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1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,010

2
00:00:07,010 --> 00:00:11,210
The following is an
interview of Suzanne Foldes.

3
00:00:11,210 --> 00:00:15,950
It is taking place on
January 25th, 1996,

4
00:00:15,950 --> 00:00:18,350
in Silver Spring,
Maryland and is being

5
00:00:18,350 --> 00:00:19,775
conducted by Gail Schwartz.

6
00:00:19,775 --> 00:00:22,860

7
00:00:22,860 --> 00:00:25,260
Could you tell us
your full name?

8
00:00:25,260 --> 00:00:31,920
Suzanne Foldes, with the
middle initial M, for Marta.

9
00:00:31,920 --> 00:00:33,110
And your maiden name?

10
00:00:33,110 --> 00:00:34,800
Was Morvai.

11
00:00:34,800 --> 00:00:36,390
And where were you born?

12
00:00:36,390 --> 00:00:38,010
In Miskolc, Hungary.

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13
00:00:38,010 --> 00:00:39,870
And when were you born?

14
00:00:39,870 --> 00:00:46,020
June 23rd, 1921.

15
00:00:46,020 --> 00:00:48,180
Can you tell me a little
bit about your family?

16
00:00:48,180 --> 00:00:50,580
Who made up your family?

17
00:00:50,580 --> 00:00:51,820
It was a very small family.

18
00:00:51,820 --> 00:00:55,240
I was the only child.

19
00:00:55,240 --> 00:01:01,290
My father then already came back
from two years of World War I

20
00:01:01,290 --> 00:01:01,890
in Russia.

21
00:01:01,890 --> 00:01:03,630
And after that,
two years as POW.

22
00:01:03,630 --> 00:01:06,840

23
00:01:06,840 --> 00:01:10,470
My mother was from the
other part of Hungary.

24
00:01:10,470 --> 00:01:15,480
And they got married
right after World War I,

25

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00:01:15,480 --> 00:01:20,780
when the country was
split between two

26
00:01:20,780 --> 00:01:24,590
parts, a communist party
and a non-communist part.

27
00:01:24,590 --> 00:01:27,230

28
00:01:27,230 --> 00:01:33,170
And they had to
start all over again.

29
00:01:33,170 --> 00:01:36,800
But they had been
very successful.

30
00:01:36,800 --> 00:01:41,510
My father, as a business
man, was very, very well off.

31
00:01:41,510 --> 00:01:42,920
What kind of business was he in?

32
00:01:42,920 --> 00:01:49,800
They had men clothing, which
entailed tailoring, which

33
00:01:49,800 --> 00:01:55,640
entailed upper coats and
suits for every fashion, not

34
00:01:55,640 --> 00:01:58,160
haberdasher like here.

35
00:01:58,160 --> 00:02:03,170
That was the line of my
first husband's family.

36
00:02:03,170 --> 00:02:05,540
But they were strictly

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men's clothing.

37
00:02:05,540 --> 00:02:08,000
And there were three
partners to it,

38
00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:11,360
the young men who learned
the trade together

39
00:02:11,360 --> 00:02:17,210
at the same place and became
very good in that trade.

40
00:02:17,210 --> 00:02:20,520
Would you describe your family
as upper class or middle class?

41
00:02:20,520 --> 00:02:21,230
Middle class.

42
00:02:21,230 --> 00:02:25,740
And my father was
really a self-made man.

43
00:02:25,740 --> 00:02:30,500
He was the son of a-- as I
mentioned, a religious teacher,

44
00:02:30,500 --> 00:02:35,030
who had a lot of children
and constantly moving on

45
00:02:35,030 --> 00:02:36,620
from one place to
the other where

46
00:02:36,620 --> 00:02:42,820
there were enough Jewish
boys to teach and prepare.

47
00:02:42,820 --> 00:02:46,400
So when my father

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was the oldest boy,

48
00:02:46,400 --> 00:02:51,900
he went out and had no chance
of education, further education.

49
00:02:51,900 --> 00:02:54,350
But he was working only that
his younger brothers all

50
00:02:54,350 --> 00:02:56,080
should have.

51
00:02:56,080 --> 00:02:59,180
And he was able to
give that to them.

52
00:02:59,180 --> 00:03:04,290
And was always shouldering
the whole family.

53
00:03:04,290 --> 00:03:06,620
Not that it meant too much--

54
00:03:06,620 --> 00:03:10,840

55
00:03:10,840 --> 00:03:12,320
how should I say--

56
00:03:12,320 --> 00:03:16,010
we did not miss
anything for exanoke,.

57
00:03:16,010 --> 00:03:19,190
It was different in my
mother's parents' case.

58
00:03:19,190 --> 00:03:25,210
My mother's parents were
the richest wholesalers

59

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00:03:25,210 --> 00:03:29,540
in [PLACE NAME],,
where they lived,

60
00:03:29,540 --> 00:03:34,150
which changed
drastically in the 1930s,

61
00:03:34,150 --> 00:03:41,520
when my mother's sister married
a man who ruined the family.

62
00:03:41,520 --> 00:03:46,980

63
00:03:46,980 --> 00:03:50,670
So much so, that they left the
town, and moved up to Budapest,

64
00:03:50,670 --> 00:03:53,970
and didn't want to be
seen and known by nobody

65
00:03:53,970 --> 00:03:56,520
that they are having problem.

66
00:03:56,520 --> 00:04:00,060
Financial problems they
didn't have because their sons

67
00:04:00,060 --> 00:04:04,050
and daughters made sure that
they should not miss anything.

68
00:04:04,050 --> 00:04:09,120
But, of course, they were not
in the way they used to be.

69
00:04:09,120 --> 00:04:10,760
And they were suffering.

70
00:04:10,760 --> 00:04:14,970
They were ashamed not to live

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the life, what originally

71
00:04:14,970 --> 00:04:18,300
was meant to be lived by them.

72
00:04:18,300 --> 00:04:20,279
Can you describe the
town that you lived in?

73
00:04:20,279 --> 00:04:21,649
How big was the town?

74
00:04:21,649 --> 00:04:26,580
Miskolc is the capital
of northern Hungary.

75
00:04:26,580 --> 00:04:29,570
It's a big, well--

76
00:04:29,570 --> 00:04:33,540

77
00:04:33,540 --> 00:04:38,490
well-run place which had a
lot of factories around it.

78
00:04:38,490 --> 00:04:45,960
So business was always
in the capital, a place

79
00:04:45,960 --> 00:04:49,830
where people came from,
the whole surrounding.

80
00:04:49,830 --> 00:04:52,427
And it had over 10,000 Jews.

81
00:04:52,427 --> 00:04:54,510
Out of-- do you know what
the overall population--

82
00:04:54,510 --> 00:04:58,560

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It was 60,000 population,
which became later 100,000

83
00:04:58,560 --> 00:05:03,210
with the other parts
growing into it.

84
00:05:03,210 --> 00:05:12,860
The Jewish community had
different synagogues,

85
00:05:12,860 --> 00:05:17,860
from orthodox to where the
rabbi only spoke Yiddish,

86
00:05:17,860 --> 00:05:22,200
to another one which had a
rabbi who had a doctorate

87
00:05:22,200 --> 00:05:24,570
and spoke Hungarian.

88
00:05:24,570 --> 00:05:28,410
And the third one, which was
so religious, a small town.

89
00:05:28,410 --> 00:05:30,270
like [PLACE NAME] is.

90
00:05:30,270 --> 00:05:34,720
And they lived separately
in their own little ghetto.

91
00:05:34,720 --> 00:05:36,240
We didn't.

92
00:05:36,240 --> 00:05:38,940
We didn't leave.

93
00:05:38,940 --> 00:05:42,810
Did you have a large
extended family in the town?

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94
00:05:42,810 --> 00:05:45,180
My father's family lived there.

95
00:05:45,180 --> 00:05:49,290
He had sisters, and brothers,
and, of course, the sisters'

96
00:05:49,290 --> 00:05:50,520
and brothers' children.

97
00:05:50,520 --> 00:05:54,000
Did you get together with
the family on holidays?

98
00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:55,650
Not really.

99
00:05:55,650 --> 00:05:56,340
Not really.

100
00:05:56,340 --> 00:06:01,500
But yes, of course, we went to
visit them in the synagogue.

101
00:06:01,500 --> 00:06:03,960
Yes, we met them.

102
00:06:03,960 --> 00:06:08,040
Time to time, of course, we
went to visit at their house.

103
00:06:08,040 --> 00:06:10,890
But it was not a
close relationship.

104
00:06:10,890 --> 00:06:19,680
My mother and her in-laws were
just fine, but in a cool way.

105
00:06:19,680 --> 00:06:22,770
It never warmed up to a level
that they would really fine

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106
00:06:22,770 --> 00:06:24,060
that they are family.

107
00:06:24,060 --> 00:06:27,930
And so, of course, I was not
part of the family there.

108
00:06:27,930 --> 00:06:29,220
How religious was your family?

109
00:06:29,220 --> 00:06:31,590
What kind of religious
background did you have?

110
00:06:31,590 --> 00:06:34,360
We had strictly
orthodox kosher house,

111
00:06:34,360 --> 00:06:38,520
but it was mainly in respect of
the parents, who wouldn't have

112
00:06:38,520 --> 00:06:41,350
eaten otherwise at our house.

113
00:06:41,350 --> 00:06:47,820
And when I was 17 and both
of my set of grandparents

114
00:06:47,820 --> 00:06:51,990
died within a year, after
that it was still kosher

115
00:06:51,990 --> 00:06:55,080
because they were used
to having their ways.

116
00:06:55,080 --> 00:06:57,810
But it was no such thing
anymore that I couldn't

117

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00:06:57,810 --> 00:06:59,640
bring into the
house something that

118
00:06:59,640 --> 00:07:00,890
before couldn't be brought in.

119
00:07:00,890 --> 00:07:02,848
Did you celebrate holidays,
religious holidays?

120
00:07:02,848 --> 00:07:03,456
Oh, sure.

121
00:07:03,456 --> 00:07:04,500
Observe Shabbat?

122
00:07:04,500 --> 00:07:05,820
Yes.

123
00:07:05,820 --> 00:07:09,400
Well, observe Shabbat, yes,
but my father's store was open.

124
00:07:09,400 --> 00:07:13,410
It wasn't open-- only the
Shabbat Shuvah and the three

125
00:07:13,410 --> 00:07:16,500
days of the high holidays.

126
00:07:16,500 --> 00:07:17,670
Yes, my--

127
00:07:17,670 --> 00:07:18,900
Did you go to Hebrew school?

128
00:07:18,900 --> 00:07:21,080
Did you have any
religious training?

129
00:07:21,080 --> 00:07:25,770

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There was none Hebrew school,
but in the regular school where

130
00:07:25,770 --> 00:07:30,630
we went we had a teacher come
in and give us twice a day

131
00:07:30,630 --> 00:07:33,630
religious lessons,
which was not taken

132
00:07:33,630 --> 00:07:37,290
too seriously, neither
by the congregation,

133
00:07:37,290 --> 00:07:41,370
to send a proper teacher,
nor the children, who,

134
00:07:41,370 --> 00:07:46,830
of course, went as much for it
as the families went for it.

135
00:07:46,830 --> 00:07:52,320
But it was more than the
American children had.

136
00:07:52,320 --> 00:07:53,850
What kind of school
did you go to?

137
00:07:53,850 --> 00:07:55,740
Was this a public school?

138
00:07:55,740 --> 00:07:58,200
No, none was public school.

139
00:07:58,200 --> 00:08:02,010
I first-- elementary school, I
went to the Jewish elementary,

140
00:08:02,010 --> 00:08:02,910
which was huge.

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141
00:08:02,910 --> 00:08:08,190
It was for 1,000 children,
which went up to six grades,

142
00:08:08,190 --> 00:08:09,910
they had.

143
00:08:09,910 --> 00:08:11,460
I went there four grades.

144
00:08:11,460 --> 00:08:15,990
And from then I went to
the Protestant gymnasium,

145
00:08:15,990 --> 00:08:19,470
because that was
the school to go to.

146
00:08:19,470 --> 00:08:25,050
The Jewish children that had
to pay double of the quarter.

147
00:08:25,050 --> 00:08:28,380
The Catholics one and
a half times only.

148
00:08:28,380 --> 00:08:32,280
But we were different,
definitely different.

149
00:08:32,280 --> 00:08:34,309
But we were allowed
to go at least.

150
00:08:34,309 --> 00:08:36,809
What part of the
school was Jewish,

151
00:08:36,809 --> 00:08:38,799
do you remember, approximately?

