

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,150

2
00:00:01,150 --> 00:00:02,410
Barbara is not.

3
00:00:02,410 --> 00:00:07,890

4
00:00:07,890 --> 00:00:12,060
This is a United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

5
00:00:12,060 --> 00:00:19,080
interview with Mr. Allan
Firestone on February 7, 2019

6
00:00:19,080 --> 00:00:21,590
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

7
00:00:21,590 --> 00:00:24,580
Thank you very, very
much, Mr. Firestone,

8
00:00:24,580 --> 00:00:27,190
for agreeing to
speak with us today,

9
00:00:27,190 --> 00:00:31,570
and to share something of
your own story and experiences

10
00:00:31,570 --> 00:00:35,110
during World War II and
in the middle of what

11
00:00:35,110 --> 00:00:38,330
became known as the Holocaust.

12
00:00:38,330 --> 00:00:41,420
I'm going to start with

the most basic questions,

13
00:00:41,420 --> 00:00:45,990
and from there, we'll
develop your story.

14
00:00:45,990 --> 00:00:48,660
So my very first
question is, can you

15
00:00:48,660 --> 00:00:51,900
tell me the date of your birth?

16
00:00:51,900 --> 00:00:52,530
Yes.

17
00:00:52,530 --> 00:00:57,910
I was born on January 31, 1933.

18
00:00:57,910 --> 00:00:58,410
OK.

19
00:00:58,410 --> 00:00:59,830
And where were you born?

20
00:00:59,830 --> 00:01:02,700
I was born in a
little town which

21
00:01:02,700 --> 00:01:08,170
was then in Eastern Poland,
the town of Kolomea.

22
00:01:08,170 --> 00:01:10,680
It is now part of
Western Ukraine.

23
00:01:10,680 --> 00:01:13,260

24
00:01:13,260 --> 00:01:15,850
And what was your name at birth?

25
00:01:15,850 --> 00:01:19,200
My name was Abraham Wiznitzer.

26
00:01:19,200 --> 00:01:20,820
Abraham Wiznitzer.

27
00:01:20,820 --> 00:01:21,360
Right.

28
00:01:21,360 --> 00:01:24,370
How would I spell Wiznitzer?

29
00:01:24,370 --> 00:01:28,790
That's-- as I remember
it, it was W-I-Z--

30
00:01:28,790 --> 00:01:31,340

31
00:01:31,340 --> 00:01:34,700
Z with a little
dot on top of it--

32
00:01:34,700 --> 00:01:38,180
N-I-T-Z-E-R.

33
00:01:38,180 --> 00:01:39,860
And with the little
on top of it,

34
00:01:39,860 --> 00:01:42,670
is that make it
sound a "zhuh" sound?

35
00:01:42,670 --> 00:01:43,310
Right.

36
00:01:43,310 --> 00:01:46,410
And is that from Polish or is
that from another language?

37
00:01:46,410 --> 00:01:46,910
No.

38
00:01:46,910 --> 00:01:50,000
That's pretty much
Polish, as I recall.

39
00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:51,320
OK.

40
00:01:51,320 --> 00:01:53,630
So Wiznitzer, Abraham Wiznitzer.

41
00:01:53,630 --> 00:01:55,450
And today, you are
Allan Firestone.

42
00:01:55,450 --> 00:01:56,360
Right.

43
00:01:56,360 --> 00:01:58,220
Which is another story.

44
00:01:58,220 --> 00:02:01,730
Well, I want to know about
it, maybe even now before we

45
00:02:01,730 --> 00:02:03,140
start into the other story.

46
00:02:03,140 --> 00:02:07,440
When did Abraham become Allan?

47
00:02:07,440 --> 00:02:16,340
Well, I guess I would have
to tell you how it all began.

48
00:02:16,340 --> 00:02:21,230
After the war, my sister
was the only survivor

49

00:02:21,230 --> 00:02:27,060
out of our family, married this
gentleman named Feuerstein.

50
00:02:27,060 --> 00:02:29,160
Feuerstein.

51
00:02:29,160 --> 00:02:33,540
We ended up-- to make
a long story short,

52
00:02:33,540 --> 00:02:38,000
we ended up in Frankfurt am
Main in the American zone

53
00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:45,230
of occupation, which
was around 1946.

54
00:02:45,230 --> 00:02:50,970
When my sister and her
husband applied for visas

55
00:02:50,970 --> 00:02:53,670
to come to the
United States, they

56
00:02:53,670 --> 00:02:57,620
wanted me to come with them.

57
00:02:57,620 --> 00:03:01,590
At that time, or maybe
still the case now,

58
00:03:01,590 --> 00:03:06,360
the American government
felt that I was not really

59
00:03:06,360 --> 00:03:10,720
part of the family
because I was not--

60
00:03:10,720 --> 00:03:11,650

Their child.

61
00:03:11,650 --> 00:03:13,380
--their child.

62
00:03:13,380 --> 00:03:21,300
So the State
Department employees

63
00:03:21,300 --> 00:03:25,890
suggested that I have to go
through my own application

64
00:03:25,890 --> 00:03:30,240
process and take
my chances whenever

65
00:03:30,240 --> 00:03:33,470
I get approved and so on.

66
00:03:33,470 --> 00:03:42,060
My brother-in-law
didn't like that idea

67
00:03:42,060 --> 00:03:43,640
that we would be separated.

68
00:03:43,640 --> 00:03:46,770
And my sister didn't
like that idea, either.

69
00:03:46,770 --> 00:03:49,490
So they decided
that all of a sudden

70
00:03:49,490 --> 00:03:57,740
that instead of being just a
brother, or a brother-in-law,

71
00:03:57,740 --> 00:04:01,890
I would become my
brother-in-law's son,

72

00:04:01,890 --> 00:04:04,910

because he was a
little older gentleman.

73

00:04:04,910 --> 00:04:13,790

So that worked out quite well
tactically as a problem--

74

00:04:13,790 --> 00:04:16,579

it probably caused
a few problems.

75

00:04:16,579 --> 00:04:22,110

But all of a sudden,
I became Feuerstein.

76

00:04:22,110 --> 00:04:23,650

Of course--

77

00:04:23,650 --> 00:04:25,600

So you were legally adopted?

78

00:04:25,600 --> 00:04:27,460

Yes.

79

00:04:27,460 --> 00:04:32,650

So of course that
turned into a name

80

00:04:32,650 --> 00:04:35,880

which was very
difficult to pronounce.

81

00:04:35,880 --> 00:04:40,360

So after two years in Korea,
I decided, well, maybe we

82

00:04:40,360 --> 00:04:43,090

can Anglicize it to Firestone.

83

00:04:43,090 --> 00:04:43,717

And voila--

84
00:04:43,717 --> 00:04:44,300
There you are.

85
00:04:44,300 --> 00:04:47,320
--I became Allan Firestone.

86
00:04:47,320 --> 00:04:48,550
OK.

87
00:04:48,550 --> 00:04:52,660
Do you still feel like
Abraham Wiznitzer sometimes?

88
00:04:52,660 --> 00:04:56,170
Very-- once in a while.

89
00:04:56,170 --> 00:05:02,410
Recently, I was reading
one of Elie Wiesel's books

90
00:05:02,410 --> 00:05:04,810
in which one of the
books he was telling

91
00:05:04,810 --> 00:05:08,140
about Vyzhnytsia,
which is a little town

92
00:05:08,140 --> 00:05:10,240
on the border with Hungary.

93
00:05:10,240 --> 00:05:14,980
And there he was talking about
the wonder-working Vizhnitzer

94
00:05:14,980 --> 00:05:17,740
rabbi who is from that town.

95
00:05:17,740 --> 00:05:22,300
And I said, aha, now I know
where my family comes from,

96
00:05:22,300 --> 00:05:24,130
what the relationship is.

97
00:05:24,130 --> 00:05:27,220
Do you think that it's true
that your family actually

98
00:05:27,220 --> 00:05:32,170
is from there and then
migrated eastwards?

99
00:05:32,170 --> 00:05:37,570
That's the only thing I can
think of because somewhere

100
00:05:37,570 --> 00:05:47,570
in back of my mind, the name
Krauthammer also is there.

101
00:05:47,570 --> 00:05:53,230
Now the Krauthammer, of
course, was like the journalist

102
00:05:53,230 --> 00:05:54,880
for The Washington Post--

103
00:05:54,880 --> 00:05:57,150
The recently deceased
Charles Krauthammer.

104
00:05:57,150 --> 00:05:58,060
Right.

105
00:05:58,060 --> 00:05:59,800
And I often wondered
if there was

106
00:05:59,800 --> 00:06:02,260
some sort of a relationship.

107
00:06:02,260 --> 00:06:05,700

But I never had the guts
to actually contact him.

108
00:06:05,700 --> 00:06:08,320

109
00:06:08,320 --> 00:06:12,430
But also maybe a
couple of weeks ago, I

110
00:06:12,430 --> 00:06:15,940
was reading The
Jerusalem Post and there

111
00:06:15,940 --> 00:06:19,840
was a long article
about the ultra-orthodox

112
00:06:19,840 --> 00:06:24,340
and what their affect would
be on the elections and so on.

113
00:06:24,340 --> 00:06:27,940
And I found out that one of
their major ultra-orthodox

114
00:06:27,940 --> 00:06:30,940
sects in Jerusalem
is from Vyzhnytsia.

115
00:06:30,940 --> 00:06:36,370
And again, the head of the
sect is the Vizhnitzer rabbi.

116
00:06:36,370 --> 00:06:39,680
So with all those things--

117
00:06:39,680 --> 00:06:43,250
Have you ever done a genealogy
search, an actual one?

118
00:06:43,250 --> 00:06:45,410
No, I have not.

119
00:06:45,410 --> 00:06:48,926
My daughter has done that.

120
00:06:48,926 --> 00:06:56,895
And she found a long-lost
cousin of hers from Los Angeles.

121
00:06:56,895 --> 00:07:00,500
And so she's been in
touch with a cousin,

122
00:07:00,500 --> 00:07:02,572
but I have never done that.

123
00:07:02,572 --> 00:07:04,380
OK.

124
00:07:04,380 --> 00:07:09,650
Let's go back now to
Kolomea, and to the place

125
00:07:09,650 --> 00:07:12,380
where everything all began.

126
00:07:12,380 --> 00:07:14,500
Tell me, did you have
brothers and sisters?

127
00:07:14,500 --> 00:07:15,570
You mentioned one.

128
00:07:15,570 --> 00:07:16,070
Yes.

129
00:07:16,070 --> 00:07:19,850
I had altogether
four older sisters.

130
00:07:19,850 --> 00:07:21,400
And you were then the youngest?

131
00:07:21,400 --> 00:07:22,100
Yes.

132
00:07:22,100 --> 00:07:23,380
And the boy.

133
00:07:23,380 --> 00:07:24,140
Right.

134
00:07:24,140 --> 00:07:26,450
You must have been the favorite.

135
00:07:26,450 --> 00:07:29,108
Of course.

136
00:07:29,108 --> 00:07:32,540
I of course don't remember
it, but when I was born,

137
00:07:32,540 --> 00:07:39,480
I'm told by everybody that there
was a big celebration in town.

138
00:07:39,480 --> 00:07:40,660
That there was a boy.

139
00:07:40,660 --> 00:07:41,160
Yes.

140
00:07:41,160 --> 00:07:43,450
There was finally a boy.

141
00:07:43,450 --> 00:07:44,430
OK.

142
00:07:44,430 --> 00:07:47,370
What are the names of
your older sisters?

143
00:07:47,370 --> 00:07:50,670
My oldest sister

was named Ruzhia.

144
00:07:50,670 --> 00:07:54,200
The second one was
Frima, or Frieda.

145
00:07:54,200 --> 00:07:57,270
The third one was the
one that survived,

146
00:07:57,270 --> 00:08:00,000
which was Yula, or Julia.

147
00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:03,250
And the younger of the four--

148
00:08:03,250 --> 00:08:05,040
or youngest of the four--

149
00:08:05,040 --> 00:08:06,710
was Rachel.

150
00:08:06,710 --> 00:08:07,720
OK.

151
00:08:07,720 --> 00:08:08,910
Rachel.

152
00:08:08,910 --> 00:08:12,160
And what were your
parents' names?

153
00:08:12,160 --> 00:08:14,640
My parents' name was Yacob.

154
00:08:14,640 --> 00:08:15,270
Wiznitzer.

155
00:08:15,270 --> 00:08:18,495
Wiznitzer, or Krauthammer,
whichever you prefer.

156

00:08:18,495 --> 00:08:19,050

Oh, OK.

157

00:08:19,050 --> 00:08:22,370

So it could have been-- it
was in this side of the family

158

00:08:22,370 --> 00:08:25,440

that Krauthammer also figured,
not on your mother's side.

159

00:08:25,440 --> 00:08:29,700

No, my mother was Clara.

160

00:08:29,700 --> 00:08:35,799

And her maiden name
was Lachs, L-A-C-H-S.

161

00:08:35,799 --> 00:08:40,900

And as far as you know, were
your parents also from Kolomea?

162

00:08:40,900 --> 00:08:43,299

Well, as near as
I can tell, yes.

163

00:08:43,299 --> 00:08:44,980

OK.

164

00:08:44,980 --> 00:08:48,040

In your early
years, did you know

165

00:08:48,040 --> 00:08:52,230

of aunts and uncles and
grandparents on either side?

166

00:08:52,230 --> 00:08:53,520

No.

167

00:08:53,520 --> 00:08:56,190

Well, yes and no.

168
00:08:56,190 --> 00:09:02,590
The grandparents were all dead
by the time I came around.

169
00:09:02,590 --> 00:09:05,810
So I never had any
relationship with them.

170
00:09:05,810 --> 00:09:10,490
We did have my
mother's sister, so I

171
00:09:10,490 --> 00:09:16,460
had an aunt and her
husband and her children.

172
00:09:16,460 --> 00:09:17,600
What was her name?

173
00:09:17,600 --> 00:09:18,440
Her name was--

174
00:09:18,440 --> 00:09:23,140

175
00:09:23,140 --> 00:09:25,500
It's OK.

176
00:09:25,500 --> 00:09:26,470
Sali.

177
00:09:26,470 --> 00:09:27,300
Sali.

178
00:09:27,300 --> 00:09:27,860
Sali.

179
00:09:27,860 --> 00:09:28,600
Right.

180

00:09:28,600 --> 00:09:31,730
And she had four children.

181
00:09:31,730 --> 00:09:34,700
Were they about your age,
or older, or younger?

182
00:09:34,700 --> 00:09:38,090
They were mostly older.

183
00:09:38,090 --> 00:09:42,490
The oldest one was Hilda.

184
00:09:42,490 --> 00:09:46,560
She is now in her 90s and
she lives in Frankfurt.

185
00:09:46,560 --> 00:09:47,740
am Main?

186
00:09:47,740 --> 00:09:48,720
Yes.

187
00:09:48,720 --> 00:09:49,900
OK.

188
00:09:49,900 --> 00:09:54,300
The next one was
a boy named Yakov,

189
00:09:54,300 --> 00:09:59,590
or Jacob, who was about three
or four years older than I was.

190
00:09:59,590 --> 00:10:02,410
The next one was Herman.

191
00:10:02,410 --> 00:10:05,980
And he was about a year
younger than I was.

192
00:10:05,980 --> 00:10:08,524

And then they had a about a--

193

00:10:08,524 --> 00:10:13,560

I would say, about a 6,
7-year-old child Lunia.

194

00:10:13,560 --> 00:10:16,580

And she was quite
retarded, and we can

195

00:10:16,580 --> 00:10:21,590

tell about that story in time.

196

00:10:21,590 --> 00:10:25,580

Now in addition to
those very close--

197

00:10:25,580 --> 00:10:26,960

Let me ask one question here.

198

00:10:26,960 --> 00:10:28,650

What was their last name?

199

00:10:28,650 --> 00:10:29,590

Spiegel.

200

00:10:29,590 --> 00:10:30,090

Spiegel.

201

00:10:30,090 --> 00:10:31,470

S-P-I-E-G-E-L.

202

00:10:31,470 --> 00:10:34,340

So she was-- your
aunt's name again,

203

00:10:34,340 --> 00:10:36,110

forgive me, that it
slipped by my mind.

204

00:10:36,110 --> 00:10:36,740

Sali.

205
00:10:36,740 --> 00:10:39,500
Sali-- Sali Lachs Spiegel.

206
00:10:39,500 --> 00:10:40,220
Right.

207
00:10:40,220 --> 00:10:43,980
And then all of the others
were Hilda Spiegel and so on?

208
00:10:43,980 --> 00:10:44,480
Right.

209
00:10:44,480 --> 00:10:45,240
The children.

210
00:10:45,240 --> 00:10:46,070
OK.

211
00:10:46,070 --> 00:10:47,420
Now you mentioned you
were going to tell me

212
00:10:47,420 --> 00:10:48,200
about something else.

213
00:10:48,200 --> 00:10:48,700
Yeah.

214
00:10:48,700 --> 00:10:52,190
What I was trying to
say is that in addition

215
00:10:52,190 --> 00:10:56,630
to the very close
members of the family,

216
00:10:56,630 --> 00:11:03,320
there were also some
more distant relations.

217

00:11:03,320 --> 00:11:06,710

And we referred to
them as the Russians

218

00:11:06,710 --> 00:11:11,180

because they were from
somewhere from Russia, I guess.

219

00:11:11,180 --> 00:11:14,707

I never was really close to
them, but I remember the name.

220

00:11:14,707 --> 00:11:17,165

And where they from momma's or
father's side of the family?

221

00:11:17,165 --> 00:11:19,940

222

00:11:19,940 --> 00:11:21,740

I don't know.

223

00:11:21,740 --> 00:11:22,240

OK.

224

00:11:22,240 --> 00:11:23,380

Sorry about that.

225

00:11:23,380 --> 00:11:25,970

Did you ever meet them?

226

00:11:25,970 --> 00:11:26,503

Once.

227

00:11:26,503 --> 00:11:27,170

I met them once.

228

00:11:27,170 --> 00:11:28,950

Before the war, or after--

229

00:11:28,950 --> 00:11:30,770

or during or after?

230
00:11:30,770 --> 00:11:32,240
It was during the war.

231
00:11:32,240 --> 00:11:33,187
I was during the war.

232
00:11:33,187 --> 00:11:33,770
In the ghetto.

233
00:11:33,770 --> 00:11:36,440

234
00:11:36,440 --> 00:11:39,500
I know I'm trying to
take it out of sync,

235
00:11:39,500 --> 00:11:48,110
but when my sister and I
were really in trouble,

236
00:11:48,110 --> 00:11:51,710
my sisters took me
to the Russian family

237
00:11:51,710 --> 00:11:55,580
to see if they would have
any food to share with me.

238
00:11:55,580 --> 00:11:59,390
And the lady of the house
said, no, we don't have any.

239
00:11:59,390 --> 00:12:01,750
Go away, don't bother us.

240
00:12:01,750 --> 00:12:05,180
The husband was a little
bit more considerate.

241
00:12:05,180 --> 00:12:07,580

And he said, now
we have a barrel

242
00:12:07,580 --> 00:12:11,120
of apples under the stairs.

243
00:12:11,120 --> 00:12:13,280
Now You didn't
steal any of that?

244
00:12:13,280 --> 00:12:15,550
I said, no, of course
I wouldn't do that.

245
00:12:15,550 --> 00:12:18,130
It was only about
after I left him

246
00:12:18,130 --> 00:12:22,280
and two blocks down the road,
I said, my God, what an idiot

247
00:12:22,280 --> 00:12:23,120
I was.

248
00:12:23,120 --> 00:12:26,800
He was actually inviting
me to get some apples.

249
00:12:26,800 --> 00:12:29,890
But that was the
only time I really

250
00:12:29,890 --> 00:12:32,800
met my Russian relatives.

251
00:12:32,800 --> 00:12:33,970
Oh.

252
00:12:33,970 --> 00:12:37,810
What a bitter kind
of experience.

253

00:12:37,810 --> 00:12:38,770

Yes.

254

00:12:38,770 --> 00:12:45,290

Now in addition to that,
my mother and her sister

255

00:12:45,290 --> 00:12:49,410

had a brother who
lived in Germany.

256

00:12:49,410 --> 00:12:57,890

And he was expelled from
Germany during 1938 or so.

257

00:12:57,890 --> 00:13:00,010

Ah yes, when all Polish--

258

00:13:00,010 --> 00:13:03,670

Polish Jews-- that is, they
had come from Poland originally

259

00:13:03,670 --> 00:13:04,795

and had settled in Germany.

260

00:13:04,795 --> 00:13:05,530

Right.

261

00:13:05,530 --> 00:13:12,540

And so I got to meet him, and
his wife, and my German cousin.

262

00:13:12,540 --> 00:13:14,290

And you'll excuse me if I--

263

00:13:14,290 --> 00:13:14,790

Sure.

264

00:13:14,790 --> 00:13:15,415

Go right ahead.

265

00:13:15,415 --> 00:13:16,280
Do you want to cut?

266
00:13:16,280 --> 00:13:17,532
Should we cut the camera here?

267
00:13:17,532 --> 00:13:20,610

268
00:13:20,610 --> 00:13:21,110
OK.

269
00:13:21,110 --> 00:13:23,840
We were talking about
your German relatives

270
00:13:23,840 --> 00:13:29,630
who were in Germany had
they lived until 1938?

271
00:13:29,630 --> 00:13:31,180
I'm really not sure.

272
00:13:31,180 --> 00:13:32,760
OK.

273
00:13:32,760 --> 00:13:35,440
And where were they expelled to?

274
00:13:35,440 --> 00:13:37,885
Well, they were
expelled to Poland.

275
00:13:37,885 --> 00:13:40,830
And of course, having
relatives in Kolomea,

276
00:13:40,830 --> 00:13:43,240
they ended up with us.

277
00:13:43,240 --> 00:13:43,740
OK.

278
00:13:43,740 --> 00:13:47,400
So they came to that far eastern
corner of Poland as well.

279
00:13:47,400 --> 00:13:47,900
Right.

280
00:13:47,900 --> 00:13:48,900
Yes.

281
00:13:48,900 --> 00:13:52,740
Did they settle there
after 1938 and stay there?

282
00:13:52,740 --> 00:13:53,580
Yes.

283
00:13:53,580 --> 00:13:54,570
OK.

284
00:13:54,570 --> 00:13:59,100
And their last name
was also Lachs?

285
00:13:59,100 --> 00:13:59,920
Yes.

286
00:13:59,920 --> 00:14:00,420
All right.

287
00:14:00,420 --> 00:14:03,130
Tell me as much as
you can about them.

288
00:14:03,130 --> 00:14:11,520
Well, there was not much
that I could tell about them.

289
00:14:11,520 --> 00:14:15,430
I was too young to
really get involved--

290
00:14:15,430 --> 00:14:16,680
Do you have memories of them?

291
00:14:16,680 --> 00:14:17,180
Pardon?

292
00:14:17,180 --> 00:14:18,388
Do you have memories of them?

293
00:14:18,388 --> 00:14:21,430
I have memories of
them, but very vague.

294
00:14:21,430 --> 00:14:22,980
They were there.

295
00:14:22,980 --> 00:14:25,090
The family was there.

296
00:14:25,090 --> 00:14:31,410
They had one daughter, Yudit.

297
00:14:31,410 --> 00:14:37,500
And we saw her occasionally
because they were family.

298
00:14:37,500 --> 00:14:44,230
They were cousins and
my cousins from my aunt.

299
00:14:44,230 --> 00:14:47,886
We would get together
and play or--

300
00:14:47,886 --> 00:14:50,880
but that was very--

301
00:14:50,880 --> 00:14:52,590
very minor, actually.

302

00:14:52,590 --> 00:14:53,300
Well, yes.

303
00:14:53,300 --> 00:14:55,680
I mean, in 1938,
you're five years old.

304
00:14:55,680 --> 00:14:58,010
Right.

305
00:14:58,010 --> 00:14:59,760
And these things
are all happening

306
00:14:59,760 --> 00:15:03,150
in the late '30s, where there's
a time of a lot of turmoil

307
00:15:03,150 --> 00:15:03,690
anyway.

308
00:15:03,690 --> 00:15:04,190
Yes.

309
00:15:04,190 --> 00:15:06,660
Yes.

310
00:15:06,660 --> 00:15:10,620
Do you remember their names at
all or what they looked like?

311
00:15:10,620 --> 00:15:14,930
I remember the name
of the cousin, Yudit.

312
00:15:14,930 --> 00:15:17,460
Yudit.

313
00:15:17,460 --> 00:15:22,470
I don't really remember
the names of the parents.

314

00:15:22,470 --> 00:15:26,580
And what language did
they speak with you?

315
00:15:26,580 --> 00:15:28,440
Mostly German.

316
00:15:28,440 --> 00:15:29,430
OK.

317
00:15:29,430 --> 00:15:30,780
And at home?

318
00:15:30,780 --> 00:15:33,270
At home, we all spoke Polish.

319
00:15:33,270 --> 00:15:34,410
You all spoke Polish?

320
00:15:34,410 --> 00:15:35,510
Yes.

321
00:15:35,510 --> 00:15:39,166
And how did you
understand the German?

322
00:15:39,166 --> 00:15:42,510
Well, we also spoke a
little bit of Yiddish.

323
00:15:42,510 --> 00:15:46,610
So there was some similarity.

324
00:15:46,610 --> 00:15:48,750
So I could understand
what they were saying,

325
00:15:48,750 --> 00:15:52,620
and of course they knew
a little bit of Polish.

326
00:15:52,620 --> 00:15:58,550

So between all those languages, we got [INAUDIBLE]..

327
00:15:58,550 --> 00:16:03,740
Well, what you are painting is a picture of--

328
00:16:03,740 --> 00:16:08,870
I wouldn't say a common, but also not very unusual family.

329
00:16:08,870 --> 00:16:11,960
There were people who had relatives

330
00:16:11,960 --> 00:16:16,460
from one country, another country,

331
00:16:16,460 --> 00:16:18,310
and they were related--

332
00:16:18,310 --> 00:16:21,920
blood related-- but either were citizens

333
00:16:21,920 --> 00:16:24,352
or saw themselves as really belonging

334
00:16:24,352 --> 00:16:25,310
to different countries.

335
00:16:25,310 --> 00:16:25,810
Yes.

336
00:16:25,810 --> 00:16:30,480

337
00:16:30,480 --> 00:16:32,520
The other question I have is, did your father

338

00:16:32,520 --> 00:16:34,890
have any brothers and sisters?

339

00:16:34,890 --> 00:16:40,639
He had brothers and
sisters, but they were

340

00:16:40,639 --> 00:16:41,806
living in the United States.

341

00:16:41,806 --> 00:16:44,340

342

00:16:44,340 --> 00:16:47,020
He was the only one
still living in Kolomea?

343

00:16:47,020 --> 00:16:47,910
Right.

344

00:16:47,910 --> 00:16:51,670
How did that happen that
he didn't join them?

345

00:16:51,670 --> 00:16:57,440
Well, I guess my
simplest explanation was

346

00:16:57,440 --> 00:17:04,339
he was more well-off
than the others,

347

00:17:04,339 --> 00:17:08,680
and there didn't
seem to be any need

348

00:17:08,680 --> 00:17:14,369
to go looking for a
better economic situation.

349

00:17:14,369 --> 00:17:16,869
OK.

350
00:17:16,869 --> 00:17:18,107
That makes sense.

351
00:17:18,107 --> 00:17:18,980
That makes sense.

352
00:17:18,980 --> 00:17:19,480
[INAUDIBLE]

353
00:17:19,480 --> 00:17:23,319
And how did he-- that brings
me to another question,

354
00:17:23,319 --> 00:17:26,440
is, how did he
support your family?

355
00:17:26,440 --> 00:17:34,630
He ran a grocery
store, bar combination,

356
00:17:34,630 --> 00:17:38,660
served the local
clientele, including

357
00:17:38,660 --> 00:17:42,090
the peasants from the
surrounding villages who

358
00:17:42,090 --> 00:17:46,430
would stop off to
and from the market.

359
00:17:46,430 --> 00:17:48,050
So that's kind of a hub.

360
00:17:48,050 --> 00:17:48,910
I'm sorry?

361
00:17:48,910 --> 00:17:53,320
That's a hub, sort of

like the center of--

362
00:17:53,320 --> 00:17:56,140
one of the centers of, let's
say, village or town life.

363
00:17:56,140 --> 00:17:56,770
Right.

364
00:17:56,770 --> 00:17:57,820
Exactly.

365
00:17:57,820 --> 00:17:58,600
Huh.

366
00:17:58,600 --> 00:18:06,020
Do you remember that
grocery store, pub place?

367
00:18:06,020 --> 00:18:10,040
Yes, I remember
it quite clearly.

368
00:18:10,040 --> 00:18:17,950
It was a typical grocery store
with various merchandises.

369
00:18:17,950 --> 00:18:30,324
I remember in particular he was
selling a coffee substitute,

370
00:18:30,324 --> 00:18:36,642
and the packaging included
pictures of African life.

371
00:18:36,642 --> 00:18:39,630
And I was very
terribly disappointed

372
00:18:39,630 --> 00:18:45,090
when he sold all that
stuff without giving me

373

00:18:45,090 --> 00:18:47,820
a chance to steal all the--

374

00:18:47,820 --> 00:18:48,320
Pictures.

375

00:18:48,320 --> 00:18:52,020
Pictures, right.

376

00:18:52,020 --> 00:18:54,660
The things that kids
find fascinating.

377

00:18:54,660 --> 00:18:56,310
Right.

378

00:18:56,310 --> 00:18:59,220
Did your sisters help
him in the store?

379

00:18:59,220 --> 00:19:02,390
No, they were going to school.

380

00:19:02,390 --> 00:19:07,540
They were at gymnasium at the
time that I remember that.

381

00:19:07,540 --> 00:19:09,240
So they weren't
really adults yet.

382

00:19:09,240 --> 00:19:10,740
They were still kids as well.

383

00:19:10,740 --> 00:19:17,640
Well, I guess so,
although my oldest sister

384

00:19:17,640 --> 00:19:23,070
was old enough to have been
married around 1939 or 1940.

