

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,600

2  
00:00:00,600 --> 00:00:03,390  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:03,390 --> 00:00:07,950  
interview with Irimia Solomon  
conducted by Phyllis Freedman

4  
00:00:07,950 --> 00:00:11,520  
on June 3, 1996 in the museum.

5  
00:00:11,520 --> 00:00:13,740  
This is the A side of tape two.

6  
00:00:13,740 --> 00:00:16,329

7  
00:00:16,329 --> 00:00:19,540  
You were saying  
about the documents--

8  
00:00:19,540 --> 00:00:26,360  
So we got a kind of  
identification, as I said,

9  
00:00:26,360 --> 00:00:29,640  
[NON-ENGLISH].

10  
00:00:29,640 --> 00:00:32,030  
Probably, without  
any translation,

11  
00:00:32,030 --> 00:00:41,080  
you will understand that is  
the Jewish colony of Sharhorod,

12  
00:00:41,080 --> 00:00:45,550  
bureau of the population,

[NON-ENGLISH]..

13  
00:00:45,550 --> 00:00:49,330  
And this is a bulletin,  
and there is a number.

14  
00:00:49,330 --> 00:00:53,440  
And then is put my  
name, Solomon Irimia.

15  
00:00:53,440 --> 00:00:59,050  
[NON-ENGLISH] means  
the house, number 268.

16  
00:00:59,050 --> 00:01:02,980  
So they knew exactly  
where we were living,

17  
00:01:02,980 --> 00:01:08,860  
and those houses are  
not very livable houses.

18  
00:01:08,860 --> 00:01:14,920  
But in any event, it was  
much, much warmer than outside

19  
00:01:14,920 --> 00:01:16,710  
during the winter.

20  
00:01:16,710 --> 00:01:22,770  
And it was [INAUDIBLE]  
colony, the boss.

21  
00:01:22,770 --> 00:01:27,760  
And this one is Dr.  
[? Taich ?] Dr. [? Taich ?] was

22  
00:01:27,760 --> 00:01:31,780  
a lawyer in Suceava,  
Bukovina, who

23  
00:01:31,780 --> 00:01:38,920  
was deported to by the people

in Bukovina, who, at that time,

24

00:01:38,920 --> 00:01:42,760  
had the German school  
before the First World War

25

00:01:42,760 --> 00:01:45,550  
because it was part  
of Austro-Hungaria,

26

00:01:45,550 --> 00:01:49,090  
all the lawyers  
had kind of a PhD.

27

00:01:49,090 --> 00:01:52,480  
So they were all doctors.

28

00:01:52,480 --> 00:01:55,360  
Now, was this a  
number that you had?

29

00:01:55,360 --> 00:01:57,580  
That was your unique  
number right here?

30

00:01:57,580 --> 00:01:59,584  
Not the house number, but this?

31

00:01:59,584 --> 00:02:00,084  
Probably.

32

00:02:00,084 --> 00:02:01,566  
Did you have an ID number?

33

00:02:01,566 --> 00:02:05,440  
Probably this was the  
ID number because no two

34

00:02:05,440 --> 00:02:08,500  
numbers like this  
were-- everybody got,

35

00:02:08,500 --> 00:02:13,870  
and they were listed in  
some books, I don't know.

36  
00:02:13,870 --> 00:02:19,000  
And then, as you can see,  
this means [NON-ENGLISH]

37  
00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:30,220  
in Romanian, which is seen by  
the commander of the military

38  
00:02:30,220 --> 00:02:33,970  
police of the city.

39  
00:02:33,970 --> 00:02:37,480  
And they had their stamp,  
which this doesn't have.

40  
00:02:37,480 --> 00:02:42,130  
And when they brought  
us back to Dorohoi,

41  
00:02:42,130 --> 00:02:50,330  
they see [NON-ENGLISH],, the  
Jewish community in Dorohoi,

42  
00:02:50,330 --> 00:02:53,710  
which was there, newly formed.

43  
00:02:53,710 --> 00:02:55,540  
They put that we came back.

44  
00:02:55,540 --> 00:03:00,063  
And probably, they registered  
us, that we came back from--

45  
00:03:00,063 --> 00:03:00,750  
Sharhorod.

46  
00:03:00,750 --> 00:03:02,020  
--Sharhorod.

47

00:03:02,020 --> 00:03:04,720

How was the Jewish  
administration

48

00:03:04,720 --> 00:03:06,233

selected or appointed?

49

00:03:06,233 --> 00:03:07,650

Do you know what  
that process was?

50

00:03:07,650 --> 00:03:08,560

No, no.

51

00:03:08,560 --> 00:03:12,900

I have no idea whatsoever.

52

00:03:12,900 --> 00:03:14,550

What did you think  
of these people?

53

00:03:14,550 --> 00:03:18,960

Did you know them, the  
Jewish administration?

54

00:03:18,960 --> 00:03:20,310

What about it?

55

00:03:20,310 --> 00:03:21,890

Did you know these people?

56

00:03:21,890 --> 00:03:22,800

No.

57

00:03:22,800 --> 00:03:27,400

They were-- the majority of  
people living in Sharhorod

58

00:03:27,400 --> 00:03:29,340

were from Bukovina.

59

00:03:29,340 --> 00:03:36,240  
So we, the people from  
Dorohoi, were quite few.

60  
00:03:36,240 --> 00:03:40,560  
Secondly, they felt,  
themselves, they

61  
00:03:40,560 --> 00:03:45,990  
were more intellectual  
and better people

62  
00:03:45,990 --> 00:03:47,420  
than the people from Dorohoi.

63  
00:03:47,420 --> 00:03:48,090  
Why?

64  
00:03:48,090 --> 00:03:49,920  
Because they spoke  
two languages--

65  
00:03:49,920 --> 00:03:53,760  
the Romanian, as everybody  
spoke from Dorohoi,

66  
00:03:53,760 --> 00:03:55,950  
and, on top of it, the  
German because they

67  
00:03:55,950 --> 00:03:59,370  
had the German education  
from Austro-Hungaria.

68  
00:03:59,370 --> 00:04:02,370  
And you said that  
bribery was sort

69  
00:04:02,370 --> 00:04:05,060  
of the currency of the ghetto.

70  
00:04:05,060 --> 00:04:08,430  
The ghetto towards

the Romanian soldiers.

71

00:04:08,430 --> 00:04:10,770

What about the Jewish  
administration?

72

00:04:10,770 --> 00:04:15,210

Could you get favors  
from them the same way?

73

00:04:15,210 --> 00:04:18,279

I don't know.

74

00:04:18,279 --> 00:04:20,440

I heard that, yes.

75

00:04:20,440 --> 00:04:22,240

But to me, it didn't happen.

76

00:04:22,240 --> 00:04:27,500

77

00:04:27,500 --> 00:04:34,640

Maybe they took some briberies  
not to send you to the work

78

00:04:34,640 --> 00:04:38,930

because, to work, the soldiers  
didn't come to pick you up.

79

00:04:38,930 --> 00:04:42,170

There were a few  
designated people

80

00:04:42,170 --> 00:04:44,540

from this Jewish community--

81

00:04:44,540 --> 00:04:47,390

which was imposed,  
the Jewish community.

82

00:04:47,390 --> 00:04:50,390

There was no free  
election to say,

83  
00:04:50,390 --> 00:04:56,000  
I prefer Mrs. Freedman  
instead of Mr. Solomon.

84  
00:04:56,000 --> 00:05:00,060  
They said, OK, you are the boss.

85  
00:05:00,060 --> 00:05:03,660  
So how did you get  
selected for work each day?

86  
00:05:03,660 --> 00:05:07,590  
They came again from  
one to each house

87  
00:05:07,590 --> 00:05:11,730  
and said, OK, we  
need work today.

88  
00:05:11,730 --> 00:05:13,340  
Come and work.

89  
00:05:13,340 --> 00:05:15,040  
And you went.

90  
00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:19,410  
So if they needed  
to build a road--

91  
00:05:19,410 --> 00:05:22,980  
that happened to me in Murafa,  
some 20 kilometers from

92  
00:05:22,980 --> 00:05:24,150  
Sharhorod--

93  
00:05:24,150 --> 00:05:29,910  
they took us there, and they had  
some railcars with three layers



94

00:05:29,910 --> 00:05:33,690  
of beds, like the shelves.

95

00:05:33,690 --> 00:05:35,580  
And we slept there overnight.