152

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00:08:38,799 --> 00:08:41,190
Well, it depended
on the classes.

153
00:08:41,190 --> 00:08:45,030
My class, out of the 50,
we had 18 Jewish girls.

154
00:08:45,030 --> 00:08:47,490
And we were fighting
because by the time

155
00:08:47,490 --> 00:08:53,370
we grew, we were growing
into first Jewish law, Hitler

156
00:08:53,370 --> 00:08:57,480
and some girls in the summer
went to Germany to camp.

157
00:08:57,480 --> 00:09:00,990
Others had-- the
Nazis of Hungary

158
00:09:00,990 --> 00:09:02,840
with rings on their hand.

159
00:09:02,840 --> 00:09:07,786
And we were fighting, fistfights
with them, with them yet.

160
00:09:07,786 --> 00:09:11,050

161
00:09:11,050 --> 00:09:13,410
What about your
friends, did you have--

162
00:09:13,410 --> 00:09:14,500
The friends were Jewish.

163
00:09:14,500 --> 00:09:15,300
Were Jewish.

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164
00:09:15,300 --> 00:09:18,250
Not true, because I did have
one or two non-Jewish friends,

165
00:09:18,250 --> 00:09:20,280
but they were not that close.

166
00:09:20,280 --> 00:09:22,837
Because the children could
have been very close,

167
00:09:22,837 --> 00:09:25,170
and we went to school together,
and everything was fine,

168
00:09:25,170 --> 00:09:28,830
but the parents of that
group did not really

169
00:09:28,830 --> 00:09:32,810
want their daughters to
mix so much with the Jews.

170
00:09:32,810 --> 00:09:35,670
So we have not kept
very close with them.

171
00:09:35,670 --> 00:09:37,530
Did you live in a
Jewish neighborhood?

172
00:09:37,530 --> 00:09:38,118
No.

173
00:09:38,118 --> 00:09:39,410
So it was a mixed neighborhood.

174
00:09:39,410 --> 00:09:41,910
It's a very mixed neighborhood.

175
00:09:41,910 --> 00:09:45,270

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Was there any problem
in the early time--

176
00:09:45,270 --> 00:09:48,445
obviously, we'll get to the '30
later on, but in the beginning

177
00:09:48,445 --> 00:09:50,070
was there-- do you
recall any problem--

178
00:09:50,070 --> 00:09:50,220
No, there was none.

179
00:09:50,220 --> 00:09:51,620
--when you were a child?

180
00:09:51,620 --> 00:09:55,573
Actually, there was no problem
where we lived until 1944, when

181
00:09:55,573 --> 00:09:56,740
they pushed us into ghettos.

182
00:09:56,740 --> 00:09:57,980
OK.

183
00:09:57,980 --> 00:10:00,250
And did you have any hobbies?

184
00:10:00,250 --> 00:10:03,690
Oh, god knows, I wouldn't
have called it hobbies.

185
00:10:03,690 --> 00:10:05,160
Other interests besides school?

186
00:10:05,160 --> 00:10:08,550
I believed that my
life is depending on

187
00:10:08,550 --> 00:10:10,170

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that me go to the Olympics.

188
00:10:10,170 --> 00:10:12,890
I was a sports person.

189
00:10:12,890 --> 00:10:15,990
And yes, I was prepared
for the 1936 Olympics,

190
00:10:15,990 --> 00:10:17,760
but Hitler didn't want me.

191
00:10:17,760 --> 00:10:18,510
In what sport?

192
00:10:18,510 --> 00:10:19,760
In gymnastics.

193
00:10:19,760 --> 00:10:22,350
In gymnastics, so you
took that very seriously.

194
00:10:22,350 --> 00:10:23,490
Very, very seriously.

195
00:10:23,490 --> 00:10:25,530
And I was very talented too.

196
00:10:25,530 --> 00:10:28,860
And you had-- did you
have private instruction?

197
00:10:28,860 --> 00:10:33,120
No, but I belonged to a
sport club, of which teacher

198
00:10:33,120 --> 00:10:35,130
was my teacher at school too.

199
00:10:35,130 --> 00:10:41,010
So we were just going into
that and get all the needs what

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200
00:10:41,010 --> 00:10:44,486
sportsmen have right there.

201
00:10:44,486 --> 00:10:46,480
We had sports clubs there.

202
00:10:46,480 --> 00:10:51,310
We had training grounds there.

203
00:10:51,310 --> 00:10:52,810
And you thought--
and it was thought

204
00:10:52,810 --> 00:10:54,850
that you were good enough
to possibly qualify

205
00:10:54,850 --> 00:10:55,558
for the Olympics?

206
00:10:55,558 --> 00:10:58,030
I also-- it was
expected that I will

207
00:10:58,030 --> 00:11:00,990
qualify for the high
school, the Academy,

208
00:11:00,990 --> 00:11:02,330
that I will be going there.

209
00:11:02,330 --> 00:11:04,442
But of course, a Jew
couldn't go there anymore

210
00:11:04,442 --> 00:11:05,400
by the time I finished.

211
00:11:05,400 --> 00:11:09,686
But you were of the caliber
to be able to compete.

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212
00:11:09,686 --> 00:11:10,186
Yeah.

213
00:11:10,186 --> 00:11:13,690

214
00:11:13,690 --> 00:11:17,650
Did you belong to
any youth groups?

215
00:11:17,650 --> 00:11:20,650
Yes, but it was unorthodox way.

216
00:11:20,650 --> 00:11:24,830
Because the Girl Scouts were
not supposed to have Jews.

217
00:11:24,830 --> 00:11:27,930
But the Girl Scout leader,
the teacher leader,

218
00:11:27,930 --> 00:11:31,360
wanted me to go along with
them because I was so good.

219
00:11:31,360 --> 00:11:33,370
And I was ready to
pull the kids up

220
00:11:33,370 --> 00:11:36,890
if they had difficulty
going up on a mountain side.

221
00:11:36,890 --> 00:11:38,560
So I was with them.

222
00:11:38,560 --> 00:11:40,480
So you were a member of the--

223
00:11:40,480 --> 00:11:41,440
the Girl Scouts?

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224
00:11:41,440 --> 00:11:45,390
An unofficial member, because
officially I couldn't be,

225
00:11:45,390 --> 00:11:47,630
a Jew couldn't be.

226
00:11:47,630 --> 00:11:50,140
And how did you-- you
were a young girl.

227
00:11:50,140 --> 00:11:52,520
How did you feel about that?

228
00:11:52,520 --> 00:11:54,210
Did that bother you
that unofficially--

229
00:11:54,210 --> 00:11:55,380
Probably didn't.

230
00:11:55,380 --> 00:11:59,830
Probably didn't even realize
that that's holding me back

231
00:11:59,830 --> 00:12:02,890
from anything, because
it didn't hold me back.

232
00:12:02,890 --> 00:12:07,960
It was probably more
showing that my friends

233
00:12:07,960 --> 00:12:11,040
are in Jewish communities
and not there.

234
00:12:11,040 --> 00:12:17,200
But I was very comfortable
until I was part of it.

235

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00:12:17,200 --> 00:12:20,006
Did you belong to any
Zionist youth groups?

236
00:12:20,006 --> 00:12:21,000
No.

237
00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:21,530
No.

238
00:12:21,530 --> 00:12:23,890
There was one, and
I don't know why,

239
00:12:23,890 --> 00:12:28,030
but they were only boys, men.

240
00:12:28,030 --> 00:12:33,390
And there was a tennis
club, which was Zionist.

241
00:12:33,390 --> 00:12:36,520
We went sometimes to
play on their court,

242
00:12:36,520 --> 00:12:38,760
but that was about all.

243
00:12:38,760 --> 00:12:41,530
We belonged to them as
friends, but we were never

244
00:12:41,530 --> 00:12:43,303
part of their organ--

245
00:12:43,303 --> 00:12:43,845
organization.

246
00:12:43,845 --> 00:12:45,900
Pardon me.

247
00:12:45,900 --> 00:12:50,770

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OK, it's 1933 and Hitler
has come into power.

248
00:12:50,770 --> 00:12:52,890
You were only 12.

249
00:12:52,890 --> 00:12:54,920
So you were young.

250
00:12:54,920 --> 00:12:59,860
Did you-- were you or your
parents aware of situations

251
00:12:59,860 --> 00:13:00,840
changing?

252
00:13:00,840 --> 00:13:06,070
I have it in my memory a picture
what I will never forget.

253
00:13:06,070 --> 00:13:08,860
My father sitting on
the side of his bed,

254
00:13:08,860 --> 00:13:15,160
going to sleep at 11:00 the
evening, when the radio came

255
00:13:15,160 --> 00:13:16,810
through that Hitler became--

256
00:13:16,810 --> 00:13:17,710
Chancellor.

257
00:13:17,710 --> 00:13:19,260
The Chancellor.

258
00:13:19,260 --> 00:13:21,370
And I can hear
his voice clearly,

259
00:13:21,370 --> 00:13:22,650

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"That's the end for us."

260
00:13:22,650 --> 00:13:25,600

261
00:13:25,600 --> 00:13:28,120
And that memory is so
clearly in my mind.

262
00:13:28,120 --> 00:13:33,310
I can see him in his
underwear, the night shirt,

263
00:13:33,310 --> 00:13:37,250
clearly, clearly see him.

264
00:13:37,250 --> 00:13:39,860
Did he talk to you about this?

265
00:13:39,860 --> 00:13:42,430
He made this statement
to my mother and me

266
00:13:42,430 --> 00:13:44,060
as we were listening
to the radio,

267
00:13:44,060 --> 00:13:45,725
came through and tell us.

268
00:13:45,725 --> 00:13:46,850
No, but I meant after that.

269
00:13:46,850 --> 00:13:48,500
Did he talk to you about Hitler?

270
00:13:48,500 --> 00:13:49,473
Did you talk it over?

271
00:13:49,473 --> 00:13:51,950
I'm sure that we were
talking a lot about him

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272
00:13:51,950 --> 00:13:54,220
and everything, what it brought.

273
00:13:54,220 --> 00:13:57,320
Do you remember as a young
girl being frightened

274
00:13:57,320 --> 00:13:59,430
about this man, Hitler?

275
00:13:59,430 --> 00:14:00,140
Not then.

276
00:14:00,140 --> 00:14:02,530
Not at that early
age, but later,

277
00:14:02,530 --> 00:14:06,678
when I was listening
to his tirades.

278
00:14:06,678 --> 00:14:07,220
On the radio?

279
00:14:07,220 --> 00:14:09,810
On the radio.

280
00:14:09,810 --> 00:14:11,090
How did that make you feel?

281
00:14:11,090 --> 00:14:13,620
Sick, sick in the stomach.

282
00:14:13,620 --> 00:14:18,380
And we kept wondering, how
can these people believe that?

283
00:14:18,380 --> 00:14:22,300
How can they go
with him so blindly?

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284
00:14:22,300 --> 00:14:25,700
But the only thing
was that we thought

285
00:14:25,700 --> 00:14:30,110
that we are so
embedded, Hungarians,

286
00:14:30,110 --> 00:14:32,030
that nothing can come to us.

287
00:14:32,030 --> 00:14:33,540
And nothing can hurt us.

288
00:14:33,540 --> 00:14:38,120
And felt awful for all these
people are bothered by it.

289
00:14:38,120 --> 00:14:41,120
But it cannot happen to us.

290
00:14:41,120 --> 00:14:43,760
What languages did you speak?

291
00:14:43,760 --> 00:14:46,940
I started to speak German
before I spoke Hungarian,

292
00:14:46,940 --> 00:14:51,275
because my father felt that
a person-- as many persons

293
00:14:51,275 --> 00:14:53,780
as many languages you speaks.

294
00:14:53,780 --> 00:14:57,830
So they spoke to me in
German only until I was five.

295
00:14:57,830 --> 00:15:00,230
Of course, I understood,
in the meantime, Hungarian.

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296
00:15:00,230 --> 00:15:01,240
Because we had a maid.

297
00:15:01,240 --> 00:15:04,100
We had this coming to the house,
that coming to their house.

298
00:15:04,100 --> 00:15:07,520
But they weren't talking to me
in Hungarian until I was five.

299
00:15:07,520 --> 00:15:09,260
So by the time I go
to school, I should

300
00:15:09,260 --> 00:15:11,300
be really good by children.

301
00:15:11,300 --> 00:15:14,110
And I should speak
that language too.

302
00:15:14,110 --> 00:15:15,980
And your school was
taught in Hungarian?