385

00:19:23,070 --> 00:19:24,860

Do you know the dates
of their birth--

386

00:19:24,860 --> 00:19:26,160

their years they were born?

387

00:19:26,160 --> 00:19:26,940

No.

388

00:19:26,940 --> 00:19:28,540

I don't.

389

00:19:28,540 --> 00:19:32,070

At the time, it didn't
seem very important.

390

00:19:32,070 --> 00:19:33,510

Of course.

391

00:19:33,510 --> 00:19:37,060

No five-year-old would go around
with a pad and paper saying,

392

00:19:37,060 --> 00:19:38,986

when were you born?

393

00:19:38,986 --> 00:19:39,486

Right.

394

00:19:39,486 --> 00:19:39,986

Exactly.

395

00:19:39,986 --> 00:19:42,820

396

00:19:42,820 --> 00:19:44,730

What kind of a house
did you live in,

397

00:19:44,730 --> 00:19:46,420

or apartment did you live in?

398

00:19:46,420 --> 00:19:50,850

We had a big house.

399

00:19:50,850 --> 00:19:55,230

Part of it was the
grocery store bar.

400

00:19:55,230 --> 00:19:57,830

The other part was
our living quarters

401

00:19:57,830 --> 00:20:02,640

where we had a number of
bedrooms where my sisters lived

402

00:20:02,640 --> 00:20:03,890

and I did.

403

00:20:03,890 --> 00:20:07,090

Did you each have your own room?

404

00:20:07,090 --> 00:20:11,320

Except for myself, I don't
remember that I had one.

405

00:20:11,320 --> 00:20:13,470

The sisters had rooms.

406

00:20:13,470 --> 00:20:20,160

I suspect they were shared rooms
since there were four girls.

407

00:20:20,160 --> 00:20:22,990

408

00:20:22,990 --> 00:20:25,450

Describe the house
to me, if you can.

409

00:20:25,450 --> 00:20:26,350

Was it of wood?

410

00:20:26,350 --> 00:20:27,680

Was it a stone?

411

00:20:27,680 --> 00:20:28,430

It was stone.

412

00:20:28,430 --> 00:20:32,270

413

00:20:32,270 --> 00:20:40,980

Each bedroom had one
of those big stoves--

414

00:20:40,980 --> 00:20:41,990

Coal ovens.

415

00:20:41,990 --> 00:20:43,950

They sometimes were
very decorative.

416

00:20:43,950 --> 00:20:46,880

Yes, exactly what they were.

417

00:20:46,880 --> 00:20:52,740

And the kitchen at one
time, there was a gas stove.

418

00:20:52,740 --> 00:20:59,010

At some other time, it was back
to a wood stove in the kitchen.

419

00:20:59,010 --> 00:21:02,550

And a nice place where you
could sit and keep warm.

420

00:21:02,550 --> 00:21:06,310

Tell me, was there
indoor plumbing?

421

00:21:06,310 --> 00:21:07,510

No.

422
00:21:07,510 --> 00:21:08,410
OK.

423
00:21:08,410 --> 00:21:12,100
So where were facilities?

424
00:21:12,100 --> 00:21:15,850
All kinds, whether bath,
or toilet, or water--

425
00:21:15,850 --> 00:21:22,900
The water was in
the outdoor pump.

426
00:21:22,900 --> 00:21:23,400
Well.

427
00:21:23,400 --> 00:21:23,700
OK.

428
00:21:23,700 --> 00:21:24,140
Well.

429
00:21:24,140 --> 00:21:24,640
Yes.

430
00:21:24,640 --> 00:21:25,750
Well water.

431
00:21:25,750 --> 00:21:32,990
And also outside of the house
next to a kind of a warehouse,

432
00:21:32,990 --> 00:21:35,700
there was a toilet.

433
00:21:35,700 --> 00:21:36,900
An outhouse?

434

00:21:36,900 --> 00:21:38,000
Outhouse, yes.

435
00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:39,160
OK.

436
00:21:39,160 --> 00:21:41,590
An actual little booth outhouse?

437
00:21:41,590 --> 00:21:46,060
It was of built into
the storage area.

438
00:21:46,060 --> 00:21:46,570
Got it.

439
00:21:46,570 --> 00:21:49,140
So it's not totally independent.

440
00:21:49,140 --> 00:21:49,640
OK.

441
00:21:49,640 --> 00:21:52,750

442
00:21:52,750 --> 00:21:55,000
And what about
bathing facilities--

443
00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:56,940
bathroom?

444
00:21:56,940 --> 00:21:58,680
Was there one?

445
00:21:58,680 --> 00:22:01,980
There were bathtubs
inside of the house, yes.

446
00:22:01,980 --> 00:22:04,950
And so people would-- you'd have
to haul the water in, heat it

447
00:22:04,950 --> 00:22:06,240
up on the stove--

448
00:22:06,240 --> 00:22:06,740
OK.

449
00:22:06,740 --> 00:22:07,520
Right.

450
00:22:07,520 --> 00:22:08,580
OK.

451
00:22:08,580 --> 00:22:10,740
Did you have electricity?

452
00:22:10,740 --> 00:22:13,620
Yes.

453
00:22:13,620 --> 00:22:15,900
We were modern to that extent.

454
00:22:15,900 --> 00:22:18,840
Well, I ask because in
this part of the world,

455
00:22:18,840 --> 00:22:19,650
it was very mixed.

456
00:22:19,650 --> 00:22:20,430
Yes.

457
00:22:20,430 --> 00:22:24,520
Some places didn't have any
of these modern conveniences,

458
00:22:24,520 --> 00:22:30,460
some places had some, and
life was very different.

459
00:22:30,460 --> 00:22:32,400

Some people didn't
have refrigerators.

460
00:22:32,400 --> 00:22:35,600
They had other ways of
keeping food preserved.

461
00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:36,100
Yes.

462
00:22:36,100 --> 00:22:36,600
Yeah.

463
00:22:36,600 --> 00:22:38,790

464
00:22:38,790 --> 00:22:42,060
What about paved roads?

465
00:22:42,060 --> 00:22:44,430
Did you have paved roads,
or were they cobblestone,

466
00:22:44,430 --> 00:22:46,050
or were they dirt,
or how were they?

467
00:22:46,050 --> 00:22:51,690
They were mostly cobblestone.

468
00:22:51,690 --> 00:22:52,940
OK.

469
00:22:52,940 --> 00:22:55,130
Did you have a telephone?

470
00:22:55,130 --> 00:22:56,390
Yes, we did.

471
00:22:56,390 --> 00:22:58,430
That's unusual.

472

00:22:58,430 --> 00:23:02,340

That's unusual for that part
of the world at that time.

473

00:23:02,340 --> 00:23:03,215

Did you have a radio?

474

00:23:03,215 --> 00:23:08,530

475

00:23:08,530 --> 00:23:09,985

Don't remember.

476

00:23:09,985 --> 00:23:11,200

OK.

477

00:23:11,200 --> 00:23:12,790

What about automobiles?

478

00:23:12,790 --> 00:23:17,480

Did many people in Kolomea
seem to have automobiles?

479

00:23:17,480 --> 00:23:18,920

Not that I remember.

480

00:23:18,920 --> 00:23:22,760

The people who lived in
the center of town, which

481

00:23:22,760 --> 00:23:25,370

were more modern,
I suppose, had,

482

00:23:25,370 --> 00:23:29,570

but we were sort of like
a suburb of the town.

483

00:23:29,570 --> 00:23:31,280

Oh, so you weren't in
the center of town?

484

00:23:31,280 --> 00:23:31,780

No.

485

00:23:31,780 --> 00:23:32,660

No.

486

00:23:32,660 --> 00:23:33,560

OK.

487

00:23:33,560 --> 00:23:37,640

And no, we did not
have an automobile.

488

00:23:37,640 --> 00:23:48,545

We always-- as I remember,
we always used a [POLISH],,

489

00:23:48,545 --> 00:23:50,180

as we say in Polish.

490

00:23:50,180 --> 00:23:52,692

What is a [POLISH]?

491

00:23:52,692 --> 00:24:01,250

A taxi, a horse-drawn
taxi to get from the house

492

00:24:01,250 --> 00:24:05,200

into the center of town to
do shopping or something.

493

00:24:05,200 --> 00:24:07,030

So you didn't have
your own horse?

494

00:24:07,030 --> 00:24:07,635

No.

495

00:24:07,635 --> 00:24:08,135

No.

496

00:24:08,135 --> 00:24:08,800
OK.

497
00:24:08,800 --> 00:24:11,530
Did you have any other
kinds of animals, from--

498
00:24:11,530 --> 00:24:15,720
like chickens, or goats,
or things like that?

499
00:24:15,720 --> 00:24:20,500
Before the war, we
had only a guard dog.

500
00:24:20,500 --> 00:24:22,130
Did he have a name?

501
00:24:22,130 --> 00:24:24,910
Ceaser.

502
00:24:24,910 --> 00:24:30,260
And later on, I think my
mother had some geese which

503
00:24:30,260 --> 00:24:32,560
she used to stuff.

504
00:24:32,560 --> 00:24:36,560

505
00:24:36,560 --> 00:24:39,710
And your home in
this residential area

506
00:24:39,710 --> 00:24:42,710
where there was also
the pub area, when

507
00:24:42,710 --> 00:24:44,930
you say it was a
suburb, can you describe

508

00:24:44,930 --> 00:24:47,300
to me how that suburb looked?

509

00:24:47,300 --> 00:24:50,600
Were you on a street with
other houses close by,

510

00:24:50,600 --> 00:24:53,030
or further apart, or--

511

00:24:53,030 --> 00:24:55,110
paint a picture for me
of what it looked like.

512

00:24:55,110 --> 00:25:00,460
OK, well, the houses
were standalone.

513

00:25:00,460 --> 00:25:07,360
And there were houses
across the street.

514

00:25:07,360 --> 00:25:11,090
I think my father owned several
of them, which had tenants.

515

00:25:11,090 --> 00:25:15,910

516

00:25:15,910 --> 00:25:19,390
And basically, it
was a street that

517

00:25:19,390 --> 00:25:22,600
led from the center of town--

518

00:25:22,600 --> 00:25:31,480
either by taxi or by local
train from the center of town--

519

00:25:31,480 --> 00:25:35,250
to within walking

distance to our house.

520
00:25:35,250 --> 00:25:40,900
And the road led from
the center of town to--

521
00:25:40,900 --> 00:25:46,190
east towards Romania,
towards the city of Cernauti,

522
00:25:46,190 --> 00:25:48,780
or Chernivtsi.

523
00:25:48,780 --> 00:25:52,240
And that's another story.

524
00:25:52,240 --> 00:25:52,740
OK.

525
00:25:52,740 --> 00:25:56,655
So you're at one end
of Kolomea itself.

526
00:25:56,655 --> 00:25:57,650
Right.

527
00:25:57,650 --> 00:26:02,600
So I would think that would have
been the southeast, or the--

528
00:26:02,600 --> 00:26:03,290
East.

529
00:26:03,290 --> 00:26:04,910
East-- mostly east.

530
00:26:04,910 --> 00:26:05,450
Yes.

531
00:26:05,450 --> 00:26:07,430
OK.

532
00:26:07,430 --> 00:26:07,930
Yes.

533
00:26:07,930 --> 00:26:10,090
When I looked on
a map for Kolomea,

534
00:26:10,090 --> 00:26:12,610
I saw one of the most
interesting things

535
00:26:12,610 --> 00:26:16,930
was that it's surrounded--
it's very close to six or seven

536
00:26:16,930 --> 00:26:18,900
other countries,
if you look at it.

537
00:26:18,900 --> 00:26:20,030
Yes, exactly.

538
00:26:20,030 --> 00:26:23,560
There's Slovakia-- well,
there was Moldova, Romania,

539
00:26:23,560 --> 00:26:25,360
Slovakia--

540
00:26:25,360 --> 00:26:26,730
was Hungary part of that?

541
00:26:26,730 --> 00:26:27,430
Yes.

542
00:26:27,430 --> 00:26:29,830
Poland-- that's when it's--

543
00:26:29,830 --> 00:26:31,970
now currently, in Ukraine.

544

00:26:31,970 --> 00:26:34,660
So a lot of different nationalities.

545
00:26:34,660 --> 00:26:36,140
Yes.

546
00:26:36,140 --> 00:26:38,840
Do you know about how many kilometers from, let's say,

547
00:26:38,840 --> 00:26:41,855
one of those borders Kolomea was?

548
00:26:41,855 --> 00:26:44,460
Was it 100 kilometers or 200?

549
00:26:44,460 --> 00:26:47,030
Oh, it was probably less than 100.

550
00:26:47,030 --> 00:26:47,800
Less than 100.

551
00:26:47,800 --> 00:26:48,520
Yes.

552
00:26:48,520 --> 00:26:49,880
OK.

553
00:26:49,880 --> 00:26:53,090
So it's really in the corner of countries,

554
00:26:53,090 --> 00:26:55,250
whether that would be Poland or Ukraine.

555
00:26:55,250 --> 00:26:56,216
Yeah.

556

00:26:56,216 --> 00:26:58,150
OK.

557
00:26:58,150 --> 00:27:02,320
And the house you say
was made of stone.

558
00:27:02,320 --> 00:27:05,410
Was it built, do you
think, in the 19th century

559
00:27:05,410 --> 00:27:07,000
or was it a modern house?

560
00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:09,850
It was more modern,
although it lacked

561
00:27:09,850 --> 00:27:13,420
some of the quote,
"modern conveniences,"

562
00:27:13,420 --> 00:27:14,770
such as indoor plumbing.

563
00:27:14,770 --> 00:27:19,540
But it was a modern,
well-built house.

564
00:27:19,540 --> 00:27:21,160
How many stories was it?

565
00:27:21,160 --> 00:27:22,360
Just one story.

566
00:27:22,360 --> 00:27:23,720
Oh, it was a one-story house.

567
00:27:23,720 --> 00:27:24,220
Yes.

568
00:27:24,220 --> 00:27:25,840

So you lived behind the shop?

569

00:27:25,840 --> 00:27:26,730

Right.

570

00:27:26,730 --> 00:27:27,730

OK.

571

00:27:27,730 --> 00:27:29,560

Did your mother help
out in the store?

572

00:27:29,560 --> 00:27:30,410

Yes.

573

00:27:30,410 --> 00:27:30,910

OK.

574

00:27:30,910 --> 00:27:32,470

Did your father
have other people

575

00:27:32,470 --> 00:27:34,780

who worked with him or for him?

576

00:27:34,780 --> 00:27:37,431

Not that I remember, no.

577

00:27:37,431 --> 00:27:43,540

It was the old
Mom and Pop store.

578

00:27:43,540 --> 00:27:46,990

And did you-- were
you often in the store

579

00:27:46,990 --> 00:27:49,300

with them just to hang around?

580

00:27:49,300 --> 00:27:51,080

Yeah, I did.

581
00:27:51,080 --> 00:27:51,580
Yeah?

582
00:27:51,580 --> 00:27:58,030
Whenever I wasn't
forced to go to school.

583
00:27:58,030 --> 00:28:00,190
Was it interesting to be there?

584
00:28:00,190 --> 00:28:01,000
Yes.

585
00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:06,580
It was really enjoyable
to see them dealing

586
00:28:06,580 --> 00:28:10,570
with the local peasants.

587
00:28:10,570 --> 00:28:13,300
And how did the customers--

588
00:28:13,300 --> 00:28:13,960
how were they?

589
00:28:13,960 --> 00:28:18,010
Did they play with you,
engage with you, talk to you?

590
00:28:18,010 --> 00:28:19,660
No, not really.

591
00:28:19,660 --> 00:28:20,680
OK.

592
00:28:20,680 --> 00:28:22,070
OK.

593
00:28:22,070 --> 00:28:25,700
And did your parents ever

talk about their relations

594

00:28:25,700 --> 00:28:27,530
with these customers?

595

00:28:27,530 --> 00:28:30,890
No, not that I remember.

596

00:28:30,890 --> 00:28:34,100
Again, I was five,
six years old.

597

00:28:34,100 --> 00:28:36,950
I wasn't interested
in any of that.

598

00:28:36,950 --> 00:28:41,530
I wasn't interested
in what was happening.

599

00:28:41,530 --> 00:28:44,200
My cousin, Hilda,
the one I mentioned

600

00:28:44,200 --> 00:28:47,140
was living in Frankfurt,
keeps claiming

601

00:28:47,140 --> 00:28:52,740
that I had a bank
account in Liverpool.

602

00:28:52,740 --> 00:28:56,040
So, again, it goes to
the fact that my father

603

00:28:56,040 --> 00:28:58,110
was relatively well-off.

604

00:28:58,110 --> 00:29:01,530
He was able to open
an account in my name.

605

00:29:01,530 --> 00:29:02,870

Wow.

606

00:29:02,870 --> 00:29:04,940

Wow.

607

00:29:04,940 --> 00:29:07,010

Did you feel comfortable?

608

00:29:07,010 --> 00:29:09,710

That is, I mean,
if he was well-off,

609

00:29:09,710 --> 00:29:12,350

were you, compared
with neighbors,

610

00:29:12,350 --> 00:29:18,860

better off than they
were as a family?

611

00:29:18,860 --> 00:29:20,330

Or was it hard for you to say?

612

00:29:20,330 --> 00:29:21,380

I mean, I'm just trying--

613

00:29:21,380 --> 00:29:23,690

I'm trying to figure it out.

614

00:29:23,690 --> 00:29:24,550

That's hard to say.

615

00:29:24,550 --> 00:29:28,500

I know that I felt
that my father was

616

00:29:28,500 --> 00:29:35,240

sort of a cut above the
average around there when

617

00:29:35,240 --> 00:29:40,690
we went to synagogue, which
was not too often, as I recall.

618
00:29:40,690 --> 00:29:46,300
He was always given
the honors and so on.

619
00:29:46,300 --> 00:29:51,100
So he could have been one of
the more prominent members

620
00:29:51,100 --> 00:29:51,970
of the community?

621
00:29:51,970 --> 00:29:53,740
Yes.

622
00:29:53,740 --> 00:29:55,420
He was.

623
00:29:55,420 --> 00:30:00,430
And the area you lived in, was
it a Jewish neighborhood or was

624
00:30:00,430 --> 00:30:01,540
it mixed?

625
00:30:01,540 --> 00:30:02,870
It was mixed.

626
00:30:02,870 --> 00:30:06,190
OK, can we cut for a--

627
00:30:06,190 --> 00:30:08,200
OK.

628
00:30:08,200 --> 00:30:14,990
How do you think your father was
able to accumulate his assets?

629
00:30:14,990 --> 00:30:15,900

Do you know?

630
00:30:15,900 --> 00:30:16,700
No, I don't.

631
00:30:16,700 --> 00:30:18,890
All I know is that--

632
00:30:18,890 --> 00:30:20,315
what was there.

633
00:30:20,315 --> 00:30:26,000
And he seemed to be among the,
quote, "leading citizens,"

634
00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:30,350
of that area because the
others that I associated with

635
00:30:30,350 --> 00:30:34,640
were mostly tradesmen
of some sort--

636
00:30:34,640 --> 00:30:38,150
like shoemakers
and other people.

637
00:30:38,150 --> 00:30:40,610
Were there other shops
next to your parents?

638
00:30:40,610 --> 00:30:41,270
No.

639
00:30:41,270 --> 00:30:42,710
But there was--

640
00:30:42,710 --> 00:30:45,800
I vividly remember
one of our houses

641
00:30:45,800 --> 00:30:50,916

across the street from us
was occupied by a shoemaker.

642
00:30:50,916 --> 00:30:51,790
Uh-huh.

643
00:30:51,790 --> 00:30:53,294
Do you remember his name?

644
00:30:53,294 --> 00:30:53,794
No.

645
00:30:53,794 --> 00:30:54,768
OK.

646
00:30:54,768 --> 00:30:57,210
OK.

647
00:30:57,210 --> 00:30:59,120
So there was other
trades in the street.

648
00:30:59,120 --> 00:31:00,570
It wasn't just a
residential area.

649
00:31:00,570 --> 00:31:01,070
Right.

650
00:31:01,070 --> 00:31:01,952
Yes.

651
00:31:01,952 --> 00:31:03,720
OK.

652
00:31:03,720 --> 00:31:07,930
And do you know how
your parents met?

653
00:31:07,930 --> 00:31:08,430
No.

654
00:31:08,430 --> 00:31:09,130
No one ever--

655
00:31:09,130 --> 00:31:09,630
OK.

656
00:31:09,630 --> 00:31:11,340
No one ever told me.

657
00:31:11,340 --> 00:31:14,210
I suspect it was arranged.

658
00:31:14,210 --> 00:31:15,620
OK.

659
00:31:15,620 --> 00:31:18,230
Were they religious people?

660
00:31:18,230 --> 00:31:19,190
Yes and no.

661
00:31:19,190 --> 00:31:24,320
They were religious in
the sense that my father

662
00:31:24,320 --> 00:31:28,790
prayed at the proper
times during the day.

663
00:31:28,790 --> 00:31:32,270
He went to services
in the synagogue.

664
00:31:32,270 --> 00:31:34,070
Once in a great
while, he took me

665
00:31:34,070 --> 00:31:38,900
to the grand synagogue in
town for the high holidays.

666

00:31:38,900 --> 00:31:41,990
But he was modern, he didn't
have a beard or a payot.

667
00:31:41,990 --> 00:31:46,850

668
00:31:46,850 --> 00:31:50,090
I don't remember him
wearing a skullcap

669
00:31:50,090 --> 00:31:53,210
or anything of that sort, except
when we were in synagogue.

670
00:31:53,210 --> 00:31:55,740

671
00:31:55,740 --> 00:32:01,730
And all of his family, then,
aside from him, who remained,

672
00:32:01,730 --> 00:32:03,020
were in the United States?

673
00:32:03,020 --> 00:32:04,240
Yes.

674
00:32:04,240 --> 00:32:07,030
Do you remember hearing
about correspondence

675
00:32:07,030 --> 00:32:08,590
when you were still little?

676
00:32:08,590 --> 00:32:10,240
Yes.

677
00:32:10,240 --> 00:32:12,190
Once in a while, there
would be a letter,

678

00:32:12,190 --> 00:32:15,810
and my parents
would talk about it,

679
00:32:15,810 --> 00:32:21,312
and get pictures of the
family in the States.

680
00:32:21,312 --> 00:32:22,710
OK.

681
00:32:22,710 --> 00:32:25,230
Tell me about his
personality a little bit--

682
00:32:25,230 --> 00:32:26,620
your father's personality.

683
00:32:26,620 --> 00:32:29,470

684
00:32:29,470 --> 00:32:36,860
He was no-nonsense
type of person.

685
00:32:36,860 --> 00:32:39,660
He was busy with his work.

686
00:32:39,660 --> 00:32:46,690
He tried to do the best
for his daughters and me.

687
00:32:46,690 --> 00:32:50,650
Was he someone that
you could play with?

688
00:32:50,650 --> 00:32:51,570
No.

689
00:32:51,570 --> 00:32:52,070
No.

690

00:32:52,070 --> 00:32:55,830
He was much more stern, I think.

691
00:32:55,830 --> 00:32:58,330
OK.

692
00:32:58,330 --> 00:33:01,390
Did you feel that he was
engaged with the family

693
00:33:01,390 --> 00:33:03,760
or more engaged with business?

694
00:33:03,760 --> 00:33:07,094
Well, I would say more engaged
with the business, yes.

695
00:33:07,094 --> 00:33:07,998
OK.

696
00:33:07,998 --> 00:33:09,360
OK.

697
00:33:09,360 --> 00:33:13,680
And your mother, what kind of
a personality did she have?

698
00:33:13,680 --> 00:33:19,750
She was helpful to my
father in the store.

699
00:33:19,750 --> 00:33:26,970
She had her
daughters to be with.

700
00:33:26,970 --> 00:33:34,220
She had me, and she was very
worried about me because I

701
00:33:34,220 --> 00:33:37,550
wasn't developing as well as--

702

00:33:37,550 --> 00:33:41,570

703

00:33:41,570 --> 00:33:44,120

Did she did she think--
were you sickly?

704

00:33:44,120 --> 00:33:48,500

No, but I wasn't
as tall, I guess.

705

00:33:48,500 --> 00:33:53,530

And she took me at one time
to some wonder-working rabbi,

706

00:33:53,530 --> 00:33:56,110

and gave her little--

707

00:33:56,110 --> 00:34:00,420

what we call kvitel, a
little piece of paper

708

00:34:00,420 --> 00:34:02,720

that would supposedly help me.

709

00:34:02,720 --> 00:34:06,440

Obviously, it didn't work.

710

00:34:06,440 --> 00:34:10,220

But once in a while, as
a result of that trip--

711

00:34:10,220 --> 00:34:12,770

or maybe aside from that--

712

00:34:12,770 --> 00:34:16,520

whenever my mother
would go into town,

713

00:34:16,520 --> 00:34:21,679

she would drag me along
with her and buy me

714

00:34:21,679 --> 00:34:26,080
a banana, or a ham sandwich--

715

00:34:26,080 --> 00:34:26,679
Oh jeez.

716

00:34:26,679 --> 00:34:29,230
--to make me grow.

717

00:34:29,230 --> 00:34:32,221
None of it helped.

718

00:34:32,221 --> 00:34:33,100
That's funny.

719

00:34:33,100 --> 00:34:39,179
And I was sworn to secrecy not
to tell my father what we did.

720

00:34:39,179 --> 00:34:40,858
She sounds like fun.

721

00:34:40,858 --> 00:34:41,358
Yes.

722

00:34:41,358 --> 00:34:45,840

723

00:34:45,840 --> 00:34:48,860
Did she have any help
around the house?

724

00:34:48,860 --> 00:34:50,179
Yes.

725

00:34:50,179 --> 00:34:50,690
She did.

726

00:34:50,690 --> 00:34:55,300
Once in a while, she
had a maid helping her.

727

00:34:55,300 --> 00:35:01,280

I don't remember much about it,
other than the maid was there

728

00:35:01,280 --> 00:35:05,060

helping serve, cook, or clean.

729

00:35:05,060 --> 00:35:07,760

And what about your sisters,
did they help around the house,

730

00:35:07,760 --> 00:35:08,510

too?

731

00:35:08,510 --> 00:35:10,070

Very seldom.

732

00:35:10,070 --> 00:35:14,250

They were basically
busy with their schools.

733

00:35:14,250 --> 00:35:15,200

OK.

734

00:35:15,200 --> 00:35:18,260

Was there one sister
that you were closer to

735

00:35:18,260 --> 00:35:20,390

than the others at this time?

736

00:35:20,390 --> 00:35:26,640

No, they were all very nice
and very pleasant to me.

737

00:35:26,640 --> 00:35:30,900

I suspect they were all a
little bit jealous, having

738

00:35:30,900 --> 00:35:34,670

to take care of me, and--

739
00:35:34,670 --> 00:35:36,830
because I was the
apple of the eye.

740
00:35:36,830 --> 00:35:39,510

741
00:35:39,510 --> 00:35:40,420
Of course.

742
00:35:40,420 --> 00:35:41,670
How could it be otherwise?

743
00:35:41,670 --> 00:35:42,610
That's right.

744
00:35:42,610 --> 00:35:47,780

745
00:35:47,780 --> 00:35:53,600
So I want to recap a little
bit to understand where we are.

746
00:35:53,600 --> 00:35:59,060
Your father owned not only
the bar and the grocery store,

747
00:35:59,060 --> 00:36:03,320
but also some properties
in the vicinity-- that is,

748
00:36:03,320 --> 00:36:04,700
across the street--

749
00:36:04,700 --> 00:36:06,110
--some several houses.

750
00:36:06,110 --> 00:36:06,710
Right.

751

00:36:06,710 --> 00:36:12,860
And he had apparently built
this wealth on his own

752
00:36:12,860 --> 00:36:15,080
because his siblings
had not had any,

753
00:36:15,080 --> 00:36:17,380
and that's why they left
for the United States.

754
00:36:17,380 --> 00:36:18,335
Right.

755
00:36:18,335 --> 00:36:19,730
Yes.

756
00:36:19,730 --> 00:36:23,900
He was a little bit
more serious a person,

757
00:36:23,900 --> 00:36:28,880
and concerned with the family,
but also with his business.

758
00:36:28,880 --> 00:36:34,050
And was well-off enough that
your cousin on your mother's

759
00:36:34,050 --> 00:36:38,760
side thinks that he opened
a bank account in your name

760
00:36:38,760 --> 00:36:42,120
in Liverpool, which
is really quite

761
00:36:42,120 --> 00:36:45,300
something for that
part of the world,

762
00:36:45,300 --> 00:36:49,620

that it speaks to
having some assets.

763
00:36:49,620 --> 00:36:51,910
You had four sisters.

764
00:36:51,910 --> 00:36:53,710
Your mother had a
sister and a brother.

765
00:36:53,710 --> 00:36:56,200
The brother lived in Germany,
and they were expelled,

766
00:36:56,200 --> 00:37:01,450
and then came to Kolomea
from Germany after 1938.

767
00:37:01,450 --> 00:37:06,640
You also had relatives-- from
the Russian side, that is--

768
00:37:06,640 --> 00:37:08,980
and they were also on your
mother's side, do you think,

769
00:37:08,980 --> 00:37:11,320
these relatives,
or your father's?

770
00:37:11,320 --> 00:37:11,920
I'm not sure.

771
00:37:11,920 --> 00:37:12,780
You're not sure.

772
00:37:12,780 --> 00:37:14,680
OK.

773
00:37:14,680 --> 00:37:16,390
But on your mother's
side further, she

774
00:37:16,390 --> 00:37:19,900
had a sister named Sali,
who had four children.

775
00:37:19,900 --> 00:37:22,650
And you were rather
close with them.

776
00:37:22,650 --> 00:37:23,650
Yes.

777
00:37:23,650 --> 00:37:30,730
And Kolomea, as a place,
was then in Poland,

778
00:37:30,730 --> 00:37:34,030
now is in Ukraine,
and pretty close

779
00:37:34,030 --> 00:37:37,670
to several borders
of other countries.

780
00:37:37,670 --> 00:37:42,070
And your family lived in a
residential type of suburb

781
00:37:42,070 --> 00:37:46,360
on the Eastern part that would
be on the way towards Romania.

