

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,830

2

00:00:03,830 --> 00:00:07,340

We were talking about
you're being called up

3

00:00:07,340 --> 00:00:09,500

in September 1942.

4

00:00:09,500 --> 00:00:12,300

And you were taken
out of your barracks

5

00:00:12,300 --> 00:00:17,860

for three days in a different
location with your mother.

6

00:00:17,860 --> 00:00:31,130

And then we were loaded on
train and traveled northeast,

7

00:00:31,130 --> 00:00:32,780

I guess.

8

00:00:32,780 --> 00:00:36,560

We had no idea where we
were, because the train

9

00:00:36,560 --> 00:00:38,770

in the beginning never stopped.

10

00:00:38,770 --> 00:00:43,820

Or maybe I was too
involved with my boyfriend

11

00:00:43,820 --> 00:00:46,580

and didn't pay attention
where we were going.

12

00:00:46,580 --> 00:00:49,700

But I remember that
we stopped in Riga,

13
00:00:49,700 --> 00:00:53,370
which is the capital of Latvia.

14
00:00:53,370 --> 00:00:54,920
Was this a regular train?

15
00:00:54,920 --> 00:00:58,850
This was a regular train,
not the freight train.

16
00:00:58,850 --> 00:01:01,398
Not that other
persons around me, no.

17
00:01:01,398 --> 00:01:02,940
Well, what do you
mean by a regular--

18
00:01:02,940 --> 00:01:04,599
You were sitting on benches.

19
00:01:04,599 --> 00:01:07,550
Yes, we were sitting on benches.

20
00:01:07,550 --> 00:01:11,480
And we stopped here and
there and they distributed

21
00:01:11,480 --> 00:01:17,600
some food and water,
which we had gotten along

22
00:01:17,600 --> 00:01:23,350
from Theresienstadt, so
that we had something to eat

23
00:01:23,350 --> 00:01:25,910
and we had something to drink.

24

00:01:25,910 --> 00:01:28,790

And I remember at
one of those stops,

25

00:01:28,790 --> 00:01:35,340

I saw a woman in a
white nursing uniform

26

00:01:35,340 --> 00:01:41,180

with a red cross on her
cap distributing water.

27

00:01:41,180 --> 00:01:44,380

And she was blonde
and blue-eyed,

28

00:01:44,380 --> 00:01:48,170

and I thought that must be
someone from the Swedish Red

29

00:01:48,170 --> 00:01:49,415

Cross.

30

00:01:49,415 --> 00:01:53,995

As it turned out
later, I was with her

31

00:01:53,995 --> 00:01:58,870

in camp for a long time, and
she was from my home town.

32

00:01:58,870 --> 00:02:01,310

I'd never seen her before.

33

00:02:01,310 --> 00:02:04,560

She had a very
Scandinavian name.

34

00:02:04,560 --> 00:02:13,540

Her name was [? Amy ?]
Sylten, S-Y-L-T-E-N.

35

00:02:13,540 --> 00:02:14,505

But she was Jewish.

36

00:02:14,505 --> 00:02:17,210

37

00:02:17,210 --> 00:02:25,690

And so yes, my mother, who
as I told you was very smart,

38

00:02:25,690 --> 00:02:30,900

wrote a post card
to someone at home

39

00:02:30,900 --> 00:02:35,210

and threw it out of the window
hoping someone would get it.

40

00:02:35,210 --> 00:02:38,120

Whether someone got
it, I don't know.

41

00:02:38,120 --> 00:02:40,990

42

00:02:40,990 --> 00:02:46,030

And I told you we
stopped in Riga.

43

00:02:46,030 --> 00:02:51,520

And word got around that they
wanted us to get out there,

44

00:02:51,520 --> 00:02:53,530

but we did not.

45

00:02:53,530 --> 00:02:56,350

Were you ever allowed off
the train during the journey?

46

00:02:56,350 --> 00:02:58,330

No.

47

00:02:58,330 --> 00:03:01,570

I guess there were toilets.

48

00:03:01,570 --> 00:03:02,650

I don't remember.

49

00:03:02,650 --> 00:03:04,780

No, we were never
allowed off the train,

50

00:03:04,780 --> 00:03:08,120

except for the people
who came around

51

00:03:08,120 --> 00:03:11,010

with the food and
the water and so on.

52

00:03:11,010 --> 00:03:14,080

They went outside the train.

53

00:03:14,080 --> 00:03:18,670

And so we went on from Riga.

54

00:03:18,670 --> 00:03:22,780

And the whole thing took
five days and five nights.

55

00:03:22,780 --> 00:03:26,110

That I know.

56

00:03:26,110 --> 00:03:32,470

And finally, we came to a small
station, which as it turned out

57

00:03:32,470 --> 00:03:34,810

later was in Estonia.

58

00:03:34,810 --> 00:03:41,360

Estonia is the northernmost
of the three Baltic countries.

59

00:03:41,360 --> 00:03:46,790
And there were some SS men
out there, and we all were--

60
00:03:46,790 --> 00:03:49,690
we all got out of the train.

61
00:03:49,690 --> 00:03:54,550
No, before we got out of
the train, they came in,

62
00:03:54,550 --> 00:03:58,060
and they distributed post cards.

63
00:03:58,060 --> 00:04:00,460
And they said that
we could write home

64
00:04:00,460 --> 00:04:07,150
that we would work in an
agricultural environment

65
00:04:07,150 --> 00:04:11,560
and that we are fine.

66
00:04:11,560 --> 00:04:14,320
So we all did that.

67
00:04:14,320 --> 00:04:16,760
Whether they ever
sent it, I don't know.

68
00:04:16,760 --> 00:04:20,410
But just imagine that they
think up something like that

69
00:04:20,410 --> 00:04:23,240
just for shame, you know?

70
00:04:23,240 --> 00:04:26,410
Do you remember who
you addressed it to?

71

00:04:26,410 --> 00:04:28,150

No.

72

00:04:28,150 --> 00:04:28,960

No idea.

73

00:04:28,960 --> 00:04:31,300

My mother did it, I'm sure.

74

00:04:31,300 --> 00:04:32,740

Maybe I did too.

75

00:04:32,740 --> 00:04:33,580

I don't know.

76

00:04:33,580 --> 00:04:35,590

I don't remember.

77

00:04:35,590 --> 00:04:40,990

So then we got out of the
train, and those SS men

78

00:04:40,990 --> 00:04:47,140

were standing there and
telling some to go where

79

00:04:47,140 --> 00:04:50,010

light blue buses were standing.

80

00:04:50,010 --> 00:04:52,930

They told them to go
there, and some they

81

00:04:52,930 --> 00:04:57,790

picked out, mostly young people,
and said that they should

82

00:04:57,790 --> 00:05:00,350

help unloading the luggage.

83

00:05:00,350 --> 00:05:01,540

Now, what city is this?

84

00:05:01,540 --> 00:05:02,170

Where are you?

85

00:05:02,170 --> 00:05:05,030

86

00:05:05,030 --> 00:05:06,840

It's not even a city.

87

00:05:06,840 --> 00:05:10,220

It's a small place
called Raasiku.

88

00:05:10,220 --> 00:05:16,290

R-A-A-S-I-K-U.

89

00:05:16,290 --> 00:05:17,380

This is in Estonia?

90

00:05:17,380 --> 00:05:18,163

In Estonia.

91

00:05:18,163 --> 00:05:21,790

92

00:05:21,790 --> 00:05:28,320

And the men were I think
mostly Estonian SS,

93

00:05:28,320 --> 00:05:31,680

because we saw them later,
an they were Estonian.

94

00:05:31,680 --> 00:05:35,680

But there were some
Germans there too.

95

00:05:35,680 --> 00:05:39,840

And so I was picked out to
help with their luggage,

96
00:05:39,840 --> 00:05:43,410
and my mother was sent on ahead.

97
00:05:43,410 --> 00:05:47,000
And we each had in
our hand a pillow,

98
00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:52,100
a pillow case into
which was folded

99
00:05:52,100 --> 00:05:56,040
the fur from our, in our--.

100
00:05:56,040 --> 00:06:02,460
We came to Theresienstadt with
a coat and a fur lining which

101
00:06:02,460 --> 00:06:04,950
could be buttoned in.

102
00:06:04,950 --> 00:06:09,600
So this was somewhere so,
the fur lining was out,

103
00:06:09,600 --> 00:06:14,490
and it was in those two pillows.

104
00:06:14,490 --> 00:06:17,940
And my mother went ahead,
and then I ran after her

105
00:06:17,940 --> 00:06:23,340
and gave her my pillow and said,
look, I really have to work,

106
00:06:23,340 --> 00:06:27,280
and we'll meet later, and
you take both of them.

107
00:06:27,280 --> 00:06:31,230

And they told us that we
would meet those people who go

108
00:06:31,230 --> 00:06:35,070
in buses later on in the camp.

109
00:06:35,070 --> 00:06:38,190
So we helped unloading
the luggage, which

110
00:06:38,190 --> 00:06:42,450
I don't remember having done,
but I must have done it.

111
00:06:42,450 --> 00:06:48,450
And then they put the
luggage and us on trucks.

112
00:06:48,450 --> 00:06:52,040
And we drove and
came into the woods,

113
00:06:52,040 --> 00:06:55,290
and there was like a camp
there, wooden barracks,

114
00:06:55,290 --> 00:06:58,430
about five wooden
barracks with a--

115
00:06:58,430 --> 00:07:04,290

116
00:07:04,290 --> 00:07:07,350
you should have come five
years earlier when I still

117
00:07:07,350 --> 00:07:10,220
could think of words.

118
00:07:10,220 --> 00:07:11,545
It'll come to you later.

119

00:07:11,545 --> 00:07:12,640

It's all right.

120

00:07:12,640 --> 00:07:20,130

Surrounded by barbed wire, and
towers with soldiers up there

121

00:07:20,130 --> 00:07:22,960

with guns.

122

00:07:22,960 --> 00:07:31,330

And I had some hand luggage.

123

00:07:31,330 --> 00:07:32,460

And I went into--

124

00:07:32,460 --> 00:07:36,380

I saw that there was a line
of people lined up in front

125

00:07:36,380 --> 00:07:40,140

of one of those barracks.

126

00:07:40,140 --> 00:07:47,040

But I went to another barrack
and put my hand luggage there.

127

00:07:47,040 --> 00:07:48,990

Was the transport made
up of men and women?

128

00:07:48,990 --> 00:07:51,810

Men and women, yes.

129

00:07:51,810 --> 00:07:52,390

And children?

130

00:07:52,390 --> 00:07:53,640

Were there any young children?

131

00:07:53,640 --> 00:07:56,190

Yes, there were children too.

132

00:07:56,190 --> 00:08:04,090

And they picked out I would
say about 50 women and 50 men.

133

00:08:04,090 --> 00:08:06,390

Only the men did
not come with us.

134

00:08:06,390 --> 00:08:07,590

I don't know what--

135

00:08:07,590 --> 00:08:11,490

they came in to a different
camp, but around there too,

136

00:08:11,490 --> 00:08:16,520

because once we were
allowed to see them.

137

00:08:16,520 --> 00:08:21,800

So I left my hand
luggage in the barrack,

138

00:08:21,800 --> 00:08:26,630

but I myself, stupid as I
am, I went into that line

139

00:08:26,630 --> 00:08:29,960

where the other
people stood in line

140

00:08:29,960 --> 00:08:32,179

to get into this one barrack.

141

00:08:32,179 --> 00:08:34,760

I had no idea what it was.

142

00:08:34,760 --> 00:08:38,814

And when my turn came, it was
pitch dark in the barrack.

