

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,110

2

00:00:01,110 --> 00:00:07,740

Following is an interview with
Gerda Klein, G-E-R-D-A Klein,

3

00:00:07,740 --> 00:00:21,180

K-L-E-I-N.

4

00:00:21,180 --> 00:00:24,815

Well, I remember
[INAUDIBLE] always in there.

5

00:00:24,815 --> 00:00:25,315

OK.

6

00:00:25,315 --> 00:00:30,300

7

00:00:30,300 --> 00:00:33,840

Let's talk about the start of
the war and some of the things

8

00:00:33,840 --> 00:00:38,240

that you remember
from those times.

9

00:00:38,240 --> 00:00:39,470

I remember it very vividly.

10

00:00:39,470 --> 00:00:43,340

11

00:00:43,340 --> 00:00:46,340

As you well know, war broke
out on the 1st of September.

12

00:00:46,340 --> 00:00:48,560

And Germany said that
they declared war.

13
00:00:48,560 --> 00:00:50,060
Of course, there
was no declaration,

14
00:00:50,060 --> 00:00:52,790
they simply marched
across the border.

15
00:00:52,790 --> 00:00:55,290
And we lived very close from
the Czechoslovakian border,

16
00:00:55,290 --> 00:00:59,090
Czechoslovakia already having
been occupied by Germany.

17
00:00:59,090 --> 00:01:02,120
But I remember it.

18
00:01:02,120 --> 00:01:04,910
You know, actually, I was
terribly busy, you know.

19
00:01:04,910 --> 00:01:07,490
First of all, my father
had suffered a heart attack

20
00:01:07,490 --> 00:01:09,230
just a few weeks earlier.

21
00:01:09,230 --> 00:01:11,660
And it was a great
deal of concern,

22
00:01:11,660 --> 00:01:14,030
and turmoil, and all that.

23
00:01:14,030 --> 00:01:16,040
And this was our prime concern.

24
00:01:16,040 --> 00:01:18,200

And other thing,
of course, school

25
00:01:18,200 --> 00:01:20,040
was going to start in
another week or so.

26
00:01:20,040 --> 00:01:22,220
So you know, I was
getting ready for school,

27
00:01:22,220 --> 00:01:23,600
and talking to my friends.

28
00:01:23,600 --> 00:01:30,140
And not really truly being aware
of what might be happening.

29
00:01:30,140 --> 00:01:34,340
And that was the last
week of August or so.

30
00:01:34,340 --> 00:01:37,310
We really came face to face
with it on Friday morning,

31
00:01:37,310 --> 00:01:39,460
very early in the
morning, when people said

32
00:01:39,460 --> 00:01:41,240
that there were lots of planes.

33
00:01:41,240 --> 00:01:43,520
We heard a roar of many planes.

34
00:01:43,520 --> 00:01:47,660
And when we went out to
the street to see it,

35
00:01:47,660 --> 00:01:49,970
the wings of the planes
had the swastika on it.

36
00:01:49,970 --> 00:01:52,730
And that was the
first ominous thing

37
00:01:52,730 --> 00:01:56,363
of sort of helplessness
and horror.

38
00:01:56,363 --> 00:01:57,530
You know, this was above us.

39
00:01:57,530 --> 00:01:59,270
They could do almost anything.

40
00:01:59,270 --> 00:02:01,670
And that's when hysteria
really broke out.

41
00:02:01,670 --> 00:02:06,320
People started digging holes
in the yards and erecting

42
00:02:06,320 --> 00:02:07,190
barricades.

43
00:02:07,190 --> 00:02:11,540
And my father was
upstairs in the bedroom.

44
00:02:11,540 --> 00:02:15,650
And my mother cautioned everyone
not to mention the war to him

45
00:02:15,650 --> 00:02:18,890
and didn't let them listen
to the radio or anything.

46
00:02:18,890 --> 00:02:22,100
But I guess my father knew,
obviously, what was going on.

47

00:02:22,100 --> 00:02:24,800

48

00:02:24,800 --> 00:02:28,160

And there was a horrible
night, lots of explosions.

49

00:02:28,160 --> 00:02:30,680

And I remember being
in my parents' bedroom

50

00:02:30,680 --> 00:02:33,710

with my mother, and
my brother, and I.

51

00:02:33,710 --> 00:02:39,690

And this is when my father told
me to go and call the family.

52

00:02:39,690 --> 00:02:40,580

I remember.

53

00:02:40,580 --> 00:02:41,940

We better stop.

54

00:02:41,940 --> 00:02:42,440

OK.

55

00:02:42,440 --> 00:02:43,930

Am I talking too long?

56

00:02:43,930 --> 00:02:44,750

No.

57

00:02:44,750 --> 00:02:46,400

A lawnmower just started.

58

00:02:46,400 --> 00:02:54,980

59

00:02:54,980 --> 00:02:57,100

OK.

60
00:02:57,100 --> 00:03:01,890
Let's continue with the
beginning of the war.

61
00:03:01,890 --> 00:03:04,655
Why don't we do the
Saturday, the quiet Saturday?

62
00:03:04,655 --> 00:03:07,430

63
00:03:07,430 --> 00:03:09,920
Saturday was very, very quiet.

64
00:03:09,920 --> 00:03:12,602
As a matter of
fact, I remember it

65
00:03:12,602 --> 00:03:14,060
still as one of
the most beautiful,

66
00:03:14,060 --> 00:03:18,400
and probably the last
peaceful day of my life.

67
00:03:18,400 --> 00:03:21,710
You realize I was
only 15 at the time.

68
00:03:21,710 --> 00:03:25,540
And I remember in the morning,
we wanted to turn on the radio,

69
00:03:25,540 --> 00:03:27,400
and there was no sound.

70
00:03:27,400 --> 00:03:29,740
And the electricity
had been cut off.

71

00:03:29,740 --> 00:03:32,230
There was no telephone.

72
00:03:32,230 --> 00:03:33,700
My father got up.

73
00:03:33,700 --> 00:03:37,090
He had been so ill before,
and it was the first time

74
00:03:37,090 --> 00:03:39,450
I saw him dressed again.

75
00:03:39,450 --> 00:03:41,860
He suddenly looked
very gray and very old.

76
00:03:41,860 --> 00:03:48,830
And when I look back now, I
realized that he was only 49,

77
00:03:48,830 --> 00:03:49,370
I guess.

78
00:03:49,370 --> 00:03:52,000

79
00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:56,670
And I remember we were
sitting at breakfast.

80
00:03:56,670 --> 00:03:59,430
It was a beautiful,
beautiful autumn day,

81
00:03:59,430 --> 00:04:00,900
very bright, very cold.

82
00:04:00,900 --> 00:04:03,720
And the flowers
were bright outside.

83

00:04:03,720 --> 00:04:05,070
And we were all together.

84
00:04:05,070 --> 00:04:09,960
And it seems all activity
outside has stopped as well.

