1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:23,830

2 00:00:23,830 --> 00:00:27,280 Mrs. Page, tell me what happened when

3 00:00:27,280 --> 00:00:31,360 the Germans arrived at your door to arrest your mother.

4 00:00:31,360 --> 00:00:34,240 Describe to me that incident and what happened.

5 00:00:34,240 --> 00:00:38,410 I was in our apartment alone at the time.

6 00:00:38,410 --> 00:00:46,090 My mother went downstairs to attend to someone

7 00:00:46,090 --> 00:00:47,470 who was sick in the building.

8 00:00:47,470 --> 00:00:49,930 You know, my mother was a physician.

9 00:00:49,930 --> 00:00:54,100 And there was a tremendous knock on the door,

10 00:00:54,100 --> 00:00:55,480 and I went to open.

11 00:00:55,480 --> 00:00:59,110 This was very early stages of the war, 00:00:59,110 --> 00:01:01,460 so we were not used to it any--

13 00:01:01,460 --> 00:01:02,320 yet.

14 00:01:02,320 --> 00:01:06,580 This was November, 1939, early November.

15 00:01:06,580 --> 00:01:12,000 And I opened the door, and I saw one German,

16 00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:15,100 whatever he was, some kind of an officer,

17 00:01:15,100 --> 00:01:22,450 and three men dressed in black uniforms of the local Germans,

18 00:01:22,450 --> 00:01:24,940 who were, of course, the traitors to Poland.

19 00:01:24,940 --> 00:01:28,700 And they collaborated, and before the war,

20 00:01:28,700 --> 00:01:31,660 and with the Ger-- and collaborated during the war

21 00:01:31,660 --> 00:01:34,990 with the occupiers.

22 00:01:34,990 --> 00:01:37,720 And they came, and the man said that we

23 00:01:37,720 --> 00:01:39,130 are-- where is my mother? 24 00:01:39,130 --> 00:01:41,380 In the meantime, my mother ran up the steps

25 00:01:41,380 --> 00:01:43,330 and came to the apartment.

26 00:01:43,330 --> 00:01:49,420 And they said that she's arrested on political grounds.

27 00:01:49,420 --> 00:01:53,620 And they said to take just a few warm things

28 00:01:53,620 --> 00:02:00,160 and put all the valuables, money, jewelry on the table.

29 00:02:00,160 --> 00:02:02,050 And we didn't know.

30 00:02:02,050 --> 00:02:03,830 I was not on the list.

31 00:02:03,830 --> 00:02:07,090 So my mother told me, why don't you go to your boyfriend?

32 00:02:07,090 --> 00:02:08,979 I said, I don't want to go to my boyfriend.

33 00:02:08,979 --> 00:02:10,180 I want to go with you.

34 00:02:10,180 --> 00:02:12,850 You know?

35 00:02:12,850 --> 00:02:18,520 And she told me to put the valuables on the table.

36 00:02:18,520 --> 00:02:19,660 No, she did it.

37 00:02:19,660 --> 00:02:20,330 She did it.

38 00:02:20,330 --> 00:02:25,960 And then we went to the bedroom to collect our warm things,

39 00:02:25,960 --> 00:02:28,160 just a few things they let us have.

40 00:02:28,160 --> 00:02:30,040 And she said to me in Russian, my mother

41 00:02:30,040 --> 00:02:35,050 was Russian originally, she said to me, throw this--

42 00:02:35,050 --> 00:02:37,600 she had it in a little sack--

43 00:02:37,600 --> 00:02:40,720 throw it in the toilet and flush the water.

44 00:02:40,720 --> 00:02:43,330 And I, as an obedient daughter, did that.

45 00:02:43,330 --> 00:02:47,380 And they took us to--

46 00:02:47,380 --> 00:02:49,420 they closed the apartment.

47 00:02:49,420 --> 00:02:51,160 They sealed it.

48 00:02:51,160 --> 00:02:53,260 And they took us to a place which

49 00:02:53,260 --> 00:02:55,480 was actually my high school.

50 00:02:55,480 --> 00:02:57,190 And there I saw--

51 00:02:57,190 --> 00:02:59,560 I thought that we were only arrested.

52 00:02:59,560 --> 00:03:04,480 Because deportations were not with it--

53 00:03:04,480 --> 00:03:08,500 they were not-- we didn't know about deportations yet.

54 00:03:08,500 --> 00:03:10,390 This was just November, you know?

55 00:03:10,390 --> 00:03:13,030 And we realized that there were maybe--

56 00:03:13,030 --> 00:03:16,450 later we found out about a thousand people, both Polish

57 00:03:16,450 --> 00:03:19,435 Catholics and Jews from Poland.

58 00:03:19,435 --> 00:03:22,370 00:03:22,370 --> 00:03:26,920 I would say that this was the intelligentsia of the city.

60 00:03:26,920 --> 00:03:32,650 They tried, the Germans tried to quell any kind of resistance,

61 00:03:32,650 --> 00:03:35,440 and they did the same thing in all the cities.

62 00:03:35,440 --> 00:03:37,810 The very beginning, they tried to get rid

63 00:03:37,810 --> 00:03:40,870 of the people who would provide, who

64 00:03:40,870 --> 00:03:43,720 would resist or something like that.

65 00:03:43,720 --> 00:03:48,996 And they put us in trains.

66 00:03:48,996 --> 00:03:51,730 At that time, there was passenger trains.

67 00:03:51,730 --> 00:03:53,980 There were no cattle trains yet.

68 00:03:53,980 --> 00:03:57,280 And they took part of us to the city of--

69 00:03:57,280 --> 00:04:01,240 part of the transport to the city of Czestochowa

70 00:04:01,240 --> 00:04:05,170 and the other part, which I was-- and my mother and I

71 00:04:05,170 --> 00:04:11,060 were in it, to Krakow, the city of Krakow.

72 00:04:11,060 --> 00:04:15,680 OK, let's stop for just a second.

73 00:04:15,680 --> 00:04:20,810 OK, Mrs. Page, I want you to tell me that same story again

74 00:04:20,810 --> 00:04:24,230 but as though you haven't told it to me before,

75 00:04:24,230 --> 00:04:27,130 so that's how the Germans arrived at your door

76 00:04:27,130 --> 00:04:28,375 to arrest your mother.

77 00:04:28,375 --> 00:04:29,410 Mhm.

