knew the truth.

1151
01:11:21,890 --> 01:11:24,290
He was killed because
he was traitor.

1152
01:11:24,290 --> 01:11:28,940
But obviously, was not interests
of the boy to tell the truth.

1153
01:11:28,940 --> 01:11:38,720
So a lot of stories which you
hear and you read not always

1154
01:11:38,720 --> 01:11:44,690
were truth, because for
whatever reasons people

1155
01:11:44,690 --> 01:11:47,630
were hiding the real reasons.

1156
01:11:47,630 --> 01:11:50,930
And I saw it again
and again and again.

1157
01:11:50,930 --> 01:11:53,930

And it was in all the religions.

1158

01:11:53,930 --> 01:11:56,420
Doesn't matter-- age.

1159

01:11:56,420 --> 01:12:02,090
For different reasons people are
having second mask, second face

1160

01:12:02,090 --> 01:12:03,110
to survive.

1161

01:12:03,110 --> 01:12:06,860
And there were
different motives.

1162

01:12:06,860 --> 01:12:09,410
But there was a
fight for survival.

1163

01:12:09,410 --> 01:12:11,780
First was life, to safe.

1164

01:12:11,780 --> 01:12:14,740
And second was to get food.

1165

01:12:14,740 --> 01:12:19,145
So the trainings that were
hosted at your mother's house--

1166

01:12:19,145 --> 01:12:20,020
do you remember that?

1167

01:12:20,020 --> 01:12:20,890
And do you remember--

1168

01:12:20,890 --> 01:12:21,170
Absolutely.

1169

01:12:21,170 --> 01:12:22,878
--what kind of trainings
they were doing?

1170

01:12:22,878 --> 01:12:26,040

Quite often doors were closed.

1171
01:12:26,040 --> 01:12:32,100
And my bed was literally
one yard from the door.

1172
01:12:32,100 --> 01:12:34,080
Door was thin.

1173
01:12:34,080 --> 01:12:36,420
And they were talking
regular voice.

1174
01:12:36,420 --> 01:12:41,310
Besides, there was a keyhole
which I could see through.

1175
01:12:41,310 --> 01:12:43,830
And I-- many of the
voices I recognized

1176
01:12:43,830 --> 01:12:47,040
because they happened to be
parents of my colleagues,

1177
01:12:47,040 --> 01:12:48,360
or friends.

1178
01:12:48,360 --> 01:12:50,210
They're coming to my house.

1179
01:12:50,210 --> 01:12:56,850
And they were training,
including this execution team.

1180
01:12:56,850 --> 01:12:59,800
Do you remember
any of their names?

1181
01:12:59,800 --> 01:13:01,810
Of the-- oh, I do
remember all of them.

1182
01:13:01,810 --> 01:13:02,500
All of them.

1183
01:13:02,500 --> 01:13:07,126
All of them, because they died.

1184
01:13:07,126 --> 01:13:07,930
All of them.

1185
01:13:07,930 --> 01:13:09,850
There were tens of names.

1186
01:13:09,850 --> 01:13:13,900
I could-- and I
remember many of them

1187
01:13:13,900 --> 01:13:16,680
because I knew the voices,
because I was in their houses

1188
01:13:16,680 --> 01:13:18,400
and they were parents.

1189
01:13:18,400 --> 01:13:20,830
Or they were just acquaintances.

1190
01:13:20,830 --> 01:13:23,380
So if I didn't hear
first time, when

1191
01:13:23,380 --> 01:13:26,440
I could recognize the
voice through the keyhole,

1192
01:13:26,440 --> 01:13:29,150
I could see who was there.

1193
01:13:29,150 --> 01:13:29,860
And I knew.

1194
01:13:29,860 --> 01:13:33,790
And so I knew where
are the places where

1195
01:13:33,790 --> 01:13:39,200
the hidden maps were for the

manual for training officers.

1196

01:13:39,200 --> 01:13:41,390

So they hid things in
your house, as well?

1197

01:13:41,390 --> 01:13:43,050

In my house.

1198

01:13:43,050 --> 01:13:43,550

There was--

1199

01:13:43,550 --> 01:13:44,050

Where?

1200

01:13:44,050 --> 01:13:46,490

--at least one
dozen of the places.

1201

01:13:46,490 --> 01:13:50,440

Usual-- we have two small
attics on our level, which

1202

01:13:50,440 --> 01:13:52,275

was like roof coming down.

1203

01:13:52,275 --> 01:13:52,900

It was A-frame.

1204

01:13:52,900 --> 01:13:54,460

And there were doors.

1205

01:13:54,460 --> 01:13:55,120

A-frame.

1206

01:13:55,120 --> 01:13:57,370

And then was main
attic, and there

1207

01:13:57,370 --> 01:13:58,960

was entrance from the kitchen.

1208

01:13:58,960 --> 01:14:01,480

You had to have a ladder,

enter in the attic.

1209

01:14:01,480 --> 01:14:04,540

In the attic-- and is
this related to the radio

1210

01:14:04,540 --> 01:14:05,750

transmission--

1211

01:14:05,750 --> 01:14:12,940

there was a metal wire spread
between the rafters, one

1212

01:14:12,940 --> 01:14:15,800

to another-- one very dense.

1213

01:14:15,800 --> 01:14:27,220

And they were wrapped
with the fabric.

1214

01:14:27,220 --> 01:14:33,760

They pretending to be
for drying clothing,

1215

01:14:33,760 --> 01:14:37,090

the ropes for drying clothing.

1216

01:14:37,090 --> 01:14:40,240

However, they were not
used for that purpose.

1217

01:14:40,240 --> 01:14:42,760

They were used as antenna.

1218

01:14:42,760 --> 01:14:47,050

So that end of that
wire went into the wall

1219

01:14:47,050 --> 01:14:50,770

down to my kitchen
and then came out

1220

01:14:50,770 --> 01:14:54,430

in the form of power socket.

1221
01:14:54,430 --> 01:14:57,730
But if you plugged the--

1222
01:14:57,730 --> 01:15:02,470
your whatever, hairbrush or--

1223
01:15:02,470 --> 01:15:05,836

1224
01:15:05,836 --> 01:15:08,650
you couldn't get any power there
because there was no power.

1225
01:15:08,650 --> 01:15:10,060

1226
01:15:10,060 --> 01:15:14,080
This transmitter was connected
when this crew was coming.

1227
01:15:14,080 --> 01:15:15,700
They had the plug.

1228
01:15:15,700 --> 01:15:17,560
And they will plug
it in that one outlet

1229
01:15:17,560 --> 01:15:21,910
in entire house which they
already knew and I knew

1230
01:15:21,910 --> 01:15:23,490
is not for power.

1231
01:15:23,490 --> 01:15:26,030

1232
01:15:26,030 --> 01:15:28,900
That was one of the reasons
why coming to our house,

1233
01:15:28,900 --> 01:15:30,240
because antenna--

1234

01:15:30,240 --> 01:15:32,170

they will have to
spread antenna outside.

1235

01:15:32,170 --> 01:15:35,110

Antenna was already
in the house, hidden,

1236

01:15:35,110 --> 01:15:37,330

ready to be used
whenever somebody

1237

01:15:37,330 --> 01:15:41,770

came and knew that one outlet
is the entry to the antenna.

1238

01:15:41,770 --> 01:15:46,010

So you can plug in and
be connected and transmit

1239

01:15:46,010 --> 01:15:49,690

to London, or
received from London.

1240

01:15:49,690 --> 01:15:52,270

It seems like such a
risk for your mother.

1241

01:15:52,270 --> 01:15:53,230

Huge.

1242

01:15:53,230 --> 01:15:53,730

Huge risk.

1243

01:15:53,730 --> 01:15:55,510

Did she ever give
you any explanation

1244

01:15:55,510 --> 01:15:59,980

of why she saw the
risk as worth it?

1245

01:15:59,980 --> 01:16:03,700

My mother, from as
far as I can recall--

1246
01:16:03,700 --> 01:16:07,780
and then in reflection
after the years--

1247
01:16:07,780 --> 01:16:13,570
was what you would call
today human rights activist.

1248
01:16:13,570 --> 01:16:20,670
She very strongly believed
in social justice, fairness.

1249
01:16:20,670 --> 01:16:22,920
And she was a real patriot.

1250
01:16:22,920 --> 01:16:27,050
She wanted to help the country.

1251
01:16:27,050 --> 01:16:31,150
We already had huge sacrifice
by having our father not

1252
01:16:31,150 --> 01:16:35,210
to be supporting family
anymore, being tortured.

1253
01:16:35,210 --> 01:16:38,430
And certain point we stopped
to get letters from him.

1254
01:16:38,430 --> 01:16:41,210
We believed that he died.

1255
01:16:41,210 --> 01:16:45,770
So when he showed up in 1945,
was a huge surprise for us,

1256
01:16:45,770 --> 01:16:48,410
because there was no
communication, no letter.

1257
01:16:48,410 --> 01:16:49,970
We didn't expect at all.

1258

01:16:49,970 --> 01:16:55,050

Basically, everybody-- we
buried him and say, end.

1259

01:16:55,050 --> 01:16:58,070

And then when he show
up we were shocked.

1260

01:16:58,070 --> 01:17:00,690

Did you have an actual
funeral for him at one point?

1261

01:17:00,690 --> 01:17:01,190

No.

1262

01:17:01,190 --> 01:17:02,720

No, but it was the--

1263

01:17:02,720 --> 01:17:03,560

Just assumed.

