

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,470

2  
00:00:09,470 --> 00:00:13,760  
The following is an interview  
of Marie Schwartzman.

3  
00:00:13,760 --> 00:00:17,340  
The interview is being conducted  
by Gail Schwartz on August

4  
00:00:17,340 --> 00:00:22,130  
12th, 1994, on behalf of  
the United States Holocaust

5  
00:00:22,130 --> 00:00:22,970  
Memorial Museum.

6  
00:00:22,970 --> 00:00:30,370

7  
00:00:30,370 --> 00:00:32,509  
Please tell us your full name.

8  
00:00:32,509 --> 00:00:35,680  
Marie Zosnika Schwartzman.

9  
00:00:35,680 --> 00:00:37,090  
And where were you born?

10  
00:00:37,090 --> 00:00:46,840  
In Paris on August 21st, 1925.

11  
00:00:46,840 --> 00:00:49,000  
Let's talk about your family.

12  
00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:50,658  
What was your father's name?

13  
00:00:50,658 --> 00:00:52,950

Abraham.

14  
00:00:52,950 --> 00:00:54,910  
And what did he do?

15  
00:00:54,910 --> 00:00:59,140  
He was of clothes designer.

16  
00:00:59,140 --> 00:01:02,560  
And where did he come from?

17  
00:01:02,560 --> 00:01:04,689  
What city in Poland?

18  
00:01:04,689 --> 00:01:08,270  
Cieszyn Don't ask  
me to spell it.

19  
00:01:08,270 --> 00:01:08,945  
OK.

20  
00:01:08,945 --> 00:01:11,601  
Well, I think it's in the thing.

21  
00:01:11,601 --> 00:01:14,800

22  
00:01:14,800 --> 00:01:16,720  
And what was your mother's name?

23  
00:01:16,720 --> 00:01:18,890  
Torba

24  
00:01:18,890 --> 00:01:19,930  
And her maiden name?

25  
00:01:19,930 --> 00:01:20,638  
Do you know that?

26  
00:01:20,638 --> 00:01:21,950  
[PERSONAL NAME]

27  
00:01:21,950 --> 00:01:23,560  
And where was she  
from originally?

28  
00:01:23,560 --> 00:01:27,520  
The same town-- Cieszan<sup>3</sup>w

29  
00:01:27,520 --> 00:01:32,515  
And was your family a  
very religious family?

30  
00:01:32,515 --> 00:01:35,860

31  
00:01:35,860 --> 00:01:38,540  
Well, I don't think so.

32  
00:01:38,540 --> 00:01:40,330  
Not my father anyway.

33  
00:01:40,330 --> 00:01:42,530  
He was not religious.

34  
00:01:42,530 --> 00:01:47,060  
I think my mother was a  
little bit more religious,

35  
00:01:47,060 --> 00:01:52,190  
but we were not  
raised religiously.

36  
00:01:52,190 --> 00:01:58,640  
Just we kept to  
tradition and that's it.

37  
00:01:58,640 --> 00:02:00,800  
Now you said you  
were born in Paris.

38  
00:02:00,800 --> 00:02:04,550  
When did your family

come to Paris?

39  
00:02:04,550 --> 00:02:07,730  
In 1922.

40  
00:02:07,730 --> 00:02:09,530  
What brought them there?

41  
00:02:09,530 --> 00:02:16,530  
My father came much  
earlier, and my mother

42  
00:02:16,530 --> 00:02:21,980  
joined with my older  
sister to Paris.

43  
00:02:21,980 --> 00:02:25,130  
What brought your  
father to Paris?

44  
00:02:25,130 --> 00:02:31,660  
I think the army to a  
certain extent, and a job--

45  
00:02:31,660 --> 00:02:34,140  
a good job.

46  
00:02:34,140 --> 00:02:36,370  
How large was your family?

47  
00:02:36,370 --> 00:02:39,310  
Well, I had four  
sisters, two brothers,

48  
00:02:39,310 --> 00:02:41,630  
and my mother and father.

49  
00:02:41,630 --> 00:02:43,870  
I had a lot of  
family in Poland--

50  
00:02:43,870 --> 00:02:49,295

my grandparents, my aunts,  
my uncles, my cousins.

51  
00:02:49,295 --> 00:02:50,420  
But you were born in Paris.

52  
00:02:50,420 --> 00:02:52,100  
Did you go back to  
Poland to visit?

53  
00:02:52,100 --> 00:02:55,730  
Yes, my grandfather--  
we went to visit.

54  
00:02:55,730 --> 00:03:00,140  
And you stayed with large  
extended family there?

55  
00:03:00,140 --> 00:03:04,910  
Yes, my grandfather didn't  
let my mother go back.

56  
00:03:04,910 --> 00:03:05,870  
He wanted her to stay?

57  
00:03:05,870 --> 00:03:06,764  
Yes.

58  
00:03:06,764 --> 00:03:07,660  
Yeah.

59  
00:03:07,660 --> 00:03:11,957  
And so where were you in  
the order of children?

60  
00:03:11,957 --> 00:03:12,790  
Were you the second?

61  
00:03:12,790 --> 00:03:13,290  
Second.

62  
00:03:13,290 --> 00:03:15,290

You were the second child.

63

00:03:15,290 --> 00:03:20,240

And what kind of neighborhood  
did you live in, in Paris?

64

00:03:20,240 --> 00:03:22,130

We lived in a mixed  
neighborhood--

65

00:03:22,130 --> 00:03:23,200

Non-Jews and--

66

00:03:23,200 --> 00:03:24,845

Non-Jews and Jews.

67

00:03:24,845 --> 00:03:26,120

Mhm?

68

00:03:26,120 --> 00:03:28,030

And did you have  
non-Jewish friends?

69

00:03:28,030 --> 00:03:29,780

Yes.

70

00:03:29,780 --> 00:03:34,615

Actually, when I came back from  
camp, I lived with my friend

71

00:03:34,615 --> 00:03:40,090

who I went to school when we  
were six and a half years old.

72

00:03:40,090 --> 00:03:42,440

And she was Catholic.

73

00:03:42,440 --> 00:03:46,233

My Jewish family didn't  
have room for me.

74

00:03:46,233 --> 00:03:48,200

Mhm?

75

00:03:48,200 --> 00:03:50,890

Let's talk a little bit  
about your schooling.

76

00:03:50,890 --> 00:03:52,300

When did you begin school?

77

00:03:52,300 --> 00:03:54,520

How old were you?

78

00:03:54,520 --> 00:03:56,920

We begin school early in France.

79

00:03:56,920 --> 00:04:02,125

We go to the  
maternelle, which was--

80

00:04:02,125 --> 00:04:04,420

I was about three years old.

81

00:04:04,420 --> 00:04:06,000

And--

82

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:07,320

Was this a public school?

83

00:04:07,320 --> 00:04:08,513

Yes.

84

00:04:08,513 --> 00:04:10,430

So there were Jews and  
non-Jews in your class.

85

00:04:10,430 --> 00:04:14,530

Yes, Jews and non-Jews.

86

00:04:14,530 --> 00:04:18,040

But mostly they were  
non-Jews in my school.

87

00:04:18,040 --> 00:04:21,480

88

00:04:21,480 --> 00:04:23,890

And then, first  
grade, we start--

89

00:04:23,890 --> 00:04:25,864

I think I was six,  
six and a half.

90

00:04:25,864 --> 00:04:28,470

91

00:04:28,470 --> 00:04:37,150

And when I was arrested, I  
was in lycÃ©e and didn't finish

92

00:04:37,150 --> 00:04:39,040

my education, of course.

93

00:04:39,040 --> 00:04:39,895

Yeah.

94

00:04:39,895 --> 00:04:41,030

My sixth year.

95

00:04:41,030 --> 00:04:41,530

Yeah.

96

00:04:41,530 --> 00:04:45,280

We'll get to that  
in a few minutes.

97

00:04:45,280 --> 00:04:47,322

So you went to a regular  
public school, as well--

98

00:04:47,322 --> 00:04:47,822

Mhm.

99



00:04:47,822 --> 00:04:49,360  
--what we call  
"elementary School.

100  
00:04:49,360 --> 00:04:50,080  
Yes.

101  
00:04:50,080 --> 00:04:52,000  
Was there any problems, there?

102  
00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:53,120  
You said it was mixed--

103  
00:04:53,120 --> 00:04:54,560  
Yeah.

104  
00:04:54,560 --> 00:04:55,120  
No problem.

105  
00:04:55,120 --> 00:04:55,675  
No problems.

106  
00:04:55,675 --> 00:04:57,302  
You were accepted?

107  
00:04:57,302 --> 00:04:58,570  
Yes.

108  
00:04:58,570 --> 00:04:59,260  
No problem.

109  
00:04:59,260 --> 00:05:03,490  
On the contrary, our  
teachers liked us very much.

110  
00:05:03,490 --> 00:05:07,900  
We were five girls  
in the same school,

111  
00:05:07,900 --> 00:05:11,535  
because we had girls'  
schools and boys' schools.

112  
00:05:11,535 --> 00:05:14,500  
It was not mixed schools.

113  
00:05:14,500 --> 00:05:17,980  
And my principal,  
when we were arrested,

114  
00:05:17,980 --> 00:05:21,960  
came every single day to see  
if there were news from us.

115  
00:05:21,960 --> 00:05:24,918  
So, it was no problem at all.

116  
00:05:24,918 --> 00:05:27,480  
Mhm?

117  
00:05:27,480 --> 00:05:29,230  
What kind of neighborhood  
did you live in?

118  
00:05:29,230 --> 00:05:33,086  
Was it an upper-class or a  
middle-class neighborhood?

119  
00:05:33,086 --> 00:05:36,950  
Probably middle-class,  
i would say.

120  
00:05:36,950 --> 00:05:37,450  
Mhm?

121  
00:05:37,450 --> 00:05:39,117  
Did you live in a  
house or an apartment?

122  
00:05:39,117 --> 00:05:39,940  
A house.

123  
00:05:39,940 --> 00:05:44,350  
And was it in the center of

the city or on the outskirts?

124

00:05:44,350 --> 00:05:48,190

Was not in the  
outskirts, but it was

125

00:05:48,190 --> 00:05:54,900

in the onzieme arrondissement,  
which was in Paris.

126

00:05:54,900 --> 00:05:57,390

What else did you do,  
besides go to school,

127

00:05:57,390 --> 00:06:00,060

when you were a young child,  
and elementary-school child?

128

00:06:00,060 --> 00:06:02,730

Did you do any other activities?

129

00:06:02,730 --> 00:06:05,500

Well, we didn't have much time.

130

00:06:05,500 --> 00:06:09,870

We went to school at  
8:30, came back for lunch,

131

00:06:09,870 --> 00:06:14,430

and went to school until  
6 o'clock in the evening.

132

00:06:14,430 --> 00:06:18,990

So, by the time  
we did homework--

133

00:06:18,990 --> 00:06:24,140

and I did help my father  
a little bit in this--

134

00:06:24,140 --> 00:06:24,920

In the business?

135

00:06:24,920 --> 00:06:26,150  
--in the business, yeah.

136

00:06:26,150 --> 00:06:27,090  
Mhm?

137

00:06:27,090 --> 00:06:30,300  
Did you have any hobbies?

138

00:06:30,300 --> 00:06:31,980  
Yes-- music.

139

00:06:31,980 --> 00:06:33,455  
Did you play an instrument?

140

00:06:33,455 --> 00:06:36,520  
Mhm-- Piano.

141

00:06:36,520 --> 00:06:43,200  
And my art teacher thought  
I had talent in art,

142

00:06:43,200 --> 00:06:46,170  
so we worked on  
that a little bit.

143

00:06:46,170 --> 00:06:47,520  
Mhm?

144

00:06:47,520 --> 00:06:50,550  
And you said your family  
was not religious.

145

00:06:50,550 --> 00:06:54,510  
Did you observe any  
holidays or any ceremonies?

146

00:06:54,510 --> 00:06:56,670  
My mother used to observe.

147

00:06:56,670 --> 00:07:05,039

We did not observe, but we had our traditional dinners--

148  
00:07:05,039 --> 00:07:06,033  
that's--

149  
00:07:06,033 --> 00:07:07,250  
You mean, Sabbath dinners?

150  
00:07:07,250 --> 00:07:08,480  
Yeah.

151  
00:07:08,480 --> 00:07:10,625  
Did you ever go to a synagogue, as a child?

152  
00:07:10,625 --> 00:07:13,940  
There are very few synagogues in Paris.

153  
00:07:13,940 --> 00:07:15,330  
No, I did not go.

154  
00:07:15,330 --> 00:07:22,390  
The first synagogues I went to was the [INAUDIBLE]..

155  
00:07:22,390 --> 00:07:27,168  
Because an American took me, over there.