782
00:37:46,360 --> 00:37:49,120
Right.

783
00:37:49,120 --> 00:37:53,140
The customers that came into
the grocery store and pub,

784
00:37:53,140 --> 00:37:56,230
you said they were peasants.

785
00:37:56,230 --> 00:37:57,730

Were they Jews or non-Jews?

786

00:37:57,730 --> 00:38:02,430

No, they were mostly Ukrainian.

787

00:38:02,430 --> 00:38:07,330

Kolomea was a mixture
of Polish, Jewish,

788

00:38:07,330 --> 00:38:09,580

and Ukrainian residents.

789

00:38:09,580 --> 00:38:14,140

And of course, all the little
villages around Kolomea

790

00:38:14,140 --> 00:38:17,560

were, by and large, Ukrainian.

791

00:38:17,560 --> 00:38:18,610

OK.

792

00:38:18,610 --> 00:38:22,810

Did your father buy goods from
any of these peasants that

793

00:38:22,810 --> 00:38:24,040

would come in?

794

00:38:24,040 --> 00:38:27,280

That is, farm goods that he
would then sell in the store?

795

00:38:27,280 --> 00:38:28,270

No.

796

00:38:28,270 --> 00:38:32,530

He didn't do that kind of
merchandise, as I recall.

797

00:38:32,530 --> 00:38:36,580

Although we would buy

things from the peasants

798

00:38:36,580 --> 00:38:38,530
for our own consumption.

799

00:38:38,530 --> 00:38:39,130
Such as?

800

00:38:39,130 --> 00:38:42,280
Such as the cheeses
that they would

801

00:38:42,280 --> 00:38:45,990
bring on to the
market or some fruits.

802

00:38:45,990 --> 00:38:47,110
OK.

803

00:38:47,110 --> 00:38:50,860
So the grocery store itself,
was it especially kinds of good?

804

00:38:50,860 --> 00:38:55,872
Was it really just like canned
goods and nonperishables?

805

00:38:55,872 --> 00:38:57,700
Right.

806

00:38:57,700 --> 00:39:08,290
Well, there were some sacks
of maybe dried fruits or nuts,

807

00:39:08,290 --> 00:39:10,130
that sort of stuff.

808

00:39:10,130 --> 00:39:16,140
But I don't recall any
kind of apples or tomatoes.

809

00:39:16,140 --> 00:39:19,590

Were you free to go and pick
up some fruits from those sacks

810
00:39:19,590 --> 00:39:21,330
if you wanted to?

811
00:39:21,330 --> 00:39:22,305
Usually, yes.

812
00:39:22,305 --> 00:39:26,810

813
00:39:26,810 --> 00:39:32,340
And when the peasants would
come in to do business there,

814
00:39:32,340 --> 00:39:35,940
either have a drink or buy some
of the groceries, what language

815
00:39:35,940 --> 00:39:37,410
did they converse in?

816
00:39:37,410 --> 00:39:39,360
Mostly Ukrainian.

817
00:39:39,360 --> 00:39:44,670
So that meant your father spoke
Ukrainian, Polish, Yiddish--

818
00:39:44,670 --> 00:39:45,330
Right.

819
00:39:45,330 --> 00:39:47,950
Did he speak Russian?

820
00:39:47,950 --> 00:39:50,560
I don't think he
ever had occasion to.

821
00:39:50,560 --> 00:39:52,930
Although later on, when the--

822
00:39:52,930 --> 00:39:55,840
after his war started, yes.

823
00:39:55,840 --> 00:39:59,650
The town became part
of the Soviet Union.

824
00:39:59,650 --> 00:40:03,730
And I suspect
everybody was studying,

825
00:40:03,730 --> 00:40:05,200
learning how to speak Russian.

826
00:40:05,200 --> 00:40:08,300

827
00:40:08,300 --> 00:40:11,160
And were there Polish customers?

828
00:40:11,160 --> 00:40:11,660
Yes.

829
00:40:11,660 --> 00:40:15,490
From the general area.

830
00:40:15,490 --> 00:40:17,910
So the peasants were from--

831
00:40:17,910 --> 00:40:20,640
I mean, the Ukrainians
were from the villages

832
00:40:20,640 --> 00:40:22,190
surrounding Kolomea.

833
00:40:22,190 --> 00:40:22,980
Right.

834
00:40:22,980 --> 00:40:25,590

And the Poles were
more town residents?

835
00:40:25,590 --> 00:40:26,460
Yes.

836
00:40:26,460 --> 00:40:27,700
OK.

837
00:40:27,700 --> 00:40:29,860
Were they more urban?

838
00:40:29,860 --> 00:40:30,360
Yes.

839
00:40:30,360 --> 00:40:33,720
They were mostly
neighbors of ours.

840
00:40:33,720 --> 00:40:34,952
OK.

841
00:40:34,952 --> 00:40:36,660
And were there
neighborhood kids that you

842
00:40:36,660 --> 00:40:39,950
would play with or not so much?

843
00:40:39,950 --> 00:40:40,850
No.

844
00:40:40,850 --> 00:40:43,288
Mostly Jewish children.

845
00:40:43,288 --> 00:40:44,560
OK.

846
00:40:44,560 --> 00:40:46,990
So were there Jews who
were neighbors as well?

847

00:40:46,990 --> 00:40:48,340

Yes.

848

00:40:48,340 --> 00:40:51,190

And was the neighborhood, would you say, a Jewish neighborhood?

849

00:40:51,190 --> 00:40:52,160

Or was it a mixed one?

850

00:40:52,160 --> 00:40:54,220

It was a mixed neighborhood, yes.

851

00:40:54,220 --> 00:40:55,150

OK.

852

00:40:55,150 --> 00:40:56,800

OK.

853

00:40:56,800 --> 00:41:02,330

And when you were little, before the war,

854

00:41:02,330 --> 00:41:10,360

do you remember hearing any kind of talk at home about wider

855

00:41:10,360 --> 00:41:14,251

political things going on, whether or not it's--

856

00:41:14,251 --> 00:41:17,170

well, you would have been two years old when Pilsudski died.

857

00:41:17,170 --> 00:41:18,790

Yeah.

858

00:41:18,790 --> 00:41:21,610

But did your parents ever refer to him or mention him?

859
00:41:21,610 --> 00:41:24,476
They talked about politics, yes.

860
00:41:24,476 --> 00:41:30,640
And I became aware as time
went on of some of the problems

861
00:41:30,640 --> 00:41:34,630
with the competition between
the Polish and Ukrainian

862
00:41:34,630 --> 00:41:37,390
populations--

863
00:41:37,390 --> 00:41:42,450
some competition from
Polish grocery stores

864
00:41:42,450 --> 00:41:45,510
in their neighborhood.

865
00:41:45,510 --> 00:41:50,640
And then of course later
on, as the war started,

866
00:41:50,640 --> 00:41:52,915
there were all sorts
of stories and rumors.

867
00:41:52,915 --> 00:42:06,190
And I remember learning
about the German-Russian pact

868
00:42:06,190 --> 00:42:10,280
to partition Poland
amongst themselves.

869
00:42:10,280 --> 00:42:14,320
So even though I was
six, seven years old,

870

00:42:14,320 --> 00:42:17,290

I was quite aware
of the wider world.

871

00:42:17,290 --> 00:42:21,070

That was really the point
of the question, is--

872

00:42:21,070 --> 00:42:24,820

and that's part of why I ask
if you had a radio, because how

873

00:42:24,820 --> 00:42:26,070

do people get news?

874

00:42:26,070 --> 00:42:27,210

Right.

875

00:42:27,210 --> 00:42:32,070

Did your parents, for example,
subscribe to newspapers?

876

00:42:32,070 --> 00:42:33,590

And were they newspaper readers?

877

00:42:33,590 --> 00:42:37,240

Yes, they did.

878

00:42:37,240 --> 00:42:40,000

I think it was a
Yiddish newspaper

879

00:42:40,000 --> 00:42:41,720

that they subscribed to.

880

00:42:41,720 --> 00:42:45,130

And now that you mention it,
yes, we did have a radio.

881

00:42:45,130 --> 00:42:46,085

OK.

882

00:42:46,085 --> 00:42:46,585
OK.

883
00:42:46,585 --> 00:42:49,500

884
00:42:49,500 --> 00:42:55,500
Do you remember-- did you start
school before the war started?

885
00:42:55,500 --> 00:42:56,940
Yes.

886
00:42:56,940 --> 00:42:58,560
So did you have--

887
00:42:58,560 --> 00:43:02,010
was it a public school?

888
00:43:02,010 --> 00:43:02,940
Yeah.

889
00:43:02,940 --> 00:43:04,140
OK.

890
00:43:04,140 --> 00:43:06,000
Do you have any memories of it?

891
00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:06,750
Very vague.

892
00:43:06,750 --> 00:43:09,620

893
00:43:09,620 --> 00:43:14,790
I remember that my maid--

894
00:43:14,790 --> 00:43:20,420
my parents' maid-- would
walk me to the kindergarten--

895

00:43:20,420 --> 00:43:22,900
I think I was a kindergarten.

896
00:43:22,900 --> 00:43:29,060
And I was very embarrassed to
have a maid accompanying me.

897
00:43:29,060 --> 00:43:34,250
Most of the kids didn't have a
maid to bring them to school.

898
00:43:34,250 --> 00:43:41,870
And then my next memory is
of after the war started.

899
00:43:41,870 --> 00:43:44,190
By that time, I was-- what--

900
00:43:44,190 --> 00:43:46,460
seven eight years old.

901
00:43:46,460 --> 00:43:50,370
I went to a Cheder,
the Hebrew day school.

902
00:43:50,370 --> 00:43:54,810
And that's where I learned
how to smoke cigarettes.

903
00:43:54,810 --> 00:43:56,141
That's one of the main courses.

904
00:43:56,141 --> 00:43:56,641
Right.

905
00:43:56,641 --> 00:44:02,020

906
00:44:02,020 --> 00:44:07,030
Do you remember anything
from the summer of 1939,

907

00:44:07,030 --> 00:44:08,260
right before the war starts?

908
00:44:08,260 --> 00:44:11,698

909
00:44:11,698 --> 00:44:13,115
Anything that
sticks in your mind?

910
00:44:13,115 --> 00:44:17,330
Are people more talkative
about larger events?

911
00:44:17,330 --> 00:44:18,210
Are they nervous?

912
00:44:18,210 --> 00:44:18,710
Yes.

913
00:44:18,710 --> 00:44:26,070
There was a lot of talk of
problems and forthcoming war.

914
00:44:26,070 --> 00:44:34,250
One of the most unusual things
I remember is at one time,

915
00:44:34,250 --> 00:44:47,380
there was a very strange
cloud in the shape

916
00:44:47,380 --> 00:44:50,470
of the Polish state.

917
00:44:50,470 --> 00:44:54,400
And everybody in the
neighborhood kept looking at it

918
00:44:54,400 --> 00:44:56,610
and marveling at that.

919

00:44:56,610 --> 00:44:57,820
It was up in the sky?

920
00:44:57,820 --> 00:44:58,870
Yes.

921
00:44:58,870 --> 00:45:01,050
And it looked like the
outlines of Poland.

922
00:45:01,050 --> 00:45:01,930
Right.

923
00:45:01,930 --> 00:45:02,690
Oh my.

924
00:45:02,690 --> 00:45:09,400
And that was the most unusual
thing I remember about that.

925
00:45:09,400 --> 00:45:16,240
Did you remember seeing
soldiers in Polish uniforms

926
00:45:16,240 --> 00:45:20,650
on the streets or policemen in
Polish uniforms before the war?

927
00:45:20,650 --> 00:45:22,720
Was there a kind of a presence?

928
00:45:22,720 --> 00:45:23,710
Yes, there was.

929
00:45:23,710 --> 00:45:26,560
It was mostly police.

930
00:45:26,560 --> 00:45:30,620
I don't remember
Polish soldiers.

931
00:45:30,620 --> 00:45:32,840

And do you remember--

932

00:45:32,840 --> 00:45:36,350
again, I keep in mind that
you're five or six years old.

933

00:45:36,350 --> 00:45:39,440
Did you get any warnings
from parents that

934

00:45:39,440 --> 00:45:42,620
to be a Jew is not so easy?

935

00:45:42,620 --> 00:45:44,720
Did you have a sense of--

936

00:45:44,720 --> 00:45:47,240
that you're different from
some of the other kids?

937

00:45:47,240 --> 00:45:49,100
Oh yes.

938

00:45:49,100 --> 00:45:50,960
How did that manifest itself?

939

00:45:50,960 --> 00:45:57,490
Well, as I mentioned, there
was competition for my father

940

00:45:57,490 --> 00:46:01,820
from Polish grocery keepers.

941

00:46:01,820 --> 00:46:06,680
And so there was a lot of
discussion about loyalties

942

00:46:06,680 --> 00:46:10,890
to the Polish government
or the Polish state.

943

00:46:10,890 --> 00:46:15,380

I remember my father
painted the shutters

944
00:46:15,380 --> 00:46:21,180
on his shop in the Polish
colors to show that he

945
00:46:21,180 --> 00:46:22,655
is part of the Polish state.

946
00:46:22,655 --> 00:46:25,530

947
00:46:25,530 --> 00:46:30,584
There was generally-- there
was always a constant murmur.

948
00:46:30,584 --> 00:46:32,780
Mm-hmm.

949
00:46:32,780 --> 00:46:35,540
As a kid, before
the war, did you

950
00:46:35,540 --> 00:46:37,325
experience anything like this?

951
00:46:37,325 --> 00:46:40,430
Like did anybody
call you names or--

952
00:46:40,430 --> 00:46:43,850
Not really because
I was in a cocoon

953
00:46:43,850 --> 00:46:49,110
mostly associating
with the Jewish kids.

954
00:46:49,110 --> 00:46:49,610
Mm-hmm.

955

00:46:49,610 --> 00:46:53,360

956

00:46:53,360 --> 00:46:56,700

Let's go back to
when the war starts.

957

00:46:56,700 --> 00:46:57,990

OK.

958

00:46:57,990 --> 00:47:01,020

The official date was
September 1, 1939.

959

00:47:01,020 --> 00:47:01,520

Yes.

960

00:47:01,520 --> 00:47:05,070

961

00:47:05,070 --> 00:47:08,890

How did it appear in your life?

962

00:47:08,890 --> 00:47:12,190

What was the first significant
thing that happened?

963

00:47:12,190 --> 00:47:14,130

Do you remember that day?

964

00:47:14,130 --> 00:47:17,100

965

00:47:17,100 --> 00:47:21,290

That specific date, no,
I don't remember that.

966

00:47:21,290 --> 00:47:25,160

I remember that the most
significant thing that happened

967

00:47:25,160 --> 00:47:29,150

was that within weeks
of the war starting,

968
00:47:29,150 --> 00:47:34,190
the Soviet troops
came in and occupied

969
00:47:34,190 --> 00:47:36,870
the eastern part of Poland.

970
00:47:36,870 --> 00:47:39,940
And so there was a lot
of talk about changes

971
00:47:39,940 --> 00:47:43,040
in the gymnasiums' curriculum.

972
00:47:43,040 --> 00:47:45,920

973
00:47:45,920 --> 00:47:51,770
My sisters all started yammering
about having to learn Russian.

974
00:47:51,770 --> 00:47:53,120
They weren't happy about that.

975
00:47:53,120 --> 00:47:53,660
No.

976
00:47:53,660 --> 00:47:55,350
OK.

977
00:47:55,350 --> 00:47:59,100
What about the pub
and grocery store?

978
00:47:59,100 --> 00:48:03,510
Was your father-- was he able
to continue operating it?

979
00:48:03,510 --> 00:48:08,320

For a while, but eventually,
he did have to close up.

980
00:48:08,320 --> 00:48:09,640
And why?

981
00:48:09,640 --> 00:48:14,020
Because it was part
of the Soviet system.

982
00:48:14,020 --> 00:48:17,230
Everything was state owned.

983
00:48:17,230 --> 00:48:21,320
He could not operate
a capitalist--

984
00:48:21,320 --> 00:48:21,980
Enterprise.

985
00:48:21,980 --> 00:48:22,892
Right.

986
00:48:22,892 --> 00:48:23,840
OK.

987
00:48:23,840 --> 00:48:27,140
So did that mean he
became unemployed?

988
00:48:27,140 --> 00:48:28,850
Yes.

989
00:48:28,850 --> 00:48:32,150
And I don't remember
how we survived

990
00:48:32,150 --> 00:48:36,720
or how we lived, but
apparently it was--

991
00:48:36,720 --> 00:48:40,545

he was able to
manage other items,

992
00:48:40,545 --> 00:48:48,090
but things went along
rather normally.

993
00:48:48,090 --> 00:48:50,890
Did you ever see Soviet
soldiers in the streets?

994
00:48:50,890 --> 00:48:52,200
Oh yes.

995
00:48:52,200 --> 00:48:58,950
And how did they interact with
all the local people, including

996
00:48:58,950 --> 00:49:00,430
you?

997
00:49:00,430 --> 00:49:06,490
They seemed very
pleasant, very interested.

998
00:49:06,490 --> 00:49:16,040
And in the time that they were
there, did your school change?

999
00:49:16,040 --> 00:49:19,460
My school, no, because I
was too young to really

1000
00:49:19,460 --> 00:49:21,510
be affected by it.

1001
00:49:21,510 --> 00:49:27,592
But my sisters all
had to learn Russian.

1002
00:49:27,592 --> 00:49:35,390
And the Soviet Union at the time
was pushing the nationalities,

1003
00:49:35,390 --> 00:49:37,280
so the--

1004
00:49:37,280 --> 00:49:42,790
their gymnasium also emphasized
Yiddish studies as opposed

1005
00:49:42,790 --> 00:49:47,632
to Polish curriculum.

1006
00:49:47,632 --> 00:49:51,145
And that was quite a
difficult adjustment for them.

1007
00:49:51,145 --> 00:49:55,520
But for me, there was no impact.

1008
00:49:55,520 --> 00:49:58,090
Well, if your
sisters are Jewish,

1009
00:49:58,090 --> 00:50:01,330
and there's more emphasis
on Yiddish studies,

1010
00:50:01,330 --> 00:50:03,040
then that would
have been something

1011
00:50:03,040 --> 00:50:08,540
that shouldn't be a difficulty.

1012
00:50:08,540 --> 00:50:12,020
No, it wasn't
difficult, but it was

1013
00:50:12,020 --> 00:50:15,050
disruptive of their
normal curriculum

1014
00:50:15,050 --> 00:50:21,950

with Polish poetry
and Polish history,

1015
00:50:21,950 --> 00:50:25,310
now you had to study
Russian history.

1016
00:50:25,310 --> 00:50:29,200
And instead of speaking in
Polish in the gymnasium,

1017
00:50:29,200 --> 00:50:32,940
you were supposed to speak
either Russian or Yiddish.

1018
00:50:32,940 --> 00:50:34,070
OK.

1019
00:50:34,070 --> 00:50:34,910
OK.

1020
00:50:34,910 --> 00:50:37,140
OK.

1021
00:50:37,140 --> 00:50:41,668
You say that the soldiers
were basically pleasant.

1022
00:50:41,668 --> 00:50:42,168
Right.

1023
00:50:42,168 --> 00:50:45,210

1024
00:50:45,210 --> 00:50:47,820
Now I'm making an assumption
that before the war,

1025
00:50:47,820 --> 00:50:51,330
and particularly because
your father owns a pub,

1026

00:50:51,330 --> 00:50:53,340
people would stop
by to have a drink,

1027
00:50:53,340 --> 00:50:56,170
and then they chat and
they talk, you know?

1028
00:50:56,170 --> 00:50:56,670
Right.

1029
00:50:56,670 --> 00:51:01,710
And I'm wondering whether or
not that changed afterwards--

1030
00:51:01,710 --> 00:51:04,110
of course when he had
to close it down--

1031
00:51:04,110 --> 00:51:06,017
or was it taken away from him?

1032
00:51:06,017 --> 00:51:06,600
What happened?

1033
00:51:06,600 --> 00:51:07,100
No.

1034
00:51:07,100 --> 00:51:09,450
It was not taken away
from him, but it was just

1035
00:51:09,450 --> 00:51:11,280
basically closed down.

1036
00:51:11,280 --> 00:51:13,320
OK.

1037
00:51:13,320 --> 00:51:14,880
So it no longer operated?

1038
00:51:14,880 --> 00:51:17,310

Right.

1039
00:51:17,310 --> 00:51:19,800
Was there a mood
in the neighborhood

1040
00:51:19,800 --> 00:51:22,080
when the Russians came
as to whether they

1041
00:51:22,080 --> 00:51:24,840
were welcome or not welcome?

1042
00:51:24,840 --> 00:51:29,490
Well, bearing in mind that
it was a mixed population,

1043
00:51:29,490 --> 00:51:33,920
the Polish people
certainly did not welcome.

1044
00:51:33,920 --> 00:51:40,620
The Ukrainians had mixed
emotions because of the history

1045
00:51:40,620 --> 00:51:47,320
of the 1930s problems.

1046
00:51:47,320 --> 00:51:53,070
And Jews were ambivalent,
but not really opposed.

1047
00:51:53,070 --> 00:51:54,300
OK.

1048
00:51:54,300 --> 00:51:54,950
OK.

1049
00:51:54,950 --> 00:51:58,880
So it sounds like it
was degrees of reactions

1050

00:51:58,880 --> 00:52:03,290
rather than any one
of the groups being--

1051
00:52:03,290 --> 00:52:06,050
well, the Poles may
be far more anti.

1052
00:52:06,050 --> 00:52:07,010
Yes.

1053
00:52:07,010 --> 00:52:09,710
And then the Ukrainians--

1054
00:52:09,710 --> 00:52:14,840
well, there was the famine,
of course, in Ukraine.

1055
00:52:14,840 --> 00:52:18,810
And as you say, the
Jews, more ambivalent.

1056
00:52:18,810 --> 00:52:19,545
Right.

1057
00:52:19,545 --> 00:52:23,180
But of course, the
Ukrainians in Poland

1058
00:52:23,180 --> 00:52:27,930
were not affected by the
famine in the Soviet Union.

1059
00:52:27,930 --> 00:52:31,050
But obviously, they
like everybody else,

1060
00:52:31,050 --> 00:52:34,190
had relatives across the border.

1061
00:52:34,190 --> 00:52:35,750
Yeah.

1062

00:52:35,750 --> 00:52:41,150

And do you remember the talk
at home, how your parents were

1063

00:52:41,150 --> 00:52:42,770

thinking of what was going on?

1064

00:52:42,770 --> 00:52:46,510

How they thought of these new
things, these new developments?

1065

00:52:46,510 --> 00:52:48,950

No, not very much.

1066

00:52:48,950 --> 00:52:50,120

OK.

1067

00:52:50,120 --> 00:52:54,350

And by that point,
was the knowledge

1068

00:52:54,350 --> 00:52:58,220

of that pact, which was
the German-Soviet pact you

1069

00:52:58,220 --> 00:53:00,920

talked about, was that known?

1070

00:53:00,920 --> 00:53:01,680

Oh yes.

1071

00:53:01,680 --> 00:53:04,500

The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

1072

00:53:04,500 --> 00:53:06,642

Yes, it was quite well-known.

1073

00:53:06,642 --> 00:53:08,090

Mm-hmm.

1074

00:53:08,090 --> 00:53:11,010

And was it surprising?

1075
00:53:11,010 --> 00:53:13,560
Probably not.

1076
00:53:13,560 --> 00:53:14,710
OK.

1077
00:53:14,710 --> 00:53:16,390
Because in some
quarters of the world,

1078
00:53:16,390 --> 00:53:19,255
it was very surprising
that there was-- excuse me,

1079
00:53:19,255 --> 00:53:21,370
I dropped something--
that there was

1080
00:53:21,370 --> 00:53:25,360
such a pact between these
two particular powers.

1081
00:53:25,360 --> 00:53:28,060

1082
00:53:28,060 --> 00:53:32,050
Was there any talk of--

1083
00:53:32,050 --> 00:53:36,150
or do you remember people
disappearing during this time?

1084
00:53:36,150 --> 00:53:38,240
No, not really.

1085
00:53:38,240 --> 00:53:39,400
OK.

1086
00:53:39,400 --> 00:53:43,130
Do you remember anybody

talking about fear

1087

00:53:43,130 --> 00:53:47,510

or being afraid that
they might be in trouble

1088

00:53:47,510 --> 00:53:49,280

with the authorities?

1089

00:53:49,280 --> 00:53:51,183

No, not really.

1090

00:53:51,183 --> 00:53:52,072

OK.

1091

00:53:52,072 --> 00:53:52,572

OK.

1092

00:53:52,572 --> 00:53:57,662

1093

00:53:57,662 --> 00:54:00,530

What were the next things
that come to your mind?

1094

00:54:00,530 --> 00:54:05,150

How long did this particular--

1095

00:54:05,150 --> 00:54:07,030

how long did the Soviets stay?

1096

00:54:07,030 --> 00:54:13,370

Well, it was from September
'39 till June of 1941.

1097

00:54:13,370 --> 00:54:16,690

OK, so when Germany
attacks the Soviet Union.

1098

00:54:16,690 --> 00:54:18,410

Right.

1099

00:54:18,410 --> 00:54:21,950

So that's a good
almost two years.

1100

00:54:21,950 --> 00:54:23,440

Yes.

1101

00:54:23,440 --> 00:54:25,340

Not quite two years.

1102

00:54:25,340 --> 00:54:27,950

And by that point, had
you started school?

1103

00:54:27,950 --> 00:54:31,480

1104

00:54:31,480 --> 00:54:33,780

Basically, in the
Hebrew day school.

1105

00:54:33,780 --> 00:54:35,530

So it was allowed to operate.

1106

00:54:35,530 --> 00:54:36,210

Yes.

1107

00:54:36,210 --> 00:54:36,710

OK.

1108

00:54:36,710 --> 00:54:39,380

1109

00:54:39,380 --> 00:54:42,360

What happened in June 1941?

1110

00:54:42,360 --> 00:54:46,310

Well, that's when the
German army started

1111

00:54:46,310 --> 00:54:50,000

rolling into the Soviet Union.

1112
00:54:50,000 --> 00:54:52,760
And there was a lot
of talk of course

1113
00:54:52,760 --> 00:54:55,920
of the coming change
in the regiment,

1114
00:54:55,920 --> 00:54:57,610
and what I would bring.

1115
00:54:57,610 --> 00:55:02,130
And of course, my parents
were well aware of that--

1116
00:55:02,130 --> 00:55:08,690
my mother's brother was expelled
from Germany, and the problems

1117
00:55:08,690 --> 00:55:10,490
of the German Jews.

1118
00:55:10,490 --> 00:55:14,690
So there was a lot
of fear of what

1119
00:55:14,690 --> 00:55:16,130
would happen in the future.

1120
00:55:16,130 --> 00:55:18,640
Mm-hmm.

1121
00:55:18,640 --> 00:55:21,290
And what happened?

1122
00:55:21,290 --> 00:55:25,130
And I mean, not historically,
but in your family, what's

1123
00:55:25,130 --> 00:55:28,760

the first thing that
happened that signified, OK,

1124
00:55:28,760 --> 00:55:32,205
things are different now?

1125
00:55:32,205 --> 00:55:45,220
Well, Kolomea was first occupied
by the Hungarian troops.

1126
00:55:45,220 --> 00:55:52,550
And the there was a lot of
talk about forced labor,

1127
00:55:52,550 --> 00:56:00,690
especially on a railroad
because the Western size

1128
00:56:00,690 --> 00:56:05,925
of the railroad tracks and the
Russian size were different.

1129
00:56:05,925 --> 00:56:10,070
And so there was a
lot of forced labor

1130
00:56:10,070 --> 00:56:16,170
to start working the tracks.

1131
00:56:16,170 --> 00:56:22,980
Other than that, the Hungarian
occupation was fairly mild.

1132
00:56:22,980 --> 00:56:26,370
I forget now at this
point whether they

1133
00:56:26,370 --> 00:56:34,260
need to wear yellow
stars or armbands was

1134
00:56:34,260 --> 00:56:39,700
during the Hungarian time

or when the German soldiers

1135
00:56:39,700 --> 00:56:42,450
actually arrived and took over.

1136
00:56:42,450 --> 00:56:45,450
Was your father able to
reopen the grocery store?

1137
00:56:45,450 --> 00:56:46,040
No.

1138
00:56:46,040 --> 00:56:46,540
No.

1139
00:56:46,540 --> 00:56:47,990
So when that
closed, that closed.

1140
00:56:47,990 --> 00:56:48,930
Right.

1141
00:56:48,930 --> 00:56:51,060
All right.

1142
00:56:51,060 --> 00:56:53,250
Was he taken for forced labor?

1143
00:56:53,250 --> 00:56:55,880
No, he was not.

1144
00:56:55,880 --> 00:57:00,870
As I mentioned to you, we
were sort of in a, quote,

1145
00:57:00,870 --> 00:57:05,280
"suburb" of the town,
and most of the action

1146
00:57:05,280 --> 00:57:08,740
was in the city itself.

1147
00:57:08,740 --> 00:57:15,600
So we were in some ways
fortunate to be not involved

1148
00:57:15,600 --> 00:57:16,982
with the problems.

1149
00:57:16,982 --> 00:57:17,482
OK.

1150
00:57:17,482 --> 00:57:19,050
So you were more on sidelines?

1151
00:57:19,050 --> 00:57:20,340
Yes.

1152
00:57:20,340 --> 00:57:24,600
Did you ever have
Hungarian military presence

1153
00:57:24,600 --> 00:57:26,610
in your streets?

1154
00:57:26,610 --> 00:57:28,830
Not that I remember.

1155
00:57:28,830 --> 00:57:32,430
But I do remember
that during that time,

1156
00:57:32,430 --> 00:57:35,790
we did get some
visitors-- visitors--

1157
00:57:35,790 --> 00:57:41,880
some refugees from Hungary
who were shipped to Kolomea.

1158
00:57:41,880 --> 00:57:42,570
Jewish?

1159

00:57:42,570 --> 00:57:43,290
Yes.