1264

01:17:03,560 --> 01:17:06,980

Since we didn't know anything,
was nobody-- nothing done.

1265

01:17:06,980 --> 01:17:11,630

But it was like, everybody
and our friends--

1266

01:17:11,630 --> 01:17:15,770

and at that time we were talking
a little more about that.

1267

01:17:15,770 --> 01:17:21,380

But still, till today I talk
to several of my friends

1268

01:17:21,380 --> 01:17:23,810

who survive, obviously.

1269

01:17:23,810 --> 01:17:27,734

They didn't know that my father
was arrested and in Auschwitz.

1270

01:17:27,734 --> 01:17:30,600

1271

01:17:30,600 --> 01:17:33,930

So back to the
training that they did,

1272

01:17:33,930 --> 01:17:37,440

what kind of training activities
were they doing in the house?

1273

01:17:37,440 --> 01:17:42,660

So the training was to pass
exams for the officers--

1274

01:17:42,660 --> 01:17:48,450

how to set up traps, how to
put dynamite on the railroad

1275

01:17:48,450 --> 01:17:55,340

tracks to explode at the
time when German train

1276

01:17:55,340 --> 01:17:59,280

with German soldiers or
tanks or whatever going

1277

01:17:59,280 --> 01:18:00,930

East, towards Eastern Front.

1278

01:18:00,930 --> 01:18:04,450

1279

01:18:04,450 --> 01:18:07,500

Trains in our town were a very--

1280

01:18:07,500 --> 01:18:10,170

were narrow gauge.

1281

01:18:10,170 --> 01:18:14,330

And it was going to Warsaw and
then to another town, Grójec.

1282

01:18:14,330 --> 01:18:16,160

So it was relatively--

1283

01:18:16,160 --> 01:18:20,290
like, 20 miles one direction,
20 miles other direction.

1284

01:18:20,290 --> 01:18:24,240
It was very local, not connected
with the regular gauge,

1285

01:18:24,240 --> 01:18:25,710
normal trains.

1286

01:18:25,710 --> 01:18:27,750
But there were trains
not far from us.

1287

01:18:27,750 --> 01:18:30,870
And this unit which
was training there--

1288

01:18:30,870 --> 01:18:34,700
they were going different
places, having different tasks,

1289

01:18:34,700 --> 01:18:36,300
including--

1290

01:18:36,300 --> 01:18:39,780
I was witnessing the
report which they

1291

01:18:39,780 --> 01:18:43,740
had a task in nearby forest.

1292

01:18:43,740 --> 01:18:47,100
There was a big
opening which could

1293

01:18:47,100 --> 01:18:54,000
have been turned into the
grass field runway for planes

1294

01:18:54,000 --> 01:19:01,770
with the big tires which they
were able to land and takeoff

1295
01:19:01,770 --> 01:19:03,540
in the middle of the night.

1296
01:19:03,540 --> 01:19:05,630
So their task was on the--

1297
01:19:05,630 --> 01:19:07,320
it was a big forest.

1298
01:19:07,320 --> 01:19:09,900
On the outskirts of
the forest these units

1299
01:19:09,900 --> 01:19:13,550
were guarding where
the Germans are nearby

1300
01:19:13,550 --> 01:19:17,550
The other units were starting
the bonfires on two ends,

1301
01:19:17,550 --> 01:19:19,575
beginning and end of the runway.

1302
01:19:19,575 --> 01:19:23,790

1303
01:19:23,790 --> 01:19:29,280
And these planes coming
from either Italy

1304
01:19:29,280 --> 01:19:34,680
or some other basis of Western--

1305
01:19:34,680 --> 01:19:35,700
Of the Allies?

1306
01:19:35,700 --> 01:19:36,960
Allies.

1307
01:19:36,960 --> 01:19:40,950
And they were bringing
goods, money, and people

1308

01:19:40,950 --> 01:19:43,910
and taking off, also, people.

1309

01:19:43,910 --> 01:19:44,410
Wow.

1310

01:19:44,410 --> 01:19:50,690
This way-- I'm not sure
whether it was that airfield.

1311

01:19:50,690 --> 01:19:57,910
A gentleman whose name
was Jan Karski who

1312

01:19:57,910 --> 01:20:02,260
visited two concentration
camps and then

1313

01:20:02,260 --> 01:20:09,450
was sent as emissary to England
and he visited President

1314

01:20:09,450 --> 01:20:15,150
Roosevelt-- and he gave eye
witness testimonials what's

1315

01:20:15,150 --> 01:20:18,510
happening in the
concentration camps.

1316

01:20:18,510 --> 01:20:21,420
And Polish government
in exile was

1317

01:20:21,420 --> 01:20:25,530
begging both leaders,
Churchill and Roosevelt,

1318

01:20:25,530 --> 01:20:29,460
to bomb the tracks leading--

1319

01:20:29,460 --> 01:20:32,280
railroad tracks leading
to concentration camps.

1320

01:20:32,280 --> 01:20:34,290

Unfortunately, it
did not happen.

1321

01:20:34,290 --> 01:20:35,315

And this is history.

1322

01:20:35,315 --> 01:20:39,340

1323

01:20:39,340 --> 01:20:41,820

There are people who are
studying this subject.

1324

01:20:41,820 --> 01:20:44,160

I have my own opinion.

1325

01:20:44,160 --> 01:20:48,750

But this is my own
opinion and doesn't count.

1326

01:20:48,750 --> 01:20:55,560

But the historians should
explain why this information

1327

01:20:55,560 --> 01:21:00,180

was ignored by both leaders.

1328

01:21:00,180 --> 01:21:02,460

So the people who were
training in your house

1329

01:21:02,460 --> 01:21:04,500

and were part of this
underground movement--

1330

01:21:04,500 --> 01:21:05,970

can you go ahead
and tell me some

1331

01:21:05,970 --> 01:21:07,140

of those names of those people?

1332

01:21:07,140 --> 01:21:07,650

Yes.

1333

01:21:07,650 --> 01:21:08,610

Yes.

1334

01:21:08,610 --> 01:21:12,960

There was a father of
my friend Witold Ptak.

1335

01:21:12,960 --> 01:21:15,840

His name was-- first name--

1336

01:21:15,840 --> 01:21:24,491

1337

01:21:24,491 --> 01:21:27,570

no, I cannot recall it now.

1338

01:21:27,570 --> 01:21:28,904

It's 75 years--

1339

01:21:28,904 --> 01:21:29,404

Sure.

1340

01:21:29,404 --> 01:21:29,904

[LAUGHTER]

1341

01:21:29,904 --> 01:21:31,020

Well, who else?

1342

01:21:31,020 --> 01:21:33,420

--ago.

1343

01:21:33,420 --> 01:21:36,360

But I knew them very, very well.

1344

01:21:36,360 --> 01:21:39,810

I was in the houses,
all of them, many times.

1345

01:21:39,810 --> 01:21:46,770

And I absolutely knew them.

1346

01:21:46,770 --> 01:21:48,810
I knew their voices.

1347
01:21:48,810 --> 01:21:53,370
I could recognize when they
were out of sight of the door.

1348
01:21:53,370 --> 01:21:55,320
So not every night, obviously--

1349
01:21:55,320 --> 01:21:56,700
I had to sleep.

1350
01:21:56,700 --> 01:21:59,570
But at least one
hour to two hours,

1351
01:21:59,570 --> 01:22:03,570
sometimes, I was just not
trying to not make noise

1352
01:22:03,570 --> 01:22:05,550
on the other side of
the door, and I was

1353
01:22:05,550 --> 01:22:07,500
listening fascinating stories.

1354
01:22:07,500 --> 01:22:09,270
And I knew so much.

1355
01:22:09,270 --> 01:22:12,150
And I couldn't talk
about that to anybody.

1356
01:22:12,150 --> 01:22:14,370
I couldn't tell my
mother that I knew

1357
01:22:14,370 --> 01:22:17,700
because she would be terrified.

1358
01:22:17,700 --> 01:22:23,580
However, just before
end of the war my--

1359
01:22:23,580 --> 01:22:27,330
the gentleman who was doing
this training in conversation

1360
01:22:27,330 --> 01:22:30,180
with my mother,
they were talking

1361
01:22:30,180 --> 01:22:32,190
about something about gun.

1362
01:22:32,190 --> 01:22:35,880
And I said, yes, I know
this was hidden there.

1363
01:22:35,880 --> 01:22:39,780
They didn't know that I knew
all these hiding places.

1364
01:22:39,780 --> 01:22:49,350
And I knew how to load the gun,
handgun, and how to unload it.

1365
01:22:49,350 --> 01:22:53,670
I knew how to apart,
how to clean it.

1366
01:22:53,670 --> 01:22:57,440
I knew everything
because, out of boredom--

1367
01:22:57,440 --> 01:22:58,580
nobody was at home--

1368
01:22:58,580 --> 01:23:00,750
I went to that
hiding place where

1369
01:23:00,750 --> 01:23:03,660
they're talking about to check
whether this gun is still

1370
01:23:03,660 --> 01:23:04,160
there.

1371
01:23:04,160 --> 01:23:07,100

1372
01:23:07,100 --> 01:23:10,250
I self-trained myself.

1373
01:23:10,250 --> 01:23:13,130
So after the war,
when German army

1374
01:23:13,130 --> 01:23:14,930
left certain amount of arms--

1375
01:23:14,930 --> 01:23:18,500
whenever you went they were
besides mines in the fields,

1376
01:23:18,500 --> 01:23:19,330
where--

1377
01:23:19,330 --> 01:23:22,560
a lot of arms here and there.