78 00:04:29,410 --> 00:04:36,550 It was November, I think 11, 1939, early evening,

79 00:04:36,550 --> 00:04:38,920 and I was alone in the apartment.

80 00:04:38,920 --> 00:04:42,610 My mother had to go downstairs to attend to some patient

81 00:04:42,610 --> 00:04:45,730 in our apartment house. 82 00:04:45,730 --> 00:04:51,550 And I heard a knock or a ring, or the bell rang.

83 00:04:51,550 --> 00:04:52,840 I don't remember exactly.

84 00:04:52,840 --> 00:04:57,670 I went to open the door, and there were three Germans

85 00:04:57,670 --> 00:04:59,060 altogether.

86 00:04:59,060 --> 00:05:02,320 One was in a green uniform.

87 00:05:02,320 --> 00:05:03,760 I assume it was SS.

88 00:05:03,760 --> 00:05:06,520 In those days, I didn't distinguish it so clearly.

89 00:05:06,520 --> 00:05:07,360 You know?

90 00:05:07,360 --> 00:05:10,540 He was older-- and two younger men

91 00:05:10,540 --> 00:05:14,710 dressed in the dark uniforms of the local Germans,

92 00:05:14,710 --> 00:05:21,160 who were now within the German army,

93 00:05:21,160 --> 00:05:23,890 and who before collaborated with the Germans,

94 00:05:23,890 --> 00:05:28,250 and basically were traitors before the war.

95 00:05:28,250 --> 00:05:31,600 And one of them said that--

96 00:05:31,600 --> 00:05:33,850 my mother, in the meantime, came upstairs,

97 00:05:33,850 --> 00:05:36,460 running up because someone probably

98 00:05:36,460 --> 00:05:41,170 let her know that the Germans are knocking on the door.

99 00:05:41,170 --> 00:05:46,570 And they told her that she's arrested on political grounds.

100 00:05:46,570 --> 00:05:48,700 And I was not on the list.

101 00:05:48,700 --> 00:05:50,650 They said I can go.

102 00:05:50,650 --> 00:05:53,440 But my mother told me to go and see--

103 00:05:53,440 --> 00:05:56,050 to my boyfriend's house.

104 00:05:56,050 --> 00:05:57,790 First of all, I couldn't have gone anyway

105

00:05:57,790 --> 00:06:01,990 because there was a curfew, and I couldn't move from the house.

106 00:06:01,990 --> 00:06:03,400 But I wouldn't go anyway.

107 00:06:03,400 --> 00:06:06,100 I told her I want to stay with her.

108 00:06:06,100 --> 00:06:11,740 And they told us to take a few warm things, put

109 00:06:11,740 --> 00:06:15,650 all the valuables and jewelry on the table.

110 00:06:15,650 --> 00:06:18,460 And as we were getting ready, my mother,

111 00:06:18,460 --> 00:06:23,020 in those days, being aware of the Germans

112 00:06:23,020 --> 00:06:26,410 and trying to be ready just in case,

113 00:06:26,410 --> 00:06:29,320 had her jewelry in a tiny little sack.

114 00:06:29,320 --> 00:06:32,170 And she told me, take this, and throw it in the toilet,

115 00:06:32,170 --> 00:06:33,380 and flush the water.

116 00:06:33,380 --> 00:06:34,240 And I did it.

117 00:06:34,240 --> 00:06:37,120

118

00:06:37,120 --> 00:06:40,480 Then we went out.

119

00:06:40,480 --> 00:06:42,130 They sealed the apartment.

120

00:06:42,130 --> 00:06:44,440 And they took us to a building, which

121

00:06:44,440 --> 00:06:50,980 was my pre-war high school which I graduated from,

122

00:06:50,980 --> 00:06:55,930 in the big gym, in the big, big room.

123

00:06:55,930 --> 00:06:58,900 I realized that there were many, many people.

124

00:06:58,900 --> 00:07:01,840 Later, we found out it was about a thousand,

125

00:07:01,840 --> 00:07:07,270 both Polish Catholics and Polish Jews.

126

00:07:07,270 --> 00:07:10,600 It was like an elite of the city.

127

00:07:10,600 --> 00:07:16,486 I realized that too over there, which was we--

128

00:07:16,486 --> 00:07:21,400 which we understood later that probably the Germans wanted

129 00:07:21,400 --> 00:07:24,370 to get rid of all the sources of resistance

130 00:07:24,370 --> 00:07:26,620 at first, the leaders.

131 00:07:26,620 --> 00:07:32,020 They did it in every city or every town that they were in.

132 00:07:32,020 --> 00:07:36,520 This was their-- the procedure they went by.

133 00:07:36,520 --> 00:07:40,120 And then they put us in--

134 00:07:40,120 --> 00:07:43,240 on the trains, passenger trains at the time

135 00:07:43,240 --> 00:07:48,360 because it was early days of the war.

136 00:07:48,360 --> 00:07:49,530 And they took us.

137 00:07:49,530 --> 00:07:53,100 Part of the transport went to the city of Czestochowa,

138 00:07:53,100 --> 00:07:56,190 which is famous for its Black Madonna.

139 00:07:56,190 --> 00:08:01,860 And our part of the transport went to the city of Krakow.

140

00:08:01,860 --> 00:08:07,420 We were put in an old Polish fortress in the city of Krakow,

141

00:08:07,420 --> 00:08:10,270 from medieval times, I think.

142

00:08:10,270 --> 00:08:17,050 And we were put on straw, on straw, not even mattresses,

143

00:08:17,050 --> 00:08:18,400 just straw.

144

00:08:18,400 --> 00:08:22,720 And we were received by the Jewish community

145

00:08:22,720 --> 00:08:25,330 representatives, and the Polish Catholics

146

00:08:25,330 --> 00:08:28,900 were received by the Red Cross.

147

00:08:28,900 --> 00:08:30,790 And of course, we had no money.

148

00:08:30,790 --> 00:08:33,710 We had just the basic, basic necessities.

149

00:08:33,710 --> 00:08:35,080 So we were uprooted.

150

00:08:35,080 --> 00:08:38,770 We were in terrible despair.

151

00:08:38,770 --> 00:08:41,350

We didn't know what deportation meant at the time

152 00:08:41,350 --> 00:08:43,150 because this was without precedent.

