

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,040

2
00:00:05,040 --> 00:00:08,140
This is tape two, side A.
And you were talking about

3
00:00:08,140 --> 00:00:09,270
that you didn't have shoes.

4
00:00:09,270 --> 00:00:10,740
You had the wooden
clogs, and there

5
00:00:10,740 --> 00:00:12,720
was this man sitting there.

6
00:00:12,720 --> 00:00:13,830
No, it was a woman.

7
00:00:13,830 --> 00:00:15,270
A woman.

8
00:00:15,270 --> 00:00:19,885
With a big stick, with which
she beat sometimes people.

9
00:00:19,885 --> 00:00:26,730
And would be giving from a
pile shoes and some dress,

10
00:00:26,730 --> 00:00:31,140
because we were supposed to be
shipped to Germany for work,

11
00:00:31,140 --> 00:00:34,140
but that we didn't
know what for but she--

12
00:00:34,140 --> 00:00:38,370
And I got shoes into

which I couldn't get.

13
00:00:38,370 --> 00:00:42,750
And I have a small
foot, but that's--

14
00:00:42,750 --> 00:00:49,350
and this friend
of ours, this Eva

15
00:00:49,350 --> 00:00:53,460
said, you go back and
ask for normal shoes.

16
00:00:53,460 --> 00:00:55,380
And I said, no, I'm too scared.

17
00:00:55,380 --> 00:00:57,630
Because she's sitting
there like a frog

18
00:00:57,630 --> 00:00:59,340
with that stick with which--

19
00:00:59,340 --> 00:01:00,390
she said, I don't care.

20
00:01:00,390 --> 00:01:04,230
If you don't, I beat you up.

21
00:01:04,230 --> 00:01:06,390
So I did.

22
00:01:06,390 --> 00:01:08,790
I said, I can't get
into these shoes.

23
00:01:08,790 --> 00:01:13,500
So I think that she beat
me once, but gave me shoes

24
00:01:13,500 --> 00:01:15,180

into which I could get in.

25

00:01:15,180 --> 00:01:22,170

That probably saved me because
one of the first thing which

26

00:01:22,170 --> 00:01:24,310

freezes are your toes.

27

00:01:24,310 --> 00:01:26,430

You can't go without.

28

00:01:26,430 --> 00:01:31,030

So then we were--

29

00:01:31,030 --> 00:01:35,970

I have no idea how long, whether
we were given food or whatever,

30

00:01:35,970 --> 00:01:39,180

but put us again in
these cattle wagons

31

00:01:39,180 --> 00:01:41,730

and dragged us through Germany.

32

00:01:41,730 --> 00:01:44,610

Let's back up a little bit,
and then we'll come to that.

33

00:01:44,610 --> 00:01:47,490

34

00:01:47,490 --> 00:01:51,900

If we can go back just to
your journey to Auschwitz

35

00:01:51,900 --> 00:01:52,970

from Terezin.

36

00:01:52,970 --> 00:01:55,650

And you were with

your-- the four of you

37
00:01:55,650 --> 00:01:58,890
were still together in the
car, in the cattle car.

38
00:01:58,890 --> 00:02:00,840
Not four, three.

39
00:02:00,840 --> 00:02:04,650
Oh, when you left
to go to Auschwitz,

40
00:02:04,650 --> 00:02:06,120
it was just the three girls?

41
00:02:06,120 --> 00:02:06,630
Yeah.

42
00:02:06,630 --> 00:02:07,950
Oh, what about your parents?

43
00:02:07,950 --> 00:02:09,389
They stayed behind.

44
00:02:09,389 --> 00:02:10,419
They stayed behind?

45
00:02:10,419 --> 00:02:10,919
Yeah.

46
00:02:10,919 --> 00:02:14,000

47
00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:15,920
Were you able to
say goodbye to them?

48
00:02:15,920 --> 00:02:18,290
Oh, yes.

49

00:02:18,290 --> 00:02:21,168
They only thought
that we went to gas.

50
00:02:21,168 --> 00:02:21,710
I don't know.

51
00:02:21,710 --> 00:02:26,300
Somebody-- there came a
garbled message or whatever.

52
00:02:26,300 --> 00:02:31,470
But that's everything when we
found out when we came back.

53
00:02:31,470 --> 00:02:31,970
But--

54
00:02:31,970 --> 00:02:34,730

55
00:02:34,730 --> 00:02:37,160
What was it like to have
to say goodbye to them?

56
00:02:37,160 --> 00:02:40,100
Look, that was not pleasant.