85
00:04:09,960 --> 00:04:15,480
And it was sort of a very,
very special, memorable day

86
00:04:15,480 --> 00:04:19,720
because it had no
intrusion whatsoever.

87
00:04:19,720 --> 00:04:22,120
And we were together.

88
00:04:22,120 --> 00:04:27,390
And then in the evening, a
great deal of activity started.

89
00:04:27,390 --> 00:04:30,420
There was shooting,
there were planes,

90
00:04:30,420 --> 00:04:32,490
there were some explosions.

91
00:04:32,490 --> 00:04:34,710
We went to the basement.

92
00:04:34,710 --> 00:04:36,780
My cat was outside
and my brother

93
00:04:36,780 --> 00:04:38,790
went out to let the cat in.

94
00:04:38,790 --> 00:04:40,590
The cat was meowing.

95

00:04:40,590 --> 00:04:44,520

And he came back with
a hole in his trousers.

96

00:04:44,520 --> 00:04:47,700

And he said there was
shooting from the rooftops

97

00:04:47,700 --> 00:04:51,970

and that the
Germans were coming.

98

00:04:51,970 --> 00:04:55,400

I don't remember too
much more of that night.

99

00:04:55,400 --> 00:05:02,900

But I remember in the morning,
we came up from the basement

100

00:05:02,900 --> 00:05:06,380

and we sat around the table.

101

00:05:06,380 --> 00:05:11,560

And my brother walked
toward the window.

102

00:05:11,560 --> 00:05:13,070

And then he sort of sat down.

103

00:05:13,070 --> 00:05:17,030

And at that moment, we
heard an incredible roar.

104

00:05:17,030 --> 00:05:19,040

And a motorcycle
came down the street,

105

00:05:19,040 --> 00:05:20,360

and it had a side car in it.

106

00:05:20,360 --> 00:05:22,193

And there were people

in different uniforms.

107

00:05:22,193 --> 00:05:24,170

You know, our army,
the Polish Army,

108

00:05:24,170 --> 00:05:27,260

had sort of beige
khaki uniforms.

109

00:05:27,260 --> 00:05:28,940

And those uniforms were green.

110

00:05:28,940 --> 00:05:31,470

111

00:05:31,470 --> 00:05:34,230

No, I'm sorry, actually
what happened--

112

00:05:34,230 --> 00:05:37,780

we saw people walking
with flowers and cameras.

113

00:05:37,780 --> 00:05:38,280

Wait.

114

00:05:38,280 --> 00:05:39,550

We have to stop.

115

00:05:39,550 --> 00:05:40,476

The noise.

116

00:05:40,476 --> 00:05:45,870

117

00:05:45,870 --> 00:05:46,590

OK.

118

00:05:46,590 --> 00:05:50,520

Let's pick up with seeing
the people with flowers.

119

00:05:50,520 --> 00:05:55,110

Saw people with flowers and
cameras walking up the street.

120

00:05:55,110 --> 00:05:57,540

You know, our street
was called Cesinska,

121

00:05:57,540 --> 00:06:02,100

which means like Czechoslovakia,
which was the street which

122

00:06:02,100 --> 00:06:04,030

led to the Czech border.

123

00:06:04,030 --> 00:06:07,690

And people were
walking up that street.

124

00:06:07,690 --> 00:06:11,500

And my mother said
something like, oh, my god.

125

00:06:11,500 --> 00:06:14,320

I hope they are not--
and at this point,

126

00:06:14,320 --> 00:06:17,090

that motorcycle came down.

127

00:06:17,090 --> 00:06:18,610

It was an incredible roar.

128

00:06:18,610 --> 00:06:25,820

Came down the street and was
two German military in them.

129

00:06:25,820 --> 00:06:29,080

And the thing which I
remember most vividly--

130

00:06:29,080 --> 00:06:32,980
my brother had his
wristwatch in his pocket.

131
00:06:32,980 --> 00:06:36,130
And he was just removing
it from his pocket.

132
00:06:36,130 --> 00:06:40,660
And so his hand must have
trembled because his watch fell

133
00:06:40,660 --> 00:06:41,500
to the floor.

134
00:06:41,500 --> 00:06:46,332
And I remember seeing it
was 9:10 in the morning.

135
00:06:46,332 --> 00:06:48,040
And I always sort of
take it as something

136
00:06:48,040 --> 00:06:51,610
that that was the moment
when my world was gone.

137
00:06:51,610 --> 00:06:58,570

138
00:06:58,570 --> 00:07:02,170
Tell me about the woman who
wanted your Polish flag.

139
00:07:02,170 --> 00:07:06,010

140
00:07:06,010 --> 00:07:12,060
Well, we realized
that things were--

141
00:07:12,060 --> 00:07:14,590
I think what was most

astounding thing is

142
00:07:14,590 --> 00:07:16,840
that we heard roars of people.

143
00:07:16,840 --> 00:07:20,050
Our neighbors, and friends, and
people I've known all my life.

144
00:07:20,050 --> 00:07:23,260
You know, my mother was born
in the same home I was born.

145
00:07:23,260 --> 00:07:25,510
And you know, that's
been the family

146
00:07:25,510 --> 00:07:28,387
I don't know for how
many generations.

147
00:07:28,387 --> 00:07:30,220
People were shouting,
you know, Heil Hitler,

148
00:07:30,220 --> 00:07:31,620
long live the Führer.

149
00:07:31,620 --> 00:07:34,840
And people were waving
flags with swastikas.

150
00:07:34,840 --> 00:07:38,353
And there was that feeling
of complete betrayal.

151
00:07:38,353 --> 00:07:39,520
And suddenly, you were home.

152
00:07:39,520 --> 00:07:41,800
And you were not home anymore.

153

00:07:41,800 --> 00:07:44,500
You know, I mean, that
was Poland, you know.

154
00:07:44,500 --> 00:07:45,830
And we loved Poland.

155
00:07:45,830 --> 00:07:48,910
That was at least the
young generation, you know.

156
00:07:48,910 --> 00:07:52,090
Because the older generation
had grown up under Austria.

157
00:07:52,090 --> 00:07:54,460
But of course, we were
born under Poland.

158
00:07:54,460 --> 00:07:56,590
And this is something
I couldn't understand.

159
00:07:56,590 --> 00:08:01,390
And probably, the most
vivid example of that

160
00:08:01,390 --> 00:08:07,660
was that my friend Trudy, who
had a very, very bitter life--

161
00:08:07,660 --> 00:08:09,970
her mother had died and
she had a stepfather.

162
00:08:09,970 --> 00:08:13,073
My mother met that
man went through.

163
00:08:13,073 --> 00:08:13,990
There was very little.

164
00:08:13,990 --> 00:08:15,198

He was terribly cruel to her.

165

00:08:15,198 --> 00:08:16,420

And he was beating her.