1378
01:23:22,560 --> 01:23:25,830
Me and my friends were
taking guns with ammunition.

1379
01:23:25,830 --> 01:23:29,550
We went into the trenches.

1380
01:23:29,550 --> 01:23:31,650
And there were
nobody else there.

1381
01:23:31,650 --> 01:23:36,990
And we were doing full shooting
like on the shooting range.

1382
01:23:36,990 --> 01:23:40,370
And we knew safely
we could manage.

1383
01:23:40,370 --> 01:23:42,750

And nobody train us.

1384

01:23:42,750 --> 01:23:44,320

We were self-trained.

1385

01:23:44,320 --> 01:23:45,880

So this was after
the war, though?

1386

01:23:45,880 --> 01:23:47,760

After the war, immediately.

1387

01:23:47,760 --> 01:23:52,200

And a lot of young people
died because farmers

1388

01:23:52,200 --> 01:23:53,990

needed their fields.

1389

01:23:53,990 --> 01:23:57,000

Before Soviet army
came the people

1390

01:23:57,000 --> 01:24:01,020

who were disarming
mines in the fields--

1391

01:24:01,020 --> 01:24:03,480

they wanted to plow the fields.

1392

01:24:03,480 --> 01:24:05,970

And the mines here
and there and there.

1393

01:24:05,970 --> 01:24:07,590

And you never know where.

1394

01:24:07,590 --> 01:24:10,140

So they were training mine--

1395

01:24:10,140 --> 01:24:12,420

young people-- not
training, paying

1396

01:24:12,420 --> 01:24:18,300
young people who were foolish
enough to go and disarm.

1397
01:24:18,300 --> 01:24:23,350
And the friend of
mine two years--

1398
01:24:23,350 --> 01:24:26,340
three years older
than me, brother

1399
01:24:26,340 --> 01:24:27,930
of a good friend of mine--

1400
01:24:27,930 --> 01:24:31,120
I just talked to him
a couple days ago--

1401
01:24:31,120 --> 01:24:37,940
he was learning how
to disarm these mines.

1402
01:24:37,940 --> 01:24:42,690
And similar, his friends
and their friends

1403
01:24:42,690 --> 01:24:44,460
were hired by farmers--

1404
01:24:44,460 --> 01:24:48,180
which was, I think, cruel,
to let young people go

1405
01:24:48,180 --> 01:24:49,140
into the fields.

1406
01:24:49,140 --> 01:24:51,630
And they were, many
of them, successful.

1407
01:24:51,630 --> 01:24:53,220
Many of them survived.

1408
01:24:53,220 --> 01:24:56,370

But some, unfortunately,
made mistakes somewhere,

1409
01:24:56,370 --> 01:24:58,800
or they didn't know.

1410
01:24:58,800 --> 01:25:01,530
They stepped on a
mine, which were all

1411
01:25:01,530 --> 01:25:03,720
hidden under the ground.

1412
01:25:03,720 --> 01:25:06,890
And they didn't have electronic
equipment to detect it.

1413
01:25:06,890 --> 01:25:08,890
So your friend's
brother died from--

1414
01:25:08,890 --> 01:25:09,390
Died.

1415
01:25:09,390 --> 01:25:09,940
Died.

1416
01:25:09,940 --> 01:25:13,530
And there was-- on
the day where I was--

1417
01:25:13,530 --> 01:25:17,180
had appointment with him and his
brother-- we're going together.

1418
01:25:17,180 --> 01:25:19,320
And my mother locked me.

1419
01:25:19,320 --> 01:25:22,000
And I didn't have key to open.

1420
01:25:22,000 --> 01:25:24,090
We were living on
the second floor.

1421

01:25:24,090 --> 01:25:25,960

I didn't want to jump.

1422

01:25:25,960 --> 01:25:29,880

So when my mother returned I
was very angry that she did

1423

01:25:29,880 --> 01:25:33,420

lock me, because I lost
my ability to play.

1424

01:25:33,420 --> 01:25:35,370

And my mother says, yes, yes.

1425

01:25:35,370 --> 01:25:36,810

I saw Jaszo.

1426

01:25:36,810 --> 01:25:41,250

They carried him
in the bed sheet.

1427

01:25:41,250 --> 01:25:42,600

I saw him.

1428

01:25:42,600 --> 01:25:43,890

And he was killed.

1429

01:25:43,890 --> 01:25:45,960

But I was shocked.

1430

01:25:45,960 --> 01:25:48,030

But I could've been one of them.

1431

01:25:48,030 --> 01:25:51,990

So I was lucky during the
war, because every day

1432

01:25:51,990 --> 01:25:54,930

when we're leaving home
in the morning we were not

1433

01:25:54,930 --> 01:25:58,575

100% sure that we were going
to be back that evening.

1434
01:25:58,575 --> 01:26:01,200

1435
01:26:01,200 --> 01:26:05,050
Threat of being
killed was very real.

1436
01:26:05,050 --> 01:26:10,350
And I saw many, many incidences
where people were killed either

1437
01:26:10,350 --> 01:26:15,300
because they didn't stop
when they were told to stop,

1438
01:26:15,300 --> 01:26:17,420
they had something
hiding and they--

1439
01:26:17,420 --> 01:26:21,090
under body or something and
they want to be discovered,

1440
01:26:21,090 --> 01:26:29,280
or simply Gestapo didn't
like or already knew

1441
01:26:29,280 --> 01:26:33,300
this person or whatever,
and they were looking for--

1442
01:26:33,300 --> 01:26:36,510
Gestapo was in my
house many times.

1443
01:26:36,510 --> 01:26:41,460
And it somehow happens that
I cannot recall one instance

1444
01:26:41,460 --> 01:26:42,420
where they mother--

1445
01:26:42,420 --> 01:26:45,403
my mother was at home

and Gestapo came.

1446

01:26:45,403 --> 01:26:46,320
You were always alone?

1447

01:26:46,320 --> 01:26:47,770
Each time I was alone.

1448

01:26:47,770 --> 01:26:48,270
Wow.

1449

01:26:48,270 --> 01:26:49,470
I don't know how happened.

1450

01:26:49,470 --> 01:26:52,530
They coming during the day,
my mother was in school.

1451

01:26:52,530 --> 01:26:55,710
But they several times
they came afternoon,

1452

01:26:55,710 --> 01:26:57,960
when my mother
was not in school.

1453

01:26:57,960 --> 01:27:00,270
Obviously, she didn't
know about that.

1454

01:27:00,270 --> 01:27:02,490
They never announced, obviously.

1455

01:27:02,490 --> 01:27:05,310
What I heard, only
boo-boo-boo-boo on the steps,

1456

01:27:05,310 --> 01:27:09,100
bang bang to the
door, Gestapo, open.

1457

01:27:09,100 --> 01:27:11,280
So I head to door, open.

1458

01:27:11,280 --> 01:27:13,560
And they were walking
around ransacking

1459
01:27:13,560 --> 01:27:17,400
from all the drawers in
the middle of the room

1460
01:27:17,400 --> 01:27:20,120
and knocking the
walls here and there.

1461
01:27:20,120 --> 01:27:23,100
And they were asking
me, tell us where

1462
01:27:23,100 --> 01:27:28,610
these things are hidden,
because they had some suspicion.

1463
01:27:28,610 --> 01:27:31,730
But until they found
they couldn't do anything

1464
01:27:31,730 --> 01:27:32,670
about that.

1465
01:27:32,670 --> 01:27:34,850
And I knew where
things are hidden.

1466
01:27:34,850 --> 01:27:39,840
However, I never blink my eye.

1467
01:27:39,840 --> 01:27:43,030

1468
01:27:43,030 --> 01:27:46,350
Were they speaking to you in
Polish or were they speaking--

1469
01:27:46,350 --> 01:27:48,230
Sometime in German exclusively.

1470
01:27:48,230 --> 01:27:50,570

And I knew German
to that extent.

1471
01:27:50,570 --> 01:27:54,450
I learn from German soldiers on
the streets of Góra Kalwaria.

1472
01:27:54,450 --> 01:27:56,240
And my mother knew some German.

1473
01:27:56,240 --> 01:27:58,100
So she taught me some basics.

1474
01:27:58,100 --> 01:27:59,340
It was a survival game.

1475
01:27:59,340 --> 01:28:03,900
You need to know
how to communicate.

1476
01:28:03,900 --> 01:28:07,810
And they knew a little Polish,
including some of them,

1477
01:28:07,810 --> 01:28:13,410
especially the regular
soldiers of Wehrmacht--

1478
01:28:13,410 --> 01:28:16,770
they were from Silesian
region of Poland.

1479
01:28:16,770 --> 01:28:20,610
They signed
so-called Volks list,

1480
01:28:20,610 --> 01:28:24,690
which is they had some
ancestors of German origin.

1481
01:28:24,690 --> 01:28:26,250
They spoke German at home.

1482
01:28:26,250 --> 01:28:29,700

1483
01:28:29,700 --> 01:28:33,720
And how do you call it?

1484
01:28:33,720 --> 01:28:36,790
Some of them very--

1485
01:28:36,790 --> 01:28:39,820
I wouldn't say what's the
proportion, I don't know.

1486
01:28:39,820 --> 01:28:41,680
But there were volunteers.

