

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,260

2
00:00:04,260 --> 00:00:07,780
The following is an
interview of Doris Rauch.

3
00:00:07,780 --> 00:00:13,800
It is taking place on July
7, 1995 in Washington DC.

4
00:00:13,800 --> 00:00:16,470
It is being conducted
by Gail Schwartz

5
00:00:16,470 --> 00:00:19,520
on behalf of the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

6
00:00:19,520 --> 00:00:22,820

7
00:00:22,820 --> 00:00:26,010
Could you please tell
us your full name?

8
00:00:26,010 --> 00:00:30,170
My name is Doris Rauch.

9
00:00:30,170 --> 00:00:31,560
And where were you born?

10
00:00:31,560 --> 00:00:35,720
I was born in Brno,
Czechoslovakia

11
00:00:35,720 --> 00:00:43,970
on August 26, 1920.

12
00:00:43,970 --> 00:00:48,290
Let's begin about talking about

the town that you grew up in.

13

00:00:48,290 --> 00:00:51,620

Can you describe it in any way?

14

00:00:51,620 --> 00:00:56,160

It had about

350,000 inhabitants.

15

00:00:56,160 --> 00:00:59,240

I have no idea how

many Jews, but I

16

00:00:59,240 --> 00:01:02,140

suppose it can be looked up.

17

00:01:02,140 --> 00:01:07,310

And it was bilingual,

both Czech and German.

18

00:01:07,310 --> 00:01:11,360

We spoke German at

home because my parents

19

00:01:11,360 --> 00:01:16,520

were born in Austria,

Hungary, and were brought up

20

00:01:16,520 --> 00:01:21,296

speaking German and

going to German schools,

21

00:01:21,296 --> 00:01:24,200

and the same happened to me.

22

00:01:24,200 --> 00:01:26,570

What kind of neighborhood

did you live in?

23

00:01:26,570 --> 00:01:30,380

Was it a mixed neighborhood

of Jews and non-Jews?

24
00:01:30,380 --> 00:01:31,670
Yes.

25
00:01:31,670 --> 00:01:33,950
It was a mixed neighborhood.

26
00:01:33,950 --> 00:01:35,820
Can one hear your questions?

27
00:01:35,820 --> 00:01:36,320
Yes.

28
00:01:36,320 --> 00:01:39,170

29
00:01:39,170 --> 00:01:42,740
There was no ghetto
as such at all.

30
00:01:42,740 --> 00:01:47,500
Did you live right in
town, in the downtown area

31
00:01:47,500 --> 00:01:48,620
or a centrally located?

32
00:01:48,620 --> 00:01:51,510
Yes, centrally located.

33
00:01:51,510 --> 00:01:53,540
And did you live in a
house or an apartment?

34
00:01:53,540 --> 00:01:56,390
In a apartment.

35
00:01:56,390 --> 00:01:59,540
How would you describe your
family, were you middle class?

36
00:01:59,540 --> 00:02:01,810

Yes, we were middle class.

37

00:02:01,810 --> 00:02:04,310

OK, let's now talk
about your parents.

38

00:02:04,310 --> 00:02:06,930

What kind of work
did your father do?

39

00:02:06,930 --> 00:02:12,380

My father had a wholesale
leather business which

40

00:02:12,380 --> 00:02:14,930

he inherited from his father.

41

00:02:14,930 --> 00:02:20,480

He was not really a business
man, but he couldn't help it.

42

00:02:20,480 --> 00:02:26,030

He had to become the owner
of a wholesale leather

43

00:02:26,030 --> 00:02:30,530

business, which
meant that he had

44

00:02:30,530 --> 00:02:35,180

to travel a lot to
various manufacturers

45

00:02:35,180 --> 00:02:40,250

all over Czechoslovakia
to sell leather,

46

00:02:40,250 --> 00:02:48,550

from which they made shoes and
gloves and things like that.

47

00:02:48,550 --> 00:02:50,260

And your mother, did she work?

48
00:02:50,260 --> 00:02:56,350
No, my mother didn't
work until when

49
00:02:56,350 --> 00:03:01,610
my father's business became
very bad in the depression.

50
00:03:01,610 --> 00:03:05,620
We had a depression,
too, in the '30s.

51
00:03:05,620 --> 00:03:11,410
She filled in as his
secretary or answering

52
00:03:11,410 --> 00:03:14,890
the telephone and so.

53
00:03:14,890 --> 00:03:16,535
How religious was your family?

54
00:03:16,535 --> 00:03:19,360

55
00:03:19,360 --> 00:03:21,290
Not very religious.

56
00:03:21,290 --> 00:03:25,420
We went to the synagogue on
the high holy days, which

57
00:03:25,420 --> 00:03:31,060
was New Year's and Yom Kippur.

58
00:03:31,060 --> 00:03:36,400
And we all met in my
grandmother's house when Yom

59
00:03:36,400 --> 00:03:42,160
Kippur was over to break the

fast with cake and-- all sorts

60

00:03:42,160 --> 00:03:43,150
of cakes--

61

00:03:43,150 --> 00:03:49,750
and coffee, and the whole
family congregated there.

62

00:03:49,750 --> 00:03:51,680
Any other holidays
that you celebrated,

63

00:03:51,680 --> 00:03:53,710
or were those the only ones?

64

00:03:53,710 --> 00:03:57,040
We also-- not in our house--

65

00:03:57,040 --> 00:04:05,350
but for Seder, we always went
to my mother's oldest brother

66

00:04:05,350 --> 00:04:08,380
and had the Seder there.

67

00:04:08,380 --> 00:04:10,520
Did you have any
brothers or sisters?

68

00:04:10,520 --> 00:04:12,850
No.

69

00:04:12,850 --> 00:04:18,640
And did you have any religious
training as a child yourself?

70

00:04:18,640 --> 00:04:19,209
Yes.

71

00:04:19,209 --> 00:04:25,630
We had an hour of so-called

religion both in grade school,

72

00:04:25,630 --> 00:04:28,280

and then later in

the gymnasium, which

73

00:04:28,280 --> 00:04:33,310

is a classical high school.

74

00:04:33,310 --> 00:04:37,770

But I'm afraid we were

not very good students,

75

00:04:37,770 --> 00:04:41,920

and it was just something

you had to go through.

76

00:04:41,920 --> 00:04:45,280

Now you said you lived in a

mixed neighborhood of non-Jews

77

00:04:45,280 --> 00:04:47,500

and Jews as a child growing up.

78

00:04:47,500 --> 00:04:50,500

Were there any problems

when you were young with any

79

00:04:50,500 --> 00:04:51,350

of your neighbors?

80

00:04:51,350 --> 00:04:54,400

No problems at all.

81

00:04:54,400 --> 00:04:58,370

I personally never knew

about that anti-Semitism.

82

00:04:58,370 --> 00:05:02,260

83

00:05:02,260 --> 00:05:06,650

Maybe it was kept
from me, I don't know.

84
00:05:06,650 --> 00:05:10,710
And the school that you went
to, was at a public school?

85
00:05:10,710 --> 00:05:11,750
It was a public--

86
00:05:11,750 --> 00:05:15,200
both schools were
public schools, yes.

87
00:05:15,200 --> 00:05:18,170
So your schoolmates were
also non-Jews and Jews.

88
00:05:18,170 --> 00:05:18,830
Yes.

89
00:05:18,830 --> 00:05:24,500
And in addition, they
were Germans and belonged

90
00:05:24,500 --> 00:05:28,730
to the so-called Sudeten
Germans, who became

91
00:05:28,730 --> 00:05:33,200
the worst Nazis there were.

92
00:05:33,200 --> 00:05:39,200
So I have very mixed feelings
about my former classmates.

93
00:05:39,200 --> 00:05:43,550
Sentimentally, I feel
very attached to them,

94
00:05:43,550 --> 00:05:47,810
but on the other
hand, I attended

95
00:05:47,810 --> 00:05:51,830
a couple of meetings
with them in Europe,

96
00:05:51,830 --> 00:05:54,950
but I broke up with
them completely

97
00:05:54,950 --> 00:05:57,470
because they behaved
as if they didn't

98
00:05:57,470 --> 00:06:00,920
know about the Holocaust.

99
00:06:00,920 --> 00:06:03,800
When you were in elementary
school as a child,

100
00:06:03,800 --> 00:06:06,470
did you have any other
interests outside of school?

101
00:06:06,470 --> 00:06:12,920
Any hobbies, did you do anything
else besides go to school?

102
00:06:12,920 --> 00:06:13,860
Any sports?

103
00:06:13,860 --> 00:06:16,365
We went on hikes, and skiing.

104
00:06:16,365 --> 00:06:19,270

105
00:06:19,270 --> 00:06:21,400
Did you belong to
any youth groups?

106
00:06:21,400 --> 00:06:24,220

No, I did not.

107
00:06:24,220 --> 00:06:28,030
I had quite a few
cousins my own age,

108
00:06:28,030 --> 00:06:33,550
so we very often played together
and did things together.

109
00:06:33,550 --> 00:06:36,220
Did your relatives live
nearby, your extended family

110
00:06:36,220 --> 00:06:36,720
live nearby?

111
00:06:36,720 --> 00:06:38,350
Yes.

112
00:06:38,350 --> 00:06:40,690
Everything was-- almost--

113
00:06:40,690 --> 00:06:45,070
all of them were reachable
on foot, or at the most

114
00:06:45,070 --> 00:06:48,730
by bus or street car.

115
00:06:48,730 --> 00:06:51,880
Then you went on to
gymnasium, and did

116
00:06:51,880 --> 00:06:55,010
you have any other outside
interests at that time,

117
00:06:55,010 --> 00:06:56,690
at the high school age?

118
00:06:56,690 --> 00:07:03,190

Well I took French lessons
and English lessons--

119
00:07:03,190 --> 00:07:06,190
no-- English-- yes, yes--

120
00:07:06,190 --> 00:07:09,010
the last two years of it.

121
00:07:09,010 --> 00:07:14,115
My high school didn't have any
modern languages except Czech.

122
00:07:14,115 --> 00:07:17,800

123
00:07:17,800 --> 00:07:23,680
The language, the
instruction was in German,

124
00:07:23,680 --> 00:07:27,230
but you had Czech as
a foreign language,

125
00:07:27,230 --> 00:07:30,160
and in addition to
that, I was very often

126
00:07:30,160 --> 00:07:35,740
sent to Czech-speaking
towns in the summer

127
00:07:35,740 --> 00:07:40,000
so that my Czech
would become perfect.