166

00:08:16,420 --> 00:08:19,810

She spent so much time
with us, you know,

167

00:08:19,810 --> 00:08:22,370

and I really felt I
was so close to her.

168

00:08:22,370 --> 00:08:26,620

And I saw her going to our
garden and picking white roses.

169

00:08:26,620 --> 00:08:28,720

My mother was
particularly proud of them

170

00:08:28,720 --> 00:08:31,570

because they had bloomed
into fall, out of season,

171

00:08:31,570 --> 00:08:35,080

and she was handing it
to a German soldier.

172

00:08:35,080 --> 00:08:36,490

You know, people were bringing.

173

00:08:36,490 --> 00:08:40,179

And I think that gesture
sticks in my mind

174

00:08:40,179 --> 00:08:42,549

as one of complete betrayal.

175

00:08:42,549 --> 00:08:47,110

And also, I remember
handing on the roses

176

00:08:47,110 --> 00:08:49,210

to the soldier who was
reaching out to her.

177

00:08:49,210 --> 00:08:51,550

And at that moment,
someone else was

178

00:08:51,550 --> 00:08:54,220

handing him a glass
of schnapps or what,

179

00:08:54,220 --> 00:08:56,320

you know, some sort of whiskey.

180

00:08:56,320 --> 00:09:00,790

And he let the roses
fall to the ground.

181

00:09:00,790 --> 00:09:02,800

And people were
trampling on my roses.

182

00:09:02,800 --> 00:09:05,410

And I don't know.

183

00:09:05,410 --> 00:09:07,990

It sort of later
became a symbol for me.

184

00:09:07,990 --> 00:09:12,860

That very moment, it's
arrested in my mind,

185

00:09:12,860 --> 00:09:15,360

what was happening there, that
everything was sort of upside

186

00:09:15,360 --> 00:09:17,340

down.

187

00:09:17,340 --> 00:09:25,570

And I don't know.

188

00:09:25,570 --> 00:09:29,072

Tell me about the
neighbor who wanted the--

189

00:09:29,072 --> 00:09:30,030

Then there was a woman.

190

00:09:30,030 --> 00:09:32,600

You know, some people
tried to be helpful.

191

00:09:32,600 --> 00:09:38,748

I don't mean to say that it
was a direct betrayal of us

192

00:09:38,748 --> 00:09:39,790

at that particular point.

193

00:09:39,790 --> 00:09:41,269

It was not.

194

00:09:41,269 --> 00:09:41,769

Stop.

195

00:09:41,769 --> 00:09:48,460

196

00:09:48,460 --> 00:09:48,960

OK.

197

00:09:48,960 --> 00:09:52,020

Yes, of course, we had some
very good and very close

198

00:09:52,020 --> 00:09:53,850

friends among our neighbors.

199

00:09:53,850 --> 00:09:57,090

And one woman, her
name was Frau Rescher.

200
00:09:57,090 --> 00:09:59,910
And I remember she
came in and she asked

201
00:09:59,910 --> 00:10:01,290
where the Polish flag was.

202
00:10:01,290 --> 00:10:04,290
The Polish flag, of
course, is a strip of white

203
00:10:04,290 --> 00:10:06,540
and a strip of red,
very long strips.

204
00:10:06,540 --> 00:10:07,990
And my mother said, why?

205
00:10:07,990 --> 00:10:10,020
And she said, it's
really very easy

206
00:10:10,020 --> 00:10:12,120
to make a German flag out of it.

207
00:10:12,120 --> 00:10:16,890
You know, all you have
to do is cut out a round

208
00:10:16,890 --> 00:10:20,400
thing from the white and
impose it on the red,

209
00:10:20,400 --> 00:10:23,190
and then with ribbon,
make the swastika.

210
00:10:23,190 --> 00:10:24,630
You know.

211
00:10:24,630 --> 00:10:26,670

And my mother
absolutely turned pale.

212
00:10:26,670 --> 00:10:30,810
And the woman said, we
better make that flag

213
00:10:30,810 --> 00:10:32,130
and fly it from the house.

214
00:10:32,130 --> 00:10:34,860
You know, obviously, she
wanted to protect us.

215
00:10:34,860 --> 00:10:38,490
Because the houses
which did not fly

216
00:10:38,490 --> 00:10:41,040
the swastika flag
were under scrutiny.

217
00:10:41,040 --> 00:10:44,010
And figured that they
were anti-German,

218
00:10:44,010 --> 00:10:46,170
and if they discovered
that we were Jewish.

219
00:10:46,170 --> 00:10:47,838
So she just took the flag.

220
00:10:47,838 --> 00:10:49,380
My mother looked
for it in all places

221
00:10:49,380 --> 00:10:50,880
where she knew she
couldn't find it.

222
00:10:50,880 --> 00:10:53,670
But finally, she did produce it.

223
00:10:53,670 --> 00:10:54,960
And they did make it.

224
00:10:54,960 --> 00:10:55,980
My mother did not.

225
00:10:55,980 --> 00:10:58,140
But the neighbor and
another one made a flag.

226
00:10:58,140 --> 00:11:03,750
And that was sort of
unbelievable to see that flag

227
00:11:03,750 --> 00:11:06,683
flying from my childhood home.

228
00:11:06,683 --> 00:11:08,850
I remember, I thought of
it like a spider, you know,

229
00:11:08,850 --> 00:11:12,780
the swastika sort of
reaching out to engulf us.

230
00:11:12,780 --> 00:11:14,670
And it was a horrible
thing, something

231
00:11:14,670 --> 00:11:17,820
that was supposed to be for
our protection was actually

232
00:11:17,820 --> 00:11:21,000
terribly threatening,
particularly to a young girl.

233
00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:22,290
And it all came so fast.

234
00:11:22,290 --> 00:11:23,850

It was all within a day.

235

00:11:23,850 --> 00:11:27,480

236

00:11:27,480 --> 00:11:30,140

Brett, now we do have--

237

00:11:30,140 --> 00:11:33,430

OK, OK.

238

00:11:33,430 --> 00:11:35,310

The war started in September.

239

00:11:35,310 --> 00:11:40,950

By Christmas, we had to move to
the basement of our home, which

240

00:11:40,950 --> 00:11:43,370

was very cold and clammy.

241

00:11:43,370 --> 00:11:46,350

We had no running
water, no electricity.

242

00:11:46,350 --> 00:11:49,080

And things were
really quite bad.

243

00:11:49,080 --> 00:11:52,170

But we were still
in our own home.

244

00:11:52,170 --> 00:11:54,630

And spring was very
difficult because I always

245

00:11:54,630 --> 00:11:56,070

loved my garden.

246

00:11:56,070 --> 00:11:58,710

I used to spend a lot of

time there as a child.

247

00:11:58,710 --> 00:12:02,100

And the sign appeared that
dogs and Jews were not

248

00:12:02,100 --> 00:12:03,270

permitted to enter.

