

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,720

2  
00:00:00,720 --> 00:00:03,420  
This is a United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:03,420 --> 00:00:07,710  
interview with Ieremia Solomon  
conducted by Phyllis Freedman

4  
00:00:07,710 --> 00:00:11,250  
on June 3, 1996 in the museum.

5  
00:00:11,250 --> 00:00:13,500  
This is the A side of tape 1.

6  
00:00:13,500 --> 00:00:18,770

7  
00:00:18,770 --> 00:00:22,560  
Tell me what your  
name was at birth.

8  
00:00:22,560 --> 00:00:23,910  
The same name as you have--

9  
00:00:23,910 --> 00:00:25,840  
Ieremia Solomon.

10  
00:00:25,840 --> 00:00:28,050  
And when were you  
born and where?

11  
00:00:28,050 --> 00:00:31,510  
I was born in Romania  
in a city named Dorohoi

12  
00:00:31,510 --> 00:00:35,240  
in Northern part of  
Moldova, because Romania

13

00:00:35,240 --> 00:00:41,960  
was divided in some 10 regions,  
one of them being Moldova--

14

00:00:41,960 --> 00:00:45,560  
ancient one, because  
Moldovan Wallachia was

15

00:00:45,560 --> 00:00:49,400  
formed many hundreds years ago.

16

00:00:49,400 --> 00:00:52,640  
It's a long story, we  
won't comment on it.

17

00:00:52,640 --> 00:01:02,610  
And I was born on the  
3rd of November 1924.

18

00:01:02,610 --> 00:01:07,220  
I lived in Dorohoi the first  
eight months of my life,

19

00:01:07,220 --> 00:01:09,600  
because my parents divorced.

20

00:01:09,600 --> 00:01:14,930  
So my mother and I  
went to her parents

21

00:01:14,930 --> 00:01:20,710  
in a city named Falticeni in  
the same region of Moldova,

22

00:01:20,710 --> 00:01:28,670  
where I lived until  
the age of 16.

23

00:01:28,670 --> 00:01:32,030  
You lived with your maternal  
grandparents and your mother?

24  
00:01:32,030 --> 00:01:33,200  
Yes, I did.

25  
00:01:33,200 --> 00:01:34,580  
Yes, I did.

26  
00:01:34,580 --> 00:01:36,860  
Tell me about your family life.

27  
00:01:36,860 --> 00:01:39,620  
What kind of work did  
your grandfather do?

28  
00:01:39,620 --> 00:01:48,680  
My grandfather was a farmer  
compared to the professions

29  
00:01:48,680 --> 00:01:52,550  
we have here in North America.

30  
00:01:52,550 --> 00:01:58,250  
But because the Jews were  
not entitled to own land,

31  
00:01:58,250 --> 00:02:02,880  
he rented it from  
different people,

32  
00:02:02,880 --> 00:02:14,180  
especially from the ones  
which have a lot of big farms.

33  
00:02:14,180 --> 00:02:16,970  
And he exploited  
them in the sense

34  
00:02:16,970 --> 00:02:22,640  
that he cultivated and  
used the local people--

35  
00:02:22,640 --> 00:02:25,190  
not family members.

36  
00:02:25,190 --> 00:02:28,700  
Did you have a large  
family in Falticeni?

37  
00:02:28,700 --> 00:02:30,320  
Yes.

38  
00:02:30,320 --> 00:02:37,280  
My grandfather-- I  
have to count them,

39  
00:02:37,280 --> 00:02:40,130  
but I don't want  
to waste our time--

40  
00:02:40,130 --> 00:02:44,970  
some three sisters and at  
least one brother which I know

41  
00:02:44,970 --> 00:02:49,850  
offhand, which had  
there five, six,

42  
00:02:49,850 --> 00:02:57,890  
seven children with nephews,  
which grandchildren of theirs,

43  
00:02:57,890 --> 00:02:59,660  
which I knew.

44  
00:02:59,660 --> 00:03:04,760  
And my grandmother  
had also a big family.

45  
00:03:04,760 --> 00:03:08,360  
But the family itself,  
my grandparents,

46  
00:03:08,360 --> 00:03:16,110  
had 10 children alive when I was  
born, which I knew all of them.

47

00:03:16,110 --> 00:03:19,485

And of course, they had  
children-- my first degree

48

00:03:19,485 --> 00:03:19,985

cousins.

49

00:03:19,985 --> 00:03:23,140

50

00:03:23,140 --> 00:03:26,200

Was the household you grew  
up in a religious one?

51

00:03:26,200 --> 00:03:29,330

52

00:03:29,330 --> 00:03:32,995

Not really, but the  
tradition was alive.

53

00:03:32,995 --> 00:03:36,310

54

00:03:36,310 --> 00:03:42,750

My grandparents, after the  
death of my grandfather,

55

00:03:42,750 --> 00:03:48,130

the grandmother kept all  
the Jewish traditions--

56

00:03:48,130 --> 00:03:56,770

in the sense that we did not  
eat in the same plates milk

57

00:03:56,770 --> 00:03:59,560

and meat.

58

00:03:59,560 --> 00:04:05,200

For Passover we had  
completely different plates,

59

00:04:05,200 --> 00:04:11,080

and cutlery, and  
whatever needed.

60

00:04:11,080 --> 00:04:15,010

Then all the Jewish Hebrew--

61

00:04:15,010 --> 00:04:20,600

62

00:04:20,600 --> 00:04:23,290

Yom Kippur, Rosh  
Hashanah, Passover--

63

00:04:23,290 --> 00:04:26,470

I'm talking about  
the bigger ones--

64

00:04:26,470 --> 00:04:32,820

were kept and  
followed to the law.

65

00:04:32,820 --> 00:04:37,340

I remember my mother being  
alone for Rosh Hashanah and Yom

66

00:04:37,340 --> 00:04:37,950

Kippur.

67

00:04:37,950 --> 00:04:40,710

She went to synagogue.

68

00:04:40,710 --> 00:04:45,270

I went also with this  
occasions, and sometimes more,

69

00:04:45,270 --> 00:04:48,380

because we lived  
in the same house

70

00:04:48,380 --> 00:04:54,390

with an uncle of mine  
who was not religious,

71  
00:04:54,390 --> 00:04:57,420  
but he kept it also  
as a tradition.

72  
00:04:57,420 --> 00:05:03,060  
But during the year,  
he went more times

73  
00:05:03,060 --> 00:05:11,020  
than those big holidays  
as I named them before.

74  
00:05:11,020 --> 00:05:13,445  
Was there a large Jewish  
community in Falticeni?

75  
00:05:13,445 --> 00:05:13,945  
Yes.

76  
00:05:13,945 --> 00:05:17,050

77  
00:05:17,050 --> 00:05:22,330  
All the Moldovian cities,  
if I can call this Moldova,

78  
00:05:22,330 --> 00:05:25,930  
Moldovian cities,  
especially in the north,

79  
00:05:25,930 --> 00:05:32,380  
which were closed to  
Poland, to Ukraine

80  
00:05:32,380 --> 00:05:36,190  
had big Jewish communities.

81  
00:05:36,190 --> 00:05:42,340  
And Falticeni, where  
I lived, and Dorohoi,

82  
00:05:42,340 --> 00:05:53,050  
you can say that at least  
70% to 75% were Jewish.

83  
00:05:53,050 --> 00:05:56,140  
What was your interaction,  
then, with non-Jewish members

84  
00:05:56,140 --> 00:05:59,530  
of the community?

85  
00:05:59,530 --> 00:06:07,390  
Due to the fact that my  
grandfather, whom we lived,

86  
00:06:07,390 --> 00:06:15,520  
had these farms rented,  
we lived more or less

87  
00:06:15,520 --> 00:06:21,670  
in a kind of district where  
most Christians lived.

88  
00:06:21,670 --> 00:06:26,560  
There were a lot of Jews also  
there, but mostly Christians.

89  
00:06:26,560 --> 00:06:30,760  
So it so happened that  
all of our neighbors

90  
00:06:30,760 --> 00:06:36,310  
across the street next to  
us were all Christians--

91  
00:06:36,310 --> 00:06:41,770  
professor, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]  
teachers at the school,

92  
00:06:41,770 --> 00:06:51,240  
officers, clerks at the  
revenue service, and so on.



93  
00:06:51,240 --> 00:06:52,640  
And they had children.

94  
00:06:52,640 --> 00:06:56,790  
They have grandchildren--  
depends on their age.

95  
00:06:56,790 --> 00:07:02,930  
So we played together,  
because it was

96  
00:07:02,930 --> 00:07:09,320  
a city of 6,000, 7,000 people.

97  
00:07:09,320 --> 00:07:13,520  
And then in the school,  
the first four classes--

98  
00:07:13,520 --> 00:07:18,770  
because the Romanian school  
was divided in three cycles.

99  
00:07:18,770 --> 00:07:21,320  
The first one was the  
primary, one to four,

100  
00:07:21,320 --> 00:07:28,480  
the second was the gymnasium,  
five, six, seven, eight,

101  
00:07:28,480 --> 00:07:33,910  
and then was lyceum 9 to 12.

102  
00:07:33,910 --> 00:07:39,840  
In the primary school, I  
was at the Jewish school.

103  
00:07:39,840 --> 00:07:46,530  
They were calling it  
Romanian is [? Israelit ?]

104

00:07:46,530 --> 00:07:55,850  
because in Romania,  
you call a Jew evreu

105  
00:07:55,850 --> 00:07:59,430  
from Hebrew, somehow derived.

106  
00:07:59,430 --> 00:08:04,740  
And Israelites, and was  
the religion mosaic--

107  
00:08:04,740 --> 00:08:07,440  
this is how you call them.

108  
00:08:07,440 --> 00:08:12,600  
So the school was called  
Romana, or Israeli,

109  
00:08:12,600 --> 00:08:13,790  
or something like that--

110  
00:08:13,790 --> 00:08:17,690  
I don't know how to  
translate it exactly.

111  
00:08:17,690 --> 00:08:24,140  
And after the four classes, I  
passed an exam, as everyone,

112  
00:08:24,140 --> 00:08:26,720  
in order to qualify  
for the gymnasium.