153 00:08:43,150 --> 00:08:47,200 This was the very first in our city and, I think,

154 00:08:47,200 --> 00:08:51,250 in whole occupied Poland, one of the very first ones.

155 00:08:51,250 --> 00:08:55,120

156 00:08:55,120 --> 00:09:00,540 Describe the difference between the ghetto in Krakow

157 00:09:00,540 --> 00:09:02,960 and the ghetto in Warsaw.

158 00:09:02,960 --> 00:09:07,180 Well, oh, I know.

159 00:09:07,180 --> 00:09:11,420 We were in the ghetto of Krakow.

160 00:09:11,420 --> 00:09:14,450 But by that time, I was already married.

161 00:09:14,450 --> 00:09:19,030 And the ghetto of Krakow comparing to ghetto of Warsaw

162 00:09:19,030 --> 00:09:20,730 was not as terrible. 00:09:20,730 --> 00:09:24,340 When my mother could not stay with-- she

164 00:09:24,340 --> 00:09:28,390 stayed with us in Krakow during the pre-ghetto days.

165 00:09:28,390 --> 00:09:33,250 When ghetto was established, or even before that,

166 00:09:33,250 --> 00:09:36,730 people who came after September 1939

167 00:09:36,730 --> 00:09:40,720 to Krakow who were not before that

168 00:09:40,720 --> 00:09:44,290 then had to leave the city.

169 00:09:44,290 --> 00:09:49,270 And they could choose any city or town

170 00:09:49,270 --> 00:09:52,180 within the Generalgouvernement, which

171 00:09:52,180 --> 00:09:56,530 was not the Deutsches Reich, the German Reich proper.

172 00:09:56,530 --> 00:09:59,240 So she chose to go to Warsaw.

173 00:09:59,240 --> 00:10:03,460 And for maybe twice, I went to visit her

174 00:10:03,460 --> 00:10:05,080 with a special permission.

175

00:10:05,080 --> 00:10:07,420 In those days, you had to get a special permission

176

00:10:07,420 --> 00:10:08,470 to be able to.

177

00:10:08,470 --> 00:10:10,630 And I traveled by train.

178

00:10:10,630 --> 00:10:15,220 And even then, before the ghetto was not closed in Warsaw--

179

00:10:15,220 --> 00:10:17,770 I was not there when the ghetto was closed.

180

00:10:17,770 --> 00:10:19,640 I was there before it was closed--

181

00:10:19,640 --> 00:10:23,860 but all the Jews lived within a certain district.

182

00:10:23,860 --> 00:10:26,650 And it was just terrifying.

183

00:10:26,650 --> 00:10:28,990 People were already hungry.

184

00:10:28,990 --> 00:10:32,910 People were in rags.

185

00:10:32,910 --> 00:10:36,280 There was such a sense of despair over there.

186

00:10:36,280 --> 00:10:41,350

My mother was still practicing medicine over there all alone.

187

00:10:41,350 --> 00:10:45,340 We tried to bring her to Krakow to us,

188

00:10:45,340 --> 00:10:48,430 but it was absolutely impossible.

189

00:10:48,430 --> 00:10:53,540 In Krakow, like on the other hand,

190

00:10:53,540 --> 00:10:58,360 we were all working for the German war effort, of course.

191

00:10:58,360 --> 00:11:04,450 There were deportations, but it was not as terribly gloomy.

192

00:11:04,450 --> 00:11:06,610 And first of all, we were not that hungry.

193

00:11:06,610 --> 00:11:10,030 Somehow, everybody managed to eat

194

00:11:10,030 --> 00:11:11,740 in those days of the ghetto.

195

00:11:11,740 --> 00:11:16,010 In Warsaw, hunger was there from the beginning,

196

00:11:16,010 --> 00:11:18,130 even before the ghetto was closed.

197

00:11:18,130 --> 00:11:20,140

OK, we have to reload.

198

00:11:20,140 --> 00:11:20,640 OK.

199

00:11:20,640 --> 00:11:28,432

200

00:11:28,432 --> 00:11:30,870

OK.

201

00:11:30,870 --> 00:11:33,988 So but don't worry about that.

202

00:11:33,988 --> 00:11:36,030 You don't have fill in

the chronological details.

203

00:11:36,030 --> 00:11:36,990

Mhm.

204

00:11:36,990 --> 00:11:41,850

Now, I'm just going to ask

you, who was Oscar Schindler,

205

00:11:41,850 --> 00:11:43,990

and what did he do?

206

00:11:43,990 --> 00:11:45,780

Describe him too.

207

00:11:45,780 --> 00:11:46,590

OK.

208

00:11:46,590 --> 00:11:49,830

Oscar Schindler was a German industrialist

209

00:11:49,830 --> 00:11:54,360

who came to the occupied city of Krakow in the early days,

210

00:11:54,360 --> 00:11:57,780 I think already maybe September 1939.

211

00:11:57,780 --> 00:12:01,530 I don't know exactly, maybe October.

212

00:12:01,530 --> 00:12:05,970 Like many Germans, he was not a military man.

213

00:12:05,970 --> 00:12:09,930 He belonged to the Nazi Party, but he was an industrialist who

214

00:12:09,930 --> 00:12:13,590 lived-- he was from Sudetenland in Czechoslov--

215

00:12:13,590 --> 00:12:20,010 which was the German--

216

00:12:20,010 --> 00:12:22,390 with the German population of Czechoslovakia.

217

00:12:22,390 --> 00:12:22,890 You see?

218

00:12:22,890 --> 00:12:29,310 He came to Krakow, I think, looking for possibilities

219

00:12:29,310 --> 00:12:30,220 to do business.

220

00:12:30,220 --> 00:12:33,570 This was occupied territory, and so on.

221

00:12:33,570 --> 00:12:36,300

Anyway, he took a small--

222

00:12:36,300 --> 00:12:39,270 he took over because each Jewish business

223

00:12:39,270 --> 00:12:46,800 had to have some kind of a German, like an overseer.

224

00:12:46,800 --> 00:12:50,200 I don't know the exact term for that.

225

00:12:50,200 --> 00:12:57,030 So he took over a Jewish enamel factory which produced

226

00:12:57,030 --> 00:13:00,330 pots and pans at the beginning.

227

00:13:00,330 --> 00:13:06,210 And he started to employ, first of all, Poles.