303
00:15:15,980 --> 00:15:19,730
Yes, although the
second grade, we speak--

304
00:15:19,730 --> 00:15:22,220
picked up German.

305
00:15:22,220 --> 00:15:24,770
And then, of course,
in gymnasium,

306
00:15:24,770 --> 00:15:26,400
we picked up right away German.

307
00:15:26,400 --> 00:15:27,790

This was the first grade.

308
00:15:27,790 --> 00:15:30,240
And the third grade's French.

309
00:15:30,240 --> 00:15:33,950
And I had also private
instruction by then in French.

310
00:15:33,950 --> 00:15:36,830
And at 16, I started
to learn English--

311
00:15:36,830 --> 00:15:39,000
British English.

312
00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:43,220
And in the meantime, I had
Latin to underpin everything,

313
00:15:43,220 --> 00:15:46,880
from fifth grade to eighth.

314
00:15:46,880 --> 00:15:50,510
And we had orally an exam
of all three languages,

315
00:15:50,510 --> 00:15:51,440
or four languages--

316
00:15:51,440 --> 00:15:53,745
Hungarian, German,
French, and Latin.

317
00:15:53,745 --> 00:15:57,080

318
00:15:57,080 --> 00:16:02,150
Anything that you specifically
remember in the middle '30s

319
00:16:02,150 --> 00:16:03,890

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that you want to talk about?

320
00:16:03,890 --> 00:16:06,540
Any specific incidents?

321
00:16:06,540 --> 00:16:09,510
Or did life just go on--

322
00:16:09,510 --> 00:16:10,285
Our life went on--

323
00:16:10,285 --> 00:16:11,118
--in a normal sense?

324
00:16:11,118 --> 00:16:14,690
--except that around us there
were already ugly happenings.

325
00:16:14,690 --> 00:16:16,420
Such that you were aware of?

326
00:16:16,420 --> 00:16:17,810
Where we were very aware of.

327
00:16:17,810 --> 00:16:19,550
Such as?

328
00:16:19,550 --> 00:16:23,000
A good friend of our son, who
right now lives in Syracuse,

329
00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:28,700
and he is now 85,
86, was able yet

330
00:16:28,700 --> 00:16:31,830
to get to the
university in Debrecen.

331
00:16:31,830 --> 00:16:37,360
And he may have said
something, I don't know anymore

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332
00:16:37,360 --> 00:16:47,470
how it started, but a boy whose
family turned much earlier,

333
00:16:47,470 --> 00:16:53,620
so he felt that he is non-Jew,
said something of him, to him,

334
00:16:53,620 --> 00:16:57,520
and he gave the guy
a flap in his face.

335
00:16:57,520 --> 00:17:00,490
And they threw him out
from the university.

336
00:17:00,490 --> 00:17:03,310
And his father, who was
so proud that his son was

337
00:17:03,310 --> 00:17:06,329
able to make it got a heart
attack on that account

338
00:17:06,329 --> 00:17:08,050
and died.

339
00:17:08,050 --> 00:17:11,180
So yes, that was quite close.

340
00:17:11,180 --> 00:17:14,950
And yes, the--
when by the time we

341
00:17:14,950 --> 00:17:19,000
were 15, 16, and started to
go with boys who were older

342
00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:22,089
than us, and they couldn't
go to the university, or they

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343
00:17:22,089 --> 00:17:29,890
were in law school, and that
was a lesser degree school

344
00:17:29,890 --> 00:17:33,580
than the other
universities were.

345
00:17:33,580 --> 00:17:35,830
They already had problems.

346
00:17:35,830 --> 00:17:39,330
And the first Jewish
law started to come.

347
00:17:39,330 --> 00:17:43,880
In fact, in 1938,
that was already time

348
00:17:43,880 --> 00:17:46,450
when a lot of these
boys had to let

349
00:17:46,450 --> 00:17:49,090
go from companies
because it had to be

350
00:17:49,090 --> 00:17:51,940
just a percentage of Jews.

351
00:17:51,940 --> 00:17:56,440
And from there on, it was
coming closer and closer.

352
00:17:56,440 --> 00:17:59,696
How was your father's
business affected in 1938?

353
00:17:59,696 --> 00:18:01,450
In '38, not yet.

354
00:18:01,450 --> 00:18:03,400

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Mm-hmm.

355
00:18:03,400 --> 00:18:10,990
But by 1940-41, it was affected.

356
00:18:10,990 --> 00:18:14,310
They did not get all the
merchandise they wanted to buy.

357
00:18:14,310 --> 00:18:16,660
Not everybody was
allowed to sell.

358
00:18:16,660 --> 00:18:22,390
And once the war broke
out, it was a good excuse

359
00:18:22,390 --> 00:18:24,430
why the are excluding
some, why there

360
00:18:24,430 --> 00:18:27,070
is less merchandise
available, so the Jew should

361
00:18:27,070 --> 00:18:27,955
be getting less.

362
00:18:27,955 --> 00:18:30,670

363
00:18:30,670 --> 00:18:37,985
The real problems
came in 1942, when--

364
00:18:37,985 --> 00:18:44,470
in 1941, my father was
to go to work camp.

365
00:18:44,470 --> 00:18:48,533
But that was a very minor and--

366

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00:18:48,533 --> 00:18:49,450
We'll talk about that.

367
00:18:49,450 --> 00:18:50,920
I just want to go a little
bit chronologically--

368
00:18:50,920 --> 00:18:51,420
OK.

369
00:18:51,420 --> 00:18:52,390
--if that's OK.

370
00:18:52,390 --> 00:18:55,870
So were you aware
of Kristallnacht?

371
00:18:55,870 --> 00:18:57,010
Most probably, yes.

372
00:18:57,010 --> 00:18:59,740
But I cannot I'll
tell you when I--

373
00:18:59,740 --> 00:19:00,940
Heard about it.

374
00:19:00,940 --> 00:19:02,610
When and how.

375
00:19:02,610 --> 00:19:04,720
But it was with me.

376
00:19:04,720 --> 00:19:06,610
I knew about it later.

377
00:19:06,610 --> 00:19:08,650
But again, it was
something awful

378
00:19:08,650 --> 00:19:10,440
happening somewhere very far.

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379
00:19:10,440 --> 00:19:13,770

380
00:19:13,770 --> 00:19:22,490
The closer, the more
vivid tragic effects

381
00:19:22,490 --> 00:19:27,140
came when Hitler
came into Vienna.

382
00:19:27,140 --> 00:19:32,360
And the Viennese Jews, who
were originally from Hungary

383
00:19:32,360 --> 00:19:35,660
tried to run back and
came back in droves

384
00:19:35,660 --> 00:19:38,150
and were telling us
what's happening there.

385
00:19:38,150 --> 00:19:42,470
And also, they couldn't go back.

386
00:19:42,470 --> 00:19:44,070
And you were 17 years old.

387
00:19:44,070 --> 00:19:45,980
So what were your--
do you remember what

388
00:19:45,980 --> 00:19:48,110
some of your thoughts were?

389
00:19:48,110 --> 00:19:50,540
By then, we were very involved.

390
00:19:50,540 --> 00:19:52,330
And we tried to

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help these people.

391
00:19:52,330 --> 00:20:01,630
And we made-- instead of the
winter balls, and the musicals,

392
00:20:01,630 --> 00:20:07,990
and the big entertainments, we
started to get moneys together

393
00:20:07,990 --> 00:20:13,130
to help them to get
the people who did not

394
00:20:13,130 --> 00:20:16,070
have a trade to learn
a trade, so they

395
00:20:16,070 --> 00:20:18,920
should be able to make it.

396
00:20:18,920 --> 00:20:20,660
And we tried to help them.

397
00:20:20,660 --> 00:20:24,410
And from there on, we were
actively trying to help them.

398
00:20:24,410 --> 00:20:26,960
And there were always more
and more to be helped.

399
00:20:26,960 --> 00:20:31,790
Plus, more and more people
were taken out to work camps.

400
00:20:31,790 --> 00:20:38,010
First, inside Hungary
to work, which entailed

401
00:20:38,010 --> 00:20:40,580
road building, and you name--

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402
00:20:40,580 --> 00:20:43,670
everything what was not
meant for a Jew to do.

403
00:20:43,670 --> 00:20:50,330
And later, they took them out
to go out to Poland and Russia

404
00:20:50,330 --> 00:20:52,550
with their armies.

405
00:20:52,550 --> 00:20:55,990
And of course, many, many
stayed there forever.

406
00:20:55,990 --> 00:21:00,050

407
00:21:00,050 --> 00:21:02,120
So then the war broke out.

408
00:21:02,120 --> 00:21:05,240
Do you remember that, hearing?

409
00:21:05,240 --> 00:21:08,660
In 1938, on September 1st--

410
00:21:08,660 --> 00:21:11,020
1939.

411
00:21:11,020 --> 00:21:13,420
'39, well, excuse me, sure, '39.

412
00:21:13,420 --> 00:21:16,830

413
00:21:16,830 --> 00:21:25,100
I was glued to the radio and
listened to Italian news,

414
00:21:25,100 --> 00:21:29,780

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because I could get
Milan on my radio.

415
00:21:29,780 --> 00:21:32,330
And I was translating
from the Italian, which

416
00:21:32,330 --> 00:21:34,770
was so close to my
Latin, which I knew them

417
00:21:34,770 --> 00:21:40,160
very well, to the family what
the West is talking about.

418
00:21:40,160 --> 00:21:42,390
Yes, we were very aware of it.

419
00:21:42,390 --> 00:21:52,380
And few days later, the Polish
people started to come through.

420
00:21:52,380 --> 00:21:55,530
We had taken in people
from the street.

421
00:21:55,530 --> 00:21:56,290
Into your house?

422
00:21:56,290 --> 00:21:57,180
Into the house.

423
00:21:57,180 --> 00:21:59,580
Did you live in a private
house or an apartment?

424
00:21:59,580 --> 00:22:02,930
It was a big apartment
house, but it was a low--

425
00:22:02,930 --> 00:22:06,090
because one side was
ours, a huge apartment

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426
00:22:06,090 --> 00:22:08,710
on the side with
smaller apartments.

427
00:22:08,710 --> 00:22:11,280
Right in the center of
town or on the outskirts?

428
00:22:11,280 --> 00:22:15,260
No, it was not outskirt,
but it was not center.

429
00:22:15,260 --> 00:22:20,360
It was rather a nice area where
parks were around us-- elegant.

430
00:22:20,360 --> 00:22:23,430
So you took people into your--

431
00:22:23,430 --> 00:22:26,950
We found a family,
a couple, who came

432
00:22:26,950 --> 00:22:30,930
with a young boy, whom they
didn't know whose child he was.

433
00:22:30,930 --> 00:22:33,510
Only he was a frightened
child on the road

434
00:22:33,510 --> 00:22:34,770
and they picked him up.

435
00:22:34,770 --> 00:22:35,640
And it was--

436
00:22:35,640 --> 00:22:36,780
[INAUDIBLE]

437
00:22:36,780 --> 00:22:40,770

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The woman wanted to give
us some gold items of what

438
00:22:40,770 --> 00:22:44,630
she was carrying in
gratefulness that we

439
00:22:44,630 --> 00:22:46,670
let her have a
bath, and the child,

440
00:22:46,670 --> 00:22:50,270
and change, and
wash their things.

441
00:22:50,270 --> 00:22:53,220
They had nothing, but
what they had on them.

442
00:22:53,220 --> 00:22:53,980
They were running.

443
00:22:53,980 --> 00:22:56,820

444
00:22:56,820 --> 00:22:59,610
Most of them didn't want
to stop before Paris.

445
00:22:59,610 --> 00:23:02,380
They wanted to go
at least this far.

446
00:23:02,380 --> 00:23:04,664
That's smartly.

447
00:23:04,664 --> 00:23:05,956
But they were coming in droves.

448
00:23:05,956 --> 00:23:10,540
There were thousands
and thousands of people.

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449
00:23:10,540 --> 00:23:12,250
And the stories, what
they had to tell,

450
00:23:12,250 --> 00:23:16,750
was just plain unbelievable.

451
00:23:16,750 --> 00:23:19,350
And there were a
few earlier, who

452
00:23:19,350 --> 00:23:21,930
came over from that
area which is outside

453
00:23:21,930 --> 00:23:26,130
of the Hungarian border,
toward the east, which

454
00:23:26,130 --> 00:23:33,360
was Ruthen land, halfway
belonging sometimes to Romania,

455
00:23:33,360 --> 00:23:35,620
sometimes to Poland.