113  
00:08:26,720 --> 00:08:28,520  
After the gymnasium,  
another exam

114  
00:08:28,520 --> 00:08:33,390  
to go into lyceum And of  
course, after the lyceum it

115  
00:08:33,390 --> 00:08:41,539  
was a kind of graduating

exam, which entitled

116  
00:08:41,539 --> 00:08:44,690  
you to go to university--

117  
00:08:44,690 --> 00:08:48,500  
direct or with  
another admission exam

118  
00:08:48,500 --> 00:08:55,530  
if you went to a Polytechnic  
school or the medicine school.

119  
00:08:55,530 --> 00:08:57,290  
So when you went  
to the gymnasium,

120  
00:08:57,290 --> 00:08:59,900  
were you in school, then,  
with non-Jewish children?

121  
00:08:59,900 --> 00:09:06,670  
No, no, no-- neither the  
gymnasium nor the lyceum

122  
00:09:06,670 --> 00:09:09,000  
It was a state school.

123  
00:09:09,000 --> 00:09:10,820  
Now, there were a lot of Jews.

124  
00:09:10,820 --> 00:09:15,040  
I had colleagues in my  
class and all the classes.

125  
00:09:15,040 --> 00:09:19,220  
But it was not  
specifically Jewish

126  
00:09:19,220 --> 00:09:21,740  
as the four primary were.

127

00:09:21,740 --> 00:09:25,060  
But you played soccer, did  
you not, with the non-Jewish--

128  
00:09:25,060 --> 00:09:32,330  
I played soccer, I played all  
kind of kids play at that time.

129  
00:09:32,330 --> 00:09:36,530  
It was non-Jewish  
and Jewish alike.

130  
00:09:36,530 --> 00:09:43,250  
There was no difference at that  
time between Jews and non-Jews.

131  
00:09:43,250 --> 00:09:48,590  
In spite in their  
houses, their families

132  
00:09:48,590 --> 00:09:51,335  
were calling the Jews names.

133  
00:09:51,335 --> 00:09:55,560

134  
00:09:55,560 --> 00:09:58,380  
But we didn't have problems.

135  
00:09:58,380 --> 00:10:00,840  
What else do you  
recall besides the fact

136  
00:10:00,840 --> 00:10:04,860  
that Jews couldn't own property,  
and sometimes name-calling?

137  
00:10:04,860 --> 00:10:08,430  
Were there incidents of  
anti-Semitism prior to the war

138  
00:10:08,430 --> 00:10:11,130  
that you recall?

139  
00:10:11,130 --> 00:10:13,290  
I do not recall them.

140  
00:10:13,290 --> 00:10:19,940  
But I know that my  
grandparents said

141  
00:10:19,940 --> 00:10:25,740  
that there were manifestations  
of anti-Semitism.

142  
00:10:25,740 --> 00:10:32,250  
I knew that Romania,  
Ukraine, Poland--

143  
00:10:32,250 --> 00:10:33,920  
especially Ukraine and Poland--

144  
00:10:33,920 --> 00:10:39,300  
were the cradles of  
anti-Semitism in the world.

145  
00:10:39,300 --> 00:10:43,080  
I know that the majority  
of Jews in Europe

146  
00:10:43,080 --> 00:10:48,900  
lived there because the  
Romanian Jews were the ones who

147  
00:10:48,900 --> 00:10:52,860  
quit the Ukraine and Poland  
because of the pogroms

148  
00:10:52,860 --> 00:10:55,320  
against Jews.

149  
00:10:55,320 --> 00:11:01,860  
But as far as I remember,  
one of my grandparents,

150

00:11:01,860 --> 00:11:08,480  
which I can't tell you  
exactly which of them,

151  
00:11:08,480 --> 00:11:11,910  
he or she was born in  
Romania at that time.

152  
00:11:11,910 --> 00:11:18,420  
But either the parents or the  
grandparents came from Poland.

153  
00:11:18,420 --> 00:11:21,360  
What do you recall about  
the first knowledge

154  
00:11:21,360 --> 00:11:24,740  
you had of the rise of  
the Nazis in Germany?

155  
00:11:24,740 --> 00:11:27,390  
What were your  
grandparents saying?

156  
00:11:27,390 --> 00:11:30,980  
What was the sense  
in your family?

157  
00:11:30,980 --> 00:11:37,200  
At that time, my  
grandfather was dead.

158  
00:11:37,200 --> 00:11:41,310  
He died in May 1930,  
and Hitler came

159  
00:11:41,310 --> 00:11:45,870  
to power 30th of January '33.

160  
00:11:45,870 --> 00:11:54,360  
But we were subscribers  
of the national newspaper,

161

00:11:54,360 --> 00:11:56,920  
which came every day.

162  
00:11:56,920 --> 00:12:00,510  
And of course, I read  
because I was already

163  
00:12:00,510 --> 00:12:02,910  
in the third or fourth grade.

164  
00:12:02,910 --> 00:12:05,910  
And I read all the  
titles, not the articles.

165  
00:12:05,910 --> 00:12:07,470  
And I knew Hitler.

166  
00:12:07,470 --> 00:12:12,480  
But for me as a kid at  
that age, and please

167  
00:12:12,480 --> 00:12:17,830  
note that I was given one  
year before my age to school.

168  
00:12:17,830 --> 00:12:21,290

169  
00:12:21,290 --> 00:12:24,070  
I don't know exactly the  
reason I heard several,

170  
00:12:24,070 --> 00:12:26,330  
but it's not important.

171  
00:12:26,330 --> 00:12:34,280  
So I was not very much  
interested at that time

172  
00:12:34,280 --> 00:12:36,590  
in politics, you know?

173

00:12:36,590 --> 00:12:42,080  
But I knew, and then we heard  
all kinds of horror stories

174  
00:12:42,080 --> 00:12:44,000  
coming from Germany--

175  
00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:45,770  
reading them.

176  
00:12:45,770 --> 00:12:51,840  
And at that time, the  
radio was introduced,

177  
00:12:51,840 --> 00:12:55,160  
and the houses in Romania.

178  
00:12:55,160 --> 00:13:04,510  
And we heard news, which  
seldom gave this kind of news

179  
00:13:04,510 --> 00:13:06,280  
about Germany.

180  
00:13:06,280 --> 00:13:10,750  
But Romania itself did  
not need at this time

181  
00:13:10,750 --> 00:13:16,180  
any inducement in being  
anti-Semitic, you know?

182  
00:13:16,180 --> 00:13:19,420  
So there was no sense  
that you recall that there

183  
00:13:19,420 --> 00:13:21,370  
was increased anxiety?

184  
00:13:21,370 --> 00:13:23,950  
This seemed to be  
more of the same?



185

00:13:23,950 --> 00:13:27,530  
I heard something in the house--

186

00:13:27,530 --> 00:13:32,980  
my mother, my uncle, and other  
relatives or acquaintances

187

00:13:32,980 --> 00:13:36,620  
who came in talked about  
it during the year,

188

00:13:36,620 --> 00:13:39,460  
because there are the laws.

189

00:13:39,460 --> 00:13:44,600  
There was the Crystal Night,  
the night of the broken glass.

190

00:13:44,600 --> 00:13:50,530  
And there were all  
kinds of stories

191

00:13:50,530 --> 00:13:54,000  
already out from Germany.

192

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:57,960  
And after all, Hitler  
didn't make any secret

193

00:13:57,960 --> 00:14:02,490  
about his policy he  
wanted to follow.

194

00:14:02,490 --> 00:14:06,330  
So that was known.

195

00:14:06,330 --> 00:14:10,050  
Tell me about your  
schooling in Bucharest

196

00:14:10,050 --> 00:14:12,960  
after you finished lyceum.

197  
00:14:12,960 --> 00:14:17,720  
I didn't finish the lyceum  
because I had a cousin

198  
00:14:17,720 --> 00:14:24,750  
in Botosani, another city not  
far from Dorohoi and Falticeni

199  
00:14:24,750 --> 00:14:30,760  
where a part of  
our family lived.

200  
00:14:30,760 --> 00:14:36,130  
And he happened to be  
one year older than I am,

201  
00:14:36,130 --> 00:14:39,100  
and we were in good relations.

202  
00:14:39,100 --> 00:14:43,420  
So happened that we  
bear the same name off

203  
00:14:43,420 --> 00:14:50,620  
an uncle of ours who died  
in the First World War.

204  
00:14:50,620 --> 00:14:57,520  
And he tried to convince me  
that it's not our place here.

205  
00:14:57,520 --> 00:15:02,080  
Our place is in  
Palestine, because we

206  
00:15:02,080 --> 00:15:06,790  
knew about Eretz Israel, but  
not the state of Israel that

207  
00:15:06,790 --> 00:15:09,100  
is known today.

208

00:15:09,100 --> 00:15:12,760

And there if you go, you  
have to have a trade.

209

00:15:12,760 --> 00:15:16,510

You can't go empty-handed.

210

00:15:16,510 --> 00:15:18,400

And it's better  
to learn a trade.

211

00:15:18,400 --> 00:15:26,080

So as my father told me  
when I was a couple of years

212

00:15:26,080 --> 00:15:30,250

younger than at that age,  
that if I had finished school,

213

00:15:30,250 --> 00:15:34,620

he's going to soon send  
me to Brezo, to Slovakia,

214

00:15:34,620 --> 00:15:36,190

at that time--

215

00:15:36,190 --> 00:15:40,540

very well-known for the textile  
industry to learn textile

216

00:15:40,540 --> 00:15:43,300

and becoming a textile engineer.

217

00:15:43,300 --> 00:15:48,490

So in my head, this  
was placed somewhere.

218

00:15:48,490 --> 00:16:00,590

And I insisted that I wanted  
to be textile worker, master,

219

00:16:00,590 --> 00:16:03,770

mechanic, whatever.

220

00:16:03,770 --> 00:16:13,240

My mother and my father were not  
very happy about this decision,

221

00:16:13,240 --> 00:16:17,230

because as all  
Jewish mothers wanted

222

00:16:17,230 --> 00:16:20,410

to have a son-- if  
not a physician,

223

00:16:20,410 --> 00:16:23,530

but at least an engineer.