228

00:13:06,210 --> 00:13:10,080 And then I think he got acquainted

229

00:13:10,080 --> 00:13:15,270 with the bookkeeper, who was the main bookkeeper

230

00:13:15,270 --> 00:13:16,710 of that factory.

231

00:13:16,710 --> 00:13:18,660 And he kind of liked him.

232

00:13:18,660 --> 00:13:22,110 And I think that bookkeeper, and maybe Mr. Schindler himself, 233

00:13:22,110 --> 00:13:26,340 realized it would be very good to employ some Jewish labor.

234

00:13:26,340 --> 00:13:28,770 And he did so.

235

00:13:28,770 --> 00:13:32,430 He was a very, very warm man.

236

00:13:32,430 --> 00:13:35,880 And from the beginning, the Jews who worked for him

237

00:13:35,880 --> 00:13:40,350 worshiped him because he was kind and was such a contrast

238

00:13:40,350 --> 00:13:43,020 to everybody else.

239

00:13:43,020 --> 00:13:47,370 In the whole history of war, I didn't know anyone like him.

240

00:13:47,370 --> 00:13:49,120 I didn't work for him at the time.

241

00:13:49,120 --> 00:13:52,200 But those Jews who did--

242

00:13:52,200 --> 00:13:57,600 excuse me-- had this opinion of him.

243

00:13:57,600 --> 00:14:02,370 My mother-in-law had-was an interior decorator.

244

00:14:02,370 --> 00:14:06,040 And this is I'm talking about pre-ghetto days.

245

00:14:06,040 --> 00:14:12,420 And one day, he came over to her apartment, recommended by one

246

00:14:12,420 --> 00:14:13,050 of--

247

00:14:13,050 --> 00:14:16,500 some other Jewish acquaintances of hers,

248

00:14:16,500 --> 00:14:19,680 that he had a new apartment.

249

00:14:19,680 --> 00:14:22,350 He moved into an apartment, and he would like

250

00:14:22,350 --> 00:14:25,680 her to decorate it for him.

251

00:14:25,680 --> 00:14:30,330 In Poland, before the war, you didn't buy ready-made things.

252

00:14:30,330 --> 00:14:35,190 Everything was made to order, like drapes, and tablecloths,

253

00:14:35,190 --> 00:14:36,180 and everything.

254

00:14:36,180 --> 00:14:39,990 And this gave my husband's family,

255

00:14:39,990 --> 00:14:42,630 his parents, his sister, and myself--

256

00:14:42,630 --> 00:14:46,260 you know, I was married to him in February of 1940--

257

00:14:46,260 --> 00:14:52,740 means of survival because he paid

258

00:14:52,740 --> 00:14:55,560 for all the services for everything

259

00:14:55,560 --> 00:14:57,615 and, besides, was very, very kind.

260

00:14:57,615 --> 00:15:00,990

261

00:15:00,990 --> 00:15:05,255 So would you like me to tell you what hap--

262

00:15:05,255 --> 00:15:06,630 Why don't you describe him to me?

263

00:15:06,630 --> 00:15:07,720 What did he look like?

264

00:15:07,720 --> 00:15:08,220 Physically?

265

00:15:08,220 --> 00:15:08,720 Yeah.

266

00:15:08,720 --> 00:15:13,530 He was a very tall man, a little, I would say,

267

00:15:13,530 --> 00:15:18,210 kind of broad-shouldered, very blond, very blue-eyed, and had

268 00:15:18,210 --> 00:15:23,370 this air of such goodness emanating from him.

269

00:15:23,370 --> 00:15:26,100 I remember later on when we were in the camp, which

270

00:15:26,100 --> 00:15:30,120 he established in Sudeten at the very end of the war.

271

00:15:30,120 --> 00:15:32,430 You know, we were always freezing

272

00:15:32,430 --> 00:15:35,085 when we saw a German because it meant that either there

273

00:15:35,085 --> 00:15:36,960 would be shooting, or there would be beating,

274

00:15:36,960 --> 00:15:43,350 or there would be some other kind of torture

275

00:15:43,350 --> 00:15:46,320 of moral or physical.

276

00:15:46,320 --> 00:15:49,740 But when he came, all we could see was Herr Direktor.

277

00:15:49,740 --> 00:15:51,390 We used to call him Herr Direktor.

278

00:15:51,390 --> 00:15:53,640 And he smelled awfully good.

279

00:15:53,640 --> 00:15:58,350 And he was always dressed beautifully and always dropping

280

00:15:58,350 --> 00:15:59,520 cigarettes all over.

281

00:15:59,520 --> 00:16:03,930 He was smoking a cigarette and then put butts around

282

00:16:03,930 --> 00:16:07,523 so the people could pick it up and smoke it.

283

00:16:07,523 --> 00:16:09,690 Because, of course, they didn't have any cigarettes.

284

00:16:09,690 --> 00:16:10,190 You know?

285

00:16:10,190 --> 00:16:12,780

286

00:16:12,780 --> 00:16:15,090 People loved to work for him.

287

00:16:15,090 --> 00:16:21,120 Later on, after this original period

288

00:16:21,120 --> 00:16:25,290 of time in Krakow in that factory, when the ghetto was

289

00:16:25,290 --> 00:16:31,260 established, he decided to have his people,

290

00:16:31,260 --> 00:16:34,290

his workers live

on the premises.

291

00:16:34,290 --> 00:16:38,910 He had his camp, his

own little factory.

292

00:16:38,910 --> 00:16:42,330

And on the premises, the workers were living.

293

00:16:42,330 --> 00:16:43,760

They worked very hard.

294

 $00:16:43,760 \longrightarrow 00:16:46,430$

Because to work with enamelware, I

295

00:16:46,430 --> 00:16:49,370 understand they had to carry these heavy enamel pots,

296 00:16:49,370 --> 00:16:51,740 and there was a night

shift and the day shift.

297

00:16:51,740 --> 00:16:54,790

But they were fed.

298

00:16:54,790 --> 00:16:58,030

Even though it was not easy to feed people in those days,

299

00:16:58,030 --> 00:16:58,780

they were fed.

300

00:16:58,780 --> 00:17:02,440

They were never, never harassed.

301

00:17:02,440 --> 00:17:05,530

Because the Germans

who guarded the camp

302

00:17:05,530 --> 00:17:08,950 were not allowed to do things which they didn't

303 00:17:08,950 --> 00:17:12,490 ask for permission to do in regular camps,

304 00:17:12,490 --> 00:17:17,470 because Direktor Schindler

305 00:17:17,470 --> 00:17:19,119 presents, and so on.

was bribing them, giving them

306 00:17:19,119 --> 00:17:21,410 They were always treated humanely.

