

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,840

2
00:00:00,840 --> 00:00:04,530
And so we were at
the point where

3
00:00:04,530 --> 00:00:06,480
I wanted to know
a little bit more

4
00:00:06,480 --> 00:00:09,900
about what kind of a
person was your father?

5
00:00:09,900 --> 00:00:10,770
Yes.

6
00:00:10,770 --> 00:00:13,350
Because up till now, you
talked about your mother

7
00:00:13,350 --> 00:00:19,410
being very hard working and
your aunt being very devoted.

8
00:00:19,410 --> 00:00:23,305
So tell me a bit
about your father.

9
00:00:23,305 --> 00:00:23,805
Yes.

10
00:00:23,805 --> 00:00:26,700

11
00:00:26,700 --> 00:00:30,840
I remember saying that he
was a very gentle person.

12
00:00:30,840 --> 00:00:32,369

And he was.

13
00:00:32,369 --> 00:00:39,140
Very, very easy and
loving his family.

14
00:00:39,140 --> 00:00:45,880
And he went to work every day on
his bicycle to the other town.

15
00:00:45,880 --> 00:00:52,700
And he came home every
night, and really did--

16
00:00:52,700 --> 00:00:56,130
most devoted himself
mostly to the children.

17
00:00:56,130 --> 00:01:02,980
Although as the war went on and
we had less help in the house,

18
00:01:02,980 --> 00:01:06,270
he had to do a lot
of chores, also.

19
00:01:06,270 --> 00:01:09,030
So everybody worked hard.

20
00:01:09,030 --> 00:01:12,460
It's very strange
as I look back.

21
00:01:12,460 --> 00:01:16,500
We definitely qualified
to be called middle class,

22
00:01:16,500 --> 00:01:21,420
but the kind of work my mom--
my mother and he did sounds like

23
00:01:21,420 --> 00:01:24,960
a typical farmer,

because we had--

24
00:01:24,960 --> 00:01:26,710
we raised a lot of our food.

25
00:01:26,710 --> 00:01:28,470
And so we had cows.

26
00:01:28,470 --> 00:01:33,300
And very often he had to
tend to the cows at dawn

27
00:01:33,300 --> 00:01:37,020
before he went off
to work, because--

28
00:01:37,020 --> 00:01:39,520
I mean, it was a way of life.

29
00:01:39,520 --> 00:01:40,660
It had to be done.

30
00:01:40,660 --> 00:01:44,160
You couldn't hire
somebody for everything.

31
00:01:44,160 --> 00:01:49,200
Earlier on, before
things got a little--

32
00:01:49,200 --> 00:01:51,760
well, certainly
when he lost his--

33
00:01:51,760 --> 00:01:55,590
they took his business
away, he did all the farming

34
00:01:55,590 --> 00:01:56,850
that was necessary.

35
00:01:56,850 --> 00:01:58,230

Did you have land?

36
00:01:58,230 --> 00:02:00,220
That is, did you have--

37
00:02:00,220 --> 00:02:01,860
Yeah, we had some land.

38
00:02:01,860 --> 00:02:05,830
Not sufficient to live on.

39
00:02:05,830 --> 00:02:08,539
He did not work in the field.

40
00:02:08,539 --> 00:02:14,910
The kind of work he did
was like what I'm saying,

41
00:02:14,910 --> 00:02:18,300
take care of the
cows in the barn

42
00:02:18,300 --> 00:02:23,700
and chop wood for the
stove and things like that.

43
00:02:23,700 --> 00:02:26,940
My mother grew a
vegetable garden.

44
00:02:26,940 --> 00:02:28,600
So it was that kind of work.

45
00:02:28,600 --> 00:02:30,540
And we didn't have
farm equipment,

46
00:02:30,540 --> 00:02:36,990
and we didn't live off of that,
but there were just chores

47
00:02:36,990 --> 00:02:39,280

to be done in that setting.

48
00:02:39,280 --> 00:02:40,290
So--

49
00:02:40,290 --> 00:02:42,390
You know what it sounds like?

50
00:02:42,390 --> 00:02:48,120
For us who are living in
countries which are, let's say,

51
00:02:48,120 --> 00:02:51,750
post-industrial, why
would you keep a cow?

52
00:02:51,750 --> 00:02:54,680
You can go to the
store to get milk.

53
00:02:54,680 --> 00:02:57,600
But in those days,
and in countries

54
00:02:57,600 --> 00:02:59,760
where there is no
store to get milk,

55
00:02:59,760 --> 00:03:03,150
the only way you'll get
it is if you keep a cow.

56
00:03:03,150 --> 00:03:05,580
And the only way you'll
have eggs is if you keep--

57
00:03:05,580 --> 00:03:07,380
if you have chickens.

58
00:03:07,380 --> 00:03:08,010
Exactly.

59

00:03:08,010 --> 00:03:12,750
And if you had all those things,
you could feed your family.

60
00:03:12,750 --> 00:03:16,240
You were never short of food.

61
00:03:16,240 --> 00:03:23,070
You just had to work hard to
do with that, to change it to--

62
00:03:23,070 --> 00:03:28,110
like cows, we had
more than one cow.

63
00:03:28,110 --> 00:03:29,880
We had like four in the barn.

64
00:03:29,880 --> 00:03:31,470
Wow.

65
00:03:31,470 --> 00:03:37,860
And I know from history,
that in very poor countries,

66
00:03:37,860 --> 00:03:41,470
if a family had one
cow, they didn't starve.

67
00:03:41,470 --> 00:03:41,970
Yes.

68
00:03:41,970 --> 00:03:46,990
Because the milk product,
you make so many--

69
00:03:46,990 --> 00:03:50,340
I watched my mother
make all the things.

70
00:03:50,340 --> 00:03:53,460
You know, made cream,
and made butter,

71
00:03:53,460 --> 00:03:55,380
and made cottage cheese.

72
00:03:55,380 --> 00:04:00,400
And there was a residue that was
left that was added to the feed

73
00:04:00,400 --> 00:04:02,550
to the chickens.

74
00:04:02,550 --> 00:04:10,050
In other words, it insured
very, very wonderful food.

75
00:04:10,050 --> 00:04:12,390
But you had to make
the butter, and you

76
00:04:12,390 --> 00:04:16,050
had to make the cottage cheese,
and you had to work with--

77
00:04:16,050 --> 00:04:19,339
And there was no refrigeration.

78
00:04:19,339 --> 00:04:23,380
But they knew how to do
everything, except that.

79
00:04:23,380 --> 00:04:26,700
And my mother knew
how to do everything.

80
00:04:26,700 --> 00:04:28,920
But you worked all the time.

81
00:04:28,920 --> 00:04:32,670
Now, she did have
help regularly.

82
00:04:32,670 --> 00:04:34,410

But it was not enough.

83

00:04:34,410 --> 00:04:37,770

You know, with all
the many chores.

84

00:04:37,770 --> 00:04:42,270

In the war time,
she even made soap.

85

00:04:42,270 --> 00:04:43,660

Oh my goodness.

86

00:04:43,660 --> 00:04:45,450

She cooked soap.

87

00:04:45,450 --> 00:04:49,950

I watched her, and they
learned how to do everything.

88

00:04:49,950 --> 00:04:54,630

The soap needed somebody
some large amount

89

00:04:54,630 --> 00:04:59,760

of fat of some kind
and the chemical that.

90

00:04:59,760 --> 00:05:07,320

And they boiled it, and out came
a sort of a brown-colored soap.

91

00:05:07,320 --> 00:05:11,980

But it was legitimate soap, and
they used it for everything,

92

00:05:11,980 --> 00:05:15,120

including washing laundry.

93

00:05:15,120 --> 00:05:17,010

Oh, wow.

94

00:05:17,010 --> 00:05:22,380

So really not just
in retrospect,

95

00:05:22,380 --> 00:05:27,360

I followed my mother, and
a little bit even my father

96

00:05:27,360 --> 00:05:29,040

into the barn.

97

00:05:29,040 --> 00:05:37,680

I was fascinated as a
young girl in how people--

98

00:05:37,680 --> 00:05:41,250

how they made things and
created food and so on.

99

00:05:41,250 --> 00:05:43,380

I really loved watching it.

100

00:05:43,380 --> 00:05:46,170

Well, taking it from
its raw material

101

00:05:46,170 --> 00:05:50,740

and then doing something to
transform it into something

102

00:05:50,740 --> 00:05:55,030

that is usable, either
you ingest it as food

103

00:05:55,030 --> 00:05:57,490

or you have some
other use for it,

104

00:05:57,490 --> 00:06:01,310

but it also speaks to
a self-sufficiency.

105

00:06:01,310 --> 00:06:02,860

Yes, yes.

106
00:06:02,860 --> 00:06:04,960
And those women,
young women, who

107
00:06:04,960 --> 00:06:10,300
couldn't do what my
mother did, had problems

108
00:06:10,300 --> 00:06:14,730
in just maintaining
their food process.

109
00:06:14,730 --> 00:06:21,580
And most of the other
Jewish women I would say--

110
00:06:21,580 --> 00:06:22,930
well, I don't know most of them.

111
00:06:22,930 --> 00:06:26,350
There were quite a few who
simply could not do that.

112
00:06:26,350 --> 00:06:32,260
Didn't come from a place where
maybe their mother or father

113
00:06:32,260 --> 00:06:33,630
did those things.

114
00:06:33,630 --> 00:06:37,070
You also had to own the cows.

115
00:06:37,070 --> 00:06:41,230
And you had to own the
chickens and so on.

116
00:06:41,230 --> 00:06:42,620
But back to my father.

117

00:06:42,620 --> 00:06:46,090
So he worked hard, too.

118
00:06:46,090 --> 00:06:47,690
And as I say, he would--

119
00:06:47,690 --> 00:06:49,420
at dawn the cows--

120
00:06:49,420 --> 00:06:52,450
at the start at dawn,
he went into the barn.

121
00:06:52,450 --> 00:06:56,530
He cleaned out what
happened during the night.

122
00:06:56,530 --> 00:07:00,370
You know, there was a back
door where that was dumped.

123
00:07:00,370 --> 00:07:06,310
And then he put out the straw
or whatever to feed them

124
00:07:06,310 --> 00:07:07,750
before he went off.

125
00:07:07,750 --> 00:07:13,600
And then he would go
off to work and leave

126
00:07:13,600 --> 00:07:16,330
the family OK in that regard.

127
00:07:16,330 --> 00:07:19,750
And there was a
neighbor woman my mother

128
00:07:19,750 --> 00:07:22,750
employed to milk the cows.

129

00:07:22,750 --> 00:07:24,490
She didn't do that.

130
00:07:24,490 --> 00:07:28,690
But after they brought
in the buckets of milk,

131
00:07:28,690 --> 00:07:30,610
she had to get to work, too.

132
00:07:30,610 --> 00:07:32,740
Your mother did.

133
00:07:32,740 --> 00:07:35,300
To do with it what
she had to do with it.

134
00:07:35,300 --> 00:07:44,350
So my father-- it's so hard to
explain what a nice person he

135
00:07:44,350 --> 00:07:46,540
was, what a kind person.

136
00:07:46,540 --> 00:07:48,940
He was not a disciplinarian.

137
00:07:48,940 --> 00:07:52,210
You know, my mother couldn't
say "wait till your father comes

138
00:07:52,210 --> 00:07:55,285
home, and then you'll get it."

139
00:07:55,285 --> 00:07:56,140
[LAUGHTER]

140
00:07:56,140 --> 00:07:57,590
No, no.

141
00:07:57,590 --> 00:07:59,170
She was.

142
00:07:59,170 --> 00:08:03,850
Because she was working so
hard and probably very tired,

143
00:08:03,850 --> 00:08:05,500
she was often short with us.

144
00:08:05,500 --> 00:08:10,340
You know, the discipline
was short and to the point.

145
00:08:10,340 --> 00:08:12,760
So she did not rely on him.

146
00:08:12,760 --> 00:08:19,450
But he did the gentle
teaching and playing.

147
00:08:19,450 --> 00:08:25,250
And once my little
brothers, as they got older,

148
00:08:25,250 --> 00:08:32,059
they went to a cheyder
to learn to read Hebrew.

149
00:08:32,059 --> 00:08:34,960
You know what a cheyder is?

150
00:08:34,960 --> 00:08:35,710
Well, tell us.

151
00:08:35,710 --> 00:08:39,549
I mean, because some people
who will be listening to this

152
00:08:39,549 --> 00:08:41,950
will not know what is a cheyder.

153
00:08:41,950 --> 00:08:47,470
Yes, so it's a afterschool

religious school

154

00:08:47,470 --> 00:08:52,930
to teach boys how
to pray in Hebrew.

155

00:08:52,930 --> 00:08:56,470
And so they usually
hire a young man

156

00:08:56,470 --> 00:09:03,640
in town, who was well versed
in Hebrew and teaching

157

00:09:03,640 --> 00:09:05,620
Hebrew and some prayers.

158

00:09:05,620 --> 00:09:08,660
And so they would go
for a couple of hours

159

00:09:08,660 --> 00:09:11,650
a few times a week
after regular school.

160

00:09:11,650 --> 00:09:14,140
But the girls didn't
go to cheyder.

161

00:09:14,140 --> 00:09:19,050
Girls didn't get any
Hebrew education.

162

00:09:19,050 --> 00:09:19,980
That was the way.

163

00:09:19,980 --> 00:09:23,530
So my father did that
with us the girls.

164

00:09:23,530 --> 00:09:24,030
Wow.

165

00:09:24,030 --> 00:09:28,650

And I have very fond memories
that he took that on.

166

00:09:28,650 --> 00:09:32,190

And so we were very
young when he started.

167

00:09:32,190 --> 00:09:35,430

And basically what he wanted
to accomplish that we should

168

00:09:35,430 --> 00:09:37,540

be able to read the prayers.

169

00:09:37,540 --> 00:09:38,610

Not much else.

170

00:09:38,610 --> 00:09:40,600

You know, that was for girls.

171

00:09:40,600 --> 00:09:42,210

But that was important.

172

00:09:42,210 --> 00:09:46,620

And it sounds very
progressive for the time.

173

00:09:46,620 --> 00:09:47,520

Oh, yes.

174

00:09:47,520 --> 00:09:55,980

Education, as I look back, was
very important to my mother,

175

00:09:55,980 --> 00:09:57,180

also.

176

00:09:57,180 --> 00:09:58,650

All kinds of education.

177

00:09:58,650 --> 00:10:03,660
And they provided it under
very difficult circumstances.

178
00:10:03,660 --> 00:10:05,340
I'll talk about it later.

179
00:10:05,340 --> 00:10:10,820
But my father would sit
us down, little girls,

180
00:10:10,820 --> 00:10:18,590
and he would very patiently do
it, first the alphabet and then

181
00:10:18,590 --> 00:10:19,730
the words.

182
00:10:19,730 --> 00:10:23,040
And he devised this game.

183
00:10:23,040 --> 00:10:29,450
So in our living room,
we had the ceiling

184
00:10:29,450 --> 00:10:32,390
was like beams, wooden beams.

185
00:10:32,390 --> 00:10:37,160
And the wooden beams
have knots in them.

186
00:10:37,160 --> 00:10:43,190
And so he devised a game that
he took a broom, a broomstick,

187
00:10:43,190 --> 00:10:48,350
and he put what amounts
to a coin, a penny

188
00:10:48,350 --> 00:10:50,490
on the tip of the broomstick.

189

00:10:50,490 --> 00:10:51,500

OK.

190

00:10:51,500 --> 00:10:58,580

And if we answered correctly,
if we were giving him

191

00:10:58,580 --> 00:11:01,640

the right answer that
we were learning,

192

00:11:01,640 --> 00:11:07,716

he would lift the-- he would say
that God is going to reward us.

193

00:11:07,716 --> 00:11:08,630

Aww.

194

00:11:08,630 --> 00:11:09,740

That was the idea.

195

00:11:09,740 --> 00:11:12,710

So we never caught on to this.

196

00:11:12,710 --> 00:11:15,500

He lifted up the
broomstick with a coin

197

00:11:15,500 --> 00:11:21,410

on top of it, hit the
knot in the ceiling,

198

00:11:21,410 --> 00:11:24,170

and the money fell
to the ground.

199

00:11:24,170 --> 00:11:25,010

Oh my goodness.

200

00:11:25,010 --> 00:11:26,570

And you didn't know
that it had been

201
00:11:26,570 --> 00:11:28,280
on the top of the broomstick?

202
00:11:28,280 --> 00:11:29,930
No.

203
00:11:29,930 --> 00:11:31,470
I mean, we were very young.

204
00:11:31,470 --> 00:11:31,970
Yeah.

205
00:11:31,970 --> 00:11:35,330
But God sent us a reward.

206
00:11:35,330 --> 00:11:37,310
That money was ours.

207
00:11:37,310 --> 00:11:39,560
And we ran across
the street, where

208
00:11:39,560 --> 00:11:44,090
there was a little store
that sold hard candy,

209
00:11:44,090 --> 00:11:47,270
and we'd get a handful
of candy for the penny.

210
00:11:47,270 --> 00:11:48,950
And we were just delighted.

211
00:11:48,950 --> 00:11:51,890
And he never let on.

212
00:11:51,890 --> 00:11:56,360
But in other words, he had the
patience and the imagination

213

00:11:56,360 --> 00:12:01,490
to stimulate us, to make it
fun, and in fact, look forward

214
00:12:01,490 --> 00:12:02,600
to the lesson.

215
00:12:02,600 --> 00:12:04,130
How wonderful.

216
00:12:04,130 --> 00:12:06,110
He knew how to motivate you.

