

Good morning, Freda.

Good morning.

I'm Peggy Nathan. And this is Freda--

Salick.

Salick, S-A-L-I-C-K. Correct?

Yes.

Today we are doing this project, which is being sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland section. Freda, we want to thank you first very much for participating in this tremendously big wonderful and necessary-

I'm very happy I can something do.

I'm glad too. This, of course, will be a permanent oral history for future generations. Freda, the first thing we'd like to learn is a little bit about yourself.

Yes. Your name again is Freda Salick.

Freda Salick.

OK. And at your birth date, Freda?

Is August 16, 1914.

1914, that means you're 70 years old.

Yes.

You're wonderful.

Where do you live, Freda?

I live here in Cleveland on Desota.

In Cleveland Heights.

Heights.

Do you work?

No.

Not anymore.

Not anymore.

But you are married?

Yes. And tell me, do you have children?

Yeah, I have two daughters.

Two grown daughters I'm sure. And grandchildren?

I have one grandchild, yes.

Are both your daughters married, Freda?

Yeah, my older daughter, Renee, she was married. She is divorced.

I see.

And the younger daughter?

Is not married. She's a teacher.

Oh, how lovely. How lovely.

Yes.

All right. We're going to get into the first section here. And we're going to talk a little bit about, if you don't mind, what your life was like before the war. First of all, I think we better have what your maiden name was.

Fuchsberg.

Fuchsberg?

Fuchsberg.

Spell it please. F-U-C-H-S-B-E-R-G, Fuchsberg.

Fuchsberg, OK. Freda Fuchsberg. All right. Let's start around 1939 or so. Where did you live at that time?

I was living in Krakow.

You were living in Krakow.

Were you born in Krakow, Freda?

No. I am born in Rudki, Poland.

I see.

It's a small town from Lemberg.

I see. But in 1939, at the time of the war when the war started--

When the war I was already, I came for vacation. And I was in Boryslow, where I lived in Boryslow.

I see. I see. All right, now was "Braslow?"

Boryslow, B-O-R-I-S-L-O-W, Boryslow.

I see. That's where you were living.

Yes.

And you were how old at that time?

Back--

In 1939?

1939, is when I am now 70.

So you were 25 years old.

Like that.

What was the town like where you were living? Was it a large town? There was an industrial town.

An industrial town.

Yeah. There are a lot of oil there.

Were there many Jews there?

Yes.

There were lots of Jews. I see. Were you living with your family at that time?

I was living with my brother.

With your brother. You had no longer--

No, I was not living-- before, I was but my aunt. I was raised by my aunt my, father's sister.

I see. Your parents died when you were young.

Yeah. I was three years old when my mother died. And I was eight years old when my father died.

I see. So an aunt raised you?

Yes.

And in what city?

In Boryslow.

I see. So then you lived then, when you were living in Boryslow, you were with your aunt. And who else lived in the household?

And my aunt, it was my uncle, and she got two sons.

I see. Were you and only-- you were not an only child.

No, we was five. I got two brothers and two sisters, I am third.

Three girls.

Yeah, two girls.

Freda, did that aunt take in all the children when your parents died?

No we got other aunts. This was from my father's side. So the oldest was with another uncle and the youngest was by an other sister.

You were one of the middle ones.

Yes.

You were the middle girl.

I was the middle.

How did your aunt and uncle make a living that raised you?

Oh, they were very wealthy people.

They were? What did your uncle do?

They got a business. They were in business in materials. How you call?

Yeah, the fabrics.

Fabrics.

Did they manufacture them or sell them?

No, they sold them, wholesale and retail.

Oh.

They were very, very wealthy people.

I see. Did you have to help much in the household when you were growing up there?

I was very young. I went to school and sometime I my aunt asked me to come to the store, to help out a little, take care that they don't steal over there.

Sure.

So you learned a lot about fabrics there.

Yes.

Because you told me, and we'll get into that later that you became a dressmaker. Were you living amongst many Jewish people? Were there a lot of Jews where you lived?

There was. Yes.

How religious were your aunt and uncle? Did they raise you to be religious?

Yes, very religious. Orthodox.

They were Orthodox. Can you remember celebrating holidays?

All the holidays.

Both Jewish and non-Jewish, I bet?

Most was the Jewish.