128
00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:43,120
Was this your family went away,
or you went away by yourself?

129
00:07:43,120 --> 00:07:48,800
I went away by myself
to friends or relatives

130
00:07:48,800 --> 00:07:52,720
where the main
language was Czech.

131
00:07:52,720 --> 00:07:57,580
And we had no other modern
languages, so only Latin

132
00:07:57,580 --> 00:07:59,980
and Greek in school.

133
00:07:59,980 --> 00:08:06,550
So I had private lessons, first
in French, for many years,

134
00:08:06,550 --> 00:08:13,840
and I was sent to Switzerland
to speak French fluently.

135
00:08:13,840 --> 00:08:18,460
And I also had English
lessons later on,

136
00:08:18,460 --> 00:08:22,960
which really stuck with
me because the teacher was

137
00:08:22,960 --> 00:08:24,070
wonderful.

138
00:08:24,070 --> 00:08:29,250
With French, I've
totally forgotten almost.

139
00:08:29,250 --> 00:08:33,100
And I even learned
Spanish one year

140
00:08:33,100 --> 00:08:36,909
when Hitler was
already occupying us

141

00:08:36,909 --> 00:08:41,510

to occupied myself, I guess,
or for possible emigration.

142

00:08:41,510 --> 00:08:44,049

143

00:08:44,049 --> 00:08:48,650

Were you interested in music,
dance, any of the arts?

144

00:08:48,650 --> 00:08:52,810

I took piano lessons for I
don't know how many years.

145

00:08:52,810 --> 00:08:57,010

I was absolutely
unmusical, and one

146

00:08:57,010 --> 00:08:59,680

of the happiest
days of my life was

147

00:08:59,680 --> 00:09:02,500

when the teacher
said no, she doesn't

148

00:09:02,500 --> 00:09:09,400

think it had any use for
me to learn piano anymore.

149

00:09:09,400 --> 00:09:14,200

So that is as far as my
musicality is concerned.

150

00:09:14,200 --> 00:09:19,670

Yes, we had what you call
gymnastics and dance lessons

151

00:09:19,670 --> 00:09:23,960

from a very good
teacher who we adored,

152

00:09:23,960 --> 00:09:30,000
and that was something
very pleasant in my youth,

153

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:33,120
going twice a week
to those lessons.

154

00:09:33,120 --> 00:09:36,040

155

00:09:36,040 --> 00:09:40,000
So you said that some of your
friends and your teachers

156

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:43,000
were not Jewish,
but you don't recall

157

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:47,230
any anti-Semitic incidents, it
was a very pleasant childhood

158

00:09:47,230 --> 00:09:48,130
growing up.

159

00:09:48,130 --> 00:09:56,270
Well pleasant, perhaps, but when
my father had all his business

160

00:09:56,270 --> 00:09:59,740
difficulties, a
child fears that.

161

00:09:59,740 --> 00:10:04,390
Even if they didn't talk
in front of me, but I knew

162

00:10:04,390 --> 00:10:07,310
there was something going on.

163

00:10:07,310 --> 00:10:11,450

And I had inherited
10,000 Czech crowns

164
00:10:11,450 --> 00:10:16,870
from a great uncle
of mine, and so I

165
00:10:16,870 --> 00:10:19,180
knew that my father
needed money,

166
00:10:19,180 --> 00:10:22,790
so I offered him
my 10,000 dollars,

167
00:10:22,790 --> 00:10:27,440
which I am sure would have
been a drop in the bucket.

168
00:10:27,440 --> 00:10:29,890
So I remember this.

169
00:10:29,890 --> 00:10:36,400
But he lost his business,
and my mother's brothers

170
00:10:36,400 --> 00:10:39,430
took him into their
business, which

171
00:10:39,430 --> 00:10:42,280
was a wholesale fur business.

172
00:10:42,280 --> 00:10:44,610
What year was this?

173
00:10:44,610 --> 00:10:47,150
That was in the early '30s.

174
00:10:47,150 --> 00:10:51,010
I don't know exactly which year.

175

00:10:51,010 --> 00:10:58,420
So I was I don't, 10
years old or 12 years old.

176
00:10:58,420 --> 00:11:02,662
But you still were able
to do other activities--

177
00:11:02,662 --> 00:11:08,100
Yeah, it didn't curtail
my activities at all.

178
00:11:08,100 --> 00:11:12,880
OK, when did you start noticing,
then, a change in your life?

179
00:11:12,880 --> 00:11:15,100
When did conditions--

180
00:11:15,100 --> 00:11:16,420
You mean this far--

181
00:11:16,420 --> 00:11:25,840
well, when I was I think
17 years old because--

182
00:11:25,840 --> 00:11:27,270
This is 1937 we're now in.

183
00:11:27,270 --> 00:11:30,850
1937, yes.

184
00:11:30,850 --> 00:11:36,010
For instance, one of
my fellow students

185
00:11:36,010 --> 00:11:43,360
told me that I had remonstrated
with him, remonstrated

186
00:11:43,360 --> 00:11:47,970
with him that he didn't do
so well in school anymore.

187
00:11:47,970 --> 00:11:51,130
And he was a very
intelligent guy,

188
00:11:51,130 --> 00:11:56,030
and he told me that he was very
tired because every night he

189
00:11:56,030 --> 00:12:02,620
went across the
borders to Austria

190
00:12:02,620 --> 00:12:07,440
to train for Hitler's coming.

191
00:12:07,440 --> 00:12:09,910
And I didn't even
believe it, I thought

192
00:12:09,910 --> 00:12:12,750
he was just bragging
in front of me,

193
00:12:12,750 --> 00:12:15,090
but today I know it was true.

194
00:12:15,090 --> 00:12:17,890

195
00:12:17,890 --> 00:12:24,870
And then in 1938, Hitler
occupied the Sudetenland,

196
00:12:24,870 --> 00:12:30,930
and I felt very strongly
that my parents had

197
00:12:30,930 --> 00:12:36,400
done the wrong thing that they
sent me to a German school

198

00:12:36,400 --> 00:12:44,220
and I wore a Czech flag
on my lapel in that year

199
00:12:44,220 --> 00:12:49,860
after Hitler really
occupied the entire state

200
00:12:49,860 --> 00:12:54,510
and we had to wear
star instead of a flag,

201
00:12:54,510 --> 00:12:59,610
but I still feel that today
it was a grave mistake that I

202
00:12:59,610 --> 00:13:01,500
did not go to Czech school.

203
00:13:01,500 --> 00:13:04,620
So of course, the outcome
would have been the same.

204
00:13:04,620 --> 00:13:06,120
But there was a
choice when you were

205
00:13:06,120 --> 00:13:09,240
younger to go to a Czech
school or a German school?

206
00:13:09,240 --> 00:13:11,940
The choice was not up to me.

207
00:13:11,940 --> 00:13:13,080
The way we go to--

208
00:13:13,080 --> 00:13:14,670
yes, I could have gone--

209
00:13:14,670 --> 00:13:16,818
Your parents had the
choice, but they decided

210
00:13:16,818 --> 00:13:18,110
to send you to a German school.

211
00:13:18,110 --> 00:13:21,650
I went to the same school
that my father graduated from.

212
00:13:21,650 --> 00:13:24,810

213
00:13:24,810 --> 00:13:26,940
All right, so it's now 1938.

214
00:13:26,940 --> 00:13:30,870
Yes, but there's a
big event before that.

215
00:13:30,870 --> 00:13:36,970
My father had lung cancer
and he died in 1936,

216
00:13:36,970 --> 00:13:38,980
when I was 16 years old.

217
00:13:38,980 --> 00:13:42,960
And that was very
hard on me because I

218
00:13:42,960 --> 00:13:45,510
was very close to my father.

219
00:13:45,510 --> 00:13:47,895
Much more so than to my mother.

220
00:13:47,895 --> 00:13:50,440

221
00:13:50,440 --> 00:13:55,110
And how did that change your
life and your mother's life?

222

00:13:55,110 --> 00:14:01,190

My mother tried to make
a living by renting out

223

00:14:01,190 --> 00:14:06,090

a room to two girls, students.

224

00:14:06,090 --> 00:14:11,790

She did all sorts of things
she had representation-- no,

225

00:14:11,790 --> 00:14:13,080

you don't say that--

226

00:14:13,080 --> 00:14:24,050

she-- anyhow, she sold knit
woolen materials to friends

227

00:14:24,050 --> 00:14:28,010

and got a commission on that.

228

00:14:28,010 --> 00:14:30,330

And then she said
to all her friends

229

00:14:30,330 --> 00:14:34,170

to a certain coffee
shop in the town,

230

00:14:34,170 --> 00:14:37,620

and there they had to say that
they were sent by my mother

231

00:14:37,620 --> 00:14:40,510

and she got a
percentage from that.

232

00:14:40,510 --> 00:14:45,120

So my mother was very capable,
although she never really

233

00:14:45,120 --> 00:14:45,900

worked.

234

00:14:45,900 --> 00:14:50,880

But she was very intelligent
and very practical,

235

00:14:50,880 --> 00:14:57,370

and although there
probably was some money,

236

00:14:57,370 --> 00:15:01,530

my father hadn't left
anything because we just

237

00:15:01,530 --> 00:15:02,940

lived on his salary.

238

00:15:02,940 --> 00:15:08,950

But I think my mother
inherited money from her mother

239

00:15:08,950 --> 00:15:11,850

and I know she had
stocks in the bank

240

00:15:11,850 --> 00:15:17,700

because I used to go her go
with her to collect the coupons.

241

00:15:17,700 --> 00:15:25,320

But she always made an effort
to earn some money herself.

242

00:15:25,320 --> 00:15:26,700

So that was 1936.

243

00:15:26,700 --> 00:15:31,680

Anything in 1937
that you recall?

244

00:15:31,680 --> 00:15:34,100

You mean as far
as anti-Semitism--

245
00:15:34,100 --> 00:15:36,000
Or personally.

246
00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:39,930
Well, I was sent to
Switzerland that summer

247
00:15:39,930 --> 00:15:44,600
into a French speaking family.

248
00:15:44,600 --> 00:15:47,280
What did you know about
Hitler at that point?

249
00:15:47,280 --> 00:15:49,860
Well, we knew quite a bit.

250
00:15:49,860 --> 00:15:57,820
Perhaps not I, but my mother had
a very close friend in Germany

251
00:15:57,820 --> 00:16:10,170
in Ulm, and this woman came
to us once a year usually.