217
00:12:06,110 --> 00:12:07,020
Yes, yes.

218
00:12:07,020 --> 00:12:11,600
And he probably had a
6th grade education.

219
00:12:11,600 --> 00:12:15,420
And he also--
believe it or not--

220
00:12:15,420 --> 00:12:20,330
he was in business, and when
we started elementary school,

221
00:12:20,330 --> 00:12:24,500
he was actually
tutoring us in math.

222
00:12:24,500 --> 00:12:25,610
No kidding.

223
00:12:25,610 --> 00:12:27,440
He just knew how.

224
00:12:27,440 --> 00:12:29,090
Because I guess in business--

225
00:12:29,090 --> 00:12:29,660

basic.

226

00:12:29,660 --> 00:12:32,870

It must have been adding
and subtracting or whatever.

227

00:12:32,870 --> 00:12:35,060

Although who knows?

228

00:12:35,060 --> 00:12:40,880

He kept the books for people
who bought and paid him

229

00:12:40,880 --> 00:12:42,890

in installments.

230

00:12:42,890 --> 00:12:45,740

But basically, we
could come to him

231

00:12:45,740 --> 00:12:50,350

to help us with our
homework up to a point.

232

00:12:50,350 --> 00:12:56,540

So then also, because he went
into the neighboring much

233

00:12:56,540 --> 00:13:01,100

bigger town every
day, he would--

234

00:13:01,100 --> 00:13:05,120

in that big town,
they had real stores.

235

00:13:05,120 --> 00:13:09,500

They had a shoe store that had
these magical gorgeous shoes

236

00:13:09,500 --> 00:13:11,060

and rubber boots.

237

00:13:11,060 --> 00:13:18,800
And he would-- for the holidays,
for Passover, let's say,

238

00:13:18,800 --> 00:13:20,930
we all got new clothes.

239

00:13:20,930 --> 00:13:22,745
The house was spotless.

240

00:13:22,745 --> 00:13:27,620
We cleaned the linens,
the curtains, the drawers,

241

00:13:27,620 --> 00:13:28,580
everything.

242

00:13:28,580 --> 00:13:31,490
But also new clothes.

243

00:13:31,490 --> 00:13:38,060
And when you get new
clothes once a year or so,

244

00:13:38,060 --> 00:13:39,530
it's very special.

245

00:13:39,530 --> 00:13:40,740
You look forward to that.

246

00:13:40,740 --> 00:13:42,920
And not only that,
we got new shoes.

247

00:13:42,920 --> 00:13:46,940
Our shoes were made by a
shoemaker locally, a cobbler.

248

00:13:46,940 --> 00:13:49,400
And they were clunky,
but they were great

249

00:13:49,400 --> 00:13:51,260
because we had muddy streets.

250

00:13:51,260 --> 00:13:54,770
But for dress up
and the holiday,

251

00:13:54,770 --> 00:13:59,240
the girls got these
beautiful white shoes,

252

00:13:59,240 --> 00:14:01,430
lovely bought shoes.

253

00:14:01,430 --> 00:14:06,890
And so he would measure
our feet with a piece

254

00:14:06,890 --> 00:14:12,320
of string, each one of us,
and put the name to it.

255

00:14:12,320 --> 00:14:17,040
So each girl, our feet
was measured that way.

256

00:14:17,040 --> 00:14:18,570
We didn't know our size.

257

00:14:18,570 --> 00:14:22,290
He took these strings to
the shoe store in the town,

258

00:14:22,290 --> 00:14:28,020
and they would help him decide
what size to bring home.

259

00:14:28,020 --> 00:14:30,660
And did the shoes fit?

260

00:14:30,660 --> 00:14:32,400
Yes, absolutely.

261

00:14:32,400 --> 00:14:39,300
And it wasn't anything like now,
but we little girls just looked

262

00:14:39,300 --> 00:14:42,620
at it, and smelled
it, and just loved it.

263

00:14:42,620 --> 00:14:43,420
Yeah.

264

00:14:43,420 --> 00:14:46,890
I must say, the other
Jewish children in town

265

00:14:46,890 --> 00:14:48,240
didn't get that.

266

00:14:48,240 --> 00:14:49,890
They were poor.

267

00:14:49,890 --> 00:14:50,850
They were poor.

268

00:14:50,850 --> 00:14:54,150
They didn't have
all these avenues

269

00:14:54,150 --> 00:15:00,240
of things that kept us
nicely fed and nicely dressed

270

00:15:00,240 --> 00:15:01,770
and so on.

271

00:15:01,770 --> 00:15:03,090
So had your father--

272

00:15:03,090 --> 00:15:05,550
I'm sorry to interrupt,
but had your father

273
00:15:05,550 --> 00:15:08,190
inherited the business?

274
00:15:08,190 --> 00:15:10,280
Had he--

275
00:15:10,280 --> 00:15:13,990
I wish I knew some more of that.

276
00:15:13,990 --> 00:15:19,530
But I would think-- and my
sister and I talked about that

277
00:15:19,530 --> 00:15:21,420
later, even now--

278
00:15:21,420 --> 00:15:25,260
that since my grandfather
was a wealthy man

279
00:15:25,260 --> 00:15:31,950
and what was called
nadr, or dowry,

280
00:15:31,950 --> 00:15:38,250
dowry was absolutely
necessary if you had money.

281
00:15:38,250 --> 00:15:41,200
I mean, that's the way you
married off your daughters.

282
00:15:41,200 --> 00:15:41,700
Yes.

283
00:15:41,700 --> 00:15:42,960
Without any doubt.

284
00:15:42,960 --> 00:15:50,460
So I think when my mother
was married off to my father,

285

00:15:50,460 --> 00:15:55,560

she received this dowry
without any doubt.

286

00:15:55,560 --> 00:15:58,650

Even if I don't know the
specifics, that's how it went.

287

00:15:58,650 --> 00:16:02,028

So the dowry could
have been a business.

288

00:16:02,028 --> 00:16:03,820

Well, it either could
have been a business,

289

00:16:03,820 --> 00:16:06,580

could have been money.

290

00:16:06,580 --> 00:16:11,320

So because from the other
side, my father's father,

291

00:16:11,320 --> 00:16:12,830

I don't think so.

292

00:16:12,830 --> 00:16:13,660

I don't think so.

293

00:16:13,660 --> 00:16:15,880

Because he lost his wife early.

294

00:16:15,880 --> 00:16:18,070

He had a second wife.

295

00:16:18,070 --> 00:16:20,380

He lived with his children.

296

00:16:20,380 --> 00:16:25,630

And I just don't think he
could have given him a boost.

297
00:16:25,630 --> 00:16:31,170
But my grandfather, my
mother's father, yes.

298
00:16:31,170 --> 00:16:35,860
But somehow in addition to
that, I'm sure it helped,

299
00:16:35,860 --> 00:16:40,630
he also had a partner in the
business in that other town.

300
00:16:40,630 --> 00:16:45,250
And his partner
was a first cousin,

301
00:16:45,250 --> 00:16:49,110
that their fathers
were brothers.

302
00:16:49,110 --> 00:16:52,846
My father's father and
this cousin's father,

303
00:16:52,846 --> 00:16:57,470
they were both [? Fogel, ?]
and they were two brothers.

304
00:16:57,470 --> 00:17:04,530
And then the son of that
brother and my father,

305
00:17:04,530 --> 00:17:07,170
they were partners.

306
00:17:07,170 --> 00:17:10,510
It was Meyer and
Isidore [? Fogel. ?]

307
00:17:10,510 --> 00:17:11,010
Ah.

308

00:17:11,010 --> 00:17:13,589

So Meyer was my
father, and Isidore

309

00:17:13,589 --> 00:17:18,980

was the son of the other
uncle, the other brother.

310

00:17:18,980 --> 00:17:21,230

So I don't know how
that came about,

311

00:17:21,230 --> 00:17:26,480

whether the other
cousin, Isidore,

312

00:17:26,480 --> 00:17:32,540

whether he had enough money
somehow to become a partner.

313

00:17:32,540 --> 00:17:34,497

These things I didn't know.

314

00:17:34,497 --> 00:17:36,230

Well, you're a child, yes.

315

00:17:36,230 --> 00:17:40,880

Yeah, except we
have some letterhead

316

00:17:40,880 --> 00:17:45,260

for the business, which is
very interesting that they

317

00:17:45,260 --> 00:17:47,210

had a letterhead.

318

00:17:47,210 --> 00:17:51,650

Which on the letterhead it said
Isidore and Meyer [? Fogel. ?]

319

00:17:51,650 --> 00:17:55,760

And it was written in
Czech and in Hungarian.

320
00:17:55,760 --> 00:17:58,910
And then it listed
on the letterhead

321
00:17:58,910 --> 00:18:03,710
all the kind of
things that they sold.

322
00:18:03,710 --> 00:18:08,630
Like all kinds of
wood, and tiles,

323
00:18:08,630 --> 00:18:11,870
and construction material.

324
00:18:11,870 --> 00:18:16,130
And it listed what
they were selling.

325
00:18:16,130 --> 00:18:18,560
It sounds like a Home Depot.

326
00:18:18,560 --> 00:18:22,070
Yes, a miniature Home Depot.

327
00:18:22,070 --> 00:18:26,660
Very important in a farming
town or in any town.

328
00:18:26,660 --> 00:18:33,890
So the town was big enough to
have actually two of these.

329
00:18:33,890 --> 00:18:37,250
Other family had
a lumber business.

330
00:18:37,250 --> 00:18:40,790
And it had this mill that
my grandfather owned.

331
00:18:40,790 --> 00:18:42,660
And it had a doctor.

332
00:18:42,660 --> 00:18:44,210
It had a doctor.

333
00:18:44,210 --> 00:18:46,020
It had a pharmacy.

334
00:18:46,020 --> 00:18:51,520
It had a shochat.

335
00:18:51,520 --> 00:18:53,210
You now?

336
00:18:53,210 --> 00:18:55,160
A butcher, a kosher butcher.

337
00:18:55,160 --> 00:18:56,270
Kosher butcher.

338
00:18:56,270 --> 00:18:57,950
Our town didn't.

339
00:18:57,950 --> 00:19:04,790
And this kosher butcher came
to our town every Thursday.

340
00:19:04,790 --> 00:19:08,030
And he went to other small
towns where there were Jews

341
00:19:08,030 --> 00:19:12,200
and didn't have this facility.

342
00:19:12,200 --> 00:19:14,990
And then it was a
railroad crossing.

343
00:19:14,990 --> 00:19:18,080

So it had a lot of activity
at the railroad, trains

344

00:19:18,080 --> 00:19:25,380
coming and going, crossing into
different parts of the area.

345

00:19:25,380 --> 00:19:29,700
And so the being there,
there was a lot of activity,

346

00:19:29,700 --> 00:19:32,540
and I was saying, our children
just loved being there.

347

00:19:32,540 --> 00:19:37,130
And my father's
business was thriving.

348

00:19:37,130 --> 00:19:39,590
But when he came
home, and especially

349

00:19:39,590 --> 00:19:42,140
when the business
was taken away,

350

00:19:42,140 --> 00:19:44,390
and really that's
what I remember most,

351

00:19:44,390 --> 00:19:46,400
because I was old
enough to remember,

352

00:19:46,400 --> 00:19:49,190
that he did the farm chores.

353

00:19:49,190 --> 00:19:53,930
We stopped having help so much.

354

00:19:53,930 --> 00:19:55,790
Some help, but not--

355
00:19:55,790 --> 00:19:58,940
my mother's work increased.

356
00:19:58,940 --> 00:20:03,428
And I know he was chopping wood,
because we had a wood stove.

357
00:20:03,428 --> 00:20:04,220
You know something?

358
00:20:04,220 --> 00:20:08,660
Let me turn now to a few other
questions that are related.

359
00:20:08,660 --> 00:20:15,830
You mentioned that-- you
mentioned that you didn't--

360
00:20:15,830 --> 00:20:19,250
I think, earlier that you
didn't have indoor plumbing.

361
00:20:19,250 --> 00:20:19,970
That's right.

362
00:20:19,970 --> 00:20:22,400
Did you have electricity?

363
00:20:22,400 --> 00:20:23,480
Yes, we did.

364
00:20:23,480 --> 00:20:24,713
Amazing.

365
00:20:24,713 --> 00:20:25,440
OK.

366
00:20:25,440 --> 00:20:29,685
We had electricity,
one bulb in each room.

367
00:20:29,685 --> 00:20:30,710
Ah.

368
00:20:30,710 --> 00:20:31,670
That's it.

369
00:20:31,670 --> 00:20:34,420
One fixture in the ceiling.

370
00:20:34,420 --> 00:20:37,520
But that was being rich.

371
00:20:37,520 --> 00:20:38,810
Yeah.

372
00:20:38,810 --> 00:20:40,100
And--

373
00:20:40,100 --> 00:20:41,120
Yes, yes.

374
00:20:41,120 --> 00:20:42,930
We did have that.

375
00:20:42,930 --> 00:20:48,680
But in the bathroom
there was a lantern

376
00:20:48,680 --> 00:20:51,590
that he carried with
him with oil in it.

377
00:20:51,590 --> 00:20:53,090
But in the farm--

378
00:20:53,090 --> 00:20:57,330
the farmers did not
have any in their house.

379
00:20:57,330 --> 00:21:00,380
They used the lanterns

in the house, too.

380
00:21:00,380 --> 00:21:01,100
I see.

381
00:21:01,100 --> 00:21:04,850
And what about-- did
you have a telephone?

382
00:21:04,850 --> 00:21:05,780
No.

383
00:21:05,780 --> 00:21:09,440
We did not, and we
didn't have a radio.

384
00:21:09,440 --> 00:21:14,420
But they had a newspaper,
which was in the war time

385
00:21:14,420 --> 00:21:15,320
pretty useless.

386
00:21:15,320 --> 00:21:16,850
It was propaganda.

387
00:21:16,850 --> 00:21:19,760
But in the next
town, as I described,

388
00:21:19,760 --> 00:21:21,920
where my father
had his business,

389
00:21:21,920 --> 00:21:25,700
people have telephones,
and people--

390
00:21:25,700 --> 00:21:29,540
that's where he got his news
about the war and the news

391

00:21:29,540 --> 00:21:32,990
about Jewish information.

392
00:21:32,990 --> 00:21:37,080
And when he came home, he would
tell us, and we would listen,

393
00:21:37,080 --> 00:21:37,700
listen.

394
00:21:37,700 --> 00:21:39,170
He brought the news with him.

395
00:21:39,170 --> 00:21:44,840
Because there, as I say,
a lot more Jewish people,

396
00:21:44,840 --> 00:21:46,220
and they got together.

397
00:21:46,220 --> 00:21:50,570
And in fact, in my
father's business office,

398
00:21:50,570 --> 00:21:54,290
always sat a group of men,
Jewish men who sat there,

399
00:21:54,290 --> 00:21:56,770
talking about local politics.

400
00:21:56,770 --> 00:21:59,480
Not just local, world politics.

401
00:21:59,480 --> 00:22:02,690
But we didn't have a telephone.

402
00:22:02,690 --> 00:22:07,940
Was there anybody in your
hometown who had a car?

403
00:22:07,940 --> 00:22:12,890

No, but this uncle
Jossi, Joseph,

404
00:22:12,890 --> 00:22:16,790
who I told you
left for Palestine,

405
00:22:16,790 --> 00:22:19,850
he rode a motorcycle.

406
00:22:19,850 --> 00:22:23,990
And sometimes he would come
roaring in on this motorcycle.

407
00:22:23,990 --> 00:22:26,480
And like you see in
movies sometimes,

408
00:22:26,480 --> 00:22:31,340
all the kids
surrounded him outside.

409
00:22:31,340 --> 00:22:32,480
Regular kids.

410
00:22:32,480 --> 00:22:36,980
It was a novelty, and it
was very, very interesting.

411
00:22:36,980 --> 00:22:39,530
So he did.

412
00:22:39,530 --> 00:22:45,920
In this town, there was a
cut above in civilization,

413
00:22:45,920 --> 00:22:48,380
you might say, than
in our little town.

414
00:22:48,380 --> 00:22:52,140
But we benefited, because
we were in both places.

415
00:22:52,140 --> 00:22:57,050
But that also says that your
maternal grandfather, who

416
00:22:57,050 --> 00:23:01,590
was wealthy, didn't have
an automobile, which was

417
00:23:01,590 --> 00:23:05,790
a sign of wealth in those days.

418
00:23:05,790 --> 00:23:09,461
See, I imagine it was--

419
00:23:09,461 --> 00:23:16,850
there was at one point that
my uncle Jossi had a car, too.

420
00:23:16,850 --> 00:23:19,580
And there was a
point occasionally

421
00:23:19,580 --> 00:23:22,940
he came to our town in a car.

422
00:23:22,940 --> 00:23:26,720
But I think he must not
have had that for long,

423
00:23:26,720 --> 00:23:30,860
because I am mostly
aware of the motorcycle.

424
00:23:30,860 --> 00:23:33,620
So there were no gas stations.

425
00:23:33,620 --> 00:23:35,570
Yeah, yeah.

426
00:23:35,570 --> 00:23:42,530
And besides, he was he was

an orthodox, orthodox person.

427

00:23:42,530 --> 00:23:45,680

If anybody would have had a car, his sons would have had it.

428

00:23:45,680 --> 00:23:47,750

He would not have had anything to do with that.

429

00:23:47,750 --> 00:23:48,350

I see.

430

00:23:48,350 --> 00:23:49,760

That's your grandfather.

431

00:23:49,760 --> 00:23:51,380

And what was his last name?