456
00:23:35,620 --> 00:23:39,380
And this was very orthodox Jews.

457
00:23:39,380 --> 00:23:42,810
So this was a pocket of very
orthodox Jews lived there.

458
00:23:42,810 --> 00:23:45,780
And they slowly
started to come over

459
00:23:45,780 --> 00:23:51,060
into safer place,
as Hungary was.

460
00:23:51,060 --> 00:23:53,580

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At this point now, they
started to get them together,

461
00:23:53,580 --> 00:23:59,330
who wasn't a citizen, and were
tossing them out of the border.

462
00:23:59,330 --> 00:24:05,540
And the stories what we heard,
that they are putting them

463
00:24:05,540 --> 00:24:07,590
right to death.

464
00:24:07,590 --> 00:24:11,970
And some girl,
she was around 19,

465
00:24:11,970 --> 00:24:13,860
saw her family being killed.

466
00:24:13,860 --> 00:24:20,520
And she was-- she fell because
she was so afraid of whatever,

467
00:24:20,520 --> 00:24:23,960
and realized later that
she's laying around healthily

468
00:24:23,960 --> 00:24:25,850
under the bodies.

469
00:24:25,850 --> 00:24:30,080
And she was able to come
back to tell all this.

470
00:24:30,080 --> 00:24:33,400
But again, if you
asked my father,

471
00:24:33,400 --> 00:24:36,710
or anybody around us
that cannot happen to us

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472
00:24:36,710 --> 00:24:40,670
because we're Hungarians.

473
00:24:40,670 --> 00:24:43,670
We had to pull together the
citizenship papers, that

474
00:24:43,670 --> 00:24:46,280
these kind of papers,
that kind of paper--

475
00:24:46,280 --> 00:24:51,200
we were almost as proud of being
Hungarian then the Mayflower

476
00:24:51,200 --> 00:24:52,230
Americans.

477
00:24:52,230 --> 00:24:55,340
So at that point, your father
didn't consider time to leave?

478
00:24:55,340 --> 00:24:56,710
No, no, he never did.

479
00:24:56,710 --> 00:24:59,480
Oh, never considered
leaving, oh, yi-yi.

480
00:24:59,480 --> 00:25:01,220
I wish they did.

481
00:25:01,220 --> 00:25:04,490
My mother wanted once,
and not because of that.

482
00:25:04,490 --> 00:25:09,650
She had absolutely
no such bad feelings

483
00:25:09,650 --> 00:25:18,355

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection
about it, but when the American
World's Fair-- was in 1938?

484
00:25:18,355 --> 00:25:18,855
'36?

485
00:25:18,855 --> 00:25:22,340

486
00:25:22,340 --> 00:25:23,200
I wouldn't know now.

487
00:25:23,200 --> 00:25:23,910
'36.

488
00:25:23,910 --> 00:25:25,370
Probably '36.

489
00:25:25,370 --> 00:25:26,720
She wanted to come over for it.

490
00:25:26,720 --> 00:25:28,040
She wanted to see America.

491
00:25:28,040 --> 00:25:31,176
She really liked the idea
of what she had in mind.

492
00:25:31,176 --> 00:25:36,000
And my wife would be there
working there for others.

493
00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:36,500
Go on now.

494
00:25:36,500 --> 00:25:39,530
What kind of-- never
anything happened.

495
00:25:39,530 --> 00:25:42,200

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496
00:25:42,200 --> 00:25:44,098
So you were, while
this was happening

497
00:25:44,098 --> 00:25:46,640
and these refugees are coming
in and telling you the stories,

498
00:25:46,640 --> 00:25:47,430
you're still at school?

499
00:25:47,430 --> 00:25:47,930
Yes.

500
00:25:47,930 --> 00:25:49,460
Were you still a student?

501
00:25:49,460 --> 00:25:50,590
OK, and now--

502
00:25:50,590 --> 00:25:53,400
And when I was not
in school anymore,

503
00:25:53,400 --> 00:25:55,388
then I also had
to learn a trade.

504
00:25:55,388 --> 00:25:56,180
Because it became--

505
00:25:56,180 --> 00:25:57,305
When did you finish school?

506
00:25:57,305 --> 00:25:58,190
In 1939.

507
00:25:58,190 --> 00:25:59,150
In 1939, OK.

508
00:25:59,150 --> 00:26:01,280

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And you had to learn
a trade, you said.

509
00:26:01,280 --> 00:26:05,700
Because it became clear that
even if my parents could find,

510
00:26:05,700 --> 00:26:12,320
and my mother had found
somebody who was in big job,

511
00:26:12,320 --> 00:26:15,920
and could bring me
into the Academy,

512
00:26:15,920 --> 00:26:19,160
they would kill me in a year
because they would just not let

513
00:26:19,160 --> 00:26:20,760
me live there.

514
00:26:20,760 --> 00:26:24,140
So they would just
make me over do it

515
00:26:24,140 --> 00:26:27,290
and my life was in
danger if I went there.

516
00:26:27,290 --> 00:26:29,420
So I just had to give up.

517
00:26:29,420 --> 00:26:30,430
And then--

518
00:26:30,430 --> 00:26:31,480
Can we go back to--

519
00:26:31,480 --> 00:26:34,580
I'm just interested
in 1936, when

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520
00:26:34,580 --> 00:26:37,100
you realized you couldn't
be in the Olympics.

521
00:26:37,100 --> 00:26:38,420
What were your thoughts?

522
00:26:38,420 --> 00:26:39,392
Oh, it was a pain.

523
00:26:39,392 --> 00:26:40,350
It was a big, big pain.

524
00:26:40,350 --> 00:26:41,600
And here you were, trained.

525
00:26:41,600 --> 00:26:42,500
I was trained.

526
00:26:42,500 --> 00:26:45,140
And that same year, the--

527
00:26:45,140 --> 00:26:47,670
not the same year,
the year before--

528
00:26:47,670 --> 00:26:50,540
there was that club
which I belonged to,

529
00:26:50,540 --> 00:26:55,490
became 150 years old, and
one of the arch princes

530
00:26:55,490 --> 00:26:58,130
came from-- from
big Habsburg came,

531
00:26:58,130 --> 00:27:02,030
and for whom we had
to make a big show.

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532
00:27:02,030 --> 00:27:05,310
Everybody was to get a golden--

533
00:27:05,310 --> 00:27:05,810
Medal?

534
00:27:05,810 --> 00:27:07,850
Medal.

535
00:27:07,850 --> 00:27:11,960
And they were saying there loud
that everybody who participated

536
00:27:11,960 --> 00:27:14,480
will have that gold medal.

537
00:27:14,480 --> 00:27:19,200
And then, that was early
summer, and we already

538
00:27:19,200 --> 00:27:22,160
went back to school and
there was nothing of it.

539
00:27:22,160 --> 00:27:26,440
It turned out that for the Jews,
they didn't give the medal.

540
00:27:26,440 --> 00:27:27,820
The Jews couldn't get it.

541
00:27:27,820 --> 00:27:30,780
So no, it was already pain.

542
00:27:30,780 --> 00:27:33,980
And yes, it brought a
reaction, of course,

543
00:27:33,980 --> 00:27:36,350
where I didn't want
to participate anymore

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544
00:27:36,350 --> 00:27:38,470
in any of the [INAUDIBLE].

545
00:27:38,470 --> 00:27:42,500
But because I was so good
friends with this teacher who

546
00:27:42,500 --> 00:27:48,920
was our coach, I still did,
and I still did everything

547
00:27:48,920 --> 00:27:52,100
until mature, until later.

548
00:27:52,100 --> 00:27:59,780
But the feeling wasn't
in there anymore.

549
00:27:59,780 --> 00:28:03,940
OK, let's now jump ahead,
back to 1940, I guess we were.

550
00:28:03,940 --> 00:28:06,770
Well, just to
finish that thought.

551
00:28:06,770 --> 00:28:10,850
For 40 years, I
didn't do any sports.

552
00:28:10,850 --> 00:28:12,830
I just couldn't bring myself.

553
00:28:12,830 --> 00:28:17,080
So I became a couch
potato in that sense.

554
00:28:17,080 --> 00:28:18,160
That was the reaction.

555
00:28:18,160 --> 00:28:20,890

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556
00:28:20,890 --> 00:28:23,030
You were talking
about 1939, 1940,

557
00:28:23,030 --> 00:28:25,430
and hearing these stories,
and the refugees coming in.

558
00:28:25,430 --> 00:28:27,470
And then you started
to learn a trade.

559
00:28:27,470 --> 00:28:29,870
What did you-- what
trade was that?

560
00:28:29,870 --> 00:28:35,780
It was-- the trade was
fitting into our future.

561
00:28:35,780 --> 00:28:38,510

562
00:28:38,510 --> 00:28:42,280
My first husband's family,
as I mentioned to you,

563
00:28:42,280 --> 00:28:43,610
was in haberdasher business.

564
00:28:43,610 --> 00:28:49,400
So I learned how to make
custom-made shirts, pajamas,

565
00:28:49,400 --> 00:28:52,700
elegant underwear for men.

566
00:28:52,700 --> 00:28:54,440
And I went through that.

567
00:28:54,440 --> 00:28:55,100

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So--

568
00:28:55,100 --> 00:28:56,630
Did you go to a training school?

569
00:28:56,630 --> 00:28:57,470
No.

570
00:28:57,470 --> 00:28:59,210
There was a school,
but beside the school

571
00:28:59,210 --> 00:29:03,980
you had to go for one year
into a shop to learn the trade.

572
00:29:03,980 --> 00:29:05,780
Had you go to the school first?

573
00:29:05,780 --> 00:29:06,950
No.

574
00:29:06,950 --> 00:29:10,400
During the year, when
you went to the shop,

575
00:29:10,400 --> 00:29:14,320
every second afternoon I had to
go for two hours to the school

576
00:29:14,320 --> 00:29:18,130
too, but that was it.

577
00:29:18,130 --> 00:29:20,090
Not even serious thing.

578
00:29:20,090 --> 00:29:26,323
It was just telling you what
the worker is expected to do.

579
00:29:26,323 --> 00:29:28,240
And you're still living

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at home at this point?

580
00:29:28,240 --> 00:29:30,590
Oh, yes.

581
00:29:30,590 --> 00:29:34,700
And my first husband
and I, we were in love.

582
00:29:34,700 --> 00:29:37,730

583
00:29:37,730 --> 00:29:41,500
I think I was 16 and
a half when I met him.

584
00:29:41,500 --> 00:29:44,080
How did you meet him?

585
00:29:44,080 --> 00:29:48,440
In the first ball
that I was introduced,

586
00:29:48,440 --> 00:29:53,050
after midnight,
the midnight dance,

587
00:29:53,050 --> 00:29:55,230
five young men came over.

588
00:29:55,230 --> 00:29:58,230
We were introduced by
one of them who know me.

589
00:29:58,230 --> 00:30:00,380
And out of the five,
two became my husband.

590
00:30:00,380 --> 00:30:01,374
Oh, my.

591
00:30:01,374 --> 00:30:02,368

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Oh, my.

592
00:30:02,368 --> 00:30:06,350

593
00:30:06,350 --> 00:30:08,970
So you were working
and living at home.

594
00:30:08,970 --> 00:30:10,550
Yeah.

595
00:30:10,550 --> 00:30:12,750
And then what was
the next change?

596
00:30:12,750 --> 00:30:13,890
When I got married.

597
00:30:13,890 --> 00:30:14,940
Oh, when was that?

598
00:30:14,940 --> 00:30:17,710
Well, first of all,
the first change

599
00:30:17,710 --> 00:30:19,850
I did, what interests
you, was 1940,

600
00:30:19,850 --> 00:30:23,000
when my father was taken to this
work camp I mentioned to you.

601
00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:24,870
Mm-hmm.

602
00:30:24,870 --> 00:30:27,590
Which was only
for a summer long.

603
00:30:27,590 --> 00:30:35,760

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And the CO was my Latin
and history teacher,

604
00:30:35,760 --> 00:30:38,930
who was really
very nice gentleman

605
00:30:38,930 --> 00:30:44,400
and was suffering from this idea
that he has to be now bossing

606
00:30:44,400 --> 00:30:46,570
these old Jews.

607
00:30:46,570 --> 00:30:49,490
These men were already,
in their late 50s.

608
00:30:49,490 --> 00:30:52,400

609
00:30:52,400 --> 00:30:55,460
So what they were there
for, it was not for work.

610
00:30:55,460 --> 00:31:03,800
They were there to be killed and
to put down the shame on them,

611
00:31:03,800 --> 00:31:04,610
nothing else.