96

00:05:35,580 --> 00:05:38,910  
They gave us, I  
think, once or twice--

97

00:05:38,910 --> 00:05:41,070  
I think twice a day--

98

00:05:41,070 --> 00:05:47,970  
some food, but  
just not to starve.

99

00:05:47,970 --> 00:05:53,100  
And the whole day was  
eight, nine, 10 hours' work,

100

00:05:53,100 --> 00:05:55,230  
as long as the day lasted--

101

00:05:55,230 --> 00:05:57,300  
I mean daylight lasted.

102

00:05:57,300 --> 00:06:01,170  
Did they only take young men,  
or was everyone made to work?

103

00:06:01,170 --> 00:06:07,940  
They didn't select--  
preferably young men,

104

00:06:07,940 --> 00:06:12,620  
but no women, no girls.

105

00:06:12,620 --> 00:06:13,930  
I didn't see them.

106

00:06:13,930 --> 00:06:15,365  
Old people were also exempt?

107  
00:06:15,365 --> 00:06:19,970

108  
00:06:19,970 --> 00:06:23,330  
I do not remember very  
old people working there.

109  
00:06:23,330 --> 00:06:26,150  
But look, I was 18.

110  
00:06:26,150 --> 00:06:31,430  
For me, 30 years old was  
old, especially at that time.

111  
00:06:31,430 --> 00:06:37,130  
The 30, 40-year-old people  
were looking much, much older

112  
00:06:37,130 --> 00:06:41,180  
than the 30, 40  
years living today.

113  
00:06:41,180 --> 00:06:44,300  
There was a lot of  
typhus in Sharhorod.

114  
00:06:44,300 --> 00:06:49,700  
Tell me about this disease and  
the medical care that you ex--

115  
00:06:49,700 --> 00:06:51,320  
Medical care was not.

116  
00:06:51,320 --> 00:06:53,450  
There were physicians.

117  
00:06:53,450 --> 00:06:56,750  
And those physicians,  
some of them

118

00:06:56,750 --> 00:07:01,830

were afraid not to  
catch the disease.

119

00:07:01,830 --> 00:07:04,320

So they stayed aside.

120

00:07:04,320 --> 00:07:09,090

Some of them said that  
it's their duty to help,

121

00:07:09,090 --> 00:07:12,590

so they got the disease.

122

00:07:12,590 --> 00:07:13,460

Some died.

123

00:07:13,460 --> 00:07:15,560

Some survived.

124

00:07:15,560 --> 00:07:23,460

But the percentage  
of survival was slim.

125

00:07:23,460 --> 00:07:28,940

And I remember, after  
I got the disease,

126

00:07:28,940 --> 00:07:35,380

and I succeeded  
in staying alive--

127

00:07:35,380 --> 00:07:42,310

I'm saying this not because it's  
my merit that I did something.

128

00:07:42,310 --> 00:07:48,370

I had probably more days  
than the others to live.

129

00:07:48,370 --> 00:07:55,130

They took us to

bury those corpses.

130  
00:07:55,130 --> 00:07:59,460  
And if you visited--

131  
00:07:59,460 --> 00:08:02,200  
and I am certain  
that you visited--

132  
00:08:02,200 --> 00:08:05,920  
what you saw in the  
pictures, people

133  
00:08:05,920 --> 00:08:15,070  
dying sitting or sleeping or  
with the hand to their body

134  
00:08:15,070 --> 00:08:20,150  
or under the head or whatever,  
this is how they died.

135  
00:08:20,150 --> 00:08:27,610  
And they are frozen because  
we are talking minus 25,

136  
00:08:27,610 --> 00:08:34,240  
minus 30 degrees Celsius,  
which is very, very cold.

137  
00:08:34,240 --> 00:08:39,884  
And you fill them in  
in those common graves.

138  
00:08:39,884 --> 00:08:43,159

139  
00:08:43,159 --> 00:08:45,100  
It's unbelievable.

140  
00:08:45,100 --> 00:08:48,060  
I can't explain it.

141

00:08:48,060 --> 00:08:50,110  
And why did they do it?

142  
00:08:50,110 --> 00:08:56,460  
First of all, it was very  
hard to dig because--

143  
00:08:56,460 --> 00:09:03,480  
it took days to  
dig such a grave.

144  
00:09:03,480 --> 00:09:06,840  
There were hundreds  
of people there.

145  
00:09:06,840 --> 00:09:11,180  
They were in bulk.

146  
00:09:11,180 --> 00:09:14,070  
And we had to take  
them with our hands.

147  
00:09:14,070 --> 00:09:22,960  
And another time they took  
me to open a road, I think.

148  
00:09:22,960 --> 00:09:25,570  
It was a very big snow.

149  
00:09:25,570 --> 00:09:30,480  
And I had some gloves,  
but old gloves,

150  
00:09:30,480 --> 00:09:33,540  
and I'd grown in that time.

151  
00:09:33,540 --> 00:09:40,300  
And on the tour that I was  
shoveling and the shovel,

152  
00:09:40,300 --> 00:09:44,560  
they broke.

153

00:09:44,560 --> 00:09:48,160

So my fingers were in  
contact with the shovel.

154

00:09:48,160 --> 00:09:49,840

I didn't feel they were frozen.

155

00:09:49,840 --> 00:09:52,630

All my fingers were frozen.

156

00:09:52,630 --> 00:09:56,350

And I don't have to  
tell you how long did I

157

00:09:56,350 --> 00:10:00,070

suffer until I recovered this.

158

00:10:00,070 --> 00:10:04,495

And I had a very big  
chance that with us was--

159

00:10:04,495 --> 00:10:07,090

160

00:10:07,090 --> 00:10:10,350

he was not a physician,  
but he had connections

161

00:10:10,350 --> 00:10:15,840

with the medical people.

162

00:10:15,840 --> 00:10:20,670

And he told me rub them  
because rubbing them,

163

00:10:20,670 --> 00:10:23,730

you might make the  
blood to circulate

164

00:10:23,730 --> 00:10:25,920

and they might recover.

165

00:10:25,920 --> 00:10:27,630

And then I went home.

166

00:10:27,630 --> 00:10:30,140

Next to us, a  
physician was living.

167

00:10:30,140 --> 00:10:33,190

He said, look, put  
them in hot water

168

00:10:33,190 --> 00:10:37,500

as long as you can  
keep them, and then

169

00:10:37,500 --> 00:10:39,660

put them in cold water.

170

00:10:39,660 --> 00:10:43,750

Anyway, it's a long story,  
a very painful story

171

00:10:43,750 --> 00:10:47,800

from both suffering and morally.

172

00:10:47,800 --> 00:10:51,130

So if you needed to put  
your hands in hot water,

173

00:10:51,130 --> 00:10:52,330

how did you get the water?

174

00:10:52,330 --> 00:10:54,640

Where did that come from?

175

00:10:54,640 --> 00:11:00,130

Because I had the chance,  
again, having a supervisor

176

00:11:00,130 --> 00:11:03,010

who understood what  
it's all about,

177  
00:11:03,010 --> 00:11:05,455  
and he realized that he  
is going to keep me there,

178  
00:11:05,455 --> 00:11:07,420  
the next day he's  
not going to have

179  
00:11:07,420 --> 00:11:15,700  
who to work, and probably was  
more human than the other ones

180  
00:11:15,700 --> 00:11:17,780  
and let me go home.

181  
00:11:17,780 --> 00:11:19,540  
And this happened  
in the afternoon.

182  
00:11:19,540 --> 00:11:25,150  
So he didn't lose too much  
work in letting me go.

183  
00:11:25,150 --> 00:11:28,260  
This was a Romanian supervisor?

184  
00:11:28,260 --> 00:11:30,820  
Yeah, the soldiers,  
the Romanian soldiers.

185  
00:11:30,820 --> 00:11:34,480  
Did you have other experiences  
from the Romanian soldiers

186  
00:11:34,480 --> 00:11:36,970  
that were positive?

187  
00:11:36,970 --> 00:11:39,310  
Positive, no.

188  
00:11:39,310 --> 00:11:42,290



I wouldn't consider  
this positive either.

189  
00:11:42,290 --> 00:11:45,280  
But in one sense,  
it was, because you

190  
00:11:45,280 --> 00:11:47,750  
could keep me there.

191  
00:11:47,750 --> 00:11:49,510  
What about the Ukrainians?

192  
00:11:49,510 --> 00:11:52,160  
What was your contact with them?