The Jewish holidays, but they were very religious.

Very religious, and Saturday all the stores were closed. Yes.

And of course, they belonged to a synagogue.

Oh, yes.

And you too--

Yes.

--went? Did you know anything about or hear anything in those growing up days, were they Zionists? Did they talk about Palestine or Zionism at all.

Yes, later on the Polish people. They hated the Jews. And they said that we should go to Palestine. Over there is our place.

I see.

Did you grow up with this feeling that the Polish people hated you even as a little girl?

Yes.

You just knew this?

I mean, yeah, no we didn't believe how far they will go.

Well, of course. I see. What about any political organizations? Were your aunt and uncle involved in socialism or any other political organization?

No, no. No, they didn't.

They weren't-- they didn't belong to any groups of any kind?

No. No.

What was the main language spoken in your home.

Yiddish.

Yiddish. And did they ever speak Polish in the home too or mostly Yiddish?

Mostly Yiddish. Yeah.

Did they have lots of books around? Were there books for you to read and so on?

Sure, yes.

Was there a theater or a concert hall?

Yeah, there was a theater, a Jewish, when they come they called the Vilna troupe. They're from Vilna. This was near Warsaw. You know the Polish?

Yes. Warsaw and Vilna, yes.

Yes.

And they used to come and perform.

Very often, and the Jewish people they like I say, they break the doors to go into the theater. They believe in that.

They were very-- they loved these cultural things.

Yes.

And so you went often to that?

Sure.

And were there concerts, music?

Yes.

And so on, your family was interested in that?

Yes.

What other kinds of entertainment did your family have?

Special, they just when there was the holidays, they keep having the Shabbat Fridays.

Always Shabbos.

Yes. They went to the shul, to the temple. They were very, very religious, very. And in this way I was raised.

Raised to be a good religious Jew.

Yes.

Did your family go on vacations?

Yes.

And of course, they took you?

Yes.

Where did you go?

They went to they call Krynic. This is where my aunt, she got a very bad heart. So this was a place that she went there. And then there was Truskawiec they call it in Polish. We went there too.

What were the vacations like?

Very nice.

Yes. You stayed in a hotel or in a rooming house?

No, no. In a house.

In a house.

Yes.

And everybody just had a good time?

Yes.

Was it in the mountains?

No. No, over there, you take a special water that you bathe.

Oh, it was like a spa.

Yeah.

Like a spa. OK. All right, now let's talk about you yourself in those days. All right now, this was we're talking probably about the early 1920s right? OK, and you grew up as a young girl with living in your aunt's house, aunt and uncle. You were a healthy young lady.

Very healthy. I never was sick.

Oh, that's lovely. And as you got older did you get any special training?

Like my aunt, she was very, very religious. And she didn't-- she was afraid that I will be in contact with boys.

So she didn't want you to--

She didn't want me to go anywhere to just finish school.

And so you never?

And then later I learned to be a dressmaker.

I see. But during your school years, you didn't mix with the boys and girls together?

No. Over there, they were separate.

Separate schools.

Girls and separate boys.

But your brother lived there with you?

My brother was married. When we lost our parents and my brother was 23 years old.

And you were just a little girl then?

Yes.

You said you were three years old when you lost your mother?

Yes. He was--

He was already an adult almost.

Oh, yes.

I see. I see. Did you have many non-Jewish friends when you were growing up?

We got. There was neighbors.

I see. And everybody was friendly?

Sure.

As you got older, who taught you to be a dressmaker? Where did you learn this?

I learned in a place where the woman, she was a dress-- she how do I call this place? But people was working there.

I see.

Yeah. And my aunt pay her.

Oh, it was like a school.

Yes.

You were an apprentice maybe.

Yes. Yes. Now, other people, well they didn't pay. They worked there three years.

I see.

Now, like my aunt, she did pay her. I think I remember how much she paid \$200 at this time. And I was very capable, and I worked one year. And I already--

You learned everything then in one year's time.

Yeah.

And how old were you at that time, Freda? You had finished school.

Yeah.

You'd finished-- did you finish high school gymnasium I think they called it?

Yeah.

And so you were 18 or 19 years old already. OK, now that takes us up to the early '30s.

Yes.

1920 would be 1934, so you had learned to be a dressmaker, and then what happened to you?