57
00:02:40,100 --> 00:02:40,670
It was not.

58
00:02:40,670 --> 00:02:42,770
Did they say anything
special to you?

59
00:02:42,770 --> 00:02:43,880
No, no, no.

60
00:02:43,880 --> 00:02:47,900
Because apparently
my father said

61

00:02:47,900 --> 00:02:50,570
that he knew about the gas.

62
00:02:50,570 --> 00:02:53,570
There were very few people
who knew that it was.

63
00:02:53,570 --> 00:02:57,410
But he didn't tell us, because
he didn't want us to be scared.

64
00:02:57,410 --> 00:03:01,370
Now, for instance
what people didn't

65
00:03:01,370 --> 00:03:07,640
know how and what, because
both of us, my sister and I,

66
00:03:07,640 --> 00:03:10,040
were always nearsighted.

67
00:03:10,040 --> 00:03:13,010
So the normal thing would
be to put our glasses

68
00:03:13,010 --> 00:03:16,790
on when we got out of the
train, because that you

69
00:03:16,790 --> 00:03:17,840
don't lose them.

70
00:03:17,840 --> 00:03:19,820
Yeah.

71
00:03:19,820 --> 00:03:24,240
But we were fortunately
both too vain.

72
00:03:24,240 --> 00:03:26,210
We never wore the glasses.

73

00:03:26,210 --> 00:03:30,020
Had we had them on our nose, we
would have automatically gone

74

00:03:30,020 --> 00:03:32,150
to gas.

75

00:03:32,150 --> 00:03:35,630
Because that's how
that-- you know.

76

00:03:35,630 --> 00:03:38,240
So there were thousands
of things which

77

00:03:38,240 --> 00:03:40,050
worked this way or that way.

78

00:03:40,050 --> 00:03:40,620
And--

79

00:03:40,620 --> 00:03:43,700
The three of you were
together in the car?

80

00:03:43,700 --> 00:03:44,360
Yeah.

81

00:03:44,360 --> 00:03:45,270
What was that like?

82

00:03:45,270 --> 00:03:46,520
What were the conditions like?

83

00:03:46,520 --> 00:03:47,610
Oh, they were terrible.

84

00:03:47,610 --> 00:03:51,110
I think that-- I
think that that was--

85

00:03:51,110 --> 00:03:54,380
it was closed cattle
Wagon They were

86
00:03:54,380 --> 00:03:59,150
not open, because the open
one, we went from Germany.

87
00:03:59,150 --> 00:04:02,490
So it didn't rain
or snow into it.

88
00:04:02,490 --> 00:04:05,000
But I'm sure that
some people died there

89
00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,210
even because it went for days.

90
00:04:08,210 --> 00:04:10,370
There was no food distributed.

91
00:04:10,370 --> 00:04:13,430
There was-- It was--

92
00:04:13,430 --> 00:04:17,930
I don't know how it's possible
to survive, but you survived.

93
00:04:17,930 --> 00:04:21,079
And the three of you stayed
close together in a car?

94
00:04:21,079 --> 00:04:22,160
Yeah.

95
00:04:22,160 --> 00:04:23,390
But you couldn't move.

96
00:04:23,390 --> 00:04:28,140
So once you get together,
you cannot move.

97

00:04:28,140 --> 00:04:29,840

And how did you sleep?

98

00:04:29,840 --> 00:04:33,650

Well, that's [INAUDIBLE].

99

00:04:33,650 --> 00:04:34,850

Sitting up, whatever.

100

00:04:34,850 --> 00:04:36,050

We were not standing.

101

00:04:36,050 --> 00:04:38,480

I think we sat on our--

102

00:04:38,480 --> 00:04:41,570

at that time, we were
still having kind

103

00:04:41,570 --> 00:04:45,230

of a bundle with us, which we
were taking, which they took

104

00:04:45,230 --> 00:04:46,580

away, of course, immediately.

105

00:04:46,580 --> 00:04:49,500

But on that I think we sat.

106

00:04:49,500 --> 00:04:51,960

And did they pass on any
food or water to you?

107

00:04:51,960 --> 00:04:53,450

No, I don't think so.

108

00:04:53,450 --> 00:04:57,560

I have no memory of it.

109

00:04:57,560 --> 00:04:58,550

And again the sani--

110
00:04:58,550 --> 00:05:00,380
I don't know.

111
00:05:00,380 --> 00:05:03,860
When you think about
it, I have no idea.

112
00:05:03,860 --> 00:05:04,770
No memory.

