

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:27,180

2
00:00:27,180 --> 00:00:31,150
How do you remember
the changes in 1939

3
00:00:31,150 --> 00:00:34,930
when the Germans came, the
changes in everyday life

4
00:00:34,930 --> 00:00:38,430
if you remember any of them--

5
00:00:38,430 --> 00:00:40,765
persecutions, the
effects on your family?

6
00:00:40,765 --> 00:00:43,310

7
00:00:43,310 --> 00:00:46,740
Well, it was 1939.

8
00:00:46,740 --> 00:00:48,700
And I was only four years old.

9
00:00:48,700 --> 00:00:53,340
So my recollections
are only that.

10
00:00:53,340 --> 00:00:58,830
Just prior to the Germans
coming into our town,

11
00:00:58,830 --> 00:01:01,820
we heard a lot of planes.

12
00:01:01,820 --> 00:01:09,030
And our parents would take me
down, because at that point

13

00:01:09,030 --> 00:01:13,490

my sister was in Warsaw
studying, to the basement

14

00:01:13,490 --> 00:01:14,390

for protection.

15

00:01:14,390 --> 00:01:22,790

And they would put a mask
on us made from cotton.

16

00:01:22,790 --> 00:01:24,800

That was prior to
the Germans coming.

17

00:01:24,800 --> 00:01:32,550

And then within a few days,
we all were standing outside

18

00:01:32,550 --> 00:01:44,760

and soldiers on motorcycles
and [INAUDIBLE] cars

19

00:01:44,760 --> 00:01:54,840

and with big, heavy hats
marched into our town.

20

00:01:54,840 --> 00:01:59,350

That's my first recollection
of seeing Germans.

21

00:01:59,350 --> 00:02:05,720

And then things started
changing almost immediately.

22

00:02:05,720 --> 00:02:08,660

My mother and father were
very protective of me.

23

00:02:08,660 --> 00:02:11,720

So we were not allowed to--

24

00:02:11,720 --> 00:02:16,730
I was not allowed to go outside
other than to my grandparents'

25

00:02:16,730 --> 00:02:21,320
home, which was
three doors down.

26

00:02:21,320 --> 00:02:23,900
And everybody was afraid.

27

00:02:23,900 --> 00:02:28,060

28

00:02:28,060 --> 00:02:34,450
We started getting
people, Jewish people,

29

00:02:34,450 --> 00:02:38,270
coming in from other
parts of the country.

30

00:02:38,270 --> 00:02:46,000
And we had to share our homes
and our means with them.

31

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:49,240
We always had a full
house of people.

32

00:02:49,240 --> 00:02:52,240

33

00:02:52,240 --> 00:02:55,060
And then the cruelty started.

34

00:02:55,060 --> 00:02:58,840
Then they started
coming in into the homes

35

00:02:58,840 --> 00:03:06,190
and just taking people

out, as I overheard,

36

00:03:06,190 --> 00:03:10,330
for no apparent reason.

37

00:03:10,330 --> 00:03:14,560
In fact, one of those times it
was at my grandfather's house.

38

00:03:14,560 --> 00:03:20,320
It was-- my grand parents
lived in a home where

39

00:03:20,320 --> 00:03:22,210
there was a courtyard.

40

00:03:22,210 --> 00:03:26,500
So there was a big door at
the entrance from the street.

41

00:03:26,500 --> 00:03:29,350
And you walked
into the courtyard.

42

00:03:29,350 --> 00:03:32,020
That door was closed
for the night.

43

00:03:32,020 --> 00:03:34,000
And there was
banging on the door.

44

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:38,740
And my uncle happened to have
opened the door for them.

45

00:03:38,740 --> 00:03:42,400
The Germans marched
in and walked over

46

00:03:42,400 --> 00:03:46,000
to an apartment, where
a poor tailor lived

47

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:50,260
that hardly could make a living,
pulled him out, and shot him.

48

00:03:50,260 --> 00:03:52,360
We don't know why they
didn't take my uncle.

49

00:03:52,360 --> 00:03:55,810

50

00:03:55,810 --> 00:04:00,070
So that was the first
beginning of what

51

00:04:00,070 --> 00:04:05,530
I overheard at that age.

52

00:04:05,530 --> 00:04:10,750
And then I saw changes
in my grandparents' place

53

00:04:10,750 --> 00:04:18,160
mostly for some reason, which
I don't know why either.

54

00:04:18,160 --> 00:04:21,610
But I came one afternoon
into their house.

55

00:04:21,610 --> 00:04:23,470
And my grandfather
and grandmother

56

00:04:23,470 --> 00:04:25,060
were sitting on the side crying.

57

00:04:25,060 --> 00:04:26,560
And when I looked
at my grandfather,

58

00:04:26,560 --> 00:04:27,790
I couldn't believe it.

59
00:04:27,790 --> 00:04:31,390
His beard was shaved off.

60
00:04:31,390 --> 00:04:36,960
And my aunt was sitting
in the corner and crying.

61
00:04:36,960 --> 00:04:38,600
I couldn't understand why.

62
00:04:38,600 --> 00:04:41,990
And nobody took the time
to explain it to me.

63
00:04:41,990 --> 00:04:45,440

64
00:04:45,440 --> 00:04:52,880
Since that time, I haven't
seen my aunt leave the house.

65
00:04:52,880 --> 00:04:55,550
It was only in
the last few years

66
00:04:55,550 --> 00:04:57,650
that I have found
out from my mother

67
00:04:57,650 --> 00:05:00,980
that at that particular
time she was raped.

68
00:05:00,980 --> 00:05:04,250
And that's why she did
not leave the house.

69
00:05:04,250 --> 00:05:07,680
It was such a traumatic
experience for her.