I went. I was in Boryslow.

You left.

And later, when I learned my profession I wanted to go to see bigger cities. So I went to Lemberg. What they call Lwow.

Call it what?

Lwow is in Polish.

What does that mean?

Lemberg.

Oh, Lemberg.

Yeah.

Lemberg is the town we call it today. It's known as Lemberg today. It was called Lwow in Polish?

Yes.

I see. And how far was that from Boryslow?

Oh about I think three, four hours.

I see.

You went yourself? You were--

I got an uncle in there.

I see.

And I lived with my aunt and uncle--

And you went there.

--and cousin.

Did you get a job there?

Yes.

In what kind of a place?

A big place.

Was it a--

A salon they called it.

Where they're making clothes for people. This was before the time when we could go to a store and pick a dress off a rack. Everything was handmade.

Yeah.

Right?

In Poland, they call konfekcja. You didn't use this in Poland. Everything was handmade.

I see.

Yes. [FRENCH] they say it in French, [FRENCH], is when you come in and they make for you special.

Couture.

Yes.

Right. All right. So you had this. Then you were living with your aunt and uncle. You were in your mid 20s.

Yes, and I was young, yes.

Yes. And you were working and living there.

Yes.

And at that time were you going out with boys?

I did belong to-- I got a cousin there, and she did talk me in to belong to the Histadrut.

I see. So there were Jewish organizations.

Oh, yes.

And you made friends there, and so on?

Yes.

OK. Now you stayed there how long?

I stayed there during the summer.

Just that one summer?

Just one summer.

Do you remember what year that was, Freda?

I cannot remember. All right, at the end of that summer, where did you go?

I got cousin from a little town. And she lost her husband, and she got a sister in Boryslow. And she talked me into go over there. This is called Dobromil, a little town. And she said I can work by myself.

Make clothing for ladies that live in the town.

Yes.

I see. So you went there?

I went there. And I stayed there, and I got a good time. I was very popular there, very. Well, in a small town when you come from a bigger town, so you were popular.

You knew everything. You were the sophisticated lady.

Yes. Yes. So I stayed there too a short time. I didn't like to be there. It was too a small town.

You were used to living in a city.

Yes.

So then from there where did you go?

To Krakow.

All yourself? You went by yourself to Krakow?

No, my cousin got another cousin. And she said, why should I be in a small town when am I am a good dressmaker? I should go to Krakow, and over there I will--

Do well.

Yes. So I went with her to Krakow.

I see.

And I lived with her.

OK, so then you lived in Krakow. You got a job as a dressmaker.

Oh, yes. I did make good money there.

You were like a designer? Did you design clothing yourself too.

Yes.

When you say you're a dressmaker doesn't sound so great. But when you say you're a designer--

Oh, yes.

--it sounds even, that you're very capable.

Yes.

All right, so then you're in Krakow. And we're now up to maybe what year?

This was 1938.

And you're living in Krakow.

I was living in Krakow till 1939. And I went back to Boryslow for vacation.

I see.

To see my family. At this time there was they come out the war.

The beginning of the war? There was no warning. You had no idea.

No. When I came, there was the war come out I think in September.

Yes.

Yes,

1939 September.

1939 in September.

The Nazis marched into Poland.

Yes.

Yes.

And I came in September, before September that was I think in August I came to see my family.

I see.

For vacation.

So you were in--

Boryslow.

Boryslow. And what happened?

I was short time, and then all of a sudden, we saw airplanes.

I see.

And we did come out. And we saw the war begin.

Did you have any inkling that things were not right? Did your family know anything?

Nothing. Nothing.

Your aunts, your uncles?

Nothing at all. Nothing, my brother I was living with-- I was with my brother.

Your brother then was maybe in his 30s or more.

My brother was the oldest one.

He was 15 years older than me.

I see.

Yes.

OK.

And he, we did come. He got a restaurant, a big restaurant in Boryslow.

I see.

And we did hear the airplanes. So we come out outside. And we looked up and all of a sudden they start throwing the bombs.

Really?

Yeah.

That was a beautiful nice day this time.

And you had, nobody had any warning. There had been nothing in the newspapers that maybe things weren't good.

No, nothing at all.

I see.

Yes.

So you ran inside. We ran inside. And we start to-- we didn't believe. We didn't believe this happened.