156  
00:07:27,168 --> 00:07:28,585  
So you had no religious training--

157  
00:07:28,585 --> 00:07:29,085  
No.

158  
00:07:29,085 --> 00:07:30,320  
--then, as a child.

159  
00:07:30,320 --> 00:07:31,200

OK.

160  
00:07:31,200 --> 00:07:33,080  
And now you're in high school--

161  
00:07:33,080 --> 00:07:34,003  
in the lyc e.

162  
00:07:34,003 --> 00:07:34,503  
Yeah.

163  
00:07:34,503 --> 00:07:38,410

164  
00:07:38,410 --> 00:07:42,460  
Any experiences that you  
remember, from those years?

165  
00:07:42,460 --> 00:07:45,140

166  
00:07:45,140 --> 00:07:47,650  
Not really.

167  
00:07:47,650 --> 00:07:48,970  
OK.

168  
00:07:48,970 --> 00:07:54,910  
when do you first have a  
memory of things changing--

169  
00:07:54,910 --> 00:07:56,560  
of conditions changing?

170  
00:07:56,560 --> 00:07:59,260  
What was the first experience?

171  
00:07:59,260 --> 00:08:04,420  
The first experience was when  
the German came into France.

172

00:08:04,420 --> 00:08:07,210  
What do you remember  
about that, personally?

173  
00:08:07,210 --> 00:08:10,570  
Oh, personally, I --

174  
00:08:10,570 --> 00:08:15,610  
all Paris was blocked,  
and they marched in.

175  
00:08:15,610 --> 00:08:17,110  
Where were you, at the time?

176  
00:08:17,110 --> 00:08:18,380  
Home.

177  
00:08:18,380 --> 00:08:19,960  
My father was in the army.

178  
00:08:19,960 --> 00:08:22,123  
My father enlisted--

179  
00:08:22,123 --> 00:08:22,915  
In the French army.

180  
00:08:22,915 --> 00:08:24,270  
--in the French army.

181  
00:08:24,270 --> 00:08:28,300  
He was a big Francophile.

182  
00:08:28,300 --> 00:08:35,679  
And yeah, so we were alone, my  
mother and her seven children.

183  
00:08:35,679 --> 00:08:37,840  
And then he came back.

184  
00:08:37,840 --> 00:08:41,830  
And, about a year  
later, he was arrested.

185  
00:08:41,830 --> 00:08:43,210  
When was he arrested?

186  
00:08:43,210 --> 00:08:50,040  
In 1941-- August 1941.

187  
00:08:50,040 --> 00:08:52,420  
And, at that time,  
he was arrested

188  
00:08:52,420 --> 00:08:56,040  
by a SS and a French gendarme.

189  
00:08:56,040 --> 00:08:59,110

190  
00:08:59,110 --> 00:09:02,530  
In 1942, when we  
were arrested, it

191  
00:09:02,530 --> 00:09:06,760  
was only a French  
gendarme who came.

192  
00:09:06,760 --> 00:09:10,510  
I think we were  
denounced, I'm sure.

193  
00:09:10,510 --> 00:09:16,510  
Because my art teacher had  
a home outside of Paris,

194  
00:09:16,510 --> 00:09:19,660  
and she said, go and  
stay as long as you want.

195  
00:09:19,660 --> 00:09:24,010  
But it became dangerous to stay  
there, too, so we came home.

196  
00:09:24,010 --> 00:09:27,440



And my mother said, we can't  
stay there all the time.

197  
00:09:27,440 --> 00:09:31,160  
We have to do something--

198  
00:09:31,160 --> 00:09:34,480  
go to work or find--

199  
00:09:34,480 --> 00:09:37,450  
and that same day, we  
came back on a Sunday.

200  
00:09:37,450 --> 00:09:41,290  
And on Monday, they came to  
arrest my older sister, me,

201  
00:09:41,290 --> 00:09:43,990  
and my younger sister.

202  
00:09:43,990 --> 00:09:47,620  
At night, they came to  
take the whole family,

203  
00:09:47,620 --> 00:09:51,070  
because the other  
ones were in school.

204  
00:09:51,070 --> 00:09:54,100  
My other sisters and brothers  
were all still in school.

205  
00:09:54,100 --> 00:09:56,490  
My little brother was too small.

206  
00:09:56,490 --> 00:09:57,893  
He was home.

207  
00:09:57,893 --> 00:10:00,370  
He was two and a half years old.

208  
00:10:00,370 --> 00:10:03,700

When the Germans first came in, how did your life change?

209  
00:10:03,700 --> 00:10:06,550

210  
00:10:06,550 --> 00:10:09,730  
Oh, we had curfews.

211  
00:10:09,730 --> 00:10:13,150  
We couldn't get out after certain times.

212  
00:10:13,150 --> 00:10:14,950  
We had to stay in line for food.

213  
00:10:14,950 --> 00:10:19,540

214  
00:10:19,540 --> 00:10:20,860  
It was not easy.

215  
00:10:20,860 --> 00:10:26,260  
It was very difficult, especially eight people

216  
00:10:26,260 --> 00:10:28,350  
to-- or nine people to feed.

217  
00:10:28,350 --> 00:10:29,190  
It's --

218  
00:10:29,190 --> 00:10:31,770

219  
00:10:31,770 --> 00:10:33,120  
Could you go to school?

220  
00:10:33,120 --> 00:10:34,410  
No.

221

00:10:34,410 --> 00:10:37,162  
My older sister and  
I and my other sister

222  
00:10:37,162 --> 00:10:38,120  
could not go to school.

223  
00:10:38,120 --> 00:10:39,620  
School was closed immediately.

224  
00:10:39,620 --> 00:10:40,590  
Yeah.

225  
00:10:40,590 --> 00:10:42,330  
So what did you  
do with your time?

226  
00:10:42,330 --> 00:10:42,630  
You were a young--

227  
00:10:42,630 --> 00:10:43,170  
Working.

228  
00:10:43,170 --> 00:10:44,670  
--girl--

229  
00:10:44,670 --> 00:10:45,720  
I worked.

230  
00:10:45,720 --> 00:10:48,240  
I did everything I  
could find as work.

231  
00:10:48,240 --> 00:10:51,090  
You worked with your father?

232  
00:10:51,090 --> 00:10:55,590  
My father was arrested  
already, at that time, in 1941.

233  
00:10:55,590 --> 00:10:57,840  
And they came in 1940.

234  
00:10:57,840 --> 00:11:01,410  
It didn't take them  
long to arrest him.

235  
00:11:01,410 --> 00:11:03,090  
What happened to your  
father's business?

236  
00:11:03,090 --> 00:11:05,670  
Oh, they took over.

237  
00:11:05,670 --> 00:11:10,890  
And they never wanted to give  
it back, especially to me.

238  
00:11:10,890 --> 00:11:13,530  
Do you remember your  
parents talking?

239  
00:11:13,530 --> 00:11:18,360  
Did they share their  
knowledge with you?

240  
00:11:18,360 --> 00:11:20,210  
You were 15 years old, then.

241  
00:11:20,210 --> 00:11:20,710  
Mhm?

242  
00:11:20,710 --> 00:11:23,880  
Do you remember them  
speaking to you?

243  
00:11:23,880 --> 00:11:26,100  
Yes!

244  
00:11:26,100 --> 00:11:29,190  
My father told me, now,  
you're the head of the family.

245  
00:11:29,190 --> 00:11:31,740

You have to provide for them.

246  
00:11:31,740 --> 00:11:36,580  
And my mother said, but  
she's a young child.

247  
00:11:36,580 --> 00:11:38,560  
But we did it.

248  
00:11:38,560 --> 00:11:40,080  
I managed.

249  
00:11:40,080 --> 00:11:43,440  
My oldest sister was  
in medical school.

250  
00:11:43,440 --> 00:11:45,585  
And she was very [INAUDIBLE].

251  
00:11:45,585 --> 00:11:48,420

252  
00:11:48,420 --> 00:11:53,730  
Her professor was very nice,  
and he sneaked her in as much

253  
00:11:53,730 --> 00:11:55,630  
as he could.

254  
00:11:55,630 --> 00:11:59,190  
So there were some good ones  
and some very bad ones--

255  
00:11:59,190 --> 00:12:00,850  
French people.

256  
00:12:00,850 --> 00:12:02,790  
Not that I like them very much.

257  
00:12:02,790 --> 00:12:05,420

258

00:12:05,420 --> 00:12:09,480

And what was the  
food situation like?

259

00:12:09,480 --> 00:12:12,790

Well, we went  
hungry, lots of time.

260

00:12:12,790 --> 00:12:18,250

261

00:12:18,250 --> 00:12:26,360

Our friends who were not  
Jewish brought some food to us.

262

00:12:26,360 --> 00:12:32,120

We stayed in line for milk  
and eggs for the little ones.

263

00:12:32,120 --> 00:12:38,780

And we saved a lot  
of stamps and things,

264

00:12:38,780 --> 00:12:42,210

to keep and send  
it to my father,

265

00:12:42,210 --> 00:12:48,770

because my father was already  
at Drancy, at that time.

266

00:12:48,770 --> 00:12:50,820

Were you home when your  
father was taken away?

267

00:12:50,820 --> 00:12:51,320

Yeah.

268

00:12:51,320 --> 00:12:52,903

What was that like--  
can you describe?

269

00:12:52,903 --> 00:12:55,610

270

00:12:55,610 --> 00:12:56,703

It was a horror.

271

00:12:56,703 --> 00:12:57,370

It was horrible.

272

00:12:57,370 --> 00:13:01,130

273

00:13:01,130 --> 00:13:04,770

He was walking out of  
the house, going to work,

274

00:13:04,770 --> 00:13:11,650

and the SS and the French  
gendarme asked him,

275

00:13:11,650 --> 00:13:14,240

are you Mr. Zosnika  
And he said yes.

276

00:13:14,240 --> 00:13:17,110

And he said, take a blanket.

277

00:13:17,110 --> 00:13:20,090

And they took him away.

278

00:13:20,090 --> 00:13:23,770

In the meantime, he said to me,  
you have to go here and there.

279

00:13:23,770 --> 00:13:27,520

They owe me money you'd  
think -- but people--

280

00:13:27,520 --> 00:13:31,630

you know, everybody  
works for themself.

281

00:13:31,630 --> 00:13:33,008  
And that's what happened.

282  
00:13:33,008 --> 00:13:35,700

283  
00:13:35,700 --> 00:13:39,700  
I [INAUDIBLE].

284  
00:13:39,700 --> 00:13:42,160  
I loved my father very much.

285  
00:13:42,160 --> 00:13:44,270  
And my mother used  
to say, the world

286  
00:13:44,270 --> 00:13:48,890  
turned over if my  
father was taken away.

287  
00:13:48,890 --> 00:13:53,780  
I was-- I became a different  
person, a very sad person.

288  
00:13:53,780 --> 00:13:54,630  
Mhm.

289  
00:13:54,630 --> 00:13:55,480  
Mhm?

290  
00:13:55,480 --> 00:13:57,180  
So you stayed at home  
with your mother.

291  
00:13:57,180 --> 00:13:57,680  
You were--

292  
00:13:57,680 --> 00:13:58,990  
Oh, yes.

293  
00:13:58,990 --> 00:13:59,920  
--second in line--



294  
00:13:59,920 --> 00:14:00,420  
Yeah.

295  
00:14:00,420 --> 00:14:01,920  
--and your sister was away.

296  
00:14:01,920 --> 00:14:04,880  
And then, for the  
next few months--

297  
00:14:04,880 --> 00:14:07,000  
I worked.

298  
00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:08,320  
What kind of work did you do?

299  
00:14:08,320 --> 00:14:11,190  
Oh, anything I could find!

300  
00:14:11,190 --> 00:14:16,400  
Pressing heavy men's clothing,  
come back to things like that.

301  
00:14:16,400 --> 00:14:20,320

302  
00:14:20,320 --> 00:14:25,210  
My art teacher gave  
me some work to do.

303  
00:14:25,210 --> 00:14:28,690  
I did that-- some  
commercial art--

304  
00:14:28,690 --> 00:14:31,780

305  
00:14:31,780 --> 00:14:34,780  
anything I could do--  
and keeping a child--

306

00:14:34,780 --> 00:14:39,850

you know, taking  
care of children.

307

00:14:39,850 --> 00:14:42,723

And--

308

00:14:42,723 --> 00:14:44,890

What was your mother's state  
of mind, at that point?

309

00:14:44,890 --> 00:14:53,920

Well, my mother was completely  
gone, at that point.

310

00:14:53,920 --> 00:14:56,880

She adored her husband.

311

00:14:56,880 --> 00:14:59,440

And, after seven  
children, she didn't

312

00:14:59,440 --> 00:15:01,400

have any strength of her own.