432

00:23:51,380 --> 00:23:53,450

I don't think we recorded it before.

433

00:23:53,450 --> 00:23:54,080

Yeah, right.

434

00:23:54,080 --> 00:23:56,060

It was Mermelstein.

435

00:23:56,060 --> 00:23:57,510

Mermelstein.

436

00:23:57,510 --> 00:23:59,630

That would be
M-E-R-M-E-L-S-T-E-I-N?

437

00:23:59,630 --> 00:24:03,350

438

00:24:03,350 --> 00:24:04,100

Yes.

439

00:24:04,100 --> 00:24:05,210

OK.

440

00:24:05,210 --> 00:24:06,070

Hirsch.

441

00:24:06,070 --> 00:24:07,550

Hirsch Mermelstein.

442

00:24:07,550 --> 00:24:09,350

Hirsch Mermelstein.

443

00:24:09,350 --> 00:24:10,400

No, he would not--

444

00:24:10,400 --> 00:24:12,710

I can't possibly
see him in a car.

445

00:24:12,710 --> 00:24:18,080

These were orthodox men, who--

446

00:24:18,080 --> 00:24:20,810

the fact that he was
so good in business

447

00:24:20,810 --> 00:24:25,640

was amazing, but
not any modern life.

448

00:24:25,640 --> 00:24:26,570

OK.

449

00:24:26,570 --> 00:24:28,520

No new technology.

450

00:24:28,520 --> 00:24:29,540

No, no, no, no.

451

00:24:29,540 --> 00:24:33,410

Not even what was

available there.

452
00:24:33,410 --> 00:24:39,260
He did have a lawyer
in the next big city.

453
00:24:39,260 --> 00:24:45,480
And if there was any
kind of need for someone

454
00:24:45,480 --> 00:24:49,260
to talk to the lawyer
because of business,

455
00:24:49,260 --> 00:24:51,490
he used his two daughters.

456
00:24:51,490 --> 00:24:54,030
They were the ones who
would go to the city

457
00:24:54,030 --> 00:24:57,810
and do what he told
them was necessary.

458
00:24:57,810 --> 00:25:01,000
And they were
presentable in public.

459
00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:05,370
He came with his big
beard, and probably I'm

460
00:25:05,370 --> 00:25:08,400
guessing that his
Hungarian language must not

461
00:25:08,400 --> 00:25:09,570
have been very good.

462
00:25:09,570 --> 00:25:10,830
They spoke Yiddish.

463

00:25:10,830 --> 00:25:12,990

I see.

464

00:25:12,990 --> 00:25:14,310

So no, not him.

465

00:25:14,310 --> 00:25:17,760

But he managed to run
his business very well.

466

00:25:17,760 --> 00:25:21,610

And I know my father had
a lawyer, too, in Munkács.

467

00:25:21,610 --> 00:25:23,040

It was this next big city.

468

00:25:23,040 --> 00:25:25,630

469

00:25:25,630 --> 00:25:29,850

Because occasionally they
ran into some problem

470

00:25:29,850 --> 00:25:33,060

with the Hungarian government.

471

00:25:33,060 --> 00:25:34,530

I can't tell you what.

472

00:25:34,530 --> 00:25:38,980

But as a business, they
needed that kind of help.

473

00:25:38,980 --> 00:25:41,800

Well, I want to
turn to a few things

474

00:25:41,800 --> 00:25:46,660

that we had spoken of before
but that was not recorded.

475

00:25:46,660 --> 00:25:50,410

And you mentioned your
Uncle Jossi as one of them,

476

00:25:50,410 --> 00:25:58,060

that of your mother's
siblings and stepsiblings, who

477

00:25:58,060 --> 00:26:01,000

had left before, who
survived, and you

478

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:06,640

mentioned that he was
somebody who in the '30s

479

00:26:06,640 --> 00:26:11,860

had already left your
area for Palestine.

480

00:26:11,860 --> 00:26:14,740

So tell me about that and
why that was something

481

00:26:14,740 --> 00:26:17,680

that was controversial.

482

00:26:17,680 --> 00:26:21,430

Well, it had to do with
the orthodox religion.

483

00:26:21,430 --> 00:26:26,740

My grandfather and all the
orthodox religious people

484

00:26:26,740 --> 00:26:30,190

did not-- they hated Zionism.

485

00:26:30,190 --> 00:26:33,700

Zionism meant
leaving the religion

486

00:26:33,700 --> 00:26:41,620
and not sticking to the
rules, and mixing with women,

487
00:26:41,620 --> 00:26:44,980
and reading books,
and all the rest.

488
00:26:44,980 --> 00:26:47,260
And that was all forbidden.

489
00:26:47,260 --> 00:26:53,110
And once your young
people did that,

490
00:26:53,110 --> 00:26:57,490
became Zionists, then
that's the route they went.

491
00:26:57,490 --> 00:27:00,035
And they were losing
them that way.

492
00:27:00,035 --> 00:27:01,810
I see.

493
00:27:01,810 --> 00:27:03,260
He was a complicated man.

494
00:27:03,260 --> 00:27:08,950
He was good in business, but
very old fashioned in religion.

495
00:27:08,950 --> 00:27:13,450
But that's how all the old men
and the religious men were.

496
00:27:13,450 --> 00:27:22,090
They were strictly orthodox
and stuck to every single rule

497
00:27:22,090 --> 00:27:22,940
to observe.

498
00:27:22,940 --> 00:27:28,390
And as soon as you let go of
your children in that regard,

499
00:27:28,390 --> 00:27:30,250
they gave up a lot of that.

500
00:27:30,250 --> 00:27:33,100
And that was not
what they wanted.

501
00:27:33,100 --> 00:27:37,990
For example, there was a Hebrew
gymnasium in this big city

502
00:27:37,990 --> 00:27:39,660
called Munkács.

503
00:27:39,660 --> 00:27:41,530
Munkács had all kinds of Jews.

504
00:27:41,530 --> 00:27:46,930
And they actually had a
gymnasium, secondary school.

505
00:27:46,930 --> 00:27:51,370
They taught in Hebrew and
in Hungarian or Czech,

506
00:27:51,370 --> 00:27:53,860
and they were all Zionists.

507
00:27:53,860 --> 00:28:01,030
They taught about Palestine,
and they taught Zionist aims.

508
00:28:01,030 --> 00:28:03,490
It was a great school.

509
00:28:03,490 --> 00:28:10,330
When my sister and I got to

6th grade and school ended

510
00:28:10,330 --> 00:28:14,650
in our town, my
grandfather would not

511
00:28:14,650 --> 00:28:19,120
allow us to go to
the Hebrew gymnasium,

512
00:28:19,120 --> 00:28:21,400
because that was Zionist.

513
00:28:21,400 --> 00:28:26,080
And that was what I'm
saying, losing them

514
00:28:26,080 --> 00:28:30,640
to modern ways, which they
were very much against.

515
00:28:30,640 --> 00:28:38,770
So instead of sending me with
my sister to secondary school,

516
00:28:38,770 --> 00:28:42,520
we were sent to Hungarian
schools in that big city.

517
00:28:42,520 --> 00:28:43,780
In Munkács.

518
00:28:43,780 --> 00:28:44,960
In Munkács.

519
00:28:44,960 --> 00:28:50,530
And looking back,
I feel what a pity,

520
00:28:50,530 --> 00:28:53,380
that I didn't go to
the Hebrew gymnasium

521

00:28:53,380 --> 00:28:58,000

and really get a
world class education,

522

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:00,340

instead of going to
Hungarian schools

523

00:29:00,340 --> 00:29:06,550

where I had to fight a
little bit of anti-Semitism.

524

00:29:06,550 --> 00:29:09,610

It wasn't too
evident, but we were

525

00:29:09,610 --> 00:29:12,580

the Jewish kids in
this situation where

526

00:29:12,580 --> 00:29:15,100

the others were not.

527

00:29:15,100 --> 00:29:19,260

So they were very, very,
very opposed to Zionism.

528

00:29:19,260 --> 00:29:21,960

So and your Uncle
Jossi was the person

529

00:29:21,960 --> 00:29:25,350

who wanted to go to
Palestine and did.

530

00:29:25,350 --> 00:29:26,220

Is that the case?

531

00:29:26,220 --> 00:29:32,120

And did, and caused a
great deal of grief.

532

00:29:32,120 --> 00:29:35,890
They felt very, very
unhappy about it.

533
00:29:35,890 --> 00:29:38,040
And as I said a
little bit before

534
00:29:38,040 --> 00:29:43,020
that when some cards,
postcards came first

535
00:29:43,020 --> 00:29:47,820
on the route and
later, the postcards,

536
00:29:47,820 --> 00:29:52,320
I remember that he was
on the beach in a bathing

537
00:29:52,320 --> 00:29:54,390
suit in Haifa, I believe.

538
00:29:54,390 --> 00:30:00,180
And there's women in bathing
suits, looking very happy.

539
00:30:00,180 --> 00:30:03,780
They, my aunts, his
sisters, did not

540
00:30:03,780 --> 00:30:06,600
show that to the grandparents.

541
00:30:06,600 --> 00:30:08,905
To your grandparents,
your mother's parents.

542
00:30:08,905 --> 00:30:10,410
Yeah, to his parents.

543
00:30:10,410 --> 00:30:11,010
Yes, no.

544
00:30:11,010 --> 00:30:11,850
They did not.

545
00:30:11,850 --> 00:30:14,430
Because that's exactly
what they feared.

546
00:30:14,430 --> 00:30:18,640
It's exactly what they
didn't want to happen.

547
00:30:18,640 --> 00:30:23,520
They were very, very
orthodox, very strict.

548
00:30:23,520 --> 00:30:27,840
You know, that was a compartment
that you couldn't breach.

549
00:30:27,840 --> 00:30:30,855

550
00:30:30,855 --> 00:30:33,840
Of course in the
cities, like in Munkács,

551
00:30:33,840 --> 00:30:35,310
there were modern Jews.

552
00:30:35,310 --> 00:30:41,250
There were those who even
if they weren't Zionists,

553
00:30:41,250 --> 00:30:44,490
they lived a more open life.

554
00:30:44,490 --> 00:30:46,570
But not in these little towns.

555
00:30:46,570 --> 00:30:52,590
It's known what people say about

that Carpathia-Ukraine area,

556

00:30:52,590 --> 00:30:54,360

which this was.

557

00:30:54,360 --> 00:30:57,520

It was a very
orthodox community.

558

00:30:57,520 --> 00:30:58,160

Well, yes.

559

00:30:58,160 --> 00:31:04,170

You know, that leads me to a
whole host of other questions.

560

00:31:04,170 --> 00:31:08,560

And that is, I wanted
to ask you about

561

00:31:08,560 --> 00:31:13,090

your own formal schooling.

562

00:31:13,090 --> 00:31:19,960

And this also ties into the
shifting borders that were

563

00:31:19,960 --> 00:31:21,895

around your part of the world.

564

00:31:21,895 --> 00:31:24,400

565

00:31:24,400 --> 00:31:31,810

And also when you mention
that area of the Carpathian

566

00:31:31,810 --> 00:31:35,860

Mountains and part of--

567

00:31:35,860 --> 00:31:39,160

today, your town

is part of Ukraine.

568
00:31:39,160 --> 00:31:42,850
And when you were born, it
was part of Czechoslovakia.

569
00:31:42,850 --> 00:31:44,880
Yes, and later Hungary.

570
00:31:44,880 --> 00:31:48,550
Yeah, so that when
you look on a map--

571
00:31:48,550 --> 00:31:52,180
and I did after we first spoke--

572
00:31:52,180 --> 00:31:57,070
it's so far east, as far as what
the borders of Czechoslovakia

573
00:31:57,070 --> 00:32:01,390
were, that I wondered
whether it was closer to Lvov

574
00:32:01,390 --> 00:32:04,770
than it was to Prague.

575
00:32:04,770 --> 00:32:05,850
Yeah.

576
00:32:05,850 --> 00:32:08,210
Yes, or at least equally.

577
00:32:08,210 --> 00:32:08,710
Yeah.

578
00:32:08,710 --> 00:32:11,350
We were right on
the border, yes.

579
00:32:11,350 --> 00:32:15,790
And in that area, not

only was our population

580
00:32:15,790 --> 00:32:17,650
mostly was Hungarian,
but there were

581
00:32:17,650 --> 00:32:20,890
sections where the
population was Ukrainian,

582
00:32:20,890 --> 00:32:22,360
and they spoke Ukrainian.

583
00:32:22,360 --> 00:32:27,610
In that mountain area where my
grandfather had his property

584
00:32:27,610 --> 00:32:32,710
and lived there first,
they were speaking

585
00:32:32,710 --> 00:32:35,262
a Ukrainian type of language.

586
00:32:35,262 --> 00:32:36,220
Isn't that interesting.

587
00:32:36,220 --> 00:32:38,420
[BOTH TALKING] area.

588
00:32:38,420 --> 00:32:41,500
So let's turn a little bit to--

589
00:32:41,500 --> 00:32:44,010
let's turn a little
bit to your hometown.

590
00:32:44,010 --> 00:32:46,240
And that, again, I'm
going to say is BÃ³trÃ¡gy.

591
00:32:46,240 --> 00:32:47,530

Is that how I say it?

592

00:32:47,530 --> 00:32:48,950

Yes, BĀ³trĀ³jgy.

593

00:32:48,950 --> 00:32:50,440

BĀ³trĀ³jgy.

594

00:32:50,440 --> 00:32:52,960

BĀ³trĀ³jgy had 1,000 people.

595

00:32:52,960 --> 00:32:53,470

Yes.

596

00:32:53,470 --> 00:32:57,550

And when you were born,
it was-- and that's 1930.

597

00:32:57,550 --> 00:32:59,740

It was part of Czechoslovakia.

598

00:32:59,740 --> 00:33:00,760

Yes.

599

00:33:00,760 --> 00:33:05,620

When you started going to
school, how old were you?

600

00:33:05,620 --> 00:33:10,720

I was probably closer to seven,
because I was born in November.

601

00:33:10,720 --> 00:33:12,490

School starts in September.

602

00:33:12,490 --> 00:33:16,950

I think-- and I
was basically six.

603

00:33:16,950 --> 00:33:20,290

And I went to the Czech school.

604

00:33:20,290 --> 00:33:25,900

And then, as I said before,
when the Czechs were thrown out

605

00:33:25,900 --> 00:33:33,040

in 1938, I transferred
to Hungarian schools.

606

00:33:33,040 --> 00:33:39,770

So what that is that you
start school in 1936 or '37.

607

00:33:39,770 --> 00:33:40,870

Yes.

608

00:33:40,870 --> 00:33:42,880

And you are--

609

00:33:42,880 --> 00:33:44,230

'38.

610

00:33:44,230 --> 00:33:46,270

'38, it was over, right?

611

00:33:46,270 --> 00:33:48,700

So two years of Czech schools.

612

00:33:48,700 --> 00:33:49,980

Yes, yes.

613

00:33:49,980 --> 00:33:51,060

OK.

614

00:33:51,060 --> 00:33:56,670

And do you have any memories
of having gone to school?

615

00:33:56,670 --> 00:33:57,170

Oh, yes.

616

00:33:57,170 --> 00:33:58,210

Under the Czech system?

617
00:33:58,210 --> 00:33:59,530
I have absolutely.

618
00:33:59,530 --> 00:34:04,510
And for some
strange coincidence,

619
00:34:04,510 --> 00:34:11,679
I have a class picture
of that school,

620
00:34:11,679 --> 00:34:15,610
which is very interesting.

621
00:34:15,610 --> 00:34:18,550
And I don't know how it came
about, a tiny little picture.

622
00:34:18,550 --> 00:34:21,940
And then when I went
back there after the war,

623
00:34:21,940 --> 00:34:24,909
one of the neighbors
gave me a class picture

624
00:34:24,909 --> 00:34:28,750
of a Hungarian school, where
both my sister and I are

625
00:34:28,750 --> 00:34:34,750
in it as little girls
with bows in our hair.

626
00:34:34,750 --> 00:34:36,760
So you're in the--

627
00:34:36,760 --> 00:34:39,270

628

00:34:39,270 --> 00:34:42,110
so you have two years
of Czech education.

629
00:34:42,110 --> 00:34:42,610
Yes.

630
00:34:42,610 --> 00:34:47,130
And you mentioned
earlier, and this is part

631
00:34:47,130 --> 00:34:51,050
that we don't have on tape,
but we had talked about

632
00:34:51,050 --> 00:34:56,280
of why were Jewish
kids mostly going

633
00:34:56,280 --> 00:35:00,690
to a Czech school
during those years?

634
00:35:00,690 --> 00:35:01,320
Yes.

635
00:35:01,320 --> 00:35:09,490
Well, first of all, well, I
don't know which came first.

636
00:35:09,490 --> 00:35:12,750
The Jewish kids--

637
00:35:12,750 --> 00:35:13,250
In BÃ³trÃ¡gy.

638
00:35:13,250 --> 00:35:15,170
So of the 10 families.

639
00:35:15,170 --> 00:35:19,750
Well, the Hungarian school
was filled with the children

640

00:35:19,750 --> 00:35:21,460
of the farmers.

641

00:35:21,460 --> 00:35:24,130
They were not too
interested in education,

642

00:35:24,130 --> 00:35:28,430
because they took their kids
out to help on the farm,

643

00:35:28,430 --> 00:35:33,430
even before they
were old enough.

644

00:35:33,430 --> 00:35:37,010
The Hungarian school
ended at 6th grade.