70
00:05:07,680 --> 00:05:10,700
And these are just things
that were happening around me

71
00:05:10,700 --> 00:05:18,860
personally that I saw and
felt the first week or two

72
00:05:18,860 --> 00:05:19,550
or three--

73
00:05:19,550 --> 00:05:22,475
I don't know, before
the ghetto was formed.

74
00:05:22,475 --> 00:05:26,800

75
00:05:26,800 --> 00:05:29,890
My father was very upset.

76
00:05:29,890 --> 00:05:33,460
Nobody paid much
attention to me except

77
00:05:33,460 --> 00:05:37,870
to make sure that I'm safe and
that I'm always around them,

78
00:05:37,870 --> 00:05:40,890
that I don't wander off.

79
00:05:40,890 --> 00:05:45,130
And that was the beginning.

80
00:05:45,130 --> 00:05:48,750
Tell me about the ghetto.

81
00:05:48,750 --> 00:05:53,560
The ghetto was formed around
the area where we lived.

82

00:05:53,560 --> 00:05:59,400
So we didn't have to move, other
than give up some of our rooms

83

00:05:59,400 --> 00:06:01,740
and so forth to
accommodate other people.

84

00:06:01,740 --> 00:06:05,540

85

00:06:05,540 --> 00:06:08,660
There was more and more
people coming into the ghetto.

86

00:06:08,660 --> 00:06:12,800
But my father was
a photographer.

87

00:06:12,800 --> 00:06:16,580
He was quite well
established in the city,

88

00:06:16,580 --> 00:06:21,470
not only among the Jewish people
but also among the Gentiles.

89

00:06:21,470 --> 00:06:29,270
And he still had permission to
leave the ghetto during the day

90

00:06:29,270 --> 00:06:31,520
and had to come back at night.

91

00:06:31,520 --> 00:06:35,810
Our studio was taken
over by the Germans.

92

00:06:35,810 --> 00:06:39,710
They ran the business.

93

00:06:39,710 --> 00:06:42,920
And my father was there
just working for them.

94
00:06:42,920 --> 00:06:45,260
So it was really not
our business anymore.

95
00:06:45,260 --> 00:06:47,930
And my mother too had to
go and start going in.

96
00:06:47,930 --> 00:06:51,620

97
00:06:51,620 --> 00:06:55,400
My sister, as I
mentioned before,

98
00:06:55,400 --> 00:07:01,700
studied in Warsaw because she
was very talented musically.

99
00:07:01,700 --> 00:07:03,830
She was a pianist.

100
00:07:03,830 --> 00:07:08,180
And when the ghetto
formed, my father

101
00:07:08,180 --> 00:07:13,760
had sent someone to
bring her back home.

102
00:07:13,760 --> 00:07:22,670
And other than that, life
was a little bit more

103
00:07:22,670 --> 00:07:25,160
like normal for me because
I had my sister at home

104
00:07:25,160 --> 00:07:26,630

where I didn't have her before.

105

00:07:26,630 --> 00:07:28,010

There was people coming in.

106

00:07:28,010 --> 00:07:30,950

And she was practicing
and playing.

107

00:07:30,950 --> 00:07:36,150

And, in fact, there
were some Germans

108

00:07:36,150 --> 00:07:39,060

that would come in to
listen to her at night.

109

00:07:39,060 --> 00:07:41,940

And we would have to put
up sheets on the windows

110

00:07:41,940 --> 00:07:43,680

so nobody would see
that they came in.

111

00:07:43,680 --> 00:07:46,330

112

00:07:46,330 --> 00:07:53,490

So that part was still a very--

113

00:07:53,490 --> 00:07:55,530

we were still a
very close family.

114

00:07:55,530 --> 00:08:02,670

And everybody was
always mentioning

115

00:08:02,670 --> 00:08:06,780

who was shot this time and
who was shot that time.

116

00:08:06,780 --> 00:08:15,010

And friends and families
just disappeared.

117

00:08:15,010 --> 00:08:21,650

They would catch
people in the streets

118

00:08:21,650 --> 00:08:26,520

for working details to
other parts of the country.

119

00:08:26,520 --> 00:08:28,780

And we were always
concerned that my--

120

00:08:28,780 --> 00:08:31,670

I had two uncles, that
they would be caught

121

00:08:31,670 --> 00:08:36,020

and that my father would be.

122

00:08:36,020 --> 00:08:38,570

123

00:08:38,570 --> 00:08:41,960

So, actually, from
day to day, there

124

00:08:41,960 --> 00:08:44,150

seem to be such terrible
tension in the house.

125

00:08:44,150 --> 00:08:47,710

126

00:08:47,710 --> 00:08:52,220

I just felt like I
was always in the way

127

00:08:52,220 --> 00:08:55,340

because I was a
nuisance, I suppose.

128
00:08:55,340 --> 00:08:58,490
I wasn't allowed to go anywhere.

129
00:08:58,490 --> 00:09:02,720
And yet, I was supposed
to always entertain myself

130
00:09:02,720 --> 00:09:04,430
and stay out of people's way.

131
00:09:04,430 --> 00:09:05,930
I guess they had
no patience for me.

132
00:09:05,930 --> 00:09:14,210

133
00:09:14,210 --> 00:09:16,940
Describe the
importance of working

134
00:09:16,940 --> 00:09:21,470
and how your parents
realized that very early.

135
00:09:21,470 --> 00:09:26,270
My father had the
foresight that if he

136
00:09:26,270 --> 00:09:29,210
is going to have
employment and be

137
00:09:29,210 --> 00:09:37,110
a productive citizen that he'll
be safe and so will my mother.

138
00:09:37,110 --> 00:09:40,790
So there was a
camp that was being

139
00:09:40,790 --> 00:09:43,200
set up outside of our city.