612
00:31:04,610 --> 00:31:10,780

613
00:31:10,780 --> 00:31:12,860
Tape one, side two.

614
00:31:12,860 --> 00:31:15,380
And you were talking
about how your father had

615

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00:31:15,380 --> 00:31:18,590
to go off in the summer
time to a labor camp.

616
00:31:18,590 --> 00:31:20,840
What was your thoughts about
seeing your father having

617
00:31:20,840 --> 00:31:24,140
to go away, to be taken away?

618
00:31:24,140 --> 00:31:27,560
We kept going with him.

619
00:31:27,560 --> 00:31:30,650
It was some 60 miles
from where we lived.

620
00:31:30,650 --> 00:31:31,400
You went with him?

621
00:31:31,400 --> 00:31:36,300
And every day we taxied
out there to be with them.

622
00:31:36,300 --> 00:31:37,760
We didn't let them go.

623
00:31:37,760 --> 00:31:41,210
We didn't let them be alone.

624
00:31:41,210 --> 00:31:45,200
But you have to realize,
then we were still very much

625
00:31:45,200 --> 00:31:48,170
in charge of what
we wanted to do.

626
00:31:48,170 --> 00:31:49,180
This is summer of 1940.

627

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00:31:49,180 --> 00:31:53,840
1940, yes.

628
00:31:53,840 --> 00:31:56,240
Did you have contact with
him when you got there?

629
00:31:56,240 --> 00:31:56,810
Yes.

630
00:31:56,810 --> 00:31:57,727
You could talk to him?

631
00:31:57,727 --> 00:31:58,230
Oh, yes.

632
00:31:58,230 --> 00:31:59,600
And what kind of work did he do?

633
00:31:59,600 --> 00:32:01,470
Practically nothing.

634
00:32:01,470 --> 00:32:05,260
It was just to sit
around in a dusty place,

635
00:32:05,260 --> 00:32:09,770
to stand up and stand at
attention and sit down.

636
00:32:09,770 --> 00:32:15,440
They were really just
annoying the people

637
00:32:15,440 --> 00:32:18,620
and didn't let them do
what they wanted to do,

638
00:32:18,620 --> 00:32:21,680
they're supposed to do
in their own businesses.

639

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00:32:21,680 --> 00:32:24,590
Just pulled out.

640
00:32:24,590 --> 00:32:27,270
What happened to your father's
business while he was away?

641
00:32:27,270 --> 00:32:32,720
Well, we tried to keep it
according to their orders,

642
00:32:32,720 --> 00:32:34,870
moving on.

643
00:32:34,870 --> 00:32:43,040
They had plenty of good and
dependable employees to run it.

644
00:32:43,040 --> 00:32:44,150
And it didn't last long.

645
00:32:44,150 --> 00:32:46,730
It was up six weeks, of
what we had talked about.

646
00:32:46,730 --> 00:32:48,520
But it was something what--

647
00:32:48,520 --> 00:32:51,410
you don't forget.

648
00:32:51,410 --> 00:32:56,450
Because the little
peasant man, who is now,

649
00:32:56,450 --> 00:32:59,820
God knows what kind of rank
he has, he's the boss of all.

650
00:32:59,820 --> 00:33:02,770
He doesn't know what--

651

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00:33:02,770 --> 00:33:04,160
who these people are.

652
00:33:04,160 --> 00:33:06,440
He only knows that
I am now in charge

653
00:33:06,440 --> 00:33:10,250
to tell them that now it's time
to go to sleep, and now to wake

654
00:33:10,250 --> 00:33:12,460
up, and now to make you bed.

655
00:33:12,460 --> 00:33:18,190
And things what they have done
already for the 30 years or so.

656
00:33:18,190 --> 00:33:22,060
What was the name of the
location of the labor camp?

657
00:33:22,060 --> 00:33:24,040
Hatvan.

658
00:33:24,040 --> 00:33:28,340
H-A-T-V-A-N.

659
00:33:28,340 --> 00:33:32,150
And did you bring him anything
when you would go visit?

660
00:33:32,150 --> 00:33:34,100
Did you bring food?

661
00:33:34,100 --> 00:33:36,790
Most of the time we still
went there to restaurants.

662
00:33:36,790 --> 00:33:38,770
We were able to get there.

663

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00:33:38,770 --> 00:33:40,690
We could order
people to bring when

664
00:33:40,690 --> 00:33:43,520
we come next day, this
and this kind of food,

665
00:33:43,520 --> 00:33:46,700
fruit, whatever they needed.

666
00:33:46,700 --> 00:33:53,370
It was rather easy to
take care of them there.

667
00:33:53,370 --> 00:33:54,290
And then he came back.

668
00:33:54,290 --> 00:33:55,070
Yeah.

669
00:33:55,070 --> 00:33:56,150
And resumed his work?

670
00:33:56,150 --> 00:33:57,110
Sure.

671
00:33:57,110 --> 00:34:00,460
And you were still
living, you said, at home.

672
00:34:00,460 --> 00:34:01,640
Yes.

673
00:34:01,640 --> 00:34:04,040
I lived home until I got
married, and actually

674
00:34:04,040 --> 00:34:05,518
even after that because--

675
00:34:05,518 --> 00:34:06,560

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When did you get married?

676
00:34:06,560 --> 00:34:07,060
1942.

677
00:34:07,060 --> 00:34:08,239
Oh, 1942.

678
00:34:08,239 --> 00:34:11,120
March, 1942.

679
00:34:11,120 --> 00:34:12,710
Anything else in 1940?

680
00:34:12,710 --> 00:34:16,460
Any more restrictions
that you felt?

681
00:34:16,460 --> 00:34:17,960
Were you restricted?

682
00:34:17,960 --> 00:34:19,310
We were already restricted.

683
00:34:19,310 --> 00:34:24,560
I couldn't go to the university,
if I had to work now as a--

684
00:34:24,560 --> 00:34:28,920

685
00:34:28,920 --> 00:34:32,170
near, in what the--

686
00:34:32,170 --> 00:34:34,420
a sewing machine.

687
00:34:34,420 --> 00:34:38,620
That was not what I
was made, made for.

688

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00:34:38,620 --> 00:34:41,170
Any restrictions on
hours being outside?

689
00:34:41,170 --> 00:34:42,190
No, not at--

690
00:34:42,190 --> 00:34:42,909
Not yet.

691
00:34:42,909 --> 00:34:45,179
No, not then, yeah.

692
00:34:45,179 --> 00:34:51,940
You see, the war did
not start seriously

693
00:34:51,940 --> 00:34:54,159
while the Germans went ahead.

694
00:34:54,159 --> 00:34:55,310
The problems--

695
00:34:55,310 --> 00:34:57,060
Hungary was an ally
of the Germans.

696
00:34:57,060 --> 00:34:58,630
Yes.

697
00:34:58,630 --> 00:35:01,930
But then they were coming
back after starting that.

698
00:35:01,930 --> 00:35:06,790
That's when the war
came too with us.

699
00:35:06,790 --> 00:35:11,140
So now, so 1940 went on
after your father came back.

700

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00:35:11,140 --> 00:35:14,080
And you were working, 19--

701
00:35:14,080 --> 00:35:17,410
I think another Jewish
law came which made things

702
00:35:17,410 --> 00:35:20,200
a little bit more insecure.

703
00:35:20,200 --> 00:35:26,590
But again, all this was
not affecting me, the girl,

704
00:35:26,590 --> 00:35:29,890
in that comfy home.

705
00:35:29,890 --> 00:35:39,920
And having my husband
then, we are very optimist,

706
00:35:39,920 --> 00:35:41,200
very, very optimist.

707
00:35:41,200 --> 00:35:42,860
And you husband's name?

708
00:35:42,860 --> 00:35:44,616
Paul Berkowitz.

709
00:35:44,616 --> 00:35:46,400
Paul Berkowitz.

710
00:35:46,400 --> 00:35:49,330
OK, and now it's 1941.

711
00:35:49,330 --> 00:35:52,030
Things are going
on as they were.

712
00:35:52,030 --> 00:35:53,550
And 1942, you said

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you got married.

713
00:35:53,550 --> 00:35:54,050
Yes.

714
00:35:54,050 --> 00:35:55,150
And did your life change?

715
00:35:55,150 --> 00:35:56,870
You said you stayed
living at home.

716
00:35:56,870 --> 00:36:00,100
Well, we stayed living at
home because of the war.

717
00:36:00,100 --> 00:36:02,215
There were no more
buildings going on,

718
00:36:02,215 --> 00:36:05,110
so there was no
apartment available.

719
00:36:05,110 --> 00:36:09,040
And my in-laws gave us that
a lot on which the two boys--

720
00:36:09,040 --> 00:36:10,450
they had two sons--

721
00:36:10,450 --> 00:36:13,630
should build for
themselves modern homes

722
00:36:13,630 --> 00:36:16,120
as the war comes to
an end and again it's

723
00:36:16,120 --> 00:36:20,740
a possibility, which
we could comfortably

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724
00:36:20,740 --> 00:36:23,860
wait out in my parents' house.

725
00:36:23,860 --> 00:36:27,580
And we lived there
together with them.

726
00:36:27,580 --> 00:36:32,920
But six weeks after my wedding,
they took my father out now.

727
00:36:32,920 --> 00:36:36,760
And now they took all
the men, not only the--

728
00:36:36,760 --> 00:36:40,810
all the-- the professional
people and the--

729
00:36:40,810 --> 00:36:43,973

730
00:36:43,973 --> 00:36:44,640
Business people.

731
00:36:44,640 --> 00:36:47,520
The better business people.

732
00:36:47,520 --> 00:36:50,270
The ranked business, because
we are ranking everything.

733
00:36:50,270 --> 00:36:52,200
There's a layer there,
and another layer,

734
00:36:52,200 --> 00:36:54,660
and the third layer.

735
00:36:54,660 --> 00:37:02,022
So not the-- not the
help went to camp.

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736
00:37:02,022 --> 00:37:04,160
The helpers stayed.

737
00:37:04,160 --> 00:37:05,700
The bosses went to camp.

738
00:37:05,700 --> 00:37:09,610
But then now, they were
taking them out to Ukraine.

739
00:37:09,610 --> 00:37:14,310
And they did not come back
for another 16 months.

740
00:37:14,310 --> 00:37:19,920
After 16 months, we were able
to pull enough strings to bring

741
00:37:19,920 --> 00:37:21,250
the older ones together.

742
00:37:21,250 --> 00:37:24,710
My father was 58, close to 60.

743
00:37:24,710 --> 00:37:27,720
What do they want
to do to this man?

744
00:37:27,720 --> 00:37:28,680
And then--

745
00:37:28,680 --> 00:37:31,650
Did you have any
communication with your father

746
00:37:31,650 --> 00:37:33,830
while he was away
during those 16 months?

747
00:37:33,830 --> 00:37:35,430
Yes.

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748
00:37:35,430 --> 00:37:44,220
These-- these Hungarian
peasants who were now over them,

749
00:37:44,220 --> 00:37:47,900
who were given rank,
and they were--

750
00:37:47,900 --> 00:37:50,610

751
00:37:50,610 --> 00:37:52,964
how should I put it--

752
00:37:52,964 --> 00:37:59,780
put in charge over them, kept
coming back home for a visit

753
00:37:59,780 --> 00:38:02,300
to the officer's house,
the officer's [INAUDIBLE]..

754
00:38:02,300 --> 00:38:06,050
And each time we were able to
bribe them to bring letters,

755
00:38:06,050 --> 00:38:08,660
and to bring them
letters, and also

756
00:38:08,660 --> 00:38:11,080
some food, and some clothing.

757
00:38:11,080 --> 00:38:12,380
When the winter came--

758
00:38:12,380 --> 00:38:16,490
when they went away it was June.

759
00:38:16,490 --> 00:38:20,480
They called them in in May.

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760
00:38:20,480 --> 00:38:27,050
And I think by June 10th
they were not in the country.

761
00:38:27,050 --> 00:38:35,600
And some of them, the younger
professionals, in one group

762
00:38:35,600 --> 00:38:38,752
were sent straight to--

763
00:38:38,752 --> 00:38:44,750
oh, god-- now you better
stop that machine because--

764
00:38:44,750 --> 00:38:48,990

765
00:38:48,990 --> 00:38:53,960
So these youngest
professionals were straight

766
00:38:53,960 --> 00:38:59,430
sent on minefields,
instead of dogs or--

767
00:38:59,430 --> 00:39:07,530

768
00:39:07,530 --> 00:39:09,072
Do you remember
where your father--

769
00:39:09,072 --> 00:39:11,280
do you know where your father
was taken specifically?

