

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:12,792

2  
00:00:12,792 --> 00:00:15,020  
[BEEP]

3  
00:00:15,020 --> 00:00:17,720

4  
00:00:17,720 --> 00:00:22,910  
Can you tell me  
again how you felt

5  
00:00:22,910 --> 00:00:24,800  
at the moment of the escape?

6  
00:00:24,800 --> 00:00:30,170  
How your fear left  
you and how you felt?

7  
00:00:30,170 --> 00:00:33,710  
At the moment of the  
escape, everybody

8  
00:00:33,710 --> 00:00:37,490  
was very nervous and very shaky.

9  
00:00:37,490 --> 00:00:40,780  
But there was no way back.

10  
00:00:40,780 --> 00:00:41,950  
You had to go.

11  
00:00:41,950 --> 00:00:44,850  
One pushed the other.

12  
00:00:44,850 --> 00:00:46,450  
It wasn't easy.

13  
00:00:46,450 --> 00:00:49,170

But actually, we  
didn't have time

14  
00:00:49,170 --> 00:00:52,800  
to really think and  
sort out our thoughts.

15  
00:00:52,800 --> 00:00:59,340  
But it was you have to go  
and you try to survive.

16  
00:00:59,340 --> 00:01:05,519  
Even if you hop all over  
bodies, you don't look back.

17  
00:01:05,519 --> 00:01:11,030  
Everything happened  
split second.

18  
00:01:11,030 --> 00:01:13,340  
There was no time to think.

19  
00:01:13,340 --> 00:01:14,570  
You were afraid.

20  
00:01:14,570 --> 00:01:15,920  
You were scared.

21  
00:01:15,920 --> 00:01:17,160  
You were nervous.

22  
00:01:17,160 --> 00:01:20,990  
You were shaky.

23  
00:01:20,990 --> 00:01:24,000  
But you didn't think.

24  
00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:28,800  
Just go as far as you  
can in those few moments.

25  
00:01:28,800 --> 00:01:34,530

It was very fortunate for us  
that the woods were right ne--

26  
00:01:34,530 --> 00:01:36,770  
that we were in the woods.

27  
00:01:36,770 --> 00:01:42,270  
And the field between the camp  
and the woods wasn't too big.

28  
00:01:42,270 --> 00:01:46,020  
My legs were like rubbery.

29  
00:01:46,020 --> 00:01:48,270  
They couldn't even run.

30  
00:01:48,270 --> 00:01:49,950  
But I did.

31  
00:01:49,950 --> 00:01:56,830  
I remember I grabbed  
the girl to hold down.

32  
00:01:56,830 --> 00:02:00,550  
And when it's meant for  
you to survive or to live,

33  
00:02:00,550 --> 00:02:01,720  
you have to believe.

34  
00:02:01,720 --> 00:02:03,730  
I'm a strong believer.

35  
00:02:03,730 --> 00:02:06,130  
I never gave up my faith.

36  
00:02:06,130 --> 00:02:07,330  
And I grabbed her.

37  
00:02:07,330 --> 00:02:09,400  
Sarah was her name.

38

00:02:09,400 --> 00:02:12,220

And she saw that I'm bleeding.

39

00:02:12,220 --> 00:02:17,830

And so she pushed me away  
and she said, I want to live.

40

00:02:17,830 --> 00:02:22,160

And as she said I want to  
live, a bullet hit her.

41

00:02:22,160 --> 00:02:24,070

It was meant for her to die.

42

00:02:24,070 --> 00:02:26,150

It was meant for me to live.

43

00:02:26,150 --> 00:02:27,580

I don't know why.

44

00:02:27,580 --> 00:02:29,950

She wasn't worse than I am.

45

00:02:29,950 --> 00:02:32,180

I wasn't better than she was.

46

00:02:32,180 --> 00:02:34,540

It's just you have to believe.

47

00:02:34,540 --> 00:02:37,720

You have to have  
the faith, because I

48

00:02:37,720 --> 00:02:42,020

realize that my faith  
helped me an awful lot.

49

00:02:42,020 --> 00:02:49,780

50

00:02:49,780 --> 00:02:54,170

Were there people who betrayed  
you when you were in the camp?

51  
00:02:54,170 --> 00:02:54,910  
No.

52  
00:02:54,910 --> 00:02:55,720  
No.

53  
00:02:55,720 --> 00:02:57,280  
I never had that.