313

00:15:01,400 --> 00:15:05,280

314

00:15:05,280 --> 00:15:08,560

Most of the time, I remember  
her, at that period of time,

315

00:15:08,560 --> 00:15:10,700

she was in bed.

316

00:15:10,700 --> 00:15:11,200

Mhm?

317

00:15:11,200 --> 00:15:13,325

So the responsibility was  
really on your shoulders.

318

00:15:13,325 --> 00:15:15,260

On my shoulder-- and  
my little sister,

319

00:15:15,260 --> 00:15:20,960

Bruna we both really worked  
very hard to bring in food--

320

00:15:20,960 --> 00:15:22,810

a rabbit, if we could find.

321

00:15:22,810 --> 00:15:24,840

We didn't care what--

322

00:15:24,840 --> 00:15:28,090

as long as they weren't hungry.

323

00:15:28,090 --> 00:15:30,880

How was your health,  
at that time?

324

00:15:30,880 --> 00:15:32,730

It was fine.

325

00:15:32,730 --> 00:15:33,920

I was young.

326

00:15:33,920 --> 00:15:35,703

I was--

327

00:15:35,703 --> 00:15:37,030

Mhm?

328

00:15:37,030 --> 00:15:41,070

And then, what was  
the next change?

329

00:15:41,070 --> 00:15:45,030

The next change-- somebody  
came over and said, go away,

330

00:15:45,030 --> 00:15:48,340  
because tomorrow is  
going to be a raffle.

331  
00:15:48,340 --> 00:15:52,620  
They're going to pick up  
the children and the women.

332  
00:15:52,620 --> 00:15:57,400  
And that was the famous raffle--

333  
00:15:57,400 --> 00:16:00,750  
July 4.

334  
00:16:00,750 --> 00:16:05,190  
So we went away to that  
house to one of my teachers,

335  
00:16:05,190 --> 00:16:08,510  
and we stayed three months.

336  
00:16:08,510 --> 00:16:11,232  
And by the time we came back--

337  
00:16:11,232 --> 00:16:12,982  
Your whole-- your  
mother and the children?

338  
00:16:12,982 --> 00:16:14,710  
Yes-- And the children.

339  
00:16:14,710 --> 00:16:20,280  
And by the time we came  
back, on a Sunday, the Monday

340  
00:16:20,280 --> 00:16:21,660  
they came to pick us up.

341  
00:16:21,660 --> 00:16:27,690  
I remember, I picked up  
my sister at the hospital.

342

00:16:27,690 --> 00:16:30,455  
And then we stopped at  
a library, to buy books.

343  
00:16:30,455 --> 00:16:33,070

344  
00:16:33,070 --> 00:16:35,800  
And we were reading upstairs.

345  
00:16:35,800 --> 00:16:38,310  
And my mother said to  
them [NON ENGLISH WORD]

346  
00:16:38,310 --> 00:16:40,420  
"They are here."

347  
00:16:40,420 --> 00:16:44,560  
That means the gendarmes  
were here to pick us up--

348  
00:16:44,560 --> 00:16:45,930  
the three of us.

349  
00:16:45,930 --> 00:16:47,350  
But we had time to--

350  
00:16:47,350 --> 00:16:49,630  
You know, in France  
you don't have closet,

351  
00:16:49,630 --> 00:16:51,830  
but you have armoires.

352  
00:16:51,830 --> 00:16:55,090  
So we pulled one armoire,  
and we put my little sister

353  
00:16:55,090 --> 00:16:56,290  
in the back.

354  
00:16:56,290 --> 00:17:00,340

So they just took the two of us-- my older sister and me.

355  
00:17:00,340 --> 00:17:04,810  
But at night, they came to pick everybody up.

356  
00:17:04,810 --> 00:17:07,220  
But they picked you, the two of you, up first?

357  
00:17:07,220 --> 00:17:07,720  
First.

358  
00:17:07,720 --> 00:17:08,790  
And what happened to you?

359  
00:17:08,790 --> 00:17:09,609  
What--

360  
00:17:09,609 --> 00:17:16,650  
They took us to a police station and put us in the toilets--

361  
00:17:16,650 --> 00:17:20,170

362  
00:17:20,170 --> 00:17:21,738  
for the whole night.

363  
00:17:21,738 --> 00:17:22,780  
The two of you, together.

364  
00:17:22,780 --> 00:17:23,280  
Yeah.

365  
00:17:23,280 --> 00:17:24,674  
Were there other people with you?

366  
00:17:24,674 --> 00:17:25,174  
No.

367  
00:17:25,174 --> 00:17:28,126

368  
00:17:28,126 --> 00:17:30,070  
And then, you spent the night--

369  
00:17:30,070 --> 00:17:32,020  
Then, in the morning,  
they said, come on,

370  
00:17:32,020 --> 00:17:34,980  
and you're going to join  
the rest of the family.

371  
00:17:34,980 --> 00:17:39,490  
And they took us in a truck,  
and they put us in Drancy.

372  
00:17:39,490 --> 00:17:41,890  
The next day, they picked  
up the rest of your family.

373  
00:17:41,890 --> 00:17:43,320  
And you were all together, then?

374  
00:17:43,320 --> 00:17:43,820  
Yeah.

375  
00:17:43,820 --> 00:17:47,500  
In Drancy, yes, we  
were all together.

376  
00:17:47,500 --> 00:17:50,500  
We stayed three months there.

377  
00:17:50,500 --> 00:17:52,780  
And February --

378  
00:17:52,780 --> 00:17:54,950  
Let's talk a little bit  
about the conditions there.

379  
00:17:54,950 --> 00:17:57,470  
What was it like, during  
those three months?

380  
00:17:57,470 --> 00:17:59,160  
How did you sleep?

381  
00:17:59,160 --> 00:18:01,410  
What were the sleeping  
conditions like?

382  
00:18:01,410 --> 00:18:05,220  
Well, everybody was  
sleeping in one room.

383  
00:18:05,220 --> 00:18:08,560  
It used to be a  
caserne for soldiers,

384  
00:18:08,560 --> 00:18:12,945  
so there was bathrooms and  
there was showers and--

385  
00:18:12,945 --> 00:18:16,180  
you know, they had beds,  
one after the other.

386  
00:18:16,180 --> 00:18:19,480

387  
00:18:19,480 --> 00:18:21,460  
Food?

388  
00:18:21,460 --> 00:18:27,640  
It wasn't that much,  
but we managed, I guess.

389  
00:18:27,640 --> 00:18:32,620  
We were hungry, but  
the hunger goes away.

390



00:18:32,620 --> 00:18:34,840  
And, three months later--

391  
00:18:34,840 --> 00:18:37,570  
How much belong-- how  
many belongings were

392  
00:18:37,570 --> 00:18:39,070  
you able to bring from home?

393  
00:18:39,070 --> 00:18:40,528  
What was your mother  
able to bring?

394  
00:18:40,528 --> 00:18:45,030  
Just the precious thing  
they told us to take--

395  
00:18:45,030 --> 00:18:50,250  
the jewelry, the clothes  
the fur coats, the--

396  
00:18:50,250 --> 00:18:57,000  
all what they could use it and  
they could sell it or give it

397  
00:18:57,000 --> 00:18:59,670  
away or--

398  
00:18:59,670 --> 00:19:01,080  
that's what they told us.

399  
00:19:01,080 --> 00:19:03,310  
blanket-- and a blanket--

400  
00:19:03,310 --> 00:19:06,630  
which was taken away  
in the train, anyway.

401  
00:19:06,630 --> 00:19:09,300  
Were there friends of yours  
and neighbors there, also,

402

00:19:09,300 --> 00:19:12,210  
that you recognized?

403

00:19:12,210 --> 00:19:17,195  
Well, they were all looking  
outside, and they were smiling.

404

00:19:17,195 --> 00:19:18,570  
This is when you  
were taken away.

405

00:19:18,570 --> 00:19:19,830  
Mhm.

406

00:19:19,830 --> 00:19:21,070  
Your non-Jewish neighbors--

407

00:19:21,070 --> 00:19:21,570  
Yeah.

408

00:19:21,570 --> 00:19:23,535  
--were smiling, as you  
were being taken away?

409

00:19:23,535 --> 00:19:24,035  
Yeah.

410

00:19:24,035 --> 00:19:27,630  
How did you feel, as a young  
woman, when you saw that?

411

00:19:27,630 --> 00:19:30,460

412

00:19:30,460 --> 00:19:33,290  
Not good.

413

00:19:33,290 --> 00:19:36,450  
Not good.

414

00:19:36,450 --> 00:19:41,800

415  
00:19:41,800 --> 00:19:46,330  
Maybe I'm wrong, but I never  
have hatred for anybody.

416  
00:19:46,330 --> 00:19:53,380  
Because I felt that, if I hate  
too much, it'll destroy me.

417  
00:19:53,380 --> 00:19:55,390  
And I didn't want  
to be destroyed.

418  
00:19:55,390 --> 00:19:56,400  
I wanted to fight.

419  
00:19:56,400 --> 00:19:58,960

420  
00:19:58,960 --> 00:20:03,160  
So, I did not look at them.

421  
00:20:03,160 --> 00:20:06,355  
And, whatever they  
did, I did not care.

422  
00:20:06,355 --> 00:20:09,240

423  
00:20:09,240 --> 00:20:15,000  
When you were in Drancy,  
now, your Jewish friends

424  
00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:19,320  
or your Jewish neighbors,  
were they with you also?

425  
00:20:19,320 --> 00:20:21,642  
Did you know any other  
people, when you were there--

426

00:20:21,642 --> 00:20:22,142  
Yes--

427  
00:20:22,142 --> 00:20:24,640  
--from before?

428  
00:20:24,640 --> 00:20:26,400  
Yes, I think so--

429  
00:20:26,400 --> 00:20:28,140  
very few, not many, because--

430  
00:20:28,140 --> 00:20:30,900

431  
00:20:30,900 --> 00:20:31,920  
we had a problem.

432  
00:20:31,920 --> 00:20:34,530  
We were seven children.

433  
00:20:34,530 --> 00:20:38,370  
And to run away with seven  
children was impossible.

434  
00:20:38,370 --> 00:20:41,790  
Nobody would take us.

435  
00:20:41,790 --> 00:20:45,240  
So the people who only had  
one child or two children,

436  
00:20:45,240 --> 00:20:47,190  
they were able to  
cross the border

437  
00:20:47,190 --> 00:20:52,010  
or go on the other side  
of France, the ligne de la

438  
00:20:52,010 --> 00:20:53,700  
marcation--

439  
00:20:53,700 --> 00:20:56,550  
go to Switzerland, go to Spain--

440  
00:20:56,550 --> 00:20:58,590  
Spain accepted them.

441  
00:20:58,590 --> 00:21:03,210  
And, from Spain, they used to go  
to Portugal and, from Portugal,

442  
00:21:03,210 --> 00:21:05,400  
to America or Canada or Mexico.

443  
00:21:05,400 --> 00:21:08,030

444  
00:21:08,030 --> 00:21:12,170  
But with seven children and  
one two and a half years old,

445  
00:21:12,170 --> 00:21:13,370  
forget it.

446  
00:21:13,370 --> 00:21:17,460  
Nobody wanted to take us.

447  
00:21:17,460 --> 00:21:20,260  
So we end up--

448  
00:21:20,260 --> 00:21:21,257  
April--

449  
00:21:21,257 --> 00:21:22,590  
You were there for three months.

450  
00:21:22,590 --> 00:21:23,470  
Mhm?

451  
00:21:23,470 --> 00:21:25,660  
And what did you

do during the day--

452

00:21:25,660 --> 00:21:26,160

Nothing.

453

00:21:26,160 --> 00:21:27,476

--just sit around?

454

00:21:27,476 --> 00:21:28,190

Mhm.

455

00:21:28,190 --> 00:21:30,070

And everybody just--

456

00:21:30,070 --> 00:21:33,210

Nobody was doing nothing--

457

00:21:33,210 --> 00:21:36,600

just sit around waiting.

458

00:21:36,600 --> 00:21:38,550

And then the next

thing that happened?

459

00:21:38,550 --> 00:21:42,630

Next thing that happened,

that the train--

460

00:21:42,630 --> 00:21:47,740

we knew already that we're

going to be deported.

461

00:21:47,740 --> 00:21:48,720

How did you know that?

462

00:21:48,720 --> 00:21:52,560

Because the trains were coming

in, one after the other.

463

00:21:52,560 --> 00:21:54,840

Did you know where

they were going?

464  
00:21:54,840 --> 00:21:55,920  
No.

465  
00:21:55,920 --> 00:21:57,780  
We did not know where--

466  
00:21:57,780 --> 00:22:03,540  
they were saying that we were  
going to work in a commune,

467  
00:22:03,540 --> 00:22:06,240  
and we'll be very happy.