770
00:39:11,280 --> 00:39:11,750
Yes.

771
00:39:11,750 --> 00:39:12,250

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The name.

772
00:39:12,250 --> 00:39:15,080
He was in Darnitsa
in the Ukraine.

773
00:39:15,080 --> 00:39:18,490

774
00:39:18,490 --> 00:39:24,380
And that was for 16 months.

775
00:39:24,380 --> 00:39:27,530
So what did you and your
mother do and your husband?

776
00:39:27,530 --> 00:39:30,340
We tried to run the business.

777
00:39:30,340 --> 00:39:32,080
And, of course,
these ladies never

778
00:39:32,080 --> 00:39:35,980
had any work in the business,
so whatever they did

779
00:39:35,980 --> 00:39:37,270
and whatever--

780
00:39:37,270 --> 00:39:39,670
the way they had seen life--

781
00:39:39,670 --> 00:39:45,420
because you could not--

782
00:39:45,420 --> 00:39:48,190
and our three old
men would never

783
00:39:48,190 --> 00:39:50,770
have thought of holding

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back merchandise,

784
00:39:50,770 --> 00:39:55,720
not to sell it, to
keep the money's value.

785
00:39:55,720 --> 00:40:00,930
And, of course, the ladies
were happy with selling out

786
00:40:00,930 --> 00:40:01,440
everything.

787
00:40:01,440 --> 00:40:05,520
And then when they couldn't
get merchandise for it,

788
00:40:05,520 --> 00:40:07,900
then my mother's
brother came down,

789
00:40:07,900 --> 00:40:11,760
who was the lawyer, anyway,
who lived in Budapest.

790
00:40:11,760 --> 00:40:13,590
And they made a deal
with him that he's

791
00:40:13,590 --> 00:40:17,370
buying a condominium apartment
in Budapest on that money.

792
00:40:17,370 --> 00:40:19,880
So the value--

793
00:40:19,880 --> 00:40:24,040
When the old men came home and
heard about that, they were--

794
00:40:24,040 --> 00:40:25,900
"How can you do such a thing?

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795
00:40:25,900 --> 00:40:27,135
You will ruin the business."

796
00:40:27,135 --> 00:40:28,635
They were running
their four stores.

797
00:40:28,635 --> 00:40:31,530

798
00:40:31,530 --> 00:40:35,860
My parents' business was such
that they were the first chain

799
00:40:35,860 --> 00:40:37,950
store in this line.

800
00:40:37,950 --> 00:40:42,820
They had stores in three
different cities in Hungary

801
00:40:42,820 --> 00:40:44,970
too.

802
00:40:44,970 --> 00:40:47,960
So they just couldn't
believe that--

803
00:40:47,960 --> 00:40:51,180
what these women are thinking.

804
00:40:51,180 --> 00:40:54,700
And, of course, they were not--

805
00:40:54,700 --> 00:40:56,460
how should I say--

806
00:40:56,460 --> 00:40:59,640
they were too honest,
too straight to know

807

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00:40:59,640 --> 00:41:01,640
how to live during wartime.

808
00:41:01,640 --> 00:41:05,660

809
00:41:05,660 --> 00:41:06,900
You had enough food?

810
00:41:06,900 --> 00:41:07,400
Yes.

811
00:41:07,400 --> 00:41:09,590
And your health was
good at this time?

812
00:41:09,590 --> 00:41:12,230
Yes, we were able
to do everything.

813
00:41:12,230 --> 00:41:14,200
And your husband
was still with you?

814
00:41:14,200 --> 00:41:16,460
Yes.

815
00:41:16,460 --> 00:41:17,285
Yes.

816
00:41:17,285 --> 00:41:19,290
And then the next change.

817
00:41:19,290 --> 00:41:21,428
1944.

818
00:41:21,428 --> 00:41:22,970
Well, OK, then your
father came back.

819
00:41:22,970 --> 00:41:24,150
Oh, yes.

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820
00:41:24,150 --> 00:41:25,125
Right, and he--

821
00:41:25,125 --> 00:41:27,640
They took over the--

822
00:41:27,640 --> 00:41:30,700
and they just lived
their lives the way

823
00:41:30,700 --> 00:41:32,900
they meant supposed
to do things.

824
00:41:32,900 --> 00:41:33,620
Yeah.

825
00:41:33,620 --> 00:41:35,787
And you stayed with your
husband, with your parents.

826
00:41:35,787 --> 00:41:36,330
Yes.

827
00:41:36,330 --> 00:41:38,150
And your husband worked
in his father's business.

828
00:41:38,150 --> 00:41:38,650
Yes.

829
00:41:38,650 --> 00:41:40,740
And I was there with him.

830
00:41:40,740 --> 00:41:41,660
Right.

831
00:41:41,660 --> 00:41:46,040
And were you also
now getting reports

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832
00:41:46,040 --> 00:41:48,860
from what was happening
in other parts of Europe--

833
00:41:48,860 --> 00:41:49,970
1942-43?

834
00:41:49,970 --> 00:41:52,580
Sure, sure.

835
00:41:52,580 --> 00:41:56,690
Except that what
you're talking about,

836
00:41:56,690 --> 00:41:59,450
getting news for what's
happening somewhere,

837
00:41:59,450 --> 00:42:01,000
yes, you hear about everything.

838
00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:04,250
But history is being
painted differently

839
00:42:04,250 --> 00:42:06,240
by different people.

840
00:42:06,240 --> 00:42:07,910
If you pick up
two history books,

841
00:42:07,910 --> 00:42:10,920
they will not say
the same thing.

842
00:42:10,920 --> 00:42:14,810
And so we did not get only what
the Germans allowed us to get

843
00:42:14,810 --> 00:42:17,010
and the Hungarians

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allowed to get.

844
00:42:17,010 --> 00:42:23,780
Except when I, as told you, when
you listened to Free Europe,

845
00:42:23,780 --> 00:42:27,920
you practically played
with your freedom.

846
00:42:27,920 --> 00:42:31,640
Because if they catch you on it,
then they mayor will jail you.

847
00:42:31,640 --> 00:42:35,990
But that was the only way to
try to get some information.

848
00:42:35,990 --> 00:42:39,050
And that information was
not true information either.

849
00:42:39,050 --> 00:42:41,680
That was propaganda.

850
00:42:41,680 --> 00:42:44,785
So we peddled through that.

851
00:42:44,785 --> 00:42:46,160
How was your
father's health when

852
00:42:46,160 --> 00:42:47,540
he came back from 16 months?

853
00:42:47,540 --> 00:42:50,360
Well, he was a sick
man since 1920.

854
00:42:50,360 --> 00:42:53,870
When he came back
from Russian POW camp,

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855
00:42:53,870 --> 00:42:56,190
he was not a
healthy man anymore.

856
00:42:56,190 --> 00:42:58,640
And he didn't become
healthier during that time,

857
00:42:58,640 --> 00:43:02,110
except it helped him that
he lost a lot of weight.

858
00:43:02,110 --> 00:43:04,160
He was an overweight man before.

859
00:43:04,160 --> 00:43:07,100
And definitely, in
that sense, that

860
00:43:07,100 --> 00:43:10,610
was a good way of losing weight.

861
00:43:10,610 --> 00:43:16,940
No, he was not a healthy man
and he did not act healthier,

862
00:43:16,940 --> 00:43:19,870
but he was able to work.

863
00:43:19,870 --> 00:43:22,620

864
00:43:22,620 --> 00:43:24,170
And now comes 1944.

865
00:43:24,170 --> 00:43:26,080
And comes 1944.

866
00:43:26,080 --> 00:43:29,920
And 1944 was quite a year.

867

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00:43:29,920 --> 00:43:35,870
But what I didn't tell you, that
very soon after I got married,

868
00:43:35,870 --> 00:43:38,810
I became pregnant.

869
00:43:38,810 --> 00:43:42,150
And my husband-- rest
in peace-- was so smart.

870
00:43:42,150 --> 00:43:45,680
He said, we have plenty of time.

871
00:43:45,680 --> 00:43:48,050
We are so young.

872
00:43:48,050 --> 00:43:51,100
I don't want you to have
a child and leave it here,

873
00:43:51,100 --> 00:43:54,200
and I being taken out.

874
00:43:54,200 --> 00:44:00,800
I don't want to leave
a war widow and a--

875
00:44:00,800 --> 00:44:04,210
this child goes.

876
00:44:04,210 --> 00:44:08,990
So my father's peasant--

877
00:44:08,990 --> 00:44:12,782

878
00:44:12,782 --> 00:44:18,570
a soldier who was coming
back from the front,

879
00:44:18,570 --> 00:44:21,430

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was asked by my
father to see us all,

880
00:44:21,430 --> 00:44:25,680
that he wants him to bring
a picture of all of us--

881
00:44:25,680 --> 00:44:28,740
not picture-picture, but
that he spoke to us, each

882
00:44:28,740 --> 00:44:31,170
and every one of us.

883
00:44:31,170 --> 00:44:33,600
So because I was
in bed, they had

884
00:44:33,600 --> 00:44:34,875
to bring him up to my house.

885
00:44:34,875 --> 00:44:39,330

886
00:44:39,330 --> 00:44:42,000
My father kept
asking him questions

887
00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:44,040
from that man that's
what the men didn't

888
00:44:44,040 --> 00:44:45,540
know why I'm in that bed.

889
00:44:45,540 --> 00:44:46,920
He figured it out.

890
00:44:46,920 --> 00:44:51,690
And wrote us back awful
letter, what did I dare to do.

891

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00:44:51,690 --> 00:44:53,580
Anyway, I just
wanted to tell you

892
00:44:53,580 --> 00:44:56,410
that we went through that too.

893
00:44:56,410 --> 00:45:01,820
My husband has this sixth sense
that this is not the time.

894
00:45:01,820 --> 00:45:11,920
Then while my father
was still out there,

895
00:45:11,920 --> 00:45:17,500
the Italians had
stepped out of the war.

896
00:45:17,500 --> 00:45:22,450
And that brought to us hope
that now they're falling apart.

897
00:45:22,450 --> 00:45:27,460
And now we don't have to
hold out too much longer.

898
00:45:27,460 --> 00:45:32,830
Still nobody saw and
nobody could imagine

899
00:45:32,830 --> 00:45:34,990
that the Germans coming.

900
00:45:34,990 --> 00:45:41,130
And even if they're coming that
they can do anything to us.

901
00:45:41,130 --> 00:45:44,850
So when they came
in on March 19th,

902
00:45:44,850 --> 00:45:48,250

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and they arrived, and
they were very organized.

903
00:45:48,250 --> 00:45:51,550
They organized
the Jewish leaders

904
00:45:51,550 --> 00:45:55,630
of the city to give them names.

905
00:45:55,630 --> 00:45:57,790
They organized
the Jewish leaders

906
00:45:57,790 --> 00:46:00,370
to tell them that there's
nothing to worry about.

907
00:46:00,370 --> 00:46:03,340
And they are having
guarantees that we just

908
00:46:03,340 --> 00:46:07,540
give the Germans every have
and nobody will bother us.

909
00:46:07,540 --> 00:46:10,050

910
00:46:10,050 --> 00:46:12,160
And then they needed apartments.

911
00:46:12,160 --> 00:46:14,900
And we were put into the ghetto.

912
00:46:14,900 --> 00:46:21,780
And in the ghetto, a
officer of the army,

913
00:46:21,780 --> 00:46:28,180
who was in charge of these work
camps, came into the ghetto

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914
00:46:28,180 --> 00:46:30,700
and pulled all these
men out, hoping

915
00:46:30,700 --> 00:46:35,650
that if he puts them into
a camp that will save them.

916
00:46:35,650 --> 00:46:38,530
And he knew that the rest will
be taken out from the country.

917
00:46:38,530 --> 00:46:40,483
And he hoped that with
this, he saves them,

918
00:46:40,483 --> 00:46:41,900
that they can stay
in the country.

919
00:46:41,900 --> 00:46:45,340
And he did.

920
00:46:45,340 --> 00:46:48,760
He did quite long.

921
00:46:48,760 --> 00:46:54,010
From May to December,
when Szalasi took over,

922
00:46:54,010 --> 00:46:58,350
and then in Budapest,
they found the last ones,

923
00:46:58,350 --> 00:47:06,820
and pulled them out together,
he have them to safe places.

924
00:47:06,820 --> 00:47:09,940
When was the ghetto
formed in your city?