193  
00:11:52,160 --> 00:11:59,860  
The Ukrainians were  
just businesslike.

194  
00:11:59,860 --> 00:12:05,840  
You gave them something, and  
they gave you a piece of bread

195  
00:12:05,840 --> 00:12:08,730  
or whatever else.

196  
00:12:08,730 --> 00:12:14,350  
They are not friendly,  
but business is business.

197  
00:12:14,350 --> 00:12:16,120  
How did they get--  
they just walked

198  
00:12:16,120 --> 00:12:18,340  
into the ghetto each day?

199  
00:12:18,340 --> 00:12:21,490  
They came to the  
ghetto, and they knew.

200

00:12:21,490 --> 00:12:25,750  
They wanted a wristwatch,  
so they knew already

201  
00:12:25,750 --> 00:12:30,010  
what makes better  
than the other one.

202  
00:12:30,010 --> 00:12:35,310  
They said, I want a Movado  
or I want Seiko, not another.

203  
00:12:35,310 --> 00:12:39,300

204  
00:12:39,300 --> 00:12:43,140  
This would cost,  
let's say, \$100.

205  
00:12:43,140 --> 00:12:46,510  
They gave you instead a  
piece of bread or else,

206  
00:12:46,510 --> 00:12:51,470  
which was worth \$0.10 or \$0.15.

207  
00:12:51,470 --> 00:12:58,880  
But I lived through many,  
many other horror stories.

208  
00:12:58,880 --> 00:13:02,570  
For example, one  
time they took us

209  
00:13:02,570 --> 00:13:05,595  
to build a bridge over the Bug.

210  
00:13:05,595 --> 00:13:10,730  
The Bug was another river  
farther, deeper into Russia

211  
00:13:10,730 --> 00:13:12,440  
than the Dnister.

212  
00:13:12,440 --> 00:13:17,240  
And the Germans were  
on the eastern side,

213  
00:13:17,240 --> 00:13:20,210  
and the Romanians  
were in Transnistria

214  
00:13:20,210 --> 00:13:24,750  
because Transnistria  
was up to the Bug.

215  
00:13:24,750 --> 00:13:30,800  
So we were supplied to do this,  
and they brought the Russians,

216  
00:13:30,800 --> 00:13:32,570  
or, I don't know,  
the Germans was built

217  
00:13:32,570 --> 00:13:35,890  
from the other side with us.

218  
00:13:35,890 --> 00:13:40,620  
In the group, when  
they took us to work,

219  
00:13:40,620 --> 00:13:45,700  
were a few Russian  
Jewish Ukrainians.

220  
00:13:45,700 --> 00:13:51,080  
And because they were  
dressed like Ukrainians,

221  
00:13:51,080 --> 00:13:53,700  
you could hardly  
tell them apart.

222  
00:13:53,700 --> 00:13:58,370  
So he went-- probably  
he was hungry or else--

223

00:13:58,370 --> 00:14:03,930

he went to the  
people around there,

224

00:14:03,930 --> 00:14:06,670

Ukrainians, because  
the bridge was

225

00:14:06,670 --> 00:14:10,630

built in a kind  
of city, village,

226

00:14:10,630 --> 00:14:14,760

whatever, called Trykhaty,  
which, in translation means

227

00:14:14,760 --> 00:14:19,120

"Three Houses,"  
just a few of them.

228

00:14:19,120 --> 00:14:22,840

And a soldier caught him.

229

00:14:22,840 --> 00:14:26,230

So they brought him back.

230

00:14:26,230 --> 00:14:31,990

It was already going  
to become dark.

231

00:14:31,990 --> 00:14:39,510

They told him, show me, how  
did you get out of this?

232

00:14:39,510 --> 00:14:43,740

Because there were  
all around railcars,

233

00:14:43,740 --> 00:14:46,020

and we were sleeping  
in those railcars.

234

00:14:46,020 --> 00:14:51,810

So he crawled on the  
knees to show how he ran.

235

00:14:51,810 --> 00:14:55,800

And then he shot  
him in front of us.

236

00:14:55,800 --> 00:15:00,150

So so happened-- sorry for the  
horror story I'm telling you--

237

00:15:00,150 --> 00:15:03,570

that all the intestines--

238

00:15:03,570 --> 00:15:07,380

because, I don't know, he shot  
him probably in the stomach--

239

00:15:07,380 --> 00:15:08,640

went out.

240

00:15:08,640 --> 00:15:12,390

And the people wanted  
to take him there,

241

00:15:12,390 --> 00:15:17,190

and maybe he was going to  
heal because it was not

242

00:15:17,190 --> 00:15:18,480

a deadly wound.

243

00:15:18,480 --> 00:15:21,440

244

00:15:21,440 --> 00:15:23,750

He went after he shot them.

245

00:15:23,750 --> 00:15:26,840

But in the evening,  
he came and asked, OK,

246  
00:15:26,840 --> 00:15:30,770  
because there were  
people on this railcar,

247  
00:15:30,770 --> 00:15:33,050  
where did you bury him?

248  
00:15:33,050 --> 00:15:35,690  
And one of them said,  
look, we didn't bury him

249  
00:15:35,690 --> 00:15:37,100  
because he is still alive.

250  
00:15:37,100 --> 00:15:38,660  
Maybe you will save him.

251  
00:15:38,660 --> 00:15:39,510  
No.

252  
00:15:39,510 --> 00:15:41,250  
So they buried him alive.

253  
00:15:41,250 --> 00:15:44,020

254  
00:15:44,020 --> 00:15:46,400  
This is one of them.

255  
00:15:46,400 --> 00:15:50,710  
Another one, in this ghetto in  
Sharhorod, there so happened

256  
00:15:50,710 --> 00:15:55,000  
to be somebody either  
from Dorohoi or the cities

257  
00:15:55,000 --> 00:16:01,240  
surrounding Dorohoi, also dying  
of hunger, starving, went out.

258

00:16:01,240 --> 00:16:06,890

And the mayor of the city,  
the Romanian mayor, saw him.

259

00:16:06,890 --> 00:16:08,510

Hey, Where are you going?

260

00:16:08,510 --> 00:16:11,760

I will go to beg  
a piece of bread.

261

00:16:11,760 --> 00:16:13,070

Beg a piece of bread?

262

00:16:13,070 --> 00:16:17,290

He called the soldiers and  
said, OK, go and shoot him.

263

00:16:17,290 --> 00:16:21,260

So he went, and people  
are asking him, hey,

264

00:16:21,260 --> 00:16:22,780

Moishe, where are you going?

265

00:16:22,780 --> 00:16:27,850

He said, look, he's going  
to shoot me because I

266

00:16:27,850 --> 00:16:30,980

went to beg for bread or else.

267

00:16:30,980 --> 00:16:35,540

And not far, there  
were a few trees.

268

00:16:35,540 --> 00:16:39,620

And those people heard  
the shot, and he was dead.

269

00:16:39,620 --> 00:16:43,180

Then they picked him

up and they buried him.

270  
00:16:43,180 --> 00:16:48,370  
So those are just the  
few horror stories.

271  
00:16:48,370 --> 00:16:51,860  
Most people died-- most  
people died of starvation?

272  
00:16:51,860 --> 00:16:52,360  
A lot.

273  
00:16:52,360 --> 00:16:53,800  
Or disease?

274  
00:16:53,800 --> 00:16:57,760  
A lot, disease or starvation,  
and [INAUDIBLE] lack

275  
00:16:57,760 --> 00:17:06,020  
of conditions because you could  
have been 20 or 25 years old,

276  
00:17:06,020 --> 00:17:10,330  
but to have a kind of disease,  
and not all people were alike

277  
00:17:10,330 --> 00:17:12,310  
in build, you know?

278  
00:17:12,310 --> 00:17:15,940  
And some were strong, some not.

279  
00:17:15,940 --> 00:17:20,550

280  
00:17:20,550 --> 00:17:23,790  
What did you know of what  
was going on in the war

281  
00:17:23,790 --> 00:17:27,450



and what your prospects  
were for perhaps being

282  
00:17:27,450 --> 00:17:31,040  
liberated from the ghetto?

283  
00:17:31,040 --> 00:17:35,190  
Look, we didn't  
have any possibility

284  
00:17:35,190 --> 00:17:38,780  
to know this because no  
radio and no newspaper.

285  
00:17:38,780 --> 00:17:42,090  
It was a complete  
information blackout.