1160
00:57:43,290 --> 00:57:44,190
OK.

1161
00:57:44,190 --> 00:57:49,080
And some of the
people stayed with us.

1162
00:57:49,080 --> 00:57:51,500
And what did they tell you?

1163
00:57:51,500 --> 00:57:53,490
Or did they tell you anything?

1164
00:57:53,490 --> 00:57:55,090
They didn't tell me anything.

1165
00:57:55,090 --> 00:57:58,570
They just were just there.

1166
00:57:58,570 --> 00:58:00,690
Yeah.

1167
00:58:00,690 --> 00:58:02,760
I know that I'm
asking somebody who

1168
00:58:02,760 --> 00:58:05,088
was a little boy at the time.

1169
00:58:05,088 --> 00:58:05,940
Right.

1170
00:58:05,940 --> 00:58:11,070
After the war, my cousin
who's in Frankfurt am Main,

1171
00:58:11,070 --> 00:58:14,160
she met a couple of
the girls who stayed

1172
00:58:14,160 --> 00:58:15,895
with us during this period.

1173
00:58:15,895 --> 00:58:21,250
And they were so grateful
to my parents for having--

1174
00:58:21,250 --> 00:58:22,740
Yeah, having housed them.

1175
00:58:22,740 --> 00:58:24,190
--housed them.

1176
00:58:24,190 --> 00:58:29,340
But other than that, there
was really no impact.

1177
00:58:29,340 --> 00:58:33,630
One thing I forgot to ask, were
there many Jews in Kolomea?

1178
00:58:33,630 --> 00:58:35,130
Was there a large
Jewish community?

1179
00:58:35,130 --> 00:58:36,020
Yes.

1180
00:58:36,020 --> 00:58:43,410
The total population of
the city was about 30,000.

1181
00:58:43,410 --> 00:58:47,640
And I would guess
it was one-third

1182
00:58:47,640 --> 00:58:52,650
of both the ethnic groups,
Jewish, Polish, and Ukrainian.

1183
00:58:52,650 --> 00:58:53,580

OK.

1184
00:58:53,580 --> 00:58:55,260
So about 10,000 each?

1185
00:58:55,260 --> 00:58:55,920
Yes.

1186
00:58:55,920 --> 00:58:57,540
That's substantial.

1187
00:58:57,540 --> 00:58:59,130
That's quite substantial.

1188
00:58:59,130 --> 00:59:01,530
And so that makes
sense that you'd

1189
00:59:01,530 --> 00:59:05,400
have a larger synagogue,
and then probably

1190
00:59:05,400 --> 00:59:07,565
some other synagogues, too.

1191
00:59:07,565 --> 00:59:11,080
Little shtiebels
as we call them.

1192
00:59:11,080 --> 00:59:11,718
Shtiebels?

1193
00:59:11,718 --> 00:59:12,218
Yeah.

1194
00:59:12,218 --> 00:59:12,718
Right.

1195
00:59:12,718 --> 00:59:16,210

1196

00:59:16,210 --> 00:59:17,470
OK.

1197
00:59:17,470 --> 00:59:20,470
So while the
Hungarians are there--

1198
00:59:20,470 --> 00:59:23,020
and must of-- I mean, to me,
that's a bit of a surprise,

1199
00:59:23,020 --> 00:59:24,580
that instead of the
German army, you

1200
00:59:24,580 --> 00:59:26,740
have the Hungarian one first.

1201
00:59:26,740 --> 00:59:28,090
Right.

1202
00:59:28,090 --> 00:59:34,130
Their role is basically to
take people for forced labor

1203
00:59:34,130 --> 00:59:37,920
and to work on railroads.

1204
00:59:37,920 --> 00:59:41,690
Now I wish I could
know the detail,

1205
00:59:41,690 --> 00:59:43,400
because I do know of that--

1206
00:59:43,400 --> 00:59:46,790
it remained till this day
that the Western tracks are

1207
00:59:46,790 --> 00:59:49,580
of one width, and those
in the Soviet Union

1208
00:59:49,580 --> 00:59:52,070
are of another width for rails.

1209
00:59:52,070 --> 00:59:54,470
So that when trains
come, they have to--

1210
00:59:54,470 --> 00:59:58,930
at the borders, it takes a long
time for them to be readjusted.

1211
00:59:58,930 --> 01:00:00,140
Right.

1212
01:00:00,140 --> 01:00:02,840
The question I would
have is, what were they

1213
01:00:02,840 --> 01:00:05,330
doing at that time,
extending the Soviet type

1214
01:00:05,330 --> 01:00:07,155
or extending the Western type?

1215
01:00:07,155 --> 01:00:11,990
I believe it was extending
the Western type because

1216
01:00:11,990 --> 01:00:13,610
of the German trains--

1217
01:00:13,610 --> 01:00:16,840
supply trains going into Russia.

1218
01:00:16,840 --> 01:00:17,830
Got it.

1219
01:00:17,830 --> 01:00:18,590
Got it.

1220

01:00:18,590 --> 01:00:20,110
OK.

1221
01:00:20,110 --> 01:00:22,240
And did the Hungarians
stay there long?

1222
01:00:22,240 --> 01:00:24,880

1223
01:00:24,880 --> 01:00:27,640
My guess is about two months.

1224
01:00:27,640 --> 01:00:28,370
Not long.

1225
01:00:28,370 --> 01:00:29,240
No.

1226
01:00:29,240 --> 01:00:29,820
OK.

1227
01:00:29,820 --> 01:00:31,030
Then what happened?

1228
01:00:31,030 --> 01:00:37,230
Then the German army
came in and took over.

1229
01:00:37,230 --> 01:00:38,680
Of course, at that
time, they were

1230
01:00:38,680 --> 01:00:45,460
followed by the German police,
and the German administration

1231
01:00:45,460 --> 01:00:56,650
started recruiting Ukrainians
into a militia sort

1232
01:00:56,650 --> 01:00:58,795

of supporting the German army.

1233

01:00:58,795 --> 01:01:02,560

And of course, at that point, the restrictions

1234

01:01:02,560 --> 01:01:07,180

started getting into full force, such as the Jews

1235

01:01:07,180 --> 01:01:12,810

were required to give up their furs, and their jewelry,

1236

01:01:12,810 --> 01:01:20,140

their other gold, and so on.

1237

01:01:20,140 --> 01:01:27,280

And then the use of the armbands was enforced.

1238

01:01:27,280 --> 01:01:29,600

How did this happen in your family?

1239

01:01:29,600 --> 01:01:35,540

Do you remember these expropriations taking place?

1240

01:01:35,540 --> 01:01:36,040

Yes.

1241

01:01:36,040 --> 01:01:40,030

I remember my parents and my sisters

1242

01:01:40,030 --> 01:01:45,020

having to go through their clothing and give that up.

1243

01:01:45,020 --> 01:01:47,230

I don't know how much my father gave up

1244
01:01:47,230 --> 01:01:50,260
in the way of gold
or jewelry, but I'm

1245
01:01:50,260 --> 01:01:55,140
sure there are some that
he had to contribute.

1246
01:01:55,140 --> 01:02:01,280
He was being known as
the more well-off family.

1247
01:02:01,280 --> 01:02:11,500
And of course everybody
started creating arm bands

1248
01:02:11,500 --> 01:02:16,390
with the star of David
to show that we were Jews

1249
01:02:16,390 --> 01:02:19,120
and were forced to
wear these things.

1250
01:02:19,120 --> 01:02:21,810
Do you remember the first
time you put one on?

1251
01:02:21,810 --> 01:02:22,750
Not me.

1252
01:02:22,750 --> 01:02:23,990
I was too young.

1253
01:02:23,990 --> 01:02:25,810
I was sort of exempt.

1254
01:02:25,810 --> 01:02:27,000
Oh interesting.

1255
01:02:27,000 --> 01:02:27,760

Yes.

1256

01:02:27,760 --> 01:02:29,490

But did your sisters
have to wear them?

1257

01:02:29,490 --> 01:02:30,220

Yes.

1258

01:02:30,220 --> 01:02:32,220

Where did they
have to wear them?

1259

01:02:32,220 --> 01:02:35,560

Any time they went out of doors.

1260

01:02:35,560 --> 01:02:36,850

Where did they wear them?

1261

01:02:36,850 --> 01:02:38,980

Oh, they were armbands.

1262

01:02:38,980 --> 01:02:39,480

OK.

1263

01:02:39,480 --> 01:02:42,120

So on their arms-- right--
like the upper arm.

1264

01:02:42,120 --> 01:02:42,950

Right.

1265

01:02:42,950 --> 01:02:44,300

OK.

1266

01:02:44,300 --> 01:02:45,410

What about their clothing?

1267

01:02:45,410 --> 01:02:49,220

Did they have to sew the star
onto their coats, or something,

1268

01:02:49,220 --> 01:02:49,880

or--

1269

01:02:49,880 --> 01:02:52,008

Whatever they had to wear, yes.

1270

01:02:52,008 --> 01:02:53,840

OK.

1271

01:02:53,840 --> 01:02:55,320

And your father?

1272

01:02:55,320 --> 01:02:58,660

Yeah, he, too.

1273

01:02:58,660 --> 01:03:02,470

All the adults had
to wear the armbands.

1274

01:03:02,470 --> 01:03:03,840

OK.

1275

01:03:03,840 --> 01:03:07,440

So by now, you're 8 years
old when this happens--

1276

01:03:07,440 --> 01:03:08,631

8 and 1/2 almost.

1277

01:03:08,631 --> 01:03:09,131

Right.

1278

01:03:09,131 --> 01:03:11,720

1279

01:03:11,720 --> 01:03:13,820

Do you remember the
kind of conversations

1280

01:03:13,820 --> 01:03:18,510

that were going around

at home at this point?

1281

01:03:18,510 --> 01:03:22,230

At that point, the
conversations were very somber,

1282

01:03:22,230 --> 01:03:25,500

trying to gauge what
else could happen,

1283

01:03:25,500 --> 01:03:31,770

what more things
would be involved,

1284

01:03:31,770 --> 01:03:34,890

and how much more
trouble we could get.

1285

01:03:34,890 --> 01:03:37,950

Was there any talk
of doing something?

1286

01:03:37,950 --> 01:03:40,280

No.

1287

01:03:40,280 --> 01:03:44,310

The people who had
the foresight left

1288

01:03:44,310 --> 01:03:48,540

East with the Russian armies
as they were retreating.

1289

01:03:48,540 --> 01:03:53,590

People like my parents,
unfortunately, did not.

1290

01:03:53,590 --> 01:03:55,550

And that avenue
was closed to us.

1291

01:03:55,550 --> 01:04:01,420

So it was just pervasive fear

of what was going to happen,

1292

01:04:01,420 --> 01:04:03,530

but no.

1293

01:04:03,530 --> 01:04:07,956

You said earlier that you had

lived in kind of a cocoon.

1294

01:04:07,956 --> 01:04:09,820

Right.

1295

01:04:09,820 --> 01:04:13,480

At this point, did you still

feel like you had a cocoon

1296

01:04:13,480 --> 01:04:16,650

or not so much?

1297

01:04:16,650 --> 01:04:24,240

More so, I think, because the

Polish and the Ukrainian kids

1298

01:04:24,240 --> 01:04:27,090

did not associate with us.

1299

01:04:27,090 --> 01:04:32,400

So it was always just

within the Jewish community

1300

01:04:32,400 --> 01:04:37,902

where I had my friends,

and my playmates, and that.

1301

01:04:37,902 --> 01:04:40,700

I see.

1302

01:04:40,700 --> 01:04:46,780

Now your father's prominence,

both in the Jewish community,

1303

01:04:46,780 --> 01:04:51,310

and as somebody who was relatively well-off compared

1304

01:04:51,310 --> 01:04:56,940
to others, and as somebody who had owned a grocery store that

1305

01:04:56,940 --> 01:05:01,770
became kind of like a hub because it had a pub there--

1306

01:05:01,770 --> 01:05:04,830
was that an advantage or disadvantage

1307

01:05:04,830 --> 01:05:06,180
to him at this time?

1308

01:05:06,180 --> 01:05:09,720

1309

01:05:09,720 --> 01:05:14,240
Well, it was definitely a disadvantage

1310

01:05:14,240 --> 01:05:20,020
when the roundups started.

1311

01:05:20,020 --> 01:05:20,980
OK.

1312

01:05:20,980 --> 01:05:22,650
Can you explain why?

1313

01:05:22,650 --> 01:05:29,800
Well, once the German administration

1314

01:05:29,800 --> 01:05:35,630
went into full force, the killings started.

1315

01:05:35,630 --> 01:05:42,050
And the German administration
together with the assistance

1316
01:05:42,050 --> 01:05:46,610
of the Ukraine militia
started rounding up the Jews

1317
01:05:46,610 --> 01:05:50,750
and shipping them off to the
concentration camp, Belzec,

1318
01:05:50,750 --> 01:05:56,090
or alternatively, marching them
off to one of the local forests

1319
01:05:56,090 --> 01:05:58,490
to be killed in Szepariwice.

1320
01:05:58,490 --> 01:05:59,620
Szepariwice?

1321
01:05:59,620 --> 01:06:01,175
That's the forest?

1322
01:06:01,175 --> 01:06:02,570
Right.

1323
01:06:02,570 --> 01:06:18,650
And so we were not immune,
but certainly, we were--

1324
01:06:18,650 --> 01:06:24,660
as the more prominent
citizens, more prominent

1325
01:06:24,660 --> 01:06:26,580
Jewish citizens--

1326
01:06:26,580 --> 01:06:31,770
we were targeted for
special attention.

1327

01:06:31,770 --> 01:06:34,124

How did that manifest itself?

1328

01:06:34,124 --> 01:06:39,530

Well, I guess the

highlight of it

1329

01:06:39,530 --> 01:06:48,710

was when the major

roundup of the Jews--

1330

01:06:48,710 --> 01:06:51,020

the first major roundup--

1331

01:06:51,020 --> 01:06:55,400

happened on January 25, 1942.

1332

01:06:55,400 --> 01:06:56,300

OK.

1333

01:06:56,300 --> 01:07:00,240

That's about half a year after

the attack on the Soviet Union.

1334

01:07:00,240 --> 01:07:01,382

Right.

1335

01:07:01,382 --> 01:07:08,030

And after all the rules and

regulations about the Jews

1336

01:07:08,030 --> 01:07:11,550

not allowed to attend

movie theaters,

1337

01:07:11,550 --> 01:07:16,340

riding on public

transportation, and so on.

1338

01:07:16,340 --> 01:07:22,370

So on January 25, the Jews which

lived in the center of the town

1339
01:07:22,370 --> 01:07:29,050
were being rounded
up to be shipped off.

1340
01:07:29,050 --> 01:07:33,220
We were not affected until
the following day, when

1341
01:07:33,220 --> 01:07:39,040
a Ukrainian militia came
calling on our house

1342
01:07:39,040 --> 01:07:43,720
and my father was arrested.

1343
01:07:43,720 --> 01:07:51,290
By that time, my older
sister was already married,

1344
01:07:51,290 --> 01:07:56,780
and her husband
was an agronomist.

1345
01:07:56,780 --> 01:08:04,980
Again, because of his
occupation he was subject as a--

1346
01:08:04,980 --> 01:08:10,744
must be Communist for a Jew to
be involved in helping peasants

1347
01:08:10,744 --> 01:08:14,420
in their farming.

1348
01:08:14,420 --> 01:08:17,069
So he also was a target.

1349
01:08:17,069 --> 01:08:26,970
So in the morning of January
26, my father was arrested.

1350

01:08:26,970 --> 01:08:33,939
About two or three hours
later, the militia--

1351
01:08:33,939 --> 01:08:38,319
I don't know if it was the
same one or a different group--

1352
01:08:38,319 --> 01:08:46,390
returned to arrest my sister's
husband and my sister.

1353
01:08:46,390 --> 01:08:51,510
And the three militiamen
made everybody lie down

1354
01:08:51,510 --> 01:08:53,220
on the ground on their--

1355
01:08:53,220 --> 01:08:56,310
one of them was
there with his rifle.

1356
01:08:56,310 --> 01:09:00,779
The two others took my
sister to the next room,

1357
01:09:00,779 --> 01:09:05,200
and there was a lot of noise,
and slapping, and hurting.

1358
01:09:05,200 --> 01:09:07,920
Of course it took
me quite a long time

1359
01:09:07,920 --> 01:09:09,939
to figure out what
was happening.

1360
01:09:09,939 --> 01:09:12,750
They were raping my sister.

1361
01:09:12,750 --> 01:09:19,120

And my sister and her husband
were arrested and taken.

1362
01:09:19,120 --> 01:09:24,710
At that time, my
sister had a baby.

1363
01:09:24,710 --> 01:09:28,960
It was now maybe 2
and 1/2, 3 years old.

1364
01:09:28,960 --> 01:09:32,450
So she told my
mother, "Please take

1365
01:09:32,450 --> 01:09:35,630
care of my baby," as
she was being led off.

1366
01:09:35,630 --> 01:09:38,410

1367
01:09:38,410 --> 01:09:39,950
Your sister's name again?

1368
01:09:39,950 --> 01:09:40,760
Ruzhia.

1369
01:09:40,760 --> 01:09:41,830
Ruzhia.

1370
01:09:41,830 --> 01:09:42,939
And her married name?

1371
01:09:42,939 --> 01:09:46,380

1372
01:09:46,380 --> 01:09:47,370
Ziegler.

1373
01:09:47,370 --> 01:09:48,240
Ziegler.

1374
01:09:48,240 --> 01:09:49,689
And her husband's first name?

1375
01:09:49,689 --> 01:09:50,189
Herman.

1376
01:09:50,189 --> 01:09:52,610
Herman Ziegler, the agronomist.

1377
01:09:52,610 --> 01:09:53,840
Right.

1378
01:09:53,840 --> 01:09:59,260
And so of course we
were all in shock.

1379
01:09:59,260 --> 01:10:03,960
But that was not the end,
because then that afternoon,

1380
01:10:03,960 --> 01:10:08,250
the militia came again
and arrested my mother.

1381
01:10:08,250 --> 01:10:15,300
So that one day is
imprinted in my memory

1382
01:10:15,300 --> 01:10:19,210
as the start of a real disaster.

1383
01:10:19,210 --> 01:10:26,450
My parents, my older sister, her
husband were all were arrested,

1384
01:10:26,450 --> 01:10:36,910
and my three younger sisters and
I and the baby were set adrift.

1385
01:10:36,910 --> 01:10:38,410
Did you ever see them again?

1386
01:10:38,410 --> 01:10:40,055
No.

1387
01:10:40,055 --> 01:10:41,430
So that was the
last time you saw

1388
01:10:41,430 --> 01:10:43,560
your father, your
mother, your older

1389
01:10:43,560 --> 01:10:45,115
sister, or your brother-in-law?

1390
01:10:45,115 --> 01:10:47,340
Right.

1391
01:10:47,340 --> 01:10:51,930
Did you ever find out
what happened to them?

1392
01:10:51,930 --> 01:10:58,440
Not precisely.

1393
01:10:58,440 --> 01:11:02,150
But the chances were
that they were either

1394
01:11:02,150 --> 01:11:09,300
marched off into the forest or
were put on a train to Belzec.

1395
01:11:09,300 --> 01:11:12,310
Those were the two
normal destinations

1396
01:11:12,310 --> 01:11:15,990
for the people from Kolomea.

1397
01:11:15,990 --> 01:11:17,720
But you didn't know

that at the time.

1398

01:11:17,720 --> 01:11:19,320

No-- well, we knew that.

1399

01:11:19,320 --> 01:11:21,580

You knew that, that there
was a place called Belzec,

1400

01:11:21,580 --> 01:11:24,100

and that there was a
concentration camp there.

1401

01:11:24,100 --> 01:11:24,600

Right.

1402

01:11:24,600 --> 01:11:25,183

You knew that.

1403

01:11:25,183 --> 01:11:28,980

And then had there
been shootings already

1404

01:11:28,980 --> 01:11:32,470

in the forest before
these arrests?

1405

01:11:32,470 --> 01:11:34,550

Not that I know of, no.

1406

01:11:34,550 --> 01:11:36,620

That was the major--

1407

01:11:36,620 --> 01:11:41,780

first major roundup and
march to the forest.

1408

01:11:41,780 --> 01:11:42,530

OK.

1409

01:11:42,530 --> 01:11:47,620

And of the Ukrainians in the

militia who came to your home,

1410
01:11:47,620 --> 01:11:50,080
were any of them
people you recognized?

1411
01:11:50,080 --> 01:11:51,190
No.

1412
01:11:51,190 --> 01:11:51,970
OK.

1413
01:11:51,970 --> 01:11:55,360
So it's unlikely they
were former customers--

1414
01:11:55,360 --> 01:11:56,500
or possibly?

1415
01:11:56,500 --> 01:11:58,500
It could possibly be.

1416
01:11:58,500 --> 01:12:03,644
But we really had no
knowledge of them.

1417
01:12:03,644 --> 01:12:04,850
OK.

1418
01:12:04,850 --> 01:12:07,180
And all this happens
in your home.

1419
01:12:07,180 --> 01:12:07,680
Yes.

1420
01:12:07,680 --> 01:12:12,390

1421
01:12:12,390 --> 01:12:17,850
Did any of your older
sisters go out later

1422
01:12:17,850 --> 01:12:21,630
and try to find out where
the rest had been taken?

1423
01:12:21,630 --> 01:12:22,660
Yes, they tried.

1424
01:12:22,660 --> 01:12:26,670

1425
01:12:26,670 --> 01:12:29,610
Somebody knew somebody
who knew somebody

1426
01:12:29,610 --> 01:12:33,420
that if you paid enough,
you could get them out,

1427
01:12:33,420 --> 01:12:35,490
which of course didn't work.

1428
01:12:35,490 --> 01:12:38,460
How much my sisters
paid, I don't know.

1429
01:12:38,460 --> 01:12:43,630
They didn't know as much
about finances as I did,

1430
01:12:43,630 --> 01:12:48,720
which was nil, and,
yeah, probably a lot less

1431
01:12:48,720 --> 01:12:55,170
than my two daughters know
and they don't know enough.

1432
01:12:55,170 --> 01:12:57,750
None of us do in
those circumstances.

1433

01:12:57,750 --> 01:13:00,270

1434

01:13:00,270 --> 01:13:04,990

When the four of you
were left, how old

1435

01:13:04,990 --> 01:13:09,340

was the oldest sister
at the time then?

1436

01:13:09,340 --> 01:13:10,750

The second oldest, it would be.

1437

01:13:10,750 --> 01:13:11,260

Yes.

1438

01:13:11,260 --> 01:13:14,320

I would guess about 18.

1439

01:13:14,320 --> 01:13:16,470

So Yula-- is that right?

1440

01:13:16,470 --> 01:13:17,790

Yula was the second--

1441

01:13:17,790 --> 01:13:19,960

No, the oldest one was Frieda.

1442

01:13:19,960 --> 01:13:23,080

The oldest-- so it Frieda who
was taken or Ruzhia was taken?

1443

01:13:23,080 --> 01:13:23,610

I thought--

1444

01:13:23,610 --> 01:13:24,760

Ruzhia was taken.

1445

01:13:24,760 --> 01:13:28,590

And the next oldest
was Frieda, or Frima,

1446
01:13:28,590 --> 01:13:32,020
and she was, I would
guess, about 18.

1447
01:13:32,020 --> 01:13:32,860
OK.

1448
01:13:32,860 --> 01:13:34,650
And then Yula comes after that.

1449
01:13:34,650 --> 01:13:36,250
Yula comes after that.

1450
01:13:36,250 --> 01:13:37,530
And the youngest one was--

1451
01:13:37,530 --> 01:13:38,200
Rachel.

1452
01:13:38,200 --> 01:13:39,890
Rachel.

1453
01:13:39,890 --> 01:13:44,470
And tell me a little bit
about their personalities.

1454
01:13:44,470 --> 01:13:46,180
Did you get to know them at all?

1455
01:13:46,180 --> 01:13:47,410
Was one of them--

1456
01:13:47,410 --> 01:13:50,350
have particular hobbies?

1457
01:13:50,350 --> 01:13:53,380
Or were they more
introverted, extroverted?

1458
01:13:53,380 --> 01:13:58,910

They were all extroverted.

1459

01:13:58,910 --> 01:14:01,580

They had lots of friends.

1460

01:14:01,580 --> 01:14:06,310

They all were busy
with their studies

1461

01:14:06,310 --> 01:14:10,600

when they didn't have
to take care of me.

1462

01:14:10,600 --> 01:14:15,250

I'm sure that it was
not just a chore,

1463

01:14:15,250 --> 01:14:17,890

that you were the apple of their
eye as well as your parents'.

1464

01:14:17,890 --> 01:14:23,470

1465

01:14:23,470 --> 01:14:23,970

OK.

1466

01:14:23,970 --> 01:14:26,200

So she's 18.

1467

01:14:26,200 --> 01:14:28,360

Right.

1468

01:14:28,360 --> 01:14:31,400

Does she take charge then?

1469

01:14:31,400 --> 01:14:35,880

To the extent that one
could be in charge, yes,

1470

01:14:35,880 --> 01:14:38,970

she was in charge.

1471
01:14:38,970 --> 01:14:40,830
What did she try to do?

1472
01:14:40,830 --> 01:14:42,510
Well, the only thing
she tried to do

1473
01:14:42,510 --> 01:14:46,680
is to find somebody who
supposedly could bribe

1474
01:14:46,680 --> 01:14:54,650
the prison because the theory
was that all these people were

1475
01:14:54,650 --> 01:14:57,490
being arrested or
being held in prison

1476
01:14:57,490 --> 01:15:00,450
rather than being
shipped anywhere.

1477
01:15:00,450 --> 01:15:03,530
And that was the only thing.

1478
01:15:03,530 --> 01:15:05,060
And she was not successful.

1479
01:15:05,060 --> 01:15:07,990
No, not at all.

1480
01:15:07,990 --> 01:15:11,044
And how did things
progress from there?

1481
01:15:11,044 --> 01:15:15,510
From there, things
went obviously downhill

1482
01:15:15,510 --> 01:15:20,070

because we did not
really know what to do.

1483
01:15:20,070 --> 01:15:24,310
Didn't know where the food
was or how to get food.

1484
01:15:24,310 --> 01:15:28,590
So things were in
pretty miserable shape

1485
01:15:28,590 --> 01:15:33,660
for the next couple
of months when

1486
01:15:33,660 --> 01:15:37,680
we were sort of left
to our own devices

1487
01:15:37,680 --> 01:15:45,930
until the next stage in a
story was when we were all

1488
01:15:45,930 --> 01:15:49,800
told to move into the ghetto.

1489
01:15:49,800 --> 01:15:51,930
Before we get there, I
have another question

1490
01:15:51,930 --> 01:15:54,200
that I forgot to ask.

1491
01:15:54,200 --> 01:15:57,950
Do you know what was
going on with your Aunt

1492
01:15:57,950 --> 01:16:01,640
Sali and her family
at this time,

1493
01:16:01,640 --> 01:16:05,240
and then with the

uncle Ziegler--

1494

01:16:05,240 --> 01:16:07,070

no, not Ziegler--
Spiegel, was it?

1495

01:16:07,070 --> 01:16:07,830

Yes.

1496

01:16:07,830 --> 01:16:10,290

From your mother's brother,
your mother's sister.

1497

01:16:10,290 --> 01:16:11,840

Right.

1498

01:16:11,840 --> 01:16:14,390

After your mother and
your father are taken

1499

01:16:14,390 --> 01:16:18,330

and your oldest
sister is, did you

1500

01:16:18,330 --> 01:16:20,450

have contact with
these other relatives?

1501

01:16:20,450 --> 01:16:20,950

Yes.

1502

01:16:20,950 --> 01:16:26,540

They were pretty much in the
same situation as we were, in

1503

01:16:26,540 --> 01:16:32,340

that they were living in an
area called [? Bachensburg, ?]

1504

01:16:32,340 --> 01:16:42,380

which was a German community
north of the town of Kolomea.

1505

01:16:42,380 --> 01:16:47,600

And they were also not
troubled at the time.

1506

01:16:47,600 --> 01:16:52,910

There was enough work for
the Nazis in the town.

1507

01:16:52,910 --> 01:16:58,610

So my aunt and her
husband and the family

1508

01:16:58,610 --> 01:17:01,450

were fortunate not to
have been troubled.

1509

01:17:01,450 --> 01:17:04,160

But we kept in touch, but--

1510

01:17:04,160 --> 01:17:05,310

But you stayed separately.

1511

01:17:05,310 --> 01:17:07,800

It's not like you
three moved up there

1512

01:17:07,800 --> 01:17:10,480

or someone from the adults
came down to stay with you.

1513

01:17:10,480 --> 01:17:11,260

No.

1514

01:17:11,260 --> 01:17:12,570

OK.

1515

01:17:12,570 --> 01:17:13,070

OK.

1516

01:17:13,070 --> 01:17:16,710

So let's go back to when you're
talking about the next phase.

1517
01:17:16,710 --> 01:17:17,220
OK.

1518
01:17:17,220 --> 01:17:22,530
The next phase was when
we were all ordered

1519
01:17:22,530 --> 01:17:24,460
to move into the ghetto.

1520
01:17:24,460 --> 01:17:31,230
The ghetto in Kolomea was
created into three sections

1521
01:17:31,230 --> 01:17:41,530
with a gate which allowed the
transfer people back and forth.

1522
01:17:41,530 --> 01:17:46,120
The gates were manned
with the German Nazis

1523
01:17:46,120 --> 01:17:48,330
or by the Ukrainian guards.

1524
01:17:48,330 --> 01:17:51,400

1525
01:17:51,400 --> 01:17:54,070
Can you tell me what
part of town in Kolomea

1526
01:17:54,070 --> 01:17:55,660
the ghetto was in?

1527
01:17:55,660 --> 01:17:57,115
Was it close to where you lived?

1528
01:17:57,115 --> 01:17:59,950

1529

01:17:59,950 --> 01:18:02,500

Yeah, it was not too far.

1530

01:18:02,500 --> 01:18:07,260

But within, I would say
walking distance, we were--

1531

01:18:07,260 --> 01:18:10,630

when the time came,
we just walked.