224

00:16:23,530 --> 00:16:28,480

And in my family,  
her brothers, one

225

00:16:28,480 --> 00:16:34,810

was a lawyer and a  
chartered accountant.

226

00:16:34,810 --> 00:16:41,350

And the other one was  
a physician in France.

227

00:16:41,350 --> 00:16:45,990

So I convinced them.

228

00:16:45,990 --> 00:16:48,820

229

00:16:48,820 --> 00:16:53,910

So I went to Bucharest to learn.

230

00:16:53,910 --> 00:17:00,270

It was named È<sup>TM</sup>coala ciocanului  
the School of the Hammer.

231

00:17:00,270 --> 00:17:05,010

It's a very free  
translation, but the school

232

00:17:05,010 --> 00:17:08,359

was named The Hammer  
in quotation marks.

233

00:17:08,359 --> 00:17:12,150

What year was this and month  
that you went to Bucharest?

234

00:17:12,150 --> 00:17:26,560

This was '39, September, when  
the school normally start.

235

00:17:26,560 --> 00:17:31,920

So I went there, and  
my uncle the lawyer,

236

00:17:31,920 --> 00:17:35,340

because I told about  
too, was in Bucharest.

237

00:17:35,340 --> 00:17:43,200

His two children did  
not have my ideas.

238

00:17:43,200 --> 00:17:46,140

They are also younger than I am.

239

00:17:46,140 --> 00:17:49,350

And by the way, his daughter  
is a physician in New York,

240

00:17:49,350 --> 00:17:53,310

and his son is a PhD here  
working for the government

241

00:17:53,310 --> 00:17:55,380

in Rockville.

242

00:17:55,380 --> 00:17:57,960

He is living in Rockville.

243

00:17:57,960 --> 00:18:01,560

He works in Washington.

244

00:18:01,560 --> 00:18:11,430

And he was a kind of

tutor of the school.

245

00:18:11,430 --> 00:18:15,840

So I started school.

246

00:18:15,840 --> 00:18:17,240

I worked.

247

00:18:17,240 --> 00:18:20,720

I liked it very much.

248

00:18:20,720 --> 00:18:24,980

So tell me, if you started

school in September of 1939

249

00:18:24,980 --> 00:18:29,220

was when Poland was

invaded by the Nazis.

250

00:18:29,220 --> 00:18:29,720

After.

251

00:18:29,720 --> 00:18:36,500

Because 1st of September, Poland

was invaded by the Germans.

252

00:18:36,500 --> 00:18:38,780

I'm not going to call

them Nazis, as you say,

253

00:18:38,780 --> 00:18:43,040

because the guilt is

not only on the Nazis--

254

00:18:43,040 --> 00:18:47,270

I mean, the members of the  
National Socialist party,

255  
00:18:47,270 --> 00:18:50,930  
but a lot of Germans too.

256  
00:18:50,930 --> 00:18:56,210  
Either they were or they weren't  
members of the Nazi party,

257  
00:18:56,210 --> 00:18:57,300  
you know?

258  
00:18:57,300 --> 00:19:00,020  
So was there any  
increased concern

259  
00:19:00,020 --> 00:19:02,600  
on your part, or your uncle,  
and your other relatives

260  
00:19:02,600 --> 00:19:03,500  
in Bucharest?

261  
00:19:03,500 --> 00:19:05,540  
Yes, it was.

262  
00:19:05,540 --> 00:19:13,740  
But again, in '39,  
I was not even 15.

263  
00:19:13,740 --> 00:19:21,890  
So as all children,  
seeing that their--

264  
00:19:21,890 --> 00:19:26,450  
I can't say ideal,  
but wishes fulfilling,

265  
00:19:26,450 --> 00:19:29,280  
and I am already  
in this school--

266

00:19:29,280 --> 00:19:34,080

I didn't pay attention  
too much to other things.

267

00:19:34,080 --> 00:19:36,750

268

00:19:36,750 --> 00:19:39,540

Tell me a little bit about your  
relationship with your father.

269

00:19:39,540 --> 00:19:41,670

Because even though your  
parents were divorced,

270

00:19:41,670 --> 00:19:46,590

it sounds as though he was very  
much involved in your life.

271

00:19:46,590 --> 00:19:53,940

Yes, he was, especially after  
I started the gymnasium.

272

00:19:53,940 --> 00:19:57,780

Because when I was  
a kid, I sometimes

273

00:19:57,780 --> 00:20:01,710

went to Dorohoi to see him.

274

00:20:01,710 --> 00:20:07,440

He was seldom in Dorohoi,  
because he had a farm not far

275

00:20:07,440 --> 00:20:12,900

from Czernowitz, a city in  
the north of Bukovin, which

276

00:20:12,900 --> 00:20:19,070

later was taken by the Russians,  
and now is part of Ukraine.

277



00:20:19,070 --> 00:20:24,060  
But practically, Czernowitz was  
a part of the Austro-Hungarian

278  
00:20:24,060 --> 00:20:29,880  
and did not belong, neither  
language wise or not other

279  
00:20:29,880 --> 00:20:32,180  
to the Russians.

280  
00:20:32,180 --> 00:20:38,350  
So he came to Dorohoi  
to see his parents.

281  
00:20:38,350 --> 00:20:43,810  
And at that time, I think  
my grandmother, his mother,

282  
00:20:43,810 --> 00:20:44,860  
died already.

283  
00:20:44,860 --> 00:20:52,560  
So only my grandfather was  
alive when he came to see him.

284  
00:20:52,560 --> 00:20:57,480  
After that, he used  
to come I think

285  
00:20:57,480 --> 00:21:01,860  
twice a year in  
Falticeni to see me--

286  
00:21:01,860 --> 00:21:06,480  
once in spring, and the other  
one after school started.

287  
00:21:06,480 --> 00:21:08,190  
And of course, he  
was involved and he

288  
00:21:08,190 --> 00:21:12,670

came when I started  
learning for bar mitzvah

289  
00:21:12,670 --> 00:21:18,030  
and when I had the bar  
mitzvah, he was in Falticeni.

290  
00:21:18,030 --> 00:21:28,950  
But I was a little bit unhappy  
being with one single parent.

291  
00:21:28,950 --> 00:21:32,820  
Maybe not too much for  
the sake of the family,

292  
00:21:32,820 --> 00:21:36,870  
but I saw a lot of the kids  
were calling mummy, daddy,

293  
00:21:36,870 --> 00:21:40,410  
and I had only mummy to call.

294  
00:21:40,410 --> 00:21:48,120  
And most of the  
times, the fathers

295  
00:21:48,120 --> 00:21:52,000  
are getting better  
along with their sons,

296  
00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:59,010  
because they give them  
some money to buy a cookie,

297  
00:21:59,010 --> 00:22:00,600  
what else.

298  
00:22:00,600 --> 00:22:09,690  
But they are taking the  
kids to the city, bus,

299  
00:22:09,690 --> 00:22:14,400  
other things like that,

which I did not have somebody

300

00:22:14,400 --> 00:22:17,730

to get those unimportant  
things, but very

301

00:22:17,730 --> 00:22:20,640

important for a kid my age.

302

00:22:20,640 --> 00:22:26,850

And I started to talk to  
them, especially to my mother.

303

00:22:26,850 --> 00:22:33,600

But after I started this  
school in Bucharest,

304

00:22:33,600 --> 00:22:36,170

which I don't know  
if I mentioned it--

305

00:22:36,170 --> 00:22:40,080

it was the school belonging  
to the Jewish community

306

00:22:40,080 --> 00:22:42,620

of Bucharest, this school--

307

00:22:42,620 --> 00:22:49,260

a trade school, which so  
happened-- so it was not

308

00:22:49,260 --> 00:22:54,330

a thing which so happens was  
the school, and next to it

309

00:22:54,330 --> 00:22:57,270

was the soccer  
field off Maccabi.

310

00:22:57,270 --> 00:23:04,400

It was a kind of a  
club of gymnastics

311  
00:23:04,400 --> 00:23:06,980  
and all kind of  
sports also belonging

312  
00:23:06,980 --> 00:23:10,310  
to the Jewish  
community of Bucharest.

313  
00:23:10,310 --> 00:23:12,520  
How long were you  
in school there?

314  
00:23:12,520 --> 00:23:20,080  
I finished the second year,  
because I started already

315  
00:23:20,080 --> 00:23:21,010  
the second year.

316  
00:23:21,010 --> 00:23:24,610  
The first year was  
more theoretical.

317  
00:23:24,610 --> 00:23:34,570  
So they felt that after  
five classes of lyceum.

318  
00:23:34,570 --> 00:23:37,990  
Second cycle, and the  
first class of lyceum I

319  
00:23:37,990 --> 00:23:42,010  
have enough knowledge not  
to start the first class.

320  
00:23:42,010 --> 00:23:44,230  
So I started the second--  
so I finished it,

321  
00:23:44,230 --> 00:23:45,960  
and I finished it well.

322

00:23:45,960 --> 00:23:50,980

In spite lyceum I know I  
not the best of the pupils.

323

00:23:50,980 --> 00:23:55,870

Not that I didn't like to learn,  
but I liked very much to play.

324

00:23:55,870 --> 00:24:02,170

So that was more important  
for me than doing my homework.

325

00:24:02,170 --> 00:24:06,600

So I came back.

326

00:24:06,600 --> 00:24:10,310

And then that summer,  
my father told me,

327

00:24:10,310 --> 00:24:13,720

I'll take you to  
Czernowitz to the farm,

328

00:24:13,720 --> 00:24:15,840

and you'll see how I am  
living, this and that.

329

00:24:15,840 --> 00:24:17,600

And my mother agreed.

330

00:24:17,600 --> 00:24:20,300

This was the summer of 1940?

331

00:24:20,300 --> 00:24:25,840

Yes, 1941.

332

00:24:25,840 --> 00:24:31,030

And it was decided that  
I'm going to go for summer.

333

00:24:31,030 --> 00:24:37,390

School in Romania finished

always on 25th of June.