307 00:17:21,410 --> 00:17:23,740 So it was such a privilege to work for him

308 00:17:23,740 --> 00:17:27,490 that is was like a gift from God in those days

309 00:17:27,490 --> 00:17:32,080 to be able to work for Oscar Schindler in comparison

310 00:17:32,080 --> 00:17:35,660 to have to work in camps like we did in Plaszow.

311 00:17:35,660 --> 00:17:38,270

312 00:17:38,270 --> 00:17:41,570 What was Schindler's list, and how big was it?

313 00:17:41,570 --> 00:17:44,650 314 00:17:44,650 --> 00:17:51,820 At the end of the war, 1944, around October,

315

00:17:51,820 --> 00:17:54,610 we realized that the camp in Plaszow

316

00:17:54,610 --> 00:17:58,210 would be liquidated because the Russians were approaching,

317

00:17:58,210 --> 00:17:59,770 and the Germans were retreating.

318

00:17:59,770 --> 00:18:03,050 So they were liquidating all the camps around.

319

00:18:03,050 --> 00:18:07,150 But Schindler wanted to protect his people.

320

00:18:07,150 --> 00:18:12,790 He decided-- he went on kind of a fact-finding trip

321

00:18:12,790 --> 00:18:16,900 to Sudetenland, which was his home, to a small,

322

00:18:16,900 --> 00:18:19,000 like a-- it wasn't even a town.

323

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:24,520 It was a village, almost, called Brnenec in Czech.

324

 $00:18:24,520 \longrightarrow 00:18:26,950$ In the German, it was Brýnnlitz. 325

00:18:26,950 --> 00:18:30,655 And there he acquired two factories.

326

00:18:30,655 --> 00:18:31,510 We have to stop--

327

00:18:31,510 --> 00:18:32,080 Yeah.

328

00:18:32,080 --> 00:18:33,072 --for the helicopter, I think.

329

00:18:33,072 --> 00:18:33,572 OK.

330

00:18:33,572 --> 00:18:40,310

331

00:18:40,310 --> 00:18:43,400 OK, so now, tell me how Schindler

332

00:18:43,400 --> 00:18:46,524 was going to try to rescue more people toward the end.

333

00:18:46,524 --> 00:18:50,160

334

00:18:50,160 --> 00:18:52,700 First of all, he put on the list--

335

00:18:52,700 --> 00:18:54,290 this was how the--

336

00:18:54,290 --> 00:18:58,430 actually, not Schindler, but the administration

00:18:58,430 --> 00:19:03,080 of the Camp Plaszow to which his factory

338 00:19:03,080 --> 00:19:10,160 and the adjoining quarters were belonged to,

339 00:19:10,160 --> 00:19:12,240 they belonged to the Camp Plaszow,

340 00:19:12,240 --> 00:19:14,480 so the administration of the Camp Plaszow

341 00:19:14,480 --> 00:19:17,660 started preparing the list.

342 00:19:17,660 --> 00:19:22,460 The list consisted mainly of his workers

343 00:19:22,460 --> 00:19:25,140 which were employed at his enamel fabryk--

344 00:19:25,140 --> 00:19:29,360 it was Emalia, called Emalia.

345 00:19:29,360 --> 00:19:33,530 Then also there was another businessman

346 00:19:33,530 --> 00:19:39,050 in the camp of Plaszow called Julius Madrich, for whom I

347 00:19:39,050 --> 00:19:41,720 worked at the time.

348 00:19:41,720 --> 00:19:46,580 He was also very good to his workers, not like Schindler,

349

00:19:46,580 --> 00:19:47,570 by no means.

350

00:19:47,570 --> 00:19:50,210 And when the end of the war and the Russians

351

00:19:50,210 --> 00:19:52,460 started to approach and the Germans

352

00:19:52,460 --> 00:19:57,200 wanted to liquidate the camps and retreat,

353

00:19:57,200 --> 00:20:00,260 Schindler-- they were very good friends, Schindler and Madrich.

354

00:20:00,260 --> 00:20:05,360 And Schindler approached Madrich to do the same thing,

355

00:20:05,360 --> 00:20:08,330 to join forces and locate--

356

00:20:08,330 --> 00:20:13,910 relocate all the workers to the two factories in Sudetenland.

357

00:20:13,910 --> 00:20:15,170 But Madrich refused.

358

00:20:15,170 --> 00:20:18,930 He said, I did everything for my Jews, whatever was possible.

359

00:20:18,930 --> 00:20:20,600 But now, that's the end.

360

00:20:20,600 --> 00:20:23,280 I cannot do anything else.

361

00:20:23,280 --> 00:20:25,340 So Schindler went alone.

362

00:20:25,340 --> 00:20:28,520 But from the list of Madrich workers,

363

00:20:28,520 --> 00:20:36,440 he picked up also a number of Madrich workers.

364

00:20:36,440 --> 00:20:39,200 It was a very difficult process because everybody

365

00:20:39,200 --> 00:20:40,760 wanted to get on that list.

366

00:20:40,760 --> 00:20:44,540

367

00:20:44,540 --> 00:20:46,970 And this way, he--

368

00:20:46,970 --> 00:20:50,360 I think, it was about 1,300 people

369

00:20:50,360 --> 00:20:55,910 that he was able to relocate to Sudeten.

370

00:20:55,910 --> 00:20:57,560 What did the list represent?

371

00:20:57,560 --> 00:21:00,470

If you were on the list, were you safe?

372

00:21:00,470 --> 00:21:05,810 Well, there was no safety under German occupation.

373 00:21:05,810 --> 00:21:09,260 There was no safety because these people had--

374 00:21:09,260 --> 00:21:11,750 they were torturers, murderers.

375 00:21:11,750 --> 00:21:14,970 There was no logic in it, no reason in it.

376 00:21:14,970 --> 00:21:20,630 This was just pure hatred and pure murder all the time.

377 00:21:20,630 --> 00:21:24,080 But Schindler assumed that if his workers

378 00:21:24,080 --> 00:21:28,790 would work for the war effort--

379 00:21:28,790 --> 00:21:32,660 and he changed it in Brýnnlitz.