1532

01:18:10,630 --> 01:18:15,400

And I don't know whether
my sisters or my uncle

1533

01:18:15,400 --> 01:18:21,340

was able to find us a house
where we could all congregate,

1534

01:18:21,340 --> 01:18:26,530

and it's at that time
we all ended up together

1535

01:18:26,530 --> 01:18:28,650

in one room or two rooms.

1536

01:18:28,650 --> 01:18:30,120

That's Sali's husband?

1537

01:18:30,120 --> 01:18:30,840

Right.

1538

01:18:30,840 --> 01:18:31,810

OK.

1539

01:18:31,810 --> 01:18:35,590

So you were there with their
whole family, their four kids

1540

01:18:35,590 --> 01:18:36,860

and the four of you.

1541
01:18:36,860 --> 01:18:37,480
Right.

1542
01:18:37,480 --> 01:18:44,650
So you're 10 people, if we count
your aunt, your uncle, the four

1543
01:18:44,650 --> 01:18:46,213
children, and your four.

1544
01:18:46,213 --> 01:18:46,960
Right.

1545
01:18:46,960 --> 01:18:48,010
OK.

1546
01:18:48,010 --> 01:18:49,270
And what were the conditions?

1547
01:18:49,270 --> 01:18:50,820
What kind of a place
did you live in?

1548
01:18:50,820 --> 01:18:54,550

1549
01:18:54,550 --> 01:18:57,360
I guess we were
squeezed in together.

1550
01:18:57,360 --> 01:19:01,050
Next door to our house,
there were other families.

1551
01:19:01,050 --> 01:19:03,850

1552
01:19:03,850 --> 01:19:12,930
At that time we started getting
hunger pains and people were

1553

01:19:12,930 --> 01:19:16,440
scrambling to get some food.

1554
01:19:16,440 --> 01:19:21,480
My uncle started building
up a little plot of land

1555
01:19:21,480 --> 01:19:24,690
and trying to grow
some vegetables.

1556
01:19:24,690 --> 01:19:31,870
My oldest cousin,
Jacob, was at that time,

1557
01:19:31,870 --> 01:19:34,080
I would say, about 13.

1558
01:19:34,080 --> 01:19:38,430
And he was helping his father
to not only plant something,

1559
01:19:38,430 --> 01:19:44,050
but also to stay up
nights guarding the plot.

1560
01:19:44,050 --> 01:19:48,460
I have a feeling that they
never got anything out of it.

1561
01:19:48,460 --> 01:19:53,290
Things got rougher and
rougher in the time.

1562
01:19:53,290 --> 01:19:54,545
So we went in this ghetto--

1563
01:19:54,545 --> 01:19:59,350

1564
01:19:59,350 --> 01:20:01,870
When you say they didn't get
anything out of it, you mean,

1565
01:20:01,870 --> 01:20:03,020
nothing ever grew?

1566
01:20:03,020 --> 01:20:06,480
Or was able to protect
it from the thieves?

1567
01:20:06,480 --> 01:20:11,500
It grew, but it didn't really
ripen before the time came

1568
01:20:11,500 --> 01:20:13,660
to start moving--

1569
01:20:13,660 --> 01:20:17,460
closing down parts of the
ghetto and moving everybody

1570
01:20:17,460 --> 01:20:20,180
to another section
of the ghetto.

1571
01:20:20,180 --> 01:20:22,270
So if it was late January--

1572
01:20:22,270 --> 01:20:25,150
and I realize that
this catastrophe

1573
01:20:25,150 --> 01:20:27,580
with your parents
being arrested,

1574
01:20:27,580 --> 01:20:33,130
and your sister being arrested,
and her husband, and so--

1575
01:20:33,130 --> 01:20:35,290
happened right before
your birthday-- right

1576

01:20:35,290 --> 01:20:36,820
before your ninth birthday.

1577
01:20:36,820 --> 01:20:37,690
Right.

1578
01:20:37,690 --> 01:20:40,630
Was there any marking or
commemoration of your birthday

1579
01:20:40,630 --> 01:20:41,190
that year?

1580
01:20:41,190 --> 01:20:41,770
No.

1581
01:20:41,770 --> 01:20:43,030
OK.

1582
01:20:43,030 --> 01:20:45,550
And the little
baby, where was he?

1583
01:20:45,550 --> 01:20:47,980
Now that your mother
was taken, who

1584
01:20:47,980 --> 01:20:49,700
took care of the little one?

1585
01:20:49,700 --> 01:20:53,430
The girls, my
sisters did whatever

1586
01:20:53,430 --> 01:20:56,640
they could to take care of
them, give him some food,

1587
01:20:56,640 --> 01:21:00,300
and to take them out
for a walk or whatever.

1588

01:21:00,300 --> 01:21:02,090
Did he come with
you to the ghetto?

1589
01:21:02,090 --> 01:21:03,000
Oh yes.

1590
01:21:03,000 --> 01:21:03,840
OK.

1591
01:21:03,840 --> 01:21:05,560
What was his name?

1592
01:21:05,560 --> 01:21:07,290
His name was Rysio.

1593
01:21:07,290 --> 01:21:08,740
Rysio.

1594
01:21:08,740 --> 01:21:11,270
Like Richard, I would guess.

1595
01:21:11,270 --> 01:21:12,200
OK.

1596
01:21:12,200 --> 01:21:12,700
All right.

1597
01:21:12,700 --> 01:21:13,790
So I was wrong.

1598
01:21:13,790 --> 01:21:16,790
It was not just the 10 of you,
there was a little baby there,

1599
01:21:16,790 --> 01:21:17,700
too.

1600
01:21:17,700 --> 01:21:19,710
OK.

1601

01:21:19,710 --> 01:21:23,960
And none of the other
family, bear in mind,

1602
01:21:23,960 --> 01:21:29,360
the girl six to seven
years old was retarded

1603
01:21:29,360 --> 01:21:33,062
and was a extra
burden on my aunt.

1604
01:21:33,062 --> 01:21:35,030
Yeah.

1605
01:21:35,030 --> 01:21:40,100
How long were you all together
until this other phase started?

1606
01:21:40,100 --> 01:21:41,180
Well, let's see.

1607
01:21:41,180 --> 01:21:49,520
We were left alone in our
house from end of January

1608
01:21:49,520 --> 01:21:53,690
till sometime in April,
just before Passover.

1609
01:21:53,690 --> 01:21:59,650
And that when we were all
ordered into the ghetto.

1610
01:21:59,650 --> 01:22:03,340
And then in April, at around
about-- before Passover,

1611
01:22:03,340 --> 01:22:04,240
there you were.

1612
01:22:04,240 --> 01:22:07,450
How long do you

stay in that ghetto?

1613
01:22:07,450 --> 01:22:10,120
How long are you in the
ghetto, because then we're

1614
01:22:10,120 --> 01:22:14,292
on to another phase where
you say it's being shrunk,

1615
01:22:14,292 --> 01:22:15,000
little by little.

1616
01:22:15,000 --> 01:22:21,940
Well, the next roundup
occurred sometime

1617
01:22:21,940 --> 01:22:27,520
during Passover, which is
probably around end of April.

1618
01:22:27,520 --> 01:22:32,410
Before that happened, my
sisters felt they just could not

1619
01:22:32,410 --> 01:22:34,480
take care of the baby.

1620
01:22:34,480 --> 01:22:40,230
They prevailed on the
paternal grandmother

1621
01:22:40,230 --> 01:22:43,150
to take care of the baby.

1622
01:22:43,150 --> 01:22:49,380
And so the baby was with
its grandmother for,

1623
01:22:49,380 --> 01:22:55,740
I would say, two weeks or so,
when the next aktions, roundup

1624

01:22:55,740 --> 01:22:58,180
occurred.

1625

01:22:58,180 --> 01:23:00,300
So that would have
still been 1942?

1626

01:23:00,300 --> 01:23:01,110
Oh yes.

1627

01:23:01,110 --> 01:23:01,950
All of this is--

1628

01:23:01,950 --> 01:23:05,640
so January, your parents,
April, you're into the ghetto,

1629

01:23:05,640 --> 01:23:07,800
and then the next
aktion happened soon

1630

01:23:07,800 --> 01:23:09,150
after you're in the ghetto.

1631

01:23:09,150 --> 01:23:09,840
Right.

1632

01:23:09,840 --> 01:23:13,980
And the baby is with
little paternal grandma.

1633

01:23:13,980 --> 01:23:15,180
Paternal grandmother.

1634

01:23:15,180 --> 01:23:16,680
Right.

1635

01:23:16,680 --> 01:23:25,790
And so the people
next door to us

1636

01:23:25,790 --> 01:23:27,980
had the foresight
to build some kind

1637
01:23:27,980 --> 01:23:33,540
of a hidey-hole in the house.

1638
01:23:33,540 --> 01:23:40,460
And so when the
word of the aktion

1639
01:23:40,460 --> 01:23:45,720
went around, the people from
next door and all of us--

1640
01:23:45,720 --> 01:23:50,690
all of us, my sisters,
and my aunt and uncle,

1641
01:23:50,690 --> 01:24:00,050
we piled into the hidey-hole,
except for the retarded child

1642
01:24:00,050 --> 01:24:03,890
because everybody was
afraid that she would talk,

1643
01:24:03,890 --> 01:24:09,560
or cry, or something, so
it would give us away.

1644
01:24:09,560 --> 01:24:10,670
So what happened?

1645
01:24:10,670 --> 01:24:11,810
Was she left simply?

1646
01:24:11,810 --> 01:24:13,220
She was left in her crib.

1647
01:24:13,220 --> 01:24:17,120

1648

01:24:17,120 --> 01:24:22,930
So two things to be remembered.

1649

01:24:22,930 --> 01:24:33,060
After the sort of all clear, we
all came out of the hidey-hole.

1650

01:24:33,060 --> 01:24:39,050
My retarded cousin was
nowhere to be found.

1651

01:24:39,050 --> 01:24:40,640
She disappeared.

1652

01:24:40,640 --> 01:24:44,490
What happened to
her, I don't know.

1653

01:24:44,490 --> 01:24:48,740
As far as my little
nephew was concerned,

1654

01:24:48,740 --> 01:24:52,370
his grandmother was
arrested-- or not arrested,

1655

01:24:52,370 --> 01:24:57,280
but part of the
roundup of an aktion,

1656

01:24:57,280 --> 01:25:01,110
and he was used as
target practice.

1657

01:25:01,110 --> 01:25:04,370
How did you find out that?

1658

01:25:04,370 --> 01:25:06,625
There are always
people who survive.

1659

01:25:06,625 --> 01:25:10,020

There are always witnesses.

1660
01:25:10,020 --> 01:25:16,320
And so we were told that he
was shot by a Nazi officer,

1661
01:25:16,320 --> 01:25:22,930
and his grandmother
was shipped to either--

1662
01:25:22,930 --> 01:25:27,160
either to Belzec
or to Szepariwice.

1663
01:25:27,160 --> 01:25:28,395
So that was the--

1664
01:25:28,395 --> 01:25:31,100

1665
01:25:31,100 --> 01:25:33,230
that part of the--

1666
01:25:33,230 --> 01:25:38,342
And all of this is in
the first half of 1942.

1667
01:25:38,342 --> 01:25:39,730
Yes.

1668
01:25:39,730 --> 01:25:47,310
Until 1942, had you heard of
murders like this taking place?

1669
01:25:47,310 --> 01:25:48,900
No.

1670
01:25:48,900 --> 01:25:49,440
No.

1671
01:25:49,440 --> 01:25:53,270
Had you seen a corpse

in the streets?

1672

01:25:53,270 --> 01:25:55,210

In the ghetto, yes.

1673

01:25:55,210 --> 01:26:01,090

1674

01:26:01,090 --> 01:26:04,230

People were dying of starvation.

1675

01:26:04,230 --> 01:26:12,080

And there was a
man with his wagon

1676

01:26:12,080 --> 01:26:18,080

and a horse that drove around
the ghetto picking up corpses.

1677

01:26:18,080 --> 01:26:22,220

And he was always
passing by our house,

1678

01:26:22,220 --> 01:26:27,340

so I would see corpses
piled up on the wagon.

1679

01:26:27,340 --> 01:26:30,280

Do you remember the name
of your retarded cousin?

1680

01:26:30,280 --> 01:26:31,300

Lunia.

1681

01:26:31,300 --> 01:26:32,320

Lunia.

1682

01:26:32,320 --> 01:26:35,200

Lunia Spiegel?

1683

01:26:35,200 --> 01:26:35,700

No.

1684
01:26:35,700 --> 01:26:36,215
Yes.

1685
01:26:36,215 --> 01:26:38,442
Lunia Spiegel-- Spiegel.

1686
01:26:38,442 --> 01:26:40,850
Right.

1687
01:26:40,850 --> 01:26:42,390
She was two, three?

1688
01:26:42,390 --> 01:26:43,220
No.

1689
01:26:43,220 --> 01:26:45,500
My nephew was two or three.

1690
01:26:45,500 --> 01:26:50,950
She was, I would say,
maybe six or seven.

1691
01:26:50,950 --> 01:26:53,910
Oh the poor baby.

1692
01:26:53,910 --> 01:26:58,849
So she was old enough to know
that some strangers are there.

1693
01:26:58,849 --> 01:26:59,349
Right.

1694
01:26:59,349 --> 01:27:06,540

1695
01:27:06,540 --> 01:27:08,730
And you are now nine years old.

1696
01:27:08,730 --> 01:27:10,980
This is how your

9th year begins--

1697

01:27:10,980 --> 01:27:12,220
or your 10th year begins.

1698

01:27:12,220 --> 01:27:12,720
Yes.

1699

01:27:12,720 --> 01:27:15,790

1700

01:27:15,790 --> 01:27:18,282
What were you eating
in the ghetto?

1701

01:27:18,282 --> 01:27:22,370
Yeah, that's a very
interesting question.

1702

01:27:22,370 --> 01:27:27,520
I seem to have a mental block
as far as food is concerned.

1703

01:27:27,520 --> 01:27:30,820
I don't know for
sure what I ate.

1704

01:27:30,820 --> 01:27:33,850
I know that while we
were in the ghetto,

1705

01:27:33,850 --> 01:27:38,770
my youngest sister,
Rachel, somehow managed

1706

01:27:38,770 --> 01:27:46,950
to get put on a work detail out
of the ghetto to harvest beets.

1707

01:27:46,950 --> 01:27:53,220
And fortunately for us, she was
able to bring some beets back

1708

01:27:53,220 --> 01:27:54,570
into town--

1709

01:27:54,570 --> 01:27:57,430
sorry-- back into the ghetto.

1710

01:27:57,430 --> 01:28:01,020
And so I remember
vividly that that was one

1711

01:28:01,020 --> 01:28:05,230
o them major sources of food.

1712

01:28:05,230 --> 01:28:10,580
And to this day, I can't
stand the thought of beets.

1713

01:28:10,580 --> 01:28:11,080
Beets.

1714

01:28:11,080 --> 01:28:17,190

1715

01:28:17,190 --> 01:28:21,630
Unfortunately, one
time as my sister

1716

01:28:21,630 --> 01:28:26,360
was bringing some
beets into the ghetto,

1717

01:28:26,360 --> 01:28:30,990
she was caught with
the beets and arrested.

1718

01:28:30,990 --> 01:28:36,350
And again, we got word
that she was arrested,

1719

01:28:36,350 --> 01:28:41,560
but we never had word
what was happening to her.

1720
01:28:41,560 --> 01:28:47,080
So that left my
second-oldest sister,

1721
01:28:47,080 --> 01:28:53,930
and my third-older sister, Yula,
and myself as the survivors.

1722
01:28:53,930 --> 01:28:55,070
How old was Rachel?

1723
01:28:55,070 --> 01:28:57,930

1724
01:28:57,930 --> 01:29:00,255
I have a feeling she
was probably around 15.

1725
01:29:00,255 --> 01:29:06,070

1726
01:29:06,070 --> 01:29:10,315
And your uncle's family,
were any of them also--

1727
01:29:10,315 --> 01:29:13,170

1728
01:29:13,170 --> 01:29:14,800
did any of them get targeted?

1729
01:29:14,800 --> 01:29:16,750
Did any of them get
lost in some way?

1730
01:29:16,750 --> 01:29:19,320
Did any of them come under--

1731
01:29:19,320 --> 01:29:21,940
in the crosshairs
of the authorities?

1732
01:29:21,940 --> 01:29:24,640
Not specifically, no.

1733
01:29:24,640 --> 01:29:30,390
They were just part of
the parcel of the problem.

1734
01:29:30,390 --> 01:29:32,060
So now you were--

1735
01:29:32,060 --> 01:29:37,980
so you're still aside from
Lunia, whom they lost,

1736
01:29:37,980 --> 01:29:39,650
they're all there.

1737
01:29:39,650 --> 01:29:42,283
And the three of you remain.

1738
01:29:42,283 --> 01:29:43,202
Right.

1739
01:29:43,202 --> 01:29:43,702
OK.

1740
01:29:43,702 --> 01:29:47,960

1741
01:29:47,960 --> 01:29:49,910
That makes nine people, I think.

1742
01:29:49,910 --> 01:29:51,530
OK.

1743
01:29:51,530 --> 01:29:53,400
What happens then?

1744
01:29:53,400 --> 01:29:55,310
Well, the only

thing that happened

1745

01:29:55,310 --> 01:30:03,580
is that I tried to spend as much
time as I could with my cousins

1746

01:30:03,580 --> 01:30:06,070
and with neighbor kids.

1747

01:30:06,070 --> 01:30:08,570
Nothing particularly
happened other

1748

01:30:08,570 --> 01:30:15,480
than I would always keep
track of the man with his cart

1749

01:30:15,480 --> 01:30:18,670
and the number of
corpses on that cart.

1750

01:30:18,670 --> 01:30:21,540
Where he went, I don't know.

1751

01:30:21,540 --> 01:30:27,690
I spent time playing as much
as I could with me neighbors--

1752

01:30:27,690 --> 01:30:30,610
OK, let's cut.

1753

01:30:30,610 --> 01:30:31,810
OK.

1754

01:30:31,810 --> 01:30:34,390
We had a little bit
of an interruption,

1755

01:30:34,390 --> 01:30:38,800
and we were at a point where
you were going to explain

1756

01:30:38,800 --> 01:30:41,310
what happened next, I believe.

1757
01:30:41,310 --> 01:30:46,130
Well, next, basically,
my time was just

1758
01:30:46,130 --> 01:30:52,490
spent playing with the
other boys who were still

1759
01:30:52,490 --> 01:30:54,710
surviving after the aktion.

1760
01:30:54,710 --> 01:30:57,290

1761
01:30:57,290 --> 01:31:07,870
Two things I should
mention, that at one time,

1762
01:31:07,870 --> 01:31:13,930
one of my sisters took me
across one section of the ghetto

1763
01:31:13,930 --> 01:31:17,680
to the other one, where
there was an orphanage.

1764
01:31:17,680 --> 01:31:21,445
And I qualified as an orphan.

1765
01:31:21,445 --> 01:31:25,690
And she-- my sister, I
forget which one it was--

1766
01:31:25,690 --> 01:31:29,740
took me to the staff
and convinced them

1767
01:31:29,740 --> 01:31:33,050
to include me in the orphan.

1768

01:31:33,050 --> 01:31:37,270

And they gave me
after a long line,

1769

01:31:37,270 --> 01:31:43,915

gave me a bowl of some
watery vegetable soup.

1770

01:31:43,915 --> 01:31:46,730

1771

01:31:46,730 --> 01:31:53,030

There was a rumor going around
that the next aktion would

1772

01:31:53,030 --> 01:31:56,380

target the orphanage,
so I never went back.

1773

01:31:56,380 --> 01:31:58,790

So I had my one bowl of--

1774

01:31:58,790 --> 01:31:59,420

Watery soup.

1775

01:31:59,420 --> 01:32:01,590

--soup, and that was that.

1776

01:32:01,590 --> 01:32:05,420

So the rest of my time was
spent just killing time

1777

01:32:05,420 --> 01:32:09,740

with my cousins and my friends.

1778

01:32:09,740 --> 01:32:15,040

One of the boys next door
to our house and I became,

1779

01:32:15,040 --> 01:32:22,520

quote, "friendly," and he wanted
to show me his father's postage

1780
01:32:22,520 --> 01:32:24,960
stamp collection.

1781
01:32:24,960 --> 01:32:26,930
The father was
long gone already,

1782
01:32:26,930 --> 01:32:33,510
was arrested, and his mother
and he were living in the house.

1783
01:32:33,510 --> 01:32:37,300
And the reason that
I mention that is

1784
01:32:37,300 --> 01:32:42,060
because we were going
through the stamps,

1785
01:32:42,060 --> 01:32:46,930
and we saw this beautiful set
of postage stamps from Cote

1786
01:32:46,930 --> 01:32:49,040
d'Ivoire.

1787
01:32:49,040 --> 01:32:54,160
And what was very amazing about
the stamps were two things.

1788
01:32:54,160 --> 01:33:00,720
Number one, it's very
voluptuous lady without a bra.

1789
01:33:00,720 --> 01:33:04,096
That of course would be
of interest to young boys.

1790
01:33:04,096 --> 01:33:04,850
Right.

1791

01:33:04,850 --> 01:33:06,840
And the other thing,
more important,

1792
01:33:06,840 --> 01:33:12,510
was in the background were
all the tropical fruits

1793
01:33:12,510 --> 01:33:17,830
of different kinds for different
denominations of the stamps.

1794
01:33:17,830 --> 01:33:23,500
And of course, I had dreams of
those tropical fruits for years

1795
01:33:23,500 --> 01:33:24,720
afterwards.

1796
01:33:24,720 --> 01:33:27,180
Not beets, but tropical fruits.

1797
01:33:27,180 --> 01:33:28,030
No.

1798
01:33:28,030 --> 01:33:28,530
Right.

1799
01:33:28,530 --> 01:33:32,430
And it wasn't until
about 50 years later

1800
01:33:32,430 --> 01:33:36,790
that I actually had a chance
to visit Cote d'Ivoire,

1801
01:33:36,790 --> 01:33:41,910
and be in the market, and
try some of those fruits.

1802
01:33:41,910 --> 01:33:43,030
It took that long.

1803
01:33:43,030 --> 01:33:43,530
Right.

1804
01:33:43,530 --> 01:33:45,780
It took that long.

1805
01:33:45,780 --> 01:33:50,130
Describe for me what this
ghetto looked like, if you can.

1806
01:33:50,130 --> 01:33:54,750
How is it the same or different
from the house you lived in

1807
01:33:54,750 --> 01:33:57,270
or the neighborhood
you lived in?

1808
01:33:57,270 --> 01:34:06,300
Well, the houses were
much more modest.

1809
01:34:06,300 --> 01:34:12,810
They were, of course,
stuffed with too many people.

1810
01:34:12,810 --> 01:34:19,360
How we ever found a place
to sleep or nap, beyond me.

1811
01:34:19,360 --> 01:34:19,860
But again--

1812
01:34:19,860 --> 01:34:21,970
Do you remember how you slept?

1813
01:34:21,970 --> 01:34:24,640
No, I don't.

1814
01:34:24,640 --> 01:34:28,420
So maybe that's just
something that I

1815
01:34:28,420 --> 01:34:32,080
tried to get rid of in my mind.

1816
01:34:32,080 --> 01:34:34,780
But I don't really
remember a lot

1817
01:34:34,780 --> 01:34:39,220
of things other
than the starvation

1818
01:34:39,220 --> 01:34:42,400
because I was going
hungry, and my sisters

1819
01:34:42,400 --> 01:34:45,440
would feed me beets,
and said, well,

1820
01:34:45,440 --> 01:34:49,530
if you don't eat the beets,
you're not getting anything.

1821
01:34:49,530 --> 01:34:52,130

1822
01:34:52,130 --> 01:34:56,540
And just basically hanging
around and killing.

1823
01:34:56,540 --> 01:34:58,080
Time

1824
01:34:58,080 --> 01:35:01,320
Did your other sisters
also go on work details?

1825
01:35:01,320 --> 01:35:02,580
No.

1826
01:35:02,580 --> 01:35:05,800

Did your uncle or aunt
go on any work details?

1827
01:35:05,800 --> 01:35:07,950
Not that I remember, no.

1828
01:35:07,950 --> 01:35:09,630
So they were all hanging around?

1829
01:35:09,630 --> 01:35:10,380
Yes.

1830
01:35:10,380 --> 01:35:13,350
And my uncle, of
course, was busy tending

1831
01:35:13,350 --> 01:35:17,760
his plot of ground.

1832
01:35:17,760 --> 01:35:22,830
It sounds that this all was
occurring during the spring

1833
01:35:22,830 --> 01:35:24,490
and summer of 1942.

1834
01:35:24,490 --> 01:35:25,150
Yes.

1835
01:35:25,150 --> 01:35:26,640
That's correct.

1836
01:35:26,640 --> 01:35:28,000
OK.

1837
01:35:28,000 --> 01:35:31,980
And did it go on for
many more months?

1838
01:35:31,980 --> 01:35:39,210
Yes, after the aktion
and on Passover,

1839
01:35:39,210 --> 01:35:43,320
there was one more
periodic aktion

1840
01:35:43,320 --> 01:35:49,270
which really reduced the
number of people in the ghetto

1841
01:35:49,270 --> 01:35:50,800
considerably.

1842
01:35:50,800 --> 01:35:57,780
And that's when the Nazis closed
down two sections of the ghetto

1843
01:35:57,780 --> 01:36:01,540
and moved those of
us who were remaining

1844
01:36:01,540 --> 01:36:07,820
into the more built-up
part of the town

1845
01:36:07,820 --> 01:36:10,220
with multistory buildings.

1846
01:36:10,220 --> 01:36:16,460
And that's where we again had
to find some place to live.

1847
01:36:16,460 --> 01:36:22,230
And that kind of brings
us up to the fall of--

1848
01:36:22,230 --> 01:36:23,030
'42?

1849
01:36:23,030 --> 01:36:24,720
'42, yes.

1850
01:36:24,720 --> 01:36:27,480

OK.

1851

01:36:27,480 --> 01:36:29,790

Describe those
multistory buildings.

1852

01:36:29,790 --> 01:36:32,190

I imagine high rises in my mind.

1853

01:36:32,190 --> 01:36:35,280

Well, they're-- not quite.

1854

01:36:35,280 --> 01:36:38,790

They were two or three
story buildings, as opposed

1855

01:36:38,790 --> 01:36:46,740

to the little one-story sheds
in the other part of town.

1856

01:36:46,740 --> 01:36:49,830

And were the one-story
sheds of wood?

1857

01:36:49,830 --> 01:36:50,350

Yes.

1858

01:36:50,350 --> 01:36:50,850

Basically.

1859

01:36:50,850 --> 01:36:53,130

And the multistory
ones-- the two or three?

1860

01:36:53,130 --> 01:36:56,830

Brick, or--

1861

01:36:56,830 --> 01:36:59,470

Were they more modern buildings?

1862

01:36:59,470 --> 01:37:01,950

The brick ones,

I'm saying-- or did

1863
01:37:01,950 --> 01:37:03,780
they have those
types of facilities

1864
01:37:03,780 --> 01:37:06,090
that I was asking about
before-- indoor plumbing,

1865
01:37:06,090 --> 01:37:09,300
electricity, things like that?

1866
01:37:09,300 --> 01:37:13,730
They were, in some extent,
more modern because they

1867
01:37:13,730 --> 01:37:16,110
were in town.

1868
01:37:16,110 --> 01:37:20,040
But the facilities,
some were the same,

1869
01:37:20,040 --> 01:37:22,860
some were a little better.

1870
01:37:22,860 --> 01:37:27,090
There were no-- we still had
to depend on water from a pump.

1871
01:37:27,090 --> 01:37:30,240
But instead of one being
right in our own garden,

1872
01:37:30,240 --> 01:37:35,810
we had to go to
certain parts of town

1873
01:37:35,810 --> 01:37:39,550
where there was a functioning
pump, and getting water there.

1874

01:37:39,550 --> 01:37:42,310

1875

01:37:42,310 --> 01:37:46,940

And were people as
crowded as before?

1876

01:37:46,940 --> 01:37:49,720

A little bit, yes.

1877

01:37:49,720 --> 01:37:53,930

We again-- there
was another aktion.

1878

01:37:53,930 --> 01:37:59,200

And again, my two
sisters and I took

1879

01:37:59,200 --> 01:38:03,670

advantage of somebody else's
hidey-hole, forced ourselves

1880

01:38:03,670 --> 01:38:08,900

into it, and we survived
another roundup.

1881

01:38:08,900 --> 01:38:11,450

When you say forced
yourselves into it,

1882

01:38:11,450 --> 01:38:14,150

can you describe
what that meant?

1883

01:38:14,150 --> 01:38:18,470

That meant basically that
people who took advantage of--

1884

01:38:18,470 --> 01:38:25,580

or who knew how to build
some kind of a hiding place,

1885

01:38:25,580 --> 01:38:27,770
we all knew that they
were working on it.

1886
01:38:27,770 --> 01:38:32,900
So we knew that when the
time came, we would just--

1887
01:38:32,900 --> 01:38:33,640
Show up.

1888
01:38:33,640 --> 01:38:36,940
Push us-- show up and
push ourselves in.

1889
01:38:36,940 --> 01:38:39,330
Did people not want
to have you there?

1890
01:38:39,330 --> 01:38:41,000
Definitely not.

1891
01:38:41,000 --> 01:38:44,520
But they had no
choice because, again,

1892
01:38:44,520 --> 01:38:48,500
if we were to be left
out of the hiding place,

1893
01:38:48,500 --> 01:38:52,070
we would be possibly able to--

1894
01:38:52,070 --> 01:38:58,610
or not able, but possibly would
be showing the arresting people

1895
01:38:58,610 --> 01:38:59,930
where there are other people.

1896
01:38:59,930 --> 01:39:04,020
So like it or not, they
had to accommodate us.

1897
01:39:04,020 --> 01:39:04,520
I see.