334  
00:24:37,390 --> 00:24:42,260  
So July and August,  
I was free to go.

335  
00:24:42,260 --> 00:24:49,240  
But the Russians gave  
an ultimatum to Romania

336  
00:24:49,240 --> 00:24:51,610  
to give them back two regions--

337  
00:24:51,610 --> 00:24:55,990  
Bessarabia and Bukovina-- the  
northern part of Bukovina.

338  
00:24:55,990 --> 00:25:01,240  
So when they gave the ultimatum,  
and they gave three days

339  
00:25:01,240 --> 00:25:06,190  
for the Romanians to  
retreat and they to enter,

340  
00:25:06,190 --> 00:25:09,280  
as always, the Russians  
didn't keep their word.

341  
00:25:09,280 --> 00:25:12,690  
So they came right away--

342  
00:25:12,690 --> 00:25:15,190  
I think in two or three  
hours, they were already

343  
00:25:15,190 --> 00:25:20,110  
within the borders of Romania.

344  
00:25:20,110 --> 00:25:23,110  
So my father had to  
leave by foot in order

345

00:25:23,110 --> 00:25:26,320

not to stay with the  
Russians, because he started

346

00:25:26,320 --> 00:25:29,860

to hear about communism.

347

00:25:29,860 --> 00:25:33,160

And their procedure  
was that people

348

00:25:33,160 --> 00:25:38,560

who have money or have a lot  
of money, their bourgeoisie,

349

00:25:38,560 --> 00:25:43,770

and this and that, because  
my father was not a worker,

350

00:25:43,770 --> 00:25:46,550

so I couldn't go.

351

00:25:46,550 --> 00:25:48,660

I stayed in Falticeni.

352

00:25:48,660 --> 00:25:53,410

and on September  
6, 1940, that was

353

00:25:53,410 --> 00:26:02,820

a kind of uprising in the  
higher circles in Romania.

354

00:26:02,820 --> 00:26:11,080

So the king was forced to bring  
to power a government, which

355

00:26:11,080 --> 00:26:14,390

was formed by the Iron Guard.

356

00:26:14,390 --> 00:26:20,210

And he put in charge

a general named

357

00:26:20,210 --> 00:26:25,550

Ion Antonescu, who  
later became the fuhrer,

358

00:26:25,550 --> 00:26:28,670

the leader of Romania.

359

00:26:28,670 --> 00:26:33,920

And everything else is known.

360

00:26:33,920 --> 00:26:37,160

When your father left  
his farming community,

361

00:26:37,160 --> 00:26:38,870

did he come back to Falticeni?

362

00:26:38,870 --> 00:26:39,470

No.

363

00:26:39,470 --> 00:26:39,970

No.

364

00:26:39,970 --> 00:26:43,520

He went back to Dorohoi,  
where his father

365

00:26:43,520 --> 00:26:47,900

lived, where he has  
the house, where

366

00:26:47,900 --> 00:26:52,430

he lived all the time because  
he was born also in Dorohoi.

367

00:26:52,430 --> 00:26:55,250

So he came there.

368

00:26:55,250 --> 00:27:02,290

We did not have any



connections immediately.

369  
00:27:02,290 --> 00:27:05,020  
He wrote me after that.

370  
00:27:05,020 --> 00:27:13,060  
So when it was back to school,  
it was a little bit difficult

371  
00:27:13,060 --> 00:27:16,460  
to go for Jews.

372  
00:27:16,460 --> 00:27:18,680  
I do not remember,  
but I think it was not

373  
00:27:18,680 --> 00:27:20,900  
necessary to get  
an authorization

374  
00:27:20,900 --> 00:27:24,860  
to leave the city,  
because I went there,

375  
00:27:24,860 --> 00:27:29,660  
and then my mother came, and  
then he came to Bucharest.

376  
00:27:29,660 --> 00:27:34,700  
So I do not remember if it was  
an authorization necessary.

377  
00:27:34,700 --> 00:27:39,320  
But in any event, both of  
them came to prepare us.

378  
00:27:39,320 --> 00:27:43,880  
So in September of 1940, even  
though Antonescu came to power,

379  
00:27:43,880 --> 00:27:46,130  
you went back to school  
for the second year.

380  
00:27:46,130 --> 00:27:50,970  
The third year-- the second  
year but the third grade.

381  
00:27:50,970 --> 00:27:54,830  
And what brought your  
parents to Bucharest?

382  
00:27:54,830 --> 00:27:56,240  
What my parents  
did in Bucharest?

383  
00:27:56,240 --> 00:27:58,070  
Why did they come to Bucharest?

384  
00:27:58,070 --> 00:28:01,670  
They came to Bucharest  
because I was there.

385  
00:28:01,670 --> 00:28:05,410  
In the first year when I  
was, they came to Bucharest.

386  
00:28:05,410 --> 00:28:08,120  
And in the second year,  
they came to Bucharest.

387  
00:28:08,120 --> 00:28:11,450  
And then I started  
to talk to them,

388  
00:28:11,450 --> 00:28:16,590  
because I wanted them to be  
together, and this, and that.

389  
00:28:16,590 --> 00:28:21,110  
So the second year, I  
practically finished my job,

390  
00:28:21,110 --> 00:28:29,310  
and they agreed before  
the year ended that they

391  
00:28:29,310 --> 00:28:31,580  
are going to be again together.

392  
00:28:31,580 --> 00:28:36,910  
And both the civil law  
and the religious and law

393  
00:28:36,910 --> 00:28:42,180  
of the Jewish faith did  
not allow to remarry.

394  
00:28:42,180 --> 00:28:48,200  
So they had a kind of  
discussion how to do it.

395  
00:28:48,200 --> 00:28:52,200  
And in any event, the decision  
was to go back to Dorohoi

396  
00:28:52,200 --> 00:28:54,160  
to live together.

397  
00:28:54,160 --> 00:28:55,560  
So what was that year like?

398  
00:28:55,560 --> 00:28:58,977  
Was there increased  
anti-Semitic action?

399  
00:28:58,977 --> 00:28:59,560  
Oh, yes, sure.

400  
00:28:59,560 --> 00:29:05,320  
The Iron Guard was  
very anti-Semitic.

401  
00:29:05,320 --> 00:29:07,530  
That was part of their program.

402  
00:29:07,530 --> 00:29:10,890  
They were the Romanian

fascists, really.

403

00:29:10,890 --> 00:29:16,440

It was the same  
program as the Germans,

404

00:29:16,440 --> 00:29:19,140

and even a little  
bit more exacerbated

405

00:29:19,140 --> 00:29:25,320

because in their blood was  
running the anti-Semitism.

406

00:29:25,320 --> 00:29:30,890

While in Germany, I can't say  
that it was the same thing,

407

00:29:30,890 --> 00:29:33,550

in spite of this  
happening, because it

408

00:29:33,550 --> 00:29:37,590

was this crazy Hitler.

409

00:29:37,590 --> 00:29:40,230

Can you give me any  
examples of specific things

410

00:29:40,230 --> 00:29:44,010

you saw or experienced from  
the Iron Guard that year

411

00:29:44,010 --> 00:29:45,000

in Bucharest?

412

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:46,740

Yes, sure.

413

00:29:46,740 --> 00:29:53,420

First of all, I was  
in a boarding school.

414

00:29:53,420 --> 00:29:56,000

So I slept overnight there.

415

00:29:56,000 --> 00:29:58,120

We had breakfast.

416

00:29:58,120 --> 00:30:03,910

We had the theoretical classes  
four hours in the morning.

417

00:30:03,910 --> 00:30:06,080

Then we ate in the afternoon.

418

00:30:06,080 --> 00:30:12,890

We had four hours practical and  
shops, and then we eat again.

419

00:30:12,890 --> 00:30:16,140

And we went home  
to do our homework.

420

00:30:16,140 --> 00:30:17,890

And a certain hour--

421

00:30:17,890 --> 00:30:20,710

9:00, 10:00, I do not remember--

422

00:30:20,710 --> 00:30:26,320

was finished everything,  
they turned off the lights,

423

00:30:26,320 --> 00:30:28,045

and you went to bed.

424

00:30:28,045 --> 00:30:33,560

And next day, the thing  
repeating themselves.

425

00:30:33,560 --> 00:30:41,450

So in the first  
year, because it was

426

00:30:41,450 --> 00:30:47,360

a lot of demand for  
this kind of school,

427

00:30:47,360 --> 00:30:52,940

the dormitories were not  
sufficient for the demand.

428

00:30:52,940 --> 00:30:58,850

So they rented another building  
where they set dormitories

429

00:30:58,850 --> 00:31:00,230

for us.

430

00:31:00,230 --> 00:31:04,880

So we went from the dormitories  
to the school and back

431

00:31:04,880 --> 00:31:07,730

home on our own--

432

00:31:07,730 --> 00:31:10,040

was not a big distance--

433

00:31:10,040 --> 00:31:13,770

434

00:31:13,770 --> 00:31:21,490

but not after 1940 when the  
Iron Guard came on power.

435

00:31:21,490 --> 00:31:24,550

Then was not any more posi--

436

00:31:24,550 --> 00:31:31,040

437

00:31:31,040 --> 00:31:33,930

This is Side B, Tape 1.

438

00:31:33,930 --> 00:31:38,060  
Yeah to repeat a few words--

439  
00:31:38,060 --> 00:31:43,350  
so in the second year after  
the Iron Guard came to power,

440  
00:31:43,350 --> 00:31:45,330  
they didn't allow  
us to go alone.

441  
00:31:45,330 --> 00:31:51,380  
So we went the entire group,  
we left all of us together.

442  
00:31:51,380 --> 00:31:56,900  
And it was a person  
from the administration

443  
00:31:56,900 --> 00:32:03,110  
which went with us to look  
that nothing will happen to us.

444  
00:32:03,110 --> 00:32:04,762  
Was there a curfew  
that you could not

445  
00:32:04,762 --> 00:32:05,720  
go out in the evenings?