380 00:21:32,660 --> 00:21:38,000 He changed his production to production of shells

381 00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:39,440 from enamelware.

382 00:21:39,440 --> 00:21:42,950 Because he had to prove, really, because they arrested

383 00:21:42,950 --> 00:21:45,080 him twice because they didn't think 384 00:21:45,080 --> 00:21:48,950 that he was working for the war effort, and so on.

385 00:21:48,950 --> 00:21:51,080 So we were doing--

386 00:21:51,080 --> 00:21:53,330 making shells, and we were supposed

387 00:21:53,330 --> 00:21:54,560 to polish these shells.

388 00:21:54,560 --> 00:21:58,280 But all the production was faulty.

389 00:21:58,280 --> 00:22:03,440 Because we, on purpose, were sabotaging this.

390 00:22:03,440 --> 00:22:05,870 They were never as they ought to be,

391 00:22:05,870 --> 00:22:12,020 always was something flawed in those shells during our months

392 00:22:12,020 --> 00:22:13,770 in BrÃ¹/₄nnlitz.

393 00:22:13,770 --> 00:22:19,220 And this is how he could save us,

394 00:22:19,220 --> 00:22:23,840 proving that his factory was indispensable for the war 00:22:23,840 --> 00:22:24,980 effort.

396

00:22:24,980 --> 00:22:26,720 He had connections always.

397

00:22:26,720 --> 00:22:27,800

He knew how to--

398

00:22:27,800 --> 00:22:32,570 he was always very well liked by Germans as well.

399

00:22:32,570 --> 00:22:35,900

And he always used to give them presents

400

00:22:35,900 --> 00:22:38,130

and do favors for them.

401

00:22:38,130 --> 00:22:38,630

So--

402

00:22:38,630 --> 00:22:39,740

We have to reload.

403

00:22:39,740 --> 00:22:40,240

OK.

404

 $00:22:40,240 \longrightarrow 00:22:47,630$

405

 $00:22:47,630 \longrightarrow 00:22:49,640$

I want you to talk to

me a little bit more

406

00:22:49,640 --> 00:22:51,200

about the sabotage.

407

00:22:51,200 --> 00:22:53,900

Was Schindler involved

himself into that?

408 00:22:53,900 --> 00:22:55,920 Oh, he knew about it, of course.

409 00:22:55,920 --> 00:22:59,240 He knew that the production was faulty,

410 00:22:59,240 --> 00:23:06,910 and he was absolutely involved in everything.

411 00:23:06,910 --> 00:23:08,350 Was he the mastermind?

412 00:23:08,350 --> 00:23:09,580 Tell me whether it was--

413 00:23:09,580 --> 00:23:10,970 I tell you the truth.

414 00:23:10,970 --> 00:23:13,580 I really don't know that much about it.

415 00:23:13,580 --> 00:23:15,790 I think that my husband would be able to give you

416 00:23:15,790 --> 00:23:19,480 more details on that because he himself was more involved

417 00:23:19,480 --> 00:23:20,910 in that than I was.

418 00:23:20,910 --> 00:23:25,720 I was just polishing my shells.

419 00:23:25,720 --> 00:23:30,460 But we knew that there was sabotage going, 420 00:23:30,460 --> 00:23:36,490 and this was about six months before the war when we--

421 00:23:36,490 --> 00:23:40,450 before the end of the war when we arrived there in Brýnnlitz,

422 00:23:40,450 --> 00:23:44,620 and that's how it turned out to be.

423 00:23:44,620 --> 00:23:47,140 Cut the playing for a minute.

424 00:23:47,140 --> 00:23:49,670 Going out from Plaszow.

425 00:23:49,670 --> 00:23:50,170 Yeah.

426 00:23:50,170 --> 00:23:50,670 Yeah.

427 00:23:50,670 --> 00:23:54,040

428 00:23:54,040 --> 00:23:55,660 OK.

429 00:23:55,660 --> 00:24:01,000 In some time, the beginning of November, my husband and I

430 00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:02,890 found out that we were on the list.

431 00:24:02,890 --> 00:24:05,930

00:24:05,930 --> 00:24:07,070 We were very happy.

433

00:24:07,070 --> 00:24:08,880

We didn't know what will await us.

434

00:24:08,880 --> 00:24:11,990 But we knew that we were going to go to something better

435

00:24:11,990 --> 00:24:16,310

than anything that we

could conceive at the time.

436

00:24:16,310 --> 00:24:21,170

The men left a week

before the woman did.

437

00:24:21,170 --> 00:24:26,210

And later, we found out that they did not go directly

438

00:24:26,210 --> 00:24:29,240

to Brünnlitz.

439

00:24:29,240 --> 00:24:33,590

They went to Gross-Rosen, which they stayed there

440

00:24:33,590 --> 00:24:35,120

I think a few days.

441

00:24:35,120 --> 00:24:38,930

And this was a very,

very difficult camp.

442

 $00:24:38,930 \longrightarrow 00:24:44,000$

But they finally

arrived in Brýnnlitz.

443

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:47,750

The woman, on the other hand, we left a week later.

444

00:24:47,750 --> 00:24:50,780 And we were in the cattle trains.

445

00:24:50,780 --> 00:24:53,780 of course packed like sardines.

446

00:24:53,780 --> 00:24:56,840 And we were going.

447

00:24:56,840 --> 00:24:58,610 We didn't know where we going.

448

00:24:58,610 --> 00:25:05,270 We assumed we're going to go to Brýnnlitz directly.

449

00:25:05,270 --> 00:25:11,580 All of a sudden, we landed at this very famous now platform,

450

00:25:11,580 --> 00:25:17,460 train platform at a station in Auschwitz

451

00:25:17,460 --> 00:25:20,790 with the SS surrounding like mad people,

452

00:25:20,790 --> 00:25:22,620 with dogs barking all over.

453

00:25:22,620 --> 00:25:26,400 And they started to push us out of trains

454

434 00:25:26,400 --> 00:25:33,850 and run us to a selection, through a selection process,

00:25:33,850 --> 00:25:35,790 which was, by itself, terrible.

456

00:25:35,790 --> 00:25:38,190 We had to undress completely.

457

00:25:38,190 --> 00:25:41,370 I clutched-- in those days, I already wore glasses.

458

00:25:41,370 --> 00:25:42,810 And I clutched them in my hand.