925

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00:47:09,940 --> 00:47:12,250
In May.

926
00:47:12,250 --> 00:47:13,090
In May.

927
00:47:13,090 --> 00:47:16,450
And what was your
first impressions

928
00:47:16,450 --> 00:47:18,905
when you saw the Germans?

929
00:47:18,905 --> 00:47:19,780
Do you remember that?

930
00:47:19,780 --> 00:47:21,870
Tragedy, tragedy,
tragedy, tragedy.

931
00:47:21,870 --> 00:47:25,690
We were very, very
scared, and very--

932
00:47:25,690 --> 00:47:29,840
but again, the scariness of
it was that they are there.

933
00:47:29,840 --> 00:47:35,590
The scariness of it was that
they can do harm to people,

934
00:47:35,590 --> 00:47:37,900
that they can there--

935
00:47:37,900 --> 00:47:39,370
right there.

936
00:47:39,370 --> 00:47:42,610
But they can take out
somebody from a country,

937

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00:47:42,610 --> 00:47:45,220
that still did not--

938
00:47:45,220 --> 00:47:48,960
just did not come
to possibilities.

939
00:47:48,960 --> 00:47:51,730

940
00:47:51,730 --> 00:47:54,700
Not till very latest.

941
00:47:54,700 --> 00:48:00,200
From the city ghetto, from
where my mother, and my father,

942
00:48:00,200 --> 00:48:03,280
and my husband was
taken out now--

943
00:48:03,280 --> 00:48:08,050
mostly women stayed behind,
were taken out now too,

944
00:48:08,050 --> 00:48:14,780
outside of the city ghetto,
which was a brick factory.

945
00:48:14,780 --> 00:48:21,460
And in that brick factory,
they not only made us wait,

946
00:48:21,460 --> 00:48:25,540
but they pulled all together
from the whole area,

947
00:48:25,540 --> 00:48:30,220
so some 60,000 Jews were taken
out from Miskolc from the brick

948
00:48:30,220 --> 00:48:32,440
factory to Auschwitz.

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949
00:48:32,440 --> 00:48:34,990

950
00:48:34,990 --> 00:48:39,010
So how long were you
in the first ghetto--

951
00:48:39,010 --> 00:48:40,990
the ghetto in the beginning?

952
00:48:40,990 --> 00:48:41,990
Almost two months.

953
00:48:41,990 --> 00:48:42,490
Two months.

954
00:48:42,490 --> 00:48:45,560
No, no, no, no, that was less.

955
00:48:45,560 --> 00:48:47,290
Probably just about five weeks.

956
00:48:47,290 --> 00:48:53,200
But during that
time, the gendarme

957
00:48:53,200 --> 00:48:59,950
was beating out of the Jews
the secrets, where they

958
00:48:59,950 --> 00:49:03,160
had put their money and their--

959
00:49:03,160 --> 00:49:04,107
Valuables.

960
00:49:04,107 --> 00:49:06,910

961
00:49:06,910 --> 00:49:10,720

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And that was-- every day
I feared that they did not

962
00:49:10,720 --> 00:49:14,140
come out alive from there.

963
00:49:14,140 --> 00:49:18,080
And some who know that
they could not handle that

964
00:49:18,080 --> 00:49:21,050
killed themselves
before going in there.

965
00:49:21,050 --> 00:49:23,100
Was your family
questioned at all?

966
00:49:23,100 --> 00:49:23,600
No.

967
00:49:23,600 --> 00:49:26,390
And that was a strange
thing, because somebody

968
00:49:26,390 --> 00:49:31,090
from that office, which
was right across us,

969
00:49:31,090 --> 00:49:36,080
and we kept hearing the
screaming from there,

970
00:49:36,080 --> 00:49:36,980
came over.

971
00:49:36,980 --> 00:49:42,290
And my father became so scared
that he got the diarrhea

972
00:49:42,290 --> 00:49:45,950
and was sitting
out in an outhouse.

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973
00:49:45,950 --> 00:49:48,350
And they went by and
pulled the people

974
00:49:48,350 --> 00:49:50,035
from the next two buildings.

975
00:49:50,035 --> 00:49:53,600

976
00:49:53,600 --> 00:49:55,660
Nice memories.

977
00:49:55,660 --> 00:49:57,410
What was the condition
like in the ghetto?

978
00:49:57,410 --> 00:50:00,380
Was it near-- was the ghetto
near where you had lived?

979
00:50:00,380 --> 00:50:04,620
The first ghetto in
the city was that very

980
00:50:04,620 --> 00:50:06,320
religious Jewish area.

981
00:50:06,320 --> 00:50:10,760
So my father had a friend
who had a house nearby there.

982
00:50:10,760 --> 00:50:14,900
And some eight families went
to live with that family.

983
00:50:14,900 --> 00:50:16,040
What did you take with you.

984
00:50:16,040 --> 00:50:19,710
You were a young woman.

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985
00:50:19,710 --> 00:50:21,830
I don't know, a lot of things.

986
00:50:21,830 --> 00:50:24,410

987
00:50:24,410 --> 00:50:29,040
From quilts to coats,
to summer wear,

988
00:50:29,040 --> 00:50:31,730
to-- it was spring, so
you needed sweaters,

989
00:50:31,730 --> 00:50:34,550
summer wear come.

990
00:50:34,550 --> 00:50:36,530
You name it, we were taking it.

991
00:50:36,530 --> 00:50:41,480
Then somebody came in there and
said that you cannot use that

992
00:50:41,480 --> 00:50:42,770
here There's no room here.

993
00:50:42,770 --> 00:50:44,780
Give it to me.

994
00:50:44,780 --> 00:50:47,920
Trust me, I keep it for you,
which, of course, they didn't.

995
00:50:47,920 --> 00:50:49,490
But they took it from our hand.

996
00:50:49,490 --> 00:50:52,685
Not to have our-- hand it over--

997

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00:50:52,685 --> 00:50:54,090
strength used.

998
00:50:54,090 --> 00:50:58,530

999
00:50:58,530 --> 00:51:01,600
These people who had
to live there together,

1000
00:51:01,600 --> 00:51:03,435
that means that
two, three family

1001
00:51:03,435 --> 00:51:06,470
in one room of the
apartment, one corner.

1002
00:51:06,470 --> 00:51:09,840
This family live on these
mattresses, that family lived--

1003
00:51:09,840 --> 00:51:11,250
it was not fun.

1004
00:51:11,250 --> 00:51:13,350
There were four of you,
your parents, and you

1005
00:51:13,350 --> 00:51:14,340
and your husband.

1006
00:51:14,340 --> 00:51:15,810
Yes, at the beginning.

1007
00:51:15,810 --> 00:51:17,730
But that was for a short time.

1008
00:51:17,730 --> 00:51:20,630
Because I said, the two
men had been taken out.

1009

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00:51:20,630 --> 00:51:25,200
But the other families
men went too then.

1010
00:51:25,200 --> 00:51:27,660
And probably another
week or so we

1011
00:51:27,660 --> 00:51:29,850
lived there with less people.

1012
00:51:29,850 --> 00:51:33,870
But again, we're
jittery, nerves,

1013
00:51:33,870 --> 00:51:37,970
because the one bathroom really
couldn't take care of all of us

1014
00:51:37,970 --> 00:51:40,290
very comfortably.

1015
00:51:40,290 --> 00:51:42,660
Did you go out on the street?

1016
00:51:42,660 --> 00:51:45,030
Yes, inside there,
in the ghetto.

1017
00:51:45,030 --> 00:51:47,510
But outside of the ghetto,
you didn't go there anymore,

1018
00:51:47,510 --> 00:51:49,890
except if you taken, you like.

1019
00:51:49,890 --> 00:51:53,850
I went with my husband
from this first ghetto

1020
00:51:53,850 --> 00:51:56,910
to agricultural work.

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1021
00:51:56,910 --> 00:52:03,150
The city had a
gardening establishment.

1022
00:52:03,150 --> 00:52:06,820
And we were given them
to go out there and--

1023
00:52:06,820 --> 00:52:09,640

1024
00:52:09,640 --> 00:52:10,530
What kind of work?

1025
00:52:10,530 --> 00:52:11,850
You did gardening work?

1026
00:52:11,850 --> 00:52:12,600
Yeah.

1027
00:52:12,600 --> 00:52:17,160
Sometimes we were
turning the dirt.

1028
00:52:17,160 --> 00:52:23,100
Sometimes we were to pick
flowers in the flower area.

1029
00:52:23,100 --> 00:52:26,310
And during that time when I
was in one of the parks, where

1030
00:52:26,310 --> 00:52:29,490
we were supposed to work,
but we never got to it,

1031
00:52:29,490 --> 00:52:36,570
the American came with a
bombing from one end of the city

1032
00:52:36,570 --> 00:52:37,750
to the other.

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1033
00:52:37,750 --> 00:52:40,140
And we were the one
which they bombed.

1034
00:52:40,140 --> 00:52:47,020
They missed the train station.

1035
00:52:47,020 --> 00:52:48,330
And they missed the--

1036
00:52:48,330 --> 00:52:55,060

1037
00:52:55,060 --> 00:52:56,480
what establishment was that?

1038
00:52:56,480 --> 00:53:01,800
It was something what was for
the army, something building.

1039
00:53:01,800 --> 00:53:02,930
So they missed that too.

1040
00:53:02,930 --> 00:53:03,430
But they--

1041
00:53:03,430 --> 00:53:04,513
Headquarters or something.

1042
00:53:04,513 --> 00:53:06,500
--but they hadn't gotten us.

1043
00:53:06,500 --> 00:53:09,950
And one of the young
girls from our group

1044
00:53:09,950 --> 00:53:12,640
was put different little pieces.

1045
00:53:12,640 --> 00:53:16,080

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1046
00:53:16,080 --> 00:53:22,290
But again there I already went
when my husband wasn't there.

1047
00:53:22,290 --> 00:53:24,250
There I was already alone.

1048
00:53:24,250 --> 00:53:26,740
When we turning the dirt,
he was still with us.

1049
00:53:26,740 --> 00:53:31,690
That was near to the
station, the train station.

1050
00:53:31,690 --> 00:53:33,110
So then the men
left your ghetto.

1051
00:53:33,110 --> 00:53:35,700
An you and your
mother were there.

1052
00:53:35,700 --> 00:53:38,840
And then the two
of you were taken.

1053
00:53:38,840 --> 00:53:40,740
And then we went to
that brick factory.

1054
00:53:40,740 --> 00:53:42,450
The brick factory.

1055
00:53:42,450 --> 00:53:47,340
They took us on the morning
on June 6th, when the--

1056
00:53:47,340 --> 00:53:56,750

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1057
00:53:56,750 --> 00:53:58,040
when Normandy.

1058
00:53:58,040 --> 00:54:00,660
Oh, the D-Day, yes,
the Normandy invasion.

1059
00:54:00,660 --> 00:54:03,750
And so the people yelled
in that you don't have

1060
00:54:03,750 --> 00:54:06,227
to hold out too much longer.

1061
00:54:06,227 --> 00:54:07,310
The Americans are staying.

1062
00:54:07,310 --> 00:54:10,340

1063
00:54:10,340 --> 00:54:13,440
But we didn't have the time.

1064
00:54:13,440 --> 00:54:16,580
Now many people were able
to escape from there.

1065
00:54:16,580 --> 00:54:19,190
And earlier, from
that city ghetto--

1066
00:54:19,190 --> 00:54:20,140
From the--

1067
00:54:20,140 --> 00:54:22,250
Even from brick factory.

1068
00:54:22,250 --> 00:54:27,320
And when I first mentioned
it to my father--

1069

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00:54:27,320 --> 00:54:29,180
actually we were
in our apartment

1070
00:54:29,180 --> 00:54:32,120
yet, because the first
question came up.

1071
00:54:32,120 --> 00:54:38,150
People were turning
Catholic in big numbers.

1072
00:54:38,150 --> 00:54:39,500
Jews were turning Catholic.

1073
00:54:39,500 --> 00:54:42,470
Because they hoped that
if they are changing them,

1074
00:54:42,470 --> 00:54:51,580
they will be saved from
worst to a lesser bad.

1075
00:54:51,580 --> 00:54:54,280
And then my father and
my mother turned to us

1076
00:54:54,280 --> 00:54:56,087
and said that we don't
mind if you do it,

1077
00:54:56,087 --> 00:54:57,170
if you feel like doing it.

1078
00:54:57,170 --> 00:55:01,210
And my husband and I said
no, we don't do this.