140
00:09:43,200 --> 00:09:47,660
It was called Bodzech³w,
a German company, I think,

141
00:09:47,660 --> 00:09:55,400
that was making electronics, set
up a factory with free labor.

142
00:09:55,400 --> 00:10:03,140
So my father through some
[NON-ENGLISH] and money,

143
00:10:03,140 --> 00:10:13,460
was able to get to places for
my mother and my father to work

144
00:10:13,460 --> 00:10:21,080
in that factory and to live
on that camp, working camp,

145
00:10:21,080 --> 00:10:23,990
what they called.

146
00:10:23,990 --> 00:10:31,160
My sister through
friends, acquaintances

147
00:10:31,160 --> 00:10:36,140
was taken to a Gentile family
to continue her education

148
00:10:36,140 --> 00:10:41,570
because they felt that it
will be very important for her

149
00:10:41,570 --> 00:10:45,620
to continue her
musical training.

150

00:10:45,620 --> 00:10:47,990

And if she would
be going to camp,

151

00:10:47,990 --> 00:10:51,060

then, certainly, there
wouldn't be any piano,

152

00:10:51,060 --> 00:10:54,500

not knowing what
was waiting for us.

153

00:10:54,500 --> 00:11:00,200

So a family outside of our city,
actually a duke and duchess,

154

00:11:00,200 --> 00:11:04,640

have accepted her as another
one of their daughters.

155

00:11:04,640 --> 00:11:10,880

And my sister has
spend the war with them

156

00:11:10,880 --> 00:11:12,730

with continuing her education.

157

00:11:12,730 --> 00:11:17,270

158

00:11:17,270 --> 00:11:20,510

My father had worked out for a--

159

00:11:20,510 --> 00:11:21,810

We have to stop.

160

00:11:21,810 --> 00:11:23,152

We have to reload them.

161

00:11:23,152 --> 00:11:33,750

162

00:11:33,750 --> 00:11:37,320

Describe the work
camp, the life.

163

00:11:37,320 --> 00:11:40,530

And define what a work
camp is when you tell me.

164

00:11:40,530 --> 00:11:44,160

And then tell me how
it is that you ended up

165

00:11:44,160 --> 00:11:47,190

in that kind of an environment
and what it was like,

166

00:11:47,190 --> 00:11:51,570

but be sort of basic about it.

167

00:11:51,570 --> 00:11:56,650

Well, children were not allowed.

168

00:11:56,650 --> 00:12:01,250

They were supposed to not exist
because it was a working camp.

169

00:12:01,250 --> 00:12:05,573

So my father and mother had
their specific work to do.

170

00:12:05,573 --> 00:12:07,240

I think my mother
worked in the kitchen.

171

00:12:07,240 --> 00:12:09,775

And my father worked
in the factory.

172

00:12:09,775 --> 00:12:12,780

173

00:12:12,780 --> 00:12:15,340

I was supposed not to exist.

174

00:12:15,340 --> 00:12:21,790

So certain days,
yes, I was allowed

175

00:12:21,790 --> 00:12:24,460

to walk around in the camp.

176

00:12:24,460 --> 00:12:27,400

But whenever there was a--

177

00:12:27,400 --> 00:12:30,700

first of all, the
camp was supposed

178

00:12:30,700 --> 00:12:37,270

to have been maybe for 100
people to work in the factory.

179

00:12:37,270 --> 00:12:39,370

But when a lot of
people have heard

180

00:12:39,370 --> 00:12:42,250

that there was a
place where maybe you

181

00:12:42,250 --> 00:12:45,820

could survive through
the war, then they

182

00:12:45,820 --> 00:12:49,660

would come into that camp and
it would swell with people.

183

00:12:49,660 --> 00:12:53,740

There would be-- instead of 100,
there would be 200, 300, 400.

184

00:12:53,740 --> 00:12:58,930

And the Germans would allow this
to happen because at any given

185
00:12:58,930 --> 00:13:00,940
time they would
come with a truck

186
00:13:00,940 --> 00:13:03,160
and just load up
whoever they could

187
00:13:03,160 --> 00:13:08,110
find in camp that particular
day and ship them out

188
00:13:08,110 --> 00:13:12,640
to Treblinka if they didn't have
a full transport or anywhere

189
00:13:12,640 --> 00:13:14,080
else.

190
00:13:14,080 --> 00:13:19,990
And because of that, there was a
lot of elderly people there too

191
00:13:19,990 --> 00:13:20,625
and children.

192
00:13:20,625 --> 00:13:22,000
And they were the
first ones that

193
00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:26,170
went out with these transports.

194
00:13:26,170 --> 00:13:29,530
Being that my father
was known in town

195
00:13:29,530 --> 00:13:31,300
and he was a little
bit influential,

196

00:13:31,300 --> 00:13:36,820
he would hear rumors when
these trucks would be coming in

197
00:13:36,820 --> 00:13:39,880
because there was more people
than there was supposed to be.

198
00:13:39,880 --> 00:13:44,170
So, obviously, I would
have to disappear.

199
00:13:44,170 --> 00:13:47,020
I would either go with my
mother into the forest.

200
00:13:47,020 --> 00:13:53,400
And it was in the winter.

201
00:13:53,400 --> 00:13:58,510
It was probably sometimes
around November, December.

202
00:13:58,510 --> 00:14:01,530
And it was very cold.

203
00:14:01,530 --> 00:14:06,130
And I would spend
sometimes days and nights

204
00:14:06,130 --> 00:14:11,200
in the forest with my mother
just walking around and trying

205
00:14:11,200 --> 00:14:13,120
to keep warm.

206
00:14:13,120 --> 00:14:16,000
Occasionally, we would
knock on a farmer's door.