459

00:25:42,810 --> 00:25:45,600 Because I knew if I don't have glasses,

460

00:25:45,600 --> 00:25:47,400 I won't be able to do any work.

461

00:25:47,400 --> 00:25:50,940 I won't be able to see very well.

462

00:25:50,940 --> 00:25:51,780 So I clutched.

463

00:25:51,780 --> 00:25:55,500 And thank God, no one ever discovered.

464

00:25:55,500 --> 00:25:59,580 Some woman had their heads shaven.

465

00:25:59,580 --> 00:26:01,650 I didn't, just cut short.

466

00:26:01,650 --> 00:26:04,290 So I don't know how they did it, probably 467 00:26:04,290 --> 00:26:08,475 just picked certain people.

468 00:26:08,475 --> 00:26:12,030

469 00:26:12,030 --> 00:26:14,730 And of course, the Germans were making--

470 00:26:14,730 --> 00:26:19,420 laughing and making dirty jokes.

471 00:26:19,420 --> 00:26:23,100 And it was just terrible.

472 00:26:23,100 --> 00:26:25,620 We were completely not prepared for this

473 00:26:25,620 --> 00:26:30,600 because we thought we going to Mr. Schindler, to his camp.

474 00:26:30,600 --> 00:26:34,020 Then they took us to their so-called "sauna"

475 00:26:34,020 --> 00:26:34,930 to a delouse--

476 00:26:34,930 --> 00:26:39,450 you know, getting rid of lice, delousing process.

477 00:26:39,450 --> 00:26:44,830 We had to put all our clothes and our bundles, everything,

478 00:26:44,830 --> 00:26:49,180 in one room, get undressed, go through the showers, 479 00:26:49,180 --> 00:26:54,470 then go through to get our clothes.

480 00:26:54,470 --> 00:26:57,500 And the clothes were on the heap, and each one of us

481 00:26:57,500 --> 00:26:59,510 picked whatever we could.

482 00:26:59,510 --> 00:27:06,380 I remember I got some kind of a white shirt, some rag, which

483 00:27:06,380 --> 00:27:10,220 was probably from somebody dead already,

484 00:27:10,220 --> 00:27:14,630 and some kind of a dress, no underwear, and of course

485 00:27:14,630 --> 00:27:16,110 no shoes.

486 00:27:16,110 --> 00:27:20,870 I had to take the clogs, wooden clogs.

487 00:27:20,870 --> 00:27:23,930 Then we were led-this was Birkenau.

488 00:27:23,930 --> 00:27:27,170 We were led to the barracks.

489 00:27:27,170 --> 00:27:33,370 We arrive there, everybody in despair.

490

00:27:33,370 --> 00:27:36,010 But at the moment when we were picking our clothes

491 00:27:36,010 --> 00:27:37,690

and we put them on--

492 00:27:37,690 --> 00:27:41,620 how strong human nature is in spite of everything

493 00:27:41,620 --> 00:27:42,250 you go through.

494 00:27:42,250 --> 00:27:43,540 Or maybe this was youth.

495 00:27:43,540 --> 00:27:45,250 We were young at the time.

496 00:27:45,250 --> 00:27:48,550 We started to laugh hysterically in that room

497 00:27:48,550 --> 00:27:50,650 where we were putting on those clothes.

498 00:27:50,650 --> 00:27:53,590 Because we couldn't see ourselves

499 00:27:53,590 --> 00:27:55,900 because there, of course, there were no mirrors.

500 00:27:55,900 --> 00:27:58,810 But we looked so ridiculous that we

501 00:27:58,810 --> 00:28:00,850 started to laugh hysterically.

00:28:00,850 --> 00:28:06,070 And I forgot to say that before that, in the sauna, of course

503

00:28:06,070 --> 00:28:08,050 there was no hot water.

504

00:28:08,050 --> 00:28:09,200 Forget that.

505

00:28:09,200 --> 00:28:14,260 But there was no soap of any kind, just freezing water.

506

00:28:14,260 --> 00:28:17,860 November in Poland is very, very cold.

507

00:28:17,860 --> 00:28:23,500 And so there were no toilet paper, no paper

508

00:28:23,500 --> 00:28:25,720 at all in the latrines.

509

00:28:25,720 --> 00:28:29,050 Then after we got dressed, they took us to the barracks

510

00:28:29,050 --> 00:28:30,580 in Birkenau.

511

00:28:30,580 --> 00:28:35,420 The mud in Birkenau at the time--

512

00:28:35,420 --> 00:28:38,650 and probably in Auschwitz maybe not so because the roads

513

00:28:38,650 --> 00:28:41,600 and the streets in

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Auschwitz, within Auschwitz

514

00:28:41,600 --> 00:28:43,530 were paved, more or less.

515

00:28:43,530 --> 00:28:47,510 But in Birkenau, you walked, and the clogs stayed in the mud.

516

00:28:47,510 --> 00:28:48,920 And you kept on walking.

517

00:28:48,920 --> 00:28:50,960 You know, it was just terrible.

518

00:28:50,960 --> 00:28:52,250 We arrived.

519

00:28:52,250 --> 00:28:58,730 And in Plaszow, we slept like two to a bunk.

520

00:28:58,730 --> 00:29:02,420 There, I think we were 10, or 11, or 13.

521

00:29:02,420 --> 00:29:03,720 We were sleeping like sardines.

522

 $00:29:03,720 \longrightarrow 00:29:06,860$

523

00:29:06,860 --> 00:29:12,340 They give us some kind of an old, dirty comforter.

524

00:29:12,340 --> 00:29:16,570 And all of a sudden, in that barracks, somebody

525

00:29:16,570 --> 00:29:18,370 called my name.

526 00:29:18,370 --> 00:29:19,880 This was my friend.

527

00:29:19,880 --> 00:29:22,330 She was on the upper bunk.

528

00:29:22,330 --> 00:29:26,110 She came with a transport before us, a couple of months

529

00:29:26,110 --> 00:29:27,790 before us.

530

00:29:27,790 --> 00:29:34,630 And she was working for a German office, in the office anyway.

531

00:29:34,630 --> 00:29:37,930 And she gave me a piece of bread with honey at the time.

532

00:29:37,930 --> 00:29:41,165 I will never forget it because I never got it again.

533

00:29:41,165 --> 00:29:44,530

534

00:29:44,530 --> 00:29:48,490 We didn't know anything about what happened to our men.