143

00:08:38,814 --> 00:08:41,960

And there were those
SS men who made us

144

00:08:41,960 --> 00:08:49,520

undress and to do all
sorts of gymnastics.

145

00:08:49,520 --> 00:08:53,600

They went through, but I
probably really hit a purse,

146

00:08:53,600 --> 00:08:54,110

you know?

147

00:08:54,110 --> 00:08:58,070

And they found various things in
there that they wanted to have,

148

00:08:58,070 --> 00:08:59,360

took them all.

149

00:08:59,360 --> 00:09:03,590

Then we had to exercise, so if
we had anything in our vagina,

150

00:09:03,590 --> 00:09:06,320

that it would fall out.

151

00:09:06,320 --> 00:09:11,030

And it was pretty awful, you
know, to undress completely

152

00:09:11,030 --> 00:09:12,710

in front of those men.

153

00:09:12,710 --> 00:09:16,130

But there was
nothing we could do.

154

00:09:16,130 --> 00:09:22,020

So then when we got through,

we just walked out, got dressed

155

00:09:22,020 --> 00:09:24,980

and walked out, and
went into the barrack

156

00:09:24,980 --> 00:09:26,640

where I had left my luggage.

157

00:09:26,640 --> 00:09:30,200

158

00:09:30,200 --> 00:09:32,480

You know, if I had
just stayed there,

159

00:09:32,480 --> 00:09:35,870

I probably wouldn't have
had to go through all that.

160

00:09:35,870 --> 00:09:40,360

But that's how naive I was.

161

00:09:40,360 --> 00:09:43,600

So then we unloaded
all the luggage

162

00:09:43,600 --> 00:09:45,430

and put it in another barrack.

163

00:09:45,430 --> 00:09:49,860

164

00:09:49,860 --> 00:09:52,740

And then we lived
in this barrack.

165

00:09:52,740 --> 00:09:56,350

Yeah, and our families
were not there.

166

00:09:56,350 --> 00:10:00,580

So we asked, you said we
would meet our families here?

167
00:10:00,580 --> 00:10:04,930
And they said, well, we sent
them to a camp that is heated--

168
00:10:04,930 --> 00:10:07,200
it was September, you know--

169
00:10:07,200 --> 00:10:10,920
so they wouldn't
freeze in winter.

170
00:10:10,920 --> 00:10:13,320
Were you with anybody
you knew at that point?

171
00:10:13,320 --> 00:10:16,060
No, only this one
young girl where

172
00:10:16,060 --> 00:10:23,130
my mother had met a relative
in the separate barracks there.

173
00:10:23,130 --> 00:10:27,240
She was only 15 or 16 years old.

174
00:10:27,240 --> 00:10:29,130
I was 22.

175
00:10:29,130 --> 00:10:34,230
Not yet-- no, yes, just 22.

176
00:10:34,230 --> 00:10:37,950
She was the only one.

177
00:10:37,950 --> 00:10:41,900
And there were some
girls there, they

178

00:10:41,900 --> 00:10:46,190
were mostly young girls,
who cried terribly

179
00:10:46,190 --> 00:10:50,030
because they were separated
from their families.

180
00:10:50,030 --> 00:10:54,365
And most of us
couldn't understand it.

181
00:10:54,365 --> 00:10:57,710
Well, they said they're in
a camp that is heated where

182
00:10:57,710 --> 00:11:00,380
we are going to see them again.

183
00:11:00,380 --> 00:11:07,680
So we lived for I don't know how
many years, two years or more,

184
00:11:07,680 --> 00:11:11,560
thinking we would see
our families again.

185
00:11:11,560 --> 00:11:18,270
We'd never heard about
gassing or shooting.

186
00:11:18,270 --> 00:11:23,590
We had never heard about
anything like that.

187
00:11:23,590 --> 00:11:27,250
So we spent our time
unpacking the luggage.

188
00:11:27,250 --> 00:11:31,830
You know, that it didn't
occur to us, how come--

189

00:11:31,830 --> 00:11:36,070
what do the other people
wear whose luggage it is?

190
00:11:36,070 --> 00:11:40,110
It didn't occur to--
or at least not to me.

191
00:11:40,110 --> 00:11:42,360
And of course we
had the advantage

192
00:11:42,360 --> 00:11:48,540
that if we found something
that we could use, we took it.

193
00:11:48,540 --> 00:11:51,870
But there was also we
found a lot of jewelry

194
00:11:51,870 --> 00:11:55,770
that we gave to the
Germans and money.

195
00:11:55,770 --> 00:11:59,650
You know, I told you
in the dark barrack

196
00:11:59,650 --> 00:12:02,460
how they took things
out of my pocket book.

197
00:12:02,460 --> 00:12:05,880
For instance, I had--

198
00:12:05,880 --> 00:12:11,960
it was a pencil, like
an automatic pencil.

199
00:12:11,960 --> 00:12:15,690
But it was a much
thicker pencil,

200

00:12:15,690 --> 00:12:18,990
which my uncle had given me.

201
00:12:18,990 --> 00:12:23,130
He used that in his
work as an architect.

202
00:12:23,130 --> 00:12:29,480
And he had given me that with
rolled up money in there.

203
00:12:29,480 --> 00:12:30,990
And they took it.

204
00:12:30,990 --> 00:12:34,135
So that they must have known
that people hide things.

205
00:12:34,135 --> 00:12:37,430

206
00:12:37,430 --> 00:12:42,270
And then the clothes had to
be sorted into, I don't know,

207
00:12:42,270 --> 00:12:46,490
dresses and shoes and whatever.

208
00:12:46,490 --> 00:12:52,150
And those SS people took
them away by and by.

209
00:12:52,150 --> 00:12:56,680

210
00:12:56,680 --> 00:13:00,990
But we found food there, too,
so we cooked for ourselves.

211
00:13:00,990 --> 00:13:07,110
We found alcohol stoves in
which we cooked [INAUDIBLE]..

212

00:13:07,110 --> 00:13:09,560

We just used them.

213

00:13:09,560 --> 00:13:13,840

And we found our own
things, of course,

214

00:13:13,840 --> 00:13:19,420

which came in very handy later
on, because we exchanged them

215

00:13:19,420 --> 00:13:24,660

for food with peasants
and other people

216

00:13:24,660 --> 00:13:32,820

in Estonia so that we were not
as starved as most people were.

217

00:13:32,820 --> 00:13:34,910

So you lived in this
first barrack that--

218

00:13:34,910 --> 00:13:39,110

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

219

00:13:39,110 --> 00:13:40,300

How big a barrack was it?

220

00:13:40,300 --> 00:13:43,188

221

00:13:43,188 --> 00:13:43,730

I don't know.

222

00:13:43,730 --> 00:13:46,140

There were about 50 of us.

223

00:13:46,140 --> 00:13:51,540

And there were two wooden
platforms, downstairs

224

00:13:51,540 --> 00:13:52,950
and upstairs.

225

00:13:52,950 --> 00:13:54,220
And we lived--

226

00:13:54,220 --> 00:13:56,960
That's where you
slept, on the platform?

227

00:13:56,960 --> 00:13:58,220
That's where we lived.

228

00:13:58,220 --> 00:13:59,270
That's where we cooked.

229

00:13:59,270 --> 00:14:02,060
We did all of that there.

230

00:14:02,060 --> 00:14:04,880
It was like our home.

231

00:14:04,880 --> 00:14:07,490
And people formed groups.

232

00:14:07,490 --> 00:14:12,217
And I formed a group I think
with this 16-year-old girl.

233

00:14:12,217 --> 00:14:13,550
What was the youngest age there?

234

00:14:13,550 --> 00:14:14,283
Do you know?

235

00:14:14,283 --> 00:14:15,200
That was the youngest.

236

00:14:15,200 --> 00:14:16,075
She was the youngest.

237

00:14:16,075 --> 00:14:17,360

She was the youngest.

238

00:14:17,360 --> 00:14:19,970

And we christened her Baby.

239

00:14:19,970 --> 00:14:22,640

Baby [INAUDIBLE] we called her.

240

00:14:22,640 --> 00:14:24,770

And she still has that name.

241

00:14:24,770 --> 00:14:26,060

She lives in Israel.

242

00:14:26,060 --> 00:14:28,440

And her husband doesn't
like that at all

243

00:14:28,440 --> 00:14:29,864

that we call her that.

244

00:14:29,864 --> 00:14:34,130

245

00:14:34,130 --> 00:14:38,060

So, you know, gradually
friendships developed,

246

00:14:38,060 --> 00:14:41,970

and certain people moved in
together, and cooked together,

247

00:14:41,970 --> 00:14:44,900

and shared everything.

248

00:14:44,900 --> 00:14:47,330

Did you do any work?

249

00:14:47,330 --> 00:14:51,190

Only that sorting,

unpacking and sorting.

250
00:14:51,190 --> 00:14:52,040
Was your work.

251
00:14:52,040 --> 00:14:53,740
It was our work, yes.

252
00:14:53,740 --> 00:14:55,970
And you said you were
there for two years?

253
00:14:55,970 --> 00:14:56,720
No, no.

254
00:14:56,720 --> 00:15:00,170
Not in that camp.

255
00:15:00,170 --> 00:15:02,200
I then was the--

256
00:15:02,200 --> 00:15:05,720
because the Germans
or the SS elect--

257
00:15:05,720 --> 00:15:12,560
not elected, but stipulated
a leader of the group of us.

258
00:15:12,560 --> 00:15:18,620
And she happened to be a
schizophrenic individual,

259
00:15:18,620 --> 00:15:20,390
I think.

260
00:15:20,390 --> 00:15:24,020
And for instance, she picked--

261
00:15:24,020 --> 00:15:34,070
that was to go in transport for
work to an agricultural place.

262
00:15:34,070 --> 00:15:37,190
And I was picked
because I spoke German.

263
00:15:37,190 --> 00:15:39,940
So she was against
German speakers.

264
00:15:39,940 --> 00:15:43,820
And there were about,
I don't know, 25 or 30

265
00:15:43,820 --> 00:15:46,110
of us who were sent
on the transport.

266
00:15:46,110 --> 00:15:48,820
The others stayed
in the barracks

267
00:15:48,820 --> 00:15:52,790
and still worked
with their luggage.

268
00:15:52,790 --> 00:15:55,670
And that was pretty
tough, because we

269
00:15:55,670 --> 00:16:02,360
didn't get enough to eat,
and we had to work very hard.

270
00:16:02,360 --> 00:16:05,090
Where were you sent to?

271
00:16:05,090 --> 00:16:06,560
It was in the--

272
00:16:06,560 --> 00:16:07,850
you want to know the name?

273

00:16:07,850 --> 00:16:10,958

274

00:16:10,958 --> 00:16:13,470

If I find it do you want?

275

00:16:13,470 --> 00:16:15,980

Was this a permanent move,
or just a temporary move?

276

00:16:15,980 --> 00:16:17,307

No, it was just temporary.

277

00:16:17,307 --> 00:16:18,890

Oh, to go and work
and then come back?

278

00:16:18,890 --> 00:16:23,670

Yeah, but we took everything we
had, which wasn't much, along.

279

00:16:23,670 --> 00:16:25,390

And it was so--

280

00:16:25,390 --> 00:16:26,830

What kind of work
do you do there?

281

00:16:26,830 --> 00:16:29,410

282

00:16:29,410 --> 00:16:36,460

We harvested
potatoes and carrots.

283

00:16:36,460 --> 00:16:40,770

There was a man who was
supervising who had a--

284

00:16:40,770 --> 00:16:41,330

Whip?

285

00:16:41,330 --> 00:16:42,510

A whip, yes.