252
00:16:10,170 --> 00:16:15,390
And my mother went to visit
her and she smuggled out

253
00:16:15,390 --> 00:16:21,290
some money from Germany before
they emigrated to Argentina.

254
00:16:21,290 --> 00:16:24,010

255
00:16:24,010 --> 00:16:26,360
So we knew what
was going on there.

256
00:16:26,360 --> 00:16:32,500

And then also, Hitler occupied
Austria in 1938 and one

257
00:16:32,500 --> 00:16:36,100
of my mother's brothers
lived in Vienna,

258
00:16:36,100 --> 00:16:43,450
so they all emigrated first
to Czechoslovakia to Brno

259
00:16:43,450 --> 00:16:48,400
before they attempted to get
a visa to someplace else.

260
00:16:48,400 --> 00:16:55,360
And they did eventually go
to France, and from France

261
00:16:55,360 --> 00:17:00,830
to unoccupied France,
and they got to America--

262
00:17:00,830 --> 00:17:03,634
I don't remember-- maybe 1940--

263
00:17:03,634 --> 00:17:05,800
1939 or '40.

264
00:17:05,800 --> 00:17:07,960
Do you remember being
particularly frightened

265
00:17:07,960 --> 00:17:10,490
in 1938?

266
00:17:10,490 --> 00:17:16,990
Not really, but that was
perhaps because I was so naive.

267
00:17:16,990 --> 00:17:21,400
I grew up in a
very protected way,

268
00:17:21,400 --> 00:17:26,020
and I was rather
childish at that age.

269
00:17:26,020 --> 00:17:30,670
And my mother used to say
nothing will happen to us,

270
00:17:30,670 --> 00:17:35,150
I am happy here as long as
I have a roof over my head.

271
00:17:35,150 --> 00:17:37,630
That was her constant saying.

272
00:17:37,630 --> 00:17:40,120
And I would have
liked to emigrate,

273
00:17:40,120 --> 00:17:44,080
but it wasn't easy
because we didn't

274
00:17:44,080 --> 00:17:49,300
have any money out
anywhere, and it

275
00:17:49,300 --> 00:17:54,650
was very difficult to
get a visa to any place.

276
00:17:54,650 --> 00:18:01,720
But some of my friends
succeeded, but we didn't.

277
00:18:01,720 --> 00:18:04,550

278
00:18:04,550 --> 00:18:08,180
All right, and now it's 1938.

279

00:18:08,180 --> 00:18:11,590

Any other changes
that you can recall?

280

00:18:11,590 --> 00:18:13,480

Yes, of course.

281

00:18:13,480 --> 00:18:18,160

I graduated from
gymnasium in 1938,

282

00:18:18,160 --> 00:18:23,304

but I could no longer
go to a university--

283

00:18:23,304 --> 00:18:30,590

wait a minute--
no, that was 1938--

284

00:18:30,590 --> 00:18:32,680

I don't remember how that was.

285

00:18:32,680 --> 00:18:37,090

Anyhow, I could not study,
and my mother said--

286

00:18:37,090 --> 00:18:39,370

Why could you not study?

287

00:18:39,370 --> 00:18:44,230

Because they didn't admit Jews.

288

00:18:44,230 --> 00:18:45,750

How did that make you feel?

289

00:18:45,750 --> 00:18:49,390

Here you're a young
18-year-old young woman.

290

00:18:49,390 --> 00:18:50,470

I don't remember.

291

00:18:50,470 --> 00:18:52,280
Probably not very well.

292
00:18:52,280 --> 00:18:56,020
But I was not--

293
00:18:56,020 --> 00:19:00,520
as I said, I was very
naive, and all this

294
00:19:00,520 --> 00:19:04,240
didn't touch me somehow.

295
00:19:04,240 --> 00:19:12,250
And my mother decided I should
attend a class in a Czech--

296
00:19:12,250 --> 00:19:14,860
that's what it was,
we were not admitted

297
00:19:14,860 --> 00:19:19,680
to German universities,
German speaking universities.

298
00:19:19,680 --> 00:19:22,660
Maybe still to
Czech, I don't know.

299
00:19:22,660 --> 00:19:27,530
But I went to a Czech
you would call it

300
00:19:27,530 --> 00:19:31,930
maybe post-graduate
textile school

301
00:19:31,930 --> 00:19:37,060
because Brno was full
of textile factories,

302
00:19:37,060 --> 00:19:45,500
and the so-called English

clothes that were so famous

303

00:19:45,500 --> 00:19:52,390

really came from Brno and
was treated in England,

304

00:19:52,390 --> 00:19:56,320

had special process
they treated it with,

305

00:19:56,320 --> 00:19:59,890

but it was woven in Brno.

306

00:19:59,890 --> 00:20:03,880

So she sent me to a
textile school, which

307

00:20:03,880 --> 00:20:06,740

did not interest me at all.

308

00:20:06,740 --> 00:20:11,350

We had to learn all
about textile machinery.

309

00:20:11,350 --> 00:20:15,280

And where there was a
possibility that perhaps I

310

00:20:15,280 --> 00:20:17,890

could become a
designer, my mother

311

00:20:17,890 --> 00:20:23,420

still thought that we
could live a normal life.

312

00:20:23,420 --> 00:20:30,060

But it was a wasted years
as far as my future--

313

00:20:30,060 --> 00:20:31,861

So you did go and
study textile--

314
00:20:31,861 --> 00:20:32,361
I did go.

315
00:20:32,361 --> 00:20:35,780
I graduated from there
and it was a lot of fun

316
00:20:35,780 --> 00:20:42,380
because we were two girls
and there were young boys,

317
00:20:42,380 --> 00:20:45,980
so we had a good
time not knowing

318
00:20:45,980 --> 00:20:50,070
what was waiting for us.

319
00:20:50,070 --> 00:20:56,130
So I graduated from
there in June of 1939

320
00:20:56,130 --> 00:20:59,910
and we were already
occupied by Hitler.

321
00:20:59,910 --> 00:21:04,940
How had your life changed when
you became occupied by Hitler?

322
00:21:04,940 --> 00:21:08,100
Well, it all came
very gradually.

323
00:21:08,100 --> 00:21:10,610
First we had to
wear yellow stars,

324
00:21:10,610 --> 00:21:14,800
and then we had a curfew.

325

00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:18,660

We couldn't go into
the street I think

326

00:21:18,660 --> 00:21:21,510

it was 7:00 or 8
o'clock in the evening,

327

00:21:21,510 --> 00:21:23,700

we had to stay at home.

328

00:21:23,700 --> 00:21:28,590

Then we were concentrated
into certain streets

329

00:21:28,590 --> 00:21:33,390

of the city, which meant
that because we lived

330

00:21:33,390 --> 00:21:40,830

on such a street, we
got so to speak renters

331

00:21:40,830 --> 00:21:42,540

into the apartment.

332

00:21:42,540 --> 00:21:46,770

There were several-- there
were two families in addition

333

00:21:46,770 --> 00:21:51,960

to us in an apartment
that was only a three room

334

00:21:51,960 --> 00:21:53,655

apartment with one bathroom.

335

00:21:53,655 --> 00:21:56,730

336

00:21:56,730 --> 00:21:58,440

What did it feel like
to wear the star?

337
00:21:58,440 --> 00:22:05,250

338
00:22:05,250 --> 00:22:10,720
It was-- what is
the English word--

339
00:22:10,720 --> 00:22:12,290
it was not pleasant.

340
00:22:12,290 --> 00:22:12,790
Upsetting?

341
00:22:12,790 --> 00:22:13,960
Was it upsetting?

342
00:22:13,960 --> 00:22:17,680
It was upsetting, and it was--

343
00:22:17,680 --> 00:22:18,955
what is the word--

344
00:22:18,955 --> 00:22:19,705
I need her again--

345
00:22:19,705 --> 00:22:23,720

346
00:22:23,720 --> 00:22:27,970
it made you feel that people
were looking down on you.

347
00:22:27,970 --> 00:22:28,690
Demeaning?

348
00:22:28,690 --> 00:22:29,800
Demeaning.

349
00:22:29,800 --> 00:22:32,350
That was the word

I was looking for.

350
00:22:32,350 --> 00:22:35,090

351
00:22:35,090 --> 00:22:42,270
And so we had all those
people in the apartment,

352
00:22:42,270 --> 00:22:49,750
which for me, it was not too bad
because I liked other people.

353
00:22:49,750 --> 00:22:52,980

354
00:22:52,980 --> 00:22:55,890
I don't know how it
was for my mother,

355
00:22:55,890 --> 00:23:00,510
but there was nothing
we could do against it.

356
00:23:00,510 --> 00:23:06,030
And my favorite aunt, who was
the only one of her family left

357
00:23:06,030 --> 00:23:13,830
behind, had to move to-- they
had a villa in the suburbs--

358
00:23:13,830 --> 00:23:17,790
but her husband was gone,
her three daughters had gone

359
00:23:17,790 --> 00:23:21,240
and she had to move
into our neighborhood.

360
00:23:21,240 --> 00:23:22,940
That made me very happy.

361

00:23:22,940 --> 00:23:27,310

362

00:23:27,310 --> 00:23:31,100

Were these restrictions
frightening to you?

363

00:23:31,100 --> 00:23:39,390

Yes, and it became more
frightening as time went on.

364

00:23:39,390 --> 00:23:42,170

But in the meantime,
after graduating

365

00:23:42,170 --> 00:23:47,930

from the textile
school, I got a job--

366

00:23:47,930 --> 00:23:54,130

an unpaid job-- in a textile
factory out in the country,

367

00:23:54,130 --> 00:23:59,030

and I lived there five
days, five and a half days

368

00:23:59,030 --> 00:24:02,570

of the week and came
home for the weekend.

369

00:24:02,570 --> 00:24:09,170

And I worked then all phases
of the textile industry.

370

00:24:09,170 --> 00:24:14,540

The factory still
belonged to a Jewish firm.

371

00:24:14,540 --> 00:24:19,520

That's, I suppose, how I got
the job, although it was unpaid.

372

00:24:19,520 --> 00:24:22,940

But it was good training
for me had I ever

373

00:24:22,940 --> 00:24:27,230

gone into that field, which
I don't think I would have

374

00:24:27,230 --> 00:24:30,780

under normal circumstances.