249

00:12:03,270 --> 00:12:06,810

250

00:12:06,810 --> 00:12:11,580

When we had orders to move
to a shabby, remote quarter

251

00:12:11,580 --> 00:12:17,113

of our town, which became the
ghetto, I defied that order.

252

00:12:17,113 --> 00:12:19,530

I remember, I said, I don't
care what they're going to do.

253

00:12:19,530 --> 00:12:21,990

I had to see my garden again.

254

00:12:21,990 --> 00:12:25,470

It was a beautiful,
fragrant, spring morning.

255

00:12:25,470 --> 00:12:27,630

It was in April.

256

00:12:27,630 --> 00:12:33,540

And I remember I jumped over the
fence, and went to the garden,

257

00:12:33,540 --> 00:12:39,690

and pretended that I was
just picking violets.

258

00:12:39,690 --> 00:12:42,060

And I pretended just
for a little bit

259

00:12:42,060 --> 00:12:46,410

what it would be like if
the war hadn't happened.

260

00:12:46,410 --> 00:12:48,060

I would be going
in, my mother would

261

00:12:48,060 --> 00:12:50,760

say I need to take my
raincoat to school,

262

00:12:50,760 --> 00:12:52,890

and my brother would
be hurrying off.

263

00:12:52,890 --> 00:12:56,870

My father would be
going to his office.

264

00:12:56,870 --> 00:12:59,270

My mother would be setting
the table for breakfast

265

00:12:59,270 --> 00:13:02,580

and urging us to
do this or that.

266

00:13:02,580 --> 00:13:05,900

And I remember it was sort
of the most incredible thing

267

00:13:05,900 --> 00:13:11,900

that the reality, which I
had always taken for granted,

268

00:13:11,900 --> 00:13:18,350

now became the most
remote fantasy.

269

00:13:18,350 --> 00:13:22,040

And I think it stayed with
me, you know, in a way,

270

00:13:22,040 --> 00:13:26,000

throughout all the
years to return to that.

271

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:29,090

Later, of course, it
took on other forms

272

00:13:29,090 --> 00:13:34,050

of when I was in the camps to
imagine an evening at home.

273

00:13:34,050 --> 00:13:37,350

But here, I still was
looking at my childhood home.

274

00:13:37,350 --> 00:13:38,430

My parents were inside.

275

00:13:38,430 --> 00:13:41,030

My brother had been taken away.

276

00:13:41,030 --> 00:13:43,550

Maybe six weeks after the war
started, he was taken away.

277

00:13:43,550 --> 00:13:46,890

October 19, since the war
broke out the 1st of September.

278

00:13:46,890 --> 00:13:49,970

But I was with my
parents at my home.

279

00:13:49,970 --> 00:13:52,220

I could see from the garden.

280

00:13:52,220 --> 00:13:56,210

And the room which had
been mine, the wallpaper.

281
00:13:56,210 --> 00:13:59,540
Even though we lived in the
basement, I was still there.

282
00:13:59,540 --> 00:14:04,850
And yet, I somehow must have
been at least subconsciously

283
00:14:04,850 --> 00:14:06,930
aware that maybe
I'll never come back.

284
00:14:06,930 --> 00:14:08,780
So I would never
recognize it, you know.

285
00:14:08,780 --> 00:14:13,310
I lived throughout just to think
I'm going to go home, always.

286
00:14:13,310 --> 00:14:18,020
But when I look back
now, over the many years,

287
00:14:18,020 --> 00:14:23,330
and I still can very
vividly recall my feeling

288
00:14:23,330 --> 00:14:28,980
it was sort of a farewell to
my life and to my childhood.

289
00:14:28,980 --> 00:14:32,670
And I was 16 at that point.

290
00:14:32,670 --> 00:14:37,320

291
00:14:37,320 --> 00:14:40,800
In the ghetto,

tell me about some

292

00:14:40,800 --> 00:14:43,680
of the things you remember.

293

00:14:43,680 --> 00:14:47,820
Well, you know, as much as I
dreaded going to the ghetto,

294

00:14:47,820 --> 00:14:51,060
actually, in some ways, it
was a little easier for me

295

00:14:51,060 --> 00:14:52,320
because my friends were there.

296

00:14:52,320 --> 00:14:54,210
You know, I was not
as isolated as I'd

297

00:14:54,210 --> 00:14:57,900
been at home when we had curfew
and I could see my friends only

298

00:14:57,900 --> 00:14:58,980
like a certain time.

299

00:14:58,980 --> 00:15:01,350
And it was dangerous
to go out anyway.

300

00:15:01,350 --> 00:15:05,040
But there, I was
closer to my friends.

301

00:15:05,040 --> 00:15:08,820
So that somehow
compensated for that,

302

00:15:08,820 --> 00:15:15,720
even though in every little
room, another tragedy played.

303

00:15:15,720 --> 00:15:20,495

And then we had to work in
a nearby community called

304

00:15:20,495 --> 00:15:20,995

Wadowice.

305

00:15:20,995 --> 00:15:25,440

They had the shops where they
were sewing uniforms for--

306

00:15:25,440 --> 00:15:26,910

I guess for the army.

307

00:15:26,910 --> 00:15:30,510

And we were marched, my
mother and I. And we went.

308

00:15:30,510 --> 00:15:33,600

Of course, in the ghetto,
there were almost no men.

309

00:15:33,600 --> 00:15:37,420

There were mostly women and
children, all the people.

310

00:15:37,420 --> 00:15:40,830

My father was one of
the few because he

311

00:15:40,830 --> 00:15:43,920

had had that heart attack
and he was permitted to stay.

312

00:15:43,920 --> 00:15:47,820

But he had to work also
in a nearby little town

313

00:15:47,820 --> 00:15:50,700

to fortify the river,
in a place called Sucha.

314

00:15:50,700 --> 00:15:53,280

And we were terribly
worried every morning,

315

00:15:53,280 --> 00:15:56,460

maybe daybreak, 4:00 or
5 o'clock, that he left.

316

00:15:56,460 --> 00:15:58,050

Because he had a
heart condition.

317

00:15:58,050 --> 00:16:02,580

And we were afraid what that
hard labor will do to him.

318

00:16:02,580 --> 00:16:06,150

And my mother, and I,
and some of my friends,

319

00:16:06,150 --> 00:16:10,740

who a few blessedly
are still alive,

320

00:16:10,740 --> 00:16:18,750

had to go to Wadowice to
work in that shop sewing.

321

00:16:18,750 --> 00:16:21,000

We left in the morning and
came back late at night.

322

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:22,625

And then the whole
thing started again.

323

00:16:22,625 --> 00:16:26,880

And actually, I think the
discipline was pretty good.

324

00:16:26,880 --> 00:16:29,370

You know, you were so
tired, you worked so hard

325

00:16:29,370 --> 00:16:31,590

that you did not
have too much time

326

00:16:31,590 --> 00:16:33,350

to reflect of what
was happening.