207
00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:18,190
Some of them would tell on us.

208
00:14:18,190 --> 00:14:21,130
And we would have
soldiers looking for us.

209
00:14:21,130 --> 00:14:24,310
And some of them were kind
enough to let us come in.

210
00:14:24,310 --> 00:14:27,490
And they would take my shoes
off and dry them and give me

211
00:14:27,490 --> 00:14:30,050
something to drink.

212
00:14:30,050 --> 00:14:33,890
So there were some that were
a little bit kind to me.

213
00:14:33,890 --> 00:14:38,670
But, unfortunately, a
couple weren't nice at all.

214
00:14:38,670 --> 00:14:43,590
One, in particular, told us-- my
mother wanted to buy some milk.

215
00:14:43,590 --> 00:14:46,620
Buy because she had
money at the time.

216
00:14:46,620 --> 00:14:48,630
And the woman shut
the door in our faces

217
00:14:48,630 --> 00:14:51,120
and said she didn't have any.

218
00:14:51,120 --> 00:14:54,660
And we continued walking.

219

00:14:54,660 --> 00:14:58,170
And then she, in turn,
went to the police station

220
00:14:58,170 --> 00:15:01,285
and told on us that there was
a mother and a child, probably

221
00:15:01,285 --> 00:15:01,785
Jewish.

222
00:15:01,785 --> 00:15:04,300

223
00:15:04,300 --> 00:15:07,090
The German at the police station
was not there at the time.

224
00:15:07,090 --> 00:15:16,170
And a Polish policeman,
I guess, came after us.

225
00:15:16,170 --> 00:15:22,640
And when he saw us, he told
us that one of the farmers

226
00:15:22,640 --> 00:15:26,660
had come to the police
station and told them about us

227
00:15:26,660 --> 00:15:30,800
and that we should go
to the camp that is just

228
00:15:30,800 --> 00:15:32,930
on the other side of
the forest because that

229
00:15:32,930 --> 00:15:36,590
might be a safe haven for us.

230
00:15:36,590 --> 00:15:38,860
So that was a good one.

231
00:15:38,860 --> 00:15:41,980
And he even gave me
a piece of bread.

232
00:15:41,980 --> 00:15:45,970
And we thanked him.

233
00:15:45,970 --> 00:15:47,470
But mother and I knew--

234
00:15:47,470 --> 00:15:51,520
or mother knew when she told
me that we cannot return back

235
00:15:51,520 --> 00:15:54,970
into the camp because the
selection at that particular

236
00:15:54,970 --> 00:15:57,960
time has not taken place yet.

237
00:15:57,960 --> 00:16:01,770
So it would not have
been safe for me.

238
00:16:01,770 --> 00:16:08,100
And other times I
would be hiding in--

239
00:16:08,100 --> 00:16:11,610
it was a big like a warehouse
where they kept some cars.

240
00:16:11,610 --> 00:16:16,230
And they had an office built
in in that big warehouse.

241
00:16:16,230 --> 00:16:23,850
And on the roof of that office,
there was a distance where--

242

00:16:23,850 --> 00:16:26,370
I was then six--

243
00:16:26,370 --> 00:16:27,540
I could not stand up.

244
00:16:27,540 --> 00:16:31,080
I had to kind of crawl
around on my knees

245
00:16:31,080 --> 00:16:35,190
between the ceiling of the
big warehouse and the office.

246
00:16:35,190 --> 00:16:41,850
That's where I had to lie during
the day very, very quietly.

247
00:16:41,850 --> 00:16:44,020
Because if I had
moved or walked,

248
00:16:44,020 --> 00:16:45,645
they would have heard
me in the office.

249
00:16:45,645 --> 00:16:48,350

250
00:16:48,350 --> 00:16:52,500
There were a lot of mice running
around at the time and rats.

251
00:16:52,500 --> 00:16:54,980
So whatever food
I was left with,

252
00:16:54,980 --> 00:16:59,210
I had to eat it as soon as
it was brought up to me.

253
00:16:59,210 --> 00:17:01,820
Otherwise, it would

have just disappeared.

254

00:17:01,820 --> 00:17:05,210

In fact, there was
two other children

255

00:17:05,210 --> 00:17:09,710

that originally had used the
same hiding place as I did.

256

00:17:09,710 --> 00:17:14,010

And they refused to stay there.

257

00:17:14,010 --> 00:17:19,230

So, unfortunately,
they did not survive.

258

00:17:19,230 --> 00:17:20,109

But I stayed.

259

00:17:20,109 --> 00:17:22,270

At this time, I was good.

260

00:17:22,270 --> 00:17:24,359

I wasn't always.

261

00:17:24,359 --> 00:17:29,910

And, occasionally, my father
would come up for the night

262

00:17:29,910 --> 00:17:33,300

and spend with me a couple of
hours so I wouldn't be alone.

263

00:17:33,300 --> 00:17:36,330

Or my mother would
come up during the day

264

00:17:36,330 --> 00:17:38,650

when she was missed.

265

00:17:38,650 --> 00:17:45,630

And that's how I spent
my time at that camp.

266
00:17:45,630 --> 00:17:48,480
One of the selections
that were going on,

267
00:17:48,480 --> 00:17:58,260
I was hidden with other
children in a hole in the ground

268
00:17:58,260 --> 00:18:01,770
where they kept potatoes
right off the kitchen.

269
00:18:01,770 --> 00:18:07,350
And we were there
up until the point

270
00:18:07,350 --> 00:18:12,210
when they were putting the
people on the trucks already.

271
00:18:12,210 --> 00:18:14,280
The selections have been made.

272
00:18:14,280 --> 00:18:21,140
And somebody must have
saw us going in there.

273
00:18:21,140 --> 00:18:25,640
And they had told
one of the Germans.