375

00:24:30,780 --> 00:24:36,310

So I was home only
over the weekend and--

376

00:24:36,310 --> 00:24:39,020

Were there any
anti-Semitic incidents

377

00:24:39,020 --> 00:24:42,950

that you were aware of
particular to you at that time,

378

00:24:42,950 --> 00:24:46,120

besides the general
restrictions?

379

00:24:46,120 --> 00:24:48,350

The non-Jews that you
came in contact with

380

00:24:48,350 --> 00:24:52,032

were still pleasant to
you at that-- '38, '39?

381

00:24:52,032 --> 00:24:53,240

No, they were nothing at all.

382

00:24:53,240 --> 00:24:57,440

383

00:24:57,440 --> 00:24:59,690

They were not in touch with me.

384

00:24:59,690 --> 00:25:05,990

Like my school friends,
I never heard from them.

385

00:25:05,990 --> 00:25:08,670

386

00:25:08,670 --> 00:25:12,770

We were forbidden
to have telephones,

387

00:25:12,770 --> 00:25:18,170

so we could telephone only
from a neighboring store that

388

00:25:18,170 --> 00:25:23,090

had a telephone, but only at
certain hours because Jews were

389

00:25:23,090 --> 00:25:27,590

not allowed to go into those
shops except from 2:00 to 3:00

390

00:25:27,590 --> 00:25:29,520

or whatever it was.

391

00:25:29,520 --> 00:25:31,760

So if you had to make
a telephone call,

392

00:25:31,760 --> 00:25:36,100

you had to make it during
those certain hours.

393

00:25:36,100 --> 00:25:41,340

And I remember meeting one of
my classmates in such a store

394

00:25:41,340 --> 00:25:47,130

and being afraid what
she would do or say,

395
00:25:47,130 --> 00:25:49,760
but she didn't do
or say anything,

396
00:25:49,760 --> 00:25:53,900
she just made believe
she didn't see me.

397
00:25:53,900 --> 00:25:56,180
When you were working
at the textile factory,

398
00:25:56,180 --> 00:25:57,820
were there non-Jews with you?

399
00:25:57,820 --> 00:26:00,110
Yes, mostly non-Jews.

400
00:26:00,110 --> 00:26:01,470
They were very nice.

401
00:26:01,470 --> 00:26:06,260
They were Czech peasants,
Moravian peasants.

402
00:26:06,260 --> 00:26:07,250
There was no--

403
00:26:07,250 --> 00:26:09,860
I didn't feel any anti-Semitism.

404
00:26:09,860 --> 00:26:15,800
In fact, some of those people
came to town on weekends

405
00:26:15,800 --> 00:26:18,870
and came to visit
us in the apartment

406
00:26:18,870 --> 00:26:23,350
and brought food from

the country for us.

407

00:26:23,350 --> 00:26:26,980

So no, I didn't suffer there.

408

00:26:26,980 --> 00:26:29,980

Were you on food
rationing at that point?

409

00:26:29,980 --> 00:26:33,970

I think so, yes, but
I don't know really--

410

00:26:33,970 --> 00:26:34,990

yes.

411

00:26:34,990 --> 00:26:39,460

I think we were because
I remember going shopping

412

00:26:39,460 --> 00:26:45,070

to those stores
during certain hours

413

00:26:45,070 --> 00:26:49,960

and having those
ration cards with me.

414

00:26:49,960 --> 00:26:51,520

So what did you
do on the weekend

415

00:26:51,520 --> 00:26:55,750

when you would come home
from the textile factory?

416

00:26:55,750 --> 00:27:01,860

See my friends or my uncle,
my mother's youngest brother,

417

00:27:01,860 --> 00:27:06,560

who will figure a lot in
this interview I think.

418
00:27:06,560 --> 00:27:08,390
What is his name?

419
00:27:08,390 --> 00:27:11,800
Norbert Troller.

420
00:27:11,800 --> 00:27:17,480
He and I were the only
ones who survived the war,

421
00:27:17,480 --> 00:27:21,640
and he was in
Theresienstadt, in Auschwitz.

422
00:27:21,640 --> 00:27:25,900
He was everywhere,
but he made it.

423
00:27:25,900 --> 00:27:30,400
My uncle had a weekend house
in the country someplace,

424
00:27:30,400 --> 00:27:32,700
so we sometimes went there.

425
00:27:32,700 --> 00:27:36,830

426
00:27:36,830 --> 00:27:42,020
We still could go hiking
as long as we kept

427
00:27:42,020 --> 00:27:46,820
within the hours allowed to us.

428
00:27:46,820 --> 00:27:48,560
Did you have a radio?

429
00:27:48,560 --> 00:27:51,860
Yes, we had a radio.

430

00:27:51,860 --> 00:27:53,720

We had a radio when--

431

00:27:53,720 --> 00:27:57,260

I think we rented a
radio when my father was

432

00:27:57,260 --> 00:28:00,650

so sick for a whole year--

433

00:28:00,650 --> 00:28:04,340

but then we had a deal
when Hitler was already

434

00:28:04,340 --> 00:28:11,590

occupying us, which we inherited
from a relative who emigrated.

435

00:28:11,590 --> 00:28:14,600

And I remember
sitting in front of it

436

00:28:14,600 --> 00:28:21,720

and hearing about peace in our
time, but it didn't get to me.

437

00:28:21,720 --> 00:28:23,840

I was so--

438

00:28:23,840 --> 00:28:27,345

Were you aware of the invasion
of Poland in September of 1939?

439

00:28:27,345 --> 00:28:32,130

Yes, of course, and the
outbreak of the war.

440

00:28:32,130 --> 00:28:33,741

Yes, naturally.

441

00:28:33,741 --> 00:28:37,640

And you were a

young woman of 19.

442

00:28:37,640 --> 00:28:38,180

Yes.

443

00:28:38,180 --> 00:28:43,580

Do you recall any thoughts
that you had at that point?

444

00:28:43,580 --> 00:28:45,950

Was it a very
fearful time for you?

445

00:28:45,950 --> 00:28:48,880

Yes it was because
one was always

446

00:28:48,880 --> 00:28:51,890

afraid of what was coming next.

447

00:28:51,890 --> 00:28:56,750

You see, we knew about things
in Germany and in Austria,

448

00:28:56,750 --> 00:28:59,030

but there it went much slower.

449

00:28:59,030 --> 00:29:02,850

It took some time until
they did this or that.

450

00:29:02,850 --> 00:29:07,190

But with us, it all
came pretty fast,

451

00:29:07,190 --> 00:29:16,160

all the caveats, all
the restrictions all

452

00:29:16,160 --> 00:29:18,600

came very fast.

453

00:29:18,600 --> 00:29:22,950
What was the next change then?

454
00:29:22,950 --> 00:29:26,610
You had finished-- you'd worked
in the textile factory and then

455
00:29:26,610 --> 00:29:29,450
what was the next development?

456
00:29:29,450 --> 00:29:31,530
That was the end I think.

457
00:29:31,530 --> 00:29:39,230
I worked, and that's about
all that was left to me.

458
00:29:39,230 --> 00:29:45,910
I went to take care
in the afternoon

459
00:29:45,910 --> 00:29:49,380
of a group of children.

460
00:29:49,380 --> 00:29:53,250
There were, I don't
know, maybe four children

461
00:29:53,250 --> 00:29:56,880
and I went hiking with
them, I did their--

462
00:29:56,880 --> 00:29:58,960
Are we talking about 1939?

463
00:29:58,960 --> 00:30:00,980
Yeah.

464
00:30:00,980 --> 00:30:04,800
And I don't know
how long I did that.

465

00:30:04,800 --> 00:30:06,990
As long as it was possible.

466
00:30:06,990 --> 00:30:12,940
They were a family of several
sisters, and only two husbands

467
00:30:12,940 --> 00:30:13,440
I think.

468
00:30:13,440 --> 00:30:15,160
They all had children.

469
00:30:15,160 --> 00:30:18,520
And I did the school
work with them

470
00:30:18,520 --> 00:30:24,595
and I went to
sledding with them.

471
00:30:24,595 --> 00:30:25,720
These were Jewish children?

472
00:30:25,720 --> 00:30:27,460
Jewish children.

473
00:30:27,460 --> 00:30:30,320
They all went to
Theresienstadt, too,

474
00:30:30,320 --> 00:30:35,040
but I do know that
any of them survived.

475
00:30:35,040 --> 00:30:37,375
So 1939 continued on.

476
00:30:37,375 --> 00:30:40,610
Now it's winter 1940.

477
00:30:40,610 --> 00:30:43,420

Any particular--

478
00:30:43,420 --> 00:30:50,350
I can't really say exactly
what happened in winter 1940.

479
00:30:50,350 --> 00:30:54,220
I know in December 1941--

480
00:30:54,220 --> 00:30:58,720
So your life went on in
a sense in the same way.

481
00:30:58,720 --> 00:31:02,540
How was your health at
that time, 1940, 1941?

482
00:31:02,540 --> 00:31:04,600
Our health was OK.

483
00:31:04,600 --> 00:31:06,070
And the food situation?

484
00:31:06,070 --> 00:31:08,620
Was not so good.

485
00:31:08,620 --> 00:31:11,320
But my mother and
I think most people

486
00:31:11,320 --> 00:31:14,740
were to get things
on the black market,

487
00:31:14,740 --> 00:31:16,670
like coffee, for instance.

488
00:31:16,670 --> 00:31:20,320
There was no real
coffee, but we were

489
00:31:20,320 --> 00:31:23,542

able to get it on
the black market.

490
00:31:23,542 --> 00:31:25,120
And cigarettes.

491
00:31:25,120 --> 00:31:29,400
I was smoking by
then, unfortunately.

492
00:31:29,400 --> 00:31:32,326
And you were still speaking
German with your mother?

493
00:31:32,326 --> 00:31:35,160
I was still speaking
German with my mother.

494
00:31:35,160 --> 00:31:39,700
In fact, my mother, her Czech--

495
00:31:39,700 --> 00:31:44,830
it was called Kuchelbohmisch,
which means "kitchen Czech."

496
00:31:44,830 --> 00:31:49,840
She just could talk
Czech with the maids--

497
00:31:49,840 --> 00:31:52,020
with the maid, we had only one.

498
00:31:52,020 --> 00:31:54,966

499
00:31:54,966 --> 00:32:00,290
[AUDIO OUT]

500
00:32:00,290 --> 00:32:08,150
Been talking about 1940 and
'41, and how did conditions

501

00:32:08,150 --> 00:32:10,220
change even more?