Well, you had no idea who was dropping the bombs?

In the beginning, in the beginning we didn't know. Later, we already know.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

That the Germans, Poland was sold. Took three, four days and they got Poland. They lost the war to the Germans.

When the war started then, then what happened? What did you and your brother and his family do?

We stay. We stay in home. But we didn't know, and we didn't believe what Hitler will do. He just was like--

But you did not-- you decided not to go back to Krakow.

We couldn't go already. Already everything was no.

Right away, quick. You mean within a few days even, you could not.

When the Nazis come in, the Germans give the Poles and the Ukraine two days and two nights, they can do what they want to.

I see.

And so they want to, they took people out the Jews from their houses. And they I don't know how to say this. And there was through the street they pull them, in one place and they kill him, with sticks, with hammers, with all kinds of--

This is the Polish people, not the Nazis.

No, not the Nazis. When the Nazis come in, there was first day and the second day.

Two days, they say, do what you want.

Yes.

So--

They killed 500 Jews.

In the town of Boryslow.

Boryslow.

Were any of your family affected?

Yes, my brother.

What happened to your brother?

He was very badly beaten up, and they killed my brother's father-in-law. And beside this, they killed a lot of neighbors in this town.

Well of course, these were the Polish people themselves. They knew which were the Jews?

Sure.

But prior to that you had been friendly with some of these people.

Very friendly. They was customers. Like I say, my brother got a big restaurant and a bar. And they was his customers. They come in, in his home and they took him out. And they beat him up.

Can you imagine? Did any non-Jews try to help you or other Jews at that time? Were there any Poles that were kind that

wouldn't do this?

Very, very little. They say they don't have two hats. And they cannot give. So they have one hat, they cannot give them hat away. No.

OK, then how did your life change? What happened then? How long did you stay in the house? You had to nurse your brother back to health. Did he survived this beating?

He survived the beating.

Did he have children?

He got one son.

And the son was OK?

Yes.

And then what changes came about then?

Then the Nazis, they started to look around after the Jews.

Look for them.

Look for them. First, they take all from the World War First, the how you call this? The veterans.

The veterans.

Yes. And they took him. They say they no need it to live.

You mean from the First World War?

Yes.

I see.

All the veterans.

They were older at that time.

They was older and they were people that I don't know, they were cripples. They took him. That was the first. They went first.

The Jewish veterans.

The Jewish veterans. Yes. And then they started with older people.

I see.

Yes. And then--

Did they close your brother's restaurant? Did he continue with his business? He continued about two months. To the time they arrived and they took everything.

They took over the restaurant.

Yeah there was-- this was in 1939. And then I don't know how long they were from September, till June of 1940. And they started, he make up with Ribbentrop. He was the minister from the Germans, and they make up--

Who do you mean? Who made up? The Polish?

The German the Nazis, the Germans with the Russians, they make up and they did come out. Where I came from this was half from Pole, this was Galicia.

Galicia, yes.

So the Germans went out and the Russian come in June.

I see. I see.

And they stayed till 1941.

Oh the Germans, the Nazis, left then and the Russians came in?

Yes.

Into Boryslow.

Yes.

Where you lived.

They halved, yeah, to Galicia?

Were they as bad as the Nazis? Did they treat the Jews so terrible too?

They treat everybody the same. You have to work very hard.

Both the Jews and the Poles?

Yes, and the Ukrainians. They all, everybody must work. Without work you couldn't exist.

Were you near the Ukraine?

Yes.

Was Boryslow in the Ukraine at that--

This is, yeah, a lot of Ukraine there.

I see. I see. All right. So what kind of work did they make you do?

I did work in my profession. I was working as a dressmaker. In a big, they make there was a factory. And I was the director.

And what did they make in that factory?

Oh, everything. From military things to women's to men's, everything.

And you were the director of the whole factory?

Yes, and I got 30 people. In the beginning they say I will have eight, but you work over there eight hours. And later on they got me 30 people. So I did work 16 hours.

Did they pay you? Yeah. They took away one 3/3 they took away. They pay me. I got 500 rubles. And they took away 350. So I got 150.

They took away 2/3, yes. You mean like taxes or whatever?

Yeah, for they say that you must pay for the government. Yes.

So you were still living with your brother and his family.