468  
00:22:06,240 --> 00:22:10,380

469  
00:22:10,380 --> 00:22:13,350  
This was the worst  
tragedy happened to me,

470  
00:22:13,350 --> 00:22:19,920  
is being eight people-- we  
had to be five by five--

471  
00:22:19,920 --> 00:22:24,021  
I was holding my little  
brother's [? milk ?]

472  
00:22:24,021 --> 00:22:28,590  
and separated from my mother  
and my sisters and my brothers.

473  
00:22:28,590 --> 00:22:35,700  
And three-- we were three  
together, in a different wagon,

474  
00:22:35,700 --> 00:22:38,154  
in a different

475  
00:22:38,154 --> 00:22:38,890  
Car?

476  
00:22:38,890 --> 00:22:39,390  
--car.

477  
00:22:39,390 --> 00:22:40,540  
Yeah.

478  
00:22:40,540 --> 00:22:42,990  
Oh, in other words,  
they lined you up and--

479  
00:22:42,990 --> 00:22:43,650  
Five by five.

480  
00:22:43,650 --> 00:22:44,690  
--to get on the trains--

481  
00:22:44,690 --> 00:22:45,190  
yeah.

482  
00:22:45,190 --> 00:22:47,850  
But, when it came  
to them, they--

483  
00:22:47,850 --> 00:22:48,570  
They split up.

484  
00:22:48,570 --> 00:22:49,410  
--they split up.

485  
00:22:49,410 --> 00:22:53,640  
They closed the door, and  
we went into that one.

486  
00:22:53,640 --> 00:22:56,550  
And that was a horror  
for me, because I

487  
00:22:56,550 --> 00:22:58,800  
adored my little brother.

488



00:22:58,800 --> 00:23:01,810  
And he didn't have his mother.

489  
00:23:01,810 --> 00:23:03,182  
Oh.

490  
00:23:03,182 --> 00:23:05,980  
Mhm?

491  
00:23:05,980 --> 00:23:11,010  
And so I took care of  
my two little sisters.

492  
00:23:11,010 --> 00:23:15,190  
And it took-- the train stopped.

493  
00:23:15,190 --> 00:23:17,980  
People were trying to run away.

494  
00:23:17,980 --> 00:23:19,310  
They were shooting.

495  
00:23:19,310 --> 00:23:22,570  
It was-- it was not pleasant.

496  
00:23:22,570 --> 00:23:25,660  
You were always scared.

497  
00:23:25,660 --> 00:23:27,800  
Three nights and two days.

498  
00:23:27,800 --> 00:23:32,380  
And when we got to Auschwitz,  
it was another horror--

499  
00:23:32,380 --> 00:23:35,860  
the screaming, the dogs, the--

500  
00:23:35,860 --> 00:23:40,310  
and all of a sudden, I  
find myself all alone!

501

00:23:40,310 --> 00:23:46,210

The whole family went on a truck, and they pulled me out!

502

00:23:46,210 --> 00:23:48,800

So-- or I had long hair--

503

00:23:48,800 --> 00:23:51,480

young, and--

504

00:23:51,480 --> 00:23:53,750

I climbed on the truck.

505

00:23:53,750 --> 00:23:57,150

And one SS saw me, and he pulled me by the hair,

506

00:23:57,150 --> 00:23:58,290

and he threw me down.

507

00:23:58,290 --> 00:23:59,187

By that time--

508

00:23:59,187 --> 00:24:01,145

You climbed on the truck that your family was--

509

00:24:01,145 --> 00:24:01,770

Yeah.

510

00:24:01,770 --> 00:24:02,270

--on.

511

00:24:02,270 --> 00:24:05,140

And then the truck went away.

512

00:24:05,140 --> 00:24:10,610

So, when you got off of the car, you saw your family.

513

00:24:10,610 --> 00:24:11,110

Yeah.

514  
00:24:11,110 --> 00:24:12,485  
I saw-- I find my family, yeah.

515  
00:24:12,485 --> 00:24:13,110  
You found them.

516  
00:24:13,110 --> 00:24:13,610  
Yeah.

517  
00:24:13,610 --> 00:24:14,330  
Yeah.

518  
00:24:14,330 --> 00:24:15,700  
I find them.

519  
00:24:15,700 --> 00:24:19,195  
Let's go back a  
little bit, in the--

520  
00:24:19,195 --> 00:24:22,015  
when you were going to the camp.

521  
00:24:22,015 --> 00:24:23,890  
You said it took three  
days and three nights.

522  
00:24:23,890 --> 00:24:27,120

523  
00:24:27,120 --> 00:24:28,680  
What were people  
doing, in the car?

524  
00:24:28,680 --> 00:24:30,420  
Were they helping each other?

525  
00:24:30,420 --> 00:24:32,260  
Were they being of comfort?

526

00:24:32,260 --> 00:24:34,423  
Do you remember?

527  
00:24:34,423 --> 00:24:37,129  
It was very sad.

528  
00:24:37,129 --> 00:24:38,972  
First of all, it was--

529  
00:24:38,972 --> 00:24:39,680  
Was it all women?

530  
00:24:39,680 --> 00:24:41,110  
--thirst-- no, mixed.

531  
00:24:41,110 --> 00:24:41,992  
It was mixed.

532  
00:24:41,992 --> 00:24:44,200  
Yeah.

533  
00:24:44,200 --> 00:24:47,935  
They were doing holes in the  
bottom, to try to escape.

534  
00:24:47,935 --> 00:24:53,357

535  
00:24:53,357 --> 00:24:54,920  
There was no water.

536  
00:24:54,920 --> 00:24:56,580  
Everybody was thirsty.

537  
00:24:56,580 --> 00:25:00,770  
It was no toilet,  
so it was a mess.

538  
00:25:00,770 --> 00:25:02,150  
And--

539

00:25:02,150 --> 00:25:03,660  
Was there any light in the car?

540  
00:25:03,660 --> 00:25:06,810  
No, there was no lights.

541  
00:25:06,810 --> 00:25:12,100  
It was cars that they  
used for pigs and--

542  
00:25:12,100 --> 00:25:14,850  
you know, bestial--

543  
00:25:14,850 --> 00:25:16,370  
Did they let you out at all?

544  
00:25:16,370 --> 00:25:17,086  
No.

545  
00:25:17,086 --> 00:25:17,586  
No.

546  
00:25:17,586 --> 00:25:20,454

547  
00:25:20,454 --> 00:25:24,585  
And what were your  
little sisters doing?

548  
00:25:24,585 --> 00:25:29,715  
Oh, they were-- we were  
half in a different world.

549  
00:25:29,715 --> 00:25:33,650  
You know, we just didn't talk.

550  
00:25:33,650 --> 00:25:35,040  
We didn't know what to do.

551  
00:25:35,040 --> 00:25:38,260

552

00:25:38,260 --> 00:25:40,385

We were lost.

553

00:25:40,385 --> 00:25:42,210

We were completely lost.

554

00:25:42,210 --> 00:25:44,820

And I was very naive--

555

00:25:44,820 --> 00:25:48,770

being raised in a big  
family, you can become very--

556

00:25:48,770 --> 00:25:51,935

and my parents were  
very strict, too.

557

00:25:51,935 --> 00:25:54,600

We couldn't get out at  
night, we couldn't do this,

558

00:25:54,600 --> 00:26:01,320

we couldn't-- it was schooling  
and practice, and do this,

559

00:26:01,320 --> 00:26:05,490

and helping my  
mother a lot, too.

560

00:26:05,490 --> 00:26:08,750

It just was--

561

00:26:08,750 --> 00:26:12,810

So I was a naive little,  
young girl, for that age.

562

00:26:12,810 --> 00:26:14,510

I saw my daughter at 16.

563

00:26:14,510 --> 00:26:19,050

She was [LAUGH] not  
like me, not at all.

564

00:26:19,050 --> 00:26:20,820

So you arrived at  
Auschwitz, and you

565

00:26:20,820 --> 00:26:23,510

said you tried to get on the  
truck that your family was on.

566

00:26:23,510 --> 00:26:24,010

And they--

567

00:26:24,010 --> 00:26:24,770

Mhm.

568

00:26:24,770 --> 00:26:25,530

--took you off.

569

00:26:25,530 --> 00:26:27,480

And they took me off.

570

00:26:27,480 --> 00:26:30,580

I didn't know what's the  
reason they took me off.

571

00:26:30,580 --> 00:26:38,430

But they usually took 10% out  
of each transport that came.

572

00:26:38,430 --> 00:26:44,340

Usually they took  
women in the 30s,

573

00:26:44,340 --> 00:26:46,920

because they have  
much more to offer.

574

00:26:46,920 --> 00:26:52,890

They had a past and they  
have a future to fight for.

575

00:26:52,890 --> 00:26:55,830

But I didn't have a past,  
and I didn't have a future.

576  
00:26:55,830 --> 00:26:59,700  
So fighting, for  
me, was nothing.

577  
00:26:59,700 --> 00:27:03,540  
I was just crying all the time.

578  
00:27:03,540 --> 00:27:07,865  
But, in camp--

579  
00:27:07,865 --> 00:27:10,140  
Then they took you  
where, in the beginning?

580  
00:27:10,140 --> 00:27:12,210  
They took you off  
the truck-- uh-huh?

581  
00:27:12,210 --> 00:27:16,850  
And then they marched  
into Birkenau.

582  
00:27:16,850 --> 00:27:19,550  
This was-- you were  
with a group of women?

583  
00:27:19,550 --> 00:27:20,170  
Yeah.

584  
00:27:20,170 --> 00:27:21,340  
Mhm?

585  
00:27:21,340 --> 00:27:23,280  
And when you got to Birkenau?

586  
00:27:23,280 --> 00:27:26,430  
Birkenau, they put  
us in a big room.

587



00:27:26,430 --> 00:27:33,950  
And I'm having my period,  
and I went over to the SS,

588  
00:27:33,950 --> 00:27:35,920  
to ask her for something.

589  
00:27:35,920 --> 00:27:37,160  
Oh, this is a woman guard?

590  
00:27:37,160 --> 00:27:38,350  
Yeah.

591  
00:27:38,350 --> 00:27:43,810  
And I went bouncing on the  
other side of the room.

592  
00:27:43,810 --> 00:27:46,940  
About that time,  
my period stopped

593  
00:27:46,940 --> 00:27:49,850  
and I never had them  
since I came back.

594  
00:27:49,850 --> 00:27:51,725  
She threw you to the  
other side of the room--

595  
00:27:51,725 --> 00:27:51,950  
Yeah.

596  
00:27:51,950 --> 00:27:53,090  
--when you asked her.

597  
00:27:53,090 --> 00:27:55,200  
And they did this--

598  
00:27:55,200 --> 00:27:57,610  
they put the tattoo.

599  
00:27:57,610 --> 00:27:58,110

[INAUDIBLE]

600

00:27:58,110 --> 00:27:59,600

This was when you first arrived?

601

00:27:59,600 --> 00:28:01,030

Yeah.

602

00:28:01,030 --> 00:28:02,930

First arrived.

603

00:28:02,930 --> 00:28:05,240

And then they brought in--

604

00:28:05,240 --> 00:28:07,770

605

00:28:07,770 --> 00:28:10,520

now I am a little older--

606

00:28:10,520 --> 00:28:11,990

well, first of  
all, I was ashamed.

607

00:28:11,990 --> 00:28:15,580

I never had a man  
looking at me nude.

608

00:28:15,580 --> 00:28:20,490

I was-- But they were  
such monsters to--

609

00:28:20,490 --> 00:28:21,970

now that I think of it.

610

00:28:21,970 --> 00:28:24,410

It's just a horror.

611

00:28:24,410 --> 00:28:28,580

Because they brought  
in French men,

612

00:28:28,580 --> 00:28:31,380

undressed us, and shaved us--

613

00:28:31,380 --> 00:28:35,570

from all over-- not  
only the hair but--

614

00:28:35,570 --> 00:28:36,440

On the body--

615

00:28:36,440 --> 00:28:37,960

--private part and everything.

616

00:28:37,960 --> 00:28:40,050

And I was crying.

617

00:28:40,050 --> 00:28:41,480

I was ashamed.

618

00:28:41,480 --> 00:28:43,820

And they said, don't be ashamed.

619

00:28:43,820 --> 00:28:47,030

We don't even notice.

620

00:28:47,030 --> 00:28:56,030

And they put us in how -- spritz  
and then they gave us a cold

621

00:28:56,030 --> 00:29:00,670

shower and uniforms.

622

00:29:00,670 --> 00:29:01,900

And that's it!

623

00:29:01,900 --> 00:29:03,100

And they put us in--

624

00:29:03,100 --> 00:29:05,630

the next morning,  
we went to work.

625  
00:29:05,630 --> 00:29:07,730  
So you did not have any  
belongings from before.

626  
00:29:07,730 --> 00:29:08,030  
No,

627  
00:29:08,030 --> 00:29:09,322  
They took everything that you--

628  
00:29:09,322 --> 00:29:11,780  
They took everything, yeah.