327

00:16:33,350 --> 00:16:34,350

At least for me, it was.

328

00:16:34,350 --> 00:16:36,433

I'm sure it was much more
difficult for my mother.

329

00:16:36,433 --> 00:16:40,750

330

00:16:40,750 --> 00:16:45,910

And then, well, I'm
taking you from 1939

331

00:16:45,910 --> 00:16:48,840

till the worst day of my life.

332

00:16:48,840 --> 00:16:51,810

333

00:16:51,810 --> 00:16:55,080

The 28th of June, '42.

334

00:16:55,080 --> 00:16:58,660

335

00:16:58,660 --> 00:17:00,812

That is when I saw my
father for the last time.

336

00:17:00,812 --> 00:17:02,020

The following day, my mother.

337

00:17:02,020 --> 00:17:06,720

338

00:17:06,720 --> 00:17:08,044

We were told to assemble.

339

00:17:08,044 --> 00:17:10,869

340

00:17:10,869 --> 00:17:21,583

Oh, the day before,
I heard my parents.

341

00:17:21,583 --> 00:17:23,500

Of course, you know, we
all lived in one room.

342

00:17:23,500 --> 00:17:25,960

And I heard my parents
talk through that night.

343

00:17:25,960 --> 00:17:32,950

And I still cannot comprehend
their incredible bravery.

344

00:17:32,950 --> 00:17:36,040

They spoke only of
their lives together,

345

00:17:36,040 --> 00:17:41,930

of the love, the good times,
the children, of their parents.

346

00:17:41,930 --> 00:17:45,670

And with that, they
faced the morning.

347

00:17:45,670 --> 00:17:51,580

And I know it sort of became
perhaps my own defense.

348

00:17:51,580 --> 00:17:53,080

I always felt, you

know, when things

349

00:17:53,080 --> 00:17:56,440

were very tough
in following years

350

00:17:56,440 --> 00:17:58,930

that I had to
emulate my parents.

351

00:17:58,930 --> 00:18:01,990

If they could do
it, I can do it.

352

00:18:01,990 --> 00:18:03,850

And that I must never
disappoint them.

353

00:18:03,850 --> 00:18:07,580

I knew that if they return.

354

00:18:07,580 --> 00:18:10,240

At those times, I
thought when they return,

355

00:18:10,240 --> 00:18:12,580

I never would say if.

356

00:18:12,580 --> 00:18:20,960

That you know, I will show
them that I'll come back.

357

00:18:20,960 --> 00:18:25,020

I'll do everything
to come back to them.

358

00:18:25,020 --> 00:18:27,450

Because I remember how
horrible it was for them

359

00:18:27,450 --> 00:18:28,560

when my brother left.

360

00:18:28,560 --> 00:18:32,610

Blessedly, they never knew
that my brother did not return.

361

00:18:32,610 --> 00:18:34,740

But you know, that was
the daily conversation,

362

00:18:34,740 --> 00:18:38,465

when Arthur comes back
home, and this, and that.

363

00:18:38,465 --> 00:18:42,220

And I felt that, you
know, I owed it to them

364

00:18:42,220 --> 00:18:46,670

to stay alive no matter what.

365

00:18:46,670 --> 00:18:49,315

And not give them the
pain of that loss.

366

00:18:49,315 --> 00:18:56,110

367

00:18:56,110 --> 00:18:57,347

However, you know, we had--

368

00:18:57,347 --> 00:18:58,930

of course, I always
had a great deal--

369

00:18:58,930 --> 00:19:01,030

even though I was not
particularly religious,

370

00:19:01,030 --> 00:19:04,520

I had a great deal of respect
for religion and books.

371

00:19:04,520 --> 00:19:08,980

And one of the things I wanted
to do after I said goodbye

372
00:19:08,980 --> 00:19:13,440
to my father, I wanted to--

373
00:19:13,440 --> 00:19:14,765
I knew what would happen.

374
00:19:14,765 --> 00:19:16,140
In the ghetto,
you see, my father

375
00:19:16,140 --> 00:19:22,080
was taken away on
Sunday, the 28th of June.

376
00:19:22,080 --> 00:19:28,140
And I asked a friend
of mine to go with me

377
00:19:28,140 --> 00:19:30,963
and collect prayer books.

378
00:19:30,963 --> 00:19:32,880
You know, I was afraid
when they will find it,

379
00:19:32,880 --> 00:19:35,130
they'll probably use it for
toilet tissue or something

380
00:19:35,130 --> 00:19:36,690
like that.

381
00:19:36,690 --> 00:19:39,570
And we dragged--
it was a rainy day.

382
00:19:39,570 --> 00:19:45,000
And we dragged those
books to a little cemetery

383

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:49,713

which was adjacent to the
ghetto, an old cemetery.

384

00:19:49,713 --> 00:19:50,880

And we took the books there.

385

00:19:50,880 --> 00:19:53,850

We couldn't really bury
them, but we sort of

386

00:19:53,850 --> 00:19:55,740

stashed them in
one of those things

387

00:19:55,740 --> 00:20:01,740

where there were, I guess were
some coffins and things were.

388

00:20:01,740 --> 00:20:04,410

Frankly, I don't
remember that too well.

389

00:20:04,410 --> 00:20:05,630

But I know we did it there.

390

00:20:05,630 --> 00:20:07,350

We first tried to
bury some of them.

391

00:20:07,350 --> 00:20:13,510

And sort of give it the
decency of a burial.

392

00:20:13,510 --> 00:20:16,017

I would rather not
recall the night,

393

00:20:16,017 --> 00:20:18,100

the last night which I
spent with my mother, which

394

00:20:18,100 --> 00:20:21,010
was very bitter.

395
00:20:21,010 --> 00:20:27,160
And then in the morning, very,
very early in the morning,

396
00:20:27,160 --> 00:20:32,105
came the final moment.

397
00:20:32,105 --> 00:20:34,610
And they rushed through
the ghetto with the whips

398
00:20:34,610 --> 00:20:37,270
and what have you.

399
00:20:37,270 --> 00:20:40,570
My poor mother, you know,
my brother left on a Monday.

400
00:20:40,570 --> 00:20:43,510
And he left, which was
three years prior to that.

401
00:20:43,510 --> 00:20:47,873
And my mother fasted every
Monday, sort of atoning.

402
00:20:47,873 --> 00:20:48,790
I don't know for what.

403
00:20:48,790 --> 00:20:52,740

404
00:20:52,740 --> 00:20:54,870
Probably begging God,
if she's going to fast,

405
00:20:54,870 --> 00:20:56,040
that my brother will return.

406

00:20:56,040 --> 00:20:57,330
And that was also on a Monday.