286

00:16:42,510 --> 00:16:45,870

287

00:16:45,870 --> 00:16:47,820

The clothes you were
wearing were the clothes

288

00:16:47,820 --> 00:16:51,000

that you brought
from home originally?

289

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:51,660

Yes.

290

00:16:51,660 --> 00:16:52,590

That's what you were wearing.

291

00:16:52,590 --> 00:16:53,760

That's what we were wearing.

292

00:16:53,760 --> 00:16:55,010

Were you still wearing a star?

293

00:16:55,010 --> 00:16:59,160

294

00:16:59,160 --> 00:17:02,320

I don't know if we
did there or not.

295

00:17:02,320 --> 00:17:03,680

I don't think so.

296

00:17:03,680 --> 00:17:06,609

I know that when we
later came to Reval,

297

00:17:06,609 --> 00:17:12,880

which is Tallinn today, they

made us take off the stars.

298

00:17:12,880 --> 00:17:15,069

So maybe we still had them.

299

00:17:15,069 --> 00:17:18,310

Because they didn't want
the population of Tallinn

300

00:17:18,310 --> 00:17:22,260

to know who we were.

301

00:17:22,260 --> 00:17:28,380

And so we went there, I think
harvesting for about six weeks.

302

00:17:28,380 --> 00:17:31,790

And it was really
backbreaking work,

303

00:17:31,790 --> 00:17:35,392

which we were not used to.

304

00:17:35,392 --> 00:17:36,350

And then you came back.

305

00:17:36,350 --> 00:17:38,130

Then we came back.

306

00:17:38,130 --> 00:17:41,720

And they separated us
to a different barrack.

307

00:17:41,720 --> 00:17:44,990

We were not to be in
touch with the others who

308

00:17:44,990 --> 00:17:46,100

had stayed there.

309

00:17:46,100 --> 00:17:49,560

Like we were pariahs.

310
00:17:49,560 --> 00:17:54,650
And so we were still in
that barrack in winter.

311
00:17:54,650 --> 00:17:57,890
And we didn't do any work
except that they took us

312
00:17:57,890 --> 00:18:02,510
out about once a day to
collect wood in the woods

313
00:18:02,510 --> 00:18:05,670
there for burning in our stove.

314
00:18:05,670 --> 00:18:08,960
And they brought us
food, whatever there was.

315
00:18:08,960 --> 00:18:12,530
I don't remember it at all.

316
00:18:12,530 --> 00:18:17,070
And I was made to be in charge--

317
00:18:17,070 --> 00:18:20,390
oh, I forgot-- of
this particular group

318
00:18:20,390 --> 00:18:23,870
in the barracks, because
he remembered my name.

319
00:18:23,870 --> 00:18:25,750
Because they had once caught--

320
00:18:25,750 --> 00:18:28,020
I forgot to tell you, when we--

321
00:18:28,020 --> 00:18:31,680
I told you we met the men once.

322
00:18:31,680 --> 00:18:34,210
The men who were
on our transport

323
00:18:34,210 --> 00:18:38,240
were in a different
camp but close by.

324
00:18:38,240 --> 00:18:42,170
They let us get together
one day, one Sunday,

325
00:18:42,170 --> 00:18:45,140
so that some of the
girls saw their fathers

326
00:18:45,140 --> 00:18:46,880
and their brothers.

327
00:18:46,880 --> 00:18:48,300
And I saw my boyfriend.

328
00:18:48,300 --> 00:18:55,820
And then I discovered a very
good friend of my father's.

329
00:18:55,820 --> 00:19:02,040
A man probably in his 50s
whose wife had probably

330
00:19:02,040 --> 00:19:03,300
gone with my mother.

331
00:19:03,300 --> 00:19:05,640
But they had picked
him, so he must

332
00:19:05,640 --> 00:19:08,090
have looked pretty healthy.

333
00:19:08,090 --> 00:19:12,260

And when I saw him
walking by later,

334
00:19:12,260 --> 00:19:17,270
and I threw him in a package
with socks and things

335
00:19:17,270 --> 00:19:18,570
I had found--

336
00:19:18,570 --> 00:19:23,510
food, too-- that I had
found in the luggage there.

337
00:19:23,510 --> 00:19:29,120
And one of those SS men
remembered me because of that,

338
00:19:29,120 --> 00:19:33,440
because I was caught,
and he was caught.

339
00:19:33,440 --> 00:19:36,560
But they didn't
do anything to us.

340
00:19:36,560 --> 00:19:37,960
But he remembered me.

341
00:19:37,960 --> 00:19:41,420
And that's why he made me--
he had remembered my name,

342
00:19:41,420 --> 00:19:45,350
and he put me in charge of
the people in this barracks.

343
00:19:45,350 --> 00:19:48,280
We had come back from work.

344
00:19:48,280 --> 00:19:53,910
Now, I am the least likely
person to lead the group.

345
00:19:53,910 --> 00:19:59,990
And I know I always
had to find someone

346
00:19:59,990 --> 00:20:02,090
who would clean the toilets.

347
00:20:02,090 --> 00:20:04,660
I remember the toilets there.

348
00:20:04,660 --> 00:20:07,380
And no one wanted to do it.

349
00:20:07,380 --> 00:20:08,972
And so in the end, I did it.

350
00:20:08,972 --> 00:20:12,700
[LAUGHING] I said, that's
how much of a leader I was.

351
00:20:12,700 --> 00:20:17,840

352
00:20:17,840 --> 00:20:20,990
So we were there
back in the woods.

353
00:20:20,990 --> 00:20:25,170
And then they said we
were going to Tallinn,

354
00:20:25,170 --> 00:20:28,490
which was Reval then.

355
00:20:28,490 --> 00:20:36,080
And we would work
in making clothes,

356
00:20:36,080 --> 00:20:41,580
you know, like the manufacture
of coats or dresses

357
00:20:41,580 --> 00:20:46,110
or whatever, which
was an absolute lie.

358
00:20:46,110 --> 00:20:47,570
But that's what they said.

359
00:20:47,570 --> 00:20:51,160
And they took us--

360
00:20:51,160 --> 00:20:52,680
now, those were most--

361
00:20:52,680 --> 00:20:55,350
I forgot to say something again.

362
00:20:55,350 --> 00:21:05,860
I think that happened while we
were away on the potato farm.

363
00:21:05,860 --> 00:21:09,690
Another transport
came from Germany,

364
00:21:09,690 --> 00:21:12,080
from Berlin and Frankfurt.

365
00:21:12,080 --> 00:21:18,380
And they again picked out
the young people, mostly.

366
00:21:18,380 --> 00:21:23,060
There were a few older
women and more girls.

367
00:21:23,060 --> 00:21:27,610
And so they moved in
with those other people.

368
00:21:27,610 --> 00:21:33,270
And then the call came for us

to go to Reval, and there were--

369

00:21:33,270 --> 00:21:35,880
some of the Germans went.

370

00:21:35,880 --> 00:21:41,070
And we went in separate
barrack, in the right barrack.

371

00:21:41,070 --> 00:21:44,910
And they brought
us to the prison.

372

00:21:44,910 --> 00:21:50,520
We stayed in the
political prison in Reval.

373

00:21:50,520 --> 00:21:53,530
OK, what month was this
that you left with other--

374

00:21:53,530 --> 00:21:56,410
This was I think December.

375

00:21:56,410 --> 00:21:56,995
Of '42?

376

00:21:56,995 --> 00:21:57,645
Of '42.

377

00:21:57,645 --> 00:22:00,230

378

00:22:00,230 --> 00:22:04,770
And how far away was
Reval from where you were?

379

00:22:04,770 --> 00:22:10,140
Not very far, because I don't
remember how far it was then,

380

00:22:10,140 --> 00:22:16,710

but I was there in '92, in 1992.

381

00:22:16,710 --> 00:22:19,950

The barracks don't exist
anymore, but the place

382

00:22:19,950 --> 00:22:21,560

where my mother--

383

00:22:21,560 --> 00:22:25,980

where all the families were shot
is there, and it's not too far.

384

00:22:25,980 --> 00:22:26,800

Not too far.

385

00:22:26,800 --> 00:22:28,470

It was maybe half an hour.

386

00:22:28,470 --> 00:22:31,100

So let's say this was
perhaps an hour [INAUDIBLE]..

387

00:22:31,100 --> 00:22:32,600

Oh, I see.

388

00:22:32,600 --> 00:22:35,520

389

00:22:35,520 --> 00:22:37,830

So you just walked there?

390

00:22:37,830 --> 00:22:38,480

No, no.

391

00:22:38,480 --> 00:22:39,360

On trucks.

392

00:22:39,360 --> 00:22:39,870

On trucks.

393

00:22:39,870 --> 00:22:41,730
On trucks, yeah.

394
00:22:41,730 --> 00:22:44,820
No one ever tried to run away.

395
00:22:44,820 --> 00:22:47,070
I mean, later on, some tried.

396
00:22:47,070 --> 00:22:50,820
But not seriously.

397
00:22:50,820 --> 00:22:56,880
So there they put us to work
for a German construction firm

398
00:22:56,880 --> 00:23:01,010
by the name of [COUGHING].

399
00:23:01,010 --> 00:23:03,956
I know that name very well.

400
00:23:03,956 --> 00:23:05,890
We can come back to it.

401
00:23:05,890 --> 00:23:07,980
Holzmann.

402
00:23:07,980 --> 00:23:16,260
H-O-L-Z-M-A-N-N. In
the head of that--

403
00:23:16,260 --> 00:23:18,900
well, let me tell you
about the prison first.

404
00:23:18,900 --> 00:23:23,580
We were in rather
modern cells where

405
00:23:23,580 --> 00:23:26,000
we were 10 people to a cell.

406
00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:26,910
10 women?

407
00:23:26,910 --> 00:23:28,930
10 women, yes.

408
00:23:28,930 --> 00:23:33,570
And there were only
seven beds there.

409
00:23:33,570 --> 00:23:35,310
The beds were just--

410
00:23:35,310 --> 00:23:43,590
they could be-- they were
made out of metal and canvas.

411
00:23:43,590 --> 00:23:44,550
And then--

412
00:23:44,550 --> 00:23:45,480
Could be folded up?

413
00:23:45,480 --> 00:23:48,180
Folded up to the wall.

414
00:23:48,180 --> 00:23:52,800
So there were seven
beds and 10 people.

415
00:23:52,800 --> 00:23:57,480
And then there was a cabinet
there to put our things.

416
00:23:57,480 --> 00:24:04,890
And then in one corner
we had our rucksacks.

417
00:24:04,890 --> 00:24:09,540
So we were always so
very fair, you see.

418
00:24:09,540 --> 00:24:12,250
We changed beds.

419
00:24:12,250 --> 00:24:15,030
Always different people had to--

420
00:24:15,030 --> 00:24:20,430
one had to sleep on the cabinet.

421
00:24:20,430 --> 00:24:22,440
One-- no.

422
00:24:22,440 --> 00:24:24,550
Yes, and two on the floor.

423
00:24:24,550 --> 00:24:27,400
One on the luggage,
and one on the floor.

424
00:24:27,400 --> 00:24:28,800
And seven in the bed.

425
00:24:28,800 --> 00:24:31,530
But we always took turns.

426
00:24:31,530 --> 00:24:37,870
And in the morning, the
guards came, they were women,

427
00:24:37,870 --> 00:24:42,060
and threw in the raw
fish heads on the floor

428
00:24:42,060 --> 00:24:45,370
that we were supposed
to eat for breakfast.