629  
00:29:11,780 --> 00:29:15,890  
Were there many young women  
like you in your group?

630  
00:29:15,890 --> 00:29:16,550  
No.

631  
00:29:16,550 --> 00:29:19,850  
Mostly, they were in their 30s.

632  
00:29:19,850 --> 00:29:23,510  
And I was very lucky,  
because I find camp mothers,

633  
00:29:23,510 --> 00:29:25,950  
like I called them--

634  
00:29:25,950 --> 00:29:29,370  
two French women who  
really took care of me.

635  
00:29:29,370 --> 00:29:32,300  
They knew that I  
wouldn't survive if they

636  
00:29:32,300 --> 00:29:34,605  
wouldn't taken care of me.

637

00:29:34,605 --> 00:29:38,000

They're both dead, now.

638

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:41,427

So they-- and where did you go--

639

00:29:41,427 --> 00:29:43,010

where did you sleep,  
that first night?

640

00:29:43,010 --> 00:29:45,572

Oh, they had barracks, you know?

641

00:29:45,572 --> 00:29:50,368

So-- where you  
slept, three tiers.

642

00:29:50,368 --> 00:29:51,910

I don't know if you  
went to Birkenau.

643

00:29:51,910 --> 00:29:55,664

644

00:29:55,664 --> 00:30:04,030

And they gave you a  
blanket and a pot--

645

00:30:04,030 --> 00:30:07,060

to eat, but it served  
for everything,

646

00:30:07,060 --> 00:30:10,660

because there was no bathroom.

647

00:30:10,660 --> 00:30:15,630

But you couldn't sleep, because  
people were stealing from you.

648

00:30:15,630 --> 00:30:17,230

You didn't ever  
took off your shoes,

649  
00:30:17,230 --> 00:30:18,710  
because people  
were stealing them.

650  
00:30:18,710 --> 00:30:22,750

651  
00:30:22,750 --> 00:30:24,130  
It was very hard.

652  
00:30:24,130 --> 00:30:29,790  
It was-- to this  
day, I don't sleep.

653  
00:30:29,790 --> 00:30:31,670  
Mhm?

654  
00:30:31,670 --> 00:30:33,440  
Mhm.

655  
00:30:33,440 --> 00:30:38,600  
The first few weeks  
was really hard,

656  
00:30:38,600 --> 00:30:41,400  
because we didn't have water.

657  
00:30:41,400 --> 00:30:46,080  
And water is the main  
thing for survival.

658  
00:30:46,080 --> 00:30:51,210  
And I saw people urinate,  
and it was cold, you know,

659  
00:30:51,210 --> 00:30:52,650  
so it froze.

660  
00:30:52,650 --> 00:30:54,980  
And they sucked it.

661

00:30:54,980 --> 00:30:57,260

I did the same  
thing, to survive.

662

00:30:57,260 --> 00:30:59,970

663

00:30:59,970 --> 00:31:02,460

Then we were quarantined,  
because everybody

664

00:31:02,460 --> 00:31:04,470

got dysentery.

665

00:31:04,470 --> 00:31:08,415

666

00:31:08,415 --> 00:31:15,540

And, after that, I  
wanted to kill myself,

667

00:31:15,540 --> 00:31:17,270

and I went to the--

668

00:31:17,270 --> 00:31:21,490

669

00:31:21,490 --> 00:31:24,590

to the your electric field--

670

00:31:24,590 --> 00:31:25,090

Fence?

671

00:31:25,090 --> 00:31:26,510

--fence.

672

00:31:26,510 --> 00:31:30,170

But a German saw  
me and he shoot--

673

00:31:30,170 --> 00:31:32,660

but he shoot at my foot--

674  
00:31:32,660 --> 00:31:34,710  
it got infected.

675  
00:31:34,710 --> 00:31:36,390  
[LAUGH] [? lying ?] [? down. ?]

676  
00:31:36,390 --> 00:31:41,230  
And then, one day, they took  
me to the Block 25, which is--

677  
00:31:41,230 --> 00:31:44,360  
I don't know if  
you knew about it.

678  
00:31:44,360 --> 00:31:48,370  
But 25 is, they  
selected the people--

679  
00:31:48,370 --> 00:31:54,180  
[AUDIO OUT]

680  
00:31:54,180 --> 00:31:56,550  
--your experiences in Auschwitz.

681  
00:31:56,550 --> 00:32:00,960  
And you had arrived  
in February of 1942.

682  
00:32:00,960 --> 00:32:04,950  
And you said you were  
taken to Block 25

683  
00:32:04,950 --> 00:32:08,550  
after the guard shot you in  
the foot because you had--

684  
00:32:08,550 --> 00:32:09,580  
I couldn't stand up.

685  
00:32:09,580 --> 00:32:10,590



I was--

686  
00:32:10,590 --> 00:32:12,540  
Was this more in the  
beginning of your stay?

687  
00:32:12,540 --> 00:32:16,300  
Yes, it was more in the  
beginning of the stay.

688  
00:32:16,300 --> 00:32:19,780  
And over there I find  
Toni, which was my--

689  
00:32:19,780 --> 00:32:23,400  
she became my camp mother.

690  
00:32:23,400 --> 00:32:24,700  
She was in Block 25.

691  
00:32:24,700 --> 00:32:25,200  
Yeah.

692  
00:32:25,200 --> 00:32:28,110  
She was a [NON-ENGLISH]--

693  
00:32:28,110 --> 00:32:36,490  
the ones who take care of the  
other people, you know, just--

694  
00:32:36,490 --> 00:32:40,867  
well, she came in  
1941, so she had all--

695  
00:32:40,867 --> 00:32:41,700  
she knew what to do.

696  
00:32:41,700 --> 00:32:43,380  
Was she another French woman?

697  
00:32:43,380 --> 00:32:46,380  
Yes, but she was born in Poland.

698  
00:32:46,380 --> 00:32:49,920  
And they took the  
Polish people first--

699  
00:32:49,920 --> 00:32:50,895  
the farmers.

700  
00:32:50,895 --> 00:32:53,640

701  
00:32:53,640 --> 00:32:59,530  
And she fought very hard for me  
not to go to the crematorium.

702  
00:32:59,530 --> 00:33:01,980  
But he didn't want  
to listen to her.

703  
00:33:01,980 --> 00:33:04,290  
He took me there.

704  
00:33:04,290 --> 00:33:08,820  
And I went-- while  
he was driving,

705  
00:33:08,820 --> 00:33:12,630  
I was in the back of  
it, and I told him

706  
00:33:12,630 --> 00:33:14,430  
that I'm not going  
to die, he's not

707  
00:33:14,430 --> 00:33:16,370  
going to put me in  
the gas chamber,

708  
00:33:16,370 --> 00:33:20,280  
I have all my family  
living, and that did it.

709

00:33:20,280 --> 00:33:25,680  
They wanted to know how  
many Jews are still free.

710  
00:33:25,680 --> 00:33:28,210

711  
00:33:28,210 --> 00:33:32,490  
And, while I was walking  
into the gas chamber,

712  
00:33:32,490 --> 00:33:36,870  
he said you [SPEAKING GERMAN]--

713  
00:33:36,870 --> 00:33:40,980  
"You dirty pig Jew, come."

714  
00:33:40,980 --> 00:33:45,150  
And he brought me back to camp.

715  
00:33:45,150 --> 00:33:48,800  
That was luck, [LAUGH]  
because he wasn't that nice,

716  
00:33:48,800 --> 00:33:49,510  
after that.

717  
00:33:49,510 --> 00:33:52,310

718  
00:33:52,310 --> 00:33:53,360  
So you went back to--

719  
00:33:53,360 --> 00:33:54,193  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

720  
00:33:54,193 --> 00:33:55,100  
And I worked there.

721  
00:33:55,100 --> 00:33:57,235  
I worked at Block 25.

722

00:33:57,235 --> 00:33:58,360

Oh, you worked at Block 25.

723

00:33:58,360 --> 00:33:58,860

Yeah.

724

00:33:58,860 --> 00:34:01,400

And where was your barracks?

725

00:34:01,400 --> 00:34:02,540

25.

726

00:34:02,540 --> 00:34:03,081

Oh, I see.

727

00:34:03,081 --> 00:34:03,581

You lived--

728

00:34:03,581 --> 00:34:04,042

Yeah.

729

00:34:04,042 --> 00:34:04,542

--uh-huh?

730

00:34:04,542 --> 00:34:06,350

Block 25.

731

00:34:06,350 --> 00:34:07,400

And what did you do?

732

00:34:07,400 --> 00:34:11,000

733

00:34:11,000 --> 00:34:14,480

The people who came in  
there, they were half-dead.

734

00:34:14,480 --> 00:34:19,720

So we undressed them,  
put them in the truck,

735

00:34:19,720 --> 00:34:26,310  
and they went to the gas chamber  
and then to the crematorium.

736

00:34:26,310 --> 00:34:28,270  
So did you also sleep there?

737

00:34:28,270 --> 00:34:28,909  
Yeah.

738

00:34:28,909 --> 00:34:31,230  
You didn't go back to  
your original barrack.

739

00:34:31,230 --> 00:34:31,872  
No.

740

00:34:31,872 --> 00:34:34,460  
Yeah.

741

00:34:34,460 --> 00:34:36,409  
And how was your  
foot, at that time?

742

00:34:36,409 --> 00:34:39,920  
Oh, very swollen, very infected.

743

00:34:39,920 --> 00:34:42,500  
So it was a Dr. Rose--

744

00:34:42,500 --> 00:34:45,780  
I don't know if you  
ever heard of her.

745

00:34:45,780 --> 00:34:48,380  
She was really something.

746

00:34:48,380 --> 00:34:49,989  
She doesn't show  
her head no place.

747

00:34:49,989 --> 00:34:52,580

748

00:34:52,580 --> 00:34:57,470

She wanted my rations, so  
she could heal my foot.

749

00:34:57,470 --> 00:34:58,820

She was another prisoner.

750

00:34:58,820 --> 00:35:02,010

Yeah-- French woman.

751

00:35:02,010 --> 00:35:04,490

And we did.

752

00:35:04,490 --> 00:35:06,510

We gave her the ration.

753

00:35:06,510 --> 00:35:11,410

And she opened the wound and--

754

00:35:11,410 --> 00:35:11,980

Drained it?

755

00:35:11,980 --> 00:35:12,860

--drained it.

756

00:35:12,860 --> 00:35:14,710

It was no medication.

757

00:35:14,710 --> 00:35:19,190

And it's just plain  
luck that it healed.

758

00:35:19,190 --> 00:35:24,180

And then, they  
closed up that block.

759

00:35:24,180 --> 00:35:27,530

And we went on  
the road, working.

760  
00:35:27,530 --> 00:35:31,230  
How long were you in Block 25?

761  
00:35:31,230 --> 00:35:33,280  
Maybe a few months--

762  
00:35:33,280 --> 00:35:36,520  
not long ago.

763  
00:35:36,520 --> 00:35:38,690  
When you said you had  
to give up your rations,

764  
00:35:38,690 --> 00:35:40,830  
what were you getting for food?

765  
00:35:40,830 --> 00:35:44,270  
Well, a piece of bread  
and a piece of cheese.

766  
00:35:44,270 --> 00:35:48,590  
[INAUDIBLE] in the  
morning, coffee--

767  
00:35:48,590 --> 00:35:50,910  
"coffee."

768  
00:35:50,910 --> 00:35:54,604  
I don't even  
remember what it was.

769  
00:35:54,604 --> 00:35:59,850  
And, lunchtime, soup--  
if you didn't go to work.

770  
00:35:59,850 --> 00:36:03,720  
If you went to work,  
you didn't get anything.

771  
00:36:03,720 --> 00:36:05,820  
You only ate when you

came back to camp.

772

00:36:05,820 --> 00:36:09,800

773

00:36:09,800 --> 00:36:13,250

Did they ever take you  
out for counting, for--

774

00:36:13,250 --> 00:36:20,000

Oh, yes, we stayed every morning  
at 4 o'clock in the morning.

775

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:23,210

And they counted us.

776

00:36:23,210 --> 00:36:26,040

What was that like?

777

00:36:26,040 --> 00:36:31,360

Well, it was very difficult,  
because we stayed straight

778

00:36:31,360 --> 00:36:33,167

for about three hours.

779

00:36:33,167 --> 00:36:34,000

Just standing there.

780

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:37,540

Just standing there.

781

00:36:37,540 --> 00:36:45,600

And then they opened  
up a Jewish hospital--

782

00:36:45,600 --> 00:36:47,590

the "hospital."

783

00:36:47,590 --> 00:36:51,890

You brought in half-dead people,  
and then you took them out.



784  
00:36:51,890 --> 00:36:55,390  
But the only thing they wanted  
is to take their number.