407
00:20:57,330 --> 00:20:59,670
And I remember, I begged her
to have something to eat,

408
00:20:59,670 --> 00:21:01,380
and she wouldn't.

409
00:21:01,380 --> 00:21:08,430
But she had also saved
from before the war a bit

410
00:21:08,430 --> 00:21:14,920
of cocoa and some jam.

411
00:21:14,920 --> 00:21:17,770
And she decided to make that
cocoa for me that morning.

412
00:21:17,770 --> 00:21:20,715
And I remember all
those years looking

413
00:21:20,715 --> 00:21:22,090
at that cocoa with
great longing,

414
00:21:22,090 --> 00:21:24,430
and we didn't have
any throughout.

415
00:21:24,430 --> 00:21:27,430
But it didn't taste particularly
sweet on that morning.

416
00:21:27,430 --> 00:21:31,230

417
00:21:31,230 --> 00:21:34,470
We had to march
through our town.

418
00:21:34,470 --> 00:21:41,760
And I guess it's a sort
of a similar journey

419
00:21:41,760 --> 00:21:44,120
than a journey to execution,
when I think of it now.

420
00:21:44,120 --> 00:21:47,930
Because you know, you
saw people looking out

421
00:21:47,930 --> 00:21:49,040
from behind curtains.

422
00:21:49,040 --> 00:21:53,570
Some waving, sort
of a mute farewell.

423
00:21:53,570 --> 00:21:59,020
Seeing somebody was painting
a new sign on a shop.

424
00:21:59,020 --> 00:22:01,915
The movie was putting on
a new feature on marquee.

425
00:22:01,915 --> 00:22:05,900

426
00:22:05,900 --> 00:22:06,900
And we were marching.

427
00:22:06,900 --> 00:22:16,900

428
00:22:16,900 --> 00:22:20,260
There was an SS man there that
was near the railroad tracks

429
00:22:20,260 --> 00:22:26,230

where the circus used to come
to sort of an empty place,

430
00:22:26,230 --> 00:22:27,920
accommodating all
kinds of things.

431
00:22:27,920 --> 00:22:34,790
A circus before and
now sort of a tragedy

432
00:22:34,790 --> 00:22:35,710
of a different nature.

433
00:22:35,710 --> 00:22:39,650

434
00:22:39,650 --> 00:22:42,644
We just have to reload.

435
00:22:42,644 --> 00:22:44,385
We have to put
another roll on the--

436
00:22:44,385 --> 00:23:01,710

437
00:23:01,710 --> 00:23:04,080
if you can pick up maybe.

438
00:23:04,080 --> 00:23:06,488
Maybe you should tell
me who Merin was.

439
00:23:06,488 --> 00:23:07,530
And then you can pick up.

440
00:23:07,530 --> 00:23:08,030
OK.

441
00:23:08,030 --> 00:23:15,620

442
00:23:15,620 --> 00:23:17,950
OK.

443
00:23:17,950 --> 00:23:22,420
I was with my mother and
a number of my friends

444
00:23:22,420 --> 00:23:25,800
as well as their mothers.

445
00:23:25,800 --> 00:23:32,290
And we heard that
Merin was there.

446
00:23:32,290 --> 00:23:34,930
Merin was a man of--

447
00:23:34,930 --> 00:23:37,630

448
00:23:37,630 --> 00:23:39,670
if the stories were to believe--

449
00:23:39,670 --> 00:23:43,810
not anyone to be
greatly admired.

450
00:23:43,810 --> 00:23:47,200
Man apparently of a little
character, what have you,

451
00:23:47,200 --> 00:23:49,810
and he was called
an opportunist.

452
00:23:49,810 --> 00:23:53,150
And this opportunity
was presented to him

453
00:23:53,150 --> 00:23:59,960
that he was working with

the government there.

454

00:23:59,960 --> 00:24:03,880

The story also had it that he
had a child, a little daughter

455

00:24:03,880 --> 00:24:08,050

whom apparently he adored,
and that he would do anything

456

00:24:08,050 --> 00:24:10,300

in order to save that child.

457

00:24:10,300 --> 00:24:14,620

And the Nazis apparently
gave him that opportunity

458

00:24:14,620 --> 00:24:18,850

that if he would be helpful
to interpret or get people

459

00:24:18,850 --> 00:24:22,000

to come, his child
would be saved.

460

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:22,970

That was the story.

461

00:24:22,970 --> 00:24:25,420

I don't know how much
truth, though, is in it.

462

00:24:25,420 --> 00:24:26,330

But I saw him.

463

00:24:26,330 --> 00:24:29,510

He was a very small,
sort of sour-looking man.

464

00:24:29,510 --> 00:24:34,060

And it was raining, but
it was oppressively hot

465

00:24:34,060 --> 00:24:35,860
because it was the end of June.

466

00:24:35,860 --> 00:24:39,820
And he was wearing a
very sleek raincoat.

467

00:24:39,820 --> 00:24:42,540
And then of course,
there were the Germans

468

00:24:42,540 --> 00:24:46,390
there in uniforms,
the Nazis, the SS.

469

00:24:46,390 --> 00:24:47,740
He was standing to the side.

470

00:24:47,740 --> 00:24:49,210
We had to form a line.

471

00:24:49,210 --> 00:24:54,340
And an SS man stood there
with a little stick.

472

00:24:54,340 --> 00:24:57,730
And I was holding hands with
my mother, I came up to him,

473

00:24:57,730 --> 00:24:58,820
and he looked at me.

474

00:24:58,820 --> 00:25:00,940
And he says, how old?

475

00:25:00,940 --> 00:25:02,990
I said, 18.

476

00:25:02,990 --> 00:25:05,960
And he sort of pushed me
one side and my mother

477

00:25:05,960 --> 00:25:08,430
to the other side.

478

00:25:08,430 --> 00:25:10,830
I wasn't aware of
what was happening

479

00:25:10,830 --> 00:25:12,850
at that particular point.

480

00:25:12,850 --> 00:25:16,380
But shortly thereafter, when
I stood with my other friends,

481

00:25:16,380 --> 00:25:18,630
who were also separated
from their mothers,

482

00:25:18,630 --> 00:25:22,140
we realized that we were going
to go to separate places.

483

00:25:22,140 --> 00:25:24,510
And it was enclosures,
an enclosure there

484

00:25:24,510 --> 00:25:29,850
with barbed wire to the
right, where our mothers were.

485

00:25:29,850 --> 00:25:32,800
And we were immediately
taken to the left.

486

00:25:32,800 --> 00:25:36,190
Now, again, I don't remember
the time sequence at all.

487

00:25:36,190 --> 00:25:39,420
I just remember the
tremendous panic.

488

00:25:39,420 --> 00:25:42,900

And shortly
thereafter, some trucks

489

00:25:42,900 --> 00:25:48,210

arrived, open trucks with
sort of a gate behind it.

490

00:25:48,210 --> 00:25:51,120

And we were loaded on the truck.