502
00:32:10,220 --> 00:32:15,620
There was less food
to be had, and I

503
00:32:15,620 --> 00:32:18,950
guess the hours were
shorter, and we were--

504
00:32:18,950 --> 00:32:22,670
the hours we could
shop were shorter--

505
00:32:22,670 --> 00:32:26,540
and you couldn't
sit on a park bench

506
00:32:26,540 --> 00:32:29,880
because it said
there "not for Jews,"

507
00:32:29,880 --> 00:32:34,150
you couldn't go to a
coffeehouse or a restaurant.

508
00:32:34,150 --> 00:32:37,150
It was all forbidden to Jews.

509
00:32:37,150 --> 00:32:41,150
So you spend most of your
time doing your chores

510
00:32:41,150 --> 00:32:45,970
and being at home and
shopping when you could

511
00:32:45,970 --> 00:32:48,800
or visiting friends
when you could.

512
00:32:48,800 --> 00:32:51,680

What did you and your friends
talk about during this time

513
00:32:51,680 --> 00:32:53,306
of terrible restriction?

514
00:32:53,306 --> 00:32:57,040

515
00:32:57,040 --> 00:32:58,720
I don't remember.

516
00:32:58,720 --> 00:33:01,300
I know we couldn't go--

517
00:33:01,300 --> 00:33:05,200
we loved movies-- we couldn't
go to movies anymore.

518
00:33:05,200 --> 00:33:06,880
But we could read.

519
00:33:06,880 --> 00:33:14,350
I remember reading Gone
with the Wind day and night.

520
00:33:14,350 --> 00:33:15,880
In what language?

521
00:33:15,880 --> 00:33:17,215
In German, of course.

522
00:33:17,215 --> 00:33:20,494

523
00:33:20,494 --> 00:33:25,580
And I guess we
talked about boys.

524
00:33:25,580 --> 00:33:29,450
Oh, I never talked
about [NON-ENGLISH]..

525
00:33:29,450 --> 00:33:36,500
That was a very important part
of our life in normal times,

526
00:33:36,500 --> 00:33:40,820
that we had so-called
dancing lessons.

527
00:33:40,820 --> 00:33:43,590
But what really it was was--

528
00:33:43,590 --> 00:33:45,340
we didn't learn to dance.

529
00:33:45,340 --> 00:33:50,480
Somehow, we knew how
to dance, and that's

530
00:33:50,480 --> 00:33:56,390
where you met boys and
had dates with boys.

531
00:33:56,390 --> 00:33:59,700
Did that continue
on in 1940 and '41

532
00:33:59,700 --> 00:34:02,770
The dates as far as--

533
00:34:02,770 --> 00:34:05,420
young men were still
there, it continued,

534
00:34:05,420 --> 00:34:08,856
but not the dancing classes, no.

535
00:34:08,856 --> 00:34:11,929

536
00:34:11,929 --> 00:34:14,130
Now it's 1941.

537
00:34:14,130 --> 00:34:15,620
1941.

538
00:34:15,620 --> 00:34:17,820
And then the
deportations started.

539
00:34:17,820 --> 00:34:21,159

540
00:34:21,159 --> 00:34:27,489
And I remember we had
a poor Jewish lady who

541
00:34:27,489 --> 00:34:34,870
came to us for the midday
meal, which was the main meal,

542
00:34:34,870 --> 00:34:36,400
every week.

543
00:34:36,400 --> 00:34:41,020
It was sort of a [NON-ENGLISH],,
if you know what I mean.

544
00:34:41,020 --> 00:34:47,320
And she was one of the first to
have to go because she was not

545
00:34:47,320 --> 00:34:48,880
a Czech citizen.

546
00:34:48,880 --> 00:34:54,100
Maybe she was from Germany
or Austria, I don't know.

547
00:34:54,100 --> 00:34:58,660
She went to Poland with
the first transport.

548
00:34:58,660 --> 00:35:03,330

And then-- I don't know,
but that was in the same

549
00:35:03,330 --> 00:35:04,420
transport--

550
00:35:04,420 --> 00:35:10,800
a cousin of my mother's-- one of
the owners of the fur business

551
00:35:10,800 --> 00:35:13,510
where my father later worked--

552
00:35:13,510 --> 00:35:16,950
he and his two daughters--

553
00:35:16,950 --> 00:35:19,090
the mother was no longer alive--

554
00:35:19,090 --> 00:35:24,010
were also sent to Poland,
which was unheard of because he

555
00:35:24,010 --> 00:35:26,207
was very well to do.

556
00:35:26,207 --> 00:35:30,060
And why they had
to go I don't know.

557
00:35:30,060 --> 00:35:32,980
You knew that they were
being taken to Poland?

558
00:35:32,980 --> 00:35:38,290
That's what they said,
that's what we were told.

559
00:35:38,290 --> 00:35:45,240
And then Theresienstadt was
founded, and my mother's oldest

560

00:35:45,240 --> 00:35:45,760
brother--

561
00:35:45,760 --> 00:35:51,490
the one where we used
to have our Seder--

562
00:35:51,490 --> 00:35:57,130
and his family, which
consisted of his wife and three

563
00:35:57,130 --> 00:35:59,400
children--

564
00:35:59,400 --> 00:36:04,870
no, no, the youngest son
had emigrated to England--

565
00:36:04,870 --> 00:36:09,040
but the two oldest sons
who were still at home,

566
00:36:09,040 --> 00:36:11,300
they were sent away.

567
00:36:11,300 --> 00:36:14,615
We didn't know where.

568
00:36:14,615 --> 00:36:20,030
What month in '41 was the
first transport in Brno?

569
00:36:20,030 --> 00:36:23,760
I think in November.

570
00:36:23,760 --> 00:36:28,420
But December came and
then it was our turn,

571
00:36:28,420 --> 00:36:31,210
and we had no idea
where we were going,

572

00:36:31,210 --> 00:36:33,350
but we went to Theresienstadt.

573

00:36:33,350 --> 00:36:35,120
OK, let's talk a
little bit about that.

574

00:36:35,120 --> 00:36:37,540
How did you know--

575

00:36:37,540 --> 00:36:40,930
how were you called up?

576

00:36:40,930 --> 00:36:45,430
We had to-- some time before
that-- we had to register.

577

00:36:45,430 --> 00:36:48,160
The Jewish community.

578

00:36:48,160 --> 00:36:50,010
All Jews had to register.

579

00:36:50,010 --> 00:36:53,260
I don't know whether
all did, but we did.

580

00:36:53,260 --> 00:36:55,660
Most Jews did.

581

00:36:55,660 --> 00:36:59,350
And the way you
learned about it was

582

00:36:59,350 --> 00:37:02,650
that you got some
sort of printed paper

583

00:37:02,650 --> 00:37:08,250
under the door where you
were called for a certain day

584

00:37:08,250 --> 00:37:11,050
to a school--

585

00:37:11,050 --> 00:37:13,460
that's where we all
were assembled--

586

00:37:13,460 --> 00:37:16,820
and they told you
exactly how much--

587

00:37:16,820 --> 00:37:19,210
what you can take.

588

00:37:19,210 --> 00:37:23,145
I think it was 50 kilos
if I'm not mistaken.

589

00:37:23,145 --> 00:37:29,470
And you were allowed
to take blankets--

590

00:37:29,470 --> 00:37:39,190
feather blankets and a pail,
I guess for washing the floor.

591

00:37:39,190 --> 00:37:42,110
But that's what we were allowed.

592

00:37:42,110 --> 00:37:52,230
And I remember my mother
packing for this trip

593

00:37:52,230 --> 00:38:01,560
and putting a whole little pail,
again, of jam into that pail

594

00:38:01,560 --> 00:38:04,750
and covering it up
with other things.

595

00:38:04,750 --> 00:38:06,920

And I was very upset about it.

596

00:38:06,920 --> 00:38:10,120

I thought they would
catch her with that

597

00:38:10,120 --> 00:38:11,620

and we would be punished.

598

00:38:11,620 --> 00:38:16,750

I was very cowardly, but
fortunately, my mother

599

00:38:16,750 --> 00:38:19,630

wasn't, and it was a
very good thing that she

600

00:38:19,630 --> 00:38:22,780

brought that pail of jam.

601

00:38:22,780 --> 00:38:27,370

And friends who were still
in here came to help us.

602

00:38:27,370 --> 00:38:32,260

And I remember a Jewish
classmate of mine

603

00:38:32,260 --> 00:38:37,600

who had learned to be a--

604

00:38:37,600 --> 00:38:45,260

what is it-- it's my age
when I can't think of a--

605

00:38:45,260 --> 00:38:46,900

a poster.

606

00:38:46,900 --> 00:38:52,840

He came and sewed
for us something

607

00:38:52,840 --> 00:38:55,060
to cover those feather beds.

608
00:38:55,060 --> 00:38:57,550
We each had some very--

609
00:38:57,550 --> 00:39:00,900
there was a handle so
they could carry it.

610
00:39:00,900 --> 00:39:08,350
And the housekeeper of
someone else came to--

611
00:39:08,350 --> 00:39:10,990
you must know it--

612
00:39:10,990 --> 00:39:15,910
in our bathroom, you had
to heat a huge stove--

613
00:39:15,910 --> 00:39:18,520

614
00:39:18,520 --> 00:39:20,080
A heater of water?

615
00:39:20,080 --> 00:39:20,910
A water heater?

616
00:39:20,910 --> 00:39:22,600
But it wasn't gas.

617
00:39:22,600 --> 00:39:27,580
You had to use wood
and coal, I guess.

618
00:39:27,580 --> 00:39:31,900
She came in and
tended to that stove

619
00:39:31,900 --> 00:39:36,805

so that we all could take a
bath, the ones who had to go.

620
00:39:36,805 --> 00:39:42,760
And people were very
kind and helped out.

621
00:39:42,760 --> 00:39:48,230
Things that you
could possibly use

622
00:39:48,230 --> 00:39:52,600
were immediately sold
out, like flashlights.

623
00:39:52,600 --> 00:39:54,850
We all wanted to
take flashlights.

624
00:39:54,850 --> 00:39:57,940
It was very hard to
get things like that

625
00:39:57,940 --> 00:39:59,830
that you could possibly use.

626
00:39:59,830 --> 00:40:03,680

627
00:40:03,680 --> 00:40:07,510
And so we were in this school--

628
00:40:07,510 --> 00:40:12,790
well first of all, I have to
say we were not transported,

629
00:40:12,790 --> 00:40:16,360
we had to walk to
this school at night

630
00:40:16,360 --> 00:40:21,690
when it was dark so that the
population wouldn't see it.