785  
00:36:55,390 --> 00:36:58,500  
They were very  
organized, you know--

786  
00:36:58,500 --> 00:37:01,265  
terribly organized.

787  
00:37:01,265 --> 00:37:03,340  
In the morning,  
when we came out,

788  
00:37:03,340 --> 00:37:05,230  
there was nothing  
left but bones.

789  
00:37:05,230 --> 00:37:08,770  
The rats had eaten  
everything up.

790  
00:37:08,770 --> 00:37:12,310  
I went back, recently,  
and it still--

791  
00:37:12,310 --> 00:37:14,970  
I saw rats, big like that.

792  
00:37:14,970 --> 00:37:17,110  
They're still there.

793  
00:37:17,110 --> 00:37:19,960  
Are we still talking  
about Block 25?

794  
00:37:19,960 --> 00:37:23,350  
Oh, no, that's--  
they have closed up--

795

00:37:23,350 --> 00:37:26,050  
this is a hospital  
they opened up.

796  
00:37:26,050 --> 00:37:27,035  
Near Block 25?

797  
00:37:27,035 --> 00:37:27,660  
Near Block 25--

798  
00:37:27,660 --> 00:37:28,642  
I see.

799  
00:37:28,642 --> 00:37:29,142  
I see.

800  
00:37:29,142 --> 00:37:31,612  
--yeah.

801  
00:37:31,612 --> 00:37:37,240  
And that didn't last very  
long-- about a couple of months.

802  
00:37:37,240 --> 00:37:44,680  
And they closed that up, too.

803  
00:37:44,680 --> 00:37:47,680  
So, after you stayed in  
Block 25 for several months,

804  
00:37:47,680 --> 00:37:49,310  
then what happened?

805  
00:37:49,310 --> 00:37:50,625  
I went to that hospital--

806  
00:37:50,625 --> 00:37:51,458  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

807  
00:37:51,458 --> 00:37:52,610  
The hospital, right.

808

00:37:52,610 --> 00:37:54,724

And you were there for  
a few months, helping--

809

00:37:54,724 --> 00:37:58,510

Yeah-- not even a few  
months-- a month or so.

810

00:37:58,510 --> 00:38:01,570

They didn't even wait  
for the people to die.

811

00:38:01,570 --> 00:38:04,660

They took them  
directly on the truck,

812

00:38:04,660 --> 00:38:08,200

and put them in the gas  
chamber, and then the oven.

813

00:38:08,200 --> 00:38:11,695

At that point, did you know what  
had happened to your family?

814

00:38:11,695 --> 00:38:15,350

815

00:38:15,350 --> 00:38:19,980

Yes, I-- because you  
couldn't help it but smell--

816

00:38:19,980 --> 00:38:26,050

smell the grease of  
the person, of the--

817

00:38:26,050 --> 00:38:30,850

it was a horror, a  
horrible smell, of--

818

00:38:30,850 --> 00:38:32,930

and people told me, you know--

819

00:38:32,930 --> 00:38:37,780  
I-- in the beginning, it was  
very hard for me to believe it.

820  
00:38:37,780 --> 00:38:42,690  
I always wonder how my little  
brother reacted to that.

821  
00:38:42,690 --> 00:38:45,636

822  
00:38:45,636 --> 00:38:47,109  
Mmm.

823  
00:38:47,109 --> 00:38:49,555  
Mhm.

824  
00:38:49,555 --> 00:38:50,055  
Mhm.

825  
00:38:50,055 --> 00:38:55,480

826  
00:38:55,480 --> 00:39:00,480  
And then I worked on Kommandos.

827  
00:39:00,480 --> 00:39:05,200  
Oh, no-- I did go in--  
they picked me to go work

828  
00:39:05,200 --> 00:39:08,050  
for the Gentile hospital.

829  
00:39:08,050 --> 00:39:10,480  
For three months I worked there.

830  
00:39:10,480 --> 00:39:12,550  
When you say you worked,  
what did that mean?

831  
00:39:12,550 --> 00:39:15,160  
What did you do?

832  
00:39:15,160 --> 00:39:17,140  
It was no medication.

833  
00:39:17,140 --> 00:39:21,070  
It was nothing to do than to  
make them a little bit more

834  
00:39:21,070 --> 00:39:21,910  
comfortable.

835  
00:39:21,910 --> 00:39:23,360  
These are Gentile prisoners?

836  
00:39:23,360 --> 00:39:29,230  
Yeah-- communists, underground--

837  
00:39:29,230 --> 00:39:34,120  
a lot of Polish people, a lot  
of French people, a lot of--

838  
00:39:34,120 --> 00:39:36,280  
Did you also speak  
Polish, besides French?

839  
00:39:36,280 --> 00:39:36,850  
No.

840  
00:39:36,850 --> 00:39:38,500  
You only knew French.

841  
00:39:38,500 --> 00:39:42,150  
French, but I learned very  
quickly Polish and German.

842  
00:39:42,150 --> 00:39:47,060  
And it was very fast,  
because you had to.

843  
00:39:47,060 --> 00:39:49,026  
You had to learn very quickly.

844  
00:39:49,026 --> 00:39:50,930  
Mhm.

845  
00:39:50,930 --> 00:39:52,980  
And where were you  
sleeping, at that time?

846  
00:39:52,980 --> 00:39:58,010  
In the hospital there,  
with the sick people.

847  
00:39:58,010 --> 00:40:00,210  
And then they  
closed that up, too.

848  
00:40:00,210 --> 00:40:03,430

849  
00:40:03,430 --> 00:40:05,910  
Again, were you one  
of the younger women?

850  
00:40:05,910 --> 00:40:06,410  
Yeah.

851  
00:40:06,410 --> 00:40:08,077  
You still were one  
of the younger women.

852  
00:40:08,077 --> 00:40:08,670  
Yeah.

853  
00:40:08,670 --> 00:40:10,470  
And were you with  
your friend Toni?

854  
00:40:10,470 --> 00:40:12,190  
Toni and Matilda--

855  
00:40:12,190 --> 00:40:17,550  
Matilda-- who was  
from Palestine--

856  
00:40:17,550 --> 00:40:19,650  
Jewish.

857  
00:40:19,650 --> 00:40:21,810  
And they both took care.

858  
00:40:21,810 --> 00:40:30,780  
If one wasn't around, the other  
one tried to be around me.

859  
00:40:30,780 --> 00:40:31,860  
How old were these women?

860  
00:40:31,860 --> 00:40:35,650

861  
00:40:35,650 --> 00:40:39,960  
They must have been about 25,  
30 years older than I was.

862  
00:40:39,960 --> 00:40:41,265  
Older than you?

863  
00:40:41,265 --> 00:40:41,765  
Mhm.

864  
00:40:41,765 --> 00:40:44,680

865  
00:40:44,680 --> 00:40:46,810  
They must have been close to 40.

866  
00:40:46,810 --> 00:40:51,127

867  
00:40:51,127 --> 00:40:51,960  
And they were alone?

868  
00:40:51,960 --> 00:40:53,470  
Did they have any children?

869  
00:40:53,470 --> 00:40:57,130  
Yes, they had children,  
but their children escaped.

870  
00:40:57,130 --> 00:40:59,490  
They were not in camp.

871  
00:40:59,490 --> 00:41:03,330  
Well, they wouldn't have  
come into camp, anyway.

872  
00:41:03,330 --> 00:41:05,304  
But apparently they were--

873  
00:41:05,304 --> 00:41:08,748

874  
00:41:08,748 --> 00:41:10,560  
they were saved.

875  
00:41:10,560 --> 00:41:14,760  
They came back, and they  
find the son alive--

876  
00:41:14,760 --> 00:41:17,230  
both of them.

877  
00:41:17,230 --> 00:41:19,140  
So they were very lucky.

878  
00:41:19,140 --> 00:41:22,280  
What was the youngest age that  
you saw, there in the camp?

879  
00:41:22,280 --> 00:41:25,330

880  
00:41:25,330 --> 00:41:26,920  
The youngest-- in the women?

881



00:41:26,920 --> 00:41:29,440

882

00:41:29,440 --> 00:41:33,645

Maybe 15 or 14.

883

00:41:33,645 --> 00:41:35,140

And that's all.

884

00:41:35,140 --> 00:41:38,850

They were not-- and the men,  
maybe a little bit more,

885

00:41:38,850 --> 00:41:41,610

but I did not know them.

886

00:41:41,610 --> 00:41:44,960

887

00:41:44,960 --> 00:41:47,770

They were separated from us.

888

00:41:47,770 --> 00:41:49,980

You said you then worked  
in the Gentile hospital,

889

00:41:49,980 --> 00:41:50,450

and then they closed that.

890

00:41:50,450 --> 00:41:50,950

Yeah.

891

00:41:50,950 --> 00:41:52,060

They closed that.

892

00:41:52,060 --> 00:41:53,200

And then where did you go?

893

00:41:53,200 --> 00:41:57,680

The Kommandos-- potato  
Kommandos and that Kommando,

894

00:41:57,680 --> 00:42:04,210

and they find work  
for you to do.

895

00:42:04,210 --> 00:42:07,120

Can you describe a typical day?

896

00:42:07,120 --> 00:42:11,610

Well, you left at 8  
o'clock in the morning,

897

00:42:11,610 --> 00:42:14,350

by staying up three hours.

898

00:42:14,350 --> 00:42:17,830

And the worst Kommando  
was the potato Kommando.

899

00:42:17,830 --> 00:42:19,930

What did you have to do?

900

00:42:19,930 --> 00:42:25,000

We worked on the ground  
and then pick out

901

00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:31,150

the good potatoes for  
the soldiers, for the SS,

902

00:42:31,150 --> 00:42:34,810

and the bad potatoes  
for the camp.

903

00:42:34,810 --> 00:42:39,890

Were these potato fields  
within the camp grounds?

904

00:42:39,890 --> 00:42:43,120

They're in the camp  
grounds, on the ground.

905

00:42:43,120 --> 00:42:45,520

And it was cold.

906  
00:42:45,520 --> 00:42:48,580  
It was damp.

907  
00:42:48,580 --> 00:42:53,650  
I think I suffered the  
most [? during that. ?]

908  
00:42:53,650 --> 00:42:58,820  
Now, what time of year  
are we talking about, now?

909  
00:42:58,820 --> 00:43:03,340  
Well, I think it  
was starting fall--

910  
00:43:03,340 --> 00:43:07,760  
not fall, but almost  
to the spring.

911  
00:43:07,760 --> 00:43:09,040  
Fall, winter, and spring--

912  
00:43:09,040 --> 00:43:10,450  
'42, '43.

913  
00:43:10,450 --> 00:43:11,740  
Yeah.

914  
00:43:11,740 --> 00:43:19,030  
But in '44, in April,  
[NON-ENGLISH]----

915  
00:43:19,030 --> 00:43:21,910  
I don't know if you  
heard of [NON-ENGLISH]----

916  
00:43:21,910 --> 00:43:23,680  
Well, before we  
get to '44, let's

917

00:43:23,680 --> 00:43:26,680  
talk about a little bit  
more in '42 and '43.

918  
00:43:26,680 --> 00:43:28,360  
So you worked in  
the potato fields.

919  
00:43:28,360 --> 00:43:28,860  
Yeah.

920  
00:43:28,860 --> 00:43:30,840  
What else?

921  
00:43:30,840 --> 00:43:32,890  
On the road, like  
everybody else, you know.

922  
00:43:32,890 --> 00:43:35,230  
What were you doing on the road?

923  
00:43:35,230 --> 00:43:37,960  
Making roads.

924  
00:43:37,960 --> 00:43:38,900  
How?

925  
00:43:38,900 --> 00:43:42,560  
The water did not absorb.

926  
00:43:42,560 --> 00:43:44,920  
You know, it was like clay.

927  
00:43:44,920 --> 00:43:53,470  
So, when the snow melted,  
the water's stagnant on top.

928  
00:43:53,470 --> 00:43:57,430  
And it was very dangerous,  
because mosquitoes come out

929  
00:43:57,430 --> 00:43:59,060

and all those things.

930  
00:43:59,060 --> 00:44:02,950  
So we used to put big  
stones on top of--

931  
00:44:02,950 --> 00:44:05,147  
making roads.

932  
00:44:05,147 --> 00:44:05,980  
On top of the water.

933  
00:44:05,980 --> 00:44:07,740  
On top of the water.

934  
00:44:07,740 --> 00:44:09,310  
And what did you have to do?

935  
00:44:09,310 --> 00:44:10,180  
We did that.

936  
00:44:10,180 --> 00:44:11,290  
You carried the stones?

937  
00:44:11,290 --> 00:44:12,580  
Yeah.

938  
00:44:12,580 --> 00:44:13,867  
We carried a stone.

939  
00:44:13,867 --> 00:44:14,950  
And what were you wearing?