1487
01:28:41,680 --> 01:28:45,208
But most of them, they were--

1488
01:28:45,208 --> 01:28:46,000
how do you call it?

1489
01:28:46,000 --> 01:28:47,480
Inscripts?

1490
01:28:47,480 --> 01:28:48,730
Oh, they were drafted into it?

1491
01:28:48,730 --> 01:28:49,300
They were drafted.

1492
01:28:49,300 --> 01:28:50,860
They were forced--
well, not forced, but--

1493
01:28:50,860 --> 01:28:51,470
Yeah.

1494
01:28:51,470 --> 01:28:53,113
I mean, they were obligated.

1495
01:28:53,113 --> 01:28:53,780
Yeah, obligated.

1496
01:28:53,780 --> 01:28:55,990

They didn't have a choice.

1497

01:28:55,990 --> 01:28:58,750
So they spoke quite good Polish.

1498

01:28:58,750 --> 01:29:01,930
Some of them, they
are fluent in Polish.

1499

01:29:01,930 --> 01:29:04,690
And those, we
communicated first.

1500

01:29:04,690 --> 01:29:08,220
So first words which I
learned were mostly curses.

1501

01:29:08,220 --> 01:29:12,830
I could-- I was able to curse
in German for several minutes.

1502

01:29:12,830 --> 01:29:16,330
That's my first
encounter with German.

1503

01:29:16,330 --> 01:29:20,590
So after the Gestapo left
and your mother came home,

1504

01:29:20,590 --> 01:29:23,050
I imagine you told her about it.

1505

01:29:23,050 --> 01:29:23,650
Of course.

1506

01:29:23,650 --> 01:29:24,640
How would she react?

1507

01:29:24,640 --> 01:29:25,660
What was--

1508

01:29:25,660 --> 01:29:27,040
She was shocked each time.

1509

01:29:27,040 --> 01:29:29,140
But what she was able to do?

1510
01:29:29,140 --> 01:29:34,960
There's no-- several
people ask me,

1511
01:29:34,960 --> 01:29:39,040
how come that your
mother was not arrested?

1512
01:29:39,040 --> 01:29:40,520
And I tell you why.

1513
01:29:40,520 --> 01:29:44,000
Underground movement,
which I think

1514
01:29:44,000 --> 01:29:47,905
it's the main explanation--

1515
01:29:47,905 --> 01:29:51,790

1516
01:29:51,790 --> 01:29:56,250
a lot of institutions
which were--

1517
01:29:56,250 --> 01:30:02,580
had German names and had to
do with the Polish population.

1518
01:30:02,580 --> 01:30:06,810
We had to do with rations.

1519
01:30:06,810 --> 01:30:12,720
Food was available with coupons.

1520
01:30:12,720 --> 01:30:17,490
You were getting coupons--
so many kilograms

1521
01:30:17,490 --> 01:30:23,400
of sugar per month or per
week, and one loaf of bread

1522
01:30:23,400 --> 01:30:25,825
for week per head.

1523
01:30:25,825 --> 01:30:29,340

1524
01:30:29,340 --> 01:30:34,080
These organizations
were-- had employees

1525
01:30:34,080 --> 01:30:35,210
which are of Polish origin.

1526
01:30:35,210 --> 01:30:38,060
And many-- I wouldn't
say majority,

1527
01:30:38,060 --> 01:30:43,280
but some of these
positions were infiltrated

1528
01:30:43,280 --> 01:30:44,990
by Polish underground
movement, people

1529
01:30:44,990 --> 01:30:47,540
who secretly work for the
Polish underground movement.

1530
01:30:47,540 --> 01:30:49,430
And they would
bring information.

1531
01:30:49,430 --> 01:30:52,700
And early enough, my
mother was informed

1532
01:30:52,700 --> 01:30:57,590
there is an opportunity
to get document

1533
01:30:57,590 --> 01:31:04,280
to do the function which
was collecting weather,

1534

01:31:04,280 --> 01:31:12,410

like rain, snow amount,
observation of the sky--

1535

01:31:12,410 --> 01:31:17,120

when the clouds,
how low, when sun.

1536

01:31:17,120 --> 01:31:23,120

And she got a book
written in German columns.

1537

01:31:23,120 --> 01:31:26,540

And every day at
certain hours you

1538

01:31:26,540 --> 01:31:32,720

had to fill, sometime in
German-- simple words.

1539

01:31:32,720 --> 01:31:35,470

I don't remember now.

1540

01:31:35,470 --> 01:31:39,580

And then numbers--
hours and the amount,

1541

01:31:39,580 --> 01:31:44,090

how many centimeters of rain
that night was and so on.

1542

01:31:44,090 --> 01:31:45,950

And this information
was collected

1543

01:31:45,950 --> 01:31:48,740

by meteorological
services, German,

1544

01:31:48,740 --> 01:31:54,225

which were used by German
Luftwaffe, German military,

1545

01:31:54,225 --> 01:31:56,450

airforce.

1546

01:31:56,450 --> 01:32:01,580
That gave my mother
an ausweis, a document

1547

01:32:01,580 --> 01:32:06,010
which we'd call an ID card
today, with the picture

1548

01:32:06,010 --> 01:32:07,490
all in German.

1549

01:32:07,490 --> 01:32:10,410
And that, whenever she was
traveling between Góra Kalwaria

1550

01:32:10,410 --> 01:32:12,510
and Warsaw--

1551

01:32:12,510 --> 01:32:23,170
and she was traveling sometimes
to take big round yellow cheese

1552

01:32:23,170 --> 01:32:24,030
which was--

1553

01:32:24,030 --> 01:32:26,010
she was getting
at very low price.

1554

01:32:26,010 --> 01:32:30,090
And she was selling it in
Warsaw at a certain place.

1555

01:32:30,090 --> 01:32:35,640
Sometime that cheese had,
inside, underground documents.

1556

01:32:35,640 --> 01:32:37,050
Really?

1557

01:32:37,050 --> 01:32:41,400
And my mother was
having the suitcase.

1558
01:32:41,400 --> 01:32:47,400
She was very fashionably
dressed, had perfumes.

1559
01:32:47,400 --> 01:32:51,270
She knew quite well German.

1560
01:32:51,270 --> 01:32:52,380
And she was traveling.

1561
01:32:52,380 --> 01:32:56,100
And she recalls
one specific case

1562
01:32:56,100 --> 01:33:02,066
when she was standing
on the tramway stop.

1563
01:33:02,066 --> 01:33:04,240
Tramway came.

1564
01:33:04,240 --> 01:33:06,690
One section of the
tramway, nur für Deutsche--

1565
01:33:06,690 --> 01:33:08,050
German.

1566
01:33:08,050 --> 01:33:11,290
Was German officer
seeing a lady who's

1567
01:33:11,290 --> 01:33:15,120
trying to lift the suitcase.

1568
01:33:15,120 --> 01:33:19,330
So he helped her to enter
Polish section, put her--

1569
01:33:19,330 --> 01:33:23,000
that luggage on the
shelf, above the head,

1570

01:33:23,000 --> 01:33:26,060
and then went to nur
für Deutsche section.

1571
01:33:26,060 --> 01:33:28,630
He did not realize
that he's lifting

1572
01:33:28,630 --> 01:33:32,950
underground army's literature
hidden in the cheese inside.

1573
01:33:32,950 --> 01:33:33,970
[LAUGHTER]

1574
01:33:33,970 --> 01:33:34,910
Yeah.

1575
01:33:34,910 --> 01:33:35,672
Wow.

1576
01:33:35,672 --> 01:33:37,380
I bet that made your
mother very nervous.

1577
01:33:37,380 --> 01:33:38,240
That's the life.

1578
01:33:38,240 --> 01:33:38,780
Oh, yes.

1579
01:33:38,780 --> 01:33:43,280
But she-- when it happens to
you once or twice you become

1580
01:33:43,280 --> 01:33:46,290
conditioned and you
become less sensitive--

1581
01:33:46,290 --> 01:33:48,775
which doesn't mean
that in my kind--

1582
01:33:48,775 --> 01:33:51,310
although, as I mentioned

at the beginning,

1583

01:33:51,310 --> 01:33:54,800
children are maturing
during the war

1584

01:33:54,800 --> 01:33:57,290
much faster than
you ever imagined.

1585

01:33:57,290 --> 01:34:03,330
And adults don't realize how
capable and knowledgeable--

1586

01:34:03,330 --> 01:34:04,890
children are a sponge.

1587

01:34:04,890 --> 01:34:05,840
They listen.

1588

01:34:05,840 --> 01:34:09,050
They might not have
the answers, but they

1589

01:34:09,050 --> 01:34:15,630
know what's going on beyond
their expected maturity level.

1590

01:34:15,630 --> 01:34:20,590
So I was nine or 10--

1591

01:34:20,590 --> 01:34:21,950
10 at the end of the war.

1592

01:34:21,950 --> 01:34:29,040
But I was 15, 16 if comes
to the survival skills

1593

01:34:29,040 --> 01:34:32,500
and associating--

1594

01:34:32,500 --> 01:34:34,240
judging what's
happening, whether it's

1595

01:34:34,240 --> 01:34:41,140
dangerous situation or not,
whether my life is in jeopardy,

1596

01:34:41,140 --> 01:34:47,430
or how to read what eyes
don't see, so to speak.

1597

01:34:47,430 --> 01:34:50,390
There were no
newspapers, no radio.