645

00:35:37,010 --> 00:35:39,580
And by 6th grade,
most of the kids

646

00:35:39,580 --> 00:35:42,610
were dropping out, old
enough to work on the farm.

647

00:35:42,610 --> 00:35:49,900
And of course the Czech schools
were much more interested

648

00:35:49,900 --> 00:35:52,330
in academics.

649

00:35:52,330 --> 00:35:55,390
And the other most
interesting thing

650

00:35:55,390 --> 00:35:59,270
was that they closed
on the Sabbath.

651

00:35:59,270 --> 00:36:04,090
And the Hungarian schools
had school on Saturday also.

652
00:36:04,090 --> 00:36:08,110
And that probably made
a huge difference.

653
00:36:08,110 --> 00:36:14,830
But also the Czechs were, on
the whole, not anti-Semitic.

654
00:36:14,830 --> 00:36:19,930
And because it's well known that
when Czechoslovakia was created

655
00:36:19,930 --> 00:36:24,070
in the area, it was modeled
after the Constitution

656
00:36:24,070 --> 00:36:25,570
of the United States.

657
00:36:25,570 --> 00:36:28,030
And it was a
democratic government.

658
00:36:28,030 --> 00:36:33,370
And so that was enough for
us, plus the Saturday closing.

659
00:36:33,370 --> 00:36:39,500
Was there was there a large
Czech population in Bã³trã¸gy?

660
00:36:39,500 --> 00:36:42,110
Well, I don't think so.

661
00:36:42,110 --> 00:36:44,930
But I was thinking
of it the other day

662
00:36:44,930 --> 00:36:48,470

as you asked me questions,
things I never talked about,

663
00:36:48,470 --> 00:36:50,990
but I do know about it.

664
00:36:50,990 --> 00:36:54,290
I believe that
they either bought

665
00:36:54,290 --> 00:36:58,760
up or in some way, the Czechs,
individuals, I suppose,

666
00:36:58,760 --> 00:37:01,760
acquired a lot of farmland.

667
00:37:01,760 --> 00:37:05,450
And it seems to me,
from what I remember,

668
00:37:05,450 --> 00:37:09,510
that it must have been
like tenant farming there.

669
00:37:09,510 --> 00:37:13,640
So they would send
representatives there

670
00:37:13,640 --> 00:37:17,970
to run the tenant farming.

671
00:37:17,970 --> 00:37:23,750
And there wouldn't be many
needed for each area, one

672
00:37:23,750 --> 00:37:24,950
or two people.

673
00:37:24,950 --> 00:37:29,570
And the rest of the work was
done by the local farmers.

674

00:37:29,570 --> 00:37:35,300
And the reason I think that it
was tenant farming is my mother

675

00:37:35,300 --> 00:37:36,080
took me.

676

00:37:36,080 --> 00:37:39,410
I went with her to one
of these places once,

677

00:37:39,410 --> 00:37:43,880
because she went to talk to
the head, a woman who was

678

00:37:43,880 --> 00:37:47,090
in charge of this huge area.

679

00:37:47,090 --> 00:37:50,180
She went to talk to her
about buying some fruit.

680

00:37:50,180 --> 00:37:52,940
And I know we came
home with some apples.

681

00:37:52,940 --> 00:38:01,610
And I remember seeing this row
of houses, huge row of houses.

682

00:38:01,610 --> 00:38:04,190
And that's where
the workers lived.

683

00:38:04,190 --> 00:38:07,730
And that's not how the
local farmers lived.

684

00:38:07,730 --> 00:38:12,200
This was like one
huge, long house

685

00:38:12,200 --> 00:38:14,160
with doors, lots of doors.

686
00:38:14,160 --> 00:38:18,140
And now I interpret
that as being

687
00:38:18,140 --> 00:38:23,480
the farmers that were
controlled by this company that

688
00:38:23,480 --> 00:38:25,430
ran the farming.

689
00:38:25,430 --> 00:38:28,050
And they also ran
the government.

690
00:38:28,050 --> 00:38:31,730
The local government,
the police.

691
00:38:31,730 --> 00:38:33,950
That's the Czech
kind of presence.

692
00:38:33,950 --> 00:38:34,820
The Czechs, yes.

693
00:38:34,820 --> 00:38:40,130
And in a bigger town,
they had bigger control

694
00:38:40,130 --> 00:38:43,280
of the government,
local government.

695
00:38:43,280 --> 00:38:49,340
But population-wise,
of the 1,000 people,

696
00:38:49,340 --> 00:38:53,240
would there have been hundreds

or 200 who were Czech?

697
00:38:53,240 --> 00:38:57,150
In my little town, I doubt
that there were even 100.

698
00:38:57,150 --> 00:38:58,070
OK.

699
00:38:58,070 --> 00:39:01,260
And they weren't
visible somehow.

700
00:39:01,260 --> 00:39:06,540
And I don't know if it was
a fair way of doing things

701
00:39:06,540 --> 00:39:07,040
or not.

702
00:39:07,040 --> 00:39:10,580
I never looked into it
from that point of view.

703
00:39:10,580 --> 00:39:13,280
But they were sort of like--

704
00:39:13,280 --> 00:39:15,770
because the population
was Hungarian,

705
00:39:15,770 --> 00:39:20,540
they must have seemed to the
Hungarians like occupiers.

706
00:39:20,540 --> 00:39:22,550
So what happened to
them, when the place

707
00:39:22,550 --> 00:39:24,980
became part of Hungary?

708

00:39:24,980 --> 00:39:27,770
Well, they were all evicted.

709
00:39:27,770 --> 00:39:31,820
They were sent back
to Czechoslovakia,

710
00:39:31,820 --> 00:39:38,570
to the real smaller area
that was Czechoslovakia.

711
00:39:38,570 --> 00:39:41,240
Their properties either
they confiscated.

712
00:39:41,240 --> 00:39:43,460
Maybe they got something paid.

713
00:39:43,460 --> 00:39:46,280
I don't know that history,
but they all left.

714
00:39:46,280 --> 00:39:49,340
They all left in
1938, and they went

715
00:39:49,340 --> 00:39:53,165
back to what was
really Czechoslovakia.

716
00:39:53,165 --> 00:39:55,970
The Czech-speaking
Czech government.

717
00:39:55,970 --> 00:40:00,020
But they were occupied by--

718
00:40:00,020 --> 00:40:02,120
invaded and occupied by Hitler.

719
00:40:02,120 --> 00:40:02,720
Yes.

720

00:40:02,720 --> 00:40:08,030

And so what happened
to the Czechs

721

00:40:08,030 --> 00:40:13,080

in Hitler's time was not
good, because they were over--

722

00:40:13,080 --> 00:40:14,690

they became Germany.

723

00:40:14,690 --> 00:40:17,060

They were occupied by the Nazis.

724

00:40:17,060 --> 00:40:17,870

Well, yeah.

725

00:40:17,870 --> 00:40:21,530

There was that famous
"peace in our time,"

726

00:40:21,530 --> 00:40:23,990

I think it was from
Neville Chamberlain.

727

00:40:23,990 --> 00:40:26,780

This is all-- it sounds like
the results of the Munich

728

00:40:26,780 --> 00:40:31,700

Agreement in 1938, where the
Sudetenland is taken away

729

00:40:31,700 --> 00:40:34,460

from Czechoslovakia.

730

00:40:34,460 --> 00:40:37,580

And then later a lot
of other countries

731

00:40:37,580 --> 00:40:40,730

step up and have claims.

732
00:40:40,730 --> 00:40:42,830
And Hungary was one of them.

733
00:40:42,830 --> 00:40:47,670
And it was claims to your area,
the area that you lived in.

734
00:40:47,670 --> 00:40:53,150
And so in late '38, that's
when this switch happens.

735
00:40:53,150 --> 00:40:54,830
Yes, exactly.

736
00:40:54,830 --> 00:40:58,940
And you then-- after you no
longer can go to Czech school,

737
00:40:58,940 --> 00:41:01,280
do you go to Hungarian school?

738
00:41:01,280 --> 00:41:02,870
Right away, yes.

739
00:41:02,870 --> 00:41:04,890
In the same town.

740
00:41:04,890 --> 00:41:05,390
Yes.

741
00:41:05,390 --> 00:41:09,680
As soon as the Czech school
left and we registered.

742
00:41:09,680 --> 00:41:12,170
I remember going
to the-- there was

743
00:41:12,170 --> 00:41:16,440
a school, a Hungarian school
on the other end of town.

744
00:41:16,440 --> 00:41:19,400
And we had no-- we had
absolutely no trouble,

745
00:41:19,400 --> 00:41:21,370
the Jewish kids who switched.

746
00:41:21,370 --> 00:41:22,790
We spoke Hungarian.

747
00:41:22,790 --> 00:41:25,880

748
00:41:25,880 --> 00:41:27,500
It was easy.

749
00:41:27,500 --> 00:41:29,910
I remember reading.

750
00:41:29,910 --> 00:41:36,950
I remember learning sounding
out the Hungarian words.

751
00:41:36,950 --> 00:41:41,210
But since somehow we
knew the alphabet,

752
00:41:41,210 --> 00:41:44,990
I remember sort of
thinking, "Oh, that's easy.

753
00:41:44,990 --> 00:41:47,750
It works."

754
00:41:47,750 --> 00:41:52,040
You just pronounce-- Hungarian
is a very phonetic language,

755
00:41:52,040 --> 00:41:52,580
too.

756
00:41:52,580 --> 00:41:54,350
But to those who
don't speak it, it

757
00:41:54,350 --> 00:41:57,110
sounds like a very
difficult language.

758
00:41:57,110 --> 00:41:59,150
Yes, I hear that.

759
00:41:59,150 --> 00:42:01,730
The Czech-- the
Jewish kids spoke--

760
00:42:01,730 --> 00:42:04,430
in the two years that--

761
00:42:04,430 --> 00:42:06,470
probably wasn't even
complete two years

762
00:42:06,470 --> 00:42:11,310
that I was in the Czech
school, I and my sister,

763
00:42:11,310 --> 00:42:14,261
we were fluent in Czech by then.

764
00:42:14,261 --> 00:42:15,800
It was no problem.

765
00:42:15,800 --> 00:42:18,170
And we already spoke Hungarian.

766
00:42:18,170 --> 00:42:23,810
So the switch was
not traumatic at all.

767
00:42:23,810 --> 00:42:27,860
Well, let's turn now to
another aspect that we again

768
00:42:27,860 --> 00:42:32,330
spoke of earlier but
was not recorded.

769
00:42:32,330 --> 00:42:34,160
And that is, I asked--

770
00:42:34,160 --> 00:42:39,920
the part of the world that you
lived in, in your description,

771
00:42:39,920 --> 00:42:42,530
sounds quite remote.

772
00:42:42,530 --> 00:42:49,040
I mean, not entirely remote,
but not in the center of things.

773
00:42:49,040 --> 00:42:53,570
And I wondered how much
of that larger life

774
00:42:53,570 --> 00:42:58,400
that was going on in Europe
in the '30s had an impact.

775
00:42:58,400 --> 00:43:00,350
How much of it was known?

776
00:43:00,350 --> 00:43:03,680
How much, let's say, what
was going on in Germany

777
00:43:03,680 --> 00:43:06,470
was known in your
town, and how much this

778
00:43:06,470 --> 00:43:08,790
was part of the conversation?

779
00:43:08,790 --> 00:43:12,590

Whether Hitler was
something, was a person

780
00:43:12,590 --> 00:43:15,500
that people knew
about, talked about?

781
00:43:15,500 --> 00:43:18,120
Can you tell me a
little bit about that?

782
00:43:18,120 --> 00:43:19,250
Yes.

783
00:43:19,250 --> 00:43:21,500
Well, it really was known.

784
00:43:21,500 --> 00:43:26,870
Because it's true that our
little village was really more

785
00:43:26,870 --> 00:43:28,430
backward in many ways.

786
00:43:28,430 --> 00:43:33,800
But as I was saying, my father
lived in the bigger town.

787
00:43:33,800 --> 00:43:36,240
And there were many Jews there.

788
00:43:36,240 --> 00:43:40,880
And in addition to that,
the city of Munkács had--

789
00:43:40,880 --> 00:43:45,750
I don't know-- maybe
thousands of Jewish families.

790
00:43:45,750 --> 00:43:50,480
And it was probably 3/4 Jewish.

791

00:43:50,480 --> 00:43:53,300
And it was a city
that had everything,

792
00:43:53,300 --> 00:44:03,260
from movies, theaters, Jewish
synagogues, rabbis, Businesses

793
00:44:03,260 --> 00:44:06,950
A really modern, bustling city.

794
00:44:06,950 --> 00:44:09,440
Did you go to Munkács?

795
00:44:09,440 --> 00:44:10,820
Well, absolutely.

796
00:44:10,820 --> 00:44:14,150
So not only did I go,
my mother went regularly

797
00:44:14,150 --> 00:44:15,290
to do the bigger shopping.

798
00:44:15,290 --> 00:44:17,840

799
00:44:17,840 --> 00:44:22,400
And in addition to that,
one of her brothers,

800
00:44:22,400 --> 00:44:29,390
her four brothers,
Benzion, my uncle Benzion,

801
00:44:29,390 --> 00:44:32,750
lived there with his
wife and two children.

802
00:44:32,750 --> 00:44:36,470
And so everybody
spent a lot of time

803

00:44:36,470 --> 00:44:40,470
at the Benzion, Benzion family.

804

00:44:40,470 --> 00:44:48,080
And so when we kids were
taken there-- and later

805

00:44:48,080 --> 00:44:53,300
I'll tell you, my sister and I
ended up going to middle school

806

00:44:53,300 --> 00:44:55,080
there, to Hungarian
middle school.

807

00:44:55,080 --> 00:44:58,220
That's where the Hungarian
middle school was.

808

00:44:58,220 --> 00:45:04,430
Also the Hebrew
gymnasium was there.

809

00:45:04,430 --> 00:45:10,460
It was like a Jewish city
with incredible activity

810

00:45:10,460 --> 00:45:11,660
of every kind.

811

00:45:11,660 --> 00:45:16,640
Lots of business,
lots of culture.

812

00:45:16,640 --> 00:45:19,040
And there was all kinds
of culture, not just

813

00:45:19,040 --> 00:45:23,540
the orthodox culture.

814

00:45:23,540 --> 00:45:25,050

It was a big city.

815

00:45:25,050 --> 00:45:29,720

A river flowed through it,
on one side of the river

816

00:45:29,720 --> 00:45:33,920

and the other side of the
river, and a very large railroad

817

00:45:33,920 --> 00:45:36,230

station, which also--

818

00:45:36,230 --> 00:45:40,850

a center that went all
over to the Russian side

819

00:45:40,850 --> 00:45:42,380

or the Western side.

820

00:45:42,380 --> 00:45:45,530

And it was a great place.

821

00:45:45,530 --> 00:45:48,440

And so the news came from there.

822

00:45:48,440 --> 00:45:51,320

People there did have
radios and so on.

823

00:45:51,320 --> 00:45:58,670

And Munkács was again a much
bigger place than Bártfegy.

824

00:45:58,670 --> 00:46:03,410

And the traffic from
that flowed over.

825

00:46:03,410 --> 00:46:07,190

And people were very
well aware of what

826

00:46:07,190 --> 00:46:13,160
was going on with Hitler,
with the war, with everything

827
00:46:13,160 --> 00:46:17,180
about politics was aware.

828
00:46:17,180 --> 00:46:19,320
Give me a sense of distance.

829
00:46:19,320 --> 00:46:24,385
If you went with your mother to
Munkács, would you go by train?

830
00:46:24,385 --> 00:46:24,885
Yes.

831
00:46:24,885 --> 00:46:26,210
You had to go by train.

832
00:46:26,210 --> 00:46:28,910
And how long would it take you?

833
00:46:28,910 --> 00:46:33,140
Well, I think no
more than 30 minutes.

834
00:46:33,140 --> 00:46:37,520
Ah, so one could say that you
were truly in the outskirts

835
00:46:37,520 --> 00:46:39,230
of Munkács.

836
00:46:39,230 --> 00:46:39,980
We were.

837
00:46:39,980 --> 00:46:43,790
And just to mention before
I get back to Munkács,

838
00:46:43,790 --> 00:46:49,010

going the other way East, there was another very large city

839
00:46:49,010 --> 00:46:51,120
called Beregszsz.

840
00:46:51,120 --> 00:46:56,240
Beregszsz was also a huge Jewish population and Jewish

841
00:46:56,240 --> 00:46:57,170
center.

842
00:46:57,170 --> 00:47:01,880
And they apparently, the Jews there from what I understand

843
00:47:01,880 --> 00:47:07,280
now, they thought they were more modern and more civilized,

844
00:47:07,280 --> 00:47:11,370
and not as old fashioned than even the Munkcs people.

845
00:47:11,370 --> 00:47:15,680
In other words, they felt that they were really advanced.

846
00:47:15,680 --> 00:47:17,200
But they all had--

847
00:47:17,200 --> 00:47:19,692
these places, the cities, they had hospitals.

848
00:47:19,692 --> 00:47:20,400
They had doctors.

849
00:47:20,400 --> 00:47:24,740

850

00:47:24,740 --> 00:47:27,440
We were not stuck
in our village,

851
00:47:27,440 --> 00:47:30,770
because we had the means
to get on a train and go.

852
00:47:30,770 --> 00:47:34,400
Now, the farmers
didn't go far, and they

853
00:47:34,400 --> 00:47:36,320
went by horse and buggy.

854
00:47:36,320 --> 00:47:41,510
And they weren't interested
in the culture there.