1898
01:39:04,520 --> 01:39:08,380
So there was this kind of
a threat or blackmail that

1899
01:39:08,380 --> 01:39:12,760
was involved, in
that leaving you out

1900
01:39:12,760 --> 01:39:15,820
doesn't just leave
you to your own fate.

1901
01:39:15,820 --> 01:39:18,580
But because you
wouldn't be accepted in,

1902
01:39:18,580 --> 01:39:21,600
you might take
revenge in that way.

1903
01:39:21,600 --> 01:39:24,430
And that-- the reason
they focus in on this

1904
01:39:24,430 --> 01:39:28,120
is because human relationships
change under stress

1905
01:39:28,120 --> 01:39:30,310
and under such conditions.

1906
01:39:30,310 --> 01:39:33,430
And I wanted to get a sense
of how did they change--

1907
01:39:33,430 --> 01:39:35,290
how are they affected here?

1908

01:39:35,290 --> 01:39:39,160
Well, they affected
things to the extent

1909
01:39:39,160 --> 01:39:43,810
that it was almost
everyone for themselves.

1910
01:39:43,810 --> 01:39:46,400

1911
01:39:46,400 --> 01:39:49,940
By the time we got
into the other--

1912
01:39:49,940 --> 01:39:54,470
newer section of the
ghetto, my uncle and aunt

1913
01:39:54,470 --> 01:39:59,120
and their children
sort of disappeared.

1914
01:39:59,120 --> 01:40:01,230
So we didn't know
where they were

1915
01:40:01,230 --> 01:40:04,820
and what their condition was.

1916
01:40:04,820 --> 01:40:07,880
Later on, of course, we
learned that they were already

1917
01:40:07,880 --> 01:40:14,170
planning their escape into
the outside of the ghetto.

1918
01:40:14,170 --> 01:40:15,340
But--

1919
01:40:15,340 --> 01:40:18,990
So they disappeared from

you and your sisters.

1920
01:40:18,990 --> 01:40:21,040
Right.

1921
01:40:21,040 --> 01:40:22,204
Wow.

1922
01:40:22,204 --> 01:40:23,560
Wow.

1923
01:40:23,560 --> 01:40:28,040
So we were just left alone.

1924
01:40:28,040 --> 01:40:28,540
OK.

1925
01:40:28,540 --> 01:40:32,710
We're going to break right here.

1926
01:40:32,710 --> 01:40:33,210
OK.

1927
01:40:33,210 --> 01:40:36,500

1928
01:40:36,500 --> 01:40:39,290
So before the break,
we were talking

1929
01:40:39,290 --> 01:40:43,040
about your days in the
ghetto, and the changes,

1930
01:40:43,040 --> 01:40:45,890
and the changes in
human relationships.

1931
01:40:45,890 --> 01:40:50,810
And you mentioned how your Aunt
Sali and her husband and four

1932

01:40:50,810 --> 01:40:53,660

children-- well,
three children now--

1933

01:40:53,660 --> 01:40:56,090

just kind of dissolved
and disappeared.

1934

01:40:56,090 --> 01:40:57,140

Yes.

1935

01:40:57,140 --> 01:41:01,490

And before we go
on to talk about

1936

01:41:01,490 --> 01:41:05,780

what your next experiences
were, let's step back a bit

1937

01:41:05,780 --> 01:41:09,710

and tell me, when did you find
out what had happened to them,

1938

01:41:09,710 --> 01:41:12,510

and where they
ended up, and so on?

1939

01:41:12,510 --> 01:41:16,340

Oh it happened
that in the process

1940

01:41:16,340 --> 01:41:22,490

of moving from one section of
the ghetto to the next, ghetto

1941

01:41:22,490 --> 01:41:24,860

one, two, and three,
and we happened

1942

01:41:24,860 --> 01:41:27,410

to be living in ghetto two.

1943

01:41:27,410 --> 01:41:29,630

But then ghetto
two and three were

1944

01:41:29,630 --> 01:41:36,540

closed because of the
number of people in a ghetto

1945

01:41:36,540 --> 01:41:38,730

was no longer that big.

1946

01:41:38,730 --> 01:41:42,000

So everybody moved
into ghetto number one.

1947

01:41:42,000 --> 01:41:45,150

In the process of moving
to ghetto number one,

1948

01:41:45,150 --> 01:41:47,700

they just disappeared.

1949

01:41:47,700 --> 01:41:56,400

And we, my two sisters
and I, moved into one room

1950

01:41:56,400 --> 01:41:59,250

or one part of a building.

1951

01:41:59,250 --> 01:42:01,920

And they just went off.

1952

01:42:01,920 --> 01:42:03,910

And you didn't know
what happened to them.

1953

01:42:03,910 --> 01:42:08,370

I didn't know, but they
apparently kept track of us.

1954

01:42:08,370 --> 01:42:13,470

That was when we were liberated,
they knew where we were,

1955
01:42:13,470 --> 01:42:14,040
which we--

1956
01:42:14,040 --> 01:42:15,570
I didn't know.

1957
01:42:15,570 --> 01:42:18,450
What about your mother's
brother and his family

1958
01:42:18,450 --> 01:42:20,160
who had come from Germany?

1959
01:42:20,160 --> 01:42:22,030
Were they in the ghettos
with you as well?

1960
01:42:22,030 --> 01:42:22,530
Oh yes.

1961
01:42:22,530 --> 01:42:25,980
But they were again sort
of separate from us.

1962
01:42:25,980 --> 01:42:28,995
So everybody was on their own.

1963
01:42:28,995 --> 01:42:35,690
And nobody really paid much
attention to the other.

1964
01:42:35,690 --> 01:42:38,060
OK.

1965
01:42:38,060 --> 01:42:40,120
So you were left
with your sisters.

1966
01:42:40,120 --> 01:42:42,650
You end up in one
room in ghetto one?

1967
01:42:42,650 --> 01:42:43,150
Right.

1968
01:42:43,150 --> 01:42:46,150
In one of those buildings that
has two or three stories to it?

1969
01:42:46,150 --> 01:42:46,780
Right.

1970
01:42:46,780 --> 01:42:47,770
Exactly.

1971
01:42:47,770 --> 01:42:49,700
And then what happens?

1972
01:42:49,700 --> 01:42:54,760
Then my younger
sister, Julia, or Yula,

1973
01:42:54,760 --> 01:42:59,350
she had a boyfriend
who made arrangements

1974
01:42:59,350 --> 01:43:08,050
for her and for him to be
hidden by his former maid.

1975
01:43:08,050 --> 01:43:17,340
He also thought he could help
my other sister and me to hide

1976
01:43:17,340 --> 01:43:18,930
somewhere.

1977
01:43:18,930 --> 01:43:21,870
And we arranged--
they arranged--

1978
01:43:21,870 --> 01:43:25,830
I'm just a follow-on--

1979

01:43:25,830 --> 01:43:31,960

they arranged to meet in the forest at a certain point,

1980

01:43:31,960 --> 01:43:33,670

at a certain time.

1981

01:43:33,670 --> 01:43:37,650

So we jumped the fence from the ghetto,

1982

01:43:37,650 --> 01:43:43,170

walked up to the forest, and my sister's boyfriend never

1983

01:43:43,170 --> 01:43:44,370

showed.

1984

01:43:44,370 --> 01:43:47,100

Obviously, he was arrested before he

1985

01:43:47,100 --> 01:43:52,550

could come into the forest to meet up with us.

1986

01:43:52,550 --> 01:43:55,740

And we had nothing else to do, so we just

1987

01:43:55,740 --> 01:43:57,740

walked ourselves back to--

1988

01:43:57,740 --> 01:43:58,930

into the ghetto.

1989

01:43:58,930 --> 01:44:01,700

So that was the three of you, your two sisters and you?

1990

01:44:01,700 --> 01:44:02,460

Right.

1991

01:44:02,460 --> 01:44:03,270

OK.

1992

01:44:03,270 --> 01:44:05,280

He was Jewish as well yes?

1993

01:44:05,280 --> 01:44:06,230

OK.

1994

01:44:06,230 --> 01:44:08,190

Do you remember his name?

1995

01:44:08,190 --> 01:44:09,180

Pavel.

1996

01:44:09,180 --> 01:44:10,240

Pavel.

1997

01:44:10,240 --> 01:44:11,190

Wermuth.

1998

01:44:11,190 --> 01:44:11,910

Wermuth.

1999

01:44:11,910 --> 01:44:12,646

OK.

2000

01:44:12,646 --> 01:44:13,660

Right.

2001

01:44:13,660 --> 01:44:14,870

Like the drink.

2002

01:44:14,870 --> 01:44:16,160

Yes.

2003

01:44:16,160 --> 01:44:16,660

OK.

2004

01:44:16,660 --> 01:44:19,600

2005

01:44:19,600 --> 01:44:26,940

So it became quite clear to
my sisters, if not to me,

2006

01:44:26,940 --> 01:44:33,520

that the ghetto was not
long to be in existence.

2007

01:44:33,520 --> 01:44:35,870

So my older sister, Frima--

2008

01:44:35,870 --> 01:44:42,450

Freida-- she and a classmate
of hers from the gymnasium

2009

01:44:42,450 --> 01:44:47,380

decided to try their
luck outside of Kolomea.

2010

01:44:47,380 --> 01:44:52,252

Their thought was to travel
to a large city like Lvov,

2011

01:44:52,252 --> 01:44:56,770

and somehow survive there.

2012

01:44:56,770 --> 01:45:03,680

So they got out of the ghetto,
went to the train station,

2013

01:45:03,680 --> 01:45:07,570

bought their tickets,
and were on their way

2014

01:45:07,570 --> 01:45:15,100

to Lvov when it so happens that
there somebody recognized them

2015

01:45:15,100 --> 01:45:18,040

as your being Jewish
and reported them

2016
01:45:18,040 --> 01:45:21,530
to the police, which
naturally arrested them.

2017
01:45:21,530 --> 01:45:25,670
And so now was the
last we heard of her.

2018
01:45:25,670 --> 01:45:28,450
And again, there's
always somebody around

2019
01:45:28,450 --> 01:45:31,180
who sees things,
and we were told

2020
01:45:31,180 --> 01:45:34,220
about this arrest on the train.

2021
01:45:34,220 --> 01:45:37,320
Was she together with that other
friend of hers on the train?

2022
01:45:37,320 --> 01:45:38,050
Right.

2023
01:45:38,050 --> 01:45:39,910
And was that friend
arrested, too?

2024
01:45:39,910 --> 01:45:40,690
Yes.

2025
01:45:40,690 --> 01:45:44,240
So it was a witness to
both of them being taken.

2026
01:45:44,240 --> 01:45:44,740
Right.

2027

01:45:44,740 --> 01:45:45,520

Yes.

2028

01:45:45,520 --> 01:45:46,870

OK.

2029

01:45:46,870 --> 01:45:52,660

So that left my third sister--

2030

01:45:52,660 --> 01:45:53,510

Yula.

2031

01:45:53,510 --> 01:45:56,435

--Yula and myself in the ghetto.

2032

01:45:56,435 --> 01:46:00,830

2033

01:46:00,830 --> 01:46:03,080

Was it easy-- I'm sorry to
break your thought here,

2034

01:46:03,080 --> 01:46:07,100

but was it easy to scale
the fence of the ghetto?

2035

01:46:07,100 --> 01:46:08,240

Oh yes.

2036

01:46:08,240 --> 01:46:09,710

There was no problem.

2037

01:46:09,710 --> 01:46:13,760

The problem was what to do
after you got out of the ghetto.

2038

01:46:13,760 --> 01:46:14,810

Where did you go?

2039

01:46:14,810 --> 01:46:17,450

And where would you--

2040
01:46:17,450 --> 01:46:21,130
what would you do?

2041
01:46:21,130 --> 01:46:30,230
So after that, my sister
contacted Pavel's former maid

2042
01:46:30,230 --> 01:46:32,350
and somehow--

2043
01:46:32,350 --> 01:46:39,640
excuse me-- even though Pavel
was not there, she, my sister,

2044
01:46:39,640 --> 01:46:43,810
talked herself into
having the maid hide her.

2045
01:46:43,810 --> 01:46:48,750

2046
01:46:48,750 --> 01:46:52,060
This took weeks because
it happened-- that didn't

2047
01:46:52,060 --> 01:46:53,560
happen all the time.

2048
01:46:53,560 --> 01:46:58,930
But at some point, my sister
scaled the wall of the ghetto,

2049
01:46:58,930 --> 01:47:04,750
and went off to where the maid
lived, and had her hidden.

2050
01:47:04,750 --> 01:47:10,170
That left me on my
own for a few days.

2051
01:47:10,170 --> 01:47:16,620

One time, my sister's
friend was fortunate enough,

2052
01:47:16,620 --> 01:47:21,330
or had enough money,
to buy baptismal papers

2053
01:47:21,330 --> 01:47:26,540
to show that she was not
Jewish, that She was Catholic,

2054
01:47:26,540 --> 01:47:30,570
or Russian Orthodox, whatever.

2055
01:47:30,570 --> 01:47:36,270
And she also decided
that she would volunteer

2056
01:47:36,270 --> 01:47:41,610
to go to Germany to
help with the farm work

2057
01:47:41,610 --> 01:47:45,270
while the German men
were out on the Eastern

2058
01:47:45,270 --> 01:47:48,560
Front or the Western
Front, as the case may be.

2059
01:47:48,560 --> 01:47:52,340
So she kept in touch
with my sister.

2060
01:47:52,340 --> 01:47:56,760
And one time she came into
the ghetto with a message

2061
01:47:56,760 --> 01:48:02,955
to my sister, to bring her
certain articles of clothing.

2062
01:48:02,955 --> 01:48:06,150

2063

01:48:06,150 --> 01:48:11,160

I knew about women's clothing as
much as I do now at this point.

2064

01:48:11,160 --> 01:48:17,250

But I gathered what I thought
was the right clothes,

2065

01:48:17,250 --> 01:48:24,690

went over to a select
piece of ghetto wall,

2066

01:48:24,690 --> 01:48:28,390

climbed over it,
took the package,

2067

01:48:28,390 --> 01:48:33,450

and went off into where
my sister was hiding.

2068

01:48:33,450 --> 01:48:35,340

I delivered the package--

2069

01:48:35,340 --> 01:48:40,450

turned out to be the
wrong one, but so be it.

2070

01:48:40,450 --> 01:48:45,950

And then we had a little chat,
and I turned around ready

2071

01:48:45,950 --> 01:48:50,240

to go back to the ghetto because
I had nothing else to do.

2072

01:48:50,240 --> 01:48:54,770

And my sister told me to wait.

2073

01:48:54,770 --> 01:49:02,700

And she for-- somehow
talked the former maid

2074
01:49:02,700 --> 01:49:06,610
into hiding me also.

2075
01:49:06,610 --> 01:49:10,750
So I was the recipient
of the bad luck

2076
01:49:10,750 --> 01:49:15,470
of my sister's
boyfriend, so the maid

2077
01:49:15,470 --> 01:49:18,020
agreed take me and my sister.

2078
01:49:18,020 --> 01:49:21,810
Rather than her former
employer and your sister?

2079
01:49:21,810 --> 01:49:22,770
Right.

2080
01:49:22,770 --> 01:49:25,940
So it was still two people,
but not the same man.

2081
01:49:25,940 --> 01:49:27,800
Right, exactly.

2082
01:49:27,800 --> 01:49:29,660
Can you tell me a
little bit about what

2083
01:49:29,660 --> 01:49:32,850
this hiding place looked like?

2084
01:49:32,850 --> 01:49:38,400
Well, the maid was the--

2085
01:49:38,400 --> 01:49:45,150

2086

01:49:45,150 --> 01:49:53,940
working for the mayor's
office of the town,

2087

01:49:53,940 --> 01:50:01,540
and had a little apartment right
on top of the tower holding

2088

01:50:01,540 --> 01:50:03,820
the mayor's office.

2089

01:50:03,820 --> 01:50:04,540
Wow.

2090

01:50:04,540 --> 01:50:11,050
So it was fortunate, it sort
of had a semi-separate entrance

2091

01:50:11,050 --> 01:50:14,620
to the apartment, just
a matter of climbing

2092

01:50:14,620 --> 01:50:19,210
the third or fourth floor, and
there's the little apartment.

2093

01:50:19,210 --> 01:50:22,240
And that's where
she was hiding us.

2094

01:50:22,240 --> 01:50:31,250
The place where we actually were
spending our time was a closet,

2095

01:50:31,250 --> 01:50:36,070
like most European closets,
which were not walk-in closets

2096

01:50:36,070 --> 01:50:39,640
like we have in the
states, but a big--

2097

01:50:39,640 --> 01:50:40,780
A wardrobe.

2098
01:50:40,780 --> 01:50:41,770
Wardrobe.

2099
01:50:41,770 --> 01:50:43,010
Wardrobe, yes.

2100
01:50:43,010 --> 01:50:44,360
So a piece of furniture?

2101
01:50:44,360 --> 01:50:45,235
Right.

2102
01:50:45,235 --> 01:50:47,650
And so that's where we stayed.

2103
01:50:47,650 --> 01:50:48,860
The same wardrobe?

2104
01:50:48,860 --> 01:50:49,870
Right.

2105
01:50:49,870 --> 01:50:53,370
The two of you were in that
same wardrobe day in, day out?

2106
01:50:53,370 --> 01:50:55,060
Right.

2107
01:50:55,060 --> 01:50:58,810
Most of the time when
somebody came, we just

2108
01:50:58,810 --> 01:51:03,420
stayed in the wardrobe
trying not to make a sound.

2109
01:51:03,420 --> 01:51:05,950
If we were forewarned
that some people--

2110

01:51:05,950 --> 01:51:12,450
guests or others-- were coming,
the maid's teenage daughter

2111

01:51:12,450 --> 01:51:15,840
had a German soldier
as a boyfriend.

2112

01:51:15,840 --> 01:51:20,040
So whenever that
was to be the case,

2113

01:51:20,040 --> 01:51:25,980
my sister and I would climb into
the attic above the apartment.

2114

01:51:25,980 --> 01:51:33,020
And we would sit there,
trying to be quiet

2115

01:51:33,020 --> 01:51:36,500
till somebody had left
and it was safe enough

2116

01:51:36,500 --> 01:51:38,360
to come down to the--

2117

01:51:38,360 --> 01:51:41,450
back to the apartment,
back to the wardrobe.

2118

01:51:41,450 --> 01:51:44,450
Now did the daughter know
that you were being hidden?

2119

01:51:44,450 --> 01:51:45,900
Yes.

2120

01:51:45,900 --> 01:51:48,920
And it was just the two
of them in this apartment?

2121
01:51:48,920 --> 01:51:51,370
Yes.

2122
01:51:51,370 --> 01:51:54,400
And do you remember their names?

2123
01:51:54,400 --> 01:51:56,180
Yes.

2124
01:51:56,180 --> 01:52:00,880
I remember the maid's name,
[? Francisca ?] Palyga.

2125
01:52:00,880 --> 01:52:02,790
[? Francisca ?] Palyga.

2126
01:52:02,790 --> 01:52:03,290
Right.

2127
01:52:03,290 --> 01:52:04,940
How do you spell her last name?

2128
01:52:04,940 --> 01:52:10,530
P-A-L-Y-G-A.

2129
01:52:10,530 --> 01:52:11,960
OK.

2130
01:52:11,960 --> 01:52:14,680
And her daughter's name?

2131
01:52:14,680 --> 01:52:16,878
That slips my mind right now.

2132
01:52:16,878 --> 01:52:19,470
OK.

2133
01:52:19,470 --> 01:52:25,120
The maid was an outcast
from her village

2134

01:52:25,120 --> 01:52:29,670

because the daughter
was born out of wedlock.

2135

01:52:29,670 --> 01:52:33,840

So she had no place to
go back to her village,

2136

01:52:33,840 --> 01:52:45,720

she stayed as the keeper of the
offices in the mayor's office.

2137

01:52:45,720 --> 01:52:48,330

Which is a pretty
interesting place to be.

2138

01:52:48,330 --> 01:52:49,090

Right.

2139

01:52:49,090 --> 01:52:49,720

It was.

2140

01:52:49,720 --> 01:52:52,600

2141

01:52:52,600 --> 01:52:55,840

I would take it that the mayor
was under German authorities?

2142

01:52:55,840 --> 01:52:58,560

Yes.

2143

01:52:58,560 --> 01:53:01,340

And so they had to
answer to the Germans.

2144

01:53:01,340 --> 01:53:01,840

Right.

2145

01:53:01,840 --> 01:53:09,290

And that she-- take it the
German soldier boyfriend

2146
01:53:09,290 --> 01:53:10,730
did not know of your existence?

2147
01:53:10,730 --> 01:53:11,690
No, obviously not.

2148
01:53:11,690 --> 01:53:13,300
Obviously not.

2149
01:53:13,300 --> 01:53:15,530
Though there could have been
some German soldiers who

2150
01:53:15,530 --> 01:53:16,952
would have--

2151
01:53:16,952 --> 01:53:18,800
but one doesn't risk that.

2152
01:53:18,800 --> 01:53:20,080
But not in this case.

2153
01:53:20,080 --> 01:53:22,638
Or at least we never
tested that situation.

2154
01:53:22,638 --> 01:53:23,180
That's right.

2155
01:53:23,180 --> 01:53:27,620

2156
01:53:27,620 --> 01:53:31,970
And how were the interactions
between all of you?

2157
01:53:31,970 --> 01:53:36,530
That is, between the two women,
and your sister, and yourself?

2158

01:53:36,530 --> 01:53:44,040
Well, the interactions
were in that my case,

2159
01:53:44,040 --> 01:53:47,680
I tried to be invisible
as much as possible.

2160
01:53:47,680 --> 01:53:51,680
Although, in order to
kill time, my sister

2161
01:53:51,680 --> 01:53:56,900
tried to teach me some basics,
which I did not have because I

2162
01:53:56,900 --> 01:53:58,890
didn't go to school.

2163
01:53:58,890 --> 01:54:03,560
And so that's basically
how we spent our time.

2164
01:54:03,560 --> 01:54:12,150
My sister and the ex-maid
were doing very well

2165
01:54:12,150 --> 01:54:16,490
and were very friendly.

2166
01:54:16,490 --> 01:54:20,130
Otherwise, she wouldn't
have hidden us.

2167
01:54:20,130 --> 01:54:24,450
And that-- we just tried,
from my perspective,

2168
01:54:24,450 --> 01:54:32,285
just to stay and not to be a
burden to anybody or to be a--

2169
01:54:32,285 --> 01:54:35,670

Well, to be more of one
than absolutely necessary.

2170
01:54:35,670 --> 01:54:36,780
Right.

2171
01:54:36,780 --> 01:54:38,440
Exactly.

2172
01:54:38,440 --> 01:54:41,010
But they didn't
mistreat you, or--

2173
01:54:41,010 --> 01:54:42,180
No, not at all.

2174
01:54:42,180 --> 01:54:46,240
They were very nice
to us in many respects

2175
01:54:46,240 --> 01:54:52,130
because there were certainly
taking their own lives at risk.

2176
01:54:52,130 --> 01:54:53,930
Was the food better?

2177
01:54:53,930 --> 01:54:56,010
Were they able to
procure better food?

2178
01:54:56,010 --> 01:54:58,040
Well, they were able
to procure food.

2179
01:54:58,040 --> 01:54:59,630
I don't know if was better.

2180
01:54:59,630 --> 01:55:02,030
But certainly, more than
I had in the ghetto.

2181

01:55:02,030 --> 01:55:04,540

2182

01:55:04,540 --> 01:55:08,880

So I guess I didn't
make myself clear.

2183

01:55:08,880 --> 01:55:15,700

As I delivered my package
and said my goodbyes

2184

01:55:15,700 --> 01:55:21,470

to my sister to go back to the
ghetto, she told me to wait.

2185

01:55:21,470 --> 01:55:25,600

And before I knew it, she said,
yes, you can stay with me.

2186

01:55:25,600 --> 01:55:28,250

And that's how I survived.

2187

01:55:28,250 --> 01:55:35,720

And we stayed in that situation
from late '42 till February

2188

01:55:35,720 --> 01:55:38,250

of 1944.

2189

01:55:38,250 --> 01:55:40,970

It was a year and months--

2190

01:55:40,970 --> 01:55:42,100

some months.

2191

01:55:42,100 --> 01:55:42,950

That's a long time.

2192

01:55:42,950 --> 01:55:43,450

Yeah.

2193

01:55:43,450 --> 01:55:51,140

It certainly was-- when we were
liberated by the Russian army.

2194
01:55:51,140 --> 01:55:54,050
So it was February '44--

2195
01:55:54,050 --> 01:55:57,320
the winter of 44
that the Russian Army

2196
01:55:57,320 --> 01:56:01,460
liberated that part of--

2197
01:56:01,460 --> 01:56:03,450
now do we call it
Ukraine or Poland,

2198
01:56:03,450 --> 01:56:05,700
because it had become part
of Ukraine the first time--

2199
01:56:05,700 --> 01:56:06,200
Yes.

2200
01:56:06,200 --> 01:56:10,340
We might as well call it
Ukraine because that brings us

2201
01:56:10,340 --> 01:56:16,720
to the next part of the saga
that after we were liberated,

2202
01:56:16,720 --> 01:56:22,735
I met up with Julia's
to-be husband.

2203
01:56:22,735 --> 01:56:27,320

2204
01:56:27,320 --> 01:56:28,800
There were two things.

2205

01:56:28,800 --> 01:56:32,510
One, is there were rumors
that the Germans were mounting

2206
01:56:32,510 --> 01:56:40,010
a counteroffensive, so my future
brother-in-law procured a wagon

2207
01:56:40,010 --> 01:56:43,910
and horse to take
us from Kolomea

2208
01:56:43,910 --> 01:56:47,230
east towards the
Romanian border.

2209
01:56:47,230 --> 01:56:53,300
And we ended up in
Cernauti, or Chernivtsi,

2210
01:56:53,300 --> 01:56:56,100
where we spent a summer of '44.

2211
01:56:56,100 --> 01:57:01,530
Tell me, how did your
sister and her fiancee meet?

2212
01:57:01,530 --> 01:57:04,890
We left the--

2213
01:57:04,890 --> 01:57:11,130
Mrs. Palyga's house
when we learned

2214
01:57:11,130 --> 01:57:13,590
there were Russian
tanks in the streets,

2215
01:57:13,590 --> 01:57:18,850
therefore it was safe to
leave the hiding place.

2216
01:57:18,850 --> 01:57:21,840

And I'm sorry to interrupt
again, but I wonder,

2217
01:57:21,840 --> 01:57:24,270
what happened with Mrs.
Palyga and her daughter

2218
01:57:24,270 --> 01:57:26,830
when those tanks came?

2219
01:57:26,830 --> 01:57:27,780
They had no problem.

2220
01:57:27,780 --> 01:57:29,730
They were Ukrainian.

2221
01:57:29,730 --> 01:57:32,010
But they had worked
for the Germans.

2222
01:57:32,010 --> 01:57:34,530
Well, indirectly
related, because they

2223
01:57:34,530 --> 01:57:37,950
were working for the--

2224
01:57:37,950 --> 01:57:38,820
The mayor.

2225
01:57:38,820 --> 01:57:42,640
--mayor's office, but not
directly for the Germans.

2226
01:57:42,640 --> 01:57:43,140
OK.

2227
01:57:43,140 --> 01:57:45,060
So they didn't have
any consequences.

2228
01:57:45,060 --> 01:57:46,230

No, not at all.

2229

01:57:46,230 --> 01:57:47,370

OK.

2230

01:57:47,370 --> 01:57:48,870

So you left them.

2231

01:57:48,870 --> 01:57:51,362

So we left them.

2232

01:57:51,362 --> 01:57:57,900

And [? through-- ?] that's when
my uncle came looking for us,

2233

01:57:57,900 --> 01:58:01,200

but we had already
left the apartment.

2234

01:58:01,200 --> 01:58:05,340

So he didn't find us,
but somehow we got--

2235

01:58:05,340 --> 01:58:09,360

we met up with other survivors.

2236

01:58:09,360 --> 01:58:15,930

And all of us congregated
in one of the bigger houses

2237

01:58:15,930 --> 01:58:21,270

in town, which used to be the
former senior doctor's office.

2238

01:58:21,270 --> 01:58:25,320

And so he had a number of
rooms and a bunch of us

2239

01:58:25,320 --> 01:58:29,100

survivors congregated there.

2240

01:58:29,100 --> 01:58:33,320

And then after a
few weeks, when word

2241
01:58:33,320 --> 01:58:39,290
was that the German army
was counteroffending,

2242
01:58:39,290 --> 01:58:45,370
we left and went to Romania.

2243
01:58:45,370 --> 01:58:47,090
There--

2244
01:58:47,090 --> 01:58:49,150
But I want-- I'm sorry
to interrupt here.

2245
01:58:49,150 --> 01:58:51,310
When you said your uncle
was looking for you,

2246
01:58:51,310 --> 01:58:55,060
does this mean your mother's
brother or your aunt's--

2247
01:58:55,060 --> 01:58:57,100
your mother's sister's husband?

2248
01:58:57,100 --> 01:59:00,850
My mother's sister's husband.

2249
01:59:00,850 --> 01:59:01,960
Sali's husband.

2250
01:59:01,960 --> 01:59:02,460
Right.

2251
01:59:02,460 --> 01:59:03,320
Spiegel.

2252
01:59:03,320 --> 01:59:04,170
Right.

2253
01:59:04,170 --> 01:59:05,680
OK.

2254
01:59:05,680 --> 01:59:08,470
And did you know what had
happened to the other one,

2255
01:59:08,470 --> 01:59:10,520
the one from Germany?

2256
01:59:10,520 --> 01:59:11,830
Yes.

2257
01:59:11,830 --> 01:59:22,070
My cousins were hiding in a
place which overlooked the road

2258
01:59:22,070 --> 01:59:25,420
to the Szepariwice forest.

2259
01:59:25,420 --> 01:59:28,460
And at one point,
they saw a group

2260
01:59:28,460 --> 01:59:32,120
of Jews being led to
the forest, and they

2261
01:59:32,120 --> 01:59:37,070
happened to see my
uncle, and my cousin,

2262
01:59:37,070 --> 01:59:41,930
Yudit, who were being
led to the forest.