Yes. And what kind of work did they make your brother do?

No, my brother got the restaurant.

Oh, he still had that. I thought they took it away.

They took away.

But he was still managing it. He didn't make money from it, but he had to run it?

Yes.

It wasn't his anymore, is that it?

No, but just what he makes, he works three months. And later, they put in so much taxes, the Russians, that everything he sold. And didn't cover the taxes.

Can you imagine? All right, now so you're working then in this factory. And we're up to 1941. Right?

June.

In June 1941. And then what happened?

The Germans come back.

The Germans came back.

Yes.

Did they did they make all the Russians leave then?

They left. The Russians left.

The Russians left.

They make up this. They got--

That's the way they arranged this.

Yes.

So the Germans came back and occupied the town of Boryslow?

So they say Galicia will belong back to the Germans. And then half from Poland will go back to the Russians.

I see. So now you're living under the Nazis.

Yes.

Are you still continuing to work in the factory?

No.

What happened?

No factory over there. No they started with the Jews.

What did they start? what happened? What did they do?

What did they do? They like I say, they keep first they took the invalids.

Yes. All right, that I understand. But I want to know what happened to you. This is when the Germans came back and the Russians went back home. And now you're in this factory. And then that's finished.

Yeah. This everything was finished what was with the Russians.

I see. And we was living, later we was living together. I was with the sisters. When this started, there was the first-- I don't know how to say, the rafles. Every time they come and they took out the people from their homes. And they put them in the big trains.

A transport.

Yeah.

Yes?

So they start there was the first. And later the second, but the second time they took my uncle.

Yes.

And my uncle went to the-- he used to go very early morning to the shul to the temple and they took him. He never come back.

Oh, he went to shul and never came back. So you knew that he was taken.

Yes.

So everybody--

We never know exactly what they do with the people. They always say they take him for work. And that was not true. They did lie to us.

I understand. But you never heard from them?

No. Later, we went together. I am with my two sisters. With those two sisters we were three girls.

They took you?

No. They not took by the second time. We was living-- I wasn't with my brother anymore.

I see.

No. We was three together.

Where were you living then?

In the home where my uncle was living.

I see. And your aunt was still living? She was there with you.

No. No. The aunt what she raised me, they took her too.

They took her too. And you never heard from her. You don't know what happened, really?

No, no.

All right. So you're there with your three sisters in this house.

Yes.

How do you get food?

This is the big problem. So we got friends from the Polish people. Sometimes they come, they come and we exchange for our clothes.

I see. You trade with them back and forth.

Yes, In the beginning what we got some gold or something, we gave this before the German took away from us. So you can give them something that was worth a lot of money. And they gave you a couple of pounds of flour.

I see.

Sure. You could have jewelry or gold coins, did you have?

Yeah.

And you had jewelry. And you gave this to the Polish people for to eat for today.

Yes. Yeah, they took away, was worth 50 times the amount.

Right. Now how long did you live under those conditions with your sisters?

Here we live for a couple of months.

A couple of months like that.

Now do you remember what year this was?

No this was 1941.

This was 1941.

'41 and '42.

I see. And you're struggling to stay alive by getting a little food?

Yeah.

You're very frightened.

Very frightened, in the meantime, the Germans, the Nazis they start to look around for the Jews. And did they find you?
Yeah, in the beginning, they didn't find me. And later on, they find me.

How did they find you?

So I was working.

You were still working as a dressmaker.

I was working. Yeah, and this was already in 1942, come to '43.

What were your sisters doing?

My sister, we got a friend and she took her.

She took her into her house.

Yes. We pay a lot of money to try to-- a Polish friend, a non-Jewish friend, to save your sister?

Yeah, the oldest. The oldest sister. She was older than you?

Yeah, she was the oldest.

I see.

Yeah.

And the younger, what she died not long ago, we was together.

I see. So now you're just with your younger sister.

Yeah.

And this is 1942. Is she working?

She was not working.

No?

No.

And you were in 1942, that made you let's see you were born in 1914, you were already about 28 years old. All right. And you're in Boryslow.

Yes.

And you're trying to not let the Nazis find you. OK. Now what happens? They do find you, though.

Yeah, we already was in another place. But they didn't allow to be in this house where my uncle lived.

They made you leave.

We leave to another place.

Yes.

A nice house?