274
00:18:25,640 --> 00:18:28,490
And there was potatoes
flying over us.

275
00:18:28,490 --> 00:18:30,140
So we were actually hidden.

276
00:18:30,140 --> 00:18:33,200
But somebody told them

exactly where we are.

277

00:18:33,200 --> 00:18:34,400

So he came up.

278

00:18:34,400 --> 00:18:37,460

And he uncovered us.

279

00:18:37,460 --> 00:18:40,730

He pulled up all
these potatoes away.

280

00:18:40,730 --> 00:18:42,500

And he looked at us.

281

00:18:42,500 --> 00:18:44,690

There was a few of us there.

282

00:18:44,690 --> 00:18:48,500

And he said-- he was
there with his handgun.

283

00:18:48,500 --> 00:18:50,750

And he said, stay here.

284

00:18:50,750 --> 00:18:55,130

It's not safe for
you to come out yet.

285

00:18:55,130 --> 00:18:58,700

I guess he had enough people
for this particular transport.

286

00:18:58,700 --> 00:19:02,360

So he had a change of heart.

287

00:19:02,360 --> 00:19:05,000

And he decided to
leave us there.

288

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:05,870

We were children.

289
00:19:05,870 --> 00:19:07,370
So we ran out.

290
00:19:07,370 --> 00:19:10,100
My mother was working in the
kitchen, peeling potatoes.

291
00:19:10,100 --> 00:19:11,480
And she saw me coming.

292
00:19:11,480 --> 00:19:14,570
So a couple of the
ladies and my mother

293
00:19:14,570 --> 00:19:18,770
grabbed me and put me into a
barrel with sauerkraut in it

294
00:19:18,770 --> 00:19:20,960
until the trucks
were pulled away.

295
00:19:20,960 --> 00:19:24,720
And I was safe that time.

296
00:19:24,720 --> 00:19:25,890
That was a good camp.

297
00:19:25,890 --> 00:19:28,970

298
00:19:28,970 --> 00:19:32,490
One of the times, we were
caught in the selection.

299
00:19:32,490 --> 00:19:35,157
And we were standing
in front of the gate.

300
00:19:35,157 --> 00:19:36,740
I don't know if it

was inside the gate

301

00:19:36,740 --> 00:19:38,640

or if it was outside the gate.

302

00:19:38,640 --> 00:19:40,230

And we stood and we stood.

303

00:19:40,230 --> 00:19:47,190

And there was a line of
Germans standing with the guns

304

00:19:47,190 --> 00:19:48,030

and waiting.

305

00:19:48,030 --> 00:19:50,620

And we were waiting and waiting.

306

00:19:50,620 --> 00:19:53,750

And then we were told to kneel.

307

00:19:53,750 --> 00:19:58,280

We were lined up
in rows of five.

308

00:19:58,280 --> 00:20:07,780

And my mother said to me,
if they start shooting--

309

00:20:07,780 --> 00:20:09,800

she changed places
with me, actually.

310

00:20:09,800 --> 00:20:12,110

She went in front of me.

311

00:20:12,110 --> 00:20:15,120

And she said, if
they start shooting,

312

00:20:15,120 --> 00:20:19,170

make sure that you get under me.

313
00:20:19,170 --> 00:20:23,740
And stay there, and don't move.

314
00:20:23,740 --> 00:20:25,870
Well, we stayed
there all afternoon.

315
00:20:25,870 --> 00:20:30,130
And for some reason, they
decided not to shoot.

316
00:20:30,130 --> 00:20:34,180
So we were let
back into the camp.

317
00:20:34,180 --> 00:20:40,020
One time we were caught
also in this selections.

318
00:20:40,020 --> 00:20:43,215
And we were taken to a ghetto.

319
00:20:43,215 --> 00:20:46,860

320
00:20:46,860 --> 00:20:49,260
That was a terrible place.

321
00:20:49,260 --> 00:20:52,020
People were lying on
the street and dying.

322
00:20:52,020 --> 00:20:55,590
And the filth and
the dirt, it was--

323
00:20:55,590 --> 00:20:57,900
it's just absolutely
unbelievable.

324
00:20:57,900 --> 00:21:01,150

325

00:21:01,150 --> 00:21:06,040

My father was still left in
Bodzech³w when my mother and I

326

00:21:06,040 --> 00:21:06,880

were caught.

327

00:21:06,880 --> 00:21:09,430

My mother was caught
only because of me.

328

00:21:09,430 --> 00:21:12,280

She had permission
to stay in the camp.

329

00:21:12,280 --> 00:21:13,390

She had papers.

330

00:21:13,390 --> 00:21:14,410

I didn't.

331

00:21:14,410 --> 00:21:15,760

But they caught us together.

332

00:21:15,760 --> 00:21:20,030

So we both-- my mother
wouldn't have let me go alone.

333

00:21:20,030 --> 00:21:22,690

So we went together.

334

00:21:22,690 --> 00:21:26,230

And my father
arranged with a Pole.

335

00:21:26,230 --> 00:21:31,750

Being that he was still working
outside the camp occasionally

336

00:21:31,750 --> 00:21:39,310

in that factory, he arranged
with a Pole to bring us back

337
00:21:39,310 --> 00:21:41,880
to Bodzech³w.

338
00:21:41,880 --> 00:21:43,500
There was an
underground connection.

339
00:21:43,500 --> 00:21:47,640
I don't know exactly how I--

340
00:21:47,640 --> 00:21:51,670
and we were just a few
days in that ghetto.

341
00:21:51,670 --> 00:21:54,510
And somebody got
in touch with us

342
00:21:54,510 --> 00:21:59,430
that we had to make our way
to escape from the ghetto

343
00:21:59,430 --> 00:22:07,380
and make it outside of
the ghetto and get below.