54  
00:02:57,280 --> 00:03:00,440  
No, no, no.

55  
00:03:00,440 --> 00:03:04,310  
Now, let's go back  
to before the war.

56  
00:03:04,310 --> 00:03:09,440  
Just one thing I want to add  
on, as I ran with my group,

57  
00:03:09,440 --> 00:03:12,860  
after three days, three  
nights of walking,

58  
00:03:12,860 --> 00:03:15,580  
we came back to Sobibor.

59  
00:03:15,580 --> 00:03:17,030  
We walked in circles.

60  
00:03:17,030 --> 00:03:17,980  
We didn't know.

61  
00:03:17,980 --> 00:03:22,110  
And then we started  
all over again, to run.

62  
00:03:22,110 --> 00:03:22,610  
Yeah.

63  
00:03:22,610 --> 00:03:25,800

64  
00:03:25,800 --> 00:03:27,600  
Let's go back to--

65  
00:03:27,600 --> 00:03:28,740  
let's do one other thing.

66  
00:03:28,740 --> 00:03:30,990  
What happened to Sobibor after?

67  
00:03:30,990 --> 00:03:33,540  
They erased  
everything-- they killed

68  
00:03:33,540 --> 00:03:35,670  
all the people who remained.

69  
00:03:35,670 --> 00:03:37,530  
They caught them or whatever.

70  
00:03:37,530 --> 00:03:39,570  
A lot of didn't even go.

71  
00:03:39,570 --> 00:03:40,600  
They didn't want to.

72  
00:03:40,600 --> 00:03:42,030  
They had given up.

73  
00:03:42,030 --> 00:03:43,890  
They lost all their families.

74  
00:03:43,890 --> 00:03:46,870  
They just didn't care.

75  
00:03:46,870 --> 00:03:49,830  
And they erased every trace.

76

00:03:49,830 --> 00:03:53,010

They dismantled everything.

77

00:03:53,010 --> 00:03:56,220

And they plant  
little pine trees.

78

00:03:56,220 --> 00:04:01,080

You know, it's already  
going to be soon 50 years,

79

00:04:01,080 --> 00:04:03,870

49 years, that we escaped.

80

00:04:03,870 --> 00:04:08,010

Those pine trees, the way they  
plant them, they never grow.

81

00:04:08,010 --> 00:04:09,555

They're just the same size.

82

00:04:09,555 --> 00:04:12,490

83

00:04:12,490 --> 00:04:18,540

I go back to Sobibor  
almost every year now.

84

00:04:18,540 --> 00:04:23,680

85

00:04:23,680 --> 00:04:29,200

Now, tell me about before the  
war, how life changed for you,

86

00:04:29,200 --> 00:04:30,760

what you remember of the--

87

00:04:30,760 --> 00:04:32,380

I remember everything.

88

00:04:32,380 --> 00:04:34,750  
I had a very happy life.

89  
00:04:34,750 --> 00:04:37,330  
We were two children.

90  
00:04:37,330 --> 00:04:39,730  
My father wasn't rich.

91  
00:04:39,730 --> 00:04:44,470  
But he was middle class,  
comfortable middle class.

92  
00:04:44,470 --> 00:04:47,490  
I finished public school.

93  
00:04:47,490 --> 00:04:49,370  
I went to business school.

94  
00:04:49,370 --> 00:04:54,050  
And I never finished  
because the war came.

95  
00:04:54,050 --> 00:05:00,980  
And I had a big family, lots of  
cousins and aunts and uncles,

96  
00:05:00,980 --> 00:05:03,320  
besides friends.

97  
00:05:03,320 --> 00:05:05,390  
And I had a very happy life.

98  
00:05:05,390 --> 00:05:08,300

99  
00:05:08,300 --> 00:05:11,660  
And all of a sudden,  
everything was gone.

100  
00:05:11,660 --> 00:05:13,580  
And I was left alone.



101  
00:05:13,580 --> 00:05:17,010  
My father was shot in 1939.

102  
00:05:17,010 --> 00:05:21,350  
When the first unit of  
SS came into our city,

103  
00:05:21,350 --> 00:05:24,260  
they picked out--  
they told the people

104  
00:05:24,260 --> 00:05:29,300  
to report to the  
main place there

105  
00:05:29,300 --> 00:05:32,900  
in our city, the  
rich people, not so

106  
00:05:32,900 --> 00:05:40,280  
rich people, the educated  
people, the important people.