940  
00:44:14,950 --> 00:44:17,710

941  
00:44:17,710 --> 00:44:19,260  
Well, I didn't have  
shoes, because I

942  
00:44:19,260 --> 00:44:23,700

lost my shoes in the clay.

943

00:44:23,700 --> 00:44:27,420

Because, by the time--  
if your foot got into it,

944

00:44:27,420 --> 00:44:30,840

you had to twist your  
foot to pull it out.

945

00:44:30,840 --> 00:44:34,050

and your shoe stayed with it.

946

00:44:34,050 --> 00:44:35,170

So you were barefoot.

947

00:44:35,170 --> 00:44:36,240

Barefoot.

948

00:44:36,240 --> 00:44:38,280

Yeah.

949

00:44:38,280 --> 00:44:39,960

And your striped outfit?

950

00:44:39,960 --> 00:44:40,900

I had a stripe outfit.

951

00:44:40,900 --> 00:44:43,540

952

00:44:43,540 --> 00:44:47,770

I usually-- the minute my  
hair used to grow back,

953

00:44:47,770 --> 00:44:51,800

I used to go and cut  
them, because of the lice!

954

00:44:51,800 --> 00:44:59,710

Oh, I had body lice,  
which gave me typhus.

955  
00:44:59,710 --> 00:45:02,710  
I had twice typhus.

956  
00:45:02,710 --> 00:45:05,200  
And that was not funny.

957  
00:45:05,200 --> 00:45:06,520  
That was really bad.

958  
00:45:06,520 --> 00:45:09,080  
When you were sick with  
typhus, did you have to work?

959  
00:45:09,080 --> 00:45:10,783  
Yes.

960  
00:45:10,783 --> 00:45:12,200  
Mhm.

961  
00:45:12,200 --> 00:45:13,460  
There was no hospital.

962  
00:45:13,460 --> 00:45:16,648  
There was no medicine.

963  
00:45:16,648 --> 00:45:17,440  
I'll be right back.

964  
00:45:17,440 --> 00:45:20,900

965  
00:45:20,900 --> 00:45:23,737  
And so you were working on the  
road and carrying heavy rocks.

966  
00:45:23,737 --> 00:45:24,640  
Yeah.

967  
00:45:24,640 --> 00:45:25,950  
Yeah.

968  
00:45:25,950 --> 00:45:27,890  
And what was the  
treatment by the guards,

969  
00:45:27,890 --> 00:45:29,600  
when you were doing this?

970  
00:45:29,600 --> 00:45:33,230  
Well, you had the  
dogs, and you had the--

971  
00:45:33,230 --> 00:45:37,750  
if you didn't do fast enough,  
you had the dogs on top of you.

972  
00:45:37,750 --> 00:45:40,790  
Still plenty of  
marks on my backside.

973  
00:45:40,790 --> 00:45:41,420  
And--

974  
00:45:41,420 --> 00:45:43,850  
From the dogs, or  
from the whips, or--

975  
00:45:43,850 --> 00:45:44,965  
From both.

976  
00:45:44,965 --> 00:45:46,340  
You were beaten,  
while you were--

977  
00:45:46,340 --> 00:45:47,210  
Mhm.

978  
00:45:47,210 --> 00:45:48,560  
Oh, yeah!

979  
00:45:48,560 --> 00:45:51,350  
Everybody was.



980  
00:45:51,350 --> 00:45:54,750  
I don't think-- very few  
people were not beaten,

981  
00:45:54,750 --> 00:45:57,560  
but I don't know.

982  
00:45:57,560 --> 00:46:01,230  
How did you keep going,  
at this time, with such--

983  
00:46:01,230 --> 00:46:01,730  
Well--

984  
00:46:01,730 --> 00:46:01,840  
--terrible conditions?

985  
00:46:01,840 --> 00:46:03,770  
--first of all, I  
had those two ladies,

986  
00:46:03,770 --> 00:46:05,120  
who really took care of me.

987  
00:46:05,120 --> 00:46:06,980  
Did they work  
alongside of you, when

988  
00:46:06,980 --> 00:46:08,188  
you were doing the rock work?

989  
00:46:08,188 --> 00:46:09,140  
Yes.

990  
00:46:09,140 --> 00:46:11,180  
they worked alongside of me.

991  
00:46:11,180 --> 00:46:14,060  
They usually had better jobs.

992

00:46:14,060 --> 00:46:19,130  
But they always bring me  
food, which I wasn't good of--

993  
00:46:19,130 --> 00:46:22,340

994  
00:46:22,340 --> 00:46:29,850  
I was-- it was degrading me, to  
go and steal or beg for food.

995  
00:46:29,850 --> 00:46:31,100  
I was too young!

996  
00:46:31,100 --> 00:46:33,620  
I was--

997  
00:46:33,620 --> 00:46:38,260  
So they used to bring me  
food and take care of me

998  
00:46:38,260 --> 00:46:43,330  
or find a scarf  
for my head or find

999  
00:46:43,330 --> 00:46:48,520  
a pair of shoes-- it was too  
big, but at least it helped.

1000  
00:46:48,520 --> 00:46:52,270  
When you said you cut your  
hair off, as it got too long,

1001  
00:46:52,270 --> 00:46:53,620  
how did you do that?

1002  
00:46:53,620 --> 00:46:56,950  
I went to the barber!

1003  
00:46:56,950 --> 00:46:58,850  
They have a lot of barbers--

1004

00:46:58,850 --> 00:47:01,080  
well, prisoners, you know?

1005  
00:47:01,080 --> 00:47:03,282  
Man prisoners.

1006  
00:47:03,282 --> 00:47:07,100  
And they had--  
well, first of all,

1007  
00:47:07,100 --> 00:47:10,180  
it was very dangerous,  
to have hair.

1008  
00:47:10,180 --> 00:47:11,780  
Why was it dangerous?

1009  
00:47:11,780 --> 00:47:15,220  
The lice-- one thing.

1010  
00:47:15,220 --> 00:47:22,600  
And, if you had -- you  
usually have curly hair,

1011  
00:47:22,600 --> 00:47:23,850  
they liked that.

1012  
00:47:23,850 --> 00:47:25,900  
They liked when you were pretty.

1013  
00:47:25,900 --> 00:47:32,380  
And you couldn't be  
pretty, in camp, you know?

1014  
00:47:32,380 --> 00:47:37,540  
They took you out, cleaned you  
up, and send you to a home!

1015  
00:47:37,540 --> 00:47:40,690  
So you had to be very  
careful with that.

1016

00:47:40,690 --> 00:47:44,630

1017  
00:47:44,630 --> 00:47:47,750  
You were talking about  
working with the roads--

1018  
00:47:47,750 --> 00:47:48,250  
Yeah.

1019  
00:47:48,250 --> 00:47:49,167  
--and getting beaten--

1020  
00:47:49,167 --> 00:47:51,470  
Yeah, but that wasn't  
the worst thing.

1021  
00:47:51,470 --> 00:47:56,800  
The worst thing was,  
[NON-ENGLISH] was a Belgian

1022  
00:47:56,800 --> 00:47:59,870  
girl who spoke a  
lot of languages.

1023  
00:47:59,870 --> 00:48:04,640  
She was a [NON-ENGLISH]----  
that means, an interpreter--

1024  
00:48:04,640 --> 00:48:05,630  
for the Germans.

1025  
00:48:05,630 --> 00:48:06,680  
And they loved her.

1026  
00:48:06,680 --> 00:48:09,230

1027  
00:48:09,230 --> 00:48:10,130  
Was she a prisoner?

1028  
00:48:10,130 --> 00:48:12,410

Yeah!

1029

00:48:12,410 --> 00:48:17,400

And she worked with a Polish  
underground prisoner, too.

1030

00:48:17,400 --> 00:48:20,370

1031

00:48:20,370 --> 00:48:22,070

She escaped.

1032

00:48:22,070 --> 00:48:25,450

But, before she escaped, she--

1033

00:48:25,450 --> 00:48:27,360

I was walking in--

1034

00:48:27,360 --> 00:48:33,528

because, when she walked in from  
a Kommando, you had to sing.

1035

00:48:33,528 --> 00:48:35,070

This is when you  
were marching back--

1036

00:48:35,070 --> 00:48:35,570

Yeah.

1037

00:48:35,570 --> 00:48:36,690

--to your barracks?

1038

00:48:36,690 --> 00:48:38,070

What did you have to sing?

1039

00:48:38,070 --> 00:48:41,160

German song.

1040

00:48:41,160 --> 00:48:42,310

All the women were singing.

1041

00:48:42,310 --> 00:48:43,392  
Yeah.

1042  
00:48:43,392 --> 00:48:48,450  
And if you didn't  
sing, he went the whip.

1043  
00:48:48,450 --> 00:48:52,370  
And she says-- she  
told me, Marie, meet me

1044  
00:48:52,370 --> 00:48:57,030  
[SPEAKING FRENCH], someplace.

1045  
00:48:57,030 --> 00:48:58,780  
You know.

1046  
00:48:58,780 --> 00:49:00,390  
So I said, why?

1047  
00:49:00,390 --> 00:49:01,680  
She says, I have --

1048  
00:49:01,680 --> 00:49:06,810  
I may not save your life, but  
you'll have maybe four months--

1049  
00:49:06,810 --> 00:49:09,720  
good months.

1050  
00:49:09,720 --> 00:49:13,050  
So I went, and I met  
her at that time.

1051  
00:49:13,050 --> 00:49:24,540  
And that's when-- it was about  
April, or March, of 1944.

1052  
00:49:24,540 --> 00:49:26,025  
Oh, now we're in 1944.

1053  
00:49:26,025 --> 00:49:26,525

Yeah.

1054

00:49:26,525 --> 00:49:27,025

OK.

1055

00:49:27,025 --> 00:49:29,630

So, all of 1943,

you were working--

1056

00:49:29,630 --> 00:49:30,800

In Kommandos--

1057

00:49:30,800 --> 00:49:31,783

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1058

00:49:31,783 --> 00:49:32,700

--different Kommandos.

1059

00:49:32,700 --> 00:49:36,240

Anything else besides the  
potatoes and the road work?

1060

00:49:36,240 --> 00:49:39,440

Did you do anything else--

1061

00:49:39,440 --> 00:49:40,862

that you can remember?

1062

00:49:40,862 --> 00:49:42,070

Well, I don't remember, yeah.

1063

00:49:42,070 --> 00:49:45,550

But, you know, you  
did so many things.

1064

00:49:45,550 --> 00:49:48,060

They caught you when  
you did anything.

1065

00:49:48,060 --> 00:49:48,920

Yeah.

1066

00:49:48,920 --> 00:49:52,230

OK, so now it's spring of '44.

1067

00:49:52,230 --> 00:49:56,100

And she says, you're going  
to go to [PLACE NAME]..

1068

00:49:56,100 --> 00:49:58,620

And I said, what is  
[PLACE NAME] She said,

1069

00:49:58,620 --> 00:50:03,600

it's a crematorium  
and a gas chamber.

1070

00:50:03,600 --> 00:50:09,260

They have a-- a half a million  
Hungarian Jews are coming in.

1071

00:50:09,260 --> 00:50:12,880

That's when the  
time [INAUDIBLE]..

1072

00:50:12,880 --> 00:50:16,790

And they need people to select--

1073

00:50:16,790 --> 00:50:19,460

We did not select  
the people to--

1074

00:50:19,460 --> 00:50:20,870

who die or not.

1075

00:50:20,870 --> 00:50:25,220

The women fold the clothes  
and look for jewelry

1076

00:50:25,220 --> 00:50:28,865

and make packages to  
send it to Germany.

1077

00:50:28,865 --> 00:50:30,740



This is the belongings  
of the Hungarian Jews.

1078  
00:50:30,740 --> 00:50:32,300  
Right.

1079  
00:50:32,300 --> 00:50:33,770  
The women did that job.

1080  
00:50:33,770 --> 00:50:36,230  
The men did the  
other, the worst job.

1081  
00:50:36,230 --> 00:50:39,420

1082  
00:50:39,420 --> 00:50:43,848  
Well, that really  
almost drive me crazy.

1083  
00:50:43,848 --> 00:50:44,640  
I couldn't take it.

1084  
00:50:44,640 --> 00:50:47,710

1085  
00:50:47,710 --> 00:50:51,690  
My bed was [? giving ?]  
right on the oven.

1086  
00:50:51,690 --> 00:50:54,540  
So-- you know, the  
old-fashioned bread--

1087  
00:50:54,540 --> 00:50:56,370  
wooden thing?

1088  
00:50:56,370 --> 00:51:00,820  
They used to put the gassed  
people on top of that--

1089  
00:51:00,820 --> 00:51:03,530

and some of them  
were still moving--

1090  
00:51:03,530 --> 00:51:06,606  
and shoved into the--

1091  
00:51:06,606 --> 00:51:09,920  
and I was thinking about  
my family, you know--

1092  
00:51:09,920 --> 00:51:10,610  
were they alive?