344
00:22:07,380 --> 00:22:11,220
This particular
ghetto was on a hill.

345
00:22:11,220 --> 00:22:12,740
And then there was a big--

346
00:22:12,740 --> 00:22:16,640

347
00:22:16,640 --> 00:22:19,850
what do you call--

348

00:22:19,850 --> 00:22:20,990
can't even think now.

349
00:22:20,990 --> 00:22:24,260

350
00:22:24,260 --> 00:22:26,630
Well, I'll get back to that.

351
00:22:26,630 --> 00:22:31,430
Anyways, we were supposed to
make it outside of the camp--

352
00:22:31,430 --> 00:22:34,940
outside of the ghetto
and follow that Pole

353
00:22:34,940 --> 00:22:36,450
to the railroad station.

354
00:22:36,450 --> 00:22:37,260
And then--

355
00:22:37,260 --> 00:22:39,260
Let's stop because
we just ran out.

356
00:22:39,260 --> 00:22:40,830
So we can pick up that.

357
00:22:40,830 --> 00:22:45,790

358
00:22:45,790 --> 00:22:48,130
Why don't you back
up into that story

359
00:22:48,130 --> 00:22:52,240
a little bit so that if I
can't cut the two together

360
00:22:52,240 --> 00:22:53,520

you start again--

361
00:22:53,520 --> 00:22:58,430

362
00:22:58,430 --> 00:23:00,800
a terrible place on--

363
00:23:00,800 --> 00:23:02,930
Oh, the ghetto.

364
00:23:02,930 --> 00:23:03,920
The ghetto on the hill.

365
00:23:03,920 --> 00:23:06,530

366
00:23:06,530 --> 00:23:09,050
As I mentioned, it
was a terrible place--

367
00:23:09,050 --> 00:23:12,555
the filth and the dirt and the
people just lying on the street

368
00:23:12,555 --> 00:23:13,055
and dying.

369
00:23:13,055 --> 00:23:15,610

370
00:23:15,610 --> 00:23:20,000
It was just a horrible thing
to see for human beings

371
00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:26,200
to be in this kind of
a situation and place.

372
00:23:26,200 --> 00:23:30,700
Anyways, my father had made
arrangements for somebody

373
00:23:30,700 --> 00:23:32,530
to take us out of there.

374
00:23:32,530 --> 00:23:38,350
And we were told that we have
to make it out of the ghetto.

375
00:23:38,350 --> 00:23:40,630
And the ghettos were
not as tightly watched

376
00:23:40,630 --> 00:23:46,870
as camps down the hill
because this particular ghetto

377
00:23:46,870 --> 00:23:50,380
was on the hill over the fence.

378
00:23:50,380 --> 00:23:53,300
And then he will
be waiting for us.

379
00:23:53,300 --> 00:23:56,140
And we would follow him
to the railroad station.

380
00:23:56,140 --> 00:23:58,375
And there he would
give us the tickets.

381
00:23:58,375 --> 00:23:59,500
And we would be on our own.

382
00:23:59,500 --> 00:24:01,615
It's not that he in any
way endangered himself.

383
00:24:01,615 --> 00:24:05,050

384
00:24:05,050 --> 00:24:08,050

I really, I guess, didn't
want to go down that hill

385
00:24:08,050 --> 00:24:14,230
because I personally have
no recollection of that.

386
00:24:14,230 --> 00:24:15,790
The only thing--

387
00:24:15,790 --> 00:24:17,950
I had a conversation
with my mother recently.

388
00:24:17,950 --> 00:24:21,820
And I have terrible nightmares
about this particular place,

389
00:24:21,820 --> 00:24:22,960
I guess.

390
00:24:22,960 --> 00:24:25,630
I keep running down that hill.

391
00:24:25,630 --> 00:24:29,890
And I'm just suspended in air.

392
00:24:29,890 --> 00:24:31,150
And then I come down.

393
00:24:31,150 --> 00:24:33,160
And it's quiet.

394
00:24:33,160 --> 00:24:35,940
It's as if nothing had happened.

395
00:24:35,940 --> 00:24:40,180
Well, my mother had told
me that when she finally

396
00:24:40,180 --> 00:24:47,590
made me come down the hill

and we made it over the fence,

397

00:24:47,590 --> 00:24:50,110
there was a street in the city.

398

00:24:50,110 --> 00:24:53,110
And the Polish people were
walking back and forth.

399

00:24:53,110 --> 00:24:55,240
And it's as if
they didn't see us

400

00:24:55,240 --> 00:24:57,970
that we were escaping
from the ghetto.

401

00:24:57,970 --> 00:25:00,910
It was just unbelievable.

402

00:25:00,910 --> 00:25:03,760
We followed that man to
the railroad station.

403

00:25:03,760 --> 00:25:07,030
And during the same time,
I guess-- there was always

404

00:25:07,030 --> 00:25:07,900
things going on.

405

00:25:07,900 --> 00:25:10,160
But there was some
sabotage that was going on.

406

00:25:10,160 --> 00:25:15,490
So they were very watchful
on the stations for people

407

00:25:15,490 --> 00:25:17,290
that were involved in it.

408

00:25:17,290 --> 00:25:21,430

And there were two
Germans from our town

409

00:25:21,430 --> 00:25:22,880

that had known my mother.

410

00:25:22,880 --> 00:25:25,780

As I had mentioned, my mother
was a very beautiful woman.

411

00:25:25,780 --> 00:25:29,740

And we were well known in town.

412

00:25:29,740 --> 00:25:32,410

And these two Germans
had known my mother.

413

00:25:32,410 --> 00:25:38,440

And they had a huge, big dog
that they always went with.