107  
00:05:40,280 --> 00:05:42,410  
And it was 600 and some.

108  
00:05:42,410 --> 00:05:45,980  
And they shot-- my  
brother went with them.

109  
00:05:45,980 --> 00:05:47,240  
And they shot them all.

110  
00:05:47,240 --> 00:05:51,230  
My brother pretended  
that he's dead,

111  
00:05:51,230 --> 00:05:54,530  
that he got shot and came back.

112  
00:05:54,530 --> 00:06:01,600

That was right away  
1939, December.

113  
00:06:01,600 --> 00:06:03,640  
And then tell me  
the incident where

114  
00:06:03,640 --> 00:06:07,210  
you were in line and  
the mistress of the SS--

115  
00:06:07,210 --> 00:06:13,930  
Yeah, this was-- and then  
they put us in a ghetto,

116  
00:06:13,930 --> 00:06:16,090  
in Chelm, when they  
made the ghetto.

117  
00:06:16,090 --> 00:06:19,090  
And my mother  
couldn't live there.

118  
00:06:19,090 --> 00:06:22,420  
There were another  
woman and six children

119  
00:06:22,420 --> 00:06:26,050  
and my mother and the two of  
us in the room in the kitchen.

120  
00:06:26,050 --> 00:06:27,190  
That's it.

121  
00:06:27,190 --> 00:06:29,360  
And she couldn't take it.

122  
00:06:29,360 --> 00:06:30,290  
She couldn't.

123  
00:06:30,290 --> 00:06:35,620  
So we had family in a small  
town, not far from the city

124  
00:06:35,620 --> 00:06:36,880  
where I was born.

125  
00:06:36,880 --> 00:06:40,600  
And they wrote us that  
we should come there.

126  
00:06:40,600 --> 00:06:42,070  
There's not so bad.

127  
00:06:42,070 --> 00:06:47,630  
And they have plenty of room  
in their house to take us in.

128  
00:06:47,630 --> 00:06:51,220  
And we moved there,  
to Siedliszcze.

129  
00:06:51,220 --> 00:06:56,020  
And we stayed there  
for about a year.

130  
00:06:56,020 --> 00:06:59,720  
We moved in '41, about  
a year or longer.

131  
00:06:59,720 --> 00:07:02,150  
And there, it wasn't  
really so bad.

132  
00:07:02,150 --> 00:07:07,420  
I had to go to work  
every day to dig ditches.

133  
00:07:07,420 --> 00:07:09,250  
They wanted to dry--

134  
00:07:09,250 --> 00:07:11,170  
Poland had a lot of swamps.

135  
00:07:11,170 --> 00:07:15,550

And they wanted to dry up the fields so they can plant more.

136  
00:07:15,550 --> 00:07:19,760  
And they were sure they're going to stay there forever.

137  
00:07:19,760 --> 00:07:22,990  
So I used to go with my brother every day to work.

138  
00:07:22,990 --> 00:07:25,750  
And my mother would remain at home.

139  
00:07:25,750 --> 00:07:28,510  
We would hide during the day.

140  
00:07:28,510 --> 00:07:30,790  
In the evening, we would come back.

141  
00:07:30,790 --> 00:07:34,870  
And she would come out of the hiding place.

142  
00:07:34,870 --> 00:07:43,960  
And we stayed together until '42 October.

143  
00:07:43,960 --> 00:07:46,030  
And it wasn't so bad.

144  
00:07:46,030 --> 00:07:47,470  
We worked.

145  
00:07:47,470 --> 00:07:49,630  
We went every day to work.

146  
00:07:49,630 --> 00:07:53,350  
We had enough to eat, not luxuriously,

147

00:07:53,350 --> 00:07:55,210

but we weren't hungry.

148

00:07:55,210 --> 00:07:58,480

And when my mother was home,  
she could wash our clothes

149

00:07:58,480 --> 00:08:00,050

and help us out.

150

00:08:00,050 --> 00:08:01,870

And we stayed there.

151

00:08:01,870 --> 00:08:10,630

And there was in charge, he  
was a Polack, not a Ukrainian.

152

00:08:10,630 --> 00:08:13,630

He was the engineer  
of the whole project.

153

00:08:13,630 --> 00:08:19,570

And one day, I noticed that  
he had a girlfriend, which

154

00:08:19,570 --> 00:08:23,050

lived in our city and I  
knew before the war, very

155

00:08:23,050 --> 00:08:25,300

beautiful, nice girl.