286  
00:17:42,090 --> 00:17:51,820  
But the few Ukrainians there,  
some of them were probably

287  
00:17:51,820 --> 00:17:54,550  
so-called partisans--

288  
00:17:54,550 --> 00:17:56,140  
the Russians in there.

289  
00:17:56,140 --> 00:18:01,085  
And because they were, we  
didn't know about them.

290  
00:18:01,085 --> 00:18:05,730  
They were telling the  
Russian front goes fine,

291  
00:18:05,730 --> 00:18:10,390  
the Russians are here,  
are there, closer.

292  
00:18:10,390 --> 00:18:20,930  
And at one time, close  
to the end of '43,

293  
00:18:20,930 --> 00:18:31,100  
we heard that the  
Jews from the Moldova,

294  
00:18:31,100 --> 00:18:37,680  
they were going to be  
brought back again.

295  
00:18:37,680 --> 00:18:41,530  
The Americans gave  
money, the Russians

296  
00:18:41,530 --> 00:18:44,160  
promised this and that.

297  
00:18:44,160 --> 00:18:47,490  
But now I know that the  
Americans didn't give money

298  
00:18:47,490 --> 00:18:53,910  
for this, and the British,  
just the opposite they did,

299  
00:18:53,910 --> 00:18:56,430  
and so on.

300  
00:18:56,430 --> 00:18:58,680  
And we hoped.

301  
00:18:58,680 --> 00:19:03,180  
We hoped that this was  
going to come until one day

302  
00:19:03,180 --> 00:19:07,350  
when, indeed, they told us--

303  
00:19:07,350 --> 00:19:10,380  
the ones who were from Dorohoi--

304  
00:19:10,380 --> 00:19:15,930  
bring this bulletin with you,

which I will show them to you,

305

00:19:15,930 --> 00:19:19,680  
and said, OK, tomorrow  
morning at 9:00,

306

00:19:19,680 --> 00:19:27,620  
let's say, here in front of the  
building of the Jewish colony,

307

00:19:27,620 --> 00:19:32,030  
you're going to bring  
your belongings--

308

00:19:32,030 --> 00:19:36,110  
in some cases, nothing.

309

00:19:36,110 --> 00:19:41,430  
Bring your belongings,  
and you're being driven

310

00:19:41,430 --> 00:19:44,220  
to [INAUDIBLE]--

311

00:19:44,220 --> 00:19:49,080  
I don't know what place where  
the railway station is going

312

00:19:49,080 --> 00:19:54,100  
to be-- and you're going  
to board those cars,

313

00:19:54,100 --> 00:19:55,360  
and you'll be taken back.

314

00:19:55,360 --> 00:19:57,640  
So indeed this was.

315

00:19:57,640 --> 00:20:02,620  
That day we went  
there, and we stayed.

316

00:20:02,620 --> 00:20:05,170  
Some of them stayed  
longer than the others

317  
00:20:05,170 --> 00:20:09,790  
because they didn't have as  
many trucks as necessary.

318  
00:20:09,790 --> 00:20:12,670  
And they did one or two  
transports, five transports,

319  
00:20:12,670 --> 00:20:14,240  
I don't know how many.

320  
00:20:14,240 --> 00:20:17,980  
So they took us back  
to a railway station.

321  
00:20:17,980 --> 00:20:23,770  
They put us, maybe not  
so many in one car,

322  
00:20:23,770 --> 00:20:26,990  
as we came to Transnistria.

323  
00:20:26,990 --> 00:20:29,200  
And that took, again, two days.

324  
00:20:29,200 --> 00:20:30,570  
We arrived from Dorohoi.

325  
00:20:30,570 --> 00:20:37,110  
They let us go, like I am  
going to go out from here.

326  
00:20:37,110 --> 00:20:39,480  
You don't know where I'm  
going, what I'm going to do,

327  
00:20:39,480 --> 00:20:41,880  
where I'm going to stay.

328

00:20:41,880 --> 00:20:43,860

When they told  
you that they were

329

00:20:43,860 --> 00:20:46,910

going to round you up and take  
you to the railway station,

330

00:20:46,910 --> 00:20:50,110

they told you you  
would be going home?

331

00:20:50,110 --> 00:20:50,850

No.

332

00:20:50,850 --> 00:20:54,180

They were telling  
us they're going

333

00:20:54,180 --> 00:20:59,290

to bring us back to Dorohoi.

334

00:20:59,290 --> 00:21:00,080

Did you believe--

335

00:21:00,080 --> 00:21:03,090

The Jews, because we are  
not anymore in contact

336

00:21:03,090 --> 00:21:05,280

with the Romanian authorities.

337

00:21:05,280 --> 00:21:10,930

No soldiers were around us.

338

00:21:10,930 --> 00:21:17,130

The trucks were  
driven by civilians.

339

00:21:17,130 --> 00:21:20,580

I don't know who those civilians  
were, maybe also Romanian,

340  
00:21:20,580 --> 00:21:22,800  
because we didn't have  
any contact with them.

341  
00:21:22,800 --> 00:21:26,610  
Well, where were the  
Romanian soldiers?

342  
00:21:26,610 --> 00:21:28,060  
They were not involved in this.

343  
00:21:28,060 --> 00:21:37,160  
And then, in the train, we had  
some soldiers looking for us

344  
00:21:37,160 --> 00:21:43,860  
and ordered not to be open  
the doors, some going,

345  
00:21:43,860 --> 00:21:47,460  
I don't know, to do  
what kind of espionage

346  
00:21:47,460 --> 00:21:48,910  
against the Romanians.

347  
00:21:48,910 --> 00:21:51,290  
I don't know what was in there.

348  
00:21:51,290 --> 00:21:55,410  
But the supervising  
[? resident ?]

349  
00:21:55,410 --> 00:21:57,600  
when we went to Transnistria.

350  
00:21:57,600 --> 00:22:00,860  
When the Jewish  
administration, then,

351  
00:22:00,860 --> 00:22:03,480

told you that you would  
be going back to Dorohoi,

352  
00:22:03,480 --> 00:22:04,680  
you believed that?

353  
00:22:04,680 --> 00:22:07,230

354  
00:22:07,230 --> 00:22:13,710  
Yes, because we heard already,  
and things were confirmed

355  
00:22:13,710 --> 00:22:17,820  
that the Russians were not far.

356  
00:22:17,820 --> 00:22:23,880  
And we also believed  
what they said.

357  
00:22:23,880 --> 00:22:28,800  
They did not want us being  
caught by the Russians

358  
00:22:28,800 --> 00:22:37,820  
and enrolled in the Red Army  
to fight against the Romanians.

359  
00:22:37,820 --> 00:22:47,380  
And secondly, being  
desperate, for a lot of us,

360  
00:22:47,380 --> 00:22:52,680  
including myself, it  
was equally feared,

361  
00:22:52,680 --> 00:22:56,830  
going to Dorohoi, if  
we don't go to Dorohoi,

362  
00:22:56,830 --> 00:23:01,290  
and especially after I  
heard from witnesses, also

363  
00:23:01,290 --> 00:23:04,320  
from Dorohoi, who  
told me that they

364  
00:23:04,320 --> 00:23:07,080  
saw when my father was killed.

365  
00:23:07,080 --> 00:23:09,180  
Until that time,  
I still believed

366  
00:23:09,180 --> 00:23:12,960  
that he is going to  
survive, and after the war,

367  
00:23:12,960 --> 00:23:15,120  
we see again each other.

368  
00:23:15,120 --> 00:23:17,190  
What did you hear about  
your father's death?

369  
00:23:17,190 --> 00:23:20,720

370  
00:23:20,720 --> 00:23:24,200  
I heard two or three variants.

371  
00:23:24,200 --> 00:23:31,670  
One of them said that  
he wanted to escape,

372  
00:23:31,670 --> 00:23:36,920  
to run from the ghetto in  
[NON-ENGLISH] to reach us,

373  
00:23:36,920 --> 00:23:39,540  
to join us.

374  
00:23:39,540 --> 00:23:47,240  
But the other two said, look,



they put him to the barbed wire

375

00:23:47,240 --> 00:23:51,060  
fence there, and they shot him.

376

00:23:51,060 --> 00:23:54,990  
Which variant is the real  
one, I can't tell you.

377

00:23:54,990 --> 00:23:57,450  
But for me, it's equal.

378

00:23:57,450 --> 00:24:02,130  
If you wanted to leave  
or to stay or whatever,

379

00:24:02,130 --> 00:24:06,810  
if you are shot, that's  
the end of the story.