113
00:05:04,770 --> 00:05:09,410
And when you arrived, was
it morning or evening?

114
00:05:09,410 --> 00:05:10,550
It was dark.

115
00:05:10,550 --> 00:05:13,250
There were some reflectors.

116
00:05:13,250 --> 00:05:17,030
They looked 6 foot 2.

117
00:05:17,030 --> 00:05:19,670
And it's right--
because the dirt,

118
00:05:19,670 --> 00:05:25,580
they had these white sleeves
on uniforms, and with a dog.

119
00:05:25,580 --> 00:05:28,520
There was a German
shepherd always.

120
00:05:28,520 --> 00:05:32,120
And they looked tall,
blonde, and clean.

121
00:05:32,120 --> 00:05:36,020
And they were probably

small and dark.

122

00:05:36,020 --> 00:05:39,770

Because I went-- when Eichmann--

123

00:05:39,770 --> 00:05:41,540

we saw him in Auschwitz.

124

00:05:41,540 --> 00:05:45,290

125

00:05:45,290 --> 00:05:46,905

When he was on trial--

126

00:05:46,905 --> 00:05:50,420

Is this Eichmann or Mengele?

127

00:05:50,420 --> 00:05:53,070

Mengele was the one
who was doing this,

128

00:05:53,070 --> 00:05:55,700

but Eichmann was
also in Auschwitz.

129

00:05:55,700 --> 00:05:59,300

He was looking always.

130

00:05:59,300 --> 00:06:03,230

But whatever, I went
when he was on trial.

131

00:06:03,230 --> 00:06:07,820

I was living in Los Angeles
at that time, Beverly Hills.

132

00:06:07,820 --> 00:06:14,000

And I went to Israel to
see him, to end the war.

133

00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:19,820

And I couldn't believe, that

this is a little guy, was dark,

134
00:06:19,820 --> 00:06:20,810
balding.

135
00:06:20,810 --> 00:06:25,010
I mean, it was unbelievable.

136
00:06:25,010 --> 00:06:29,930
I would have sworn that
I know how he looks.

137
00:06:29,930 --> 00:06:32,540
So--

138
00:06:32,540 --> 00:06:35,760
So how did you know what to do
when you got out of the car.

139
00:06:35,760 --> 00:06:37,100
We didn't know.

140
00:06:37,100 --> 00:06:37,940
They told us.

141
00:06:37,940 --> 00:06:39,470
They screamed.

142
00:06:39,470 --> 00:06:45,860
You know, [MUMBLING] So we
marched where they told us.

143
00:06:45,860 --> 00:06:48,230
And again, you
three girls together

144
00:06:48,230 --> 00:06:50,150
were able to stay together.

145
00:06:50,150 --> 00:06:51,290
Well, they sent us--

146

00:06:51,290 --> 00:06:54,390

I told you that they
stripped us as we went--

147

00:06:54,390 --> 00:06:57,643

I meant just getting off the
car and the initial telling you

148

00:06:57,643 --> 00:06:59,060

where to go, you
three of you were

149

00:06:59,060 --> 00:07:02,022

able to stay together
the whole time.

150

00:07:02,022 --> 00:07:02,522

Mm-hmm.

151

00:07:02,522 --> 00:07:06,410

152

00:07:06,410 --> 00:07:08,930

Now, did you get a
number in Auschwitz?

153

00:07:08,930 --> 00:07:09,863

No, we didn't.

154

00:07:09,863 --> 00:07:13,700

155

00:07:13,700 --> 00:07:17,150

There was-- I think
that when we came,

156

00:07:17,150 --> 00:07:22,280

they didn't anymore give
numbers, because I don't know.

157

00:07:22,280 --> 00:07:25,490

I mean, [INAUDIBLE].

158
00:07:25,490 --> 00:07:28,700
What is it like, for again,
for a 19-year-old girl?

159
00:07:28,700 --> 00:07:30,510
You said you had your hair--

160
00:07:30,510 --> 00:07:31,010
Shaved?

161
00:07:31,010 --> 00:07:31,805
That was terrible.

162
00:07:31,805 --> 00:07:34,940

163
00:07:34,940 --> 00:07:38,840
Because at that time, on top
of it, we were all so short.

164
00:07:38,840 --> 00:07:41,570
They shaved it completely.

165
00:07:41,570 --> 00:07:43,070
Other women did this?

166
00:07:43,070 --> 00:07:45,530
And your body hair also?

167
00:07:45,530 --> 00:07:46,400
I don't think so.

168
00:07:46,400 --> 00:07:47,680
Just your hair.