491

00:25:51,120 --> 00:25:56,430

And I heard my mother's voice
from afar to ask where to?

492

00:25:56,430 --> 00:25:58,930

And I shouted
back, I don't know.

493

00:25:58,930 --> 00:26:04,095

And I guess I must have been
aware that I was taken away

494

00:26:04,095 --> 00:26:04,720

from my mother.

495

00:26:04,720 --> 00:26:06,610

So I jumped off.

496

00:26:06,610 --> 00:26:08,110

And Merin came.

497

00:26:08,110 --> 00:26:11,590

And he was a very
slight, small man.

498

00:26:11,590 --> 00:26:13,810

You didn't expect
such strength in him.

499

00:26:13,810 --> 00:26:16,427

And he picked me up bodily,
and he threw me on the truck,

500
00:26:16,427 --> 00:26:18,010
and he says, you are
too young to die.

501
00:26:18,010 --> 00:26:20,980

502
00:26:20,980 --> 00:26:24,970
And I guess the trucks
were set in motion.

503
00:26:24,970 --> 00:26:28,420
Again, I don't remember
the time sequence.

504
00:26:28,420 --> 00:26:31,030
And I just heard
my mother's voice

505
00:26:31,030 --> 00:26:33,970
over that entire-- over
crying and everything.

506
00:26:33,970 --> 00:26:35,620
And came like an echo.

507
00:26:35,620 --> 00:26:40,720
And she was saying, be strong,
you know, [GERMAN] in German.

508
00:26:40,720 --> 00:26:47,430

509
00:26:47,430 --> 00:26:49,990
And then the trucks
rolled out of there.

510
00:26:49,990 --> 00:26:55,215
And ironically,
the sun came out.

511

00:26:55,215 --> 00:26:58,000

512

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:02,050

I still see it, rooftops sort
of wet, illuminated by the sun,

513

00:27:02,050 --> 00:27:05,230

and the church
bells were ringing.

514

00:27:05,230 --> 00:27:07,480

And that was the last view.

515

00:27:07,480 --> 00:27:14,445

We were taken to a train.

516

00:27:14,445 --> 00:27:18,160

517

00:27:18,160 --> 00:27:19,910

And of course, then I
was with my friends.

518

00:27:19,910 --> 00:27:25,280

And I think we all
started talking and facing

519

00:27:25,280 --> 00:27:27,700

the reality what was
probably happening.

520

00:27:27,700 --> 00:27:31,070

And I remember
rejecting it completely.

521

00:27:31,070 --> 00:27:34,986

Saying, it cannot be, you know.

522

00:27:34,986 --> 00:27:36,290

They're going to be all right.

523

00:27:36,290 --> 00:27:39,110

524

00:27:39,110 --> 00:27:43,930

And frankly, that kept me going
all those years, you know.

525

00:27:43,930 --> 00:27:45,190

They have to be all right.

526

00:27:45,190 --> 00:27:48,020

527

00:27:48,020 --> 00:27:52,930

We went to Sosnowiec,
which was a transit camp.

528

00:27:52,930 --> 00:27:54,770

You see, our part
had belong to Austria

529

00:27:54,770 --> 00:27:56,960

before the First World War.

530

00:27:56,960 --> 00:27:58,538

This is why we were
German-speaking.

531

00:27:58,538 --> 00:27:59,580

And this was quite early.

532

00:27:59,580 --> 00:28:03,770

This was June, '42.

533

00:28:03,770 --> 00:28:09,830

And in that transit camp,
your names, your ages,

534

00:28:09,830 --> 00:28:12,650

and the places you hailed
from were registered.

535

00:28:12,650 --> 00:28:16,850
I came from Berlitz, which was
a well-known textile center.

536
00:28:16,850 --> 00:28:19,640
They called it the
Manchester of central Europe.

537
00:28:19,640 --> 00:28:22,325
And people would come
from all over Germany

538
00:28:22,325 --> 00:28:24,200
who were in need of labor.

539
00:28:24,200 --> 00:28:25,700
The men were in
the army, the women

540
00:28:25,700 --> 00:28:27,290
were given
responsible positions.

541
00:28:27,290 --> 00:28:28,640
And they needed slave labor.

542
00:28:28,640 --> 00:28:32,000
However, they needed people
who could understand German

543
00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:33,440
and speak German.

544
00:28:33,440 --> 00:28:36,740
So we were in a more
favorable position.

545
00:28:36,740 --> 00:28:43,520
And a man came from [GERMAN],,
which is a very large textile

546
00:28:43,520 --> 00:28:48,480
Senator I guess so maybe

many factories in Germany.

547

00:28:48,480 --> 00:28:52,410

And he bought us for that
factory to be slaves.

548

00:28:52,410 --> 00:28:56,630

But in that [GERMAN],,
transit camp,

549

00:28:56,630 --> 00:29:00,830

I think I came face to
face for the first time

550

00:29:00,830 --> 00:29:02,480

with the concept
of concentration

551

00:29:02,480 --> 00:29:05,450

camp, to which of course, slave
labor concentration we were.

552

00:29:05,450 --> 00:29:13,120

Because shipments came
with girls from the camps

553

00:29:13,120 --> 00:29:17,770

where the maimed
could no longer work.

554

00:29:17,770 --> 00:29:21,070

And that was the last
stop before Auschwitz.

555

00:29:21,070 --> 00:29:23,780

556

00:29:23,780 --> 00:29:25,580

And I met those girls.

557

00:29:25,580 --> 00:29:29,510

And I remember my first contact
was probably the first evening

558
00:29:29,510 --> 00:29:35,060
when we stood in line
to get some food out

559
00:29:35,060 --> 00:29:38,610
of battered aluminum bowls.

560
00:29:38,610 --> 00:29:43,130
You know, we used to feed our
dogs out of bowls like that.

561
00:29:43,130 --> 00:29:45,290
And I didn't understand
when that bowl, was given

562
00:29:45,290 --> 00:29:47,150
to my hand, what to do with it.

563
00:29:47,150 --> 00:29:48,830
And then we stood in line.

564
00:29:48,830 --> 00:29:50,790
And I got some food.

565
00:29:50,790 --> 00:29:53,780
And I remember putting a
spoon in, and scraping it,

566
00:29:53,780 --> 00:29:56,030
and there was sand in
the bottom, you know.

567
00:29:56,030 --> 00:30:03,620
And I saw this girl was, you
know, her hair was very short,

568
00:30:03,620 --> 00:30:04,940
shorn hair.

569
00:30:04,940 --> 00:30:06,440
And she had enormous eyes.

570
00:30:06,440 --> 00:30:07,610
She was emaciated.

571
00:30:07,610 --> 00:30:08,900
And she looked sort of hungry.

572
00:30:08,900 --> 00:30:10,860
And I asked her
if she wanted it.