429
00:24:45,370 --> 00:24:49,200
And again, some brown
water, that was the coffee,

430

00:24:49,200 --> 00:24:53,320

and I think a piece of
bread, either in the morning

431

00:24:53,320 --> 00:24:55,110

or we got it in the evening.

432

00:24:55,110 --> 00:24:57,750

I don't remember.

433

00:24:57,750 --> 00:24:59,520

So with that, we were--

434

00:24:59,520 --> 00:25:01,040

do hard labor.

435

00:25:01,040 --> 00:25:04,680

We were in the
harbor, in the port.

436

00:25:04,680 --> 00:25:07,360

And we were tearing down--

437

00:25:07,360 --> 00:25:13,571

you see, the Russians
had attacked in Estonia.

438

00:25:13,571 --> 00:25:15,650

Or was it?

439

00:25:15,650 --> 00:25:18,500

First the-- no.

440

00:25:18,500 --> 00:25:20,860

The Russians had
attacked Estonia,

441

00:25:20,860 --> 00:25:25,680

and the harbor was in disrepair.

442

00:25:25,680 --> 00:25:28,620

All the barracks or
whatever, the little houses

443
00:25:28,620 --> 00:25:35,170
they had there, it was
all kaput as they say.

444
00:25:35,170 --> 00:25:38,340
And so this firm of
Holzmann was charged

445
00:25:38,340 --> 00:25:44,330
with rebuilding the harbor.

446
00:25:44,330 --> 00:25:47,400
And on the first
day, when we went

447
00:25:47,400 --> 00:25:54,050
to work, the man in
charge of Holzmann,

448
00:25:54,050 --> 00:25:59,780
his name was [PERSONAL NAME],,
he was a not very tall man

449
00:25:59,780 --> 00:26:02,510
with a red beard and red hair.

450
00:26:02,510 --> 00:26:09,170
He had a long speech saying
that if one tried to escape,

451
00:26:09,170 --> 00:26:13,020
that 10 would be shot.

452
00:26:13,020 --> 00:26:16,390
So that put us in our place.

453
00:26:16,390 --> 00:26:22,280
And every morning,
some men from the firm

454

00:26:22,280 --> 00:26:26,030

came to get us out of
the prison and marched us

455

00:26:26,030 --> 00:26:29,170

to the harbor, which
was not very far.

456

00:26:29,170 --> 00:26:32,560

457

00:26:32,560 --> 00:26:34,750

What kind of work did you do?

458

00:26:34,750 --> 00:26:42,580

We did-- some of us
cleared away the rubble.

459

00:26:42,580 --> 00:26:50,708

And then we worked
on [INAUDIBLE]..

460

00:26:50,708 --> 00:26:51,485

The piers?

461

00:26:51,485 --> 00:26:54,270

462

00:26:54,270 --> 00:26:59,450

Some of us worked with a diver,
with a German diver, who--

463

00:26:59,450 --> 00:27:00,000

I don't know.

464

00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:02,730

Maybe he-- I don't know
what he was looking for.

465

00:27:02,730 --> 00:27:04,430

But he was diving.

466

00:27:04,430 --> 00:27:06,840
And they had to keep him alive.

467

00:27:06,840 --> 00:27:09,980

468

00:27:09,980 --> 00:27:15,640
Most of those men were
pretty good to us, really.

469

00:27:15,640 --> 00:27:19,040
And then there were
some Polish men.

470

00:27:19,040 --> 00:27:23,230
They were the so-called
Volksdeutsche.

471

00:27:23,230 --> 00:27:26,890
They make believe that
they were German-speaking,

472

00:27:26,890 --> 00:27:28,870
but some of them were not.

473

00:27:28,870 --> 00:27:31,760
They didn't know German.

474

00:27:31,760 --> 00:27:36,130
And they, some of them
were pretty antisemitic.

475

00:27:36,130 --> 00:27:40,960
But altogether, they were
not really antisemitic.

476

00:27:40,960 --> 00:27:43,270
And I think it had
to do with the fact

477

00:27:43,270 --> 00:27:46,700
that we were all young girls

and pretty good-looking.

478

00:27:46,700 --> 00:27:51,240

So most of them
treated us all right.

479

00:27:51,240 --> 00:27:54,820

And one of them was
also from Frankfurt.

480

00:27:54,820 --> 00:27:58,000

He was in charge
of the whole group.

481

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:02,510

And he picked out some girls
who came from Frankfurt.

482

00:28:02,510 --> 00:28:05,970

And he really was
like a father to them,

483

00:28:05,970 --> 00:28:11,940

and brought them food and let
them do all sorts of things.

484

00:28:11,940 --> 00:28:20,610

And after the war, he still
came to New York to visit.

485

00:28:20,610 --> 00:28:22,540

He's dead now.

486

00:28:22,540 --> 00:28:26,650

But he was pretty decent.

487

00:28:26,650 --> 00:28:27,820

What was his name?

488

00:28:27,820 --> 00:28:29,290

Hohmann.

489

00:28:29,290 --> 00:28:37,890
H-O-H-M-A-N-N.

490
00:28:37,890 --> 00:28:39,290
You said you were--

491
00:28:39,290 --> 00:28:41,550
We cleared away the rubble.

492
00:28:41,550 --> 00:28:42,900
Some of us were--

493
00:28:42,900 --> 00:28:52,480
then we had to unload trucks
with [? teak ?] or building

494
00:28:52,480 --> 00:28:53,680
stones.

495
00:28:53,680 --> 00:28:56,860
Not-- tell me the word--

496
00:28:56,860 --> 00:28:57,790
Building blocks.

497
00:28:57,790 --> 00:28:59,620
Building blocks, yeah.

498
00:28:59,620 --> 00:29:02,580
Something like that.

499
00:29:02,580 --> 00:29:04,210
And you still had energy.

500
00:29:04,210 --> 00:29:07,430
You were able to do this even
though your diet was so poor?

501
00:29:07,430 --> 00:29:10,900
Well, I will tell you, the
Germans later on gave us

502

00:29:10,900 --> 00:29:14,800

an extra meal, because
they really needed us.

503

00:29:14,800 --> 00:29:19,450

So we got some extra
food for that from them.

504

00:29:19,450 --> 00:29:22,450

And then, as I said,
we exchanged things

505

00:29:22,450 --> 00:29:27,690

that we still had for
butter and bread, and eggs

506

00:29:27,690 --> 00:29:30,490

and whatever we could get.

507

00:29:30,490 --> 00:29:38,320

And some of the girls
learned how to--

508

00:29:38,320 --> 00:29:41,370

bricks is the word
I was looking for--

509

00:29:41,370 --> 00:29:43,040

how to--

510

00:29:43,040 --> 00:29:43,600

Lay bricks.

511

00:29:43,600 --> 00:29:46,560

Lay bricks, yes.

512

00:29:46,560 --> 00:29:50,120

And were all sorts
of [INAUDIBLE]..

513

00:29:50,120 --> 00:29:52,620

And how long did you stay there?

514
00:29:52,620 --> 00:29:55,290
I think we stayed
for at least a year.

515
00:29:55,290 --> 00:29:57,090
A year doing this kind of work.

516
00:29:57,090 --> 00:29:58,850
Doing this kind of work.

517
00:29:58,850 --> 00:30:04,620
And I remember one day when
it was minus 28 Celsius, which

518
00:30:04,620 --> 00:30:05,770
is very cold.

519
00:30:05,770 --> 00:30:10,300
So that even the Germans were
not willing to go to work.

520
00:30:10,300 --> 00:30:12,450
And we didn't have
to go to work.

521
00:30:12,450 --> 00:30:13,920
So that was very nice.

522
00:30:13,920 --> 00:30:16,650

523
00:30:16,650 --> 00:30:18,710
And what about your shoes?

524
00:30:18,710 --> 00:30:20,770
Did you have good shoes?

525
00:30:20,770 --> 00:30:25,800
Some of us did, and some
of us didn't anymore.

526

00:30:25,800 --> 00:30:31,380

But we also tried to exchange
things we had for shoes.

527

00:30:31,380 --> 00:30:36,360

Whatever we needed, we tried to
find someone who would do that.

528

00:30:36,360 --> 00:30:39,460

So again, you were
still pretty healthy.

529

00:30:39,460 --> 00:30:41,250

We were still pretty healthy.

530

00:30:41,250 --> 00:30:46,780

My health didn't break
down until in Hamburg.

531

00:30:46,780 --> 00:30:48,730

But at [INAUDIBLE]-- no, no, no.

532

00:30:48,730 --> 00:30:50,320

It's not true.

533

00:30:50,320 --> 00:30:51,940

No.

534

00:30:51,940 --> 00:30:54,490

In the next camp.

535

00:30:54,490 --> 00:31:00,810

So yes, comparatively
healthy we were really.

536

00:31:00,810 --> 00:31:02,978

So you kept living
in the barracks

537

00:31:02,978 --> 00:31:04,020

and working all day long?

538

00:31:04,020 --> 00:31:04,770

Was it a long day?

539

00:31:04,770 --> 00:31:07,090

No, we lived in the prison.

540

00:31:07,090 --> 00:31:08,740

Excuse me, in the prison.

541

00:31:08,740 --> 00:31:11,310

And yes, we worked all day long.

542

00:31:11,310 --> 00:31:13,900

Also on Saturday,
but not on Sunday.

543

00:31:13,900 --> 00:31:15,700

What did you do on Sunday?

544

00:31:15,700 --> 00:31:20,057

On Sunday we were in
our room in the prison.

545

00:31:20,057 --> 00:31:25,250

And we talked, and
we [? sewed ?]..

546

00:31:25,250 --> 00:31:27,436

Were people optimistic?

547

00:31:27,436 --> 00:31:30,010

The young women?

548

00:31:30,010 --> 00:31:34,300

Yes, really.

549

00:31:34,300 --> 00:31:37,060

But you know, there
are so many things

550

00:31:37,060 --> 00:31:39,730

that I have to come
back out, because--

551
00:31:39,730 --> 00:31:43,090
back to, because I don't
know if you want me to.

552
00:31:43,090 --> 00:31:44,650
Should I just go on?

553
00:31:44,650 --> 00:31:48,280
No, everything is--

554
00:31:48,280 --> 00:31:58,460
For instance, when
we left, we still

555
00:31:58,460 --> 00:32:01,430
saw that our
families were alive.

556
00:32:01,430 --> 00:32:04,130

557
00:32:04,130 --> 00:32:09,660
And for instance, when
we were going to Reval,

558
00:32:09,660 --> 00:32:14,010
we had to bring all our stuff
that we were taking along

559
00:32:14,010 --> 00:32:15,120
to a meadow.

560
00:32:15,120 --> 00:32:19,310

561
00:32:19,310 --> 00:32:22,380
And the SS went through it.

562
00:32:22,380 --> 00:32:26,130

And for instance,
I hit sewn together

563
00:32:26,130 --> 00:32:29,580
two of those feather blankets.

564
00:32:29,580 --> 00:32:32,380
That's not the
right word for that.

565
00:32:32,380 --> 00:32:33,210
I have it now.

566
00:32:33,210 --> 00:32:33,880
What is it?

567
00:32:33,880 --> 00:32:36,240
A comforter, or
a feather pillow?

568
00:32:36,240 --> 00:32:37,110
No, no.

569
00:32:37,110 --> 00:32:39,970
It was a comforter,
but with feathers.

570
00:32:39,970 --> 00:32:42,310
It's down.

571
00:32:42,310 --> 00:32:43,240
Whatever.

572
00:32:43,240 --> 00:32:44,100
Quilt or down?