156

00:08:25,300 --> 00:08:31,180

And when she saw me in town,  
she would say hello and ask me

157

00:08:31,180 --> 00:08:32,799

if I need something.

158

00:08:32,799 --> 00:08:37,240

And we became, not  
friends because who

159  
00:08:37,240 --> 00:08:42,429  
am I to be a friend to her,  
but just acquaintances,

160  
00:08:42,429 --> 00:08:44,720  
let's put it this way.

161  
00:08:44,720 --> 00:08:48,370  
And then from there,  
from this place,

162  
00:08:48,370 --> 00:08:56,600  
they took us to Staw-NowosioÅ,ki  
And in Staw-NowosioÅ,k was

163  
00:08:56,600 --> 00:09:00,440  
the worst place I ever  
went except Sobibor.

164  
00:09:00,440 --> 00:09:03,980  
The conditions were unbearable.

165  
00:09:03,980 --> 00:09:07,790  
So one day, they told us  
to get our belongings.

166  
00:09:07,790 --> 00:09:09,170  
They gave us a half hour.

167  
00:09:09,170 --> 00:09:10,710  
We are going.

168  
00:09:10,710 --> 00:09:15,570  
So we went and we walked  
to [? Staf ?] probably 10,

169  
00:09:15,570 --> 00:09:21,910  
12 miles in the wind  
and October and the mud.

170  
00:09:21,910 --> 00:09:25,310

And my mother said take  
this and take this,

171  
00:09:25,310 --> 00:09:27,440  
and maybe you'll  
be able to sell it,

172  
00:09:27,440 --> 00:09:31,560  
and, maybe you'll be able  
to buy something, food.

173  
00:09:31,560 --> 00:09:34,100  
So my brother and  
I, we had bundles.

174  
00:09:34,100 --> 00:09:39,830  
And I had two coats, my mother's  
coat, a good coat, and my coat.

175  
00:09:39,830 --> 00:09:43,070  
She said she don't  
need right now.

176  
00:09:43,070 --> 00:09:44,930  
She has enough one.

177  
00:09:44,930 --> 00:09:49,460  
And we walked all the way,  
the 10, 12 kilometers.

178  
00:09:49,460 --> 00:09:57,420  
And when we came into Staw,  
I turned yellow, just yellow.

179  
00:09:57,420 --> 00:10:01,920  
And I was a young  
girl, 19, 18 and 1/2.

180  
00:10:01,920 --> 00:10:05,270  
And they assembled us.

181  
00:10:05,270 --> 00:10:09,710  
And they started picking out

to the left and the right.

182  
00:10:09,710 --> 00:10:12,770  
Staw was also a working place.

183  
00:10:12,770 --> 00:10:17,790  
And as it came up to me, they  
put me with the older people.

184  
00:10:17,790 --> 00:10:20,570  
And she was walking around  
there with her boyfriend,

185  
00:10:20,570 --> 00:10:23,540  
with the big German  
shepherd, you know.

186  
00:10:23,540 --> 00:10:27,470  
And I said, Wanda, look  
what they did to me.

187  
00:10:27,470 --> 00:10:29,650  
She said, come out.

188  
00:10:29,650 --> 00:10:31,420  
And I came out.

189  
00:10:31,420 --> 00:10:36,070  
And she took out the lipstick  
and she rubbed in my cheeks.

190  
00:10:36,070 --> 00:10:38,660  
And she says take  
off the babushka.

191  
00:10:38,660 --> 00:10:40,960  
I had a babushka to keep warm.

192  
00:10:40,960 --> 00:10:43,930  
And she pushed me in  
again in the line.

193



00:10:43,930 --> 00:10:47,890

And as I went by  
again, they took me out

194

00:10:47,890 --> 00:10:49,540

with the young people.

195

00:10:49,540 --> 00:10:52,300

You always felt maybe  
with the young ones

196

00:10:52,300 --> 00:10:54,730

you have a better chance.

197

00:10:54,730 --> 00:11:01,260

So I have to say, all through  
the war, I was very lucky.

198

00:11:01,260 --> 00:11:04,530

Luck was with me from  
the first day on.

199

00:11:04,530 --> 00:11:06,780

I mean I wasn't lucky  
that I had to go

200

00:11:06,780 --> 00:11:08,680

through what I went through.