380

00:24:06,810 --> 00:24:09,600  
In Sharhorod, you were able  
to stay with your mother

381

00:24:09,600 --> 00:24:11,080  
the entire time, right?

382

00:24:11,080 --> 00:24:11,580  
Yes.

383

00:24:11,580 --> 00:24:17,790  
Was she able to stay healthy  
while you were in the ghetto?

384

00:24:17,790 --> 00:24:19,980  
Fortunately, yes.

385

00:24:19,980 --> 00:24:28,470  
My mother, after my birth,  
contracted some liver problems.

386

00:24:28,470 --> 00:24:34,680

And as long as my grandfather,  
her father, lived,

387  
00:24:34,680 --> 00:24:36,450  
he helped her.

388  
00:24:36,450 --> 00:24:40,790  
They sent all kinds  
of [INAUDIBLE]

389  
00:24:40,790 --> 00:24:42,500  
to take care of her health.

390  
00:24:42,500 --> 00:24:46,500  
After that, she didn't have,  
anymore, the possibility,

391  
00:24:46,500 --> 00:24:48,530  
so she didn't go.

392  
00:24:48,530 --> 00:24:55,540  
But she had a  
crisis, liver crisis,

393  
00:24:55,540 --> 00:25:01,170  
some kind of heart  
attacks and liver attacks

394  
00:25:01,170 --> 00:25:04,740  
or something, twice  
a year, very serious.

395  
00:25:04,740 --> 00:25:12,530  
But being younger, much younger,  
she was saved every time.

396  
00:25:12,530 --> 00:25:15,200  
During the two years  
in Transnistria,

397  
00:25:15,200 --> 00:25:20,140  
she never had anything,  
like God blessed

398

00:25:20,140 --> 00:25:23,280

her to survive this period.

399

00:25:23,280 --> 00:25:29,260

When she came back, she had  
once or twice, not more.

400

00:25:29,260 --> 00:25:33,240

And then the last two  
years before she died,

401

00:25:33,240 --> 00:25:37,260

she had this summer  
one and next summer,

402

00:25:37,260 --> 00:25:40,590

and next summer she died,  
absolutely the same thing

403

00:25:40,590 --> 00:25:42,810

as she had all the time.

404

00:25:42,810 --> 00:25:46,290

Now, she was not taken  
to work on a daily basis.

405

00:25:46,290 --> 00:25:47,280

No.

406

00:25:47,280 --> 00:25:48,840

Well, how did she  
occupy herself?

407

00:25:48,840 --> 00:25:53,690

How did the women and the  
children and the others who--

408

00:25:53,690 --> 00:26:02,060

Look, the best--  
when she had whom

409

00:26:02,060 --> 00:26:07,910  
to speak to were speaking  
with another woman

410  
00:26:07,910 --> 00:26:12,980  
or another man or a  
child, or whatever,

411  
00:26:12,980 --> 00:26:16,400  
there was not a social life.

412  
00:26:16,400 --> 00:26:19,160  
You couldn't say, OK, we  
don't have what to eat.

413  
00:26:19,160 --> 00:26:26,020  
We don't have pictures to  
watch or television or else.

414  
00:26:26,020 --> 00:26:29,390  
Let's go together  
and play cards.

415  
00:26:29,390 --> 00:26:30,260  
This was not.

416  
00:26:30,260 --> 00:26:32,150  
This was out of the question.

417  
00:26:32,150 --> 00:26:35,150  
So conversation, perhaps,  
with some of the other--

418  
00:26:35,150 --> 00:26:37,860  
Having conversations,  
most of the time,

419  
00:26:37,860 --> 00:26:43,100  
staying home because  
if the soldiers who

420  
00:26:43,100 --> 00:26:47,596  
were passing on the

street, they would see her,

421  
00:26:47,596 --> 00:26:50,600  
it wouldn't be the  
best of things.

422  
00:26:50,600 --> 00:26:54,260  
She was not able  
to start running.

423  
00:26:54,260 --> 00:26:57,290  
So she preferred to stay home.

424  
00:26:57,290 --> 00:27:00,260  
But do not forget one thing.

425  
00:27:00,260 --> 00:27:03,590  
As I said, most of the  
time I was at work.

426  
00:27:03,590 --> 00:27:05,630  
So practically, I don't know.

427  
00:27:05,630 --> 00:27:10,130  
And when I came home, I didn't  
ask, what did you do today?

428  
00:27:10,130 --> 00:27:16,230  
I was happy that we could  
put something in our mouths

429  
00:27:16,230 --> 00:27:22,360  
to lie down to sleep.

430  
00:27:22,360 --> 00:27:24,880  
The last couple of  
months were better for us

431  
00:27:24,880 --> 00:27:37,600  
because my mother had a  
first-degree cousin, a lady,

432

00:27:37,600 --> 00:27:42,490  
who married a Christian.

433  
00:27:42,490 --> 00:27:43,380  
He was an officer.

434  
00:27:43,380 --> 00:27:52,800  
And when, in Romania, the  
anti-Semitic trend got

435  
00:27:52,800 --> 00:27:58,350  
elevated, he was told  
either to divorce your wife

436  
00:27:58,350 --> 00:28:00,330  
or to get out of the army.

437  
00:28:00,330 --> 00:28:03,340  
So he preferred to  
get out of the army.

438  
00:28:03,340 --> 00:28:06,210  
But during the war,  
everybody was necessary.

439  
00:28:06,210 --> 00:28:12,960  
So they took him, not to lead  
the troops on the front line,

440  
00:28:12,960 --> 00:28:17,530  
but to work in the  
administration or whatever.

441  
00:28:17,530 --> 00:28:21,750  
So he knew that we are in  
Transnistria in Sharhorod

442  
00:28:21,750 --> 00:28:25,450  
because, in two years,  
we had the possibility,

443  
00:28:25,450 --> 00:28:30,110  
through other people,

to communicate.

444  
00:28:30,110 --> 00:28:32,690

445  
00:28:32,690 --> 00:28:38,330  
And he looked for  
us, and he found us.

446  
00:28:38,330 --> 00:28:42,260  
So it happened--

447  
00:28:42,260 --> 00:28:45,470  
I don't know how to say it--

448  
00:28:45,470 --> 00:28:50,450  
but when they passed with  
the troops through Sharhorod,

449  
00:28:50,450 --> 00:28:53,330  
my mother happened  
to be outside,

450  
00:28:53,330 --> 00:28:59,000  
without knowing that  
the army is going.

451  
00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:01,610  
Otherwise, she  
wouldn't stay outside.

452  
00:29:01,610 --> 00:29:09,000  
So he saw her, but he  
didn't say a word because it

453  
00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:11,970  
was dangerous that an officer--

454  
00:29:11,970 --> 00:29:14,640  
he had superiors also.

455  
00:29:14,640 --> 00:29:19,920

But later, he sent  
somebody of his soldiers,

456  
00:29:19,920 --> 00:29:24,900  
and they brought us, I think,  
weekly or twice a week-- no,

457  
00:29:24,900 --> 00:29:26,460  
I think weekly--

458  
00:29:26,460 --> 00:29:33,030  
bread, those military bread, big  
ones, some butter, some honey

459  
00:29:33,030 --> 00:29:33,870  
and sugar.

460  
00:29:33,870 --> 00:29:34,890  
That's all.

461  
00:29:34,890 --> 00:29:40,230  
So we had also what to  
change, to exchange.

462  
00:29:40,230 --> 00:29:41,320  
We came to you.

463  
00:29:41,320 --> 00:29:46,540  
You had, let's say, potatoes.

464  
00:29:46,540 --> 00:29:49,240  
Let's say, OK, I'm giving  
you a half a bread.

465  
00:29:49,240 --> 00:29:52,540  
Give me 10 potatoes,  
three potatoes, whatever.

466  
00:29:52,540 --> 00:29:54,530  
So it was this exchange.

467  
00:29:54,530 --> 00:29:55,510



We boiled water.

468

00:29:55,510 --> 00:29:57,190

We boiled potatoes.

469

00:29:57,190 --> 00:30:00,470

We had a little  
bit of a variation.

470

00:30:00,470 --> 00:30:03,040

You said you had some  
letters from family members.

471

00:30:03,040 --> 00:30:06,550

How did the mail get through?

472

00:30:06,550 --> 00:30:07,900

Letters?