1093  
00:51:10,610 --> 00:51:14,690  
Were they dead  
when this happened?

1094  
00:51:14,690 --> 00:51:18,190  
A half a million, they didn't  
have enough room for that.

1095  
00:51:18,190 --> 00:51:21,300  
So they made trenches--

1096  
00:51:21,300 --> 00:51:27,980  
put the kids in, put some  
gasoline, and light them.

1097  
00:51:27,980 --> 00:51:30,900  
The screaming and the yelling--

1098  
00:51:30,900 --> 00:51:33,368  
I still dream about it.

1099  
00:51:33,368 --> 00:51:37,950

1100  
00:51:37,950 --> 00:51:40,570  
It was a horror.

1101  
00:51:40,570 --> 00:51:44,030  
I never talked to anybody

about that [CRYING]

1102  
00:51:44,030 --> 00:51:47,140  
because I was ashamed!

1103  
00:51:47,140 --> 00:51:48,340  
"Ashamed"?

1104  
00:51:48,340 --> 00:51:50,280  
What were you ashamed of?

1105  
00:51:50,280 --> 00:51:51,840  
Of [CRYING] being--

1106  
00:51:51,840 --> 00:51:53,470  
I had to do--

1107  
00:51:53,470 --> 00:51:59,920  
see-- and-- and sending the  
clothes to Germany and--

1108  
00:51:59,920 --> 00:52:03,000

1109  
00:52:03,000 --> 00:52:11,130  
anyway, that's-- and, after  
this would be finished,

1110  
00:52:11,130 --> 00:52:14,760  
we knew that we're going to  
die, because they didn't want

1111  
00:52:14,760 --> 00:52:18,790  
to have any witnesses for that.

1112  
00:52:18,790 --> 00:52:23,580  
But, lucky enough, the  
Russian were coming too fast.

1113  
00:52:23,580 --> 00:52:26,230  
OK, we'll talk about  
that in a minute.

1114  
00:52:26,230 --> 00:52:27,960  
So, when you were  
working there--

1115  
00:52:27,960 --> 00:52:31,560  
this was beginning  
and April of '44--

1116  
00:52:31,560 --> 00:52:35,070  
you were also staying, but you  
were sleeping there at night?

1117  
00:52:35,070 --> 00:52:35,940  
Yeah!

1118  
00:52:35,940 --> 00:52:37,710  
Oh, we had clean sheets!

1119  
00:52:37,710 --> 00:52:40,070  
We had showers!

1120  
00:52:40,070 --> 00:52:45,150  
We had the food, as  
much as you want.

1121  
00:52:45,150 --> 00:52:47,970  
They fed you, so you should--

1122  
00:52:47,970 --> 00:52:49,920  
you shouldn't-- you  
should be happy!

1123  
00:52:49,920 --> 00:52:54,090  
You should not  
revolt yourself or--

1124  
00:52:54,090 --> 00:52:55,362  
you know--

1125  
00:52:55,362 --> 00:52:57,570  
Who were the other people

that you were working with?

1126  
00:52:57,570 --> 00:53:00,580

1127  
00:53:00,580 --> 00:53:07,020  
People picked-- some  
men and some women.

1128  
00:53:07,020 --> 00:53:09,210  
A friend of mine was  
working with me--

1129  
00:53:09,210 --> 00:53:17,200  
Maria Toni and Mathilde, they  
worked in factories already,

1130  
00:53:17,200 --> 00:53:18,270  
at the time.

1131  
00:53:18,270 --> 00:53:26,695  
They worked for-- they're  
making cars, now--

1132  
00:53:26,695 --> 00:53:27,195  
Mercedes.

1133  
00:53:27,195 --> 00:53:31,570

1134  
00:53:31,570 --> 00:53:34,090  
Did you have any  
contact with Toni or--

1135  
00:53:34,090 --> 00:53:34,810  
No.

1136  
00:53:34,810 --> 00:53:36,940  
Well, they were away.

1137  
00:53:36,940 --> 00:53:39,400  
They were in the

middle of Germany.

1138  
00:53:39,400 --> 00:53:41,210  
We were still in Poland--

1139  
00:53:41,210 --> 00:53:43,930  
in Kraków-- in Kraków.

1140  
00:53:43,930 --> 00:53:48,340  
The factories were in  
the middle of Germany,

1141  
00:53:48,340 --> 00:53:52,570  
where they were making  
[INAUDIBLE] anything but cars.

1142  
00:53:52,570 --> 00:53:55,790  
[LAUGH]

1143  
00:53:55,790 --> 00:53:59,060  
So you stayed-- you  
lived, every day--

1144  
00:53:59,060 --> 00:53:59,840  
Yeah.

1145  
00:53:59,840 --> 00:54:01,400  
--near the crematorium.

1146  
00:54:01,400 --> 00:54:05,163  
Oh, yeah, it was  
from here to here.

1147  
00:54:05,163 --> 00:54:05,830  
Just a few feet.

1148  
00:54:05,830 --> 00:54:07,162  
It was very close--

1149  
00:54:07,162 --> 00:54:07,870  
very, very close.

1150  
00:54:07,870 --> 00:54:08,370  
Yeah.

1151  
00:54:08,370 --> 00:54:09,900  
And was every day the same?

1152  
00:54:09,900 --> 00:54:14,280  
The same thing-- the screaming  
of the children, the yelling--

1153  
00:54:14,280 --> 00:54:16,700  
every day was coming  
another transport.

1154  
00:54:16,700 --> 00:54:20,360  
You know, in six months,  
a half a million--

1155  
00:54:20,360 --> 00:54:22,500  
that's a whole lot!

1156  
00:54:22,500 --> 00:54:24,270  
That's an awful lot.

1157  
00:54:24,270 --> 00:54:27,380  
It took them four  
years for 6 million.

1158  
00:54:27,380 --> 00:54:31,110

1159  
00:54:31,110 --> 00:54:34,290  
And what were-- do you  
remember what you were saying

1160  
00:54:34,290 --> 00:54:35,820  
to your fellow prisoners?

1161  
00:54:35,820 --> 00:54:39,630  
Was there any kind of  
exchange of thoughts?

1162

00:54:39,630 --> 00:54:42,180

Well, we all felt  
the same thing.

1163

00:54:42,180 --> 00:54:45,250

We've gone to die.

1164

00:54:45,250 --> 00:54:47,040

They're going to kill us.

1165

00:54:47,040 --> 00:54:57,210

They don't want any people  
who saw all that horror.

1166

00:54:57,210 --> 00:55:03,780

And Eichmann was-- monsters!

1167

00:55:03,780 --> 00:55:06,225

They were looking  
in the gas chamber

1168

00:55:06,225 --> 00:55:12,600

and laughing, like it  
was-- you know, a play.

1169

00:55:12,600 --> 00:55:15,330

It was, like-- it was a horror.

1170

00:55:15,330 --> 00:55:17,480

It was terrible.

1171

00:55:17,480 --> 00:55:18,480

And it was just awful.

1172

00:55:18,480 --> 00:55:22,200

1173

00:55:22,200 --> 00:55:26,610

And one part of the  
men revolted themselves.

1174



00:55:26,610 --> 00:55:28,832  
Of course they were killed.

1175  
00:55:28,832 --> 00:55:29,790  
And they took another--

1176  
00:55:29,790 --> 00:55:33,610

1177  
00:55:33,610 --> 00:55:38,880  
a group of men who did the  
gassing and the burning.

1178  
00:55:38,880 --> 00:55:42,230

1179  
00:55:42,230 --> 00:55:47,950  
But that lasted from  
April to January.

1180  
00:55:47,950 --> 00:55:50,184  
You did this from  
April to January.

1181  
00:55:50,184 --> 00:55:51,130  
Mhm.

1182  
00:55:51,130 --> 00:55:53,207  
And again, what was  
your health like, then?

1183  
00:55:53,207 --> 00:55:55,290  
You said you were eating  
all right, at that point?

1184  
00:55:55,290 --> 00:55:57,370  
Yes.

1185  
00:55:57,370 --> 00:56:02,350  
My health was OK, but my  
mental attitude was terrible.

1186

00:56:02,350 --> 00:56:05,830  
I was crying, day and night.

1187  
00:56:05,830 --> 00:56:06,790  
And I was--

1188  
00:56:06,790 --> 00:56:09,425

1189  
00:56:09,425 --> 00:56:11,550  
Were you able to share your  
feelings with anybody--

1190  
00:56:11,550 --> 00:56:13,530  
Oh, yes, with other people.

1191  
00:56:13,530 --> 00:56:15,530  
We all felt the same thing.

1192  
00:56:15,530 --> 00:56:21,270  
We all felt the horror  
of the whole situation.

1193  
00:56:21,270 --> 00:56:23,730  
And again, were you one of  
the youngest to be doing this?

1194  
00:56:23,730 --> 00:56:26,360  
Yeah.

1195  
00:56:26,360 --> 00:56:28,092  
I was the youngest.

1196  
00:56:28,092 --> 00:56:29,060  
Mhm?

1197  
00:56:29,060 --> 00:56:30,512  
Mhm?

1198  
00:56:30,512 --> 00:56:33,430  
Well, they had  
something to live for--

1199  
00:56:33,430 --> 00:56:37,760  
seeing their husband-- wife,  
maybe, or their children,

1200  
00:56:37,760 --> 00:56:39,510  
still alive.

1201  
00:56:39,510 --> 00:56:42,200  
I knew my family was gone.

1202  
00:56:42,200 --> 00:56:45,270  
About three months  
I was in camp,

1203  
00:56:45,270 --> 00:56:47,260  
I saw a friend of the family.

1204  
00:56:47,260 --> 00:56:49,590  
And I said, where is my father?

1205  
00:56:49,590 --> 00:56:53,460  
And he said, he just  
died two weeks ago.

1206  
00:56:53,460 --> 00:56:56,460  
So I knew everybody was dead.

1207  
00:56:56,460 --> 00:56:57,470  
I had nobody left.

1208  
00:56:57,470 --> 00:56:59,190  
Mhm?

1209  
00:56:59,190 --> 00:57:04,862  
How do you think you kept going,  
during that terrible, terrible

1210  
00:57:04,862 --> 00:57:05,362  
time?

1211

00:57:05,362 --> 00:57:08,220

1212

00:57:08,220 --> 00:57:09,790

When I came back, you mean?

1213

00:57:09,790 --> 00:57:15,000

No, no, no, when you were  
doing this terrible work.

1214

00:57:15,000 --> 00:57:16,660

What kept you going?

1215

00:57:16,660 --> 00:57:20,220

The idea of seeing  
them lose the war,

1216

00:57:20,220 --> 00:57:27,090

and having maybe one hour  
freedom, or eating one orange,

1217

00:57:27,090 --> 00:57:30,460

or seeing a tree.

1218

00:57:30,460 --> 00:57:33,820

You-- you imagine.

1219

00:57:33,820 --> 00:57:40,190

You want to see them  
being beaten by the--

1220

00:57:40,190 --> 00:57:47,010

and our -- my dream is to  
take the subway for an hour.

1221

00:57:47,010 --> 00:57:50,595

And then, after that, I didn't  
care what would happen to me.

1222

00:57:50,595 --> 00:57:58,886

And that's what made you  
live, I guess, or fight.

1223  
00:57:58,886 --> 00:58:01,670

1224  
00:58:01,670 --> 00:58:05,660  
And luck has a  
lot to do with it.

1225  
00:58:05,660 --> 00:58:09,040  
I think my time wasn't  
there to die yet.

1226  
00:58:09,040 --> 00:58:12,280

1227  
00:58:12,280 --> 00:58:16,010  
I believe very much in that.

1228  
00:58:16,010 --> 00:58:18,150  
But that's the way  
you fight, you know?

1229  
00:58:18,150 --> 00:58:21,000  
You fight every day--

1230  
00:58:21,000 --> 00:58:23,790  
maybe today, it's going  
to be the end of the war.

1231  
00:58:23,790 --> 00:58:25,780  
Maybe today, they're  
going to lose it.

1232  
00:58:25,780 --> 00:58:27,620  
And maybe today,  
they're going to--

1233  
00:58:27,620 --> 00:58:31,200

1234  
00:58:31,200 --> 00:58:33,540  
And then, when it  
came, I couldn't

1235

00:58:33,540 --> 00:58:38,490

do what some people did  
when they lost the war.

1236

00:58:38,490 --> 00:58:41,220

They used to beat the SS.

1237

00:58:41,220 --> 00:58:43,930

They used to spit in their face.

1238

00:58:43,930 --> 00:58:46,460

I couldn't do that.

1239

00:58:46,460 --> 00:58:50,000