573
00:32:44,100 --> 00:32:47,710
Quilt. Yeah, maybe
quilt. And I had

574
00:32:47,710 --> 00:32:53,690
sewn a whole dress, and

stockings, and underwear,

575

00:32:53,690 --> 00:32:58,470
and everything for my mother
in between those two blankets,

576

00:32:58,470 --> 00:33:00,750
and sewn it together.

577

00:33:00,750 --> 00:33:03,030
But of course they found out.

578

00:33:03,030 --> 00:33:07,610
They ripped apart, and
that was all in there.

579

00:33:07,610 --> 00:33:14,590
So we always tried to look
out for them, still hoping,

580

00:33:14,590 --> 00:33:15,680
you know?

581

00:33:15,680 --> 00:33:21,000
But later on, for instance,
when we worked in Reval,

582

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:23,940
we did not always
work in the port.

583

00:33:23,940 --> 00:33:27,450
Sometimes they sent us to
a different assignment.

584

00:33:27,450 --> 00:33:31,900
Like, once we were in a sewing--

585

00:33:31,900 --> 00:33:33,480
sewing mill?

586

00:33:33,480 --> 00:33:34,570

Not sewing.

587

00:33:34,570 --> 00:33:37,260

Yes, sewing mill.

588

00:33:37,260 --> 00:33:44,040

And two of us always
tried to get out of that.

589

00:33:44,040 --> 00:33:48,490

And we went begging,
which had two purposes.

590

00:33:48,490 --> 00:33:51,630

First of all, to get
something to eat.

591

00:33:51,630 --> 00:33:56,490

And secondly, if the people
were friendly, to ask

592

00:33:56,490 --> 00:34:00,720

did they know anything
about any other camps?

593

00:34:00,720 --> 00:34:05,250

So we found out
about another camp,

594

00:34:05,250 --> 00:34:10,440

and we thought that maybe
our families were there.

595

00:34:10,440 --> 00:34:22,980

The camp was Klooga,
K-L-O-G-A. And others told us,

596

00:34:22,980 --> 00:34:25,190

they are not alive anymore.

597

00:34:25,190 --> 00:34:26,550

But we didn't believe them.

598

00:34:26,550 --> 00:34:29,370

599

00:34:29,370 --> 00:34:36,159

So yeah, we sometimes
went to other assignments.

600

00:34:36,159 --> 00:34:37,810

That was always enjoyed.

601

00:34:37,810 --> 00:34:40,120

Something different,
something new.

602

00:34:40,120 --> 00:34:43,510

603

00:34:43,510 --> 00:34:49,840

One of our-- of my friends in
the camp, I mean in Estonia,

604

00:34:49,840 --> 00:34:53,739

was from a mixed marriage.

605

00:34:53,739 --> 00:34:57,100

Her father was Jewish,
and her mother was not.

606

00:34:57,100 --> 00:35:00,070

And they still lived in Prague.

607

00:35:00,070 --> 00:35:05,290

And one or two of those Germans
who were in charge of her

608

00:35:05,290 --> 00:35:08,960

went to visit her
parents, and I'm

609

00:35:08,960 --> 00:35:13,010

sure got some money from
them, and brought stuff

610
00:35:13,010 --> 00:35:17,600
back for her, money
and food and so on.

611
00:35:17,600 --> 00:35:20,380
So some of them
were really decent.

612
00:35:20,380 --> 00:35:27,040

613
00:35:27,040 --> 00:35:29,267
So you went back and
forth working at the pier

614
00:35:29,267 --> 00:35:30,850
and then going and
doing other things?

615
00:35:30,850 --> 00:35:33,625
Yeah, but mostly at
the pier, really.

616
00:35:33,625 --> 00:35:36,200
It was our main job.

617
00:35:36,200 --> 00:35:40,310
And as I said, we were not
allowed to wear the stars.

618
00:35:40,310 --> 00:35:42,830

619
00:35:42,830 --> 00:35:45,830
But eventually,
something must have

620
00:35:45,830 --> 00:35:48,850
happened, because
for a week or so,

621

00:35:48,850 --> 00:35:52,180
we were not allowed
to go to work.

622
00:35:52,180 --> 00:35:56,670
And then they sent
us to another camp,

623
00:35:56,670 --> 00:36:02,100
and we were not able to say
goodbye to those construction

624
00:36:02,100 --> 00:36:04,010
workers.

625
00:36:04,010 --> 00:36:05,810
This is after being
there for a year?

626
00:36:05,810 --> 00:36:07,190
Yes.

627
00:36:07,190 --> 00:36:09,730
So this is the end of
'42, beginning of--

628
00:36:09,730 --> 00:36:11,213
No, end of '43.

629
00:36:11,213 --> 00:36:12,130
Excuse me, end of '43.

630
00:36:12,130 --> 00:36:15,260
'43 I think.

631
00:36:15,260 --> 00:36:20,960
And so then we were
sent into another camp,

632
00:36:20,960 --> 00:36:28,870
which was called
Ereda, E-R-E-D-A.

633

00:36:28,870 --> 00:36:34,710

And there were already
Lithuanian and Polish Jews,

634

00:36:34,710 --> 00:36:37,313

most of them, men and women.

635

00:36:37,313 --> 00:36:39,730

When you said we were sent,
does that mean the whole camp?

636

00:36:39,730 --> 00:36:40,350

This whole group.

637

00:36:40,350 --> 00:36:41,017

The whole group.

638

00:36:41,017 --> 00:36:43,720

How big was this group that
you were talking about?

639

00:36:43,720 --> 00:36:47,880

It must be, I don't
know, maybe 80.

640

00:36:47,880 --> 00:36:48,900

80?

641

00:36:48,900 --> 00:36:49,710

8-0?

642

00:36:49,710 --> 00:36:51,060

Mm-hmm.

643

00:36:51,060 --> 00:36:55,960

I don't know exactly, but I
think something like that.

644

00:36:55,960 --> 00:36:59,670

And there were already
Polish and Lithuanian Jews.

645

00:36:59,670 --> 00:37:02,040

Most of them were
from Vilna, which

646

00:37:02,040 --> 00:37:05,310

is probably familiar to you.

647

00:37:05,310 --> 00:37:07,500

And now they told us--

648

00:37:07,500 --> 00:37:11,130

first of all, we heard
Yiddish for the first time

649

00:37:11,130 --> 00:37:12,480

in our lives--

650

00:37:12,480 --> 00:37:17,170

that didn't exist in
Czechoslovakia or in Germany.

651

00:37:17,170 --> 00:37:20,340

Maybe it did, but
I don't think so.

652

00:37:20,340 --> 00:37:26,670

And so at first we had trouble
understanding, but we did,

653

00:37:26,670 --> 00:37:30,450

because it's really sort
of similar to German,

654

00:37:30,450 --> 00:37:34,450

only some words
really confuse you.

655

00:37:34,450 --> 00:37:38,250

Like, I remember one
taught me [NON-ENGLISH]..

656

00:37:38,250 --> 00:37:44,550

657
00:37:44,550 --> 00:37:47,580
You know, they
were the peasants.

658
00:37:47,580 --> 00:37:49,720
And I thought,
well, how can they--

659
00:37:49,720 --> 00:37:52,380
nacht in German is night.

660
00:37:52,380 --> 00:37:57,180
How do they get out at
night to go to the peasant

661
00:37:57,180 --> 00:37:58,830
to get some food?

662
00:37:58,830 --> 00:38:01,830
So it turned out
[NON-ENGLISH] means yesterday.

663
00:38:01,830 --> 00:38:05,107

664
00:38:05,107 --> 00:38:06,940
Were these all women
that used [INAUDIBLE]??

665
00:38:06,940 --> 00:38:07,550
No.

666
00:38:07,550 --> 00:38:08,440
It was a mixed group.

667
00:38:08,440 --> 00:38:09,390
Men and women.

668
00:38:09,390 --> 00:38:10,600
A mixed group.

669

00:38:10,600 --> 00:38:14,340

And were in the same camp.

670

00:38:14,340 --> 00:38:15,960

Again, did you
live in a barrack?

671

00:38:15,960 --> 00:38:17,915

We lived in barracks, yes.

672

00:38:17,915 --> 00:38:21,300

And The men had separate
barracks from us.

673

00:38:21,300 --> 00:38:23,220

Still wearing their own clothes.

674

00:38:23,220 --> 00:38:28,060

Still wearing our own
clothes and no star.

675

00:38:28,060 --> 00:38:29,220

I don't think we had to.

676

00:38:29,220 --> 00:38:30,960

No.

677

00:38:30,960 --> 00:38:33,990

How clean were these places?

678

00:38:33,990 --> 00:38:36,330

That camp was terrible.

679

00:38:36,330 --> 00:38:39,840

You know, the
toilets were really--

680

00:38:39,840 --> 00:38:41,040

were not toilets.

681

00:38:41,040 --> 00:38:42,300
It was a big--

682
00:38:42,300 --> 00:38:46,470

683
00:38:46,470 --> 00:38:47,160
Latrine.

684
00:38:47,160 --> 00:38:48,570
Latrine, yes.

685
00:38:48,570 --> 00:38:49,830
That's the word.

686
00:38:49,830 --> 00:38:54,000
And you had to go for, I don't
know, 10 minutes to get there.

687
00:38:54,000 --> 00:39:00,240
And it was all mud in the
camp, in winter, anyhow.

688
00:39:00,240 --> 00:39:03,450
In summer it dried
up, fortunately.

689
00:39:03,450 --> 00:39:08,800
So then you had to pace
in front of each barrack

690
00:39:08,800 --> 00:39:10,390
where you could go.

691
00:39:10,390 --> 00:39:14,310
You should go only if
you urinate at night,

692
00:39:14,310 --> 00:39:17,240
so that you don't have to go.

693
00:39:17,240 --> 00:39:19,810

And we tried to keep it clean.

694

00:39:19,810 --> 00:39:27,990

We had brushes and cleaned
it with water and soap.

695

00:39:27,990 --> 00:39:31,560

And we tried to keep as close--

696

00:39:31,560 --> 00:39:36,360

as clean as possible, but
eventually we had lice,

697

00:39:36,360 --> 00:39:41,350

and we had all sorts of vermin.

698

00:39:41,350 --> 00:39:42,580

Fleas.

699

00:39:42,580 --> 00:39:44,730

Well, fleas we already had.

700

00:39:44,730 --> 00:39:46,260

I forgot to mention.

701

00:39:46,260 --> 00:39:51,000

You know, there was a
time in the prison when

702

00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:55,590

all the ones who had stayed
back in that first camp

703

00:39:55,590 --> 00:39:57,510

were brought to prison.

704

00:39:57,510 --> 00:40:01,230

But then they moved
us all into rooms

705

00:40:01,230 --> 00:40:03,420

in another part of the prison.

706
00:40:03,420 --> 00:40:08,070
We were no longer in those
cells but in those rooms.

707
00:40:08,070 --> 00:40:13,440
And we had straw pallets
which were full of fleas.

708
00:40:13,440 --> 00:40:16,910
So that was awful.

709
00:40:16,910 --> 00:40:18,720
You yourself got fleas?

710
00:40:18,720 --> 00:40:20,120
Yes.

711
00:40:20,120 --> 00:40:24,620
And I remember I had a pajama,
and I put a rubber band

712
00:40:24,620 --> 00:40:28,420
down here so that they couldn't
get in, and with my sleeves

713
00:40:28,420 --> 00:40:28,920
too.

714
00:40:28,920 --> 00:40:30,740
But it didn't help.

715
00:40:30,740 --> 00:40:32,070
They got in.

716
00:40:32,070 --> 00:40:38,100
Yes, we had fleas, and lice
I think we acquired in Ereda.