631
00:40:21,690 --> 00:40:26,340
And then we spent I think three
days in that school, where

632
00:40:26,340 --> 00:40:30,400
we were registered,
and the SS was already

633
00:40:30,400 --> 00:40:32,242
in there, or the Gestapo.

634
00:40:32,242 --> 00:40:32,950
I don't remember.

635
00:40:32,950 --> 00:40:36,180
What was the name of the
school, do you remember?

636
00:40:36,180 --> 00:40:47,100
No, the name I don't know, but
the street is M-E-R-H-O-U-T.

637
00:40:47,100 --> 00:40:49,330
And about how many people?

638
00:40:49,330 --> 00:40:53,030
I don't remember,
but probably 1,000.

639
00:40:53,030 --> 00:40:56,060
Transports usually were
1,000, but I'm really

640
00:40:56,060 --> 00:40:57,650
not sure about that.

641
00:40:57,650 --> 00:41:00,260
So you stayed there
for three days.

642
00:41:00,260 --> 00:41:01,750

Where did you sleep?

643

00:41:01,750 --> 00:41:03,970

On the floor.

644

00:41:03,970 --> 00:41:07,780

And we young ones
helped with the luggage

645

00:41:07,780 --> 00:41:10,390

to get it up the
stairs because I think

646

00:41:10,390 --> 00:41:12,315

it was a three-story school.

647

00:41:12,315 --> 00:41:16,420

648

00:41:16,420 --> 00:41:19,660

What about food?

649

00:41:19,660 --> 00:41:24,250

I don't remember anything about
it, whether they fed us or not.

650

00:41:24,250 --> 00:41:25,000

I don't know.

651

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:31,990

I just remember then on the
third day early in the morning,

652

00:41:31,990 --> 00:41:36,550

we had to stand in attention
in the courtyard there.

653

00:41:36,550 --> 00:41:38,170

It was still dark.

654

00:41:38,170 --> 00:41:42,910

Then again, we walked

to the train, which

655

00:41:42,910 --> 00:41:45,790
left from the usual station.

656

00:41:45,790 --> 00:41:46,910
I don't know how--

657

00:41:46,910 --> 00:41:52,150
well, it was night and I
guess no other trains left.

658

00:41:52,150 --> 00:41:53,840
These were regular train cars?

659

00:41:53,840 --> 00:41:56,440
These were regular
train cars, yes.

660

00:41:56,440 --> 00:41:59,470
And on the way, we
somehow learned that we

661

00:41:59,470 --> 00:42:02,050
were going to Theresienstadt.

662

00:42:02,050 --> 00:42:05,350
Did you know what
that meant then?

663

00:42:05,350 --> 00:42:07,990
I don't think so.

664

00:42:07,990 --> 00:42:11,800
Of course, my mother's older
brother was already there,

665

00:42:11,800 --> 00:42:14,020
but they were not
allowed to ride

666

00:42:14,020 --> 00:42:17,150

so I don't think we knew it.

667

00:42:17,150 --> 00:42:19,960

How long a trip was it?

668

00:42:19,960 --> 00:42:23,330

I think it took days,

if I'm not mistaken.

669

00:42:23,330 --> 00:42:25,780

I don't know why.

670

00:42:25,780 --> 00:42:26,800

Maybe it didn't.

671

00:42:26,800 --> 00:42:30,040

I really don't remember.

672

00:42:30,040 --> 00:42:34,570

But we were really one of

the earliest transports,

673

00:42:34,570 --> 00:42:40,310

so we left behind everything we

had left, the furniture and--

674

00:42:40,310 --> 00:42:45,610

Were people calm on this

train ride to Theresienstadt?

675

00:42:45,610 --> 00:42:48,250

I have no recollection.

676

00:42:48,250 --> 00:42:54,080

I think I was calm, but

only because I was young.

677

00:42:54,080 --> 00:43:00,360

We had no idea of what

was in store for us.

678

00:43:00,360 --> 00:43:05,020

And almost all through
those three and a half years

679
00:43:05,020 --> 00:43:08,500
when there was a
prisoner, I always

680
00:43:08,500 --> 00:43:12,400
thought it would be
better in the next place.

681
00:43:12,400 --> 00:43:18,700
So optimism helps, I think,
but it's the optimism of youth.

682
00:43:18,700 --> 00:43:20,940
So you arrive at Theresienstadt.

683
00:43:20,940 --> 00:43:30,000
We arrived at Theresienstadt
and were put into a barracks.

684
00:43:30,000 --> 00:43:31,900
You and your mother
are still together?

685
00:43:31,900 --> 00:43:34,670
Yes, we were still together.

686
00:43:34,670 --> 00:43:38,020
First we were in a smaller room.

687
00:43:38,020 --> 00:43:42,530
I think we were the first people
in this particular barracks.

688
00:43:42,530 --> 00:43:44,550
Did the barrack have
a number or location?

689
00:43:44,550 --> 00:43:45,760
A name.

690

00:43:45,760 --> 00:43:50,850

They called it Dresdner

Kaserne, which was--

691

00:43:50,850 --> 00:43:55,330

I'll spell it-- in English,

it's Dresden, isn't it?

692

00:43:55,330 --> 00:44:02,650

So it was called

D-R-E-S-D-N-E-R barracks,

693

00:44:02,650 --> 00:44:06,540

and this was strictly

women's barracks.

694

00:44:06,540 --> 00:44:10,165

The men were in the

Sudeten barracks.

695

00:44:10,165 --> 00:44:12,960

696

00:44:12,960 --> 00:44:15,980

Which was-- you know

how to spell Sudeten?

697

00:44:15,980 --> 00:44:20,660

And about how many women were

in your barrack with you?

698

00:44:20,660 --> 00:44:22,220

I think we were the first--

699

00:44:22,220 --> 00:44:24,770

no, we couldn't have

been the first transport

700

00:44:24,770 --> 00:44:31,400

because my aunt was already

there, the wife of my mother's

701

00:44:31,400 --> 00:44:33,920
oldest brother.

702
00:44:33,920 --> 00:44:38,800
I don't know, I think there
was a room for 3,000 people.

703
00:44:38,800 --> 00:44:43,740
We were 3,000 when the
barracks were filled.

704
00:44:43,740 --> 00:44:47,750
But in the beginning there
were not many people.

705
00:44:47,750 --> 00:44:51,025
And we picked a small room.

706
00:44:51,025 --> 00:44:55,250
There were maybe
10 people in there.

707
00:44:55,250 --> 00:44:58,340
Now, when you came there,
you were with your mother.

708
00:44:58,340 --> 00:45:00,440
Were you with any other
relatives or friends,

709
00:45:00,440 --> 00:45:03,370
or was it just the two of you?

710
00:45:03,370 --> 00:45:06,830
I think it was
just the two of us.

711
00:45:06,830 --> 00:45:12,610
Of course, we came to know
all the others who were there.

712
00:45:12,610 --> 00:45:14,455
And what did you do

in the beginning?

713

00:45:14,455 --> 00:45:18,100

714

00:45:18,100 --> 00:45:19,560

Nothing, I think.

715

00:45:19,560 --> 00:45:26,130

We just made it as comfortable
as possible with our blankets,

716

00:45:26,130 --> 00:45:29,500

and we slept on the
floor, of course.

717

00:45:29,500 --> 00:45:33,430

I'll tell you a
typical story for me.

718

00:45:33,430 --> 00:45:42,970

One day, things started to
disappear from our luggage

719

00:45:42,970 --> 00:45:46,600

and we couldn't understand
it, or I certainly

720

00:45:46,600 --> 00:45:47,950

couldn't stand it.

721

00:45:47,950 --> 00:45:51,290

And I remember asking
my mother, mother

722

00:45:51,290 --> 00:45:54,370

do you think the Jews steal?

723

00:45:54,370 --> 00:45:59,320

I couldn't imagine the Jews
would steal one from the other.

724

00:45:59,320 --> 00:46:01,850
I learned much better later.

725
00:46:01,850 --> 00:46:05,140

726
00:46:05,140 --> 00:46:11,080
But I eventually worked
in the post office.

727
00:46:11,080 --> 00:46:13,080
You will laugh about
the post office.

728
00:46:13,080 --> 00:46:17,010
It was like that in
the first few months

729
00:46:17,010 --> 00:46:22,180
in Theresienstadt, the
Czechs we lived in the town,

730
00:46:22,180 --> 00:46:28,360
and we were in the barracks
and we're not allowed out,

731
00:46:28,360 --> 00:46:31,750
but there were some people
who were allowed out.

732
00:46:31,750 --> 00:46:35,080
Like the guard--
not the guards--

733
00:46:35,080 --> 00:46:42,160
they were the ghetto policemen
who watched over each barracks,

734
00:46:42,160 --> 00:46:47,560
and they could go to
the administration.

735
00:46:47,560 --> 00:46:50,740

There were certain people
who were allowed out,

736
00:46:50,740 --> 00:46:55,190
but until I think June
1942, the Czechs still

737
00:46:55,190 --> 00:46:57,760
lived in their houses there.

738
00:46:57,760 --> 00:47:01,500
Then they were evacuated,
and then the ghetto was open,

739
00:47:01,500 --> 00:47:04,000
then we could go out.

740
00:47:04,000 --> 00:47:08,890
But we left soon after that,
so I didn't experience that.

741
00:47:08,890 --> 00:47:14,890
But as long as we were confined
to the barracks, I worked--

742
00:47:14,890 --> 00:47:21,480
every barracks had a post
office, which was a room,

743
00:47:21,480 --> 00:47:29,230
and since the men were separated
from their wives and children,

744
00:47:29,230 --> 00:47:32,810
they wrote letters
to each other.

745
00:47:32,810 --> 00:47:38,290
Or the husbands sent dirty
laundry to their wives to wash.

746
00:47:38,290 --> 00:47:41,680
From the men's barrack

to the women's barrack.

747

00:47:41,680 --> 00:47:45,745

Or the women sent the
clean laundry back.

748

00:47:45,745 --> 00:47:49,850

Or if someone had
two extra potatoes,

749

00:47:49,850 --> 00:47:54,600

he could send it to his wife
or his children and so on.

750

00:47:54,600 --> 00:48:01,330

And that kept me busy,
and I made a lot of people

751

00:48:01,330 --> 00:48:04,360

that way because I had
to go and distribute.