201

00:11:08,680 --> 00:11:16,080

But by being there, I was  
lucky that somehow somebody

202

00:11:16,080 --> 00:11:22,650

lended me over a hand to take  
me out of a dangerous situation.

203

00:11:22,650 --> 00:11:26,670

And she took me out, and I  
went in with the young people.

204

00:11:26,670 --> 00:11:28,455

And--

205  
00:11:28,455 --> 00:11:29,253  
[BEEP]

206  
00:11:29,253 --> 00:11:29,753  
9.

207  
00:11:29,753 --> 00:11:36,270

208  
00:11:36,270 --> 00:11:39,660  
People like to  
believe in heroism.

209  
00:11:39,660 --> 00:11:44,130  
And people like to  
believe in humankind.

210  
00:11:44,130 --> 00:11:48,450  
What is your experience  
make you feel?

211  
00:11:48,450 --> 00:11:52,710  
That the I tried the best.

212  
00:11:52,710 --> 00:11:55,110  
I wasn't a hero.

213  
00:11:55,110 --> 00:11:58,350  
There were people who were  
much smarter than I am

214  
00:11:58,350 --> 00:12:01,620  
and maybe more capable.

215  
00:12:01,620 --> 00:12:07,840  
But I just was at the right  
place at the right time.

216  
00:12:07,840 --> 00:12:09,300  
And I took advantage.

217

00:12:09,300 --> 00:12:14,850

218

00:12:14,850 --> 00:12:19,410

And I wouldn't say  
that I'm a hero.

219

00:12:19,410 --> 00:12:25,920

I just had made up my  
mind that I would get out.

220

00:12:25,920 --> 00:12:30,700

But I didn't organize.

221

00:12:30,700 --> 00:12:35,080

I just was at the right  
place at the right time

222

00:12:35,080 --> 00:12:37,610

and thought for  
the right people.

223

00:12:37,610 --> 00:12:39,430

And together we did it.

224

00:12:39,430 --> 00:12:44,230

225

00:12:44,230 --> 00:12:48,370

Before the escape, and  
other than the planning

226

00:12:48,370 --> 00:12:51,280

together of the escape,  
were you inmates

227

00:12:51,280 --> 00:12:53,200

supportive of one another?

228

00:12:53,200 --> 00:12:54,760

Very much so.

229

00:12:54,760 --> 00:12:55,870

Very much so.

230

00:12:55,870 --> 00:13:00,850

It just because we were such  
a small amount of people.

231

00:13:00,850 --> 00:13:04,000

So we became like a family.

232

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:07,540

If we knew that this  
one works very hard

233

00:13:07,540 --> 00:13:10,990

and needs maybe an extra  
piece of bread, a little soup,

234

00:13:10,990 --> 00:13:12,250

we shared.

235

00:13:12,250 --> 00:13:21,520

I think the relationship  
in Sobibor was so close

236

00:13:21,520 --> 00:13:27,190

and everybody tried to help  
the other one so much that this

237

00:13:27,190 --> 00:13:28,090

helped too.

238

00:13:28,090 --> 00:13:31,640

239

00:13:31,640 --> 00:13:37,340

And now, can you talk to me a  
little bit about the age group

240

00:13:37,340 --> 00:13:39,170

who survived primarily?

241

00:13:39,170 --> 00:13:43,610

I mean, who were  
mostly sacrificed?

242

00:13:43,610 --> 00:13:47,630

When you say the young and  
the old, how old were the old?

243

00:13:47,630 --> 00:13:50,780

You see, when are  
so young like I was,

244

00:13:50,780 --> 00:13:54,000

probably 30 was old or 35.

245

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:58,430

So really, to judge who  
was old and who were--

246

00:13:58,430 --> 00:14:06,490

they were older people  
who were professionals

247

00:14:06,490 --> 00:14:12,040

in certain fields,  
if it was carpentry.

248

00:14:12,040 --> 00:14:14,260

But I couldn't say.

249

00:14:14,260 --> 00:14:20,690

But after the war, I would  
say half and half survived

250

00:14:20,690 --> 00:14:24,450

when I think older  
ones and younger ones.

251

00:14:24,450 --> 00:14:27,280

252

00:14:27,280 --> 00:14:29,620

I feel it was a matter of luck.

253

00:14:29,620 --> 00:14:34,020

You had to be lucky to survive.

254

00:14:34,020 --> 00:14:37,440

God had to be with  
you to survive.