473

00:30:07,900 --> 00:30:09,940

Some form of  
communication, you said.

474

00:30:09,940 --> 00:30:15,310

No, the communication  
was like this.

475

00:30:15,310 --> 00:30:20,080

There were people  
in Romania who had

476

00:30:20,080 --> 00:30:25,240

relatives, some close  
relatives, in Transnistria.

477

00:30:25,240 --> 00:30:29,800

And they were those couriers,  
the Romanian couriers,

478

00:30:29,800 --> 00:30:32,680

which connected, let's  
say, the Ministry

479

00:30:32,680 --> 00:30:36,670  
of Internal Affairs  
with Transnistria.

480

00:30:36,670 --> 00:30:40,140  
But for money,  
they communicated.

481

00:30:40,140 --> 00:30:45,190  
So me, in Bucharest, I'd  
a brother, let's say,

482

00:30:45,190 --> 00:30:46,720  
in Transnistria.

483

00:30:46,720 --> 00:30:51,895  
And I knew that Mr.  
Friedman [? Yunesky ?]

484

00:30:51,895 --> 00:30:54,460  
is going from Bucharest there.

485

00:30:54,460 --> 00:30:58,540  
And I told him, look,  
give \$1,000 to my brother,

486

00:30:58,540 --> 00:31:04,150  
and I'm giving you  
\$500 just to take it.

487

00:31:04,150 --> 00:31:07,950  
And then the brother  
writes, thank

488

00:31:07,950 --> 00:31:10,380  
you, brother, for the \$1,000.

489

00:31:10,380 --> 00:31:12,330  
And he took this  
and gave it back,

490

00:31:12,330 --> 00:31:15,110

so these kind of relations.

491  
00:31:15,110 --> 00:31:16,140  
And sometimes--

492  
00:31:16,140 --> 00:31:22,560

493  
00:31:22,560 --> 00:31:25,435  
This is side B of tape two.

494  
00:31:25,435 --> 00:31:28,240

495  
00:31:28,240 --> 00:31:30,540  
You were saying that  
when you would like to--

496  
00:31:30,540 --> 00:31:35,100  
This was the kind  
of communication.

497  
00:31:35,100 --> 00:31:37,400  
Well, I think we cut you off  
when you were saying that

498  
00:31:37,400 --> 00:31:39,620  
sometimes, on the note,  
going back to the brother,

499  
00:31:39,620 --> 00:31:42,260  
you would say I'm  
here with so and so.

500  
00:31:42,260 --> 00:31:45,680  
Yes, in order to  
give more names.

501  
00:31:45,680 --> 00:31:52,370  
And it was such a very  
special situation then.

502

00:31:52,370 --> 00:31:54,627  
People didn't,  
look, OK, I'm going

503  
00:31:54,627 --> 00:31:56,210  
to tell your brother  
that you're here.

504  
00:31:56,210 --> 00:31:57,950  
Give me some money.

505  
00:31:57,950 --> 00:31:59,250  
No.

506  
00:31:59,250 --> 00:32:04,370  
OK, [INAUDIBLE], I'm going  
to write a note, because they

507  
00:32:04,370 --> 00:32:07,700  
had to write a  
few words in order

508  
00:32:07,700 --> 00:32:09,980  
to prove that they  
received the money.

509  
00:32:09,980 --> 00:32:15,710  
So nobody was looking at this  
one because they got money.

510  
00:32:15,710 --> 00:32:17,750  
If they wouldn't get  
money, probably they

511  
00:32:17,750 --> 00:32:20,450  
wouldn't take those  
little pieces of paper

512  
00:32:20,450 --> 00:32:22,260  
because they were not letters.

513  
00:32:22,260 --> 00:32:26,390  
It was a very small

piece of paper

514  
00:32:26,390 --> 00:32:30,360  
because they were also  
afraid not to get in trouble.

515  
00:32:30,360 --> 00:32:34,880  
So you went in a transport  
headed back to Dorohoi.

516  
00:32:34,880 --> 00:32:36,225  
You got on trucks--

517  
00:32:36,225 --> 00:32:37,100  
or it was a railroad.

518  
00:32:37,100 --> 00:32:42,380  
No, no, the trucks were just  
to take us from Sharhorod

519  
00:32:42,380 --> 00:32:47,360  
to the first railway  
station in order to load us.

520  
00:32:47,360 --> 00:32:50,000  
And it's not a boarding.

521  
00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:55,090  
It's a loading in the  
cars and taking us

522  
00:32:55,090 --> 00:32:57,530  
by railroad back to Dorohoi.

523  
00:32:57,530 --> 00:32:59,710  
How many days was that journey?

524  
00:32:59,710 --> 00:33:02,200  
Also, two, three days, I think.

525  
00:33:02,200 --> 00:33:06,530  
I remember exactly, the

27th of December, '43,

526

00:33:06,530 --> 00:33:10,400

we arrived in Dorohoi  
sometime in the afternoon.

527

00:33:10,400 --> 00:33:13,340

And the trip this time was a  
little bit more comfortable

528

00:33:13,340 --> 00:33:14,430

than the time before?

529

00:33:14,430 --> 00:33:15,035

No, no.

530

00:33:15,035 --> 00:33:18,840

It was more comfortable in the  
sense that instead of being,

531

00:33:18,840 --> 00:33:22,570

let's say, 100, we were only 50.

532

00:33:22,570 --> 00:33:25,580

I never counted them  
when we went there,

533

00:33:25,580 --> 00:33:29,810

so I didn't count them  
when we came back.

534

00:33:29,810 --> 00:33:32,980

So what did you find when  
you got back to Dorohoi?

535

00:33:32,980 --> 00:33:34,780

Did you have to be  
processed back through?

536

00:33:34,780 --> 00:33:36,730

You showed your papers.

537

00:33:36,730 --> 00:33:38,900

No, they asked us this.

538

00:33:38,900 --> 00:33:42,490

And as you see,  
they put the stamp--

539

00:33:42,490 --> 00:33:43,570

At the railway station?

540

00:33:43,570 --> 00:33:46,270

541

00:33:46,270 --> 00:33:47,630

I think so.

542

00:33:47,630 --> 00:33:48,820

I think so.

543

00:33:48,820 --> 00:33:50,260

I do not remember.

544

00:33:50,260 --> 00:33:54,130

Was the family home still there  
and you went back to your home?

545

00:33:54,130 --> 00:33:58,060

No, it didn't have--  
my grandfather

546

00:33:58,060 --> 00:34:00,970

died before we  
left, and the house

547

00:34:00,970 --> 00:34:03,920

was occupied by other people.

548

00:34:03,920 --> 00:34:09,219

And as Jews coming  
back, we couldn't

549

00:34:09,219 --> 00:34:12,520

have any pretension, OK,  
you go out from my house

550  
00:34:12,520 --> 00:34:15,370  
because I'm coming back home.

551  
00:34:15,370 --> 00:34:21,770  
And the war was more  
or less at the end.

552  
00:34:21,770 --> 00:34:26,409  
So where were you housed  
when you came back?

553  
00:34:26,409 --> 00:34:32,440  
Look, it so happened  
that my wife--

554  
00:34:32,440 --> 00:34:36,880  
which I knew her before  
because an aunt of mine

555  
00:34:36,880 --> 00:34:41,754  
lived in with rent in  
one of their houses--

556  
00:34:41,754 --> 00:34:44,500

557  
00:34:44,500 --> 00:34:49,584  
my wife had an aunt in  
Dorohoi which was not deported

558  
00:34:49,584 --> 00:34:54,949  
or they bribed to stay  
there, I don't know.

559  
00:34:54,949 --> 00:34:59,450  
So when we came back,  
we were housed a little,

560  
00:34:59,450 --> 00:35:03,260  
a couple of days there and a



couple of days another place,

561

00:35:03,260 --> 00:35:09,220  
until we could communicate  
with our relatives in Boto<sup>È</sup>TMani,

562

00:35:09,220 --> 00:35:15,560  
which was very close, 30 or  
40 kilometers from Dorohoi.

563

00:35:15,560 --> 00:35:19,270  
But we couldn't  
communicate by going there

564

00:35:19,270 --> 00:35:24,950  
or they coming here because it  
was a big movement of military

565

00:35:24,950 --> 00:35:27,050  
because they are coming  
back from the front.

566

00:35:27,050 --> 00:35:30,740  
They are running  
from the Russians.

567

00:35:30,740 --> 00:35:36,970  
And finally, we found a place.