855
00:47:41,510 --> 00:47:45,480
These were really
Jewish cities, and very,

856
00:47:45,480 --> 00:47:49,100
very advanced and lively
and had everything--

857
00:47:49,100 --> 00:47:53,990
writers, and theater, and Jewish
theater, and regular theater,

858
00:47:53,990 --> 00:47:54,830
and music.

859
00:47:54,830 --> 00:47:56,280
There was everything.

860
00:47:56,280 --> 00:48:00,200
And so although we didn't
go to Beregszsz that often,

861
00:48:00,200 --> 00:48:01,490
we did go there, too.

862
00:48:01,490 --> 00:48:04,640
But MunkÅ¡cs was a center.

863
00:48:04,640 --> 00:48:06,570
So how did we go there?

864
00:48:06,570 --> 00:48:13,100
So after 6th grade
in the local town,

865
00:48:13,100 --> 00:48:19,610
first my sister was sent to
MunkÅ¡cs to live with Uncle

866
00:48:19,610 --> 00:48:25,700
Benzion and his family and go
to school, middle school there.

867
00:48:25,700 --> 00:48:31,280
My sister stayed there and
only came home occasionally

868
00:48:31,280 --> 00:48:34,620
for a weekend, for shabbos.

869
00:48:34,620 --> 00:48:35,790
But she lived with them.

870
00:48:35,790 --> 00:48:36,530
She loved it.

871
00:48:36,530 --> 00:48:38,570
She went to school there.

872
00:48:38,570 --> 00:48:42,260
And that was called higher
education, believe it or not.

873
00:48:42,260 --> 00:48:45,320
Because it was
beyond middle school,

874
00:48:45,320 --> 00:48:46,850
a little bit beyond
middle school.

875
00:48:46,850 --> 00:48:51,770
But if you had that
degree that far,

876
00:48:51,770 --> 00:48:56,180
you were way above the
average in schooling.

877
00:48:56,180 --> 00:49:00,800
So when my sister
finished, I was

878
00:49:00,800 --> 00:49:03,980
ready to go to the higher level.

879
00:49:03,980 --> 00:49:07,730
So I was maybe 11
and 1/2 or something.

880
00:49:07,730 --> 00:49:10,400
And so I was sent there.

881
00:49:10,400 --> 00:49:12,920
I was registered in Munkács.

882
00:49:12,920 --> 00:49:19,160
But I told my mother that I
do not want to stay there.

883
00:49:19,160 --> 00:49:21,500
I want to come home every day.

884
00:49:21,500 --> 00:49:24,980
So you get the feeling of
how close it really was.

885
00:49:24,980 --> 00:49:26,270

Yeah, yeah.

886
00:49:26,270 --> 00:49:35,240
However, at that stage,
that was probably 1941, '42,

887
00:49:35,240 --> 00:49:38,600
the trains were
full of soldiers.

888
00:49:38,600 --> 00:49:44,720
And I think I was a
little country girl.

889
00:49:44,720 --> 00:49:49,730
I got up to the station,
railroad station in Bã³trÃ¡gy.

890
00:49:49,730 --> 00:49:54,440
It was a one track
station, tiny station.

891
00:49:54,440 --> 00:49:57,440
Very often the trains
stopped only for me.

892
00:49:57,440 --> 00:49:58,770
Nobody else was going.

893
00:49:58,770 --> 00:49:59,270
Wow.

894
00:49:59,270 --> 00:50:05,530
I would get on the train,
find all kinds of soldiers

895
00:50:05,530 --> 00:50:06,530
and whatnot.

896
00:50:06,530 --> 00:50:11,890
I would have to go one
station to Bã¡tyÃ°, to get off,

897

00:50:11,890 --> 00:50:15,040
and change stations, trains.

898

00:50:15,040 --> 00:50:19,840
I would have to run and find
the train that I needed to go

899

00:50:19,840 --> 00:50:24,370
to Munkács already waiting for
me after it was off the tracks.

900

00:50:24,370 --> 00:50:29,830
I would run and get on, continue
to Munkács, get off of there,

901

00:50:29,830 --> 00:50:35,890
and go probably a mile even
deeper into the city to that

902

00:50:35,890 --> 00:50:37,480
school, Hungarian school.

903

00:50:37,480 --> 00:50:39,850
That's quite a trek
for a young girl.

904

00:50:39,850 --> 00:50:42,640
Unbelievable if
I think about it.

905

00:50:42,640 --> 00:50:47,800
It's unbelievable that my mother
was expecting someone my age

906

00:50:47,800 --> 00:50:52,240
and my sophistication
to do that.

907

00:50:52,240 --> 00:50:57,130
At the end of school, I
would run to the station,

908

00:50:57,130 --> 00:51:02,350
catch my train, go as far
as BÃ¡tyÃ°, change trains,

909
00:51:02,350 --> 00:51:05,980
and go to BÃ³trÃ¡gy,
the next one stop.

910
00:51:05,980 --> 00:51:09,830
In the winter time, by the
time I got home, it was dark.

911
00:51:09,830 --> 00:51:10,330
Yeah.

912
00:51:10,330 --> 00:51:11,620
By the time I got--

913
00:51:11,620 --> 00:51:16,240
and I know that my mother
was plenty worried,

914
00:51:16,240 --> 00:51:17,590
although she didn't let on.

915
00:51:17,590 --> 00:51:22,000
But I know that she would
be at the gate running.

916
00:51:22,000 --> 00:51:24,850
I would come up come up
the road towards my house

917
00:51:24,850 --> 00:51:26,440
after I got out of
the train, and I

918
00:51:26,440 --> 00:51:28,480
would see her little
head bopping up and down

919
00:51:28,480 --> 00:51:29,800
behind the fence.

920
00:51:29,800 --> 00:51:31,870
She was running back
and forth to see

921
00:51:31,870 --> 00:51:34,060
if she could see me coming.

922
00:51:34,060 --> 00:51:36,250
But I wasn't stopped.

923
00:51:36,250 --> 00:51:39,100
And I simply did
not want to stay.

924
00:51:39,100 --> 00:51:41,890
My sister loved
staying away from home

925
00:51:41,890 --> 00:51:45,520
and being in the big city,
and she benefited from it.

926
00:51:45,520 --> 00:51:50,990
I, on looking back, I
was just a little girl

927
00:51:50,990 --> 00:51:53,390
who didn't want to leave home.

928
00:51:53,390 --> 00:51:55,340
Well, it's understandable.

929
00:51:55,340 --> 00:51:57,710
Because you're at
a very tender age.

930
00:51:57,710 --> 00:52:02,600
And I know that for many
children whose parents wanted

931
00:52:02,600 --> 00:52:06,800

them to have a higher
education in those years,

932
00:52:06,800 --> 00:52:10,910
in those parts of Europe, it
was really rough on the child

933
00:52:10,910 --> 00:52:14,300
when they had to, in order
to get that education,

934
00:52:14,300 --> 00:52:17,480
they essentially had to
leave their families.

935
00:52:17,480 --> 00:52:19,160
Yes.

936
00:52:19,160 --> 00:52:22,260
And it was tough on everybody.

937
00:52:22,260 --> 00:52:24,560
I just was adamant.

938
00:52:24,560 --> 00:52:27,290
Now, I did stay there.

939
00:52:27,290 --> 00:52:32,840
Friday when I went to school,
I stayed with my uncle's family

940
00:52:32,840 --> 00:52:36,980
on shabbos, because my parents
didn't want me to travel then.

941
00:52:36,980 --> 00:52:42,600
But there was school on
Saturday even at that level.

942
00:52:42,600 --> 00:52:45,200
So I would walk to
school in Munkács,

943

00:52:45,200 --> 00:52:48,170

but I wouldn't take the
train home on shabbos.

944

00:52:48,170 --> 00:52:49,060

No way.

945

00:52:49,060 --> 00:52:49,560

Yeah.

946

00:52:49,560 --> 00:52:51,080

So I would be there.

947

00:52:51,080 --> 00:52:54,590

And I had a wonderful time
with my uncle's and aunt's two

948

00:52:54,590 --> 00:52:55,640

little kids.

949

00:52:55,640 --> 00:52:58,760

They actually-- on
a Sunday, I remember

950

00:52:58,760 --> 00:53:02,270

they sent us off to a movie.

951

00:53:02,270 --> 00:53:04,400

The first movie I ever saw.

952

00:53:04,400 --> 00:53:05,990

Do you remember what it was?

953

00:53:05,990 --> 00:53:07,182

Yes, I do.

954

00:53:07,182 --> 00:53:07,682

What was it?

955

00:53:07,682 --> 00:53:08,084

What was it?

956
00:53:08,084 --> 00:53:08,890
What's the movie?

957
00:53:08,890 --> 00:53:14,750
It was like a Mutt and
Jeff type or something.

958
00:53:14,750 --> 00:53:17,230
But I was amazed.

959
00:53:17,230 --> 00:53:20,930
I was just mesmerized,
because it had sound

960
00:53:20,930 --> 00:53:22,650
and it had movement.

961
00:53:22,650 --> 00:53:24,480
I never saw anything like it.

962
00:53:24,480 --> 00:53:27,080
And they sent their
kids, two little kids.

963
00:53:27,080 --> 00:53:30,170
They were younger than
I was, but I was sort of

964
00:53:30,170 --> 00:53:32,270
like the chaperone.

965
00:53:32,270 --> 00:53:33,890
They dropped us
off, and we walked.

966
00:53:33,890 --> 00:53:35,780
I think we walked
to the theater.

967
00:53:35,780 --> 00:53:41,250
And so on Monday after

school, I went home.

968

00:53:41,250 --> 00:53:47,600

And so this was my routine
until the Hungarians took over

969

00:53:47,600 --> 00:53:51,470

and Jewish kids were
thrown out of school.

970

00:53:51,470 --> 00:53:54,350

But I thought you said it was
already a Hungarian school.

971

00:53:54,350 --> 00:53:56,360

So in which way
did they take over?

972

00:53:56,360 --> 00:53:59,740

973

00:53:59,740 --> 00:54:03,820

There was a Hungarian
school even while the Czechs

974

00:54:03,820 --> 00:54:05,470

were in charge.

975

00:54:05,470 --> 00:54:06,820

I see.

976

00:54:06,820 --> 00:54:09,280

In our town, they had Hungarian.

977

00:54:09,280 --> 00:54:13,000

In that little town, they had
Hungarian and Czech schools.

978

00:54:13,000 --> 00:54:13,720

No, no, no.

979

00:54:13,720 --> 00:54:16,610

I'm talking now about Munkács.

980
00:54:16,610 --> 00:54:17,260
Munkács.

981
00:54:17,260 --> 00:54:21,460
Well, there, too, there was
a Hungarian secondary school

982
00:54:21,460 --> 00:54:23,380
and there was the gymnasium.

983
00:54:23,380 --> 00:54:25,480
I know, but you
said you went there

984
00:54:25,480 --> 00:54:28,547
until the Hungarians took over.

985
00:54:28,547 --> 00:54:30,220
Yes, yes.

986
00:54:30,220 --> 00:54:31,270
Right, OK.

987
00:54:31,270 --> 00:54:39,640
So I think it must
have been '43.

988
00:54:39,640 --> 00:54:44,570
Well, actually the
Hungarians took over earlier.

989
00:54:44,570 --> 00:54:45,640
Yes.

990
00:54:45,640 --> 00:54:47,780
Yes, that's why I was confused.

991
00:54:47,780 --> 00:54:48,910
I see. '41.

992
00:54:48,910 --> 00:54:51,970
Well, it went on for a while.

993
00:54:51,970 --> 00:54:53,970
It went on for a while.

994
00:54:53,970 --> 00:54:58,240
My father's business also
wasn't confiscated immediately.

995
00:54:58,240 --> 00:54:59,560
They went on for a while.

996
00:54:59,560 --> 00:55:03,700
But when they finally
took over completely,

997
00:55:03,700 --> 00:55:06,790
the Czech schools
and the gymnasium

998
00:55:06,790 --> 00:55:10,090
eventually were eliminated.

999
00:55:10,090 --> 00:55:10,900
OK.

1000
00:55:10,900 --> 00:55:12,880
I'm going to step
back a little bit.

1001
00:55:12,880 --> 00:55:13,600
OK.

1002
00:55:13,600 --> 00:55:16,090
Let's step back, and
I want to find out--

1003
00:55:16,090 --> 00:55:17,860
I mean, we started
talking about--

1004

00:55:17,860 --> 00:55:21,320

1005

00:55:21,320 --> 00:55:26,390

we started talking about
how much politics was known,

1006

00:55:26,390 --> 00:55:31,180

how were people discussing
what was going on in Germany,

1007

00:55:31,180 --> 00:55:34,500

what kind of news and
knowledge was there?

1008

00:55:34,500 --> 00:55:37,580

And I remember you
had said something

1009

00:55:37,580 --> 00:55:40,400

that you remembered
where you were when

1010

00:55:40,400 --> 00:55:42,580

you learned the war started.

1011

00:55:42,580 --> 00:55:43,090

Yes.

1012

00:55:43,090 --> 00:55:46,970

So bring me back to
September 1, 1939.

1013

00:55:46,970 --> 00:55:49,370

What it means is
that's less than a year

1014

00:55:49,370 --> 00:55:52,070

after Hungary has
taken over your part

1015

00:55:52,070 --> 00:55:54,440

of the world, your hometown.

1016

00:55:54,440 --> 00:55:57,590

It's now part of Hungary.

1017

00:55:57,590 --> 00:56:02,430

You are still going to your
local Hungarian school.

1018

00:56:02,430 --> 00:56:04,080

Yes.

1019

00:56:04,080 --> 00:56:05,450

I was nine years old.

1020

00:56:05,450 --> 00:56:07,160

Yeah, fill me in.

1021

00:56:07,160 --> 00:56:08,570

What happened?

1022

00:56:08,570 --> 00:56:10,100

Where were you?

1023

00:56:10,100 --> 00:56:15,020

Even then, as I said, my father
came home every day with all

1024

00:56:15,020 --> 00:56:22,400

the information that they
discussed and heard in BÃ¡tyÃ°.

1025

00:56:22,400 --> 00:56:25,970

Every day, he discussed
it with my mother.

1026

00:56:25,970 --> 00:56:29,810

And everybody, the kids we
heard, we knew everything.

1027

00:56:29,810 --> 00:56:40,800

We were not-- actually,

sometimes in the town hall,

1028

00:56:40,800 --> 00:56:47,940

the Hungarians would put a radio
outside in the building there.

1029

00:56:47,940 --> 00:56:50,670

And it was blaring news.

1030

00:56:50,670 --> 00:56:55,710

And the news was the propaganda
of Hungary and the Nazis.

1031

00:56:55,710 --> 00:56:59,670

And there we could even hear
Hitler ranting and raving

1032

00:56:59,670 --> 00:57:04,740

against the Jews in the
town from that public radio

1033

00:57:04,740 --> 00:57:05,910

that they put out.

1034

00:57:05,910 --> 00:57:07,690

In German.

1035

00:57:07,690 --> 00:57:08,400

No.

1036

00:57:08,400 --> 00:57:09,990

Well, yes, in German, right.

1037

00:57:09,990 --> 00:57:11,580

But that wasn't a problem.

1038

00:57:11,580 --> 00:57:13,470

But also Hungarians,
they were very

1039

00:57:13,470 --> 00:57:16,980

happy to be blaring

out the anti-Semitic,

1040
00:57:16,980 --> 00:57:23,100
anti-Jewish accusations and
talking about how the war was

1041
00:57:23,100 --> 00:57:26,640
being won, how
they were winning,

1042
00:57:26,640 --> 00:57:30,750
and how they were defeating
the Allies, and a lot of lies.

1043
00:57:30,750 --> 00:57:32,640
But we listened
to it, and I know

1044
00:57:32,640 --> 00:57:36,870
that it was from the
grown-ups and it was normal.

1045
00:57:36,870 --> 00:57:39,960
Everything you heard
in that propaganda

1046
00:57:39,960 --> 00:57:43,740
was immediately translated
to the opposite.

1047
00:57:43,740 --> 00:57:49,440
If they said that the
Allies lost so many thousand

1048
00:57:49,440 --> 00:57:53,310
in a certain battle, we
immediately turned it around

1049
00:57:53,310 --> 00:57:57,450
and said, no, it was they
themselves who lost all those.

1050
00:57:57,450 --> 00:58:01,350

Most of the time we were right,
because they exaggerated.

1051
00:58:01,350 --> 00:58:05,300
We were fully informed,
but as to when

1052
00:58:05,300 --> 00:58:08,910
I was when I heard
about the war, sorry,

1053
00:58:08,910 --> 00:58:13,590
I was saying that I was
playing alongside my house.

1054
00:58:13,590 --> 00:58:15,240
On the wall there,
I was bouncing

1055
00:58:15,240 --> 00:58:18,090
the ball against the
wall and counting

1056
00:58:18,090 --> 00:58:20,340
to see how many
times I can bounce it

1057
00:58:20,340 --> 00:58:22,320
before it fell to the ground.

1058
00:58:22,320 --> 00:58:25,950
That was kind of the aim,
not to drop the ball.

1059
00:58:25,950 --> 00:58:31,170
And as I was doing that, one
of the Jewish young teenager

1060
00:58:31,170 --> 00:58:39,720
came running into my yard and
saying that Germany invaded

1061
00:58:39,720 --> 00:58:41,970

Poland, and the war started.

1062

00:58:41,970 --> 00:58:43,710

I remember it vividly.

1063

00:58:43,710 --> 00:58:48,070

And my mother heard it,
and my father heard it.