573
00:30:10,860 --> 00:30:13,360
And she looked at me as if I
gave her the greatest treasure.

574
00:30:13,360 --> 00:30:15,318
And she said, yes, she
says, aren't you hungry?

575
00:30:15,318 --> 00:30:17,120
And I said no.

576
00:30:17,120 --> 00:30:24,750
And she was sort of
silhouetted against the fence.

577
00:30:24,750 --> 00:30:28,050
And she sort of give a
benediction when she got it.

578
00:30:28,050 --> 00:30:30,720
And then she handed
me a empty bowl.

579
00:30:30,720 --> 00:30:33,320
And I didn't understand.

580
00:30:33,320 --> 00:30:36,860
And she said, you know, if
I be found with two bowls,

581
00:30:36,860 --> 00:30:40,960

I'll be beaten that I stole it.

582
00:30:40,960 --> 00:30:42,520
So she gave me that bowl.

583
00:30:42,520 --> 00:30:45,900

584
00:30:45,900 --> 00:30:49,770
And that was sort of the first
impact of things to come.

585
00:30:49,770 --> 00:30:53,400

586
00:30:53,400 --> 00:30:56,350
I was with a very close
friend of mine, Ilsa,

587
00:30:56,350 --> 00:30:58,240
who was like a sister to me.

588
00:30:58,240 --> 00:31:00,302
We had grown up together.

589
00:31:00,302 --> 00:31:02,420
And a number of
my other friends.

590
00:31:02,420 --> 00:31:06,870
And there, I met people who
became my best friends, family

591
00:31:06,870 --> 00:31:07,500
to each other.

592
00:31:07,500 --> 00:31:10,270
My friend Liesel,
my friend Susie.

593
00:31:10,270 --> 00:31:13,950
One was from Vienna and

the other one from Prague.

594

00:31:13,950 --> 00:31:15,520

We became very close friends.

595

00:31:15,520 --> 00:31:21,390

And we were sent to a
camp called Bolkenhain.

596

00:31:21,390 --> 00:31:27,180

And strangely enough, on
that right from Sosnowiec,

597

00:31:27,180 --> 00:31:32,590

from the transit camp
to concentration camp,

598

00:31:32,590 --> 00:31:35,110

there was a certain
lightness which I remember.

599

00:31:35,110 --> 00:31:40,440

And I can identify it now
as the worst has happened.

600

00:31:40,440 --> 00:31:46,710

And as tragic as it was to
be separated from my parents,

601

00:31:46,710 --> 00:31:50,220

in a way, it was almost,
you know, some of my fear

602

00:31:50,220 --> 00:31:51,660

left me there.

603

00:31:51,660 --> 00:31:54,070

You know, I was always afraid
that I would see something,

604

00:31:54,070 --> 00:31:54,570

you know.

605

00:31:54,570 --> 00:31:57,630

And I once saw an SS
man beat my father.

606

00:31:57,630 --> 00:32:00,320

I mean, those were the
most horrible things.

607

00:32:00,320 --> 00:32:02,760

To see my parents concern
about me and their concern

608

00:32:02,760 --> 00:32:04,050

about each other.

609

00:32:04,050 --> 00:32:08,100

Now, I knew that whatever
will happen will happen to me.

610

00:32:08,100 --> 00:32:13,150

And for some reason, I was
really not afraid any longer.

611

00:32:13,150 --> 00:32:16,030

And I was with young
girls, we were together.

612

00:32:16,030 --> 00:32:20,250

And there was almost
something lighthearted

613

00:32:20,250 --> 00:32:23,190

that happened there.

614

00:32:23,190 --> 00:32:28,695

And I think that,
in itself, I think

615

00:32:28,695 --> 00:32:33,850

it's much easier to bear
whatever happens to you alone,

616

00:32:33,850 --> 00:32:36,880
not to watch someone you love--

617
00:32:36,880 --> 00:32:40,870
it's happening to them and to
also see their concern and pain

618
00:32:40,870 --> 00:32:43,310
when it's inflicted on you.

619
00:32:43,310 --> 00:32:45,340
And this is why I
think perhaps it

620
00:32:45,340 --> 00:32:48,040
was so much more
difficult for people

621
00:32:48,040 --> 00:32:50,720
that had to suffer together.

622
00:32:50,720 --> 00:32:53,840
And of course, youth, you
know, also is resilient.

623
00:32:53,840 --> 00:32:56,880
At that point, I was 18.

624
00:32:56,880 --> 00:32:59,430
And then of course, I was in
the camps for three years.

625
00:32:59,430 --> 00:33:01,960

626
00:33:01,960 --> 00:33:02,460
OK.

627
00:33:02,460 --> 00:33:03,540
We have one minute.

628
00:33:03,540 --> 00:33:09,360

629

00:33:09,360 --> 00:33:12,840

I made an incredible
bet on that train.

630

00:33:12,840 --> 00:33:14,010

That girl I met.

631

00:33:14,010 --> 00:33:16,830

She was a beautiful girl,
her name was Susie Kunz.

632

00:33:16,830 --> 00:33:21,585

And Susie said, that war,
how long, she said to me--

633

00:33:21,585 --> 00:33:23,085

we stood at the
window of the train,

634

00:33:23,085 --> 00:33:25,210

she said, how long do you
think it's going to last?

635

00:33:25,210 --> 00:33:26,802

And I said, well,
it'd be wonderful

636

00:33:26,802 --> 00:33:28,260

when we make the
journey back, it's

637

00:33:28,260 --> 00:33:30,405

going to be probably
less than a year.

638

00:33:30,405 --> 00:33:33,930

And she said, less than a
year, she said, no, they'll

639

00:33:33,930 --> 00:33:34,630

kill us first.

640
00:33:34,630 --> 00:33:37,800
She said, it's going to
be a long, long time.

641
00:33:37,800 --> 00:33:40,110
And I said, well,
let's bet, make a bet.

642
00:33:40,110 --> 00:33:41,520
And she said, OK.

643
00:33:41,520 --> 00:33:42,510
What shall we bet for?

644
00:33:42,510 --> 00:33:45,990
And she said, I
love strawberries,

645
00:33:45,990 --> 00:33:47,490
field strawberries,
passionately,

646
00:33:47,490 --> 00:33:48,600
and whipped cream.

647
00:33:48,600 --> 00:33:51,990
Said, OK, then we'll bet
for a whole quart of it.

648
00:33:51,990 --> 00:33:57,990
And we shook hands
there and made that bet.

649
00:33:57,990 --> 00:34:01,140
I lost the bet but
I didn't pay it.

650
00:34:01,140 --> 00:34:05,580
She died tragically
on liberation morning

651

00:34:05,580 --> 00:34:07,457
in Czechoslovakia.

652
00:34:07,457 --> 00:34:09,540
I don't know if she knew
that we were free or not.

653
00:34:09,540 --> 00:34:12,050
I rather think she did not.