2263
01:59:41,930 --> 01:59:44,306
So we know what
happened to them.

2264
01:59:44,306 --> 01:59:44,806

OK.

2265

01:59:44,806 --> 01:59:47,730

2266

01:59:47,730 --> 01:59:51,600

And your uncle's--
that is Sali's family,

2267

01:59:51,600 --> 01:59:55,070

aside from Lunia,
did they survive?

2268

01:59:55,070 --> 01:59:56,580

Yes.

2269

01:59:56,580 --> 01:59:59,730

They were one of the
lucky ones, I guess,

2270

01:59:59,730 --> 02:00:02,370

who survived as a family unit.

2271

02:00:02,370 --> 02:00:03,410

OK.

2272

02:00:03,410 --> 02:00:08,760

And did they also end up in
this former senior doctor's home

2273

02:00:08,760 --> 02:00:09,370

or were they--

2274

02:00:09,370 --> 02:00:10,210

Yes.

2275

02:00:10,210 --> 02:00:11,460

They did.

2276

02:00:11,460 --> 02:00:16,530

And then they also
ended up in Romania.

2277
02:00:16,530 --> 02:00:19,800
How they got there,
I'm not quite sure.

2278
02:00:19,800 --> 02:00:22,290
But they ended up there.

2279
02:00:22,290 --> 02:00:28,500
One of-- some distant relative
of ours, my sister's and mine,

2280
02:00:28,500 --> 02:00:33,990
lived in Romania and
survived the war there.

2281
02:00:33,990 --> 02:00:38,480
So when we left Kolomea, we
ended up living with them

2282
02:00:38,480 --> 02:00:39,800
for a while.

2283
02:00:39,800 --> 02:00:41,800
And what town did they live in?

2284
02:00:41,800 --> 02:00:43,160
Cernauti.

2285
02:00:43,160 --> 02:00:43,780
Oh that town.

2286
02:00:43,780 --> 02:00:44,340
Chernivtsi.

2287
02:00:44,340 --> 02:00:44,840
OK.

2288
02:00:44,840 --> 02:00:47,150

2289

02:00:47,150 --> 02:00:51,200
And you had mentioned, at
one time the Russian side

2290
02:00:51,200 --> 02:00:53,900
of the family, where
during the ghetto years,

2291
02:00:53,900 --> 02:00:57,550
you had gone to ask for
food, and they said--

2292
02:00:57,550 --> 02:01:00,170
were they in Kolomea then?

2293
02:01:00,170 --> 02:01:01,430
Yes.

2294
02:01:01,430 --> 02:01:05,810
So they lived in Kolomea before
the war or they had moved there

2295
02:01:05,810 --> 02:01:09,410
when the Soviets came in?

2296
02:01:09,410 --> 02:01:11,500
None of the above.

2297
02:01:11,500 --> 02:01:14,570
They lived outside of Kolomea.

2298
02:01:14,570 --> 02:01:20,660
When the ghetto was
created, the Jews

2299
02:01:20,660 --> 02:01:28,010
from the surrounding
little townlets or villages

2300
02:01:28,010 --> 02:01:30,890
were forced into
the Kolomea ghetto.

2301

02:01:30,890 --> 02:01:36,530

And so my Russian
relatives were one

2302

02:01:36,530 --> 02:01:40,370

of those that had to
be moved [? out ?] of--

2303

02:01:40,370 --> 02:01:41,740

go into Kolomea.

2304

02:01:41,740 --> 02:01:44,450

2305

02:01:44,450 --> 02:01:46,862

So in other words, they were
also living in the ghetto

2306

02:01:46,862 --> 02:01:48,320

when you were living
in the ghetto.

2307

02:01:48,320 --> 02:01:49,040

Right.

2308

02:01:49,040 --> 02:01:51,650

And when you were
looking for food,

2309

02:01:51,650 --> 02:01:53,570

you went out into--
you were still

2310

02:01:53,570 --> 02:01:56,000

going to someplace in
the ghetto to see them.

2311

02:01:56,000 --> 02:01:56,840

Right.

2312

02:01:56,840 --> 02:01:58,610

And that was your

one interaction

2313
02:01:58,610 --> 02:02:02,190
at that point, when the
woman said, no food.

2314
02:02:02,190 --> 02:02:02,815
Right.

2315
02:02:02,815 --> 02:02:04,098
And her husband said--

2316
02:02:04,098 --> 02:02:06,140
There's some apples, and
you wouldn't steal them.

2317
02:02:06,140 --> 02:02:06,800
Right.

2318
02:02:06,800 --> 02:02:08,230
Yeah.

2319
02:02:08,230 --> 02:02:09,260
OK.

2320
02:02:09,260 --> 02:02:12,290
Were there difficulties
in-- or complications

2321
02:02:12,290 --> 02:02:18,230
in crossing into Romania from
what was now the Soviet Union?

2322
02:02:18,230 --> 02:02:23,795
No, because it was a
very chaotic situation.

2323
02:02:23,795 --> 02:02:29,270
And the Red Army was basically
in control of everything.

2324
02:02:29,270 --> 02:02:32,750

And moving from Kolomea
to cross the border,

2325
02:02:32,750 --> 02:02:37,590
the border didn't really exist
to all intents and purposes.

2326
02:02:37,590 --> 02:02:39,020
OK.

2327
02:02:39,020 --> 02:02:40,490
What did the roads look like?

2328
02:02:40,490 --> 02:02:42,724
Were they full of
people like you?

2329
02:02:42,724 --> 02:02:43,668
No.

2330
02:02:43,668 --> 02:02:49,190
There were a few people like
us because we were the ones who

2331
02:02:49,190 --> 02:02:51,280
were directly affected.

2332
02:02:51,280 --> 02:02:55,810
The Polish or the
Ukrainian population

2333
02:02:55,810 --> 02:03:02,330
didn't care one way or the
other, German or Russian

2334
02:03:02,330 --> 02:03:06,140
controlled made not
much difference.

2335
02:03:06,140 --> 02:03:13,740
Obviously, there were underlying
feelings, but nothing major.

2336

02:03:13,740 --> 02:03:15,900
Nothing to prompt them to leave.

2337

02:03:15,900 --> 02:03:16,750
Right.

2338

02:03:16,750 --> 02:03:17,250
OK.

2339

02:03:17,250 --> 02:03:21,705
So we passed by--

2340

02:03:21,705 --> 02:03:25,470
Can we could stop for a second?

2341

02:03:25,470 --> 02:03:27,690
Your daughter wanted
to ask a question.

2342

02:03:27,690 --> 02:03:31,530
And that was, was the
Polish underground operating

2343

02:03:31,530 --> 02:03:36,630
as far as you knew or
experienced in Kolomea?

2344

02:03:36,630 --> 02:03:41,450
No, as far as I knew, that--
such a thing did not exist.

2345

02:03:41,450 --> 02:03:42,510
OK.

2346

02:03:42,510 --> 02:03:46,358
And again, at this point, you're
10 years old, 11 years old,

2347

02:03:46,358 --> 02:03:47,400
something like that, yes?

2348

02:03:47,400 --> 02:03:47,900
Right.

2349
02:03:47,900 --> 02:03:48,450
Yes.

2350
02:03:48,450 --> 02:03:48,950
All right.

2351
02:03:48,950 --> 02:03:52,780
So you-- the roads
were not as crowded.

2352
02:03:52,780 --> 02:03:53,280
Right.

2353
02:03:53,280 --> 02:03:57,270
Were they highways in the way
that we would understand them,

2354
02:03:57,270 --> 02:03:59,040
with many lanes,
or were they dirt

2355
02:03:59,040 --> 02:04:00,300
roads that go from Kolomea?

2356
02:04:00,300 --> 02:04:05,200
They were basically dirt
roads, two-lane roads.

2357
02:04:05,200 --> 02:04:08,580
One going in one direction,
one in the other?

2358
02:04:08,580 --> 02:04:10,250
I suppose.

2359
02:04:10,250 --> 02:04:11,850
Yes.

2360
02:04:11,850 --> 02:04:15,000

And were you passing fields
or towns as you went?

2361

02:04:15,000 --> 02:04:20,970

Well, we passed fields, we
passed a couple of battlefields

2362

02:04:20,970 --> 02:04:25,340

with a lot of
debris from the war,

2363

02:04:25,340 --> 02:04:31,030

destroyed tanks, dead
horses, that sort of thing.

2364

02:04:31,030 --> 02:04:34,370

But nothing of any
significance, and nobody

2365

02:04:34,370 --> 02:04:38,080

bothered us from going anywhere.

2366

02:04:38,080 --> 02:04:41,460

So then you end up at this
distant relatives' home.

2367

02:04:41,460 --> 02:04:42,150

Right.

2368

02:04:42,150 --> 02:04:45,580

And how do things develop?

2369

02:04:45,580 --> 02:04:54,000

We stayed in that city
for several months.

2370

02:04:54,000 --> 02:04:58,590

It was during the
summer of 1944.

2371

02:04:58,590 --> 02:05:03,210

We actually ended up
living together with our--

2372
02:05:03,210 --> 02:05:07,380
my Aunt Sali and her
husband because we

2373
02:05:07,380 --> 02:05:11,130
couldn't stay with
the distant relatives

2374
02:05:11,130 --> 02:05:12,510
for any length of time.

2375
02:05:12,510 --> 02:05:15,700

2376
02:05:15,700 --> 02:05:23,490
And when that period
of time went by,

2377
02:05:23,490 --> 02:05:26,900
then the word was that the
German army was being pushed

2378
02:05:26,900 --> 02:05:31,760
back, and there was no risk
of them recapturing Kolomea,

2379
02:05:31,760 --> 02:05:37,460
we all moved back, and again,
into that old former doctor's

2380
02:05:37,460 --> 02:05:42,260
house with a few
other survivors.

2381
02:05:42,260 --> 02:05:52,410
We stayed there for a while
until the fall of 1944.

2382
02:05:52,410 --> 02:05:57,420
And at that point, the
Russian government--

2383
02:05:57,420 --> 02:06:00,030
or the Soviet government--

2384
02:06:00,030 --> 02:06:04,560
gave the Polish
citizens a choice

2385
02:06:04,560 --> 02:06:10,440
of either staying in Ukraine
under Ukrainian administration,

2386
02:06:10,440 --> 02:06:12,870
or could go to Poland.

2387
02:06:12,870 --> 02:06:16,520

2388
02:06:16,520 --> 02:06:26,260
We-- my brother-in-law and my
sister chose to be with the--

2389
02:06:26,260 --> 02:06:29,330
take their chances with
the Polish government

2390
02:06:29,330 --> 02:06:36,830
instead of staying with under
Russian administration--

2391
02:06:36,830 --> 02:06:38,280
or Ukrainian.

2392
02:06:38,280 --> 02:06:41,600
Did they have any--

2393
02:06:41,600 --> 02:06:45,020
did they have any views
of the Soviet system

2394
02:06:45,020 --> 02:06:48,020
or any thoughts about it?

2395

02:06:48,020 --> 02:06:53,790

Any reason why they chose the one rather than the other?

2396

02:06:53,790 --> 02:06:59,330

I think they felt that being closer to the West

2397

02:06:59,330 --> 02:07:03,600

would be safer for them or more comfortable.

2398

02:07:03,600 --> 02:07:11,370

And so they chose to get on one of those transports filled

2399

02:07:11,370 --> 02:07:13,530

with refugees.

2400

02:07:13,530 --> 02:07:20,140

And we-- it seems like we traveled for a distance

2401

02:07:20,140 --> 02:07:22,120

of about 400 or 500 miles--

2402

02:07:22,120 --> 02:07:22,990

That's a lot.

2403

02:07:22,990 --> 02:07:27,940

For over a month because we were being shunted aside

2404

02:07:27,940 --> 02:07:34,860

for the military transports going westward--

2405

02:07:34,860 --> 02:07:37,880

ammunition, and supplies, and whatnot--

2406

02:07:37,880 --> 02:07:41,610

and bringing back
wounded Russian soldiers

2407
02:07:41,610 --> 02:07:46,730
back into the Russian hospitals.

2408
02:07:46,730 --> 02:07:48,170
So was this by train?

2409
02:07:48,170 --> 02:07:48,740
Yes.

2410
02:07:48,740 --> 02:07:49,550
This was by train.

2411
02:07:49,550 --> 02:07:52,100
And did you have
documents to say that you

2412
02:07:52,100 --> 02:07:53,450
had been citizens of Poland?

2413
02:07:53,450 --> 02:07:56,870

2414
02:07:56,870 --> 02:07:57,440
I don't know.

2415
02:07:57,440 --> 02:08:04,980
Nobody really
checked too closely.

2416
02:08:04,980 --> 02:08:08,660
The Ukrainians were
just as happy--

2417
02:08:08,660 --> 02:08:11,040
or the Soviets were
just as happy--

2418
02:08:11,040 --> 02:08:17,535
to see the Poles

get out of the way.

2419
02:08:17,535 --> 02:08:19,330
OK.

2420
02:08:19,330 --> 02:08:24,460
And again, maybe you told
me, but it slipped my mind.

2421
02:08:24,460 --> 02:08:28,780
How did your sister meet
her fiancee, Firestone--

2422
02:08:28,780 --> 02:08:29,800
Feuerstein?

2423
02:08:29,800 --> 02:08:31,145
How did he she meet him?

2424
02:08:31,145 --> 02:08:32,020
How did she meet him?

2425
02:08:32,020 --> 02:08:32,800
I forgot.

2426
02:08:32,800 --> 02:08:37,100
Well, he was one of the
survivors who ended up--

2427
02:08:37,100 --> 02:08:38,560
In the doctor's house?

2428
02:08:38,560 --> 02:08:39,190
Right.

2429
02:08:39,190 --> 02:08:40,020
OK.

2430
02:08:40,020 --> 02:08:40,670
OK.

2431

02:08:40,670 --> 02:08:41,820
So that's how they met.

2432
02:08:41,820 --> 02:08:42,320
Yes.

2433
02:08:42,320 --> 02:08:44,420
And had he been from
Kolomea as well?

2434
02:08:44,420 --> 02:08:45,130
Yes.

2435
02:08:45,130 --> 02:08:45,950
Yes.

2436
02:08:45,950 --> 02:08:48,560
And he knew my family.

2437
02:08:48,560 --> 02:08:49,550
We were friends.

2438
02:08:49,550 --> 02:08:56,300
And so he sort of adopted
us or tried to help us.

2439
02:08:56,300 --> 02:08:59,060
And how much older than
your sister was he?

2440
02:08:59,060 --> 02:09:01,040
He was quite a bit older.

2441
02:09:01,040 --> 02:09:03,740
I think it was about 15
years older than she was.

2442
02:09:03,740 --> 02:09:05,380
And she was how
old at this point?

2443
02:09:05,380 --> 02:09:11,400

At that time, she was,
I guess, about 21.

2444
02:09:11,400 --> 02:09:12,660
OK.

2445
02:09:12,660 --> 02:09:14,170
OK.

2446
02:09:14,170 --> 02:09:16,850
And so you three become a unit.

2447
02:09:16,850 --> 02:09:18,230
Right.

2448
02:09:18,230 --> 02:09:20,120
And you're on this--

2449
02:09:20,120 --> 02:09:21,680
you're on a train
that gets pushed

2450
02:09:21,680 --> 02:09:25,670
to the side for a long time,
so it takes you about a month

2451
02:09:25,670 --> 02:09:27,810
to get this 500 miles West.

2452
02:09:27,810 --> 02:09:28,760
Right.

2453
02:09:28,760 --> 02:09:30,260
Where do you end up?

2454
02:09:30,260 --> 02:09:32,860
We end up in a town
called Katowice.

2455
02:09:32,860 --> 02:09:33,360
OK.

2456

02:09:33,360 --> 02:09:35,890

2457

02:09:35,890 --> 02:09:37,675

And the rest of the family--

2458

02:09:37,675 --> 02:09:40,370

Aunt Sali, and her
children, and so on?

2459

02:09:40,370 --> 02:09:43,040

Eventually, they end up
the same place as we.

2460

02:09:43,040 --> 02:09:43,540

OK.

2461

02:09:43,540 --> 02:09:48,960

2462

02:09:48,960 --> 02:09:57,740

And we stayed in Katowice till
about April or May of 1945,

2463

02:09:57,740 --> 02:10:00,410

when the war was
officially over.

2464

02:10:00,410 --> 02:10:03,580

Do you remember that day?

2465

02:10:03,580 --> 02:10:07,660

I know it was, I would
say, about May 15,

2466

02:10:07,660 --> 02:10:11,450

right after the war was
over, officially declared.

2467

02:10:11,450 --> 02:10:14,005

2468

02:10:14,005 --> 02:10:26,840

And at that time, part of
Eastern Germany became Polish.

2469

02:10:26,840 --> 02:10:34,820

And so whoever--
whatever Germans did not

2470

02:10:34,820 --> 02:10:41,410

escape to Western
Germany, their homes,

2471

02:10:41,410 --> 02:10:44,390

their apartments,
their businesses,

2472

02:10:44,390 --> 02:10:48,790

were basically for
there the taking.

2473

02:10:48,790 --> 02:10:56,080

And so my brother-in-law decided
we would all move from Katowice

2474

02:10:56,080 --> 02:10:57,900

to Breslau--

2475

02:10:57,900 --> 02:11:03,850

or now, as it called, Wroclaw,
where he somehow ended up

2476

02:11:03,850 --> 02:11:10,300

running a factory
making chocolates.

2477

02:11:10,300 --> 02:11:11,810

Wow.

2478

02:11:11,810 --> 02:11:12,660

Wow, I said.

2479

02:11:12,660 --> 02:11:13,160

Yes.

2480
02:11:13,160 --> 02:11:15,850

2481
02:11:15,850 --> 02:11:22,410
And we took over some poor
German person's apartment,

2482
02:11:22,410 --> 02:11:24,290
which was very lovely.

2483
02:11:24,290 --> 02:11:27,280
Mm-hmm.

2484
02:11:27,280 --> 02:11:28,570
What did it look like?

2485
02:11:28,570 --> 02:11:31,180
I keep asking you about
your housing situations.

2486
02:11:31,180 --> 02:11:35,310
Well, this was an
apartment in a three,

2487
02:11:35,310 --> 02:11:39,540
four-story building,
very well-furnished.

2488
02:11:39,540 --> 02:11:47,110
What impressed me most is they
had a record player and records

2489
02:11:47,110 --> 02:11:47,610
there.

2490
02:11:47,610 --> 02:11:49,770
And of course I don't
know any better,

2491
02:11:49,770 --> 02:11:54,150

but I fell in love with
the German records.

2492
02:11:54,150 --> 02:11:57,400

2493
02:11:57,400 --> 02:11:58,600
You mean the music?

2494
02:11:58,600 --> 02:12:00,130
Yes.

2495
02:12:00,130 --> 02:12:02,290
Was it Wagner's music?

2496
02:12:02,290 --> 02:12:02,980
Yes.

2497
02:12:02,980 --> 02:12:03,790
Oh my goodness.

2498
02:12:03,790 --> 02:12:07,330

2499
02:12:07,330 --> 02:12:10,360
Well, for someone who hasn't
heard music for a long time.

2500
02:12:10,360 --> 02:12:14,350
Wagner's music was great.

2501
02:12:14,350 --> 02:12:19,980
So we lived there until
the middle of 1946,

2502
02:12:19,980 --> 02:12:25,450
where the pogroms
start in Poland--

2503
02:12:25,450 --> 02:12:29,140
the infamous Kielce pogrom.

2504

02:12:29,140 --> 02:12:35,020

And I guess again, my sister
and her-- by then, her husband

2505

02:12:35,020 --> 02:12:40,380

decided that time was
to get out of Poland.

2506

02:12:40,380 --> 02:12:43,380

How did the news of the
Kielce pogroms reach you?

2507

02:12:43,380 --> 02:12:45,900

Do you remember
hearing about that?

2508

02:12:45,900 --> 02:12:48,060

I remember hearing
about it, but I don't

2509

02:12:48,060 --> 02:12:51,590

remember the word of mouth.

2510

02:12:51,590 --> 02:12:53,380

And did you feel
that in the streets,

2511

02:12:53,380 --> 02:12:55,230

too, when you would
go out in the streets?

2512

02:12:55,230 --> 02:12:58,200

Did you feel-- did you
have a sense of fear?

2513

02:12:58,200 --> 02:12:58,930

No.

2514

02:12:58,930 --> 02:13:06,070

No, it was-- it was
like a frontier town.

2515

02:13:06,070 --> 02:13:06,940
Wroclaw, yeah.

2516
02:13:06,940 --> 02:13:08,170
Right.

2517
02:13:08,170 --> 02:13:12,930
And didn't have any problem or--

2518
02:13:12,930 --> 02:13:17,460
but of course the news
from Kielce was bad enough.

2519
02:13:17,460 --> 02:13:18,510
Yeah.

2520
02:13:18,510 --> 02:13:19,720
Yeah.

2521
02:13:19,720 --> 02:13:26,380
So how do you, as they say
in Poland, get out of Dodge?

2522
02:13:26,380 --> 02:13:31,320
Well, there comes another
train full of refugees.

2523
02:13:31,320 --> 02:13:35,620
This time, mostly Jewish
refugees as opposed

2524
02:13:35,620 --> 02:13:37,630
to just Polish citizens.

2525
02:13:37,630 --> 02:13:41,090
And this time we get
on a train at Wroclaw,

2526
02:13:41,090 --> 02:13:47,230
and we travel to the American
Zone of Occupation of Germany

2527

02:13:47,230 --> 02:13:49,480
in Frankfurt am Main.

2528
02:13:49,480 --> 02:13:51,455
Were there complications
to do that?

2529
02:13:51,455 --> 02:13:51,955
Yes.

2530
02:13:51,955 --> 02:13:55,230

2531
02:13:55,230 --> 02:14:00,850
We traversed the British and
French Zones of Occupation.

2532
02:14:00,850 --> 02:14:02,550
And none of them wanted there--

2533
02:14:02,550 --> 02:14:04,340
these refugees.

2534
02:14:04,340 --> 02:14:07,890
And neither did
the American zone,

2535
02:14:07,890 --> 02:14:11,820
but somehow we ended up in the
American Zone of Occupation.

2536
02:14:11,820 --> 02:14:13,920
And what about
leaving Poland itself?

2537
02:14:13,920 --> 02:14:15,270
Were there complications there?

2538
02:14:15,270 --> 02:14:15,990
No.

2539
02:14:15,990 --> 02:14:20,250

Again, you got on
a train, and you--

2540
02:14:20,250 --> 02:14:22,200
That's interesting,
because many people

2541
02:14:22,200 --> 02:14:27,030
at this time who
flee Poland have

2542
02:14:27,030 --> 02:14:28,960
to do it by being smuggled out.

2543
02:14:28,960 --> 02:14:29,460
Right.

2544
02:14:29,460 --> 02:14:33,180
By trucks, by
smugglers illegally.

2545
02:14:33,180 --> 02:14:36,480
They're crossing a border
that was basically closed.

2546
02:14:36,480 --> 02:14:37,140
Right.

2547
02:14:37,140 --> 02:14:38,220
And you didn't have that?

2548
02:14:38,220 --> 02:14:39,360
No.

2549
02:14:39,360 --> 02:14:44,815
We just had the train
load of refugees, and--

2550
02:14:44,815 --> 02:14:47,980
And was it your mother's--
was it your Aunt Sali and her

2551

02:14:47,980 --> 02:14:49,650
family that were with you here?

2552
02:14:49,650 --> 02:14:50,220
Yes.

2553
02:14:50,220 --> 02:14:50,720
OK.

2554
02:14:50,720 --> 02:14:53,260
So it was not three of you,
it was like the seven of you.

2555
02:14:53,260 --> 02:14:53,760
Yeah.

2556
02:14:53,760 --> 02:15:00,580
Like a bigger family,
including my brother-in-law's

2557
02:15:00,580 --> 02:15:06,840
former mother-in-law,
which was with us.

2558
02:15:06,840 --> 02:15:10,090
That made things
come more complicated

2559
02:15:10,090 --> 02:15:12,460
because she was very observant.

2560
02:15:12,460 --> 02:15:14,820
This is Feuerstein's mother?

2561
02:15:14,820 --> 02:15:16,470
Or Sali's husband's mother?

2562
02:15:16,470 --> 02:15:24,140
No, my brother-in-law,
Isaac Feuerstein--

2563
02:15:24,140 --> 02:15:25,130

His mother.

2564

02:15:25,130 --> 02:15:26,750

His mother-in-law.

2565

02:15:26,750 --> 02:15:27,250

OK.

2566

02:15:27,250 --> 02:15:28,490

Oh his mother-in-law?

2567

02:15:28,490 --> 02:15:29,360

Right.

2568

02:15:29,360 --> 02:15:31,023

Not his mother, but
his mother-in-law.

2569

02:15:31,023 --> 02:15:31,710

Right.

2570

02:15:31,710 --> 02:15:33,320

So your sister was
his second wife.

2571

02:15:33,320 --> 02:15:35,575

Right.

2572

02:15:35,575 --> 02:15:37,546

And that wasn't a problem.

2573

02:15:37,546 --> 02:15:40,600

The problem was she
was very observant.

2574

02:15:40,600 --> 02:15:43,530

She wouldn't eat some
of the food we had.

2575

02:15:43,530 --> 02:15:46,090

2576

02:15:46,090 --> 02:15:48,910

Eventually, when we
got to Frankfurt,

2577

02:15:48,910 --> 02:15:52,150

she decided to go to Palestine.

2578

02:15:52,150 --> 02:15:56,470

So it was back to my
sister, her husband,

2579

02:15:56,470 --> 02:15:59,020

and me as a family unit.

2580

02:15:59,020 --> 02:16:00,160

OK

2581

02:16:00,160 --> 02:16:06,740

And when you got Frankfurt am
Main, where did you end up?

2582

02:16:06,740 --> 02:16:10,580

My brother-in-law
rented an apartment

2583

02:16:10,580 --> 02:16:14,510

somewhere in one of the
suburbs of Frankfurt.

2584

02:16:14,510 --> 02:16:18,600

2585

02:16:18,600 --> 02:16:20,560

So you weren't in a DP camp?

2586

02:16:20,560 --> 02:16:23,730

Well, yes.

2587

02:16:23,730 --> 02:16:27,300

My sister and her husband
were not in a DP camp.

2588

02:16:27,300 --> 02:16:34,219

I ended up in a DP camp in Frankfurt, or in Zeilsheim.

2589

02:16:34,219 --> 02:16:35,219

Zeilsheim?

2590

02:16:35,219 --> 02:16:39,719

Yes, for a couple of months until they

2591

02:16:39,719 --> 02:16:44,980

decided they would go try to get to the United States.

2592

02:16:44,980 --> 02:16:51,780

And that's when they brought me back from Zeilsheim and--

2593

02:16:51,780 --> 02:16:52,440

Adopted you.

2594

02:16:52,440 --> 02:16:52,940

Yeah.

2595

02:16:52,940 --> 02:16:53,450

Right.

2596

02:16:53,450 --> 02:16:54,150

OK.

2597

02:16:54,150 --> 02:16:59,340

I was in an orphanage in Zeilsheim.

2598

02:16:59,340 --> 02:17:02,250

And was this in primarily a Jewish orphanage?

2599

02:17:02,250 --> 02:17:04,860

Yes, exclusively Jewish.

2600

02:17:04,860 --> 02:17:05,940

Exclusively Jewish.

2601

02:17:05,940 --> 02:17:07,389

In a DP camp.

2602

02:17:07,389 --> 02:17:08,129

OK.

2603

02:17:08,129 --> 02:17:10,799

Was the DP camp also Jewish?

2604

02:17:10,799 --> 02:17:11,379

Yes.

2605

02:17:11,379 --> 02:17:11,969

OK.

2606

02:17:11,969 --> 02:17:13,379

No other nationalities there?

2607

02:17:13,379 --> 02:17:14,950

Not that I could tell.

2608

02:17:14,950 --> 02:17:15,870

All right.

2609

02:17:15,870 --> 02:17:17,790

And was there a
particular reason

2610

02:17:17,790 --> 02:17:21,090

for this, why they
would be separated?

2611

02:17:21,090 --> 02:17:25,219

No, not specifically.

2612

02:17:25,219 --> 02:17:32,990

The people in the DP camp
were either prisoners

2613
02:17:32,990 --> 02:17:39,080
of war or people like my
sister's friend who went

2614
02:17:39,080 --> 02:17:42,209
to Germany to work on a farm.

2615
02:17:42,209 --> 02:17:46,490
And the ones who were
Polish or Ukrainian that

2616
02:17:46,490 --> 02:17:50,660
came from Kolomea naturally
wanted to go back to Kolomea,

2617
02:17:50,660 --> 02:17:54,280
didn't want to stay in DP camps.

2618
02:17:54,280 --> 02:17:55,100
Yeah.

2619
02:17:55,100 --> 02:17:57,410
Well, some of them might
not have wanted to go back.

2620
02:17:57,410 --> 02:17:57,910
Yes.

2621
02:17:57,910 --> 02:18:06,700
Some of them were helped
along by the American military

2622
02:18:06,700 --> 02:18:10,780
to go back, especially
Russian soldiers who

2623
02:18:10,780 --> 02:18:13,690
faced a very uncertain future.

2624
02:18:13,690 --> 02:18:15,490
But they had no--

2625
02:18:15,490 --> 02:18:18,430
were not given any real choice.

2626
02:18:18,430 --> 02:18:18,930
Yeah.

2627
02:18:18,930 --> 02:18:23,020

2628
02:18:23,020 --> 02:18:25,299
It sounds like a
very chaotic time,

2629
02:18:25,299 --> 02:18:26,850
even though it's a safer time.

2630
02:18:26,850 --> 02:18:28,959
Yes.

2631
02:18:28,959 --> 02:18:32,850
What did the
landscape look like?

2632
02:18:32,850 --> 02:18:36,110
I can imagine that after
the war, Frankfurt,

2633
02:18:36,110 --> 02:18:37,940
there wasn't much to it.

2634
02:18:37,940 --> 02:18:38,629
That's right.