446  
00:32:05,720 --> 00:32:12,750  
No, there was no curfew,  
but the Iron Guard members,

447  
00:32:12,750 --> 00:32:17,040  
legionnaires, we  
called them in Romania,

448  
00:32:17,040 --> 00:32:25,050  
they were provoking, and coming  
next to you, and pushing you,

449  
00:32:25,050 --> 00:32:27,830

and then say, why  
did you push me?

450  
00:32:27,830 --> 00:32:31,730  
And started fighting,  
and beating, and taking

451  
00:32:31,730 --> 00:32:37,220  
to their organizations' houses.

452  
00:32:37,220 --> 00:32:42,590  
And there were cases  
they killed people--

453  
00:32:42,590 --> 00:32:46,460  
beating them, not shooting them.

454  
00:32:46,460 --> 00:32:48,680  
And there were some  
shooting cases,

455  
00:32:48,680 --> 00:32:54,470  
but my uncle feared  
very much about it.

456  
00:32:54,470 --> 00:33:00,630  
So he convinced my mother to  
take me back to Falticeni.

457  
00:33:00,630 --> 00:33:06,250  
So I went back after Christmas.

458  
00:33:06,250 --> 00:33:09,670  
Because for Christmas,  
both my parents

459  
00:33:09,670 --> 00:33:15,790  
were in Bucharest  
when plans to remarry

460  
00:33:15,790 --> 00:33:21,180  
were already established--



461

00:33:21,180 --> 00:33:23,160  
everything was arranged.

462

00:33:23,160 --> 00:33:25,950  
So that was December  
or January of '41.

463

00:33:25,950 --> 00:33:28,130  
It was something like that--

464

00:33:28,130 --> 00:33:29,580  
'41.

465

00:33:29,580 --> 00:33:32,390  
So I went back to Falticeni.

466

00:33:32,390 --> 00:33:37,530  
And from 21st of January  
'41, the Iron Guard

467

00:33:37,530 --> 00:33:43,470  
wanted to oust the general  
Ion Antonescu to take power

468

00:33:43,470 --> 00:33:47,930  
to make a Nazi regime  
like in Germany.

469

00:33:47,930 --> 00:33:51,150  
And because Antonescu  
was a military man,

470

00:33:51,150 --> 00:33:56,440  
he had the army, so he  
put up this rebellion.

471

00:33:56,440 --> 00:34:03,920  
And the legionnaires were  
arrested, a lot of them killed,

472

00:34:03,920 --> 00:34:07,510  
but not before they

made several programs

473  
00:34:07,510 --> 00:34:11,060  
in the big cities of Romania.

474  
00:34:11,060 --> 00:34:14,480  
And the majority of the  
cities-- so the bulk

475  
00:34:14,480 --> 00:34:19,100  
of the Jewish  
population was there.

476  
00:34:19,100 --> 00:34:26,650  
They broke windows, they  
devastated the stores,

477  
00:34:26,650 --> 00:34:28,449  
all kind of things like that.

478  
00:34:28,449 --> 00:34:31,191

479  
00:34:31,191 --> 00:34:35,790  
And then it was a curfew, but  
not for the Jewish population,

480  
00:34:35,790 --> 00:34:41,909  
because they didn't know  
who is pro or against.

481  
00:34:41,909 --> 00:34:45,620  
And I was already in Falticeni.

482  
00:34:45,620 --> 00:34:48,120  
Did you go back to  
Bucharest after the uprising

483  
00:34:48,120 --> 00:34:48,889  
was put down?

484  
00:34:48,889 --> 00:34:53,580

No, because end of May--

485

00:34:53,580 --> 00:34:55,380

I do not remember  
exactly the date,

486

00:34:55,380 --> 00:34:58,510

but it was the end of  
May, my parents married.

487

00:34:58,510 --> 00:35:06,420

And beginning of June, we  
went to Dorohoi to my father.

488

00:35:06,420 --> 00:35:12,590

And when we went  
to Dorohoi it was

489

00:35:12,590 --> 00:35:18,770

a law which prevented the  
Jews to travel freely.

490

00:35:18,770 --> 00:35:21,800

So we had to get  
them authorization.

491

00:35:21,800 --> 00:35:26,630

And because of this, and  
with a little bit of bribery,

492

00:35:26,630 --> 00:35:29,140

everything had been settled.

493

00:35:29,140 --> 00:35:36,170

And we arrived in Dorohoi  
a week, or maybe 10 days--

494

00:35:36,170 --> 00:35:39,170

maximum 10 days before  
the Second World War

495

00:35:39,170 --> 00:35:40,850

started for Romania--

496  
00:35:40,850 --> 00:35:43,460  
when the Germans,  
and the Romanians,

497  
00:35:43,460 --> 00:35:50,420  
and all the other  
armies went to Russia.

498  
00:35:50,420 --> 00:35:55,190  
And what was the impact on  
you when your parents of that?

499  
00:35:55,190 --> 00:35:57,470  
What happened to you next?

500  
00:35:57,470 --> 00:35:59,380  
After my parents married?

501  
00:35:59,380 --> 00:36:01,220  
And you went back to Dorohoi.

502  
00:36:01,220 --> 00:36:03,140  
Yeah, we went back  
to the Dorohoi.

503  
00:36:03,140 --> 00:36:08,090  
We had the house of my  
father and my grandfather--

504  
00:36:08,090 --> 00:36:09,260  
his father--

505  
00:36:09,260 --> 00:36:12,700  
was still alive.

506  
00:36:12,700 --> 00:36:14,470  
And we stayed there.

507  
00:36:14,470 --> 00:36:21,820  
We didn't have much time  
because on the 22nd of June--

508  
00:36:21,820 --> 00:36:25,450  
21st or 22nd during the night--

509  
00:36:25,450 --> 00:36:26,980  
we felt it.

510  
00:36:26,980 --> 00:36:33,010  
We saw a lot of army soldiers  
going back and forth,

511  
00:36:33,010 --> 00:36:37,510  
but we did not realize  
that it's going to start.

512  
00:36:37,510 --> 00:36:48,760  
He was taken as a hostage to be  
killed if the Jewish population

513  
00:36:48,760 --> 00:36:52,360  
would kill Romanian or  
German soldiers passing

514  
00:36:52,360 --> 00:36:55,330  
by who are staying in Dorohoi.

515  
00:36:55,330 --> 00:36:56,950  
Your father was taken hostage?

516  
00:36:56,950 --> 00:37:03,190  
Yes, my father-- a lot of  
other Jews from Dorohoi.

517  
00:37:03,190 --> 00:37:04,030  
How did that happen?

518  
00:37:04,030 --> 00:37:05,980  
Someone stormed into the house?

519  
00:37:05,980 --> 00:37:07,870  
Or they issued an order that--

520

00:37:07,870 --> 00:37:11,830

No, no, they sent a policemen--

521

00:37:11,830 --> 00:37:16,500

at least was the  
case with my father.

522

00:37:16,500 --> 00:37:19,480

And they told him, OK,  
you have to go with us,

523

00:37:19,480 --> 00:37:26,160

because my boss told  
me to bring you there.

524

00:37:26,160 --> 00:37:29,220

So he went.

525

00:37:29,220 --> 00:37:35,120

He stayed, I think, some  
10 days or 20 days--

526

00:37:35,120 --> 00:37:36,290

I can't tell you exactly.

527

00:37:36,290 --> 00:37:41,000

And then he was taken to  
forced labor in another city.

528

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:43,700

Were you aware at the time  
of what was happening to him,

529

00:37:43,700 --> 00:37:46,670

or you found out afterwards?

530

00:37:46,670 --> 00:37:48,550

No.

531

00:37:48,550 --> 00:37:52,190

While he was hostage,  
we prayed that nothing

532  
00:37:52,190 --> 00:37:56,390  
happens in Dorohoi,  
because nobody

533  
00:37:56,390 --> 00:38:03,050  
knew who is going to be among  
the ones or if all of them

534  
00:38:03,050 --> 00:38:04,840  
would be killed.

535  
00:38:04,840 --> 00:38:12,540  
But after they took  
him to forced labor,

536  
00:38:12,540 --> 00:38:19,720  
I think we received one  
or two letters from him.

537  
00:38:19,720 --> 00:38:24,240  
But it was not too much  
time, because on November 15,

538  
00:38:24,240 --> 00:38:28,610  
we were deported the  
same year for the one.

539  
00:38:28,610 --> 00:38:30,900  
We were deported  
to Transnistria.

540  
00:38:30,900 --> 00:38:36,060  
So then all kind of  
connections were cut.

541  
00:38:36,060 --> 00:38:38,880  
Where was he taken  
to forced labor?

542  
00:38:38,880 --> 00:38:41,980

543

00:38:41,980 --> 00:38:48,250

He was taking to forced labor  
in a quarry near Biruinta,

544

00:38:48,250 --> 00:38:53,525

which was another city in  
the southern part of Moldova.

545

00:38:53,525 --> 00:38:56,230

546

00:38:56,230 --> 00:38:59,410

How did you and your mother  
manage between the end of June

547

00:38:59,410 --> 00:39:03,820

when your father was taken  
hostage and your deportation?

548

00:39:03,820 --> 00:39:09,100

Very hard, because  
we didn't have

549

00:39:09,100 --> 00:39:12,820

too much financial resources.

550

00:39:12,820 --> 00:39:22,520

Because when he left the farm,  
probably some money left there,

551

00:39:22,520 --> 00:39:27,140

a lot of money he didn't have  
because, this was circulating,

552

00:39:27,140 --> 00:39:30,020

and no income could come.

553

00:39:30,020 --> 00:39:34,370

He couldn't sell anything  
in order to have money.

554

00:39:34,370 --> 00:39:37,250



My mother didn't have either.

555

00:39:37,250 --> 00:39:45,320

She had a house in Falticeni,  
but she couldn't sell it.

556

00:39:45,320 --> 00:39:48,140

She sold it only  
a couple of days

557

00:39:48,140 --> 00:39:51,040

before he left in Transnistria,  
and she received the money

558

00:39:51,040 --> 00:39:55,320

but it was worth  
nothing at that time.