169
00:07:47,680 --> 00:07:49,040
I think.

170
00:07:49,040 --> 00:07:50,750
Other women did this?

171
00:07:50,750 --> 00:07:51,830
No, I think they--

172
00:07:51,830 --> 00:07:52,400
I don't know.

173
00:07:52,400 --> 00:07:53,400
The men were there.

174
00:07:53,400 --> 00:07:56,510
The women-- they were the kapos.

175
00:07:56,510 --> 00:07:59,420
I mean, those were not Germans
I mean, they were horrible.

176
00:07:59,420 --> 00:08:07,140
I mean, that's-- they
were not nice people.

177
00:08:07,140 --> 00:08:09,700
In what way?

178
00:08:09,700 --> 00:08:10,620
In every way.

179
00:08:10,620 --> 00:08:12,870
They were like the Germans.

180
00:08:12,870 --> 00:08:13,680
I don't know.

181
00:08:13,680 --> 00:08:14,950
I don't want to--

182
00:08:14,950 --> 00:08:20,160
look, Israel has the law, if
you were a kapo Nazi, you--

183
00:08:20,160 --> 00:08:28,710

I mean, I think that is a capital punishment for a kapo.

184
00:08:28,710 --> 00:08:30,210
I mean, that's not a joke.

185
00:08:30,210 --> 00:08:36,090
Kapo, even if they are Jewish, I mean,

186
00:08:36,090 --> 00:08:39,720
there was a case in Israel about a kapo.

187
00:08:39,720 --> 00:08:42,285
I forget what happened and how it happened, but--

188
00:08:42,285 --> 00:08:46,370

189
00:08:46,370 --> 00:08:48,720
What was it like when you saw your sister

190
00:08:48,720 --> 00:08:49,890
after she had no hair?

191
00:08:49,890 --> 00:08:54,090

192
00:08:54,090 --> 00:08:55,590
I don't think that we even--

193
00:08:55,590 --> 00:08:58,140
I mean, that was the last you would think.

194
00:08:58,140 --> 00:08:59,880
I mean, it was--

195
00:08:59,880 --> 00:09:01,810

you didn't know what happened.

196
00:09:01,810 --> 00:09:03,600
I mean, you are
standing in a place

197
00:09:03,600 --> 00:09:07,690
where are showers, which
could be gas or water.

198
00:09:07,690 --> 00:09:08,520
They shave you.

199
00:09:08,520 --> 00:09:11,210
There are men who are raping
the women or whatever,

200
00:09:11,210 --> 00:09:13,680
and they are--

201
00:09:13,680 --> 00:09:15,850
Were you-- were you assaulted?

202
00:09:15,850 --> 00:09:16,350
No.

203
00:09:16,350 --> 00:09:19,760

204
00:09:19,760 --> 00:09:23,930
But that's the last
thing which I mean--

205
00:09:23,930 --> 00:09:27,140
you are stripped of your
identity, of everything.

206
00:09:27,140 --> 00:09:32,500

207
00:09:32,500 --> 00:09:38,260
So it's not that I would look

and say, look, you look well

208

00:09:38,260 --> 00:09:38,760
or what.

209

00:09:38,760 --> 00:09:41,443

210

00:09:41,443 --> 00:09:42,610
What were the barracks like?

211

00:09:42,610 --> 00:09:45,990
Where did you
sleep in Auschwitz?

212

00:09:45,990 --> 00:09:50,470
I have only a memory of it.

213

00:09:50,470 --> 00:09:52,600
Because in Theresienstadt,
most of them

214

00:09:52,600 --> 00:09:56,860
were stone, old
barracks for soldiers.

215

00:09:56,860 --> 00:09:58,900
But at least it has--

216

00:09:58,900 --> 00:10:01,060
it was not so cold or whatever.

217

00:10:01,060 --> 00:10:04,980
This was one-- three beds,
or I don't know how many,

218

00:10:04,980 --> 00:10:05,965
whether three or four.

219

00:10:05,965 --> 00:10:10,420

220

00:10:10,420 --> 00:10:15,490

And I think they were wooden barracks probably put up there.

221

00:10:15,490 --> 00:10:19,180

And mud everywhere.

222

00:10:19,180 --> 00:10:21,040

Did you have a blanket?

223

00:10:21,040 --> 00:10:22,720

I think there was or wasn't.

224

00:10:22,720 --> 00:10:23,440

I don't know.

225

00:10:23,440 --> 00:10:25,160

I don't know.