No, no, no.

Was the uncle's house a nice house?

Yeah, my uncle, what he got, he was in business too.

So he had a nice home.

Oh, yeah. And it was a modern home with plumbing and so on? You had an indoor bathroom?

No.

No.

At this time in Poland you didn't have.

I didn't know. That's why I asked. In the early '40s even, there was no indoor plumbing?

No, no.

My brother got plumbing. He got because he got a restaurant.

I see. So he had plumbing for the restaurant.

And a telephone, it was very hard to have a telephone at this time.

So then you and your sister had to leave this, go to a worse house, a house that wasn't as nice.

A house but you live in this time with other people already.

In one room.

In one room with other people?

Yes. They knew you were Jewish, and you were living with other Jews.

Yes.

And how long did you stay under those conditions?

A short time.

And what happened then?

Later on, they took my sister. She went, she went somewhere and I don't know how this happened with her. Now she did come out and they caught her.

They caught her.

And took her away to Plaszow. This was where there was a concentration camp.

Plaszow.

Yeah. This is near Krakow, near Auschwitz.

Did you know where they were taking her?

No.

Then how did you find out that she was there?

Later on.

I see.

Later on.

All right, so then you're alone. You don't know what happened to your sister.

No.

And you're living alone in this room. Then what happened to you?

Then I--

You're still working?

I was still working.

Were you working for the Germans?

Yes.

I see. OK.

And then later, they took us. They make a ghetto from the all small-- where we were small houses, rooms, and they make a ghetto.

Do they put a wall around the ghetto?

No, where was over there the Germans was over there around this ghetto. They stood there.

So that it was--

Nobody could go out or come in.

So you had to stay in there?

Yes.

You couldn't go out for work, for anything.

No.

For food? Nothing. so where did the food come from for the people in the ghetto? There was people what they organize and when you was working in a forest, let's say, near other people, you can trade in something and bring in--

I see.

--with you.

But those people could go out of the ghetto if they were working.

Yes.

I see.

When you was working you could go out in the morning and come in the evening.

Did you go out-- did those people have to go out in a group? Were they guarded?

In groups. In groups.

And they were guarded?

They was guarded.

They were working then for the Germans only.

Yes, yes.

Not to earn money for themselves.

No, we never earn money.

I see. And then they would find Poles who would trade again.

Yes.

Maybe a little food they would hide it to bring it in. Is that it?

Yes.

I see.

All right now, were you working at that time or were you just confined to the ghetto?

There was times when the Germans, they ask, well somebody knows who can sew.

Yes.

They send me there. And I went over there to work.

Outside of the ghetto to sew uniforms or whatever.

Yes. And they gave you food. They gave you, I remember how the slice of bread was something like paper. They gave you two pieces for working all day long.

Oh, that was your pay.

Yes. Yes. There must be a big fish, but otherwise they wouldn't take out a person and take her over there to sit there and work for them.

Right.

Sometimes they took me for to work for the secretary for the mayor's home. Yes. And to work for them for a couple of days.

Yeah, to make clothing and so on?

Yes. And they already, they didn't pay me. Now, she gave me food.

I see.

Yeah, there was times that I couldn't eat over there. I couldn't swallow when I know that my family is there without food. So I take everything home.

You hid it on you.

I hid it, and there was a day when there was not allowed to come out on the street where I was working for the secretary from the mayor. And she told me that I can go. She was thinking she is somebody. And I got with me the all the pack what she gave me the food. And beside this, I always got with me papers, that I am not a Jew.

Where did you get these papers?

Through somebody, through the ghetto.

From the ghetto who they made them up. They-- what do they call? Counterfeit papers.

Something, yes. I didn't look like a Jew. So I could have this.

So you had light hair and blue eyes.

And besides this I got money with me too. We always, the three sisters, we got money. Something will happen, we can pay him off.

A lot of money, you had?

A lot of money a couple hundred dollar each.

Always had that with you nobody went into your purse or went into look--

I didn't got in a purse. I got--

Sewn into your clothing.

Yes. And when I come out, all of a sudden, a German stood. There was a Schutz police and Reiter police. The Reiter was on horses. And the Schutz police was walking. So he come out. And he said, what I'm doing here?