559

00:39:55,320 --> 00:40:04,880

And I was taken almost  
daily to forced to work--

560

00:40:04,880 --> 00:40:12,990

working the streets,  
unloading rail cars with flour

561

00:40:12,990 --> 00:40:17,270

or whatever they had to unload.

562

00:40:17,270 --> 00:40:19,400

How did they come and get you?

563

00:40:19,400 --> 00:40:21,380

How were you assigned  
those duties?

564

00:40:21,380 --> 00:40:23,150

Did you have to go on register?

565

00:40:23,150 --> 00:40:24,110

No, no, no.

566

00:40:24,110 --> 00:40:32,450  
They knew where the Jews were,  
and they came and took us.

567  
00:40:32,450 --> 00:40:38,060  
And of course, we had  
those distinctive signs--

568  
00:40:38,060 --> 00:40:43,400  
the yellow spot with  
the Magen David on it.

569  
00:40:43,400 --> 00:40:46,590  
So every day, someone came and  
knocked on your door and said--

570  
00:40:46,590 --> 00:40:49,130  
Yes, they said,  
OK, come to work.

571  
00:40:49,130 --> 00:40:50,960  
Was your mother made  
to work as well?

572  
00:40:50,960 --> 00:40:52,010  
No.

573  
00:40:52,010 --> 00:40:53,460  
Your grandfather?

574  
00:40:53,460 --> 00:40:56,210  
No, he was over 80 at that time.

575  
00:40:56,210 --> 00:40:57,180  
I don't know-- 82, 83.

576  
00:40:57,180 --> 00:41:02,470

577  
00:41:02,470 --> 00:41:06,490  
Unfortunately, but very  
fortunately for him,

578

00:41:06,490 --> 00:41:10,780

he died maybe two weeks  
before we were deported.

579

00:41:10,780 --> 00:41:12,710

Because if he would  
have been deported,

580

00:41:12,710 --> 00:41:19,410

he probably wouldn't make  
it beyond the cars, which

581

00:41:19,410 --> 00:41:23,270

were taking us to Transnistria.

582

00:41:23,270 --> 00:41:27,820

So during this time just between  
June and your deportation,

583

00:41:27,820 --> 00:41:30,940

there was still food, and  
you had your clothing,

584

00:41:30,940 --> 00:41:32,350

and you lived in your own home.

585

00:41:32,350 --> 00:41:34,520

We lived in our own home.

586

00:41:34,520 --> 00:41:36,770

We had clothing.

587

00:41:36,770 --> 00:41:41,710

Food was not  
abundance, but it was.

588

00:41:41,710 --> 00:41:50,590

They were the rationalized  
items like bread, oil, sugar--

589

00:41:50,590 --> 00:41:53,110

590

00:41:53,110 --> 00:41:57,820

maybe a few other things  
which I can't tell you now.

591

00:41:57,820 --> 00:42:06,430

So we get those rail tickets,  
and we exchange them for bread,

592

00:42:06,430 --> 00:42:09,490

let's say-- paying  
the cost of the bread.

593

00:42:09,490 --> 00:42:13,470

And in Dorohoi, maybe  
in other cities too,

594

00:42:13,470 --> 00:42:20,050

we're not allowed to go to buy  
bread wherever and whenever we

595

00:42:20,050 --> 00:42:20,890

wanted.

596

00:42:20,890 --> 00:42:23,690

There are certain hours  
and certain places.

597

00:42:23,690 --> 00:42:32,750

So let's say if there were three  
or four bakeries in Dorohoi,

598

00:42:32,750 --> 00:42:37,450

we were allowed only to this one  
in this place between this hour

599

00:42:37,450 --> 00:42:39,370

and that hour.

600

00:42:39,370 --> 00:42:43,060

There were curfews too,  
but I do not remember them

601  
00:42:43,060 --> 00:42:45,560  
because I didn't go out.

602  
00:42:45,560 --> 00:42:49,270  
Were there still do Jewish  
shop owners, or had--

603  
00:42:49,270 --> 00:42:51,430  
Yes, there were.

604  
00:42:51,430 --> 00:42:53,840  
So what happened when  
you were deported?

605  
00:42:53,840 --> 00:42:57,410  
How did they come  
and take you away?

606  
00:42:57,410 --> 00:42:58,140  
What was--

607  
00:42:58,140 --> 00:43:04,450  
There were announcers  
on the streets signed

608  
00:43:04,450 --> 00:43:09,940  
by the mayor of the city.

609  
00:43:09,940 --> 00:43:20,570  
They said, according to the laws  
and whatever they've got from

610  
00:43:20,570 --> 00:43:26,890  
the higher-ups, the following  
streets are being evacuated,

611  
00:43:26,890 --> 00:43:28,220  
not deported--

612  
00:43:28,220 --> 00:43:30,050  
are being evacuated.

613

00:43:30,050 --> 00:43:33,080

So everybody takes  
their belongings

614

00:43:33,080 --> 00:43:39,920

and comes no later than this  
time to the railway station.

615

00:43:39,920 --> 00:43:42,840

Did they say where you  
were being evacuated to?

616

00:43:42,840 --> 00:43:43,940

No, no, no.

617

00:43:43,940 --> 00:43:47,780

But we knew already,  
because we were the third

618

00:43:47,780 --> 00:43:49,010

or the fourth transport--

619

00:43:49,010 --> 00:43:52,610

I don't remember exactly, I  
think the third transport--

620

00:43:52,610 --> 00:43:55,430

621

00:43:55,430 --> 00:44:00,800

and we knew, because  
the soldiers knew

622

00:44:00,800 --> 00:44:02,990

when they had  
friends, and friends

623

00:44:02,990 --> 00:44:05,870

told another friend,  
to a third friend,

624

00:44:05,870 --> 00:44:10,190

came to the ears of  
the Jewish people.

625  
00:44:10,190 --> 00:44:14,420  
But we didn't know what's  
going to await us there.

626  
00:44:14,420 --> 00:44:17,540  
Did you ever consider  
trying to escape?

627  
00:44:17,540 --> 00:44:19,330  
No.

628  
00:44:19,330 --> 00:44:22,520  
So how many people  
were rounded up then

629  
00:44:22,520 --> 00:44:24,920  
when you arrived at  
the train station?

630  
00:44:24,920 --> 00:44:26,450  
How many of your  
neighbors would you

631  
00:44:26,450 --> 00:44:29,810  
estimate were there with you?

632  
00:44:29,810 --> 00:44:33,980  
I can't tell you, but at  
least by the hundreds,

633  
00:44:33,980 --> 00:44:36,980  
because the train was long--

634  
00:44:36,980 --> 00:44:38,840  
a lot of cars.

635  
00:44:38,840 --> 00:44:44,720  
And in each car, I don't  
maybe we were 80, maybe 100,

636

00:44:44,720 --> 00:44:48,880  
because I didn't count them.

637

00:44:48,880 --> 00:44:53,460  
The soldiers were saying,  
come on this, come on that.

638

00:44:53,460 --> 00:44:58,390  
And let's say if there  
were only 10 cars,

639

00:44:58,390 --> 00:45:02,620  
they were already between  
800 and 1,000 people.

640

00:45:02,620 --> 00:45:05,410  
And you were crammed  
onto these cattle cars?

641

00:45:05,410 --> 00:45:07,240  
Yes, yes, yes.

642

00:45:07,240 --> 00:45:10,250  
Just everyone together?

643

00:45:10,250 --> 00:45:11,290  
What does it mean?

644

00:45:11,290 --> 00:45:13,120  
I mean men and women  
together, children?

645

00:45:13,120 --> 00:45:13,900  
Oh, yes.

646

00:45:13,900 --> 00:45:16,270  
Yeah, yeah.

647

00:45:16,270 --> 00:45:19,360  
And how long did the trip take?

648



00:45:19,360 --> 00:45:20,530  
A couple of days--

649  
00:45:20,530 --> 00:45:24,400  
two, three days,  
because there were

650  
00:45:24,400 --> 00:45:28,890  
a lot of bridges over  
Dniester, because they sent us

651  
00:45:28,890 --> 00:45:31,000  
in Transnistria, which  
means over Dniester.

652  
00:45:31,000 --> 00:45:34,830

653  
00:45:34,830 --> 00:45:39,610  
At Otaci, this was the  
name of the city which

654  
00:45:39,610 --> 00:45:47,440  
was bordering the river, they  
took us out from the cars,

655  
00:45:47,440 --> 00:45:57,430  
and they told us, OK, now you're  
going to cross with some boats.

656  
00:45:57,430 --> 00:46:01,810  
They were special boats-- two  
boats and a kind of a platform,

657  
00:46:01,810 --> 00:46:03,700  
because the military--

658  
00:46:03,700 --> 00:46:13,100  
they went in chariots  
with horse-carried.

659  
00:46:13,100 --> 00:46:17,840  
Tell me more about just

the train part of the trip

660  
00:46:17,840 --> 00:46:20,930  
until you got to the Nistria.

661  
00:46:20,930 --> 00:46:22,730  
Did people die along the way?

662  
00:46:22,730 --> 00:46:25,910

663  
00:46:25,910 --> 00:46:35,180  
I do not remember hearing  
about death in the cars.

664  
00:46:35,180 --> 00:46:37,890  
Could be.

665  
00:46:37,890 --> 00:46:40,020  
It wouldn't wonder  
me if somebody

666  
00:46:40,020 --> 00:46:44,430  
would tell me, yes, there  
were several people dying.

667  
00:46:44,430 --> 00:46:50,730  
But I know for sure, and I  
saw, after we crossed Dniester,

668  
00:46:50,730 --> 00:46:53,880  
until we reached  
Shargorod I'm talking

669  
00:46:53,880 --> 00:46:57,360  
about myself and the group.

670  
00:46:57,360 --> 00:46:59,970

671  
00:46:59,970 --> 00:47:06,480  
There were people which died

on the road, and relatives,

672

00:47:06,480 --> 00:47:09,040

they just wanted  
to stay with them--

673

00:47:09,040 --> 00:47:15,180

either children with their  
parents, parents for kids,

674

00:47:15,180 --> 00:47:19,040

or whatever other  
relatives in the family.

675

00:47:19,040 --> 00:47:20,370

And they were not allowed.