226

00:10:25,160 --> 00:10:33,790

But I went-- that must be now like 10 years.

227

00:10:33,790 --> 00:10:35,920

We were in Munich with my husband,

228

00:10:35,920 --> 00:10:41,260

and I went to see Dachau.

229

00:10:41,260 --> 00:10:44,560

And it looked so clean.

230

00:10:44,560 --> 00:10:46,900

You know, which is untrue.

231

00:10:46,900 --> 00:10:50,410

I mean, that's the whole thing, that it doesn't--

232

00:10:50,410 --> 00:10:51,745

it doesn't look so bad.

233
00:10:51,745 --> 00:10:56,920

234
00:10:56,920 --> 00:10:58,830
Did you work in Auschwitz?

235
00:10:58,830 --> 00:11:00,460
No, no.

236
00:11:00,460 --> 00:11:03,400
Because we read the whole
time standing somewhere,

237
00:11:03,400 --> 00:11:05,380
Zahlappell or whatever.

238
00:11:05,380 --> 00:11:07,184
Just standing and
standing and standing.

239
00:11:07,184 --> 00:11:08,920
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

240
00:11:08,920 --> 00:11:13,210
No, I think we were by that time
marked either for extinction

241
00:11:13,210 --> 00:11:17,320
or for work in Germany.

242
00:11:17,320 --> 00:11:19,270
What did you talk
about with your sister?

243
00:11:19,270 --> 00:11:21,100
We didn't talk.

244
00:11:21,100 --> 00:11:24,310
I mean, you can't.

245

00:11:24,310 --> 00:11:27,310

Even if we talk, I
have no memory anymore.

246

00:11:27,310 --> 00:11:36,400

But we came 2 and 1/2
thousand, and only like 200

247

00:11:36,400 --> 00:11:38,800

of that went to the right side.

248

00:11:38,800 --> 00:11:44,110

So that's a little bit, you
know, concentrates your mind.

249

00:11:44,110 --> 00:11:46,920

250

00:11:46,920 --> 00:11:51,060

And the smell of
the burning flesh?

251

00:11:51,060 --> 00:11:54,510

I mean, you can't.

252

00:11:54,510 --> 00:11:59,370

You can't start to do soul
searching or whatever.

253

00:11:59,370 --> 00:12:01,420

I think that we were
in absolute shock.

254

00:12:01,420 --> 00:12:16,720

255

00:12:16,720 --> 00:12:19,420

So then you were
there for a few weeks.

256

00:12:19,420 --> 00:12:22,540

I think, but I cannot--

257
00:12:22,540 --> 00:12:27,380
that I cannot
vouch for how long.

258
00:12:27,380 --> 00:12:30,460
And then how-- you said
you got these new clogs

259
00:12:30,460 --> 00:12:32,800
or these new shoes,
because you were told

260
00:12:32,800 --> 00:12:36,400
you were going to be
sent somewhere else.

261
00:12:36,400 --> 00:12:39,010
Well, that was part
of it, that they

262
00:12:39,010 --> 00:12:43,930
were processing us for that.

263
00:12:43,930 --> 00:12:51,760
And we were sent then to
a place which at that time

264
00:12:51,760 --> 00:12:57,640
the Germans were kind
of very good about it,

265
00:12:57,640 --> 00:13:02,420
that every factory in
Germany had slave labor.

266
00:13:02,420 --> 00:13:05,620
Therefore it's such a nonsense
to say we didn't know.

267
00:13:05,620 --> 00:13:10,530
There wasn't a place which
didn't have a factory.

268
00:13:10,530 --> 00:13:15,520
And there wasn't a factory
which didn't have slave labor.

269
00:13:15,520 --> 00:13:21,100
And we were sent to
a munition factory,

270
00:13:21,100 --> 00:13:26,830
to a small place near
Sachsen, Chemnitz, which

271
00:13:26,830 --> 00:13:28,660
is in East Germany.

272
00:13:28,660 --> 00:13:34,040

273
00:13:34,040 --> 00:13:36,440
If you don't mind, I just
want to back up a little bit.

274
00:13:36,440 --> 00:13:39,290

275
00:13:39,290 --> 00:13:41,420
Do you know which
barrack you were in,

276
00:13:41,420 --> 00:13:43,650
in Auschwitz, the number?

277
00:13:43,650 --> 00:13:45,350
No, I don't know.

278
00:13:45,350 --> 00:13:48,530
And also, were you
getting your period then?

279
00:13:48,530 --> 00:13:51,810
No, I was having it.