414

00:25:38,440 --> 00:25:43,210

We came to the gate at
the railroad station

415

00:25:43,210 --> 00:25:45,340

where they were checking you.

416

00:25:45,340 --> 00:25:46,690

We showed them the tickets.

417

00:25:46,690 --> 00:25:48,670

He looked at my mother.

418

00:25:48,670 --> 00:25:50,830

Obviously, he must
have recognized her.

419

00:25:50,830 --> 00:25:53,530

But he just told us to go on.

420

00:25:53,530 --> 00:25:54,670
We got on the train.

421
00:25:54,670 --> 00:25:56,830
And we squeezed in.

422
00:25:56,830 --> 00:25:59,610

423
00:25:59,610 --> 00:26:02,130
And, again, when the
train was moving,

424
00:26:02,130 --> 00:26:04,350
they had made their
way through the train

425
00:26:04,350 --> 00:26:09,730
to look for the saboteurs.

426
00:26:09,730 --> 00:26:13,630
My mother made me kind of
move away from her slightly

427
00:26:13,630 --> 00:26:20,910
because she said to me, in case
he comes and he recognizes me

428
00:26:20,910 --> 00:26:25,510
again and this time he takes
me, you stay on the train.

429
00:26:25,510 --> 00:26:29,970
So he came by us.

430
00:26:29,970 --> 00:26:31,620
He looked at my mother again.

431
00:26:31,620 --> 00:26:32,775
And he continued walking.

432
00:26:32,775 --> 00:26:35,590

433

00:26:35,590 --> 00:26:38,230

We made it back to Bodzech³w.

434

00:26:38,230 --> 00:26:40,510

We got off the station.

435

00:26:40,510 --> 00:26:45,970

And we made our way along the
railroad tracks back to camp.

436

00:26:45,970 --> 00:26:48,530

Well, it was at
night at that time,

437

00:26:48,530 --> 00:26:50,290

which was to our advantage.

438

00:26:50,290 --> 00:26:55,120

But they also were
checking the rails

439

00:26:55,120 --> 00:26:59,470

at the time because of the
sabotage that was going on.

440

00:26:59,470 --> 00:27:01,810

And a train was
supposed to have come

441

00:27:01,810 --> 00:27:05,590

through with maybe ammunition
or soldiers, I don't know which.

442

00:27:05,590 --> 00:27:08,020

So they were checking the train.

443

00:27:08,020 --> 00:27:13,870

There were two soldiers
manually using that platform.

444

00:27:13,870 --> 00:27:19,270
And as we were walking along
the railroad, it was all clear.

445
00:27:19,270 --> 00:27:21,410
We had nowhere to hide.

446
00:27:21,410 --> 00:27:27,280
And here this manual
train is coming.

447
00:27:27,280 --> 00:27:30,070
And the moon was bright.

448
00:27:30,070 --> 00:27:33,100
So my mother made
me lie down parallel

449
00:27:33,100 --> 00:27:40,840
with the earth, the hill that
was leading up to the railroad.

450
00:27:40,840 --> 00:27:43,600
And my mother and
I lay still there.

451
00:27:43,600 --> 00:27:44,860
And they passed us by.

452
00:27:44,860 --> 00:27:48,150
And they didn't see us.

453
00:27:48,150 --> 00:27:51,060
We made it back to camp.

454
00:27:51,060 --> 00:27:57,360
And we stayed in camp,
I don't know the time

455
00:27:57,360 --> 00:28:04,110
span, until the camp
was being liquidated.

456

00:28:04,110 --> 00:28:09,030

And we were sent to
Starachowice, my mother and I.

457

00:28:09,030 --> 00:28:12,150

And my father was
sent to, I believe,

458

00:28:12,150 --> 00:28:17,370

[INAUDIBLE] But I
haven't seen my father

459

00:28:17,370 --> 00:28:21,270

up until Auschwitz again,
towards the end of Auschwitz.

460

00:28:21,270 --> 00:28:24,030

And during that time, I
was just with my mother.

461

00:28:24,030 --> 00:28:28,330

462

00:28:28,330 --> 00:28:31,480

Go back and tell me
about some of the things

463

00:28:31,480 --> 00:28:33,100

you used to imagine.

464

00:28:33,100 --> 00:28:37,160

How did you pass the time
when you were in the office?

465

00:28:37,160 --> 00:28:41,870

And who was below you when
you were in the office hiding?

466

00:28:41,870 --> 00:28:46,730

Germans doing a
lot of office work

467

00:28:46,730 --> 00:28:51,750
because that was their
office of running the camp.

468
00:28:51,750 --> 00:28:55,070
So that's the people
that were in the office.

469
00:28:55,070 --> 00:28:57,860
How I spend my time--

470
00:28:57,860 --> 00:28:59,680
dreaming.

471
00:28:59,680 --> 00:29:03,830
When mother would come up to
stay with me for a few hours,

472
00:29:03,830 --> 00:29:09,610
she would tell me
stories of home,

473
00:29:09,610 --> 00:29:15,230
of the wonderful
things that we had,

474
00:29:15,230 --> 00:29:19,250
the wonderful times
we spent together,

475
00:29:19,250 --> 00:29:25,880
pretending that the
family was still alive,

476
00:29:25,880 --> 00:29:29,180
where she already by then knew
that the rest of the family

477
00:29:29,180 --> 00:29:35,720
that was left in the ghetto
when we left for Bodzech³w.

478
00:29:35,720 --> 00:29:39,740

They had a liquidation
of the ghetto then.

479
00:29:39,740 --> 00:29:44,150
And they were all taken to
the Treblinka, all of them.

480
00:29:44,150 --> 00:29:47,710

481
00:29:47,710 --> 00:29:52,540
Actually, of what I
heard mother say later

482
00:29:52,540 --> 00:29:56,510
was that they did have
a hiding place for them.