535

00:29:48,490 --> 00:29:51,130 We assumed the same fate happened to them

536

00:29:51,130 --> 00:29:53,450 in some other camp.

537

00:29:53,450 --> 00:29:54,790

And we were waiting.

538 00:29:54,790 --> 00:29:57,590

539 00:29:57,590 --> 00:30:00,470 I think that all of us would have

540 00:30:00,470 --> 00:30:03,950 died even before being gassed because we were all

541 00:30:03,950 --> 00:30:06,290 terribly sick with dysentery.

542 00:30:06,290 --> 00:30:09,150 We were terribly hungry.

543 00:30:09,150 --> 00:30:11,990 And we couldn't-- the terrible food that they gave,

544 00:30:11,990 --> 00:30:18,710 some very watery soup with a few bits inside and a tiny piece

545 00:30:18,710 --> 00:30:22,490 of bread every day, which also caused our dysentery--

546 00:30:22,490 --> 00:30:24,290 this was this kind of bread.

547 00:30:24,290 --> 00:30:26,630 We were all sick.

548 00:30:26,630 --> 00:30:33,320 So I don't think if Oscar Schindler after three weeks

549 00:30:33,320 --> 00:30:37,550 through his trying to get us out,

550 00:30:37,550 --> 00:30:40,010 through his connections and presence

551 00:30:40,010 --> 00:30:42,470 that he gave all around and everything, I

552 00:30:42,470 --> 00:30:45,080 don't think we would have survived.

553 00:30:45,080 --> 00:30:48,320 So finally, after about three weeks--

554 00:30:48,320 --> 00:30:53,580 I think we lost the count of time over there--

555 00:30:53,580 --> 00:31:00,870 they told us someone came, probably a Blockalteste or some

556 00:31:00,870 --> 00:31:02,880 German, I don't remember exactly,

557 00:31:02,880 --> 00:31:05,610 and started to call our names.

558 00:31:05,610 --> 00:31:07,650 Well, that was already good because we

559 00:31:07,650 --> 00:31:10,950 knew we are the 300 womans and-- woman,

560 00:31:10,950 --> 00:31:13,350 and she called us by name. 561 00:31:13,350 --> 00:31:15,600 We didn't know what she wants us for.

562

00:31:15,600 --> 00:31:22,040 But they led us to a side, a train station

563 00:31:22,040 --> 00:31:24,620 like on the sideline, and they put us

564

00:31:24,620 --> 00:31:30,330 in the trains, again packed like sardines.

565 00:31:30,330 --> 00:31:31,680 Of course, no toilets.

566 00:31:31,680 --> 00:31:36,740 There was a pail in the middle.

567 00:31:36,740 --> 00:31:37,730 No food.

568 00:31:37,730 --> 00:31:39,410 We didn't get any food.

569 00:31:39,410 --> 00:31:44,960 I don't know if some of us had a little piece of bread

570 00:31:44,960 --> 00:31:47,600 from Birkenau we hid.

571 00:31:47,600 --> 00:31:52,500 And after a while, the train started to go.

572 00:31:52,500 --> 00:31:53,810 We were only guessing. 573 00:31:53,810 --> 00:31:55,670 We didn't know where we going.

574

00:31:55,670 --> 00:32:04,290 Because, first of all, there are no windows in the cattle cars.

575

00:32:04,290 --> 00:32:05,930 We stopped.

576

00:32:05,930 --> 00:32:11,570 I think, on the way, the German soldiers

577

00:32:11,570 --> 00:32:16,660 let us go out for a while to--

578

00:32:16,660 --> 00:32:19,300 and we had some snow that we took

579

00:32:19,300 --> 00:32:22,660 from the ground and kind of--

580

00:32:22,660 --> 00:32:25,030 instead of a drink.

581

00:32:25,030 --> 00:32:29,950 And finally, we arrived in some very desolate station.

582

00:32:29,950 --> 00:32:32,500 And it said Brýnnlitz.

583

00:32:32,500 --> 00:32:33,440 It said Brù/4nnlitz.

584

00:32:33,440 --> 00:32:36,640

So of course, we were terribly excited

585 00:32:36,640 --> 00:32:39,640 that finally we arrived at our destination.

586 00:32:39,640 --> 00:32:43,900 But in the background, we saw some very tall chimneys.

587 00:32:43,900 --> 00:32:48,490 And as we marched to Schindler's camp, which

588 00:32:48,490 --> 00:32:52,210 we assumed would be Schindler's camp, we marched by fives.

589 00:32:52,210 --> 00:32:56,110 And I was walking among other friends

590 00:32:56,110 --> 00:32:59,020 with a girl who came originally from Germany.

591 00:32:59,020 --> 00:33:01,030 But she was deported from Germany

592 00:33:01,030 --> 00:33:05,830 to Poland, and in Poland to camp in Plaszow, and with us

593 00:33:05,830 --> 00:33:08,500 to Birkenau and to Schindler's camp.

594 00:33:08,500 --> 00:33:10,390 Her name was Margot.

595 00:33:10,390 --> 00:33:13,450 And she said to me, oh, my god, now we going to die.

 $00:33:13,450 \longrightarrow 00:33:15,220$ Do you see these chimneys?

597

00:33:15,220 --> 00:33:16,553

And I said--

598

00:33:16,553 --> 00:33:18,400 I always get upset.

599

00:33:18,400 --> 00:33:22,680

600

 $00:33:22,680 \longrightarrow 00:33:30,010$

And I said to her,

Margot, we cannot die.

601

 $00:33:30,010 \longrightarrow 00:33:33,430$

Because if we would

be destined to die,

602

 $00:33:33,430 \longrightarrow 00:33:36,220$ we would die in Birkenau.

603

00:33:36,220 --> 00:33:37,585

I was always an optimist.

604

 $00:33:37,585 \longrightarrow 00:33:42,450$

605

 $00:33:42,450 \longrightarrow 00:33:45,810$

And finally, we were

marching and marching.

606

 $00:33:45,810 \longrightarrow 00:33:50,540$

And we came to a

building, which was--

607

 $00:33:50,540 \longrightarrow 00:33:52,270$

Mrs. Page, wait just a minute.

608

00:33:52,270 --> 00:33:52,770

OK?

609

00:33:52,770 --> 00:33:54,270

OK.

610

00:33:54,270 --> 00:33:56,180

I'm sorry.