255

00:14:37,440 --> 00:14:40,350

It isn't nothing  
that you planned

256

00:14:40,350 --> 00:14:42,990

or you were smarter  
than the next one.

257

00:14:42,990 --> 00:14:46,920

I don't believe in that.

258

00:14:46,920 --> 00:14:51,120

Was there spiritual  
resistance in Sobibor?

259

00:14:51,120 --> 00:14:52,530

Yes.

260

00:14:52,530 --> 00:14:55,740

There was a lot of  
spiritual resistance.

261

00:14:55,740 --> 00:14:58,530

And one isn't surprised.

262

00:14:58,530 --> 00:15:01,050

And I wasn't surprised either.

263

00:15:01,050 --> 00:15:05,370

When you see day by day  
coming transport and being

264

00:15:05,370 --> 00:15:09,660

killed for no reason, you  
start asking questions.

265  
00:15:09,660 --> 00:15:11,250  
Where is God?

266  
00:15:11,250 --> 00:15:15,870  
But there was some who believed.

267  
00:15:15,870 --> 00:15:20,280  
And it was-- don't ask me  
why, I was a strong believer.

268  
00:15:20,280 --> 00:15:22,120  
Don't ask me why.

269  
00:15:22,120 --> 00:15:24,000  
It just was in me.

270  
00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:29,220  
And because I had that faith, I  
think it was much easier for me

271  
00:15:29,220 --> 00:15:30,270  
than for the others.

272  
00:15:30,270 --> 00:15:33,970

273  
00:15:33,970 --> 00:15:37,060  
Were you able to pray?

274  
00:15:37,060 --> 00:15:41,100  
I mean, if you prayed,  
you prayed only

275  
00:15:41,100 --> 00:15:42,790  
to see the Nazis dead.

276  
00:15:42,790 --> 00:15:46,720  
That was the only  
prayer you prayed.

277  
00:15:46,720 --> 00:15:51,280  
But everybody prayed in  
his own way, I suppose,

278  
00:15:51,280 --> 00:15:55,180  
deep down, not out loudly.

279  
00:15:55,180 --> 00:15:57,100  
And there was once--

280  
00:15:57,100 --> 00:15:58,450  
you know Yom Kippur.

281  
00:15:58,450 --> 00:16:02,950  
That's the holiest  
day by the Jews.

282  
00:16:02,950 --> 00:16:06,430  
And being it was  
shortly before the day

283  
00:16:06,430 --> 00:16:08,990  
that we set for the escape.

284  
00:16:08,990 --> 00:16:13,580  
So they made like services  
in one of the barracks.

285  
00:16:13,580 --> 00:16:17,710  
So the ones who didn't believe  
and didn't want to go in,

286  
00:16:17,710 --> 00:16:19,720  
they stood guard outside.

287  
00:16:19,720 --> 00:16:24,560  
They respected  
what we are doing.

288  
00:16:24,560 --> 00:16:28,460  
And they didn't go in,



but they helped us.

289

00:16:28,460 --> 00:16:34,940

So I feel there was a great deal of compassion in camp.

290

00:16:34,940 --> 00:16:39,650

There was a great deal of closeness.

291

00:16:39,650 --> 00:16:44,300

There was a great deal of respect for one another.

292

00:16:44,300 --> 00:16:50,020

And there was a great deal that we tried to help each other.

293

00:16:50,020 --> 00:16:53,530

294

00:16:53,530 --> 00:16:58,210

And now, can you tell me the story of how when the war first

295

00:16:58,210 --> 00:17:01,570

came your mother described World War I and what she thought

296

00:17:01,570 --> 00:17:02,920

it would be like?

297

00:17:02,920 --> 00:17:10,210

You see when the war started, I mean, we didn't--

298

00:17:10,210 --> 00:17:11,619

I never saw a war.

299

00:17:11,619 --> 00:17:13,660

I never knew what a war was.

300

00:17:13,660 --> 00:17:16,750

I was born after  
the First World War.

301

00:17:16,750 --> 00:17:20,230

And I talked to my mother,  
how does the war look?

302

00:17:20,230 --> 00:17:23,050

And what's going  
to happen to us?

303

00:17:23,050 --> 00:17:24,020

And so forth.

304

00:17:24,020 --> 00:17:27,160

So she said in the first  
war-- what did my mother know?

305

00:17:27,160 --> 00:17:30,580

In the First World War, they  
were fighting near the railroad

306

00:17:30,580 --> 00:17:31,360

station.