568

00:35:36,970 --> 00:35:41,050  
I'm pretty sure that my  
mother paid some rent.

569

00:35:41,050 --> 00:35:46,570  
We got, probably, some help  
from her brother and sister from

570

00:35:46,570 --> 00:35:49,880  
Boto<sup>È</sup>TMani.

571

00:35:49,880 --> 00:35:52,920  
Were there still  
relatives in Falticeni?

572  
00:35:52,920 --> 00:35:59,710  
No, they were also evacuated  
to another place and then

573  
00:35:59,710 --> 00:36:04,730  
to Boto<sup>È</sup>Mani because  
there was the front line,

574  
00:36:04,730 --> 00:36:08,673  
and they wanted all the  
civilians to get out,

575  
00:36:08,673 --> 00:36:11,090  
especially the Jews, because  
they are afraid that the Jews

576  
00:36:11,090 --> 00:36:15,080  
are all communists, because  
this was the conception,

577  
00:36:15,080 --> 00:36:18,110  
that Jews equal communists.

578  
00:36:18,110 --> 00:36:20,900  
When you got back to Dorohoi  
and got off the train,

579  
00:36:20,900 --> 00:36:23,150  
did you feel elated?

580  
00:36:23,150 --> 00:36:23,810  
No, no.

581  
00:36:23,810 --> 00:36:25,800  
Why not?

582  
00:36:25,800 --> 00:36:30,910  
Because I knew that  
I don't come home.

583  
00:36:30,910 --> 00:36:35,560

I knew that my father was  
killed because I found it out

584  
00:36:35,560 --> 00:36:37,660  
on our way back.

585  
00:36:37,660 --> 00:36:41,050  
And it was no excitement.

586  
00:36:41,050 --> 00:36:46,720  
OK, I had a grandmother,  
my mother's mother,

587  
00:36:46,720 --> 00:36:50,680  
some aunts and uncles, cousins.

588  
00:36:50,680 --> 00:36:53,640  
But everything was upside-down  
because there was still

589  
00:36:53,640 --> 00:36:54,710  
the war.

590  
00:36:54,710 --> 00:36:59,260  
And in Dorohoi, a lot  
of military were there,

591  
00:36:59,260 --> 00:37:02,780  
and they were shooting-- not  
people, shooting in the air,

592  
00:37:02,780 --> 00:37:04,960  
and it was dangerous.

593  
00:37:04,960 --> 00:37:08,140  
And after that, don't forget,  
when the Russians came,

594  
00:37:08,140 --> 00:37:11,030  
they were not angels.

595  
00:37:11,030 --> 00:37:13,470

So what did you do  
between the time

596  
00:37:13,470 --> 00:37:16,850  
that you got home and  
the end of the war?

597  
00:37:16,850 --> 00:37:24,200  
Mostly staying in the  
house and, very little,

598  
00:37:24,200 --> 00:37:30,370  
going from house to  
house to meet somebody

599  
00:37:30,370 --> 00:37:35,310  
whom I knew that either stayed  
in Dorohoi during my absence

600  
00:37:35,310 --> 00:37:40,860  
from Dorohoi or came back  
with us in the same transport.

601  
00:37:40,860 --> 00:37:48,420  
And after the Russians  
came, we went to Boto<sup>È</sup>mani

602  
00:37:48,420 --> 00:37:53,130  
because Dorohoi-- there was  
nothing in connection with us.

603  
00:37:53,130 --> 00:37:56,200  
In Botosani, my mother had  
a sister and a brother.

604  
00:37:56,200 --> 00:38:00,600  
Then another sister from  
Falticeni came with her kids.

605  
00:38:00,600 --> 00:38:03,960  
My grandmother came  
from Falticeni.

606

00:38:03,960 --> 00:38:07,650

Other relatives and acquaintances came.

607

00:38:07,650 --> 00:38:13,780

And we went to Boto<sup>È</sup>Mani in order to be helped.

608

00:38:13,780 --> 00:38:22,790

And then my mother started working at the court

609

00:38:22,790 --> 00:38:29,420

in Boto<sup>È</sup>Mani because, being deported in Transnistria,

610

00:38:29,420 --> 00:38:36,116

she was assimilated as a war widow after that.

611

00:38:36,116 --> 00:38:43,080

So she had the right to sell monopolized things like stamps,

612

00:38:43,080 --> 00:38:44,610

which was a monopoly.

613

00:38:44,610 --> 00:38:46,870

It was not like--

614

00:38:46,870 --> 00:38:49,730

here it's also kind of monopoly because not everybody

615

00:38:49,730 --> 00:38:54,690

can issue stamps, tobacco--

616

00:38:54,690 --> 00:38:56,760

stamps, tobacco, and yeah--

617

00:38:56,760 --> 00:38:59,780

618  
00:38:59,780 --> 00:39:01,580  
how do you call it?--

619  
00:39:01,580 --> 00:39:02,510  
drinks.

620  
00:39:02,510 --> 00:39:03,010  
Alcohol?

621  
00:39:03,010 --> 00:39:05,970  
Alcoholic drinks.

622  
00:39:05,970 --> 00:39:10,200  
But she didn't sell alcoholic  
drinks, just stamps and this

623  
00:39:10,200 --> 00:39:13,950  
because there at the  
court, they needed stamps,

624  
00:39:13,950 --> 00:39:18,430  
and lawyers and other  
people are smoking.

625  
00:39:18,430 --> 00:39:25,490  
And I finished  
school, recognizing

626  
00:39:25,490 --> 00:39:31,910  
some years which I lost,  
allowing to give some exams I

627  
00:39:31,910 --> 00:39:33,830  
prepared myself.

628  
00:39:33,830 --> 00:39:40,710  
And then, when the communists  
took over properly in '45

629  
00:39:40,710 --> 00:39:47,180  
after the war ended, I started  
the polytechnic in Romania.

630  
00:39:47,180 --> 00:39:51,690  
So after four  
years, I graduated.

631  
00:39:51,690 --> 00:39:53,820  
You had some other  
preferred status

632  
00:39:53,820 --> 00:39:58,890  
as a survivor of the war,  
right, under the communists?

633  
00:39:58,890 --> 00:40:01,837  
I think you mentioned  
to me that you--

634  
00:40:01,837 --> 00:40:03,120  
Preferred status?

635  
00:40:03,120 --> 00:40:05,730  
No, you got to go to school.

636  
00:40:05,730 --> 00:40:10,860  
Yeah, I didn't-- I have  
to pay taxes like anybody.

637  
00:40:10,860 --> 00:40:16,080  
But the student  
organizations, due to the fact

638  
00:40:16,080 --> 00:40:18,930  
that I suffered and  
they knew that I

639  
00:40:18,930 --> 00:40:23,940  
have no possibilities of  
studying and maintaining

640  
00:40:23,940 --> 00:40:31,650  
myself, I stayed in student  
dormitories, paying nothing.

641

00:40:31,650 --> 00:40:35,850

I got the tickets to  
eat, also paying nothing,

642

00:40:35,850 --> 00:40:40,980

because the help from my  
mother was insignificant.

643

00:40:40,980 --> 00:40:43,380

And I took--

644

00:40:43,380 --> 00:40:49,800

I kept this money to go  
from Yas to Boto<sup>È</sup>Mani,

645

00:40:49,800 --> 00:40:52,400

where my mother lived.

646

00:40:52,400 --> 00:40:55,430

And you went to Palestine  
before you emigrated

647

00:40:55,430 --> 00:40:56,980

to the United States--

648

00:40:56,980 --> 00:40:57,550

or to Canada?

649

00:40:57,550 --> 00:40:58,580

I went to Israel.

650

00:40:58,580 --> 00:40:59,750

Right.

651

00:40:59,750 --> 00:41:02,150

Yeah, that's a big difference.

652

00:41:02,150 --> 00:41:07,860

Yeah, I went to Israel  
because it was the only way

653



00:41:07,860 --> 00:41:10,110  
to leave Romania.

654  
00:41:10,110 --> 00:41:17,930  
I waited from '58 to  
1972 to get my passport.

655  
00:41:17,930 --> 00:41:26,160  
And it so happened that  
Golda Meir came to Romania,

656  
00:41:26,160 --> 00:41:31,710  
and a cousin of my wife--

657  
00:41:31,710 --> 00:41:36,620  
so-called a cousin, anyway--  
anyway, kind of a relative

658  
00:41:36,620 --> 00:41:40,720  
was working in Israel, I don't  
know, for the government.