717
00:40:38,100 --> 00:40:44,410
And then people started
having typhus, typhoid fever.

718
00:40:44,410 --> 00:40:46,410
Or no, typhus.

719
00:40:46,410 --> 00:40:50,707
But the lice transmit.

720
00:40:50,707 --> 00:40:52,290
Were you getting
your menstrual period

721
00:40:52,290 --> 00:40:54,210
all this-- during those years?

722
00:40:54,210 --> 00:40:56,640
No.

723
00:40:56,640 --> 00:40:59,765
In fact, it first
started in Theresienstadt

724
00:40:59,765 --> 00:41:02,970
that people stopped
having their menstrual.

725
00:41:02,970 --> 00:41:07,200
And there was one young woman
in our room who was so--

726
00:41:07,200 --> 00:41:10,080
she was married, and
she was worried to death

727
00:41:10,080 --> 00:41:14,050
that she was pregnant, because
we didn't know all of that.

728
00:41:14,050 --> 00:41:19,320
I don't know any more how long
I had my menstrual period,

729
00:41:19,320 --> 00:41:21,180

but I lost it.

730
00:41:21,180 --> 00:41:23,040
Which was a blessing,
because there

731
00:41:23,040 --> 00:41:28,050
were times where we didn't have
any material to protect us.

732
00:41:28,050 --> 00:41:32,400

733
00:41:32,400 --> 00:41:35,743
So what kind of work
did you do in Ereda?

734
00:41:35,743 --> 00:41:40,500
There we did very,
very hard work.

735
00:41:40,500 --> 00:41:44,070
Felling trees, do
you say felling,

736
00:41:44,070 --> 00:41:47,570
and then carrying
them on our shoulders.

737
00:41:47,570 --> 00:41:51,820
And it was really
very hard work.

738
00:41:51,820 --> 00:41:56,310
And eventually, I just
said, I can't do that.

739
00:41:56,310 --> 00:42:01,680
I went to one of the doctors
in the camp, there were Jews,

740
00:42:01,680 --> 00:42:05,865
and told him, couldn't they

assign me to something else?

741

00:42:05,865 --> 00:42:10,130

That I just can't do
that kind of work.

742

00:42:10,130 --> 00:42:14,040

We fell trees, and cut
them up, and then we

743

00:42:14,040 --> 00:42:19,095

started building barracks in
the [INAUDIBLE] some place else.

744

00:42:19,095 --> 00:42:21,720

In other words, you were felling
trees with axes, you yourself?

745

00:42:21,720 --> 00:42:22,220

Yes.

746

00:42:22,220 --> 00:42:25,870

You were swinging an ax.

747

00:42:25,870 --> 00:42:31,840

And what we were building
there in the woods

748

00:42:31,840 --> 00:42:34,660

was another camp,
which we didn't know.

749

00:42:34,660 --> 00:42:38,630

But some of our people then
later went to that camp.

750

00:42:38,630 --> 00:42:41,930

Who were your guards?

751

00:42:41,930 --> 00:42:44,291

Our guards were--

752

00:42:44,291 --> 00:42:45,780
Were they German guards?

753
00:42:45,780 --> 00:42:46,280
Were they--

754
00:42:46,280 --> 00:42:48,690
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

755
00:42:48,690 --> 00:42:49,710
Yeah, they were German.

756
00:42:49,710 --> 00:42:51,500
They were all German at camp.

757
00:42:51,500 --> 00:42:52,700
German guards.

758
00:42:52,700 --> 00:42:57,050
But the guards, if they were
guards, which I can't think,

759
00:42:57,050 --> 00:42:59,990
you know, they were
really German SS.

760
00:42:59,990 --> 00:43:01,610
But not the guard.

761
00:43:01,610 --> 00:43:06,530
I don't remember that we had
any guards, but maybe we did.

762
00:43:06,530 --> 00:43:08,390
Watching over you.

763
00:43:08,390 --> 00:43:11,540
We must have had, but
I have no recollection.

764
00:43:11,540 --> 00:43:12,680
And how were you treated?

765
00:43:12,680 --> 00:43:13,600
Were you ever--

766
00:43:13,600 --> 00:43:15,960
I know you said the work was
very physically difficult.

767
00:43:15,960 --> 00:43:16,460
Yeah.

768
00:43:16,460 --> 00:43:20,150
But were you treated
by the SS any--

769
00:43:20,150 --> 00:43:20,990
Yes.

770
00:43:20,990 --> 00:43:22,580
You yourself?

771
00:43:22,580 --> 00:43:24,995
Did you yourself
have any particular--

772
00:43:24,995 --> 00:43:27,490
No, I don't think I
was mistreated there.

773
00:43:27,490 --> 00:43:30,820

774
00:43:30,820 --> 00:43:33,430
And how long did you
stay in that camp?

775
00:43:33,430 --> 00:43:39,940
In that camp, if I knew when we
came there, it was in winter.

776
00:43:39,940 --> 00:43:41,270
Winter '44, you said.

777
00:43:41,270 --> 00:43:42,200
Beginning of '44.

778
00:43:42,200 --> 00:43:43,000
Winter '44.

779
00:43:43,000 --> 00:43:45,650

780
00:43:45,650 --> 00:43:47,680
Let me think.

781
00:43:47,680 --> 00:43:51,790
No, it can't have
been winter '44.

782
00:43:51,790 --> 00:43:53,970
It must have been '43.

783
00:43:53,970 --> 00:43:57,080
Or end of '43, beginning of '44.

784
00:43:57,080 --> 00:43:59,510
Maybe.

785
00:43:59,510 --> 00:44:01,090
Yes, yes.

786
00:44:01,090 --> 00:44:06,190
I think end of '43,
beginning of '44.

787
00:44:06,190 --> 00:44:10,480
And I don't remember
any guards in the camp,

788
00:44:10,480 --> 00:44:12,610
but there must have been.

789
00:44:12,610 --> 00:44:14,260

I just can't remember.

790

00:44:14,260 --> 00:44:17,050

And your clothes and everything.

791

00:44:17,050 --> 00:44:20,245

Most everything had
been taken away.

792

00:44:20,245 --> 00:44:23,590

Either taken away
or sold by us, so we

793

00:44:23,590 --> 00:44:27,820

didn't have very much anymore.

794

00:44:27,820 --> 00:44:29,558

Did you have any sweaters?

795

00:44:29,558 --> 00:44:31,100

I was going to say
sweaters or coats?

796

00:44:31,100 --> 00:44:31,730

No, no.

797

00:44:31,730 --> 00:44:31,990

Gloves?

798

00:44:31,990 --> 00:44:32,490

We didn't.

799

00:44:32,490 --> 00:44:35,980

800

00:44:35,980 --> 00:44:39,640

Well, we made do
with what we had.

801

00:44:39,640 --> 00:44:41,620

We exchanged things.

802

00:44:41,620 --> 00:44:45,785

I remember I had a
short, warm coat.

803

00:44:45,785 --> 00:44:48,550

804

00:44:48,550 --> 00:44:50,380

I don't know where I got that.

805

00:44:50,380 --> 00:44:54,780

And I gave that to
this [? Amy ?] Sylten.

806

00:44:54,780 --> 00:44:58,360

I must tell you a story
about [? Amy ?] Sylten, which

807

00:44:58,360 --> 00:44:59,835

is really like a novel.

808

00:44:59,835 --> 00:45:02,500

809

00:45:02,500 --> 00:45:04,390

There was an SS--

810

00:45:04,390 --> 00:45:10,600

the SS commander in
this particular camp.

811

00:45:10,600 --> 00:45:12,280

I even know his name.

812

00:45:12,280 --> 00:45:13,720

It was Drosin.

813

00:45:13,720 --> 00:45:17,950

D-R-O-S-I-N.

814

00:45:17,950 --> 00:45:19,851

He fell in love with her.

815
00:45:19,851 --> 00:45:24,670

816
00:45:24,670 --> 00:45:26,490
And she with him.

817
00:45:26,490 --> 00:45:29,770
And she worked-- there was
a separate barrack where

818
00:45:29,770 --> 00:45:32,080
the command lived.

819
00:45:32,080 --> 00:45:36,080
She worked there as a,
you know, cleaning up.

820
00:45:36,080 --> 00:45:43,330
And this friend of mine of
mixed parentage was the cook.

821
00:45:43,330 --> 00:45:45,430
She was a very good cook.

822
00:45:45,430 --> 00:45:52,440
And so she knew about what
was going on between [? Amy ?]

823
00:45:52,440 --> 00:45:54,460
and this man.

824
00:45:54,460 --> 00:45:59,640
But I will say that
[? Amy ?] behaved very well.

825
00:45:59,640 --> 00:46:02,590
She always spoke up for us.

826
00:46:02,590 --> 00:46:06,070
And he minded her.

827
00:46:06,070 --> 00:46:09,250
I remember, for instance,
there came the command

828
00:46:09,250 --> 00:46:13,550
that we had to have our heads--

829
00:46:13,550 --> 00:46:14,290
Shaved?

830
00:46:14,290 --> 00:46:16,970
Shaved.

831
00:46:16,970 --> 00:46:22,610
And they started
shaving the heads,

832
00:46:22,610 --> 00:46:26,660
and she finally convinced
him he shouldn't do that.

833
00:46:26,660 --> 00:46:29,180
And so he stopped
the whole thing.

834
00:46:29,180 --> 00:46:31,770
But to make a long
story short, the two

835
00:46:31,770 --> 00:46:37,460
escaped together, because
word about what was going on

836
00:46:37,460 --> 00:46:40,340
got to Germany,
to his superiors,

837
00:46:40,340 --> 00:46:43,770
and they sent
another SS commander.

838

00:46:43,770 --> 00:46:46,280
And before he even
came, I think,

839
00:46:46,280 --> 00:46:51,860
they escaped together
and hid in the woods.

840
00:46:51,860 --> 00:46:56,480
But they caught them.

841
00:46:56,480 --> 00:47:02,260
There was a-- they just
came from all sides.

842
00:47:02,260 --> 00:47:05,954
And he shot her
and shot himself.

843
00:47:05,954 --> 00:47:08,450
Can you imagine?

844
00:47:08,450 --> 00:47:12,650
So we learned that.

845
00:47:12,650 --> 00:47:13,980
We knew it for sure.

846
00:47:13,980 --> 00:47:17,740

847
00:47:17,740 --> 00:47:20,125
So anyhow, that was the--

848
00:47:20,125 --> 00:47:23,510
So you stayed in Ereda?

849
00:47:23,510 --> 00:47:24,810
Ereda.

850
00:47:24,810 --> 00:47:34,260
I stayed there

until late in 1944.

851

00:47:34,260 --> 00:47:40,140

And I had a male
friend there too from--

852

00:47:40,140 --> 00:47:44,090

853

00:47:44,090 --> 00:47:48,390

I have-- I'm leaving this
to the Holocaust Museum,

854

00:47:48,390 --> 00:47:51,514

but I'm not parting with it yet.

855

00:47:51,514 --> 00:47:54,902

856

00:47:54,902 --> 00:48:02,810

I had a young man friend there
who had this ring made for me.

857

00:48:02,810 --> 00:48:05,420

There were people
in the camp who were

858

00:48:05,420 --> 00:48:07,430

very clever with their hands.

859

00:48:07,430 --> 00:48:11,840

I don't know where they got
the silver, but they did.

860

00:48:11,840 --> 00:48:14,570

And so I still have that ring.

861

00:48:14,570 --> 00:48:16,450

What does the ring say?

862

00:48:16,450 --> 00:48:22,570

The ring gives my name on top,

and on the inside is his name.