307

00:17:31,360 --> 00:17:34,720

And they brought up the  
wounded to the city, she said.

308

00:17:34,720 --> 00:17:37,120

And everybody sat in the house.

309

00:17:37,120 --> 00:17:39,280

I don't know how long it took.

310

00:17:39,280 --> 00:17:41,290

But they used to go out.

311

00:17:41,290 --> 00:17:42,760

And that's what they said.

312

00:17:42,760 --> 00:17:48,550  
And my father brought home a lot  
of groceries and a lot of flour

313  
00:17:48,550 --> 00:17:51,130  
and a lot of sugar  
and a lot of oil.

314  
00:17:51,130 --> 00:17:53,760  
He said, in case we  
won't be able to get,

315  
00:17:53,760 --> 00:17:59,260  
we'll have enough to eat until  
this thing will blow over.

316  
00:17:59,260 --> 00:18:01,060  
But it wasn't like that.

317  
00:18:01,060 --> 00:18:06,310  
The first day when Germany  
declared war to Poland,

318  
00:18:06,310 --> 00:18:08,500  
they bombed our city.

319  
00:18:08,500 --> 00:18:11,260  
The Polish army was nothing.

320  
00:18:11,260 --> 00:18:15,760  
They weren't capable  
to resist anything.

321  
00:18:15,760 --> 00:18:19,690  
That was a different  
ballgame then.

322  
00:18:19,690 --> 00:18:22,210  
And then my father  
realized it's different.

323  
00:18:22,210 --> 00:18:25,200  
And my mother-- we

saw the planes flying.

324

00:18:25,200 --> 00:18:29,310

We never saw planes  
flying before.

325

00:18:29,310 --> 00:18:33,530

In a few days, Poland was gone.

326

00:18:33,530 --> 00:18:37,070

And then the  
Russians came to us,

327

00:18:37,070 --> 00:18:40,430

because they had some  
kind of an agreement

328

00:18:40,430 --> 00:18:44,990

that the Russians will  
go to Warsaw, whatever,

329

00:18:44,990 --> 00:18:46,520

they had the agreement.

330

00:18:46,520 --> 00:18:48,080

And the Russians came.

331

00:18:48,080 --> 00:18:52,940

And we had the Russian  
officers sleeping in our house

332

00:18:52,940 --> 00:18:57,560

because he was in  
charge of the bakery

333

00:18:57,560 --> 00:19:00,200

from the men who saved our life.

334

00:19:00,200 --> 00:19:03,110

And he came to us  
and he said, listen,

335

00:19:03,110 --> 00:19:07,370  
you better pack up everything  
and take your children.

336  
00:19:07,370 --> 00:19:10,730  
When they made a new agreement  
that the Russians go back

337  
00:19:10,730 --> 00:19:15,500  
to the River Bug and the Germans  
come in here, and he said,

338  
00:19:15,500 --> 00:19:18,860  
in Russia, your  
children can study.

339  
00:19:18,860 --> 00:19:20,440  
They can become something.

340  
00:19:20,440 --> 00:19:22,040  
And you'll be all right.

341  
00:19:22,040 --> 00:19:25,550  
The Germans are going to  
do to you awful things.

342  
00:19:25,550 --> 00:19:29,440  
But nobody believed it.

343  
00:19:29,440 --> 00:19:33,070  
Who believed that  
they'll come and kill us?

344  
00:19:33,070 --> 00:19:37,270  
They'll gas 3 and 1/2  
million people only in Poland

345  
00:19:37,270 --> 00:19:38,620  
or 3 million.

346  
00:19:38,620 --> 00:19:40,150  
Nobody believed it.

347

00:19:40,150 --> 00:19:44,020  
Nobody thought that something  
like this can happen.

348

00:19:44,020 --> 00:19:47,340

349

00:19:47,340 --> 00:19:49,850  
But it happened.

350

00:19:49,850 --> 00:19:53,460  
First they came and it happened.

351

00:19:53,460 --> 00:20:00,720  
I mean, they were so efficient  
in their killings, you know.

352

00:20:00,720 --> 00:20:03,630  
And I think they still are.

353

00:20:03,630 --> 00:20:06,090  
First a Nazi, always Nazi.

354

00:20:06,090 --> 00:20:10,030  
I don't believe that they  
are any different now.