483
00:29:56,510 --> 00:29:59,440
But my grandfather coughed.

484
00:29:59,440 --> 00:30:03,190
So he said he didn't want
to go because he will cough

485
00:30:03,190 --> 00:30:05,260
and they'll find him--

486
00:30:05,260 --> 00:30:06,470
find a hiding place.

487
00:30:06,470 --> 00:30:08,290
So my grandmother
said, well, she's not

488
00:30:08,290 --> 00:30:10,930
going to go if he's not going.

489
00:30:10,930 --> 00:30:16,300
And my two uncles, my aunt
and my other grandmother,

490

00:30:16,300 --> 00:30:19,690
weren't going to go into the
hiding place on their own,

491
00:30:19,690 --> 00:30:22,240
not knowing what was waiting
for them in Treblinka.

492
00:30:22,240 --> 00:30:24,790

493
00:30:24,790 --> 00:30:31,400
So they all left with the first
liquidation of the ghetto.

494
00:30:31,400 --> 00:30:34,770

495
00:30:34,770 --> 00:30:41,330
And anyways, that's how
I spent my time in camp,

496
00:30:41,330 --> 00:30:46,260
with the stories and
the encouragement

497
00:30:46,260 --> 00:30:52,830
and the love that my mother
was able to give me day in

498
00:30:52,830 --> 00:30:56,040
and day out.

499
00:30:56,040 --> 00:31:00,030
In the first camp that we
were, food was not a problem

500
00:31:00,030 --> 00:31:05,730
because, I guess, my
father still had money

501
00:31:05,730 --> 00:31:10,890
and there would be food

brought in from the Aryan side,

502
00:31:10,890 --> 00:31:12,520
from the Polish side.

503
00:31:12,520 --> 00:31:16,510
So food at that camp
was not a problem.

504
00:31:16,510 --> 00:31:20,160
But in the other camps, when we
were in Starachowice and then

505
00:31:20,160 --> 00:31:26,700
in Ostrowiec lager and
in Auschwitz, I mean,

506
00:31:26,700 --> 00:31:31,440
our portions were so
small to start with.

507
00:31:31,440 --> 00:31:35,250
When I finished mine, my mother
was always waiting for me.

508
00:31:35,250 --> 00:31:40,350

509
00:31:40,350 --> 00:31:44,880
She actually made me believe
that she was not hungry.

510
00:31:44,880 --> 00:31:48,430
And whatever she had,
she shared with me.

511
00:31:48,430 --> 00:31:51,840
So that's why I'm here.

512
00:31:51,840 --> 00:31:56,420

513

00:31:56,420 --> 00:31:59,320

Can you tell about the
time in the cornfield

514

00:31:59,320 --> 00:32:01,540

when you saw other kids playing?

515

00:32:01,540 --> 00:32:02,650

Oh, yeah.

516

00:32:02,650 --> 00:32:08,860

One of the times from Bodzech³w
when we were in the forest

517

00:32:08,860 --> 00:32:14,500

waiting out a selection,
it was in the winter.

518

00:32:14,500 --> 00:32:18,640

And during the day,
we had to find a place

519

00:32:18,640 --> 00:32:20,825

where we had to stand
still because we

520

00:32:20,825 --> 00:32:21,700

couldn't move around.

521

00:32:21,700 --> 00:32:22,480

We would be seen.

522

00:32:22,480 --> 00:32:27,250

And that was near,
I guess, a farm.

523

00:32:27,250 --> 00:32:30,440

And maybe it was
also near a school.

524

00:32:30,440 --> 00:32:32,620

I don't remember that.

525

00:32:32,620 --> 00:32:38,980

So my mother found a place
to hide in a cornfield

526

00:32:38,980 --> 00:32:43,780

or maybe it was like
a starting field

527

00:32:43,780 --> 00:32:46,510

of trees that has low
trees that were just

528

00:32:46,510 --> 00:32:49,750

coming up next to a field
because we didn't want

529

00:32:49,750 --> 00:32:53,380

to go too deep into the forest
because then the trees were

530

00:32:53,380 --> 00:32:54,140

tall.

531

00:32:54,140 --> 00:32:55,690

And there was no way to hide.

532

00:32:55,690 --> 00:32:58,490

They would see our shadows.

533

00:32:58,490 --> 00:33:02,710

So as we were lying there, some
children came out on the field

534

00:33:02,710 --> 00:33:04,660

to play ball.

535

00:33:04,660 --> 00:33:06,550

And one of them kicked the ball.

536

00:33:06,550 --> 00:33:07,990

And it landed in front of me.

537

00:33:07,990 --> 00:33:10,520

538

00:33:10,520 --> 00:33:17,390

The child ran over, looked
at me, picked up the ball,

539

00:33:17,390 --> 00:33:18,650

and went back to play.

540

00:33:18,650 --> 00:33:25,480

541

00:33:25,480 --> 00:33:27,250

My mother and I just
couldn't believe

542

00:33:27,250 --> 00:33:31,080

that this actually happened.

543

00:33:31,080 --> 00:33:34,270

So we stayed there
until it got dark.

544

00:33:34,270 --> 00:33:35,570

And then we kept on moving.

545

00:33:35,570 --> 00:33:38,430

546

00:33:38,430 --> 00:33:41,370

And how many times did
we come back to the camp.

547

00:33:41,370 --> 00:33:45,570

And the selection still
wasn't taken place.

548

00:33:45,570 --> 00:33:49,710

So again we would
have to go out.

549

00:33:49,710 --> 00:33:50,210

Good.

550

00:33:50,210 --> 00:33:52,220

We have to reload.

551

00:33:52,220 --> 00:33:54,454