And I say I just was working for her. Her name was Frank. And he says, he asked me, do you have money in German? And I say, no. I didn't want to tell him. I was thinking he will take the money. He will take me.

Right.

And he says, oh, you have too march. Go raus. So I walk it was a very long street. And he took me on the police there. And they come out, a szpion, and they took me in. And I got--

To the police station.

Yeah. And I got over there, here, I got the food what I'm not allowed to have this. They will ask me how it come to me. And I got the money, the papers, and everything. Then-- frightened to the death. And I took all of this under, I stood under a table, put this stuff. And one German started to ask me, why I was walking there. That was not allowed. And I say, I kept talking that she told me that I can go.

Yes. And if somebody will ask me, I used to say that I was working for her.

Yes.

And he says, she not have nothing to do with this, have the right. And then later he asked me I have money. I was thinking maybe I should say. And I got over there 500 zlotys. And he asked me how I have. I told him that she gave me to--

Pay for the--

--something to buy for her, for what I was sewing. I need it. And I gave him the 500, and he gave me change 450. He say I have to pay 50 zlotys for this.

A fine.

Fine. For walking on the street.

No, he told me to count three times. And I count. And now he gave me back the money. And then I took my belongings, what I got and out from over there I fly, almost break my neck. And he all of a sudden, he the same German to me, he says he wants to accompany. It was already dark. He said that nobody will attack me.

So you don't want to go to the ghetto.

Yes, no. He accompanied to the ghetto me.

But then he knew you were Jewish.

Sure, he knew I'm Jewish.

So he was really nice.

Yes. And he accompanied to the ghetto. And he [? rife ?] me the hand. He gave me. He says, first when I want to do something, I have to think first and then do. This in German.

He gave you advice.

Yes.

So he was very-- he was a nice man.

He was. I don't know what happened.

You didn't know his name or anything?

Oh, no. But he was a very nice-- he was a German?

Yes he was a Schutz police from the German, a police.

You see, he had a heart?

Something was yeah, that's what I cannot forget.

Of course not.

I came home and my family, they was thinking I'm lost. They killed me. I did go out in the morning and I didn't return.

OK, so. Ah, well what a terrible experience. Tell me, did you go out again?

Yes. Next day--

Nothing frightened you. Aren't you something?

No, they kept me always in home that I am very energetic, I was. When I was young I got a lot of energy in me.

Allergies, yes.

Energy, not allergy. Oh, energy you were energetic. Yes, I'm sorry. I misunderstood.

I was very energetic. And they said I was the only. And they always kept me this my family they know this. And then this is what I got, an incident it doesn't teach me. And I took out my armband, what I got a yellow, and I went to buy milk. They didn't want to sell to Jews milk.

Sure. You were at that time already wearing the armband all the time.

Oh, yes. All the time.

But you didn't wear it when you went to work at the--

No.

When you left.

I took it off.

OK, fine.

Yes.

So then you went to buy milk the next day.

In the morning, I went to buy milk. And I took off my armband. I don't know what happened. That something from the woman what they got the milk, they recognized me. And all of a sudden comes out a German.

And he asked why they-- he didn't know that I'm a Jew. Now, they tell him that I am a Jew and I come buy the milk. And he says to me, halt, that I should stand. And I start to run. I didn't listen to him. And I run. There are a lot of houses empty over there. Nobody lived there, and he after me. He went after me. And finally, he started to ask did they see me. And they were afraid. They were afraid he will do something to them.

Now all of a sudden come out a Jewish policeman. You know there was a Judenrat there called. And he was a Jewish policeman. And he was talking to him. I didn't do nothing. I just want to buy the milk. And I have over there a sick sister. And I needed the milk. And I don't know what happened. He let me go.

And I come back home with the milk. When my sister--

When you bought milk at that time, tell me, did you have to take a container or was it in--

Yes.

You took your own container.

Yeah.

And they just poured the milk in.

Yes. It wasn't pasteurized.

No, no, no.

Not treated milk.

No, at this time, no. Just--

Just a little bucket of milk.

Yes. And I bring the milk home.

How much did a little bucket of milk cost? Do you remember. A couple I don't know maybe a zloty.

How much is a zloty worth?

A zloty, that's like a few pennies or more? A quarter?

No, a zloty was 100 pennies.

Oh like a dollar.

Yes.

Like a dollar.

Yes.