1064

00:58:48,070 --> 00:58:49,980

I don't know exactly
where he was,

1065

00:58:49,980 --> 00:58:53,700

but we all understood
that that happened,

1066

00:58:53,700 --> 00:58:58,290

and everybody was very
upset and worried.

1067

00:58:58,290 --> 00:59:07,110

Because they understood
from the rantings of Hitler

1068

00:59:07,110 --> 00:59:10,680

what was going on with
the Jews in Germany

1069

00:59:10,680 --> 00:59:16,650

and how they were being deported
and all the laws against them

1070

00:59:16,650 --> 00:59:18,090

and all the propaganda.

1071

00:59:18,090 --> 00:59:22,650

And we heard what was going
on in Poland later on.

1072

00:59:22,650 --> 00:59:24,960

You know what was
going on with the Jews.

1073
00:59:24,960 --> 00:59:27,930
And the Czechs were already
thrown out and so on.

1074
00:59:27,930 --> 00:59:31,680
We knew that this
was very bad news.

1075
00:59:31,680 --> 00:59:32,580
But we heard it.

1076
00:59:32,580 --> 00:59:33,570
We knew it.

1077
00:59:33,570 --> 00:59:34,860
I remember it.

1078
00:59:34,860 --> 00:59:38,220
I was aware of it.

1079
00:59:38,220 --> 00:59:41,370
And so were all the Jews,
whether they had a radio

1080
00:59:41,370 --> 00:59:42,510
or not.

1081
00:59:42,510 --> 00:59:48,690
How did your lives
change in concrete ways

1082
00:59:48,690 --> 00:59:51,770
after September 1, '39?

1083
00:59:51,770 --> 00:59:52,770
Yes.

1084
00:59:52,770 --> 00:59:56,670
Well, some of these
Nuremberg type laws

1085

00:59:56,670 --> 01:00:00,210

that Hungary instituted
didn't happen right away.

1086

01:00:00,210 --> 01:00:03,250

My father's business
continued, and the businesses

1087

01:00:03,250 --> 01:00:11,220

in Beregszsz and my
grandfather's, it continued.

1088

01:00:11,220 --> 01:00:13,500

Even the school
continued a little bit.

1089

01:00:13,500 --> 01:00:22,020

But very quickly these
laws became effective.

1090

01:00:22,020 --> 01:00:29,550

And so after a very short
time, I no longer commuted

1091

01:00:29,550 --> 01:00:31,460

to Munkcs.

1092

01:00:31,460 --> 01:00:33,710

For a little while
I did, because I

1093

01:00:33,710 --> 01:00:36,200

know that the Hungarian--

1094

01:00:36,200 --> 01:00:40,470

the trains were full
of Hungarian soldiers.

1095

01:00:40,470 --> 01:00:44,600

And then very soon
after that we were

1096

01:00:44,600 --> 01:00:47,900
having to wear the yellow star.

1097
01:00:47,900 --> 01:00:52,140
Do you know about what year
had to start wearing the star?

1098
01:00:52,140 --> 01:00:55,020
How old you were when
you started wearing it?

1099
01:00:55,020 --> 01:01:03,000
Well, I was already
commuting on the train.

1100
01:01:03,000 --> 01:01:04,410
I went a few times.

1101
01:01:04,410 --> 01:01:07,290
So when did I go?

1102
01:01:07,290 --> 01:01:08,250
Oh, gosh.

1103
01:01:08,250 --> 01:01:11,200
It was maybe '40--

1104
01:01:11,200 --> 01:01:15,880
maybe '43, '42, '43.

1105
01:01:15,880 --> 01:01:18,740
By '44 we were deported.

1106
01:01:18,740 --> 01:01:26,200
So it's not clear to me exactly
whether it was '43 or '42.

1107
01:01:26,200 --> 01:01:27,220
Maybe '43.

1108
01:01:27,220 --> 01:01:28,600
Yeah.

1109
01:01:28,600 --> 01:01:33,940
So I remember that
the law went out

1110
01:01:33,940 --> 01:01:36,230
that we have to wear
the yellow star.

1111
01:01:36,230 --> 01:01:39,250
And I remember that
my mother and my aunt

1112
01:01:39,250 --> 01:01:42,730
basically made those.

1113
01:01:42,730 --> 01:01:47,050
She cut out from yellow cloth.

1114
01:01:47,050 --> 01:01:48,040
Yeah.

1115
01:01:48,040 --> 01:01:53,550
And I remember
that they didn't--

1116
01:01:53,550 --> 01:02:00,570
my mother and aunt didn't sew
it on, on our outer garment,

1117
01:02:00,570 --> 01:02:02,190
especially for me.

1118
01:02:02,190 --> 01:02:04,540
They pinned it on.

1119
01:02:04,540 --> 01:02:08,940
And so I remember
I didn't pin it

1120
01:02:08,940 --> 01:02:14,180
on while I was walking

to the train station.

1121
01:02:14,180 --> 01:02:18,180
Or if I did pin it on
walking to the train station,

1122
01:02:18,180 --> 01:02:21,630
I took it off when
the train arrived.

1123
01:02:21,630 --> 01:02:23,550
I didn't want to
get on the train

1124
01:02:23,550 --> 01:02:27,120
with that, because I was afraid.

1125
01:02:27,120 --> 01:02:31,050
And when I got to the
city, I didn't put it

1126
01:02:31,050 --> 01:02:34,890
on because nobody knew me
there that I was Jewish or not.

1127
01:02:34,890 --> 01:02:38,130
So I was back and forth
with the yellow star,

1128
01:02:38,130 --> 01:02:42,210
pinning it on, taking it off,
because it wasn't sewn on.

1129
01:02:42,210 --> 01:02:44,760
So those were one of the
things that they did.

1130
01:02:44,760 --> 01:02:48,990
And then very soon
after that, Jewish kids

1131
01:02:48,990 --> 01:02:51,210
were not allowed to go

to Hungarian schools.

1132
01:02:51,210 --> 01:02:53,130
And so we sat at home.

1133
01:02:53,130 --> 01:02:54,870
The kids didn't go to school.

1134
01:02:54,870 --> 01:02:58,050
But my father's business
continued a little longer.

1135
01:02:58,050 --> 01:03:02,730
And then that was confiscated,
and then he sat at home.

1136
01:03:02,730 --> 01:03:06,150
And then did all the
yard work and farm

1137
01:03:06,150 --> 01:03:07,590
that you were talking about.

1138
01:03:07,590 --> 01:03:11,560
He took care of what
needed to be taken care of.

1139
01:03:11,560 --> 01:03:18,270
But in addition to that, he
you know the talk of politics

1140
01:03:18,270 --> 01:03:19,290
continued.

1141
01:03:19,290 --> 01:03:22,380
Then instead of him
meeting with many

1142
01:03:22,380 --> 01:03:26,940
of the Jewish men in
his office and business,

1143

01:03:26,940 --> 01:03:32,130
there were a few Jewish men
in town who came to our house,

1144
01:03:32,130 --> 01:03:35,340
and they sat around and
talked about politics.

1145
01:03:35,340 --> 01:03:37,720
But everybody knew.

1146
01:03:37,720 --> 01:03:42,430
There was sort of an
underground type of thing.

1147
01:03:42,430 --> 01:03:45,670
And in Běty, I
remember in those days,

1148
01:03:45,670 --> 01:03:49,900
I would spend some time in
Běty at my grandparents'.

1149
01:03:49,900 --> 01:03:55,330
And I would hear from my
young uncles and aunts.

1150
01:03:55,330 --> 01:03:58,600
They had a lot of connections
with other young people,

1151
01:03:58,600 --> 01:04:01,540
and they actually listened--

1152
01:04:01,540 --> 01:04:03,320
it was very dangerous.

1153
01:04:03,320 --> 01:04:11,230
They listened to BBC secretly in
homes where people had a radio.

1154
01:04:11,230 --> 01:04:18,098
And it was very much barred.

1155
01:04:18,098 --> 01:04:19,390
I don't know what that word is.

1156
01:04:19,390 --> 01:04:20,050
Sure.

1157
01:04:20,050 --> 01:04:20,620
Forbidden.

1158
01:04:20,620 --> 01:04:22,300
It was forbidden.

1159
01:04:22,300 --> 01:04:25,330
But the sound, the sound
was practically impossible.

1160
01:04:25,330 --> 01:04:30,730
They were trying to not
allow it to come through.

1161
01:04:30,730 --> 01:04:32,185
Oh, I know what you mean.

1162
01:04:32,185 --> 01:04:33,580
You know that?

1163
01:04:33,580 --> 01:04:34,420
I think.

1164
01:04:34,420 --> 01:04:37,090
So basically what
you heard was noise.

1165
01:04:37,090 --> 01:04:38,260
It was jammed.

1166
01:04:38,260 --> 01:04:39,537
The radio signals were jammed.

1167
01:04:39,537 --> 01:04:40,120

Jammed, right.

1168
01:04:40,120 --> 01:04:41,740
It was heavily jammed.

1169
01:04:41,740 --> 01:04:44,020
I once heard it
for a few minutes

1170
01:04:44,020 --> 01:04:47,140
with my aunt who was
going to this house,

1171
01:04:47,140 --> 01:04:49,870
and secretly they
would meet in the homes

1172
01:04:49,870 --> 01:04:51,190
where there were radios.

1173
01:04:51,190 --> 01:04:54,730
And it was jammed
in such a way that--

1174
01:04:54,730 --> 01:04:56,990
sort of a grinding noise.

1175
01:04:56,990 --> 01:04:57,490
Yeah.

1176
01:04:57,490 --> 01:04:58,880
But they managed.

1177
01:04:58,880 --> 01:05:02,350
They managed to get
important information,

1178
01:05:02,350 --> 01:05:05,650
and they continued to do
that, listen to the BBC.

1179
01:05:05,650 --> 01:05:08,320

And some had better
radios and so on.

1180
01:05:08,320 --> 01:05:10,820
So people were informed.

1181
01:05:10,820 --> 01:05:11,570
But did they know?

1182
01:05:11,570 --> 01:05:13,150
Did you know about--

1183
01:05:13,150 --> 01:05:17,150
did you know about
the murders of Jews?

1184
01:05:17,150 --> 01:05:18,700
Did you know about Auschwitz?

1185
01:05:18,700 --> 01:05:20,905
Did you know about the
concentration camps?

1186
01:05:20,905 --> 01:05:22,130
No, no, no, no.

1187
01:05:22,130 --> 01:05:24,460
We didn't know about
Auschwitz when we

1188
01:05:24,460 --> 01:05:27,100
arrived in Auschwitz in 1944.

1189
01:05:27,100 --> 01:05:29,330
We had no idea there
was an Auschwitz.

1190
01:05:29,330 --> 01:05:31,420
Never heard the name ever, ever.

1191
01:05:31,420 --> 01:05:33,940
So when you're saying

they were informed,

1192
01:05:33,940 --> 01:05:37,060
it was only up to
a certain point.

1193
01:05:37,060 --> 01:05:39,550
Well you know it's amazing.

1194
01:05:39,550 --> 01:05:43,750
Auschwitz was a secret to--

1195
01:05:43,750 --> 01:05:47,680
I would say, to a large
non-Jewish population.

1196
01:05:47,680 --> 01:05:49,630
I don't know how
that was possible,

1197
01:05:49,630 --> 01:05:52,750
but Auschwitz was a secret.

1198
01:05:52,750 --> 01:05:55,490
Now, the Jewish
leaders knew about it.

1199
01:05:55,490 --> 01:05:58,480
I don't know when, how
soon they knew about it,

1200
01:05:58,480 --> 01:06:02,410
the Jewish leadership.

1201
01:06:02,410 --> 01:06:06,280
But they didn't tell the
Jewish population about it.

1202
01:06:06,280 --> 01:06:07,180
I see.

1203
01:06:07,180 --> 01:06:08,830

You see, the reason I'm asking--

1204
01:06:08,830 --> 01:06:12,840
I'm trying to get
a sense of what one

1205
01:06:12,840 --> 01:06:15,360
did know, what one didn't know.

1206
01:06:15,360 --> 01:06:23,940
And to quantify when you say
when people were well-informed,

1207
01:06:23,940 --> 01:06:26,350
what did that specifically mean?

1208
01:06:26,350 --> 01:06:31,020
Like earlier you had said,
again this was not on tape,

1209
01:06:31,020 --> 01:06:33,780
but you were told
me about a lady who

1210
01:06:33,780 --> 01:06:39,600
escaped Poland and came to your
village, and people hid her.

1211
01:06:39,600 --> 01:06:40,230
Yes.

1212
01:06:40,230 --> 01:06:43,630
And yes, she did
sell tell things.

1213
01:06:43,630 --> 01:06:49,810
And first of all, they
didn't believe all of it.

1214
01:06:49,810 --> 01:06:51,510
They thought it was
an exaggeration.

1215

01:06:51,510 --> 01:06:53,100

Couldn't possibly be so bad.

1216

01:06:53,100 --> 01:06:54,270

Couldn't possibly.

1217

01:06:54,270 --> 01:06:55,470

What was she saying?

1218

01:06:55,470 --> 01:06:57,940

What was she telling people?

1219

01:06:57,940 --> 01:07:00,550

She was mainly
talking about Poland.

1220

01:07:00,550 --> 01:07:03,250

She came from
Poland, that people

1221

01:07:03,250 --> 01:07:08,560

were being shot in the forests
and burning down synagogues,

1222

01:07:08,560 --> 01:07:15,700

and that there were
massacres of people, hundreds

1223

01:07:15,700 --> 01:07:20,950

of people, families taken to
the forest and shot into graves.

1224

01:07:20,950 --> 01:07:26,470

And that's what we heard, and
that they were being taken,

1225

01:07:26,470 --> 01:07:29,090

deported somewhere, too.

1226

01:07:29,090 --> 01:07:36,400

But it wasn't-- our excuse
was that we were not Germans,

1227
01:07:36,400 --> 01:07:38,080
and we were not Polish.

1228
01:07:38,080 --> 01:07:39,655
We were Hungarians.

1229
01:07:39,655 --> 01:07:42,070
The Hungarian government.

1230
01:07:42,070 --> 01:07:44,020
This is not the same country.

1231
01:07:44,020 --> 01:07:46,030
We don't have the same regime.

1232
01:07:46,030 --> 01:07:49,030
Hungarian government is
not doing this to us.

1233
01:07:49,030 --> 01:07:51,970
Yes, they are doing some things,
taking away some of our rights,

1234
01:07:51,970 --> 01:07:57,340
and property, and movement,
but actually they're

1235
01:07:57,340 --> 01:07:59,740
not going to do anything
like that to us.

1236
01:07:59,740 --> 01:08:01,780
But you know, there
was such a denial.

1237
01:08:01,780 --> 01:08:04,660
If I think back,
there were many ways

1238
01:08:04,660 --> 01:08:08,140
that even the general public

knew more than I'm telling you,

1239

01:08:08,140 --> 01:08:12,600

because they began to--

1240

01:08:12,600 --> 01:08:17,040

the Hungarian government

in 1941 already

1241

01:08:17,040 --> 01:08:21,390

was looking and

finding and deporting

1242

01:08:21,390 --> 01:08:26,250

every Jewish person who lived

there but wasn't a citizen.

1243

01:08:26,250 --> 01:08:30,390

There were a lot of Polish

Jews who had settled in Hungary

1244

01:08:30,390 --> 01:08:33,590

and lived there for years

and even had businesses.

1245

01:08:33,590 --> 01:08:38,040

And all of a sudden,

they were thrown out,

1246

01:08:38,040 --> 01:08:45,890

and they were searched and found

and simply taken to the border,

1247

01:08:45,890 --> 01:08:49,810

to the Polish border, and

thrown across the border.

1248

01:08:49,810 --> 01:08:51,939

And then we heard

from these few who

1249

01:08:51,939 --> 01:08:54,580

escaped that they

were massacred,

1250
01:08:54,580 --> 01:09:00,609
and that they were killed,
and that you had to--

1251
01:09:00,609 --> 01:09:03,830
So deportation meant
death, in other words.

1252
01:09:03,830 --> 01:09:05,109
Yes, absolutely.

1253
01:09:05,109 --> 01:09:06,910
And so we knew.

1254
01:09:06,910 --> 01:09:14,710
And they were-- so we knew that
thousands of Jews who lived

1255
01:09:14,710 --> 01:09:17,050
in Hungary--

1256
01:09:17,050 --> 01:09:18,670
we could witness that.

1257
01:09:18,670 --> 01:09:19,790
People disappeared.

1258
01:09:19,790 --> 01:09:22,270
They weren't hiding, really.

1259
01:09:22,270 --> 01:09:24,010
They were taken away.

1260
01:09:24,010 --> 01:09:27,729
And because they
weren't citizens.

1261
01:09:27,729 --> 01:09:32,680
And one thing-- that's 1941--

1262

01:09:32,680 --> 01:09:36,430

that my father
concluded, I suppose

1263

01:09:36,430 --> 01:09:44,890

he knew that it was essential
to be sure that we are citizens.

1264

01:09:44,890 --> 01:09:48,460

Because even if you lived
there many years and you

1265

01:09:48,460 --> 01:09:53,479

weren't a citizen,
they took you, too.

1266

01:09:53,479 --> 01:09:56,540

So was that a question
for your family?

1267

01:09:56,540 --> 01:09:58,480

Yes, it was a big question.

1268

01:09:58,480 --> 01:10:04,540

Because it seems that
it wasn't like here.

1269

01:10:04,540 --> 01:10:06,400

If you're born here,
you're a citizen.

1270

01:10:06,400 --> 01:10:07,240

Yes.

1271

01:10:07,240 --> 01:10:09,100

It wasn't like that at all.