752

00:48:04,360 --> 00:48:08,490

I had to put the room
numbers on the letters

753

00:48:08,490 --> 00:48:13,270

and then distribute them.

754

00:48:13,270 --> 00:48:15,430

And my mother worked--

755

00:48:15,430 --> 00:48:17,560

I just saw that
I'd forgotten it,

756

00:48:17,560 --> 00:48:20,530

but when I started
reading the letter,

757

00:48:20,530 --> 00:48:23,065

she worked in the office of--

758

00:48:23,065 --> 00:48:25,745

759

00:48:25,745 --> 00:48:29,670

each barracks had
a Jewish commander,

760

00:48:29,670 --> 00:48:32,580

and she worked in the
office there for him.

761

00:48:32,580 --> 00:48:35,370

762

00:48:35,370 --> 00:48:38,830

And we later on moved
to a different room

763

00:48:38,830 --> 00:48:42,700

where his wife was
also in that room.

764

00:48:42,700 --> 00:48:48,310

So maybe that's how she got
the job, I don't remember that.

765

00:48:48,310 --> 00:48:57,320

And of course, there
was not much food.

766

00:48:57,320 --> 00:49:03,260

And they gave us soup made
from I don't know what it is--

767

00:49:03,260 --> 00:49:07,330

768

00:49:07,330 --> 00:49:11,110

it's a vegetable and it's big--

769

00:49:11,110 --> 00:49:11,980

Turnips?

770
00:49:11,980 --> 00:49:14,860
Turnips.

771
00:49:14,860 --> 00:49:17,470
Turnips, they were orange.

772
00:49:17,470 --> 00:49:19,750
Everything was
made with turnips,

773
00:49:19,750 --> 00:49:22,330
which in Czechoslovakia,
they were used

774
00:49:22,330 --> 00:49:26,200
to feed the cattle, the pigs.

775
00:49:26,200 --> 00:49:27,950
You must have
learned about turnips

776
00:49:27,950 --> 00:49:29,910
in your other interviews.

777
00:49:29,910 --> 00:49:33,990

778
00:49:33,990 --> 00:49:42,640
And we got a piece of bread and
sometimes margarine, sometimes

779
00:49:42,640 --> 00:49:43,652
jam.

780
00:49:43,652 --> 00:49:45,610
Whatever happened with
the jam that your mother

781
00:49:45,610 --> 00:49:46,690
put in the pail?

782

00:49:46,690 --> 00:49:50,965

I guess we ate it in
the course of time.

783

00:49:50,965 --> 00:49:53,500

784

00:49:53,500 --> 00:49:56,650

And so you stayed in
Theresienstadt for six months.

785

00:49:56,650 --> 00:49:58,960

No, then I still went--

786

00:49:58,960 --> 00:50:06,550

I voluntarily went
to a place in Bohemia

787

00:50:06,550 --> 00:50:10,440

where they needed
people to plant trees.

788

00:50:10,440 --> 00:50:12,010

Now, when was this?

789

00:50:12,010 --> 00:50:16,010

This was from Theresienstadt
maybe in May--

790

00:50:16,010 --> 00:50:18,270

May '42.

791

00:50:18,270 --> 00:50:20,820

I'm not sure it was
May, but I think so.

792

00:50:20,820 --> 00:50:24,960

And I didn't tell my mother,
but when she heard it,

793

00:50:24,960 --> 00:50:28,000

when I told her

eventually, she volunteered

794

00:50:28,000 --> 00:50:31,630

to go along on the
transport because she

795

00:50:31,630 --> 00:50:38,120

felt we shouldn't be
separated, which we later were.

796

00:50:38,120 --> 00:50:40,890

So the two of you left in May.

797

00:50:40,890 --> 00:50:45,600

We left in May and we were
there for maybe six weeks.

798

00:50:45,600 --> 00:50:50,160

And in a way, it was
a very fortunate thing

799

00:50:50,160 --> 00:50:55,970

because we rode to some of our
friends who were still there,

800

00:50:55,970 --> 00:50:56,820

and they sent us--

801

00:50:56,820 --> 00:50:58,080

Still in Theresienstadt?

802

00:50:58,080 --> 00:51:01,830

No, still in Czechoslovakia.

803

00:51:01,830 --> 00:51:04,830

Not yet in Paris.

804

00:51:04,830 --> 00:51:10,760

It took some time until they got
all the Jews in Czechoslovakia

805

00:51:10,760 --> 00:51:13,860

to Theresienstadt.

806

00:51:13,860 --> 00:51:17,990

And we did this through--

807

00:51:17,990 --> 00:51:21,230

808

00:51:21,230 --> 00:51:26,450

every day, we went for supper
to an inn in the country.

809

00:51:26,450 --> 00:51:30,820

There were various places in
Bohemia where we did this work.

810

00:51:30,820 --> 00:51:35,480

But in that place where
I was with my mother,

811

00:51:35,480 --> 00:51:39,980

we went to supper every
day to a certain inn,

812

00:51:39,980 --> 00:51:45,230

and there we talked to
the owner of the event

813

00:51:45,230 --> 00:51:47,600

and asked him whether
it would be all right

814

00:51:47,600 --> 00:51:52,270

if we had a package sent
to him, to his address.

815

00:51:52,270 --> 00:51:57,300

And we always told
the people to whom

816

00:51:57,300 --> 00:52:01,220

we rode what name
to write us, to send

817
00:52:01,220 --> 00:52:06,800
by that we recognized which was
for us because other people did

818
00:52:06,800 --> 00:52:08,990
the same thing.

819
00:52:08,990 --> 00:52:14,330
And so we collected quite a bit
of food, which we brought back

820
00:52:14,330 --> 00:52:17,270
to Theresienstadt.

821
00:52:17,270 --> 00:52:21,320
What kind of work did you do for
six weeks, you planted trees?

822
00:52:21,320 --> 00:52:21,920
Trees, yeah.

823
00:52:21,920 --> 00:52:24,050
Was that hard work?

824
00:52:24,050 --> 00:52:27,630
For us, it wasn't so
hard, but we had--

825
00:52:27,630 --> 00:52:29,440
for the young people--

826
00:52:29,440 --> 00:52:33,080
but for my mother
it was very hard.

827
00:52:33,080 --> 00:52:38,140
And the man in charge of
us was very nasty to her

828
00:52:38,140 --> 00:52:41,600
and kept talking about

the old pail lifter

829

00:52:41,600 --> 00:52:45,004
can't do her work and so on.

830

00:52:45,004 --> 00:52:47,930
So that was hard, but she
took it in her stride.

831

00:52:47,930 --> 00:52:53,010

832

00:52:53,010 --> 00:52:56,380
So we came back
to Theresienstadt.

833

00:52:56,380 --> 00:52:59,490
In the meantime, my
uncle Norbert Troller

834

00:52:59,490 --> 00:53:01,930
had arrived there.

835

00:53:01,930 --> 00:53:06,880
And I don't know if he was
there when we left or not,

836

00:53:06,880 --> 00:53:08,990
I don't know.

837

00:53:08,990 --> 00:53:12,820
But anyhow, he had
lost so much weight.

838

00:53:12,820 --> 00:53:18,590
He had always been roly-poly,
and he was terribly thin.

839

00:53:18,590 --> 00:53:23,200
And of course, we were very
happy to have brought that food

840

00:53:23,200 --> 00:53:29,690
and to contribute
to his subsistence.

841
00:53:29,690 --> 00:53:31,720
He became stronger again.

842
00:53:31,720 --> 00:53:37,110

843
00:53:37,110 --> 00:53:39,140
Now you're back
at Theresienstadt.

844
00:53:39,140 --> 00:53:41,530
Now we are back
in Theresienstadt,

845
00:53:41,530 --> 00:53:51,190
and in June, as I said,
the Czechs were evacuated.

846
00:53:51,190 --> 00:53:54,690
And in the meantime,
there were more and more

847
00:53:54,690 --> 00:53:57,280
people coming, of course.

848
00:53:57,280 --> 00:54:00,810
There was, for instance,
a transport from Vienna

849
00:54:00,810 --> 00:54:05,400
where a sister of my
grandmother's was in there,

850
00:54:05,400 --> 00:54:08,970
and it was just
terrible for the people.

851
00:54:08,970 --> 00:54:13,560
There was no room anymore and

they put them in the cellars.

852

00:54:13,560 --> 00:54:15,460

Did you know that she was there?

853

00:54:15,460 --> 00:54:15,960

Yeah.

854

00:54:15,960 --> 00:54:16,860

You did know.

855

00:54:16,860 --> 00:54:18,690

We did know she was there.

856

00:54:18,690 --> 00:54:21,503

How did you know this,
how did you find out,

857

00:54:21,503 --> 00:54:22,420

through word of mouth?

858

00:54:22,420 --> 00:54:24,860

Probably word of mouth.

859

00:54:24,860 --> 00:54:27,780

By that time, we were
allowed to go out,

860

00:54:27,780 --> 00:54:31,830

and so we went to visit her.

861

00:54:31,830 --> 00:54:36,320

She died soon after
that, fortunately.

862

00:54:36,320 --> 00:54:41,740

But by that time,
Theresienstadt was full.

863

00:54:41,740 --> 00:54:45,120

Full of people from everywhere.

864

00:54:45,120 --> 00:54:48,070

Germany and-- also,
I don't remember it,

865

00:54:48,070 --> 00:54:53,880

but I remember this old
aunt, Tante [? Fritzen. ?]

866

00:54:53,880 --> 00:55:02,650

And also my favorite aunt,
the one I told you about,

867

00:55:02,650 --> 00:55:08,390

who was left in Brno all
and all her family was gone.

868

00:55:08,390 --> 00:55:16,510

She came to Theresienstadt, too,
and she became a nurse there.

869

00:55:16,510 --> 00:55:18,030

What was her name?

870

00:55:18,030 --> 00:55:28,370

Amie Weiner, W-E-I-N-E-R. And
I loved her almost as much

871

00:55:28,370 --> 00:55:32,030

as my father, much
more than my mother,

872

00:55:32,030 --> 00:55:34,530

so I was very happy
she was there.

873

00:55:34,530 --> 00:55:37,835

This is your father's sister?

874

00:55:37,835 --> 00:55:39,040

My father's oldest sister.

875

00:55:39,040 --> 00:55:46,740

876

00:55:46,740 --> 00:55:50,350

What else do you remember
about the summer of 1942

877

00:55:50,350 --> 00:55:51,600

in Theresienstadt?