676

00:47:20,370 --> 00:47:27,120

They were driven and beaten  
by the soldiers to go.

677

00:47:27,120 --> 00:47:31,280

And so they left there.

678

00:47:31,280 --> 00:47:36,120

And probably nobody knows  
even today after 50-something

679

00:47:36,120 --> 00:47:36,960

years--

680

00:47:36,960 --> 00:47:48,642

55 years-- if they were buried  
or the dogs or other animals--

681

00:47:48,642 --> 00:47:52,690

682

00:47:52,690 --> 00:47:56,380

You went on foot from after  
you crossed the Nistria

683

00:47:56,380 --> 00:47:57,670  
to Shargorod.

684  
00:47:57,670 --> 00:48:02,230  
Yes, it was, I think,  
40, 50 kilometers.

685  
00:48:02,230 --> 00:48:05,560  
How many days do you think it  
took you to walk that distance?

686  
00:48:05,560 --> 00:48:08,680  
I think it took  
us some two days,

687  
00:48:08,680 --> 00:48:11,950  
because they were forcing us.

688  
00:48:11,950 --> 00:48:17,440  
The soldiers went by foot  
as long as they wished,

689  
00:48:17,440 --> 00:48:21,160  
or because they were  
fed, and they had

690  
00:48:21,160 --> 00:48:25,750  
those horse-driven chariots.

691  
00:48:25,750 --> 00:48:30,790  
But we didn't have this.

692  
00:48:30,790 --> 00:48:33,250  
So they didn't feed you  
along the way at all?

693  
00:48:33,250 --> 00:48:36,950  
Oh, no, no, no.

694  
00:48:36,950 --> 00:48:38,753  
And you were carrying  
your belongings.

695

00:48:38,753 --> 00:48:39,920

What did you bring with you?

696

00:48:39,920 --> 00:48:43,470

697

00:48:43,470 --> 00:48:48,990

We found out what happened  
in the first transports,

698

00:48:48,990 --> 00:48:53,890

so we were a little bit more  
aware of what's going on.

699

00:48:53,890 --> 00:49:05,060

So we took one rucksack-- a  
sack on our shoulders shoulders.

700

00:49:05,060 --> 00:49:11,020

And in this sack, we put  
whatever we thought we need--

701

00:49:11,020 --> 00:49:15,190

of course, the  
best of the things.

702

00:49:15,190 --> 00:49:20,770

But I remember both  
myself and my mother,

703

00:49:20,770 --> 00:49:24,095

I wear on me two suits--

704

00:49:24,095 --> 00:49:29,750

a pair of pants and on top of it  
another pair, and two jackets.

705

00:49:29,750 --> 00:49:36,020

And I had two overcoats,  
one of them being

706

00:49:36,020 --> 00:49:41,150

with a fur coat of my father--

707

00:49:41,150 --> 00:49:45,260  
upholstered with fur inside.

708

00:49:45,260 --> 00:49:52,890  
So I have, as you can  
see, an eye effect.

709

00:49:52,890 --> 00:50:00,930  
At that age, the physician said  
that if I wear certain glasses,

710

00:50:00,930 --> 00:50:04,600  
correction glasses,  
on my left eye,

711

00:50:04,600 --> 00:50:14,580  
which was the one this  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] a blank

712

00:50:14,580 --> 00:50:19,110  
lens with just a little  
hole in the very center,

713

00:50:19,110 --> 00:50:24,070  
the eye position  
would correct itself.

714

00:50:24,070 --> 00:50:29,130  
So this being in the  
sack, I lost them,

715

00:50:29,130 --> 00:50:33,150  
which was, I don't know,  
how important was it?

716

00:50:33,150 --> 00:50:37,290  
But what they had on  
us was this we left.

717

00:50:37,290 --> 00:50:40,600  
What did you have

in your rucksack?

718

00:50:40,600 --> 00:50:43,410

Shirts, underwear--

719

00:50:43,410 --> 00:50:44,850

Jewelry, money?

720

00:50:44,850 --> 00:50:45,910

No, no, no.

721

00:50:45,910 --> 00:50:51,750

This had been settled before,  
and I'll tell about it.

722

00:50:51,750 --> 00:50:53,420

We are not allowed--

723

00:50:53,420 --> 00:50:58,910

and these announces  
on the streets

724

00:50:58,910 --> 00:51:02,570

said that all the  
money, Romanian leu,

725

00:51:02,570 --> 00:51:13,310

leu was the money, had to be  
given to the national bank.

726

00:51:13,310 --> 00:51:19,880

And we were going to receive  
a certain number of rubles

727

00:51:19,880 --> 00:51:23,170

for a certain number of leus.

728

00:51:23,170 --> 00:51:28,030

In any event, it was  
practically nothing,

729

00:51:28,030 --> 00:51:34,780

because the level had a value,  
but the ruble, the Russian,

730  
00:51:34,780 --> 00:51:40,180  
had no value, because  
it was occupied land.

731  
00:51:40,180 --> 00:51:45,160  
And of course, there was the  
leu the master, not the ruble.

732  
00:51:45,160 --> 00:51:48,400  
And then everything  
else as jewelry

733  
00:51:48,400 --> 00:51:51,730  
was supposed to be given  
to the national bank,

734  
00:51:51,730 --> 00:51:54,718  
and they're going  
to pay something.

735  
00:51:54,718 --> 00:51:57,530

736  
00:51:57,530 --> 00:52:00,560  
Neither my mother  
nor myself wanted

737  
00:52:00,560 --> 00:52:02,900  
to take chances,  
because, of course,

738  
00:52:02,900 --> 00:52:05,600  
everybody who was going  
to be caught with money,

739  
00:52:05,600 --> 00:52:07,340  
or jewelry, and  
this, and that was

740  
00:52:07,340 --> 00:52:09,530



going to be shot on the spot.

741  
00:52:09,530 --> 00:52:11,900  
So I didn't want to  
take this chance,

742  
00:52:11,900 --> 00:52:14,370  
especially my father was away.

743  
00:52:14,370 --> 00:52:19,370  
So I went to the bank, and I  
gave them the money and this.

744  
00:52:19,370 --> 00:52:25,370  
And as I told you, my mother  
had the chance or no chance

745  
00:52:25,370 --> 00:52:28,550  
to sell the house, and she  
received the money two,

746  
00:52:28,550 --> 00:52:31,170  
three days before this happened.

747  
00:52:31,170 --> 00:52:35,950  
So all the few leu which  
we had there, because

748  
00:52:35,950 --> 00:52:39,380  
and that times, she couldn't  
sell it at the price.

749  
00:52:39,380 --> 00:52:42,530  
She got whatever she  
got, and she was happy

750  
00:52:42,530 --> 00:52:44,750  
that she finished with it.

751  
00:52:44,750 --> 00:52:51,830  
So I took this money and  
all the jewels we had--

752

00:52:51,830 --> 00:52:59,190

and we had I don't want to say  
a lot, but we had good ones.

753

00:52:59,190 --> 00:53:00,990

For example, I  
remember my father

754

00:53:00,990 --> 00:53:08,280

had a pocket watch all in  
gold with four covers on top

755

00:53:08,280 --> 00:53:14,430

and behind, everything in  
gold, and all kind of rings.

756

00:53:14,430 --> 00:53:15,510

And he had a pearl--

757

00:53:15,510 --> 00:53:20,130

758

00:53:20,130 --> 00:53:25,130

my mother told me the  
story with this pearl.

759

00:53:25,130 --> 00:53:29,010

And when I went there, they  
took all this jewelry--

760

00:53:29,010 --> 00:53:34,740

I don't know, I think there  
were some 2 kilograms, meaning

761

00:53:34,740 --> 00:53:38,080

4.5 pounds or  
something like that,

762

00:53:38,080 --> 00:53:42,420

put on the scale on which  
you would weigh, let's say,

763

00:53:42,420 --> 00:53:43,890  
potatoes.

764  
00:53:43,890 --> 00:53:46,050  
And said, oh, 2 kilograms--

765  
00:53:46,050 --> 00:53:47,760  
2 kilograms, how much?

766  
00:53:47,760 --> 00:53:48,960  
So many leus.

767  
00:53:48,960 --> 00:53:50,370  
So they gave us leus.

768  
00:53:50,370 --> 00:53:55,620  
It's exactly like you would give  
me, I don't know what jewelry--

769  
00:53:55,620 --> 00:53:57,390  
important you have on you--

770  
00:53:57,390 --> 00:54:03,680  
and I'll give you \$0.50, because  
it's only 100 gram or 200

771  
00:54:03,680 --> 00:54:04,410  
grams.

772  
00:54:04,410 --> 00:54:08,610  
So that was a robbery.

773  
00:54:08,610 --> 00:54:13,620  
And this pearl, I  
saw he threw it away.

774  
00:54:13,620 --> 00:54:16,240  
And I said, this  
you don't weigh?

775  
00:54:16,240 --> 00:54:18,840  
He said, no, this

is a false one.

776

00:54:18,840 --> 00:54:23,840

But it was because it  
was especially one--

777

00:54:23,840 --> 00:54:28,040

it was not a culture pearl.

778

00:54:28,040 --> 00:54:33,240

So as much for jewelry, and  
money, and other things.

779

00:54:33,240 --> 00:54:36,620

So basically in your rucksack,  
then, was more clothing.

780

00:54:36,620 --> 00:54:38,830

Only.

781

00:54:38,830 --> 00:54:42,480

So in this forced  
march to Shargorod

782

00:54:42,480 --> 00:54:44,940

you said that you  
were with a group.

783

00:54:44,940 --> 00:54:46,850

Did you band together with them?

784

00:54:46,850 --> 00:54:53,120

Those people from Dorohoi,  
which went to the rail cars,

785

00:54:53,120 --> 00:54:54,990

and we went together.

786

00:54:54,990 --> 00:54:56,960

So what happened when  
you went to Shargorod?

787

00:54:56,960 --> 00:54:59,280  
Did everyone from that  
group go to Shargorod?

788  
00:54:59,280 --> 00:55:03,110

789  
00:55:03,110 --> 00:55:05,210  
I think so.