863

00:48:22,570 --> 00:48:23,840

And his name is what?

864

00:48:23,840 --> 00:48:24,740

Isaac.

865

00:48:24,740 --> 00:48:26,010

What was his last name?

866

00:48:26,010 --> 00:48:27,270

I cannot remember.

867

00:48:27,270 --> 00:48:30,890

I asked my friend the
other day, and I can't

868

00:48:30,890 --> 00:48:33,850

remember what his [INAUDIBLE].

869

00:48:33,850 --> 00:48:39,770

But I got a letter after the
war from a relative of his

870

00:48:39,770 --> 00:48:44,780

who was in Paris at the time who
also had been in camp with us.

871

00:48:44,780 --> 00:48:51,680

And he told me that Isaac
had died in Bergen-Belsen.

872

00:48:51,680 --> 00:48:54,030

So you stay there
until late 1944.

873

00:48:54,030 --> 00:49:00,290

We stayed until late 1944.

874

00:49:00,290 --> 00:49:03,080

Anybody else try to

escape besides the couple

875

00:49:03,080 --> 00:49:06,290

that you told us about?

876

00:49:06,290 --> 00:49:11,810

I understand yes, but I don't

know personally about it.

877

00:49:11,810 --> 00:49:13,845

Did it ever occur to

you to try to escape

878

00:49:13,845 --> 00:49:15,020

from any of these places?

879

00:49:15,020 --> 00:49:15,520

No.

880

00:49:15,520 --> 00:49:17,380

I was too cowardly.

881

00:49:17,380 --> 00:49:21,090

But I know of

several young women

882

00:49:21,090 --> 00:49:28,130

when we were in Tallinn, who

had offers from Estonians who

883

00:49:28,130 --> 00:49:31,880

worked on boats to

take them to Finland.

884

00:49:31,880 --> 00:49:35,120

But no one ever had

the courage to do it.

885

00:49:35,120 --> 00:49:39,020

Because they told us if one

escapes, 10 will be shot.

886

00:49:39,020 --> 00:49:42,860

887

00:49:42,860 --> 00:49:45,360

And then what happened
at the end of 1944?

888

00:49:45,360 --> 00:49:50,610

End of 1944, the Russians
were coming close,

889

00:49:50,610 --> 00:49:53,670

and one could hear shooting.

890

00:49:53,670 --> 00:49:55,440

And so they brought--

891

00:49:55,440 --> 00:49:59,680

they evacuated us
back to Germany.

892

00:49:59,680 --> 00:50:01,260

How did you get there?

893

00:50:01,260 --> 00:50:04,320

Well, they first
brought us by train

894

00:50:04,320 --> 00:50:11,600

to a place called Lagedi, which
was outside Reval, I think.

895

00:50:11,600 --> 00:50:21,240

L-A-G-E-D-I. And that's where we
lived for six weeks under the--

896

00:50:21,240 --> 00:50:25,360

just with no protection at all.

897

00:50:25,360 --> 00:50:27,870

There were no
tents, no anything.

898

00:50:27,870 --> 00:50:31,970

Just in the meadow.

899

00:50:31,970 --> 00:50:33,120

You slept outside.

900

00:50:33,120 --> 00:50:35,380

We slept outside.

901

00:50:35,380 --> 00:50:39,260

That's where they
finally shaved my hair.

902

00:50:39,260 --> 00:50:41,370

And we were there for six weeks.

903

00:50:41,370 --> 00:50:43,140

It didn't rain once.

904

00:50:43,140 --> 00:50:45,920

Like if god had--
or the weather god

905

00:50:45,920 --> 00:50:47,760

had been looking out for us.

906

00:50:47,760 --> 00:50:50,940

Why did they shave your head?

907

00:50:50,940 --> 00:50:53,100

I think because of the lice.

908

00:50:53,100 --> 00:50:54,840

Or that's what they said.

909

00:50:54,840 --> 00:50:57,240

They shaved all women.

910

00:50:57,240 --> 00:50:59,820

For us, it was very
late in the game.

911
00:50:59,820 --> 00:51:01,230
That was the first time.

912
00:51:01,230 --> 00:51:03,900
For us it was the first time.

913
00:51:03,900 --> 00:51:05,910
You know, they had
made an attempt

914
00:51:05,910 --> 00:51:11,430
in the beginning in Ereda when
the [? Amy ?] stopped then.

915
00:51:11,430 --> 00:51:15,150
But that's where
they finally did it.

916
00:51:15,150 --> 00:51:17,130
What did that feel like?

917
00:51:17,130 --> 00:51:20,130
Terrible, Terrible.

918
00:51:20,130 --> 00:51:24,260
Sometimes I see young
women on TV nowadays.

919
00:51:24,260 --> 00:51:27,310
Like yesterday, I saw
some-- or this morning,

920
00:51:27,310 --> 00:51:30,600
a singer who had
such very short hair.

921
00:51:30,600 --> 00:51:33,490
I thought, how can she
do that to herself?

922
00:51:33,490 --> 00:51:38,330

923
00:51:38,330 --> 00:51:40,040
Yes, and I was very--

924
00:51:40,040 --> 00:51:42,230
well, I didn't
even talk about it.

925
00:51:42,230 --> 00:51:47,480
But still in Ereda,
I became very sick.

926
00:51:47,480 --> 00:51:49,880
I had a very high temperature.

927
00:51:49,880 --> 00:51:57,170
But there was a barrack
for sick people.

928
00:51:57,170 --> 00:52:01,520
But I didn't want to go there,
because I was afraid they

929
00:52:01,520 --> 00:52:03,050
would do away with me.

930
00:52:03,050 --> 00:52:08,540
So I just existed with
the high-- oh, sorry.

931
00:52:08,540 --> 00:52:10,030
With the high temperature.

932
00:52:10,030 --> 00:52:15,260
And then we came to Lagedi, and
I really felt terribly sick.

933
00:52:15,260 --> 00:52:20,490
The doctor, the Jewish doctor,
thought I probably have--

934

00:52:20,490 --> 00:52:21,330
Typhoid?

935
00:52:21,330 --> 00:52:21,830
No.

936
00:52:21,830 --> 00:52:24,440

937
00:52:24,440 --> 00:52:24,960
Smallpox?

938
00:52:24,960 --> 00:52:25,460
Tetanus?

939
00:52:25,460 --> 00:52:26,360
I mean diphtheria?

940
00:52:26,360 --> 00:52:29,900
No, you know when your eyeball--

941
00:52:29,900 --> 00:52:32,040
the white of your
eye becomes yellow.

942
00:52:32,040 --> 00:52:32,540
Jaundice.

943
00:52:32,540 --> 00:52:33,190
Hepatitis.

944
00:52:33,190 --> 00:52:39,240

945
00:52:39,240 --> 00:52:47,070
People were put to work digging
ditches to defend themselves--

946
00:52:47,070 --> 00:52:49,740
the Germans against
the Russians.

947

00:52:49,740 --> 00:52:52,510

But I was so weak, I
just couldn't do it.

948

00:52:52,510 --> 00:52:56,970

And I sort of went into a
meadow and laid down there.

949

00:52:56,970 --> 00:52:58,820

And just lay.

950

00:52:58,820 --> 00:53:04,110

And two SS officers
came by, and I

951

00:53:04,110 --> 00:53:07,920

was sure they would shoot
me because I wasn't working.

952

00:53:07,920 --> 00:53:10,730

But they just looked
and went away.

953

00:53:10,730 --> 00:53:13,410

So it was good luck.

954

00:53:13,410 --> 00:53:20,470

Then, after six weeks, they put
us on a freighter, on a boat.

955

00:53:20,470 --> 00:53:24,310

And we-- again, I was very sick.

956

00:53:24,310 --> 00:53:26,290

I didn't know what was going on.

957

00:53:26,290 --> 00:53:28,110

Were you able to walk?

958

00:53:28,110 --> 00:53:29,910

No, I was just lying there.

959

00:53:29,910 --> 00:53:32,260
So they carried you onto a boat?

960

00:53:32,260 --> 00:53:36,450
Well, I probably walked on my
own with support to the boat.

961

00:53:36,450 --> 00:53:38,370
But on the boat I didn't walk.

962

00:53:38,370 --> 00:53:40,410
That's what I meant.

963

00:53:40,410 --> 00:53:44,070
And I don't know how
long we were on the boat.

964

00:53:44,070 --> 00:53:50,630
Then they transferred
us to a [? canal ?] boat

965

00:53:50,630 --> 00:53:56,490
where we were so crammed
in that I couldn't even

966

00:53:56,490 --> 00:53:58,230
sit or lie down.

967

00:53:58,230 --> 00:54:02,410
We were just standing
up like sardines.

968

00:54:02,410 --> 00:54:04,860
That I survived
that is a miracle.

969

00:54:04,860 --> 00:54:07,770
This is this group of
women or men and women?

970

00:54:07,770 --> 00:54:12,640
This was men and women.

971
00:54:12,640 --> 00:54:17,580
And we came to
Stutthof, which was

972
00:54:17,580 --> 00:54:20,705
a big camp in Eastern Germany.

973
00:54:20,705 --> 00:54:23,340

974
00:54:23,340 --> 00:54:29,730
And there we had to
undress completely

975
00:54:29,730 --> 00:54:31,215
and go under the showers.

976
00:54:31,215 --> 00:54:34,500

977
00:54:34,500 --> 00:54:37,850
We didn't know
about gas, not yet.

978
00:54:37,850 --> 00:54:41,260
We had known about-- we had
heard about shootings and so

979
00:54:41,260 --> 00:54:43,560
on, but gas we didn't know.

980
00:54:43,560 --> 00:54:46,110
So it was-- they
were real showers.

981
00:54:46,110 --> 00:54:48,210
It wasn't gas.

982
00:54:48,210 --> 00:54:53,670
And I still have-- that's
another treasure from there.

983
00:54:53,670 --> 00:55:01,860
This is a watch that I had
at home with me always.

984
00:55:01,860 --> 00:55:05,520
I carried it with
me all the time.

985
00:55:05,520 --> 00:55:10,440
And in Stutthof, when
we were under the--

986
00:55:10,440 --> 00:55:13,930
first, I had hidden
it in the soap.

987
00:55:13,930 --> 00:55:17,100
And then I thought they would
probably take the soap away

988
00:55:17,100 --> 00:55:21,120
from me, so I put it in
my mouth, soapy as it was.

989
00:55:21,120 --> 00:55:25,397
And so of course it didn't
survive, but I still have it.

990
00:55:25,397 --> 00:55:28,020

991
00:55:28,020 --> 00:55:29,340
Whose watch is that?

992
00:55:29,340 --> 00:55:30,030
That's my watch.

993
00:55:30,030 --> 00:55:30,780
Oh, that you had--

994
00:55:30,780 --> 00:55:31,350

From home.

995

00:55:31,350 --> 00:55:32,220

From home.

996

00:55:32,220 --> 00:55:33,380

Yeah.

997

00:55:33,380 --> 00:55:35,100

That you'd kept with
you all that time.

998

00:55:35,100 --> 00:55:36,233

All that time.

999

00:55:36,233 --> 00:55:41,660

1000

00:55:41,660 --> 00:55:46,480

Yes, and I had written
a diary in Estonia.

1001

00:55:46,480 --> 00:55:49,090

I wrote a diary every day.

1002

00:55:49,090 --> 00:55:53,230

But now when I saw they took
everything away from us,

1003

00:55:53,230 --> 00:56:01,360

I gave it to a man who
was also a prisoner there,

1004

00:56:01,360 --> 00:56:05,630

and said would he
save it for me?

1005

00:56:05,630 --> 00:56:08,530

And he said yes, but
I never saw it again.