1598

01:34:50,390 --> 01:34:53,190
Journalists were communicating
with Polish population

1599

01:34:53,190 --> 01:35:00,140
by hanging two-language
posters explaining, such

1600

01:35:00,140 --> 01:35:02,700
and such a day, new regulations.

1601

01:35:02,700 --> 01:35:04,410
You were allowed to do that.

1602

01:35:04,410 --> 01:35:08,000
But mostly was not
what you were--

1603

01:35:08,000 --> 01:35:10,810
what was forbidden.

1604

01:35:10,810 --> 01:35:11,890
And that was the way.

1605

01:35:11,890 --> 01:35:14,760
And there was no
excuse of not knowing.

1606

01:35:14,760 --> 01:35:15,720
You had to know it.

1607

01:35:15,720 --> 01:35:20,040

So you had to read it,
because your life depended

1608
01:35:20,040 --> 01:35:21,780
on that-- what's on the poster.

1609
01:35:21,780 --> 01:35:25,600

1610
01:35:25,600 --> 01:35:29,650
So we haven't talked
about the deportation

1611
01:35:29,650 --> 01:35:31,870
of the Jews from your town yet.

1612
01:35:31,870 --> 01:35:33,280
Do you have any
memories of that?

1613
01:35:33,280 --> 01:35:36,310

1614
01:35:36,310 --> 01:35:41,620
On the day with deportation,
it was taking place--

1615
01:35:41,620 --> 01:35:48,040
I saw the pictures taken
by father of my friend.

1616
01:35:48,040 --> 01:35:50,380
And his name is Adam Marchocki.

1617
01:35:50,380 --> 01:35:53,720
And if possible I
would like him to be--

1618
01:35:53,720 --> 01:35:56,980
I will recommend him
to be interviewed

1619
01:35:56,980 --> 01:36:00,700
by somebody from
Holocaust Museum

1620
01:36:00,700 --> 01:36:04,120
because he's very knowledgeable.

1621
01:36:04,120 --> 01:36:08,720
His father-- about
this period his house

1622
01:36:08,720 --> 01:36:12,910
was also facing the wall.

1623
01:36:12,910 --> 01:36:14,590
He is the same age as I am.

1624
01:36:14,590 --> 01:36:18,010
His father was arrested
in Góra Kalwaria.

1625
01:36:18,010 --> 01:36:20,800
His father was a
teacher and was sent

1626
01:36:20,800 --> 01:36:25,240
to Auschwitz also, as well
as another teacher, Mr.

1627
01:36:25,240 --> 01:36:27,400
Piekarniak.

1628
01:36:27,400 --> 01:36:31,690
Who was arrested in Góra
Kalwaria and sent to Auschwitz.

1629
01:36:31,690 --> 01:36:35,820
So those are people
whom I knew well.

1630
01:36:35,820 --> 01:36:37,750
And they were both teachers.

1631
01:36:37,750 --> 01:36:40,480
Do you know what they
were arrested for?

1632

01:36:40,480 --> 01:36:44,140
Suspicion of being involved
in underground movement, both

1633
01:36:44,140 --> 01:36:44,650
of them.

1634
01:36:44,650 --> 01:36:45,550
And they were.

1635
01:36:45,550 --> 01:36:46,960
I mean, especially one.

1636
01:36:46,960 --> 01:36:48,850
Another one--

1637
01:36:48,850 --> 01:36:50,830
Which one was especially so?

1638
01:36:50,830 --> 01:36:51,430
Piekarniak.

1639
01:36:51,430 --> 01:36:52,060
Mr. Piekarniak.

1640
01:36:52,060 --> 01:36:54,530
How do you spell his last name?

1641
01:36:54,530 --> 01:37:08,195
P-I-E-K-A-R-N-I-A-K. Piekarniak.

1642
01:37:08,195 --> 01:37:10,120
Oh, forgot his first name now.

1643
01:37:10,120 --> 01:37:12,830
There was a whole family,
but I cannot recall it.

1644
01:37:12,830 --> 01:37:16,880

1645
01:37:16,880 --> 01:37:18,740
Did he survive?

1646

01:37:18,740 --> 01:37:20,360

He survived.

1647

01:37:20,360 --> 01:37:22,820

Both survived.

1648

01:37:22,820 --> 01:37:27,200

So Adam's father was
also sent to Auschwitz?

1649

01:37:27,200 --> 01:37:28,100

Auschwitz, yeah.

1650

01:37:28,100 --> 01:37:31,530

And what was his last name?

1651

01:37:31,530 --> 01:37:32,530

Marchocki.

1652

01:37:32,530 --> 01:37:45,790

M-A-R-C-H-O-C-K-I, Marchocki.

1653

01:37:45,790 --> 01:37:47,670

Do you remember
his father's name?

1654

01:37:47,670 --> 01:37:48,860

First name?

1655

01:37:48,860 --> 01:37:49,730

Edward

1656

01:37:49,730 --> 01:37:50,230

Edward?

1657

01:37:50,230 --> 01:37:53,356

Edward.

1658

01:37:53,356 --> 01:37:55,688

Adam's father was
Edward Marchocki.

1659

01:37:55,688 --> 01:38:00,800

1660
01:38:00,800 --> 01:38:06,150
And so--

1661
01:38:06,150 --> 01:38:09,720
So Adam took pictures
during the deportation?

1662
01:38:09,720 --> 01:38:10,950
No, Edward.

1663
01:38:10,950 --> 01:38:11,850
Edward did.

1664
01:38:11,850 --> 01:38:13,606
Edward.

1665
01:38:13,606 --> 01:38:14,310
Edward.

1666
01:38:14,310 --> 01:38:17,100
And these pictures
are in the book which

1667
01:38:17,100 --> 01:38:18,760
I couldn't find just before.

1668
01:38:18,760 --> 01:38:22,540
I wanted to bring that book
to show you, but I can't--

1669
01:38:22,540 --> 01:38:24,870
I have at home,
definitely, 100%.

1670
01:38:24,870 --> 01:38:26,480
I didn't lend it to anybody.

1671
01:38:26,480 --> 01:38:29,670

1672
01:38:29,670 --> 01:38:32,853
So you saw the pictures, but

you weren't present for--

1673

01:38:32,853 --> 01:38:34,520
you didn't actually
see the deportation?

1674

01:38:34,520 --> 01:38:36,815
Not on the day, because
there was two days.

1675

01:38:36,815 --> 01:38:37,325
Two days.

1676

01:38:37,325 --> 01:38:41,950

1677

01:38:41,950 --> 01:38:44,230
A lot of people
went to the station

1678

01:38:44,230 --> 01:38:50,020
because they knew somebody or
there was some relationships.

1679

01:38:50,020 --> 01:38:53,260
People-- you know.

1680

01:38:53,260 --> 01:38:55,360
Most of the population,
although there

1681

01:38:55,360 --> 01:38:59,740
was Hasidic Judaism
mostly, but not

1682

01:38:59,740 --> 01:39:02,290
all the Hasidic Jews in Poland.

1683

01:39:02,290 --> 01:39:08,200
There were some like his
father's, Mr. Price's father

1684

01:39:08,200 --> 01:39:10,170
parents--

1685

01:39:10,170 --> 01:39:12,040
they were of the--

1686

01:39:12,040 --> 01:39:16,000
they went to synagogue
a few times a year.

1687

01:39:16,000 --> 01:39:16,783
They were--

1688

01:39:16,783 --> 01:39:17,690
Assimilated.

1689

01:39:17,690 --> 01:39:20,240
They assimilated partially.

1690

01:39:20,240 --> 01:39:22,630
There's some people
one leg in one world,

1691

01:39:22,630 --> 01:39:24,230
another leg another world.

1692

01:39:24,230 --> 01:39:26,890
And for them it was
easier to survive,

1693

01:39:26,890 --> 01:39:29,860
because they knew how to hide.

1694

01:39:29,860 --> 01:39:35,110
This one didn't have
Semitic features.

1695

01:39:35,110 --> 01:39:38,020
He could-- got false documents.

1696

01:39:38,020 --> 01:39:46,960
He could mingle and nobody would
know it until some Germans--

1697

01:39:46,960 --> 01:39:51,640
German would do what they were
doing, taking a man on the side

1698
01:39:51,640 --> 01:39:54,970
and asking him to
drop his pants.

1699
01:39:54,970 --> 01:39:55,470
That was a--

1700
01:39:55,470 --> 01:39:56,700
To see if he was circumcised.

1701
01:39:56,700 --> 01:39:57,200
Yeah.

1702
01:39:57,200 --> 01:40:02,050
Because non-Jews were not
circumcised in Poland.

1703
01:40:02,050 --> 01:40:05,680
There was exception
and there was a rule.

1704
01:40:05,680 --> 01:40:09,340
And that, Germans-- for
them it was last test.

1705
01:40:09,340 --> 01:40:13,110
But sometime was not sufficient.

1706
01:40:13,110 --> 01:40:15,130
There are all kinds
of the relationships.

1707
01:40:15,130 --> 01:40:20,390
German, to survive
in Poland locally,

1708
01:40:20,390 --> 01:40:23,570
they had to somehow relate.

1709
01:40:23,570 --> 01:40:26,690
They couldn't be just
shooting left and right.

1710

01:40:26,690 --> 01:40:28,520
They needed food.

1711
01:40:28,520 --> 01:40:30,050
They needed labor.

1712
01:40:30,050 --> 01:40:34,530
The ghetto itself
had assignments.