659  
00:41:40,720 --> 00:41:45,900  
And so he succeeded in putting  
us of the list of Golda Meir,

660  
00:41:45,900 --> 00:41:48,680  
so this is how we  
came out of Romania.

661  
00:41:48,680 --> 00:41:51,910

662  
00:41:51,910 --> 00:41:55,810  
And how did you decide  
then to emigrate to Canada?

663  
00:41:55,810 --> 00:42:01,105  
We decided to emigrate to  
Canada because my wife had

664  
00:42:01,105 --> 00:42:05,220  
a very big breakdown.

665  
00:42:05,220 --> 00:42:11,800  
She didn't support the  
heat and the tension

666  
00:42:11,800 --> 00:42:18,180  
in Israel because, I think,  
in eight or nine months,

667  
00:42:18,180 --> 00:42:20,460  
it was the other--

668  
00:42:20,460 --> 00:42:22,450  
the Yom Kippur War.

669  
00:42:22,450 --> 00:42:30,920  
So she decided to go to her  
brother who was in Canada.

670  
00:42:30,920 --> 00:42:39,860  
So this is how things  
developed, roughly talking.

671  
00:42:39,860 --> 00:42:43,320  
And you came to Canada  
in September of '73?

672  
00:42:43,320 --> 00:42:44,820  
Yes.

673  
00:42:44,820 --> 00:42:47,010  
And you worked then?

674  
00:42:47,010 --> 00:42:49,120  
Or you were already  
retired then?

675  
00:42:49,120 --> 00:42:50,170  
No, no.

676  
00:42:50,170 --> 00:42:54,540  
I worked the first

year in Toronto

677

00:42:54,540 --> 00:43:01,600  
through an organization who  
hired engineers and placed

678

00:43:01,600 --> 00:43:02,590  
them.

679

00:43:02,590 --> 00:43:08,770  
And then I went to Montreal,  
where my brother-in-law lived.

680

00:43:08,770 --> 00:43:14,560  
And after changing  
one job with another,

681

00:43:14,560 --> 00:43:18,830  
I stayed-- it was the last  
job-- for eight and 1/2 years.

682

00:43:18,830 --> 00:43:21,470

683

00:43:21,470 --> 00:43:26,960  
I became the vice-president  
of the company.

684

00:43:26,960 --> 00:43:29,900  
My son finished school there.

685

00:43:29,900 --> 00:43:35,510  
My wife tried once to pass the  
exam because she is a physician

686

00:43:35,510 --> 00:43:38,660  
in order to get  
recognition, but she

687

00:43:38,660 --> 00:43:42,920  
saw that it's no  
way easy to get it.

688

00:43:42,920 --> 00:43:46,850

And she was already 48 or 49.

689

00:43:46,850 --> 00:43:50,210

And she said, look, this is going to take four, five years.

690

00:43:50,210 --> 00:43:52,040

It's not worth it.

691

00:43:52,040 --> 00:43:57,840

And she couldn't stand this type of work,

692

00:43:57,840 --> 00:44:04,430

making shifts of 24 and 36 hours.

693

00:44:04,430 --> 00:44:10,430

So she started working as a lab technician in absolutely

694

00:44:10,430 --> 00:44:13,070

the same specialty.

695

00:44:13,070 --> 00:44:16,970

She worked the laboratory.

696

00:44:16,970 --> 00:44:22,430

At 65, she retired and still works a little bit,

697

00:44:22,430 --> 00:44:26,480

I mean, two days a week.

698

00:44:26,480 --> 00:44:31,530

And at my work, they were not orders whatsoever.

699

00:44:31,530 --> 00:44:37,200

So I was paid almost for one year for doing nothing,

700  
00:44:37,200 --> 00:44:38,900  
just coming to work.

701  
00:44:38,900 --> 00:44:40,140  
So I understood.

702  
00:44:40,140 --> 00:44:41,770  
I'm not complaining.

703  
00:44:41,770 --> 00:44:43,020  
I'm not blaming the owner.

704  
00:44:43,020 --> 00:44:45,790

705  
00:44:45,790 --> 00:44:47,960  
Is there anything  
else we've neglected

706  
00:44:47,960 --> 00:44:52,640  
to discuss that you think  
is important to record?

707  
00:44:52,640 --> 00:44:56,520  
The only thing which  
we didn't cover--

708  
00:44:56,520 --> 00:45:00,500  
but I don't know if it's  
of your competence or not--

709  
00:45:00,500 --> 00:45:04,320  
I was visiting this  
morning the museum,

710  
00:45:04,320 --> 00:45:09,410  
which I was very impressed  
by the intelligence,

711  
00:45:09,410 --> 00:45:12,600  
how it was set.

712  
00:45:12,600 --> 00:45:17,390  
But I was less  
impressed was this fear

713  
00:45:17,390 --> 00:45:21,660  
to mention Transnistria  
more than a few words

714  
00:45:21,660 --> 00:45:24,900  
and a few pictures there.

715  
00:45:24,900 --> 00:45:30,720  
For example, the pogrom in Yas,  
Romania is much more evidence

716  
00:45:30,720 --> 00:45:35,410  
that the whole Transnistria  
were tens of thousands

717  
00:45:35,410 --> 00:45:40,870  
or hundreds of thousands of Jews  
from Romania, from Bukovina,

718  
00:45:40,870 --> 00:45:47,620  
from Ukraine, from other  
places died, were exterminated.

719  
00:45:47,620 --> 00:45:49,810  
When I say  
"exterminated," you don't

720  
00:45:49,810 --> 00:45:59,990  
need the cremators of Auschwitz  
to do this and mourn that.

721  
00:45:59,990 --> 00:46:05,600  
And the Hall of Remembrance,  
If I remember exactly the name,

722  
00:46:05,600 --> 00:46:08,830  
where you find Mauthausen  
and Bergen-Belsen,

723  
00:46:08,830 --> 00:46:10,670  
and this and that--

724  
00:46:10,670 --> 00:46:14,800  
of course, all of them  
of great importance

725  
00:46:14,800 --> 00:46:19,110  
to the memory of those fallen.

726  
00:46:19,110 --> 00:46:22,680  
There is no mention, at  
least, of Transnistria

727  
00:46:22,680 --> 00:46:26,370  
as a generic name, not like  
Mauthausen, Bergen-Belsen, this

728  
00:46:26,370 --> 00:46:32,800  
and that, but as a region where  
so many hundreds of thousands

729  
00:46:32,800 --> 00:46:39,070  
of Jews fell by the  
Nazi exterminators.

730  
00:46:39,070 --> 00:46:44,150  
And this, I think, there's  
still time to correct it.

731  
00:46:44,150 --> 00:46:50,090  
And I don't know if my  
opinion, which I wrote it also

732  
00:46:50,090 --> 00:46:56,840  
in the comments, is going to be  
read, listened, and followed.

733  
00:46:56,840 --> 00:47:03,830  
But I think there is a place for  
Transnistria in this Holocaust

734

00:47:03,830 --> 00:47:08,780  
museum because a lot  
of people died there,

735

00:47:08,780 --> 00:47:13,370  
the same unguilty people  
like in every other place.

736

00:47:13,370 --> 00:47:18,790  
And some of them probably  
suffered more, if I can say.

737

00:47:18,790 --> 00:47:22,250  
So I know it's stupid  
because suffering,

738

00:47:22,250 --> 00:47:27,460  
to start comparing, the  
people in Transnistria

739

00:47:27,460 --> 00:47:31,420  
suffered more than this  
one, as long as all

740

00:47:31,420 --> 00:47:35,710  
were killed like animals.

741

00:47:35,710 --> 00:47:43,760  
But people suffered, at  
least, in the same way

742

00:47:43,760 --> 00:47:45,320  
as the other ones.

743

00:47:45,320 --> 00:47:52,206  
So a mention of this, I  
think, would be worth it.

744

00:47:52,206 --> 00:47:55,150  
And I thank you very  
much for taking the time

745



00:47:55,150 --> 00:47:57,500  
to discuss with me this.

746  
00:47:57,500 --> 00:48:00,350  
I will do this in Montreal  
also for the Holocaust

747  
00:48:00,350 --> 00:48:05,350  
Museum and memorial in there.

748  
00:48:05,350 --> 00:48:07,480  
Thank you very much.

749  
00:48:07,480 --> 00:48:09,000