280

00:13:51,810 --> 00:13:56,150

I remember when we went to the
first Zahlappell, and stopped

281

00:13:56,150 --> 00:14:00,230

and never got it till
I got back to Prague.

282

00:14:00,230 --> 00:14:01,340

Neither of us.

283

00:14:01,340 --> 00:14:03,530

I think that was one
of the things which--

284

00:14:03,530 --> 00:14:10,690

285

00:14:10,690 --> 00:14:20,470

just never the whole
eight months or whatever.

286

00:14:20,470 --> 00:14:22,570

When you were in Auschwitz,
did you see the men,

287

00:14:22,570 --> 00:14:26,410

or was it strictly women
that you were with?

288

00:14:26,410 --> 00:14:28,620

Well, in the
barracks were women,

289

00:14:28,620 --> 00:14:31,990

but there were these
kapos everywhere.

290

00:14:31,990 --> 00:14:33,660

There were men somehow.

291

00:14:33,660 --> 00:14:35,880
I don't know.

292
00:14:35,880 --> 00:14:37,410
Other men prisoners?

293
00:14:37,410 --> 00:14:39,120
No, I don't think so.

294
00:14:39,120 --> 00:14:41,280
No, I don't think
that we saw them.

295
00:14:41,280 --> 00:14:43,380
I don't know, but
I don't think so.

296
00:14:43,380 --> 00:14:44,040
Did you?

297
00:14:44,040 --> 00:14:46,050
I know you said you didn't
have really a chance

298
00:14:46,050 --> 00:14:49,950
to talk too much, but
were the older women

299
00:14:49,950 --> 00:14:51,510
helpful to the younger women?

300
00:14:51,510 --> 00:14:53,760
Was there any kind
of support that--

301
00:14:53,760 --> 00:14:55,260
There were no older women.

302
00:14:55,260 --> 00:14:56,130
They were dead.

303
00:14:56,130 --> 00:14:59,100

If you are older,
you are gassed.

304
00:14:59,100 --> 00:15:02,130
Well, when I meant older
I meant 26, 27-year-olds.

305
00:15:02,130 --> 00:15:06,300
You know, were they of support
to the 18 and 19-Year-olds?

306
00:15:06,300 --> 00:15:07,420
I don't think so.

307
00:15:07,420 --> 00:15:10,140

308
00:15:10,140 --> 00:15:14,970
What about sharing of food and--

309
00:15:14,970 --> 00:15:17,610
No.

310
00:15:17,610 --> 00:15:19,065
There was nothing to share.

311
00:15:19,065 --> 00:15:22,440

312
00:15:22,440 --> 00:15:24,180
All right, then as
you said, you left.

313
00:15:24,180 --> 00:15:29,246
And you were at this
first labor camp.

314
00:15:29,246 --> 00:15:30,120
Yeah.

315
00:15:30,120 --> 00:15:30,930
Then what?

316
00:15:30,930 --> 00:15:34,200
That was like
probably the building.

317
00:15:34,200 --> 00:15:36,120
I don't know what it was once.

318
00:15:36,120 --> 00:15:39,540

319
00:15:39,540 --> 00:15:42,330
And--

320
00:15:42,330 --> 00:15:44,520
You said this was near where?

321
00:15:44,520 --> 00:15:46,860
Sachsen Chemnitz.

322
00:15:46,860 --> 00:15:48,880
How far from Auschwitz?

323
00:15:48,880 --> 00:15:49,570
How long?

324
00:15:49,570 --> 00:15:51,295
Oh, that's in East Germany.

325
00:15:51,295 --> 00:15:52,570
In East Germany.

326
00:15:52,570 --> 00:15:53,070
Yeah.

327
00:15:53,070 --> 00:15:59,520
I now remember that the
train went through Dresden.

328
00:15:59,520 --> 00:16:07,900
We didn't see, but somebody

who was near the window--

329

00:16:07,900 --> 00:16:09,460

Was this another cattle car?

330

00:16:09,460 --> 00:16:09,960

Yeah.

331

00:16:09,960 --> 00:16:15,930

332

00:16:15,930 --> 00:16:18,240

That Dresden is in ruins.

333

00:16:18,240 --> 00:16:20,830

Because when we were
going to Auschwitz,

334

00:16:20,830 --> 00:16:23,850

Dresden was standing.

335

00:16:23,850 --> 00:16:26,310

And this was after the bombing.

336

00:16:26,310 --> 00:16:29,970

And later today it
was such a pleasure.