1713
01:40:34,530 --> 01:40:43,470
The Jewish authorities,
Judenrat, authorities

1714
01:40:43,470 --> 01:40:44,700
had assignments.

1715
01:40:44,700 --> 01:40:48,370
So many people
they need for work.

1716
01:40:48,370 --> 01:40:50,010
Every day different people.

1717
01:40:50,010 --> 01:40:53,670
Sometimes people work
two, three times a week.

1718
01:40:53,670 --> 01:40:55,620
Sometimes was paid a little bit.

1719
01:40:55,620 --> 01:40:57,440
Others were not paid.

1720
01:40:57,440 --> 01:40:59,370
All varied thing.

1721
01:40:59,370 --> 01:41:04,890
But assignment was they
needed, so for road work,

1722
01:41:04,890 --> 01:41:13,680
for some other repairs, for
some help with bringing food

1723

01:41:13,680 --> 01:41:15,570
here or there.

1724

01:41:15,570 --> 01:41:18,090
Less with food, because
with food people

1725

01:41:18,090 --> 01:41:19,950
would be stealing food.

1726

01:41:19,950 --> 01:41:25,530
So they tried to separate
food from people.

1727

01:41:25,530 --> 01:41:29,040
But they didn't have
enough people of their own.

1728

01:41:29,040 --> 01:41:33,540
Soldiers had tasks in
the army or they went

1729

01:41:33,540 --> 01:41:36,720
to the front, Eastern Front.

1730

01:41:36,720 --> 01:41:41,070
They had to co-exist somehow.

1731

01:41:41,070 --> 01:41:45,450
So they tried to bribe
people by promises.

1732

01:41:45,450 --> 01:41:47,790
But as you know, all the--

1733

01:41:47,790 --> 01:41:51,570
most of the people
who cooperated openly,

1734

01:41:51,570 --> 01:41:56,740
or the Jewish police, which
was guarding ghetto in Góra

1735

01:41:56,740 --> 01:41:57,720

Kalwaria--

1736

01:41:57,720 --> 01:42:01,710
they were the last one to
be packed in the last cart.

1737

01:42:01,710 --> 01:42:04,200
And they were sent
to Warsaw ghetto

1738

01:42:04,200 --> 01:42:07,600
and then to
Treblinka and other--

1739

01:42:07,600 --> 01:42:08,940
to gas chambers.

1740

01:42:08,940 --> 01:42:14,460
Germans didn't feel
loyalty towards those

1741

01:42:14,460 --> 01:42:16,580
who were cooperating with them.

1742

01:42:16,580 --> 01:42:22,000
But at the time when
they needed they

1743

01:42:22,000 --> 01:42:27,850
found, always, people who
were willing to cooperate.

1744

01:42:27,850 --> 01:42:30,430
Those were the times.

1745

01:42:30,430 --> 01:42:33,040
It was interesting-- let
me tell you just one thing.

1746

01:42:33,040 --> 01:42:33,610
Sure.

1747

01:42:33,610 --> 01:42:37,630
My mother had the
observation that war time

1748
01:42:37,630 --> 01:42:42,160
is the time when you
have the opportunity

1749
01:42:42,160 --> 01:42:49,770
to recognize who are good
people, who are bad people.

1750
01:42:49,770 --> 01:42:53,730
That among our
acquaintances, friends,

1751
01:42:53,730 --> 01:42:56,020
acquaintance of
the acquaintances,

1752
01:42:56,020 --> 01:43:00,130
people who we'd
expect to be honest,

1753
01:43:00,130 --> 01:43:10,345
to be fair, to be real human
beings with empathy who

1754
01:43:10,345 --> 01:43:11,310
were surprised.

1755
01:43:11,310 --> 01:43:15,160
Those were expecting, they
passed the exam, so to speak.

1756
01:43:15,160 --> 01:43:18,150
And people whom we treated--

1757
01:43:18,150 --> 01:43:25,170
we thought that they are
not worth to have respect,

1758
01:43:25,170 --> 01:43:32,190
they became real heroes, really
honest people who, so to speak,

1759
01:43:32,190 --> 01:43:36,060
passed the exam of humanity.

1760

01:43:36,060 --> 01:43:40,440

And that was one of the major lessons which my mother and I

1761

01:43:40,440 --> 01:43:50,640

learn, that the real people you recognize when the real test,

1762

01:43:50,640 --> 01:43:56,520

real need comes in life, that people have different

1763

01:43:56,520 --> 01:43:58,880

[NON-ENGLISH], different layers.

1764

01:43:58,880 --> 01:44:03,860

And you really, to know the essence of a human person--

1765

01:44:03,860 --> 01:44:06,500

1766

01:44:06,500 --> 01:44:11,990

it's to remove all these layers first.

1767

01:44:11,990 --> 01:44:17,970

And the war is the time when real

1768

01:44:17,970 --> 01:44:20,970

test for the characters of the people.

1769

01:44:20,970 --> 01:44:30,330

1770

01:44:30,330 --> 01:44:37,740

So in 1943, during the Warsaw Ghetto--

1771

01:44:37,740 --> 01:44:41,040

1772

01:44:41,040 --> 01:44:45,420

before the Warsaw
Ghetto uprising,

1773

01:44:45,420 --> 01:44:47,820

I was in Warsaw several times.

1774

01:44:47,820 --> 01:44:54,800

My mother was coming, doing some
trading and visiting friends.

1775

01:44:54,800 --> 01:44:58,060

We have some friends in Warsaw.

1776

01:44:58,060 --> 01:45:02,060

And on several
occasions my mother

1777

01:45:02,060 --> 01:45:08,620

took me and we walk along
the walls of the ghetto.

1778

01:45:08,620 --> 01:45:09,570

It was a section--

1779

01:45:09,570 --> 01:45:15,240

I forgot the name of the street,
but I could reconstruct it--

1780

01:45:15,240 --> 01:45:24,630

where the cobblestone
pavement of the street,

1781

01:45:24,630 --> 01:45:32,670

sidewalk on outside
street paved.

1782

01:45:32,670 --> 01:45:38,700

And then the wall of
the ghetto was almost

1783

01:45:38,700 --> 01:45:41,985

on the edge of the street,
or a very narrow sidewalk.

1784

01:45:41,985 --> 01:45:44,810

1785

01:45:44,810 --> 01:45:48,200

The wall on that section was--

1786

01:45:48,200 --> 01:45:49,790

had no windows.

1787

01:45:49,790 --> 01:45:53,480

And you can see the signs
where windows were removed

1788

01:45:53,480 --> 01:45:56,950

and the holes were
filled with the brick.

1789

01:45:56,950 --> 01:46:03,480

The walls were, I would
say, about eight meters,

1790

01:46:03,480 --> 01:46:06,315

eight yards, about, tall.

1791

01:46:06,315 --> 01:46:09,050

1792

01:46:09,050 --> 01:46:13,020

I didn't see anybody on the top.

1793

01:46:13,020 --> 01:46:16,770

There were barbed
wires on the top.

1794

01:46:16,770 --> 01:46:19,650

But at the bottom were--

1795

01:46:19,650 --> 01:46:23,220

once in a while there were
a small, narrow windows

1796

01:46:23,220 --> 01:46:32,033

which had iron bars densely
installed that a person--

1797

01:46:32,033 --> 01:46:36,420
maybe cat could sneak
in, but person couldn't.

1798

01:46:36,420 --> 01:46:41,790
But often, when we're
in the same area,

1799

01:46:41,790 --> 01:46:46,800
we saw children's
hands sticking out

1800

01:46:46,800 --> 01:46:49,440
outside through that window.

1801

01:46:49,440 --> 01:46:52,440
And they were either--

1802

01:46:52,440 --> 01:46:54,840
they would see,
quite often, people

1803

01:46:54,840 --> 01:46:56,250
walking on the other side.

1804

01:46:56,250 --> 01:47:01,680
And they were showing
that, give me something.

1805

01:47:01,680 --> 01:47:02,700
Give me something.

1806

01:47:02,700 --> 01:47:05,490
And not far from
there was a stand

1807

01:47:05,490 --> 01:47:11,760
with vegetables where you can
buy carrots, onions, celery--

1808

01:47:11,760 --> 01:47:13,610
something which you can--

1809

01:47:13,610 --> 01:47:16,350
a person can eat raw.

1810
01:47:16,350 --> 01:47:19,830
And on several
occasions my mother,

1811
01:47:19,830 --> 01:47:25,240
with as little money as we had,
were buying a couple carrots.

1812
01:47:25,240 --> 01:47:28,680
And I exclusively--
my mother was

1813
01:47:28,680 --> 01:47:36,350
observing when the gendarmes
were walking their backs

1814
01:47:36,350 --> 01:47:37,790
towards back another one.

1815
01:47:37,790 --> 01:47:40,080
So it means they're
walking away.

1816
01:47:40,080 --> 01:47:40,580
Opposite.

1817
01:47:40,580 --> 01:47:42,710
And they were not--
opposite direction.

1818
01:47:42,710 --> 01:47:46,460
And they were not looking
at us, being on the sidewalk

1819
01:47:46,460 --> 01:47:48,200
on the other side of the street.

1820
01:47:48,200 --> 01:47:49,940
And we are throwing
these carrots.

1821
01:47:49,940 --> 01:47:54,290

At these kids were grabbing
them and eating them.

1822
01:47:54,290 --> 01:47:57,320
You can see that they
were very hungry.