1272

01:10:09,100 --> 01:10:12,580

You had to qualify
to be a citizen

1273

01:10:12,580 --> 01:10:16,690

and have a piece of paper,
especially if you were a Jew.

1274
01:10:16,690 --> 01:10:21,070
If you were a Hungarian
farmer, they didn't request it.

1275
01:10:21,070 --> 01:10:22,300
Of a Jew, yes.

1276
01:10:22,300 --> 01:10:28,540
So my father decided he has
to get his paper citizenship.

1277
01:10:28,540 --> 01:10:34,240
And he began to
lay the groundwork,

1278
01:10:34,240 --> 01:10:36,340
go about getting that.

1279
01:10:36,340 --> 01:10:38,800
And it took him
about six months,

1280
01:10:38,800 --> 01:10:42,430
and it was a very
important part in our life.

1281
01:10:42,430 --> 01:10:47,420
It seems that he went
from office to office,

1282
01:10:47,420 --> 01:10:50,300
searching for proof.

1283
01:10:50,300 --> 01:10:52,310
What did he have to prove?

1284
01:10:52,310 --> 01:10:55,880
First, not that he was
born there or his father

1285

01:10:55,880 --> 01:10:56,640
was born there.

1286

01:10:56,640 --> 01:10:58,220
That didn't qualify.

1287

01:10:58,220 --> 01:11:04,660
He found evidence that
his father paid taxes,

1288

01:11:04,660 --> 01:11:10,600
and that qualified him as
being eligible for citizenship.

1289

01:11:10,600 --> 01:11:12,790
And he followed that trail.

1290

01:11:12,790 --> 01:11:17,830
Now, I don't know the details
of how many taxes, when he paid

1291

01:11:17,830 --> 01:11:22,850
taxes, but it must have been
in Austro-Hungarian time way

1292

01:11:22,850 --> 01:11:23,350
before.

1293

01:11:23,350 --> 01:11:24,070
Yes, yes.

1294

01:11:24,070 --> 01:11:27,940
And he found that
evidence in some office,

1295

01:11:27,940 --> 01:11:29,410
and he went with that.

1296

01:11:29,410 --> 01:11:32,980
But here he was a
Jewish man in 1941,

1297

01:11:32,980 --> 01:11:37,720
where he had to go to Hungarian
offices, from office to office.

1298

01:11:37,720 --> 01:11:42,140
He ended up going
to Budapest for it.

1299

01:11:42,140 --> 01:11:42,965
My goodness.

1300

01:11:42,965 --> 01:11:44,770
He really set out.

1301

01:11:44,770 --> 01:11:48,940
And I wish I knew
more details, but why

1302

01:11:48,940 --> 01:11:52,840
he had to go all the way to
Budapest is amazing to me,

1303

01:11:52,840 --> 01:11:55,120
and that he actually went.

1304

01:11:55,120 --> 01:11:58,690
And he spent a lot of money
going from office to office.

1305

01:11:58,690 --> 01:12:02,140
It must have been a
terrible ordeal for him.

1306

01:12:02,140 --> 01:12:03,100
He was Jewish.

1307

01:12:03,100 --> 01:12:04,510
He had a beard.

1308

01:12:04,510 --> 01:12:07,960
Nobody welcomed him in
any of those offices,

1309
01:12:07,960 --> 01:12:09,640
Hungarian offices.

1310
01:12:09,640 --> 01:12:13,610
But he came back with
a paper citizenship.

1311
01:12:13,610 --> 01:12:18,850
And when he came back with that,
my parents said "we're safe.

1312
01:12:18,850 --> 01:12:19,600
That's it.

1313
01:12:19,600 --> 01:12:21,130
We are safe.

1314
01:12:21,130 --> 01:12:23,110
We are not going to be evicted.

1315
01:12:23,110 --> 01:12:24,550
We have what we need."

1316
01:12:24,550 --> 01:12:26,230
Oh my goodness.

1317
01:12:26,230 --> 01:12:31,030
So that paper was not only good
for him, but for your mother

1318
01:12:31,030 --> 01:12:32,620
and for all of you children.

1319
01:12:32,620 --> 01:12:33,470
The whole family.

1320
01:12:33,470 --> 01:12:33,970
Oh, yeah.

1321
01:12:33,970 --> 01:12:35,250

It covered you.

1322

01:12:35,250 --> 01:12:38,620

Yeah, the family
had a citizenship.

1323

01:12:38,620 --> 01:12:41,050

And I remember how relieved.

1324

01:12:41,050 --> 01:12:45,220

And I remember as children,
we heard it all how even--

1325

01:12:45,220 --> 01:12:50,230

I remember I heard my parents
were relieved and happy,

1326

01:12:50,230 --> 01:12:51,940

we kids were relieved and happy.

1327

01:12:51,940 --> 01:12:52,870

We're safe.

1328

01:12:52,870 --> 01:12:54,160

Yeah, yeah.

1329

01:12:54,160 --> 01:13:00,460

And other Jews in the town
who came from Poland some time

1330

01:13:00,460 --> 01:13:02,560

before, they were worried.

1331

01:13:02,560 --> 01:13:04,630

They were plenty worried.

1332

01:13:04,630 --> 01:13:05,530

And then there were--

1333

01:13:05,530 --> 01:13:11,350

I'll tell you an incident that
happened to my mother's sister,

1334
01:13:11,350 --> 01:13:14,290
Rose, who ended up
with us in Auschwitz,

1335
01:13:14,290 --> 01:13:20,830
who was living in Bã;tyã°.

1336
01:13:20,830 --> 01:13:26,830
But half the year she
spent in the other property

1337
01:13:26,830 --> 01:13:28,690
in the mountains.

1338
01:13:28,690 --> 01:13:32,200
And the other half
the year her sister

1339
01:13:32,200 --> 01:13:35,590
spent there, because
they had to have someone

1340
01:13:35,590 --> 01:13:39,770
to run all that
property and workers.

1341
01:13:39,770 --> 01:13:45,310
So this is your maternal
grandfather's initial holdings,

1342
01:13:45,310 --> 01:13:47,350
before he comes to Bã;tyã°.

1343
01:13:47,350 --> 01:13:51,220
This is what he had made
his money on, this property.

1344
01:13:51,220 --> 01:13:52,360
Yes.

1345
01:13:52,360 --> 01:13:53,630

Initially, he did.

1346

01:13:53,630 --> 01:13:57,700

And so he didn't sell that
when he moved to BÃ;tyÃ° and took

1347

01:13:57,700 --> 01:13:59,620

the mill.

1348

01:13:59,620 --> 01:14:05,120

He sent one of his
daughters, two alternating,

1349

01:14:05,120 --> 01:14:07,440

to run that property.

1350

01:14:07,440 --> 01:14:10,200

And somebody needed to be there.

1351

01:14:10,200 --> 01:14:17,850

And so my aunt Rosie
was there in 1942.

1352

01:14:17,850 --> 01:14:25,400

And some local official in
that very, very small town

1353

01:14:25,400 --> 01:14:28,620

had some kind of a
grudge against her.

1354

01:14:28,620 --> 01:14:33,360

But in that town,
there were these Jews

1355

01:14:33,360 --> 01:14:38,580

who had lived there for
years, but were not citizens.

1356

01:14:38,580 --> 01:14:44,100

So there this local official
was getting those Jews together

1357

01:14:44,100 --> 01:14:45,300
to deport them.

1358

01:14:45,300 --> 01:14:46,320
I don't know how many.

1359

01:14:46,320 --> 01:14:48,750
Not too many were
there, but who was there

1360

01:14:48,750 --> 01:14:51,780
they got them together,
put them on a train.

1361

01:14:51,780 --> 01:14:56,550
And because he had some kind of
a grudge against Rosie, Rose,

1362

01:14:56,550 --> 01:15:01,410
he nabbed her, too, and took
her, put her in the train,

1363

01:15:01,410 --> 01:15:03,570
and deported her
with the others.

1364

01:15:03,570 --> 01:15:04,540
Wow.

1365

01:15:04,540 --> 01:15:06,780
That was in 1942.

1366

01:15:06,780 --> 01:15:12,290
And that was the
beginning of the biggest

1367

01:15:12,290 --> 01:15:17,030
tragedy of my grandfather's
life up to that point.

1368

01:15:17,030 --> 01:15:20,520
Because he still had

not lost the mill.

1369

01:15:20,520 --> 01:15:27,080

His children were
still young guys.

1370

01:15:27,080 --> 01:15:33,020

I don't quite remember whether
it coincided with the time

1371

01:15:33,020 --> 01:15:38,000

where the young Jewish men were
already taken into labor camps.

1372

01:15:38,000 --> 01:15:40,220

But they were not
concentration camps.

1373

01:15:40,220 --> 01:15:43,270

They were the labor brigade.

1374

01:15:43,270 --> 01:15:47,300

And it might have
coincided with that.

1375

01:15:47,300 --> 01:15:50,930

Because later on, my
father was taken also

1376

01:15:50,930 --> 01:15:54,320

into this labor camp,
and some of the older

1377

01:15:54,320 --> 01:15:56,210

sons of my grandfather.

1378

01:15:56,210 --> 01:16:00,560

So you see it began to
affect us very badly.

1379

01:16:00,560 --> 01:16:09,440

But to take Rosie, Rose, from
that place for no reason,

1380
01:16:09,440 --> 01:16:13,610
it was devastating.

1381
01:16:13,610 --> 01:16:16,728
What happened to her
when she was taken?

1382
01:16:16,728 --> 01:16:17,770
Oh, what happened to her?

1383
01:16:17,770 --> 01:16:21,830
That she was in this train
with all the other Jews,

1384
01:16:21,830 --> 01:16:24,350
being taken to
the Polish border.

1385
01:16:24,350 --> 01:16:28,325
Her train took
her through Bãjtyã°.

1386
01:16:28,325 --> 01:16:33,620
And she apparently dropped
out a note in Bãjtyã°.

1387
01:16:33,620 --> 01:16:37,940
The train stood in Bãjtyã°
for some time on the tracks.

1388
01:16:37,940 --> 01:16:43,430
And foolishly she didn't make a
noise, and she didn't protest.

1389
01:16:43,430 --> 01:16:48,390
I don't know what the
circumstances were,

1390
01:16:48,390 --> 01:16:50,130
but she dropped the note.

1391

01:16:50,130 --> 01:16:53,190
And the note got to her parents.

1392
01:16:53,190 --> 01:16:56,520
And then they
realized she was gone.

1393
01:16:56,520 --> 01:17:04,005
And it was like, OK,
they lost a child.

1394
01:17:04,005 --> 01:17:09,940
And she was maybe
25 or something.

1395
01:17:09,940 --> 01:17:12,640
I mean, horrible,
absolutely horrible.

1396
01:17:12,640 --> 01:17:15,400
And you don't know what
happened to her then?

1397
01:17:15,400 --> 01:17:17,500
Well, a long story, actually.

1398
01:17:17,500 --> 01:17:20,305
My grandfather--
and I wish Rosie--

1399
01:17:20,305 --> 01:17:21,970
I forgot to tell
you ahead of time.

1400
01:17:21,970 --> 01:17:22,750
She survived.

1401
01:17:22,750 --> 01:17:24,830
She ended up in Auschwitz.

1402
01:17:24,830 --> 01:17:29,720
And he had a great influence
on my survival and my sister's

1403
01:17:29,720 --> 01:17:31,248
survival.

1404
01:17:31,248 --> 01:17:32,670
OK.

1405
01:17:32,670 --> 01:17:38,200
But in the meantime, how my
grandfather managed to get her

1406
01:17:38,200 --> 01:17:44,400
back is a story that my father
would come home every day from

1407
01:17:44,400 --> 01:17:48,470
BÃ¡tyÃ° and tell us the latest
on how the search for her

1408
01:17:48,470 --> 01:17:49,890
proceeded.

1409
01:17:49,890 --> 01:17:51,810
He hired people.

1410
01:17:51,810 --> 01:17:58,230
Again, he had money to hire
people and even hire a lawyer.

1411
01:17:58,230 --> 01:18:05,160
And they began a search in where
these people were dropped off.

1412
01:18:05,160 --> 01:18:11,070
And apparently when she was
dropped across the border,

1413
01:18:11,070 --> 01:18:13,860
many others were dropped
across the border.

1414
01:18:13,860 --> 01:18:18,870

And the Jews in those towns would try their best

1415
01:18:18,870 --> 01:18:23,130
to take them in before the Nazis got a hold of them.

1416
01:18:23,130 --> 01:18:27,300
Often they didn't survive, you know, succeed.

1417
01:18:27,300 --> 01:18:34,420
But they took in those people, gave them shelter.

1418
01:18:34,420 --> 01:18:39,880
And she was picked up by a family and taken in.

1419
01:18:39,880 --> 01:18:44,410
Now, how then she managed to communicate

1420
01:18:44,410 --> 01:18:48,220
with what my grandfather was doing from the other end,

1421
01:18:48,220 --> 01:18:49,180
but they did.

1422
01:18:49,180 --> 01:18:50,860
They found her.

1423
01:18:50,860 --> 01:18:53,140
They contacted her.

1424
01:18:53,140 --> 01:18:59,500
They sent people in who were able to go there

1425
01:18:59,500 --> 01:19:02,980
in sort of an underground way.

1426

01:19:02,980 --> 01:19:07,300

The story goes that
she and some others

1427

01:19:07,300 --> 01:19:11,170

tried to go back the
border, sneak back.

1428

01:19:11,170 --> 01:19:15,640

And some made it, and some
were caught in the fields.

1429

01:19:15,640 --> 01:19:17,560

They went through the farmland.

1430

01:19:17,560 --> 01:19:19,450

They dressed like peasants.

1431

01:19:19,450 --> 01:19:24,100

They had farming
tools in their hands,

1432

01:19:24,100 --> 01:19:27,340

and they kept going
closer to the border.

1433

01:19:27,340 --> 01:19:31,270

See, I don't know the
geography, but she said that--

1434

01:19:31,270 --> 01:19:33,370

later on when she
got back, she said

1435

01:19:33,370 --> 01:19:35,590

that she went with
a group of people

1436

01:19:35,590 --> 01:19:38,110

in the fields
towards the border.

1437

01:19:38,110 --> 01:19:43,090
And some were shot, the
very people she went with.

1438
01:19:43,090 --> 01:19:45,760
She managed to get
across the border,

1439
01:19:45,760 --> 01:19:52,450
and somehow get on a train
and ended up in Budapest.

1440
01:19:52,450 --> 01:19:55,900
And she was able to
communicate with her parents.

1441
01:19:55,900 --> 01:20:03,580
But rescuing her came from
home, from her parents.

1442
01:20:03,580 --> 01:20:06,890
And how that worked, I
don't know the details.

1443
01:20:06,890 --> 01:20:09,850
But that's an incredible story.

1444
01:20:09,850 --> 01:20:13,630
Yes, it is incredible,
because some of the people

1445
01:20:13,630 --> 01:20:18,550
that she was with trying
to do this escape,

1446
01:20:18,550 --> 01:20:20,530
she said didn't make it.

1447
01:20:20,530 --> 01:20:27,520
And then after she came back,
she did not come back to BĂjtyĂ°.

1448
01:20:27,520 --> 01:20:33,250

Because they were afraid to
show the government that she

1449
01:20:33,250 --> 01:20:35,110
was back.

1450
01:20:35,110 --> 01:20:38,698
She stayed in Budapest.

1451
01:20:38,698 --> 01:20:40,240
There were some
relatives there, too.

1452
01:20:40,240 --> 01:20:42,790
She stayed there quite a
while, and it was a secret

1453
01:20:42,790 --> 01:20:44,080
that she was back.

1454
01:20:44,080 --> 01:20:47,920
After a while-- you see all
this bureaucratic details

1455
01:20:47,920 --> 01:20:49,510
I do not know.

1456
01:20:49,510 --> 01:20:52,570
My father came home every
night, and that was the story.

1457
01:20:52,570 --> 01:20:55,510
Sat around, we
listened, and hoped

1458
01:20:55,510 --> 01:20:58,690
that every step of the way
she was going to make it.

1459
01:20:58,690 --> 01:21:04,420
So eventually, again through
lawyers and help and money,

1460

01:21:04,420 --> 01:21:06,340
she ended up back in BĂ;tyĂ°.

1461

01:21:06,340 --> 01:21:08,050
I don't know how
long she was gone

1462

01:21:08,050 --> 01:21:10,780
after she came to Budapest.

1463

01:21:10,780 --> 01:21:17,170
And then the authorities
there decided that she was a--

1464

01:21:17,170 --> 01:21:19,600
she was guilty.

1465

01:21:19,600 --> 01:21:22,880
She was no longer as
part of the family.

1466

01:21:22,880 --> 01:21:28,480
And so again with
influence somehow,

1467

01:21:28,480 --> 01:21:34,120
she remained in her home,
but she had to register with

1468

01:21:34,120 --> 01:21:37,160
the local government
in BĂ;tyĂ° once a week.

1469

01:21:37,160 --> 01:21:37,660
I see.

1470

01:21:37,660 --> 01:21:40,480
She had to go and show
that she was there.

1471

01:21:40,480 --> 01:21:44,710
And it was like a house

arrest in her own home,

1472

01:21:44,710 --> 01:21:45,640
in her own town.

1473

01:21:45,640 --> 01:21:50,350
As you were talking and telling
me these various episodes,

1474

01:21:50,350 --> 01:21:51,760
it sounds that--

1475

01:21:51,760 --> 01:21:54,670
I mean, I'm going
to try and give

1476

01:21:54,670 --> 01:21:57,610
an overview of the
impression that I've got.