337

00:16:29,970 --> 00:16:35,010

Till today, the Americans have
a terrible conscience about it,

338

00:16:35,010 --> 00:16:40,170

and I still don't know what
they are so sorry about.

339

00:16:40,170 --> 00:16:43,650

I mean, after all, the
Germans bombed Coventry first.

340

00:16:43,650 --> 00:16:47,040

341
00:16:47,040 --> 00:16:52,770
But it is in East Germany.

342
00:16:52,770 --> 00:16:55,620
That I know, because I couldn't
go there after the war,

343
00:16:55,620 --> 00:17:01,950
because it was under
communistic domain.

344
00:17:01,950 --> 00:17:04,550
Again, the three of you, your
friend is still with you?

345
00:17:04,550 --> 00:17:05,050
Yeah.

346
00:17:05,050 --> 00:17:08,130

347
00:17:08,130 --> 00:17:11,160
So you arrived there?

348
00:17:11,160 --> 00:17:21,520
Yeah, and we had an SS
woman who was a commander.

349
00:17:21,520 --> 00:17:24,890
I don't know whether she was
there from the beginning.

350
00:17:24,890 --> 00:17:27,000
You mean coming with
you from Auschwitz?

351
00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:27,569
No, no.

352
00:17:27,569 --> 00:17:29,820
She was at the camp.

353
00:17:29,820 --> 00:17:32,490
Perhaps she was coming
with us, but I don't know.

354
00:17:32,490 --> 00:17:34,410
That I don't know.

355
00:17:34,410 --> 00:17:40,390
She was I think the
sister of Elsa Koch.

356
00:17:40,390 --> 00:17:46,930
And she took two girls
to be her special kind

357
00:17:46,930 --> 00:17:52,870
of maids-in-waiting.

358
00:17:52,870 --> 00:17:58,529

359
00:17:58,529 --> 00:18:04,560
And we were getting--

360
00:18:04,560 --> 00:18:09,690
unfortunately, that was bad
for me, because my sister and--

361
00:18:09,690 --> 00:18:14,250
they were putting two
people always in one bunker.

362
00:18:14,250 --> 00:18:17,160
They were three kind
of one above the other.

363
00:18:17,160 --> 00:18:21,390
And I was in a different
than [? Elena ?] was.

364
00:18:21,390 --> 00:18:23,220

And she got with
[? Sarah. ?] And I

365
00:18:23,220 --> 00:18:28,480
was got it with somebody
else, that another Czech girl.

366
00:18:28,480 --> 00:18:36,500
And we were then
working in a factory

367
00:18:36,500 --> 00:18:43,190
which was nearby, making
anti-aircraft kind

368
00:18:43,190 --> 00:18:46,070
of ammunition.

369
00:18:46,070 --> 00:18:50,180
And there were already some
of the other prisoners.

370
00:18:50,180 --> 00:18:54,050
I know that there were
some Polish women.

371
00:18:54,050 --> 00:18:56,750
Then there were very few
who were really there

372
00:18:56,750 --> 00:19:02,030
because they were
really criminals.

373
00:19:02,030 --> 00:19:03,440
And they had the best life.

374
00:19:03,440 --> 00:19:04,930
They had much better--

375
00:19:04,930 --> 00:19:06,680
got more food and everything.

376

00:19:06,680 --> 00:19:09,650

Because they were
only criminals.

377

00:19:09,650 --> 00:19:13,220

And one thing which was--

378

00:19:13,220 --> 00:19:15,820

379

00:19:15,820 --> 00:19:23,580

that we had always a German
civilian master at the factory

380

00:19:23,580 --> 00:19:25,650

or whatever, who
had to show you what

381

00:19:25,650 --> 00:19:29,810

to do and to see whether you
do it right, because it had--

382

00:19:29,810 --> 00:19:34,800

it was working with machinery.

383

00:19:34,800 --> 00:19:39,180

And he was nearly-- to
everybody always they

384

00:19:39,180 --> 00:19:41,130

would whisper to
all of us always,

385

00:19:41,130 --> 00:19:44,760

you know, I used to
be a Social Democrat,

386

00:19:44,760 --> 00:19:50,290

and tell perhaps even knew
what the BBC is saying.

387

00:19:50,290 --> 00:19:55,470

But I remember that he
was saying my last son,

388
00:19:55,470 --> 00:19:59,770
I had three sons, and two
are already dead, died

389
00:19:59,770 --> 00:20:01,390
at Stalingrad and at this one.

390
00:20:01,390 --> 00:20:03,310
And this one is joining.

391
00:20:03,310 --> 00:20:05,470
He's 16, joining the army.