1823
01:47:57,320 --> 01:48:02,300
And every piece of carrot
was consumed almost on spot.

1824
01:48:02,300 --> 01:48:05,540
You can see how it
was appreciated.

1825
01:48:05,540 --> 01:48:06,830
So my mother--

1826
01:48:06,830 --> 01:48:09,360
I think she did it for--

1827
01:48:09,360 --> 01:48:12,940

1828
01:48:12,940 --> 01:48:15,220
because she could
throw it ourself,

1829
01:48:15,220 --> 01:48:21,370
but she was giving
it to me to teach me,

1830
01:48:21,370 --> 01:48:28,957
be empathetic and help
other children-- children

1831
01:48:28,957 --> 01:48:29,665
helping children.

1832
01:48:29,665 --> 01:48:33,610

1833
01:48:33,610 --> 01:48:38,870
There was-- on several occasions
I remember that we're doing.

1834
01:48:38,870 --> 01:48:41,270
And also, by being
in Warsaw we're

1835
01:48:41,270 --> 01:48:45,920
standing on the tram stop.

1836
01:48:45,920 --> 01:48:48,320
It was a raised area.

1837
01:48:48,320 --> 01:48:52,010
And in one particular place
there was ulica Puławska

1838
01:48:52,010 --> 01:48:59,830
and there was tramway
place when they were--

1839
01:48:59,830 --> 01:49:01,880
like a hangar,
where there were--

1840
01:49:01,880 --> 01:49:04,040
several trains were ready to--

1841
01:49:04,040 --> 01:49:06,270
they were stored
there temporarily,

1842
01:49:06,270 --> 01:49:12,590
and they were-- before they
got on their routine trip.

1843
01:49:12,590 --> 01:49:18,380
And this particular day,
afternoon-- sunny day--

1844
01:49:18,380 --> 01:49:20,960
a truck comes.

1845
01:49:20,960 --> 01:49:25,190
And German soldiers
come from the cabin,

1846

01:49:25,190 --> 01:49:30,780

and the truck is covered
and full of the prisoners.

1847

01:49:30,780 --> 01:49:35,600

And they commanding
them to get out.

1848

01:49:35,600 --> 01:49:37,940

They putting them
against the wall.

1849

01:49:37,940 --> 01:49:43,540

And one, with the machine
gun, kills the entire row.

1850

01:49:43,540 --> 01:49:46,900

1851

01:49:46,900 --> 01:49:51,220

And other prisoners are ask--

1852

01:49:51,220 --> 01:49:54,550

another truck comes
and asked to take

1853

01:49:54,550 --> 01:49:59,320

this body with hands and legs--

1854

01:49:59,320 --> 01:50:01,120

one person holding
hands, another--

1855

01:50:01,120 --> 01:50:03,460

to throw them on that truck.

1856

01:50:03,460 --> 01:50:05,140

And they were taking them away.

1857

01:50:05,140 --> 01:50:11,080

After they left we couldn't--
we were encircled by the police

1858

01:50:11,080 --> 01:50:13,480

so we couldn't go.

1859

01:50:13,480 --> 01:50:17,470
I remember some of the women
were putting their hands

1860

01:50:17,470 --> 01:50:23,830
on children's eyes, not
letting them to see it.

1861

01:50:23,830 --> 01:50:27,060
But kids, even if they--

1862

01:50:27,060 --> 01:50:31,840
they always between the fingers,
or they managed to see it.

1863

01:50:31,840 --> 01:50:32,800
There's no way.

1864

01:50:32,800 --> 01:50:34,130
Did your mother try to do that?

1865

01:50:34,130 --> 01:50:35,700
Did she cover your eyes?

1866

01:50:35,700 --> 01:50:39,250
She didn't encourage me,
but she was explaining that.

1867

01:50:39,250 --> 01:50:41,980
And strangely
enough, these people,

1868

01:50:41,980 --> 01:50:45,760
as sometime was happening,
they were not raising--

1869

01:50:45,760 --> 01:50:47,020
they were not shouting.

1870

01:50:47,020 --> 01:50:50,250
They knew they were being
killed, but they didn't--

1871

01:50:50,250 --> 01:50:56,770
they didn't shout [POLISH],,
let's leave Poland free,

1872

01:50:56,770 --> 01:51:01,570
or something like that they
were shouting in Polish.

1873

01:51:01,570 --> 01:51:03,340
That particular
group-- and there

1874

01:51:03,340 --> 01:51:04,990
were a couple trucks came.

1875

01:51:04,990 --> 01:51:08,980
And I don't-- didn't count them,
but they must have been several

1876

01:51:08,980 --> 01:51:11,050
dozen people killed this way.

1877

01:51:11,050 --> 01:51:14,230
Mostly men were killed.

1878

01:51:14,230 --> 01:51:15,280
Do you think they were--

1879

01:51:15,280 --> 01:51:18,280
were they Pole-- were
they non-Jewish or Jewish?

1880

01:51:18,280 --> 01:51:19,170
I have no idea.

1881

01:51:19,170 --> 01:51:19,880
No idea.

1882

01:51:19,880 --> 01:51:25,270
I have no idea, because
nobody to ask, nobody to tell.

1883

01:51:25,270 --> 01:51:26,800
Who knows?

1884
01:51:26,800 --> 01:51:29,980
I didn't see David's
stars on there.

1885
01:51:29,980 --> 01:51:33,980
I would suspect they
were non-Jews, rather.

1886
01:51:33,980 --> 01:51:37,450
But I have no idea.

1887
01:51:37,450 --> 01:51:40,390
And after all of
that show, which

1888
01:51:40,390 --> 01:51:44,680
was done purposely by
Germans to scare people,

1889
01:51:44,680 --> 01:51:47,140
to make demonstration--

1890
01:51:47,140 --> 01:51:48,970
because they could
take these people

1891
01:51:48,970 --> 01:51:52,450
and kill them next to
cemetery and bury them.

1892
01:51:52,450 --> 01:51:57,610
They did it in public places
purposely to spread fear,

1893
01:51:57,610 --> 01:52:00,600
to spread the--

1894
01:52:00,600 --> 01:52:05,210
to tell people, watch it,
because if you don't behave you

1895
01:52:05,210 --> 01:52:09,130
will be killed as they are.

1896

01:52:09,130 --> 01:52:12,700

That was the message
which they wanted to send.

1897

01:52:12,700 --> 01:52:20,260

And so it was interesting
reaction of the people--

1898

01:52:20,260 --> 01:52:21,940

of the people who
were watching that.

1899

01:52:21,940 --> 01:52:24,530

Once-- because we
were very close.

1900

01:52:24,530 --> 01:52:32,250

We were, I would say, less than
100 yards from that, really,

1901

01:52:32,250 --> 01:52:35,590

because not always
every of these prisoners

1902

01:52:35,590 --> 01:52:38,350

were killed on spot.

1903

01:52:38,350 --> 01:52:39,670

Sometime they were moving.

1904

01:52:39,670 --> 01:52:42,010

So Germans were
still walking around,

1905

01:52:42,010 --> 01:52:44,920

and they were shooting
in their head here

1906

01:52:44,920 --> 01:52:47,460

and there from the handgun.

1907

01:52:47,460 --> 01:52:50,140

1908

01:52:50,140 --> 01:52:55,880
Once that show ended the trucks
went and the police freed us

1909
01:52:55,880 --> 01:52:58,760
to-- because trams
were not moving,

1910
01:52:58,760 --> 01:53:02,830
traffic was stopped for
that execution time.

1911
01:53:02,830 --> 01:53:05,720
There was, I don't
know, maybe 20 minutes,

1912
01:53:05,720 --> 01:53:08,140
something like that it lasted.

1913
01:53:08,140 --> 01:53:09,700
Then they restored the traffic.

1914
01:53:09,700 --> 01:53:12,640
And then people were going
to the execution place.

1915
01:53:12,640 --> 01:53:16,570
And the walls were
full of blood.

1916
01:53:16,570 --> 01:53:24,980
Blood was in the street curb
where the rain normally goes.

1917
01:53:24,980 --> 01:53:25,840
How do you call it?

1918
01:53:25,840 --> 01:53:26,840
The rain--

1919
01:53:26,840 --> 01:53:27,850
The drains.

1920
01:53:27,850 --> 01:53:29,230
Drain.

1921
01:53:29,230 --> 01:53:34,000
So and their behavior-- the
people, these who are watching

1922
01:53:34,000 --> 01:53:34,990
were behaving.

1923
01:53:34,990 --> 01:53:38,470
Some people were laying
down, some people crying.

1924
01:53:38,470 --> 01:53:45,070
Some people were touching
and kissing these places.

1925
01:53:45,070 --> 01:53:46,315
It's like holy places.

1926
01:53:46,315 --> 01:53:49,020

1927
01:53:49,020 --> 01:53:50,750
It was amazing.

1928
01:53:50,750 --> 01:53:58,070
But I remember, seems like
that in spite of being eight,

1929
01:53:58,070 --> 01:54:02,820
nine, 10 years old--

1930
01:54:02,820 --> 01:54:06,690
basically nine, because
10 years old was already--

1931
01:54:06,690 --> 01:54:08,640
war is over.

1932
01:54:08,640 --> 01:54:10,780
Do you remember talking
about it with your mother?

1933
01:54:10,780 --> 01:54:14,200

And does she have any--

1934

01:54:14,200 --> 01:54:17,280
It was so shocking for her.