1006

00:56:08,530 --> 00:56:09,480

I didn't see him.

1007
00:56:09,480 --> 00:56:12,540
You had brought the
diary with you from home?

1008
00:56:12,540 --> 00:56:14,520
No, from Estonia.

1009
00:56:14,520 --> 00:56:19,240
I had written the diary
while we were in Estonia.

1010
00:56:19,240 --> 00:56:25,090
And I never, unfortunately,
saw it again.

1011
00:56:25,090 --> 00:56:26,510
What did you do in Stutthof?

1012
00:56:26,510 --> 00:56:29,320
In Stutthof, nothing.

1013
00:56:29,320 --> 00:56:33,430
We were just
sitting in the sand.

1014
00:56:33,430 --> 00:56:38,020
And I met several people
there from my home town

1015
00:56:38,020 --> 00:56:40,330
who had been in Riga.

1016
00:56:40,330 --> 00:56:43,720
And there were
daughters with mothers.

1017
00:56:43,720 --> 00:56:46,210
One daughter, one mother.

1018
00:56:46,210 --> 00:56:50,060

Two couples like that.

1019

00:56:50,060 --> 00:56:56,260

And one of these couples, one
daughter and mother survived.

1020

00:56:56,260 --> 00:56:59,110

The daughter lives
in Vienna now.

1021

00:56:59,110 --> 00:57:03,040

And the other couple
did not survive.

1022

00:57:03,040 --> 00:57:06,070

So, you know, you just
ran in to those people.

1023

00:57:06,070 --> 00:57:09,320

It was an immense camp.

1024

00:57:09,320 --> 00:57:11,410

And we didn't have--

1025

00:57:11,410 --> 00:57:13,000

we didn't own anything.

1026

00:57:13,000 --> 00:57:16,990

I didn't even have
a spoon to eat with.

1027

00:57:16,990 --> 00:57:21,390

But someone else shared
her spoon with me.

1028

00:57:21,390 --> 00:57:23,140

Do you remember what
they gave you to eat?

1029

00:57:23,140 --> 00:57:26,395

1030

00:57:26,395 --> 00:57:28,284

No, very little.

1031

00:57:28,284 --> 00:57:29,080

Nothing.

1032

00:57:29,080 --> 00:57:34,960

Probably there was something,
soup, again, the turnip soup.

1033

00:57:34,960 --> 00:57:37,030

I don't really
know, because that

1034

00:57:37,030 --> 00:57:43,790

was the first real concentration
camp that I had been to.

1035

00:57:43,790 --> 00:57:46,270

And it was pretty awful.

1036

00:57:46,270 --> 00:57:48,360

Thousands of women there.

1037

00:57:48,360 --> 00:57:51,500

The women were separate again.

1038

00:57:51,500 --> 00:57:53,470

And where did they
finally put you there?

1039

00:57:53,470 --> 00:57:56,250

You said you were on the
sand in the beginning.

1040

00:57:56,250 --> 00:57:58,460

Well, we were in
barracks [INAUDIBLE]..

1041

00:57:58,460 --> 00:57:59,470

You went to barracks.

1042

00:57:59,470 --> 00:58:01,030
We were in barracks.

1043
00:58:01,030 --> 00:58:03,160
But there was sand
all around where

1044
00:58:03,160 --> 00:58:05,800
we sat around all day long.

1045
00:58:05,800 --> 00:58:06,940
Did you work?

1046
00:58:06,940 --> 00:58:08,360
No, we didn't work.

1047
00:58:08,360 --> 00:58:10,330
We were not there for very long.

1048
00:58:10,330 --> 00:58:12,490
How long were you there for?

1049
00:58:12,490 --> 00:58:14,750
I can tell you exactly.

1050
00:58:14,750 --> 00:58:22,820
We came there on my
birthday, August 26 1944.

1051
00:58:22,820 --> 00:58:29,420
And in October, we were sent
on to Hamburg in Germany.

1052
00:58:29,420 --> 00:58:35,010

1053
00:58:35,010 --> 00:58:37,060
I think it's enough.

1054
00:58:37,060 --> 00:58:38,650
Do you still feel like it?

1055

00:58:38,650 --> 00:58:41,170

1056

00:58:41,170 --> 00:58:47,380

In Hamburg, which was
Hamburg Ochsenzoll,

1057

00:58:47,380 --> 00:58:50,510

I became very sick immediately.

1058

00:58:50,510 --> 00:58:52,070

I had pneumonia.

1059

00:58:52,070 --> 00:58:54,400

And I had--

1060

00:58:54,400 --> 00:59:00,430

I think I had typhoid,
but this is not for sure.

1061

00:59:00,430 --> 00:59:04,490

Pneumonia, and
pleurisy, and typhoid.

1062

00:59:04,490 --> 00:59:10,120

And a terrible diarrhea,
probably enteritis,

1063

00:59:10,120 --> 00:59:12,070

or it may have been typhoid.

1064

00:59:12,070 --> 00:59:13,480

I don't know.

1065

00:59:13,480 --> 00:59:18,340

And after a month or so,
they build a barrack,

1066

00:59:18,340 --> 00:59:20,680

which they called a
[INAUDIBLE],, where

1067

00:59:20,680 --> 00:59:22,670
the sick people were sent.

1068

00:59:22,670 --> 00:59:27,340
There were only I think six
or seven of us in there.

1069

00:59:27,340 --> 00:59:31,120
And I was there for
what seems like months,

1070

00:59:31,120 --> 00:59:34,820
but I don't know
really how long it was.

1071

00:59:34,820 --> 00:59:40,210
But I survived, which
was a miracle in itself.

1072

00:59:40,210 --> 00:59:48,370
And my best friend was at that
time [? Shriba, ?] [? Shriba ?]

1073

00:59:48,370 --> 00:59:50,680
in this camp.

1074

00:59:50,680 --> 00:59:53,080
She was in charge
of counting people,

1075

00:59:53,080 --> 00:59:58,410
and she was the secretary
to the SS man and so on.

1076

00:59:58,410 --> 01:00:03,070
And she arranged for me not
to have to go to the factory,

1077

01:00:03,070 --> 01:00:07,650
but to be in the [NON-ENGLISH],,
which is the place where they

1078

01:00:07,650 --> 01:00:10,030
did sewing for the Germans.

1079
01:00:10,030 --> 01:00:13,590
There were a lot of SS
men and women there,

1080
01:00:13,590 --> 01:00:18,850
and there was a professional
seamstress, also

1081
01:00:18,850 --> 01:00:22,270
a Jewish lady from Frankfurt.

1082
01:00:22,270 --> 01:00:26,560
So that's where I
ended up working.

1083
01:00:26,560 --> 01:00:33,850
And then one day in April, they
said that we would be sent--

1084
01:00:33,850 --> 01:00:37,290
that we are being
sent to Sweden now.

1085
01:00:37,290 --> 01:00:42,460
And we couldn't quite
believe it, but they said it.

1086
01:00:42,460 --> 01:00:48,900
So they put us into cattle
cars, and we traveled.

1087
01:00:48,900 --> 01:00:53,695
Then on the way, we saw open
cattle cars with dead people

1088
01:00:53,695 --> 01:00:55,480
in there.

1089
01:00:55,480 --> 01:01:02,020
And then they unloaded us in I

think it was called LÃ¼neburg.

1090

01:01:02,020 --> 01:01:05,080

And from there, we
walked to Bergen-Belsen.

1091

01:01:05,080 --> 01:01:08,900

So the thing with Sweden
was not at all true.

1092

01:01:08,900 --> 01:01:11,800

It was just another
of those lies.

1093

01:01:11,800 --> 01:01:15,370

What was it like to
be in the cattle car?

1094

01:01:15,370 --> 01:01:15,870

Terrible.

1095

01:01:15,870 --> 01:01:18,560

1096

01:01:18,560 --> 01:01:20,150

You know.

1097

01:01:20,150 --> 01:01:22,460

We all know how that is.

1098

01:01:22,460 --> 01:01:31,550

Because there was no air, and no
food, and just a pail, I guess.

1099

01:01:31,550 --> 01:01:32,440

I don't know.

1100

01:01:32,440 --> 01:01:33,470

I really don't remember.

1101

01:01:33,470 --> 01:01:34,450

It was terrible.

1102
01:01:34,450 --> 01:01:44,990
And to see those cars
filled with dead people

1103
01:01:44,990 --> 01:01:46,270
was just awful.

1104
01:01:46,270 --> 01:01:48,620
Of course, in the
cattle cars there

1105
01:01:48,620 --> 01:01:53,100
were little windows up there
that we could see through.

1106
01:01:53,100 --> 01:01:55,650
Anyhow, they unloaded
us there, and were

1107
01:01:55,650 --> 01:01:57,260
marched to Bergen-Belsen.

1108
01:01:57,260 --> 01:02:01,560
And on the side of the
road, in the ditches,

1109
01:02:01,560 --> 01:02:03,900
there were dead
people everywhere.

1110
01:02:03,900 --> 01:02:07,080
That was in April
of '45, shortly

1111
01:02:07,080 --> 01:02:11,010
before Bergen-Belsen
was liberated.

1112
01:02:11,010 --> 01:02:16,200
And we got into Bergen-Belsen,
and what it was like there,

1113

01:02:16,200 --> 01:02:19,710

I knew that I couldn't
survive there.

1114

01:02:19,710 --> 01:02:22,620

Fortunately, I didn't
have to survive it there,

1115

01:02:22,620 --> 01:02:31,560

because three days later,
the highest SS from Hamburg

1116

01:02:31,560 --> 01:02:35,900

came back and said the
factory needed people.

1117

01:02:35,900 --> 01:02:39,270

And he started reading
all our numbers.

1118

01:02:39,270 --> 01:02:43,410

But since I had never
worked in the factory,

1119

01:02:43,410 --> 01:02:45,320

he didn't read my number.

1120

01:02:45,320 --> 01:02:50,850

But not everyone was around,
so when no one responded

1121

01:02:50,850 --> 01:02:54,660

to a number, I went
there, because my two best

1122

01:02:54,660 --> 01:02:55,960

friends were there.

1123

01:02:55,960 --> 01:02:59,275

Had you-- when had you been
originally assigned a number?

1124

01:02:59,275 --> 01:03:00,390
In the beginning?

1125
01:03:00,390 --> 01:03:04,040
Well, I had one
in Theresienstadt.

1126
01:03:04,040 --> 01:03:06,070
You had different ones
in different camps?

1127
01:03:06,070 --> 01:03:07,410
I don't know.

1128
01:03:07,410 --> 01:03:11,100
I don't know if I had the
same number all the time

1129
01:03:11,100 --> 01:03:15,210
or whether they changed it.

1130
01:03:15,210 --> 01:03:19,760
So anyhow, I joined this group.

1131
01:03:19,760 --> 01:03:24,240
And he marched us out
of Bergen-Belsen along

1132
01:03:24,240 --> 01:03:31,860
the lagerstraße, where on one
side there was a band that

1133
01:03:31,860 --> 01:03:34,040
played music.

1134
01:03:34,040 --> 01:03:39,960
And across from it was to a
big hole with people just--

1135
01:03:39,960 --> 01:03:49,340
dead people just

1136

01:03:49,340 --> 01:03:49,940
Piled up.

1137
01:03:49,940 --> 01:03:51,200
Piled up.

1138
01:03:51,200 --> 01:03:54,710
That was the word.

1139
01:03:54,710 --> 01:03:56,840
And so we came out of there.

1140
01:03:56,840 --> 01:04:04,610
We marched along the road,
and there were [INAUDIBLE]..