I see. OK.

And I went, I run home, and I bring the milk. My sister and the people were there living, maybe six people or eight people in one room, you see, and they look on me. And I nothing. You see?

Did you tell him what happened?

Sure.

They said, I bet they didn't want--

I shouldn't do. Sure, I shouldn't go out. I shouldn't do this. And I did.

And you still went.

And I still went. And now after--

Were you brave or were you foolish, Freda? I don't know.

Well, you survived it.

I did. You see I survived, after 6 million Jews. And then there was already the six-- I don't know how to call what they come and they say the German, they want that the Judenrat deliver let's say 1,000 people.

Like a roundup.

A roundup there was the sixth roundup. The sixth.

Six times.

Now they want 1,000 Jews.

They want 1,000 Jews. And they went from house to house, and they took women, children. They took who they can. There was doctors what they took. There was the time where they took women and children. And the men, they was thinking, she will go work. He will go work.

They still didn't know what happened to people.

No. And then when I did smell out something there will be something. So I took my sister, and I cover her something with a friend in a little place and I put in something. I don't know what was over there, that they cannot know there is somebody lived there.

How old was your sister?

She was older than me.

You hid your older sister? Yes.

What happened?

With a friend.

And you covered them with some--

Yes, with something, whatever.

Like blankets, you mean or something?

Blankets wood. I don't know that they will--

In a corner, or what, in something?

In yeah, like a cover, like--

Like a cupboard?

Yes.

I see. You knew they were coming. Or you just felt it.

I felt they will come. They know left one house. They break the doors, the windows, and everything.

So they came to your house?

Yeah, and the friend, she was a friend her mother was sick and she was in bed. They couldn't. And they come out. They was in this house and they shoot her.

Oh dear.

The girl's mother.

They shoot her. Yeah. I did come out. And I went to work. I was working. I got an R. This means [NON-ENGLISH].

What does it mean this?

Means that I was working for the military.

Oh I see.

So you mean at that time, the sister and her friend were hidden. And they took you?

Know. And I did come out. I went to work. I was thinking when I have the R, so they will not do nothing for me.

I see. I was wrong.

Oh.

When they start, when they come this time, they no look what I have. I am working, not working.

They needed you. They needed 1,000 people.

They took me.

Was it the Judenrat that said take her, or was--

Not the Judenrat. They didn't say nothing.

I see.

They just took me and I went there, and there was over there 1,000 people.

Where did they take you?

That was in a place where they was in a cinema, no this is--

A movie theater?

A movie theater.

Yes.

Well, they come. They kept 200 people normally. They was place for 200 people.

I see. Yes. And they put in 1,000 people.

This was like a movie theater.

Yes, a movie theater.

So you're all just squeezed in there.

Squeezed like herrings.

Like herrings.

Yes. What they did when they saw an old person they told him come out, and later they told them to go back. He couldn't go back. Everything was so squeezed, so they beat him up.

Oh.

So they was with other people was so tragic that they took my sister-in-law's sister. She was hidden. And they found her in a house.

And you're there in with this whole crowd?

Yes. And she saw me. And she says to me, Freda, like I say, I was very energetic. And she said Freda, and she was with her daughter, a beautiful girl, a red head. And she says to me her name was Ida. And she says, Freda, take Ida with you. I know you will go out. I know you. And she did not want to leave her mother. She stayed with her mother and they took her. And another girl was close to me. And like I say, I was working for the girl for the Frank.

And she told me, Freda, if they ever take you, I will try to take you out to help you. And she did. I did come out.

How did you get out? They come out with a piece of paper. And they call my name. They called two times my name.

Now who was this person who said she would get you out?

Who? The person was a secretary.

Oh, the one that you were doing the dressmaking for?

Yes.

So they called your name and you got out of there?

Yes. I was, let's say, there was maybe I don't know a little like maybe 50 people. And my friends they say, Freda, come. You see, we have where to go. And I say no I will not go. And I look around like a rat, to look for a place where I can hide.

To get out.

To get out. You couldn't. And they when they call my name, and I did come out. I was like a wild animal.

I can imagine.

Torn everything, my clothes everything. They kept us over there all day long.

And everything was torn.

Yes.

All right, let's stop for a few minutes now, Freda. And we'll take a little break and then we'll come back.

OK.