2635
02:18:38,629 --> 02:18:47,520
Frankfurt, as well as Breslau,
also was in very terrible shape

2636
02:18:47,520 --> 02:18:51,330
because both cities
were called Festung

2637

02:18:51,330 --> 02:18:56,520

cities, fortress cities,
for the German defense

2638

02:18:56,520 --> 02:19:00,150

against the Soviet army.

2639

02:19:00,150 --> 02:19:04,850

So there was a tremendous
amount of damage.

2640

02:19:04,850 --> 02:19:06,270

Yeah.

2641

02:19:06,270 --> 02:19:09,330

And did you have any
interaction with Germans

2642

02:19:09,330 --> 02:19:12,040

while you were there?

2643

02:19:12,040 --> 02:19:14,080

No, not really.

2644

02:19:14,080 --> 02:19:17,320

I was pretty lonely.

2645

02:19:17,320 --> 02:19:22,059

Of course, being in a DP
camp, I had no interaction

2646

02:19:22,059 --> 02:19:24,879

with anybody
outside of the camp.

2647

02:19:24,879 --> 02:19:29,920

When I moved-- when my
sister and her husband

2648

02:19:29,920 --> 02:19:32,500

brought me back
out of the DP camp

2649
02:19:32,500 --> 02:19:37,500
to live with them in
Frankfurt, I was quite lonely

2650
02:19:37,500 --> 02:19:44,505
and had no interaction
with anybody else.

2651
02:19:44,505 --> 02:19:46,610
Well, by this point,
you're-- what--

2652
02:19:46,610 --> 02:19:47,930
13 years old?

2653
02:19:47,930 --> 02:19:49,390
Yes.

2654
02:19:49,390 --> 02:19:51,830
And that's a tough
age at any time,

2655
02:19:51,830 --> 02:19:55,190
but I'm going to
throw out a thought,

2656
02:19:55,190 --> 02:19:59,610
and tell me whether this
has any relevance or not.

2657
02:19:59,610 --> 02:20:03,300
When people are in
the middle of stress,

2658
02:20:03,300 --> 02:20:09,960
and in the middle of fear,
and have to think of survival,

2659
02:20:09,960 --> 02:20:13,410
everything that they've gone
through gets pushed to the side

2660

02:20:13,410 --> 02:20:15,840

because they have
something really immediate

2661

02:20:15,840 --> 02:20:17,670

before their mind.

2662

02:20:17,670 --> 02:20:21,840

But then when they're
safer and they

2663

02:20:21,840 --> 02:20:26,880

don't have that threat
of needing to survive,

2664

02:20:26,880 --> 02:20:30,570

then everything that they lost
can come rushing back to them.

2665

02:20:30,570 --> 02:20:34,450

Did that happen to you,
because you lost a lot?

2666

02:20:34,450 --> 02:20:37,350

Well, not to me so much,
maybe because I just

2667

02:20:37,350 --> 02:20:40,320

was totally oblivious
to everything

2668

02:20:40,320 --> 02:20:43,620

and didn't really
spend much time

2669

02:20:43,620 --> 02:20:46,500

thinking about what
did happen, what

2670

02:20:46,500 --> 02:20:49,020

could have happened,
where I was.

2671

02:20:49,020 --> 02:20:52,192

I was still in a survival mode.

2672

02:20:52,192 --> 02:20:53,430

OK.

2673

02:20:53,430 --> 02:20:54,655

Even then, at that point.

2674

02:20:54,655 --> 02:20:55,155

Right.

2675

02:20:55,155 --> 02:20:58,010

2676

02:20:58,010 --> 02:21:04,380

And I also felt very awkward,
sort of a fifth wheel.

2677

02:21:04,380 --> 02:21:11,620

My sister had a husband,
she was getting a new baby.

2678

02:21:11,620 --> 02:21:12,908

Where do you belong?

2679

02:21:12,908 --> 02:21:15,600

Yeah.

2680

02:21:15,600 --> 02:21:17,390

Did that change?

2681

02:21:17,390 --> 02:21:19,890

Did that change?

2682

02:21:19,890 --> 02:21:22,050

No, I don't think it ever did.

2683

02:21:22,050 --> 02:21:27,740

Not until I was drafted
into the US army.

2684
02:21:27,740 --> 02:21:30,010
And that was how
many years later?

2685
02:21:30,010 --> 02:21:31,850
In 1953.

2686
02:21:31,850 --> 02:21:33,320
So that's another seven years.

2687
02:21:33,320 --> 02:21:34,100
Yes.

2688
02:21:34,100 --> 02:21:38,220
Then I finally felt like,
here's where I belong.

2689
02:21:38,220 --> 02:21:40,430
There's order,
there's structure--

2690
02:21:40,430 --> 02:21:43,520

2691
02:21:43,520 --> 02:21:45,460
I'm where I want to be.

2692
02:21:45,460 --> 02:21:47,420
Wow.

2693
02:21:47,420 --> 02:21:50,730
Well, take me
through those years,

2694
02:21:50,730 --> 02:21:58,080
between being in the DP camp
and ending up in the US army,

2695
02:21:58,080 --> 02:22:01,380
to be part of the forces
in the Korean War.

2696
02:22:01,380 --> 02:22:03,950
What happened to you
in between that time?

2697
02:22:03,950 --> 02:22:08,310
Well, the same
situation prevailed.

2698
02:22:08,310 --> 02:22:11,580
I was the fifth wheel
in the family, which

2699
02:22:11,580 --> 02:22:19,340
now consisted of a baby girl,
my niece, and eventually,

2700
02:22:19,340 --> 02:22:21,840
a nephew.

2701
02:22:21,840 --> 02:22:31,500
And I lived with them, but felt
like I was really not belonging

2702
02:22:31,500 --> 02:22:32,000
to them.

2703
02:22:32,000 --> 02:22:34,010
Even though I'm
sure they went out

2704
02:22:34,010 --> 02:22:37,040
of their way to
make me comfortable,

2705
02:22:37,040 --> 02:22:38,790
that was my feeling.

2706
02:22:38,790 --> 02:22:40,070
I really didn't.

2707
02:22:40,070 --> 02:22:43,130

So it was not-- it was not a sense from your brother-in-law

2708
02:22:43,130 --> 02:22:44,360
or your sister?

2709
02:22:44,360 --> 02:22:45,410
No, not at all.

2710
02:22:45,410 --> 02:22:46,460
It was me.

2711
02:22:46,460 --> 02:22:49,430
I myself felt I was--

2712
02:22:49,430 --> 02:22:52,100

2713
02:22:52,100 --> 02:22:54,420
Well, in many ways,
you lost your family.

2714
02:22:54,420 --> 02:22:55,740
That's right.

2715
02:22:55,740 --> 02:22:57,030
You lost them all.

2716
02:22:57,030 --> 02:22:59,490
That family that
you were born into--

2717
02:22:59,490 --> 02:23:00,060
Yes.

2718
02:23:00,060 --> 02:23:01,870
--that you had a
rightful place in.

2719
02:23:01,870 --> 02:23:05,600

2720

02:23:05,600 --> 02:23:09,380

When you left Germany,
where did you go?

2721

02:23:09,380 --> 02:23:12,860

We went to New York.

2722

02:23:12,860 --> 02:23:13,690

OK.

2723

02:23:13,690 --> 02:23:15,670

Was there anybody
there to meet you?

2724

02:23:15,670 --> 02:23:17,050

Yes.

2725

02:23:17,050 --> 02:23:22,690

My father's brother, the one--

2726

02:23:22,690 --> 02:23:28,370

met us and helped us along to
get acclimated and set down.

2727

02:23:28,370 --> 02:23:33,360

Also, there was my
mother's sister--

2728

02:23:33,360 --> 02:23:34,640

Sali.

2729

02:23:34,640 --> 02:23:36,650

No.

2730

02:23:36,650 --> 02:23:40,640

My mother's sister that
lived in the United States.

2731

02:23:40,640 --> 02:23:42,080

Oh, we hadn't talked about her.

2732

02:23:42,080 --> 02:23:42,740
No.

2733
02:23:42,740 --> 02:23:45,630
What was her name?

2734
02:23:45,630 --> 02:23:46,560
I don't remember.

2735
02:23:46,560 --> 02:23:47,928
It's OK.

2736
02:23:47,928 --> 02:23:49,300
It's OK.

2737
02:23:49,300 --> 02:23:54,840
Well, she was a very
interesting person.

2738
02:23:54,840 --> 02:23:59,400
When we first came to the
States, we went to see her.

2739
02:23:59,400 --> 02:24:08,630
She was very cold, very unsure
that we really were family.

2740
02:24:08,630 --> 02:24:16,360
She thought that we wanted
her property or something.

2741
02:24:16,360 --> 02:24:19,590
So we-- after that
first visit, we never

2742
02:24:19,590 --> 02:24:22,110
really had anything
to do with her.

2743
02:24:22,110 --> 02:24:27,210
On the other hand, my uncle
from my father's side,

2744

02:24:27,210 --> 02:24:31,810

he helped us quite a bit
to the extent he could.

2745

02:24:31,810 --> 02:24:33,150

Where did he live?

2746

02:24:33,150 --> 02:24:34,920

He lived in Brooklyn.

2747

02:24:34,920 --> 02:24:35,780

And what did he do?

2748

02:24:35,780 --> 02:24:38,070

What was his way
of making a living?

2749

02:24:38,070 --> 02:24:43,130

He was a waiter.

2750

02:24:43,130 --> 02:24:44,330

OK.

2751

02:24:44,330 --> 02:24:48,753

So he a-- I won't say
low level, but a job

2752

02:24:48,753 --> 02:24:49,920

where you have to work hard.

2753

02:24:49,920 --> 02:24:50,480

Right.

2754

02:24:50,480 --> 02:24:53,610

Yeah, basically.

2755

02:24:53,610 --> 02:24:57,276

And he was helping all the
refugee relatives coming--

2756

02:24:57,276 --> 02:24:58,545

Well, [INAUDIBLE].

2757

02:24:58,545 --> 02:25:00,000

Yeah.

2758

02:25:00,000 --> 02:25:02,190

And did you settle
in Brooklyn, too?

2759

02:25:02,190 --> 02:25:03,150

Yes.

2760

02:25:03,150 --> 02:25:04,020

With him?

2761

02:25:04,020 --> 02:25:05,100

No.

2762

02:25:05,100 --> 02:25:09,030

After a few weeks or
so, my brother-in-law

2763

02:25:09,030 --> 02:25:14,380

arranged for an apartment for
us in Brooklyn, on Williamsburg,

2764

02:25:14,380 --> 02:25:17,300

more precise.

2765

02:25:17,300 --> 02:25:21,200

And did you-- is that where
you started school again?

2766

02:25:21,200 --> 02:25:22,534

Yes.

2767

02:25:22,534 --> 02:25:24,290

OK.

2768

02:25:24,290 --> 02:25:29,350

How hard was it to adjust
to an American school?

2769
02:25:29,350 --> 02:25:32,380
Well, it was pretty hard,
because although I--

2770
02:25:32,380 --> 02:25:36,870
while I was in Frankfurt,
I was studying English,

2771
02:25:36,870 --> 02:25:39,160
I certainly was not fluent.

2772
02:25:39,160 --> 02:25:46,320
And I certainly did not have all
the basic background of grades

2773
02:25:46,320 --> 02:25:48,720
one through five or whatever.

2774
02:25:48,720 --> 02:25:52,380
So I had a lot of
catching up to do.

2775
02:25:52,380 --> 02:25:57,420
For the first year,
I was in a yeshiva.

2776
02:25:57,420 --> 02:25:59,820
So at least I had the
advantage of being

2777
02:25:59,820 --> 02:26:05,340
able to talk in Yiddish
as well as in English.

2778
02:26:05,340 --> 02:26:13,400
But I quickly found out this
yeshiva was not my cup of tea.

2779
02:26:13,400 --> 02:26:14,860
In what way?

2780

02:26:14,860 --> 02:26:17,010
In what way was it not?

2781
02:26:17,010 --> 02:26:19,420
The religiosity of it.

2782
02:26:19,420 --> 02:26:24,730
I just came in from
losing my family.

2783
02:26:24,730 --> 02:26:30,430
My feeling about God were very
ambivalent, to put it mildly.

2784
02:26:30,430 --> 02:26:33,920

2785
02:26:33,920 --> 02:26:35,355
Were you an unhappy teenager?

2786
02:26:35,355 --> 02:26:41,580

2787
02:26:41,580 --> 02:26:44,360
To some extent, yes, because I--

2788
02:26:44,360 --> 02:26:52,400
as was we were saying, I was
a round hole in a square peg,

2789
02:26:52,400 --> 02:26:57,620
or something, or a square
peg in a round hole.

2790
02:26:57,620 --> 02:27:01,290
I didn't feel like
I belonged anywhere.

2791
02:27:01,290 --> 02:27:08,310
So in many respects, I was
lonely, I was concerned.

2792

02:27:08,310 --> 02:27:12,170
But when I got into
the public high school,

2793
02:27:12,170 --> 02:27:19,180
I was welcomed, made
friends with a lot of kids.

2794
02:27:19,180 --> 02:27:23,630
And I started feeling a
little more comfortable then.

2795
02:27:23,630 --> 02:27:27,200
And of course, as I was
improving my language skills,

2796
02:27:27,200 --> 02:27:34,060
I was able to also absorb
the studies or the work.

2797
02:27:34,060 --> 02:27:39,250
What was it like living in New
York City after a place like--

2798
02:27:39,250 --> 02:27:43,050
well, lots of places,
but Kolomea is not--

2799
02:27:43,050 --> 02:27:45,310
not a cosmopolitan capital.

2800
02:27:45,310 --> 02:27:54,640
No, it was quite a change.

2801
02:27:54,640 --> 02:28:02,850
I'll step back and say that one
of the major changes that I was

2802
02:28:02,850 --> 02:28:07,050
aware of when we came to
Frankfurt in the American

2803
02:28:07,050 --> 02:28:12,150

Zone of Occupation, where
there were streets with cars

2804
02:28:12,150 --> 02:28:15,840
lined up toe to toe.

2805
02:28:15,840 --> 02:28:20,610
And the amazing thing was
they were all so quiet.

2806
02:28:20,610 --> 02:28:23,265
I never knew of such
a thing as a muffler.

2807
02:28:23,265 --> 02:28:26,550

2808
02:28:26,550 --> 02:28:29,280
So by the time we
got to New York,

2809
02:28:29,280 --> 02:28:34,270
it was a lot more acceptable.

2810
02:28:34,270 --> 02:28:36,870

2811
02:28:36,870 --> 02:28:40,592
The norm-- in other words,
there was a new norm.

2812
02:28:40,592 --> 02:28:41,092
Yes.

2813
02:28:41,092 --> 02:28:41,592
Exactly.

2814
02:28:41,592 --> 02:28:45,380

2815
02:28:45,380 --> 02:28:49,850
This is maybe an unfair

question, but I'll ask it.

2816
02:28:49,850 --> 02:28:52,760
Go ahead.

2817
02:28:52,760 --> 02:28:55,610
Along the way, did
you miss your parents?

2818
02:28:55,610 --> 02:28:58,000
Very much.

2819
02:28:58,000 --> 02:28:58,500
Yes.

2820
02:28:58,500 --> 02:29:04,690
I dreamed for a long time that
they would come up out of a--

2821
02:29:04,690 --> 02:29:09,860
somewhere that they survived,
and we would get together

2822
02:29:09,860 --> 02:29:11,330
and live happily after.

2823
02:29:11,330 --> 02:29:14,640
But of course that
did not happen.

2824
02:29:14,640 --> 02:29:15,140
Yeah.

2825
02:29:15,140 --> 02:29:19,850

2826
02:29:19,850 --> 02:29:22,580
Did you ever go back to Kolomea?

2827
02:29:22,580 --> 02:29:23,600
Yes.

2828
02:29:23,600 --> 02:29:26,090
When?

2829
02:29:26,090 --> 02:29:30,650
Back in the--
around the mid-'90s.

2830
02:29:30,650 --> 02:29:34,400
So-- OK-- after the
Soviet Union comes apart.

2831
02:29:34,400 --> 02:29:34,900
Right.

2832
02:29:34,900 --> 02:29:38,326
And when the Ukraine
becomes a separate country.

2833
02:29:38,326 --> 02:29:40,150
Right.

2834
02:29:40,150 --> 02:29:42,610
And what did you find
when you went back?

2835
02:29:42,610 --> 02:29:46,285
Well, a lot of shocks.

2836
02:29:46,285 --> 02:29:49,130

2837
02:29:49,130 --> 02:29:55,730
What I remembered as a child,
the wonderful boulevards

2838
02:29:55,730 --> 02:30:03,510
and wide streets or
alleyways, and nothing

2839
02:30:03,510 --> 02:30:05,540
to write home about.

2840

02:30:05,540 --> 02:30:11,030

Second thing was I remember
mostly it was a Polish city--

2841

02:30:11,030 --> 02:30:14,825

street signs, the
parks were Polish.

2842

02:30:14,825 --> 02:30:19,400

2843

02:30:19,400 --> 02:30:24,080

One of the major boulevards
was [FOREIGN LANGUAGE],,

2844

02:30:24,080 --> 02:30:26,150

Freedom Boulevard.

2845

02:30:26,150 --> 02:30:31,670

Freedom Boulevard was something
unintelligible in Ukrainian.

2846

02:30:31,670 --> 02:30:36,840

And aside from that, it was
about half as much as wide

2847

02:30:36,840 --> 02:30:38,340

as I remember it.

2848

02:30:38,340 --> 02:30:40,280

It had shrunk.

2849

02:30:40,280 --> 02:30:41,980

The Boulevard had shrunk.

2850

02:30:41,980 --> 02:30:43,924

Very much so.

2851

02:30:43,924 --> 02:30:50,060

And my house-- there was--

2852

02:30:50,060 --> 02:30:54,840
what-- 40, 50 years
after I left Kolomea.

2853
02:30:54,840 --> 02:30:57,480
My house was no longer there.

2854
02:30:57,480 --> 02:31:01,120
The houses of the
tenants were not there.

2855
02:31:01,120 --> 02:31:04,860
So everything was
torn up and built up.

2856
02:31:04,860 --> 02:31:07,920
My house was--
instead of my house,

2857
02:31:07,920 --> 02:31:13,820
it was a big
multifamily building.

2858
02:31:13,820 --> 02:31:17,570
And we weren't quite sure
that it was really the house

2859
02:31:17,570 --> 02:31:22,460
because the street names and
streets house numbers were

2860
02:31:22,460 --> 02:31:23,800
different.

2861
02:31:23,800 --> 02:31:27,430
It was a very
disappointing trip.

2862
02:31:27,430 --> 02:31:31,210
We did manage--
my sister and I--

2863
02:31:31,210 --> 02:31:36,070

managed to go to Szepariwice
to look at the forest,

2864
02:31:36,070 --> 02:31:38,300
the killing fields.

2865
02:31:38,300 --> 02:31:45,430
And then the former
citizens of Kolomea

2866
02:31:45,430 --> 02:31:54,440
who now lived in Israel set up
a little monument in the forest.

2867
02:31:54,440 --> 02:32:00,442
And not a happy trip.

2868
02:32:00,442 --> 02:32:06,630
The thing that reminded me
is that the antisemitism

2869
02:32:06,630 --> 02:32:14,190
that we experienced from the
Ukrainians was alive and well.

2870
02:32:14,190 --> 02:32:15,015
Was it?

2871
02:32:15,015 --> 02:32:16,230
Yes.

2872
02:32:16,230 --> 02:32:18,600
So you experienced
something of that

2873
02:32:18,600 --> 02:32:20,130
as well when you were there?

2874
02:32:20,130 --> 02:32:21,480
Yes.

2875
02:32:21,480 --> 02:32:24,840

The main thing was
the little monument,

2876
02:32:24,840 --> 02:32:31,910
somebody used it
to defecate on it.

2877
02:32:31,910 --> 02:32:34,400
So it was a--

2878
02:32:34,400 --> 02:32:38,240
not a very happy experience.

2879
02:32:38,240 --> 02:32:40,940
We were glad to leave

2880
02:32:40,940 --> 02:32:44,050
And it was yourself and
your sister who had gone?

2881
02:32:44,050 --> 02:32:46,530
Yes.

2882
02:32:46,530 --> 02:32:48,440
That is, of course, very bitter.

2883
02:32:48,440 --> 02:32:49,900
Yes, it was.

2884
02:32:49,900 --> 02:32:51,530
Yeah.

2885
02:32:51,530 --> 02:32:54,300
So that's my story.

2886
02:32:54,300 --> 02:32:56,160
Well, thank you for it.

2887
02:32:56,160 --> 02:32:59,070
Thank you very, very
much Mr. Feuerstein--

2888

02:32:59,070 --> 02:33:01,260

Firestone, sorry.

2889

02:33:01,260 --> 02:33:04,470

When did Abraham become Allan?

2890

02:33:04,470 --> 02:33:11,350

After I spent my two
years in the military,

2891

02:33:11,350 --> 02:33:14,170

I always had to
explain and spell out

2892

02:33:14,170 --> 02:33:18,570

my last name, Feuerstein,
and how it's spelled.

2893

02:33:18,570 --> 02:33:22,120

And so I said, to
heck with that noise.

2894

02:33:22,120 --> 02:33:26,984

When I got out of the Army, I--

2895

02:33:26,984 --> 02:33:28,210

You changed--

2896

02:33:28,210 --> 02:33:31,470

--changed my name to
Firestone, which I felt

2897

02:33:31,470 --> 02:33:36,510

was not really terrible because
it was just a transliteration.

2898

02:33:36,510 --> 02:33:41,190

And then that was the era in
the early '50s, when people

2899

02:33:41,190 --> 02:33:44,100

were not like they are today.

2900

02:33:44,100 --> 02:33:48,470

They did not try to show
off their ethnicity.

2901

02:33:48,470 --> 02:33:52,490

They try to Americanize
as much as possible.

2902

02:33:52,490 --> 02:34:00,230

And so being Abraham Firestone
just didn't seem proper.

2903

02:34:00,230 --> 02:34:06,320

So it went Allan Firestone,
nice Anglicized name.

2904

02:34:06,320 --> 02:34:09,650

And so, poof, that's
how I ended up.

2905

02:34:09,650 --> 02:34:13,220

Well, I am grateful
both to Allan Firestone

2906

02:34:13,220 --> 02:34:16,440

and to Abraham Wiznitzer--

2907

02:34:16,440 --> 02:34:19,910

yes-- for telling me your story.

2908

02:34:19,910 --> 02:34:22,430

For sharing it.

2909

02:34:22,430 --> 02:34:27,290

Thank you for your patience
and for listening to me.

2910

02:34:27,290 --> 02:34:28,633

It was an honor.

2911

02:34:28,633 --> 02:34:29,300

It was an honor.

2912
02:34:29,300 --> 02:34:29,800
Thank you.

2913
02:34:29,800 --> 02:34:30,950
Thank you so much.

2914
02:34:30,950 --> 02:34:35,360
So I will say with this, that
this concludes the United

2915
02:34:35,360 --> 02:34:39,980
States Holocaust Memorial
Museum interview with Mr. Allan

2916
02:34:39,980 --> 02:34:46,830
Firestone on February 7, 2019
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

2917
02:34:46,830 --> 02:34:48,204
Thank you.

2918
02:34:48,204 --> 02:34:48,704
OK.

2919
02:34:48,704 --> 02:34:49,700
[APPLAUSE]

2920
02:34:49,700 --> 02:34:53,040
So Mr. Firestone, who
is in this photograph?

2921
02:34:53,040 --> 02:34:56,030
This is my mother and father.

2922
02:34:56,030 --> 02:35:00,390
And I believe this is
their wedding picture.

2923
02:35:00,390 --> 02:35:02,040
They're a lovely couple.

2924
02:35:02,040 --> 02:35:03,460
They look very handsome here.

2925
02:35:03,460 --> 02:35:04,200
Right.

2926
02:35:04,200 --> 02:35:06,640
Her name again was Clara--

2927
02:35:06,640 --> 02:35:07,140
Lachs.

2928
02:35:07,140 --> 02:35:07,860
Lachs.

2929
02:35:07,860 --> 02:35:08,580
Right.

2930
02:35:08,580 --> 02:35:12,610
And his name was
Yacob Wiznitzer.

2931
02:35:12,610 --> 02:35:13,820
Wiznitzer.

2932
02:35:13,820 --> 02:35:16,268
Also known as Krauthammer.

2933
02:35:16,268 --> 02:35:18,710
OK.

2934
02:35:18,710 --> 02:35:19,500
OK.

2935
02:35:19,500 --> 02:35:21,300
And do you have
an idea about when

2936
02:35:21,300 --> 02:35:23,220
this might have been taken?

2937
02:35:23,220 --> 02:35:24,950
No, I don't.

2938
02:35:24,950 --> 02:35:25,530
OK.

2939
02:35:25,530 --> 02:35:28,570
But it looks like it
would be before 1920.

2940
02:35:28,570 --> 02:35:31,080
Yes, I would guess so.

2941
02:35:31,080 --> 02:35:34,500
Those are pictures
that my uncle gave us

2942
02:35:34,500 --> 02:35:37,060
because we had really nothing.

2943
02:35:37,060 --> 02:35:41,310
When we into hiding,
we never thought

2944
02:35:41,310 --> 02:35:48,430
of saving mementos,
pictures, or anything that--

2945
02:35:48,430 --> 02:35:51,330
So these were American relatives
who then gave you the photos

2946
02:35:51,330 --> 02:35:52,288
after you arrived here?

2947
02:35:52,288 --> 02:35:52,788
Right.

2948
02:35:52,788 --> 02:35:53,430
Yes.

2949

02:35:53,430 --> 02:35:54,030

OK.

2950

02:35:54,030 --> 02:35:55,339

Thank you.

2951

02:35:55,339 --> 02:35:55,839

OK.

2952

02:35:55,839 --> 02:35:59,058

2953

02:35:59,058 --> 02:36:00,100

There it is, right there.

2954

02:36:00,100 --> 02:36:03,160

2955

02:36:03,160 --> 02:36:06,040

OK, Mr. Firestone,
tell me who is this?

2956

02:36:06,040 --> 02:36:07,060

Who are the people here?

2957

02:36:07,060 --> 02:36:09,070

OK.

2958

02:36:09,070 --> 02:36:13,210

From the right, of
course, is my father.

2959

02:36:13,210 --> 02:36:16,240

Next to him is my mother.

2960

02:36:16,240 --> 02:36:17,170

OK.

2961

02:36:17,170 --> 02:36:17,955

Next to her?

2962

02:36:17,955 --> 02:36:25,250

And the next girl is my
youngest sister, Rachel.

2963

02:36:25,250 --> 02:36:27,360

She's the one that's
the lower one?

2964

02:36:27,360 --> 02:36:28,100

No, the--

2965

02:36:28,100 --> 02:36:29,120

Taller one?

2966

02:36:29,120 --> 02:36:30,640

The taller one.

2967

02:36:30,640 --> 02:36:31,640

That's the youngest one.

2968

02:36:31,640 --> 02:36:37,415

Then there next to her is
the oldest sister, Rose.

2969

02:36:37,415 --> 02:36:40,890

2970

02:36:40,890 --> 02:36:46,740

Standing in front
of her is my sister

2971

02:36:46,740 --> 02:36:49,615

Yula, the one who survived.

2972

02:36:49,615 --> 02:36:58,020

And next to her, sitting, is my
second oldest sister, Frieda.

2973

02:36:58,020 --> 02:36:59,790

So this is before your birth?

2974

02:36:59,790 --> 02:37:01,410
Right.

2975
02:37:01,410 --> 02:37:02,790
I'm nowhere there yet.

2976
02:37:02,790 --> 02:37:06,060
Ah, because I thought
that was sitting

2977
02:37:06,060 --> 02:37:08,250
down there in the sailor suit.

2978
02:37:08,250 --> 02:37:09,210
No, no.

2979
02:37:09,210 --> 02:37:09,930
Oh my.

2980
02:37:09,930 --> 02:37:12,330
So this must have been taken--

2981
02:37:12,330 --> 02:37:16,210
oh in the 1920s, 1930s,
early-- something?

2982
02:37:16,210 --> 02:37:17,340
Yes.

2983
02:37:17,340 --> 02:37:19,370
Early '30s, I would guess.

2984
02:37:19,370 --> 02:37:20,280
OK.

2985
02:37:20,280 --> 02:37:20,790
OK.

2986
02:37:20,790 --> 02:37:23,650
Before 1933, that's obvious.

2987

02:37:23,650 --> 02:37:25,440
OK.

2988
02:37:25,440 --> 02:37:25,940
All right.

2989
02:37:25,940 --> 02:37:26,450
Thank you.

2990
02:37:26,450 --> 02:37:29,340

2991
02:37:29,340 --> 02:37:31,800
OK, Mr. Firestone,
and who is this?

2992
02:37:31,800 --> 02:37:34,770
This is my oldest
sister, Ruzhia.

2993
02:37:34,770 --> 02:37:39,000
Ruzhia, who was taken
together with your parents

2994
02:37:39,000 --> 02:37:42,070
on that same day
in 1942 in January.

2995
02:37:42,070 --> 02:37:43,530
Right.

2996
02:37:43,530 --> 02:37:44,920
Beautiful girl.

2997
02:37:44,920 --> 02:37:46,440
Yes, thank you.

2998
02:37:46,440 --> 02:37:46,940
OK.

2999
02:37:46,940 --> 02:37:49,870

3000

02:37:49,870 --> 02:37:51,820

And Mr. Firestone, who is this?

3001

02:37:51,820 --> 02:37:57,220

This is my second-oldest
sister, Frieda.

3002

02:37:57,220 --> 02:37:59,770

Frieda who was
arrested on the train?

3003

02:37:59,770 --> 02:38:01,010

Yes, that's correct.

3004

02:38:01,010 --> 02:38:01,510

OK.

3005

02:38:01,510 --> 02:38:04,140

OK.

3006

02:38:04,140 --> 02:38:06,440

And then disappeared
from your sight then.

3007

02:38:06,440 --> 02:38:07,340

Exactly.

3008

02:38:07,340 --> 02:38:07,870

OK.

3009

02:38:07,870 --> 02:38:10,020

Thank you very much.