1935

01:54:17,280 --> 01:54:18,450
She saw it.

1936

01:54:18,450 --> 01:54:22,380
She didn't ask me what I saw
because I was next to her.

1937

01:54:22,380 --> 01:54:25,610
And she tried to screen me.

1938

01:54:25,610 --> 01:54:27,990
But I saw.

1939

01:54:27,990 --> 01:54:30,160
I saw everything.

1940

01:54:30,160 --> 01:54:33,750
And I was like hypnotized.

1941

01:54:33,750 --> 01:54:36,780
I didn't know when it
started and when it ended.

1942

01:54:36,780 --> 01:54:38,280
I don't know what hour it was.

1943

01:54:38,280 --> 01:54:40,720
I was just--

1944

01:54:40,720 --> 01:54:41,970
In shock.

1945

01:54:41,970 --> 01:54:43,020
Shock.

1946

01:54:43,020 --> 01:54:48,490
So the concept of PTSD--

1947

01:54:48,490 --> 01:54:51,120
we didn't know the acronyms.

1948
01:54:51,120 --> 01:54:55,810
Nobody knew about what
does it mean at that time.

1949
01:54:55,810 --> 01:55:01,010
But for young people like
myself these things--

1950
01:55:01,010 --> 01:55:03,780

1951
01:55:03,780 --> 01:55:06,160
you cannot forget it.

1952
01:55:06,160 --> 01:55:08,155
And to the extent that--

1953
01:55:08,155 --> 01:55:12,370

1954
01:55:12,370 --> 01:55:18,040
I think it's not enough
of studying and knowledge

1955
01:55:18,040 --> 01:55:24,340
what tragic situations like
the war, like the memories

1956
01:55:24,340 --> 01:55:30,190
of human beings treated worse
than animals are treated quite

1957
01:55:30,190 --> 01:55:38,000
often have impact on the
psyche of young people.

1958
01:55:38,000 --> 01:55:45,500
And I would like to be
advocate for some studies

1959
01:55:45,500 --> 01:55:55,560
to be done what impact

war makes on young people.

1960

01:55:55,560 --> 01:55:59,790

I know myself that
after, when I go

1961

01:55:59,790 --> 01:56:03,720

like I went today
with my memories

1962

01:56:03,720 --> 01:56:10,880

back to these awful,
awful times I am shaken.

1963

01:56:10,880 --> 01:56:13,800

I am shaken now.

1964

01:56:13,800 --> 01:56:17,820

And I feel worn out.

1965

01:56:17,820 --> 01:56:26,120

And I feel disturbed
so much that crying

1966

01:56:26,120 --> 01:56:31,230

wouldn't release that
tension, will not be enough.

1967

01:56:31,230 --> 01:56:39,420

That's why I not so easily
return to these times

1968

01:56:39,420 --> 01:56:45,480

and talk about that,
because it just disturbs me

1969

01:56:45,480 --> 01:56:53,060

so deeply that takes
me longer time than

1970

01:56:53,060 --> 01:57:07,833

to get back to my normal mental
and psychic, so to speak--

1971

01:57:07,833 --> 01:57:09,000

Do you have ways of coping--

1972

01:57:09,000 --> 01:57:09,667
--state of mind.

1973

01:57:09,667 --> 01:57:12,450
--with it and getting
back to a normal--

1974

01:57:12,450 --> 01:57:15,480
I did a lot in my life.

1975

01:57:15,480 --> 01:57:21,110
I've never been in a
psychiatrist's office--

1976

01:57:21,110 --> 01:57:23,360
not for that purpose.

1977

01:57:23,360 --> 01:57:24,350
No need.

1978

01:57:24,350 --> 01:57:28,700
But I did practice
a lot meditation,

1979

01:57:28,700 --> 01:57:31,970
transcendental meditation,
zen meditation.

1980

01:57:31,970 --> 01:57:37,160
Till today, here, we have here
zen meditation once a week.

1981

01:57:37,160 --> 01:57:43,310
But I did it every day,
twice a day sometime,

1982

01:57:43,310 --> 01:57:56,480
just to restore my senses,
because it's deeply, deeply

1983

01:57:56,480 --> 01:58:02,860
disturbing experience
just to talk about that.

1984
01:58:02,860 --> 01:58:05,110
This is not
somebody's else story.

1985
01:58:05,110 --> 01:58:08,080
It's not the movie
which one saw.

1986
01:58:08,080 --> 01:58:13,750
This was my life, my
childhood, which I basically

1987
01:58:13,750 --> 01:58:21,920
didn't have because I
didn't have normal play.

1988
01:58:21,920 --> 01:58:26,230
Yes, we did try
during the war sports.

1989
01:58:26,230 --> 01:58:37,760
I was very achieved 100 meter
dash runner, javelin champion

1990
01:58:37,760 --> 01:58:43,310
and triple jump and long
jump and high jump and--

1991
01:58:43,310 --> 01:58:45,380
were my specialties.

1992
01:58:45,380 --> 01:58:48,140
Yes, sports help a lot.

1993
01:58:48,140 --> 01:58:50,270
But still didn't--

1994
01:58:50,270 --> 01:58:53,480
I don't know what would
be if was not that spot.

1995
01:58:53,480 --> 01:58:56,900
I don't know if I had to
be just with my thoughts.

1996

01:58:56,900 --> 01:58:58,250

So yes, I did--

1997

01:58:58,250 --> 01:59:02,540

I recognize the importance
of physical movement,

1998

01:59:02,540 --> 01:59:05,000

being in the nature, and so on.

1999

01:59:05,000 --> 01:59:10,290

And today I'm struggling
with my memories.

2000

01:59:10,290 --> 01:59:14,570

So it's not easy experience.

2001

01:59:14,570 --> 01:59:17,430

Not easy to talk about that.

2002

01:59:17,430 --> 01:59:23,690

But I think it's important that
other people of my age and even

2003

01:59:23,690 --> 01:59:27,710

younger who still
remember what similar

2004

01:59:27,710 --> 01:59:29,660

experiences they
had in their life--

2005

01:59:29,660 --> 01:59:31,740

that is passed to
the next generation

2006

01:59:31,740 --> 01:59:36,560

so wars will be
forbidden by law.

2007

01:59:36,560 --> 01:59:39,290

I'm smiling at this point.

2008

01:59:39,290 --> 01:59:51,440
But people will fully realize
the consequences of the war.

2009
01:59:51,440 --> 01:59:55,830
It's not that only people die
on spot, that people are buried,

2010
01:59:55,830 --> 01:59:59,180
that people lose their
members of their families,

2011
01:59:59,180 --> 02:00:03,950
they are injured
physically, but the injury--

2012
02:00:03,950 --> 02:00:06,180
the mental injuries,
so to speak,

2013
02:00:06,180 --> 02:00:10,970
which stays perhaps even
more than one generation.

2014
02:00:10,970 --> 02:00:13,690

2015
02:00:13,690 --> 02:00:16,330
Do you think it's
affected your son?

2016
02:00:16,330 --> 02:00:18,520
Somewhat.

2017
02:00:18,520 --> 02:00:19,400
Somewhat.

2018
02:00:19,400 --> 02:00:21,680
But I didn't talk details.

2019
02:00:21,680 --> 02:00:27,460
And I hope that when he watches
that he will understand me

2020
02:00:27,460 --> 02:00:35,525

better, because a lot of
things are difficult to express

2021
02:00:35,525 --> 02:00:36,025
with words.

2022
02:00:36,025 --> 02:00:39,630

2023
02:00:39,630 --> 02:00:42,630
Those are the
personal experiences

2024
02:00:42,630 --> 02:00:45,306
which people underwent.

2025
02:00:45,306 --> 02:00:54,690
And others who didn't
haven't been in my shoes,

2026
02:00:54,690 --> 02:00:55,560
haven't been there.

2027
02:00:55,560 --> 02:00:58,660

2028
02:00:58,660 --> 02:01:02,940
They didn't have a fear
of losing their lives,

2029
02:01:02,940 --> 02:01:07,710
or their mothers or
fathers, or their cousins,

2030
02:01:07,710 --> 02:01:08,880
or their friends.

2031
02:01:08,880 --> 02:01:13,590

2032
02:01:13,590 --> 02:01:14,490
I can see it.

2033
02:01:14,490 --> 02:01:17,280

It's impossible to visualize.

2034

02:01:17,280 --> 02:01:21,110
You can be empathetic,
but it's a degree

2035

02:01:21,110 --> 02:01:25,580
to which you can be empathetic.

2036

02:01:25,580 --> 02:01:27,880
It's still somebody's else life.

2037

02:01:27,880 --> 02:01:29,360
Is not your life.

2038

02:01:29,360 --> 02:01:33,600
It's his life, her life.

2039

02:01:33,600 --> 02:01:40,870
And I think it's what
Holocaust Museum is doing,

2040

02:01:40,870 --> 02:01:45,580
saving for generation is
so important, so important,

2041

02:01:45,580 --> 02:01:50,130
because other places--

2042

02:01:50,130 --> 02:01:56,140
there is some central
archives here and there.

2043

02:01:56,140 --> 02:01:59,620
But that needs to
be made available

2044

02:01:59,620 --> 02:02:03,730
for as much as possible,
especially younger generations.

2045

02:02:03,730 --> 02:02:06,190
That's my hope.

2046

02:02:06,190 --> 02:02:08,160

That's my hope.

2047

02:02:08,160 --> 02:02:10,000