1477

01:21:57,610 --> 01:22:00,610
And tell me if I'm
mistaken in it.

1478

01:22:00,610 --> 01:22:06,760
But from 1939, when
the war begins,

1479

01:22:06,760 --> 01:22:11,770
it doesn't sound like life
changes much in essence for you

1480

01:22:11,770 --> 01:22:13,360
or for your family.

1481

01:22:13,360 --> 01:22:15,250
That's 1939.

1482

01:22:15,250 --> 01:22:17,890
Until maybe 1942.

1483

01:22:17,890 --> 01:22:18,730

Yes.

1484

01:22:18,730 --> 01:22:24,220

And in '42 to '44, it really
seems to escalate, one thing

1485

01:22:24,220 --> 01:22:26,710

after another after another.

1486

01:22:26,710 --> 01:22:29,140

I mean, you mentioned
the yellow star.

1487

01:22:29,140 --> 01:22:32,140

You mentioned pinning
it and taking it off.

1488

01:22:32,140 --> 01:22:35,320

You mentioned going to Munkács
to school and then no longer

1489

01:22:35,320 --> 01:22:38,900

being able to go to
Munkács to school.

1490

01:22:38,900 --> 01:22:42,380

Then you mentioned this
incident with Rosie,

1491

01:22:42,380 --> 01:22:46,700

where she's deported, and
the deportation of others

1492

01:22:46,700 --> 01:22:49,850

who are non-Hungarian
citizens but are

1493

01:22:49,850 --> 01:22:51,440

Jews who are then taken.

1494

01:22:51,440 --> 01:22:54,530

And more or less it's not
just being deported out

1495
01:22:54,530 --> 01:22:56,420
of the country, it's
a death sentence.

1496
01:22:56,420 --> 01:22:59,360
And I take it they're
all deported to Poland.

1497
01:22:59,360 --> 01:23:04,550
And you alluded to the
point that your father loses

1498
01:23:04,550 --> 01:23:06,080
his business at some point.

1499
01:23:06,080 --> 01:23:10,910
And I assume that must
be sometime around 1942.

1500
01:23:10,910 --> 01:23:14,840
So it sounds like the
noose is closing in

1501
01:23:14,840 --> 01:23:17,863
between 1942 and 1944.

1502
01:23:17,863 --> 01:23:18,530
Yes, absolutely.

1503
01:23:18,530 --> 01:23:21,710
With all kinds of incidents.

1504
01:23:21,710 --> 01:23:23,690
Yes, you are absolutely right.

1505
01:23:23,690 --> 01:23:27,170
And that actually the
deportations started in '41

1506
01:23:27,170 --> 01:23:28,200
but overlapped.

1507
01:23:28,200 --> 01:23:29,240
Yes.

1508
01:23:29,240 --> 01:23:30,860
Definitely this is true.

1509
01:23:30,860 --> 01:23:35,450
And because we were in a small town that everybody knew us,

1510
01:23:35,450 --> 01:23:40,850
we felt a little less hostility.

1511
01:23:40,850 --> 01:23:43,910
But you're right
in your impression.

1512
01:23:43,910 --> 01:23:48,170
And then of course by '42, the men, Jewish men

1513
01:23:48,170 --> 01:23:52,640
were taken into labor brigade,
and my father was called in.

1514
01:23:52,640 --> 01:23:54,530
He was gone about six months.

1515
01:23:54,530 --> 01:23:58,790
And that was definitely a horrible thing, because they

1516
01:23:58,790 --> 01:24:01,070
were brutalized, these men.

1517
01:24:01,070 --> 01:24:05,030
And very few of them came back, as you know.

1518
01:24:05,030 --> 01:24:07,190
But they were

immediately brutalized.

1519
01:24:07,190 --> 01:24:12,290
And also under
Hungarian rule, they

1520
01:24:12,290 --> 01:24:14,990
were not treated like soldiers.

1521
01:24:14,990 --> 01:24:16,340
Definitely not.

1522
01:24:16,340 --> 01:24:19,590
They were treated like slaves.

1523
01:24:19,590 --> 01:24:23,630
And they were put
on the front line.

1524
01:24:23,630 --> 01:24:29,450
The Hungarian soldiers were
now in the war with Germany.

1525
01:24:29,450 --> 01:24:33,320
And these Jewish
young men were used

1526
01:24:33,320 --> 01:24:38,480
on the front of the
fighting without weapons,

1527
01:24:38,480 --> 01:24:42,080
and doing the very
dangerous work, minesweeping

1528
01:24:42,080 --> 01:24:44,540
and other kind of brutality.

1529
01:24:44,540 --> 01:24:46,590
And they didn't count.

1530
01:24:46,590 --> 01:24:49,310

And they were dying already.

1531

01:24:49,310 --> 01:24:54,710

Towards the end, they were
worn out, and starved.

1532

01:24:54,710 --> 01:24:57,410

And I don't know
very many people,

1533

01:24:57,410 --> 01:24:58,640

young men who came back.

1534

01:24:58,640 --> 01:25:03,330

In fact, most of them,
if they survived at all,

1535

01:25:03,330 --> 01:25:09,500

they first ended up in
concentration camps.

1536

01:25:09,500 --> 01:25:14,300

But my father was allowed to
come back after six months.

1537

01:25:14,300 --> 01:25:18,320

And it still the
Hungarian government

1538

01:25:18,320 --> 01:25:24,290

was playing with severe
restrictions on freedom,

1539

01:25:24,290 --> 01:25:28,560

Jewish freedom, and still having
some leeway here and there.

1540

01:25:28,560 --> 01:25:31,520

So the reason the
reason they let him go

1541

01:25:31,520 --> 01:25:34,880

is because he had six

children and that he

1542

01:25:34,880 --> 01:25:39,170
was a little older than most of
the people who were called in.

1543

01:25:39,170 --> 01:25:42,470
And one day, he came home.

1544

01:25:42,470 --> 01:25:47,570
But while he was
gone, my mother--

1545

01:25:47,570 --> 01:25:51,770
when he was gone, his
business was also confiscated.

1546

01:25:51,770 --> 01:25:54,300
When he came back, he
had no more business.

1547

01:25:54,300 --> 01:25:57,770
So in other words, when he's
taken, he still has a business.

1548

01:25:57,770 --> 01:25:59,840
When he comes back, it's gone.

1549

01:25:59,840 --> 01:26:01,130
It's gone, yes.

1550

01:26:01,130 --> 01:26:02,860
Very soon or--

1551

01:26:02,860 --> 01:26:05,270
I don't know the
exact dates, but I

1552

01:26:05,270 --> 01:26:08,930
know that from then
on he's at home,

1553

01:26:08,930 --> 01:26:12,320
and all the other
businesses were confiscated.

1554
01:26:12,320 --> 01:26:14,870

1555
01:26:14,870 --> 01:26:21,440
But the constant
communication with others

1556
01:26:21,440 --> 01:26:23,520
about the war and its progress.

1557
01:26:23,520 --> 01:26:26,630
And what was going on
with Jews elsewhere

1558
01:26:26,630 --> 01:26:30,050
was a very common topic.

1559
01:26:30,050 --> 01:26:33,140
But never heard of
Auschwitz, ever.

1560
01:26:33,140 --> 01:26:35,300
And what is even
more surprising to me

1561
01:26:35,300 --> 01:26:38,450
and puzzling that
Rosie came back,

1562
01:26:38,450 --> 01:26:43,250
and she had this
house arrest, and she

1563
01:26:43,250 --> 01:26:45,740
had to go to the police
in town every day

1564
01:26:45,740 --> 01:26:48,170
to register with them.

1565
01:26:48,170 --> 01:26:55,100
She knew what was going on
in Poland in a way we didn't.

1566
01:26:55,100 --> 01:26:57,080
She actually knew.

1567
01:26:57,080 --> 01:27:01,880
And she did not do
anything about it.

1568
01:27:01,880 --> 01:27:07,790
She sat there until two years
later ended up in Auschwitz.

1569
01:27:07,790 --> 01:27:11,480
And that absolutely puzzles me.

1570
01:27:11,480 --> 01:27:16,430
Why didn't she agitate with
this family, her family, I mean,

1571
01:27:16,430 --> 01:27:17,450
to tell them?

1572
01:27:17,450 --> 01:27:19,250
Did she ever explain why?

1573
01:27:19,250 --> 01:27:20,540
Did she ever--

1574
01:27:20,540 --> 01:27:25,250
You know, my sister and
I are kicking ourselves.

1575
01:27:25,250 --> 01:27:28,370
There were people who
survived like Rosie after.

1576
01:27:28,370 --> 01:27:31,370
We never asked

permanent questions.

1577
01:27:31,370 --> 01:27:33,650
There were other
people who returned

1578
01:27:33,650 --> 01:27:37,730
that were even in the same
labor brigade as my father.

1579
01:27:37,730 --> 01:27:40,140
Never asked any questions.

1580
01:27:40,140 --> 01:27:42,045
Now--

1581
01:27:42,045 --> 01:27:43,170
Did your father live much--

1582
01:27:43,170 --> 01:27:43,590
Some years later--

1583
01:27:43,590 --> 01:27:44,193
OK, sorry.

1584
01:27:44,193 --> 01:27:45,360
You wanted to say something.

1585
01:27:45,360 --> 01:27:46,652
I had a question, but go ahead.

1586
01:27:46,652 --> 01:27:48,090
What did you want to say?

1587
01:27:48,090 --> 01:27:53,700
Years later when she came
out to Brooklyn, in Brooklyn,

1588
01:27:53,700 --> 01:27:55,020
I asked her once.

1589

01:27:55,020 --> 01:27:56,100
Why didn't you leave?

1590
01:27:56,100 --> 01:27:58,240
Why didn't you do
something about it?

1591
01:27:58,240 --> 01:28:02,460
She says by then my father
didn't have the money

1592
01:28:02,460 --> 01:28:08,070
to take his family
somewhere else

1593
01:28:08,070 --> 01:28:11,770
or make this big leap of leaving
everything behind and going

1594
01:28:11,770 --> 01:28:12,270
there.

1595
01:28:12,270 --> 01:28:14,140
He ran out of money.

1596
01:28:14,140 --> 01:28:15,300
And that was the answer.

1597
01:28:15,300 --> 01:28:17,550
That's all I ever got from her.

1598
01:28:17,550 --> 01:28:20,070
But it seems to
me that there was

1599
01:28:20,070 --> 01:28:24,990
some massive traumatic
experience in such a way

1600
01:28:24,990 --> 01:28:27,600
that it paralyzed her.

1601

01:28:27,600 --> 01:28:29,280

Well, there was
another thing, too,

1602

01:28:29,280 --> 01:28:32,220

that might have
been the problem.

1603

01:28:32,220 --> 01:28:34,920

She had a very serious
boyfriend in town.

1604

01:28:34,920 --> 01:28:38,190

1605

01:28:38,190 --> 01:28:42,780

But very soon after, he was
taken into the labor brigade,

1606

01:28:42,780 --> 01:28:44,460

and he never came back.

1607

01:28:44,460 --> 01:28:48,060

But when she came
back, she had that.

1608

01:28:48,060 --> 01:28:48,560

I see.

1609

01:28:48,560 --> 01:28:51,390

And I think that's
why she didn't really

1610

01:28:51,390 --> 01:28:53,770

want to talk too much about it.

1611

01:28:53,770 --> 01:28:59,590

It was serious, and
it was going to be--

1612

01:28:59,590 --> 01:29:03,070

if things hadn't changed,
would have been her husband.

1613
01:29:03,070 --> 01:29:05,610
So anyhow, she sat there.

1614
01:29:05,610 --> 01:29:10,890
Her brothers were taken into
labor brigade, some of them.

1615
01:29:10,890 --> 01:29:15,160
The mill was taken away, and
she ended up in Auschwitz.

1616
01:29:15,160 --> 01:29:19,050
Her entire family was
killed, her parents.

1617
01:29:19,050 --> 01:29:22,140
So your grandfather, your
maternal grandfather,

1618
01:29:22,140 --> 01:29:25,200
survived until he was taken.

1619
01:29:25,200 --> 01:29:28,170
Yeah, Auschwitz.

1620
01:29:28,170 --> 01:29:29,610
It was Auschwitz.

1621
01:29:29,610 --> 01:29:31,260
He was 75 years old.

1622
01:29:31,260 --> 01:29:34,440

1623
01:29:34,440 --> 01:29:37,710
Your father, when he came
back from labor brigade,

1624
01:29:37,710 --> 01:29:40,110
did he look changed?

1625

01:29:40,110 --> 01:29:42,030

Well, there was one big change.

1626

01:29:42,030 --> 01:29:43,780

His beard was gone.

1627

01:29:43,780 --> 01:29:48,030

And we kids stared at him
like he was a stranger.

1628

01:29:48,030 --> 01:29:51,591

We never saw him
without a beard.

1629

01:29:51,591 --> 01:29:56,280

We would literally got up to
his face and stared at him.

1630

01:29:56,280 --> 01:29:58,500

But the beard grew in.

1631

01:29:58,500 --> 01:30:01,140

He was very subdued after that.

1632

01:30:01,140 --> 01:30:05,730

But he never talked about
his experience, ever.

1633

01:30:05,730 --> 01:30:09,720

So when you tell me about
these labor brigades being

1634

01:30:09,720 --> 01:30:13,740

used to sweep mines, it wasn't
from his stories to you.

1635

01:30:13,740 --> 01:30:16,920

It was what you learned
from other people.

1636

01:30:16,920 --> 01:30:18,630

Right, absolutely.

1637
01:30:18,630 --> 01:30:26,610
But the story was that
they were not soldiers.

1638
01:30:26,610 --> 01:30:32,910
They were slaves, doing all
kinds of very heavy work

1639
01:30:32,910 --> 01:30:36,510
and without adequate
food and no respect.

1640
01:30:36,510 --> 01:30:40,960
And they were brutalized.

1641
01:30:40,960 --> 01:30:47,820
The Hungarian soldiers and
officers who were in charge

1642
01:30:47,820 --> 01:30:50,400
used them as slave labor.

1643
01:30:50,400 --> 01:30:54,630
Do you know what part of
the front they were sent to?

1644
01:30:54,630 --> 01:30:56,340
Well, that's another thing.

1645
01:30:56,340 --> 01:30:58,470
I never asked him.

1646
01:30:58,470 --> 01:31:01,200
I never asked him
where were you.

1647
01:31:01,200 --> 01:31:03,720
And now it's amazing.

1648
01:31:03,720 --> 01:31:06,420
Do you think it was

the Soviet Front?

1649

01:31:06,420 --> 01:31:08,460

We knew he was
somewhere in Poland.

1650

01:31:08,460 --> 01:31:11,550

It was somewhere
along the border.

1651

01:31:11,550 --> 01:31:14,030

So it must have been
the Eastern border.

1652

01:31:14,030 --> 01:31:15,160

Yes, yes.

1653

01:31:15,160 --> 01:31:15,750

OK.

1654

01:31:15,750 --> 01:31:18,570

But the fact that he came back.

1655

01:31:18,570 --> 01:31:20,100

That's amazing.

1656

01:31:20,100 --> 01:31:21,210

Yes, it was.

1657

01:31:21,210 --> 01:31:25,980

Because as I say,
Rosie's boyfriend and all

1658

01:31:25,980 --> 01:31:29,040

the other young men, nobody--

1659

01:31:29,040 --> 01:31:30,840

very few came back.

1660

01:31:30,840 --> 01:31:35,890

And the stories,
one of my uncles,

1661
01:31:35,890 --> 01:31:38,970
he was in the labor brigade,
and he wrote his memoir.

1662
01:31:38,970 --> 01:31:40,200
I have it here.

1663
01:31:40,200 --> 01:31:42,400
He was terribly brutalized.

1664
01:31:42,400 --> 01:31:48,810
And in the end, when
the Hungarian army

1665
01:31:48,810 --> 01:31:52,200
got into trouble, they
took these surviving

1666
01:31:52,200 --> 01:31:54,090
Jewish young men
and just put them

1667
01:31:54,090 --> 01:31:56,160
in the nearest
concentration camp,

1668
01:31:56,160 --> 01:31:59,010
and they continue to die there.

1669
01:31:59,010 --> 01:32:03,390
Because they were
already [? brutalized. ?]

1670
01:32:03,390 --> 01:32:07,650
At this point, the next
phase, the next set

1671
01:32:07,650 --> 01:32:13,020
of questions that I have
are about how life changes

1672

01:32:13,020 --> 01:32:15,470
for you and your family.

1673
01:32:15,470 --> 01:32:18,870
And we've been talking for
an hour and a half now.

1674
01:32:18,870 --> 01:32:20,880
Do you want to take
a little break,

1675
01:32:20,880 --> 01:32:24,870
and I'll call you in
about five or 10 minutes?

1676
01:32:24,870 --> 01:32:26,560
Yes, that would be fine.

1677
01:32:26,560 --> 01:32:27,720
Yes, OK.

1678
01:32:27,720 --> 01:32:28,950
I will do so.

1679
01:32:28,950 --> 01:32:30,870
And then we'll continue.

1680
01:32:30,870 --> 01:32:31,890
OK, OK.

1681
01:32:31,890 --> 01:32:32,400
All right.

1682
01:32:32,400 --> 01:32:33,570
Thank you.

1683
01:32:33,570 --> 01:32:34,120
OK.

1684
01:32:34,120 --> 01:32:34,750
Bye-bye.

1685

01:32:34,750 --> 01:32:36,300

Bye.

1686

01:32:36,300 --> 01:32:38,000