878

00:55:51,600 --> 00:55:55,540

Transports left for
the east all the time.

879

00:55:55,540 --> 00:55:59,250

We had no idea where
they were going.

880

00:55:59,250 --> 00:56:04,530

It was rumored it was to Poland,
but we didn't really know.

881

00:56:04,530 --> 00:56:10,590

And the most important
thing in Theresienstadt

882

00:56:10,590 --> 00:56:15,960

was to have connections
to get out of transport,

883

00:56:15,960 --> 00:56:17,760

not to have to go.

884

00:56:17,760 --> 00:56:20,520

Because there at least
we knew what we had

885

00:56:20,520 --> 00:56:24,090

and we did not know
what was waiting for us.

886

00:56:24,090 --> 00:56:29,190

So mother and I got into
transport twice, I think.

887
00:56:29,190 --> 00:56:32,520
And once, I had
a boyfriend there

888
00:56:32,520 --> 00:56:38,160
who was a ghetto
policeman, and he

889
00:56:38,160 --> 00:56:43,110
said that we were engaged,
which we were not.

890
00:56:43,110 --> 00:56:46,955
And ghetto policemen
could save people,

891
00:56:46,955 --> 00:56:49,260
so he saved us that time.

892
00:56:49,260 --> 00:56:51,430
Or at least I think it was.

893
00:56:51,430 --> 00:56:54,040
We don't really know.

894
00:56:54,040 --> 00:56:57,810
And then I think there
was the second time

895
00:56:57,810 --> 00:57:00,870
where possibly my uncle--

896
00:57:00,870 --> 00:57:03,180
Norry is his name--

897
00:57:03,180 --> 00:57:07,380
saved us because he was in
the technical department.

898
00:57:07,380 --> 00:57:09,530
He was an architect.

899

00:57:09,530 --> 00:57:13,190

And the technical department
had a lot of clout.

900

00:57:13,190 --> 00:57:15,740

901

00:57:15,740 --> 00:57:19,910

And so he said that my
mother was his sister

902

00:57:19,910 --> 00:57:23,600

and that we couldn't possibly
go, and so we didn't go.

903

00:57:23,600 --> 00:57:27,560

But the third time it
didn't work anymore, and--

904

00:57:27,560 --> 00:57:31,450

905

00:57:31,450 --> 00:57:35,270

you want me to tell you
something about Theresienstadt?

906

00:57:35,270 --> 00:57:38,320

Well did you do any
work over the summer?

907

00:57:38,320 --> 00:57:40,520

Yes, I was again
in the post office.

908

00:57:40,520 --> 00:57:42,335

Oh, you went back
to the post office?

909

00:57:42,335 --> 00:57:44,910

I went back to the
post office, yes.

910

00:57:44,910 --> 00:57:47,190
And a minimal amount of food.

911

00:57:47,190 --> 00:57:49,150
Minimal amount of food.

912

00:57:49,150 --> 00:57:52,360
One unusual thing
in Theresienstadt

913

00:57:52,360 --> 00:57:55,760
was that they made dumplings--

914

00:57:55,760 --> 00:57:59,140
Czech dumplings--
which I am sure

915

00:57:59,140 --> 00:58:03,970
did not exist in any
other concentration camp.

916

00:58:03,970 --> 00:58:08,180
And that was always a day of
joy when they made dumplings.

917

00:58:08,180 --> 00:58:13,030
They were so big,
and inside was jam.

918

00:58:13,030 --> 00:58:16,750
And of course, we were
very happy about that.

919

00:58:16,750 --> 00:58:18,290
Did you go back to your--

920

00:58:18,290 --> 00:58:19,540
did you live in the same room?

921

00:58:19,540 --> 00:58:21,050
In the same room.

922

00:58:21,050 --> 00:58:21,900

Well, no.

923

00:58:21,900 --> 00:58:29,860

Maybe it was in between that first and the second room.

924

00:58:29,860 --> 00:58:31,430

I really don't remember.

925

00:58:31,430 --> 00:58:36,650

But all together, we were only in two rooms, my mother and I.

926

00:58:36,650 --> 00:58:39,190

Did people eat in a central location?

927

00:58:39,190 --> 00:58:39,850

No, no.

928

00:58:39,850 --> 00:58:41,608

You ate in your room

929

00:58:41,608 --> 00:58:42,150

In your room?

930

00:58:42,150 --> 00:58:46,840

You sat on your mattress on the floor, and that's where--

931

00:58:46,840 --> 00:58:50,320

you had to stand in line to get your food.

932

00:58:50,320 --> 00:58:55,360

Each barracks had a kitchen, and that's

933

00:58:55,360 --> 00:58:59,500

where you stood in line to get your food or to get your bread,

934
00:58:59,500 --> 00:59:01,420
whatever you got.

935
00:59:01,420 --> 00:59:04,260
What was a typical
breakfast in Theresienstadt?

936
00:59:04,260 --> 00:59:07,480
That was something
they called coffee,

937
00:59:07,480 --> 00:59:12,400
but it was just brown water,
and a piece of bread which

938
00:59:12,400 --> 00:59:16,875
had to last you all day long.

939
00:59:16,875 --> 00:59:20,260
And then lunch was?

940
00:59:20,260 --> 00:59:24,610
Lunch was, I think--

941
00:59:24,610 --> 00:59:27,200
lunch was the main
meal, so it must

942
00:59:27,200 --> 00:59:30,700
have been that horrible soup.

943
00:59:30,700 --> 00:59:32,680
What is the name
of the vegetable?

944
00:59:32,680 --> 00:59:33,480
Turnip?

945
00:59:33,480 --> 00:59:37,590
Yeah, turnip soup
and bread again.

946
00:59:37,590 --> 00:59:39,010
And then dinner?

947
00:59:39,010 --> 00:59:42,890
And then dinner, it was
again turnip soup and bread,

948
00:59:42,890 --> 00:59:46,610
and maybe that's when
we got the dumpling.

949
00:59:46,610 --> 00:59:49,480
Or maybe it was at
lunch, I don't know.

950
00:59:49,480 --> 00:59:51,310
How often was dumpling day?

951
00:59:51,310 --> 00:59:52,420
Once a week?

952
00:59:52,420 --> 00:59:54,520
Once a week, perhaps.

953
00:59:54,520 --> 00:59:56,380
And what was the
sanitary facilities

954
00:59:56,380 --> 00:59:58,890
like in your barracks?

955
00:59:58,890 --> 01:00:06,940
Well there was a big sort of
a wash room with-- since it

956
01:00:06,940 --> 01:00:09,370
was a barracks for
soldiers, there

957
01:00:09,370 --> 01:00:12,100
were maybe 20

spigots there where

958

01:00:12,100 --> 01:00:16,130

you washed with cold water.

959

01:00:16,130 --> 01:00:22,210

And I don't remember
anything about the toilets.

960

01:00:22,210 --> 01:00:25,390

They must have had
lots of toilets.

961

01:00:25,390 --> 01:00:31,840

Anyhow, I don't remember any
hardship with toilets there.

962

01:00:31,840 --> 01:00:35,350

And at least we had
plenty of cold water.

963

01:00:35,350 --> 01:00:41,230

The funny thing was
that in Europe, people

964

01:00:41,230 --> 01:00:47,320

put their bedding into
the windows to air out.

965

01:00:47,320 --> 01:00:50,560

Everyone does it
all over Europe,

966

01:00:50,560 --> 01:00:53,140

and we did it even
in Theresienstadt

967

01:00:53,140 --> 01:00:56,090

because there were sort of--

968

01:00:56,090 --> 01:00:57,340

what do we call them--

969

01:00:57,340 --> 01:00:59,940

970

01:00:59,940 --> 01:01:00,900

Archways?

971

01:01:00,900 --> 01:01:02,700

Yes, arches.

972

01:01:02,700 --> 01:01:08,820

There was a walkway
to the various rooms,

973

01:01:08,820 --> 01:01:13,290

and then those archways, and
we put our bedding out there

974

01:01:13,290 --> 01:01:16,740

to air every morning.

975

01:01:16,740 --> 01:01:21,290

Maybe that's why we didn't have
fleas or lice, I don't know.

976

01:01:21,290 --> 01:01:25,680

Because later we had that, too.

977

01:01:25,680 --> 01:01:29,610

So you said your health
was OK still at that point?

978

01:01:29,610 --> 01:01:34,570

Yes, our health was OK.

979

01:01:34,570 --> 01:01:36,970

All right, and so
the summer is over

980

01:01:36,970 --> 01:01:39,980

and now it's September 1st.

981

01:01:39,980 --> 01:01:44,640
Yeah, or a few days before
then, we got the summons

982
01:01:44,640 --> 01:01:47,410
that we had to go.

983
01:01:47,410 --> 01:01:51,330
And my boss in the post office--

984
01:01:51,330 --> 01:01:59,010
he was the head of the overall
administration post office--

985
01:01:59,010 --> 01:02:04,030
and he said that he
knew that the man who

986
01:02:04,030 --> 01:02:09,180
was the top man
on the transport,

987
01:02:09,180 --> 01:02:11,900
and he would tell him about me.

988
01:02:11,900 --> 01:02:16,000
That if you needed any help,
a secretary or whatever,

989
01:02:16,000 --> 01:02:19,210
that he recommended me.

990
01:02:19,210 --> 01:02:24,750
And then we were put into
a separate barracks, those

991
01:02:24,750 --> 01:02:30,290
who went on with transport,
and were there again

992
01:02:30,290 --> 01:02:33,570
I think for three
days, and my mother

993

01:02:33,570 --> 01:02:36,240

met some distant
relative whom she

994

01:02:36,240 --> 01:02:42,260

hadn't seen for years and
years who had a daughter,

995

01:02:42,260 --> 01:02:48,160

and she introduced us.

996

01:02:48,160 --> 01:02:52,990

And then I also found
a boyfriend there

997

01:02:52,990 --> 01:02:56,600

with whom I thought
I fell in love,

998

01:02:56,600 --> 01:03:02,390

but I think it was just
leaning on someone.

999

01:03:02,390 --> 01:03:07,490

And then we were
loaded into the train.

1000

01:03:07,490 --> 01:03:10,890

I have no recollection
how we got to the train.

1001

01:03:10,890 --> 01:03:14,540

We must have walked, but
I can't imagine that we

1002

01:03:14,540 --> 01:03:17,200

carried all the luggage.

1003

01:03:17,200 --> 01:03:19,000