355

00:20:10,030 --> 00:20:13,420  
I went to so many  
trials in Germany.

356

00:20:13,420 --> 00:20:16,840  
And the only thing that  
hurt me the most, ,

357

00:20:16,840 --> 00:20:22,450  
that nobody from those murderers  
said it was wrong what we did,

358

00:20:22,450 --> 00:20:24,650  
we shouldn't have done it.

359

00:20:24,650 --> 00:20:28,060  
Everybody followed the orders.

360

00:20:28,060 --> 00:20:31,510  
And I feel if somebody would  
come today and give them

361

00:20:31,510 --> 00:20:38,320  
orders, they would do all  
over again without hesitation.

362

00:20:38,320 --> 00:20:40,150  
And that hurts.

363

00:20:40,150 --> 00:20:43,880  
That hurts very much.

364

00:20:43,880 --> 00:20:47,780  
Especially when I went to the  
first trials and the judges

365

00:20:47,780 --> 00:20:51,170  
were older gentlemen,  
older people.

366

00:20:51,170 --> 00:20:55,350  
One Nazi defended the other.

367

00:20:55,350 --> 00:21:00,510  
And I feel that that's why  
it's so important it shouldn't

368

00:21:00,510 --> 00:21:02,140  
be forgotten.

369

00:21:02,140 --> 00:21:04,970  
It shouldn't be forgotten,  
because it can happen again.

370

00:21:04,970 --> 00:21:10,580

371  
00:21:10,580 --> 00:21:11,170  
Thank you.

372  
00:21:11,170 --> 00:21:11,830  
Let's cut.

373  
00:21:11,830 --> 00:21:14,700

374  
00:21:14,700 --> 00:21:16,150  
Whenever I go to--

375  
00:21:16,150 --> 00:21:16,650  
10.

376  
00:21:16,650 --> 00:21:19,180

377  
00:21:19,180 --> 00:21:25,210  
You see, we liberated  
ourselves because we escaped

378  
00:21:25,210 --> 00:21:27,370  
and we made the uprising.

379  
00:21:27,370 --> 00:21:31,210  
All the death camps  
or slave labor camps

380  
00:21:31,210 --> 00:21:35,710  
were liberated by the  
army, with Edward R Murrow,

381  
00:21:35,710 --> 00:21:41,110  
with all the press,  
and in the world knew.

382  
00:21:41,110 --> 00:21:43,210  
Sobibor, nobody knew.

383  
00:21:43,210 --> 00:21:47,380



If I told them after the war  
there was a Sobibor, never

384  
00:21:47,380 --> 00:21:49,480  
heard of it, and  
never heard of it.

385  
00:21:49,480 --> 00:21:52,720  
And that hurt me so  
much, because I thought

386  
00:21:52,720 --> 00:21:55,030  
it will just be forgotten.

387  
00:21:55,030 --> 00:21:59,080  
It'll go away if not  
for Richard Rashke, who

388  
00:21:59,080 --> 00:22:03,100  
found a footnote  
in the library when

389  
00:22:03,100 --> 00:22:06,400  
they arrested Wagner in Brazil.

390  
00:22:06,400 --> 00:22:11,260  
And he took the story,  
and he worked on it.

391  
00:22:11,260 --> 00:22:12,690  
And he interviewed people.

392  
00:22:12,690 --> 00:22:14,620  
And he put in his money.

393  
00:22:14,620 --> 00:22:17,530  
And he wrote the book.

394  
00:22:17,530 --> 00:22:22,300  
The book opened the eyes  
that there was a Sobibor.

395

00:22:22,300 --> 00:22:26,890  
And that was the  
biggest uprising

396  
00:22:26,890 --> 00:22:30,160  
in the history of  
the World War II.

397  
00:22:30,160 --> 00:22:31,480  
Why not tell it?

398  
00:22:31,480 --> 00:22:35,350  
And thanks to him,  
Sobibor came out.

399  
00:22:35,350 --> 00:22:37,150  
The story came out.

400  
00:22:37,150 --> 00:22:39,820  
The world knows what's happened.

401  
00:22:39,820 --> 00:22:43,570  
And it's written about it.

402  
00:22:43,570 --> 00:22:47,530  
And the book is translated  
into so many languages.

403  
00:22:47,530 --> 00:22:51,160  
And children learn in  
school thanks to that.

404  
00:22:51,160 --> 00:22:55,010  
Otherwise Sobibor who  
would have been forgotten.