790  
00:55:05,210 --> 00:55:11,600  
I know that a lot of people  
from Dorohoi stayed in Magurele,

791  
00:55:11,600 --> 00:55:15,390  
and some of them  
went to Murfatlar.

792  
00:55:15,390 --> 00:55:19,050  
But how this happened,  
I do not know,

793  
00:55:19,050 --> 00:55:23,650  
because my head at that  
time was not there.

794  
00:55:23,650 --> 00:55:28,320  
Secondly at 17,  
I did not realize

795  
00:55:28,320 --> 00:55:30,990  
the gravity of the things.

796  
00:55:30,990 --> 00:55:39,630  
Certainly, my mother was  
40-something, and at that age,

797  
00:55:39,630 --> 00:55:44,300  
she was suffering with a liver.

798  
00:55:44,300 --> 00:55:52,420  
I had to carry a good  
part of the time her sack.

799  
00:55:52,420 --> 00:55:56,420  
So I didn't think about it.

800  
00:55:56,420 --> 00:56:02,720  
But we are stopped on  
the field on our way

801  
00:56:02,720 --> 00:56:05,400  
to Shargorod during the night.

802  
00:56:05,400 --> 00:56:09,690  
And I think they  
gave us an hour--

803  
00:56:09,690 --> 00:56:15,030  
very little time  
either for us to rest

804  
00:56:15,030 --> 00:56:16,550  
or for the soldiers to rest.

805  
00:56:16,550 --> 00:56:19,200

806  
00:56:19,200 --> 00:56:21,330  
And when I arrived  
in Shargorod, it

807  
00:56:21,330 --> 00:56:28,780  
was a disaffected synagogue  
without windows, without doors.

808  
00:56:28,780 --> 00:56:30,210  
And we stayed there.

809  
00:56:30,210 --> 00:56:32,410  
I think we had  
hundreds of people.

810  
00:56:32,410 --> 00:56:39,210  
It was practically you couldn't

put anything on the floor.

811  
00:56:39,210 --> 00:56:42,010  
Everything was occupied.

812  
00:56:42,010 --> 00:56:53,550  
And some people tried to make  
some fires in order to warm up,

813  
00:56:53,550 --> 00:56:55,530  
especially elderly one.

814  
00:56:55,530 --> 00:57:02,130  
It was 20-something of  
November in Ukraine,

815  
00:57:02,130 --> 00:57:05,030  
and that year was  
very, very cold--

816  
00:57:05,030 --> 00:57:07,010  
snow and everything.

817  
00:57:07,010 --> 00:57:15,970  
And '41 was a very bitter  
winter in Ukraine and Russia

818  
00:57:15,970 --> 00:57:17,020  
from the front.

819  
00:57:17,020 --> 00:57:19,520  
Did they give you anything to  
eat when you got to Shargorod?

820  
00:57:19,520 --> 00:57:22,560  
No, no, no.

821  
00:57:22,560 --> 00:57:25,620  
Well, how did you survive?

822  
00:57:25,620 --> 00:57:32,820  
We had something from the

house, because we found out

823

00:57:32,820 --> 00:57:38,700  
that the voyage, the trip was  
going to last two, three days.

824

00:57:38,700 --> 00:57:44,070  
And we ate sparingly in order  
to have it for more days,

825

00:57:44,070 --> 00:57:47,910  
hoping that when we  
were going to arrive,

826

00:57:47,910 --> 00:57:50,390  
we were going to  
be fed somehow--

827

00:57:50,390 --> 00:57:55,050  
because even the prisoners  
were fed with warm water,

828

00:57:55,050 --> 00:57:58,020  
but still fed, which  
was not the case.

829

00:57:58,020 --> 00:58:03,030  
How long did you stay  
in this old synagogue?

830

00:58:03,030 --> 00:58:08,340  
I think a couple of  
weeks, because my mother

831

00:58:08,340 --> 00:58:16,440  
found this group of people  
to house the Ukrainian,

832

00:58:16,440 --> 00:58:26,100  
because we had a certain surface  
allotted for us for the ghetto.

833

00:58:26,100 --> 00:58:29,880



But if they were  
Christians, Ukrainians,

834  
00:58:29,880 --> 00:58:31,800  
they weren't stored away.

835  
00:58:31,800 --> 00:58:36,450  
But the Jews who are outside  
this, they are put in.

836  
00:58:36,450 --> 00:58:41,985  
So at the border of  
this so-called ghetto,

837  
00:58:41,985 --> 00:58:45,170  
or camp, or whatever  
you want to call it,

838  
00:58:45,170 --> 00:58:47,870  
it was a Christian family.

839  
00:58:47,870 --> 00:58:55,200  
And they had one of their rooms  
which I don't think was bigger

840  
00:58:55,200 --> 00:58:58,330  
than that-- maybe not--

841  
00:58:58,330 --> 00:59:01,780  
with two windows  
and a door which

842  
00:59:01,780 --> 00:59:05,080  
didn't go out, because it  
was a little quiet door.

843  
00:59:05,080 --> 00:59:11,000  
And this door--  
over no nothing in.

844  
00:59:11,000 --> 00:59:12,370  
And we stayed there--

845

00:59:12,370 --> 00:59:14,140  
14 or 16 people there.

846

00:59:14,140 --> 00:59:17,500  
I have to count to give  
you an exact figure.

847

00:59:17,500 --> 00:59:22,120  
But they gave us some straw,  
and we slept on the straw.

848

00:59:22,120 --> 00:59:25,300  
And because it  
was so many people

849

00:59:25,300 --> 00:59:30,820  
in such a small room from  
the breath the walls got--

850

00:59:30,820 --> 00:59:34,340

851

00:59:34,340 --> 00:59:36,460  
I don't know how to tell you--

852

00:59:36,460 --> 00:59:44,140

853

00:59:44,140 --> 00:59:48,970  
the wall start falling because  
it was a lot of moisture

854

00:59:48,970 --> 00:59:53,820  
and this fell down.

855

00:59:53,820 --> 00:59:57,210  
Why did this Ukrainian  
family give you this room?

856

00:59:57,210 --> 00:59:58,730  
For money.

857

00:59:58,730 --> 01:00:01,170

Well, who had money?

858

01:00:01,170 --> 01:00:09,690

We didn't have money,  
but we had things on us.

859

01:00:09,690 --> 01:00:15,800

I gave a suit, which  
let's say was worth two,

860

01:00:15,800 --> 01:00:18,810

three months to stay  
there and to be bargained.

861

01:00:18,810 --> 01:00:23,350

OK, I'm giving you this, I  
want to stay two, three months.

862

01:00:23,350 --> 01:00:26,095

863

01:00:26,095 --> 01:00:28,470

Who were the other people that  
you shared this room with?

864

01:00:28,470 --> 01:00:30,600

People you knew from Dorohoi?

865

01:00:30,600 --> 01:00:36,480

Yes, some of them were  
far-related people

866

01:00:36,480 --> 01:00:39,270

to my father.

867

01:00:39,270 --> 01:00:40,960

And how did everyone get along?

868

01:00:40,960 --> 01:00:43,540

It must have been very trying.

869

01:00:43,540 --> 01:00:44,650

Yes, it was.

870

01:00:44,650 --> 01:00:52,630

But look, at that time, we  
didn't steal from each other.

871

01:00:52,630 --> 01:00:57,970

We didn't have food  
to say, I can't

872

01:00:57,970 --> 01:01:04,870

eat because she or he is  
going to take it from me.

873

01:01:04,870 --> 01:01:08,140

Because we went with  
a shirt, for example,

874

01:01:08,140 --> 01:01:11,140

and we got two or  
three slices of bread.

875

01:01:11,140 --> 01:01:14,200

And we kept this bread  
for a number of days.

876

01:01:14,200 --> 01:01:16,920

877

01:01:16,920 --> 01:01:20,190

Within the area that was  
defined as the ghetto,

878

01:01:20,190 --> 01:01:21,790

could you move around freely?

879

01:01:21,790 --> 01:01:24,900

Yes, freely.

880

01:01:24,900 --> 01:01:26,250

You could move.

881  
01:01:26,250 --> 01:01:34,290  
If we saw a soldier or  
somebody from the Romanian

882  
01:01:34,290 --> 01:01:36,270  
administration, we avoided them.

883  
01:01:36,270 --> 01:01:39,540  
We entered no matter where,  
and nobody would tell us,

884  
01:01:39,540 --> 01:01:42,030  
why did you come to my room?

885  
01:01:42,030 --> 01:01:47,600  
Because the houses there  
were not houses like here.

886  
01:01:47,600 --> 01:01:48,935  
They are poor houses.

887  
01:01:48,935 --> 01:01:51,930

888  
01:01:51,930 --> 01:02:00,730  
All the Jewish stayed,  
because Shargorod was

889  
01:02:00,730 --> 01:02:04,150  
a rail city with a lot of Jews.

890  
01:02:04,150 --> 01:02:07,270  
Was there any cultural  
life in the ghetto?

891  
01:02:07,270 --> 01:02:10,450  
Where their religious  
observances?

892  
01:02:10,450 --> 01:02:15,240  
Maybe religious, but no culture.

893

01:02:15,240 --> 01:02:17,870

And maybe the  
religious gathering--

894

01:02:17,870 --> 01:02:22,810

I mean, the minyan the  
10 people for the prayers

895

01:02:22,810 --> 01:02:26,540

was kept in secret.

896

01:02:26,540 --> 01:02:32,690

I don't know why didn't  
we hear some celebrations

897

01:02:32,690 --> 01:02:38,850

of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur,  
let alone the Sabbath.

898

01:02:38,850 --> 01:02:42,290

So there was a Jewish  
administration also, right?

899

01:02:42,290 --> 01:02:48,050

Yes, the Romanian  
administration established

900

01:02:48,050 --> 01:02:54,480

the administration of the  
ghetto was going to be Jewish.

901

01:02:54,480 --> 01:02:59,540

And out of these documents,  
which I brought them

902

01:02:59,540 --> 01:03:04,900

to you, one of them, of  
course, it's written all in--