1079
00:55:01,210 --> 00:55:06,610
But my father's partner,
himself, and his daughter,

1080
00:55:06,610 --> 00:55:12,085

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and son-in-law all changed,
with no help, of course.

1081
00:55:12,085 --> 00:55:12,710
None came back.

1082
00:55:12,710 --> 00:55:15,960

1083
00:55:15,960 --> 00:55:17,370
But that was the first step.

1084
00:55:17,370 --> 00:55:20,850
Then we were asking my
father if we should not

1085
00:55:20,850 --> 00:55:22,470
try to go up to Budapest.

1086
00:55:22,470 --> 00:55:24,090
And he said, how can I?

1087
00:55:24,090 --> 00:55:27,570
Who is here on the train
who doesn't know me?

1088
00:55:27,570 --> 00:55:31,575
Who is there who doesn't
know your mother?

1089
00:55:31,575 --> 00:55:34,250
What an idea.

1090
00:55:34,250 --> 00:55:37,550
This idea came back
just before they took us

1091
00:55:37,550 --> 00:55:42,440
to the brick factory, we
got a note from my uncle

1092
00:55:42,440 --> 00:55:44,840

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from Budapest that
he can send somebody

1093
00:55:44,840 --> 00:55:47,810
for us, who could
take us to them,

1094
00:55:47,810 --> 00:55:50,300
and we shall consider going.

1095
00:55:50,300 --> 00:55:52,840
And my mother says, I'm
not going to go nowhere.

1096
00:55:52,840 --> 00:55:56,890
If your father cannot
come, then how can I go?

1097
00:55:56,890 --> 00:55:58,550
No, we don't go.

1098
00:55:58,550 --> 00:56:01,490
So we stayed.

1099
00:56:01,490 --> 00:56:04,070
That's how we wound
up in Auschwitz.

1100
00:56:04,070 --> 00:56:06,830
How far was the brick
factory from the ghetto?

1101
00:56:06,830 --> 00:56:12,260
Oh, about 8-10 miles.

1102
00:56:12,260 --> 00:56:13,470
And how did you get there?

1103
00:56:13,470 --> 00:56:13,970
Walked.

1104
00:56:13,970 --> 00:56:14,530

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You walked.

1105
00:56:14,530 --> 00:56:16,580
Walked through the city.

1106
00:56:16,580 --> 00:56:18,370
Walked through the city.

1107
00:56:18,370 --> 00:56:21,630
And did the Hungarians look
at you, or the citizens--

1108
00:56:21,630 --> 00:56:24,830
Some very happily,
some less happily.

1109
00:56:24,830 --> 00:56:28,480
As I said, some yelled in
that it won't take too long

1110
00:56:28,480 --> 00:56:32,000
and don't worry, but
others were quite happy.

1111
00:56:32,000 --> 00:56:34,660
Hungarians hate Jews, you know.

1112
00:56:34,660 --> 00:56:38,840
They are just about as big
as the Poles, who haven't

1113
00:56:38,840 --> 00:56:40,730
seen a Jew, but they hate them.

1114
00:56:40,730 --> 00:56:43,790

1115
00:56:43,790 --> 00:56:46,160
And what did you take with
you to the brick factory now?

1116
00:56:46,160 --> 00:56:47,285

What did you have with you?

1117
00:56:47,285 --> 00:56:49,460
Only just were able to carry.

1118
00:56:49,460 --> 00:56:53,120
So there is already some
pasta, some dry pasta,

1119
00:56:53,120 --> 00:56:56,780
because what are
we going to eat?

1120
00:56:56,780 --> 00:56:59,808
Potato, we find somewhere, and
we put a little pasta in there,

1121
00:56:59,808 --> 00:57:01,850
and then we'll make soup,
and we will live on it.

1122
00:57:01,850 --> 00:57:06,100

1123
00:57:06,100 --> 00:57:08,840
But very little else.

1124
00:57:08,840 --> 00:57:10,430
Did you have any
valuables with you?

1125
00:57:10,430 --> 00:57:13,570
The variables were taken
off us before we went over,

1126
00:57:13,570 --> 00:57:15,250
in that city ghetto.

1127
00:57:15,250 --> 00:57:19,350
They took the last ones off us.

1128
00:57:19,350 --> 00:57:21,860

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Did you take anything
very personal

1129
00:57:21,860 --> 00:57:24,500
with you, sentimental value?

1130
00:57:24,500 --> 00:57:25,570
I don't know.

1131
00:57:25,570 --> 00:57:28,000
I really don't know.

1132
00:57:28,000 --> 00:57:30,840
Photographs or
anything let that?

1133
00:57:30,840 --> 00:57:32,250
I don't know.

1134
00:57:32,250 --> 00:57:33,350
I don't think so.

1135
00:57:33,350 --> 00:57:36,240
So how did your mother
manage walking to the ghetto.

1136
00:57:36,240 --> 00:57:37,690
Well, she was a young woman.

1137
00:57:37,690 --> 00:57:40,820
She was healthier and better
looking than I was ever.

1138
00:57:40,820 --> 00:57:44,300

1139
00:57:44,300 --> 00:57:49,590
But when we arrived to Auschwitz
where we unpacked, she said,

1140
00:57:49,590 --> 00:57:50,910
"We don't survive this one."

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1141
00:57:50,910 --> 00:57:54,104
I said, "Oh, yes, mom, we will."

1142
00:57:54,104 --> 00:57:55,982
She saw that there.

1143
00:57:55,982 --> 00:57:57,440
So now you're in
the brick factory.

1144
00:57:57,440 --> 00:57:59,330
What were the
conditions like there.

1145
00:57:59,330 --> 00:58:00,250
It was plain awful.

1146
00:58:00,250 --> 00:58:01,130
It was just in--

1147
00:58:01,130 --> 00:58:04,240
you were sitting in the dust.

1148
00:58:04,240 --> 00:58:08,530
The brick stands there to dry.

1149
00:58:08,530 --> 00:58:10,300
That makes you have wasps.

1150
00:58:10,300 --> 00:58:13,750
And above it, it's empty,
and the air flies through.

1151
00:58:13,750 --> 00:58:16,150
And the flies fly
through, and God

1152
00:58:16,150 --> 00:58:20,040
knows what smells fly through.

1153

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00:58:20,040 --> 00:58:24,040
Here you are already
in big, big groups.

1154
00:58:24,040 --> 00:58:28,720
And my second husband's first
wife and child was there.

1155
00:58:28,720 --> 00:58:32,580
The baby was then-- it was
16 months old and heavy.

1156
00:58:32,580 --> 00:58:37,800
So he survived sometimes
with carrying him.

1157
00:58:37,800 --> 00:58:43,230
The mother picked him
up, and the other sister

1158
00:58:43,230 --> 00:58:44,510
will help them.

1159
00:58:44,510 --> 00:58:45,670
We went over to help.

1160
00:58:45,670 --> 00:58:49,438

1161
00:58:49,438 --> 00:58:51,700
And that was no life anymore.

1162
00:58:51,700 --> 00:58:56,200
But I still had
cigarettes in there.

1163
00:58:56,200 --> 00:58:59,560
Were people-- what was the
feeling of the people there,

1164
00:58:59,560 --> 00:59:01,420
the Jews in the brick factory?

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1165
00:59:01,420 --> 00:59:02,710
Scared.

1166
00:59:02,710 --> 00:59:04,570
And the ones who had more--

1167
00:59:04,570 --> 00:59:08,535

1168
00:59:08,535 --> 00:59:14,240
more smart-- smarter,
and they gave somebody

1169
00:59:14,240 --> 00:59:17,060
something what they
still had with value

1170
00:59:17,060 --> 00:59:19,080
and left, and left us there.

1171
00:59:19,080 --> 00:59:21,650

1172
00:59:21,650 --> 00:59:26,335
It was awful, stupid.

1173
00:59:26,335 --> 00:59:29,620

1174
00:59:29,620 --> 00:59:32,720
How should I put it to you?

1175
00:59:32,720 --> 00:59:36,640
It is possible thing not to try
to escape because what worse

1176
00:59:36,640 --> 00:59:37,750
can happen to you?

1177
00:59:37,750 --> 00:59:40,270
They grab you and put

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you on that train.

1178
00:59:40,270 --> 00:59:41,280
Did you know that?

1179
00:59:41,280 --> 00:59:43,150
No.

1180
00:59:43,150 --> 00:59:44,170
No.

1181
00:59:44,170 --> 00:59:46,340
Did you consider
trying to escape?

1182
00:59:46,340 --> 00:59:47,400
I asked my mother.

1183
00:59:47,400 --> 00:59:52,336
I found a gendarme
who would have helped.

1184
00:59:52,336 --> 00:59:56,050
And she said, "Oh, no, no,
what will your father say?

1185
00:59:56,050 --> 00:59:57,640
Your father said
that we cannot go.

1186
00:59:57,640 --> 00:59:58,970
And so we stay.

1187
00:59:58,970 --> 01:00:00,192
We stay together."

1188
01:00:00,192 --> 01:00:03,693

1189
01:00:03,693 --> 01:00:05,110
So you were there
with your mother

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1190
01:00:05,110 --> 01:00:08,310
for how long in
the brick factory?

1191
01:00:08,310 --> 01:00:10,060
Six to eight days only.

1192
01:00:10,060 --> 01:00:11,190
Six to eight days.

1193
01:00:11,190 --> 01:00:11,690
Yeah.

1194
01:00:11,690 --> 01:00:14,920
On June 6th we went and on
June 12th, they packed us.

1195
01:00:14,920 --> 01:00:15,880
So exactly six days.

1196
01:00:15,880 --> 01:00:18,840
What was June 12th like?

1197
01:00:18,840 --> 01:00:21,985
How did you know that
you would be moving?

1198
01:00:21,985 --> 01:00:25,540
They were coming, the
gendarmes were pushing us

1199
01:00:25,540 --> 01:00:27,220
into one direction.

1200
01:00:27,220 --> 01:00:29,020
And we were at the train.

1201
01:00:29,020 --> 01:00:31,330
To a train station.

1202

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01:00:31,330 --> 01:00:32,790
It was not a train station.

1203
01:00:32,790 --> 01:00:35,415
It was the train which could
come in into the brick factory.

1204
01:00:35,415 --> 01:00:38,620
Into the brick factory, I see.

1205
01:00:38,620 --> 01:00:40,840
It was nothing serious.

1206
01:00:40,840 --> 01:00:43,690
You had them together in it,
and then they pushed it out

1207
01:00:43,690 --> 01:00:45,430
till they make you in a station.

1208
01:00:45,430 --> 01:00:48,465
And what kind of a train was it?

1209
01:00:48,465 --> 01:00:49,840
There was only
one kind of train.

1210
01:00:49,840 --> 01:00:51,410
It was the cattle car train?

1211
01:00:51,410 --> 01:00:52,630
Yes.

1212
01:00:52,630 --> 01:00:53,390
120 in there.

1213
01:00:53,390 --> 01:00:57,374

1214
01:00:57,374 --> 01:00:59,370
Yes.

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1215
01:00:59,370 --> 01:01:03,990
And by the time we got
to the railroad station,

1216
01:01:03,990 --> 01:01:07,420
we were already thirsty
and were begging for water.

1217
01:01:07,420 --> 01:01:12,470

1218
01:01:12,470 --> 01:01:19,670
And the friends of our
sister and her family

1219
01:01:19,670 --> 01:01:24,500
were in that same
wagon who was--

1220
01:01:24,500 --> 01:01:33,230

1221
01:01:33,230 --> 01:01:34,940
who had diabetes.

1222
01:01:34,940 --> 01:01:40,190
And we had seen her
without food there,

1223
01:01:40,190 --> 01:01:43,850
going through all
the worst way you

1224
01:01:43,850 --> 01:01:45,810
can see somebody slowly die.

1225
01:01:45,810 --> 01:01:51,460

1226
01:01:51,460 --> 01:01:53,660
Did you know many other people--

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1227
01:01:53,660 --> 01:01:54,190
Yes.

1228
01:01:54,190 --> 01:01:55,906
--in the group?

1229
01:01:55,906 --> 01:01:57,400
Yes.

1230
01:01:57,400 --> 01:02:01,840
Was this mostly-- this
was women, mostly women?

1231
01:02:01,840 --> 01:02:05,140
Mostly women, because men,
a lot of men were taken.

1232
01:02:05,140 --> 01:02:11,740
But really, it was not a
special train for women only

1233
01:02:11,740 --> 01:02:14,500
and men only, separated.

1234
01:02:14,500 --> 01:02:15,000

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