392
00:20:05,470 --> 00:20:09,730
And one of our girls
said, Oh, I'm sorry.

393
00:20:09,730 --> 00:20:11,800
And he said, what
are you sorry about?

394
00:20:11,800 --> 00:20:14,710
He's fighting for Hitler.

395
00:20:14,710 --> 00:20:18,340
So I mean, you know, what they
today say, how they didn't know

396
00:20:18,340 --> 00:20:19,990
and everything?

397
00:20:19,990 --> 00:20:24,910
They liked him as long as
he was winning the war.

398
00:20:24,910 --> 00:20:31,540
And only the funny religious
sects, they were kind of--

399

00:20:31,540 --> 00:20:34,270
there was one who--

400
00:20:34,270 --> 00:20:39,370
the girl who worked on his
machine was a Dutch girl.

401
00:20:39,370 --> 00:20:41,740
And she had TB before already.

402
00:20:41,740 --> 00:20:44,620

403
00:20:44,620 --> 00:20:48,790
And he said that he
belongs to some--

404
00:20:48,790 --> 00:20:51,290
I don't know which sect it was.

405
00:20:51,290 --> 00:20:57,220
It was I think Christian sect,
but not the normal Protestant

406
00:20:57,220 --> 00:20:59,050
or whatever or perhaps.

407
00:20:59,050 --> 00:21:01,990
And he said, "look, I
don't believe in Hitler.

408
00:21:01,990 --> 00:21:04,040
I don't believe in
this, that, whatever,

409
00:21:04,040 --> 00:21:06,550
and I will bring
you some more food.

410
00:21:06,550 --> 00:21:09,370
I bring you some."

411

00:21:09,370 --> 00:21:11,920
and she said, "I wouldn't
take anything from a German."

412
00:21:11,920 --> 00:21:13,370
And she didn't.

413
00:21:13,370 --> 00:21:16,810
He begged her.

414
00:21:16,810 --> 00:21:17,350
She didn't.

415
00:21:17,350 --> 00:21:23,510

416
00:21:23,510 --> 00:21:28,130
But there we were
really hungry, also.

417
00:21:28,130 --> 00:21:29,720
Because that was already--

418
00:21:29,720 --> 00:21:32,970

419
00:21:32,970 --> 00:21:41,340
we got twice a day soup.

420
00:21:41,340 --> 00:21:46,560
The soup for lunch
was only water.

421
00:21:46,560 --> 00:21:53,490
And if there was one piece of
potato floating, we were lucky.

422
00:21:53,490 --> 00:21:56,250
In the evening, it
had like two or three.

423
00:21:56,250 --> 00:22:01,620

Not potatoes, pieces of
potato, or Kurbis, or something

424
00:22:01,620 --> 00:22:03,660
like that floating there.

425
00:22:03,660 --> 00:22:07,110
And one piece of bread.

426
00:22:07,110 --> 00:22:10,980
No salt. And that
was a terrible thing.

427
00:22:10,980 --> 00:22:14,160
They didn't have German salt.
And they had for themselves,

428
00:22:14,160 --> 00:22:17,870
but by that time, they lost
Romania, and they didn't--

429
00:22:17,870 --> 00:22:25,020

430
00:22:25,020 --> 00:22:30,970
And that was really
[? starving. ?]

431
00:22:30,970 --> 00:22:32,310
We decided that--

432
00:22:32,310 --> 00:22:35,610
I think we didn't
work one day a week.

433
00:22:35,610 --> 00:22:38,430
We had to stand at Zahlappells.

434
00:22:38,430 --> 00:22:41,910
But then I think we
work either half a day

435

00:22:41,910 --> 00:22:44,400
or not the whole day.

436
00:22:44,400 --> 00:22:48,240
And we decided,
which was absolutely

437
00:22:48,240 --> 00:22:50,760
against all the
rules and you could

438
00:22:50,760 --> 00:22:54,750
be shot for that,
that we somewhere

439
00:22:54,750 --> 00:23:03,480
stole a piece of Brot.

440
00:23:03,480 --> 00:23:10,020
And we saved the last three
days this one piece of bread.

441
00:23:10,020 --> 00:23:12,810
And on that day
when we worked less

442
00:23:12,810 --> 00:23:15,120
or we were allowed
to get together--

443
00:23:15,120 --> 00:23:19,670
I don't anymore remember
whether it was that we did--

444
00:23:19,670 --> 00:23:25,380
we ate it like ladies, not fast.

445
00:23:25,380 --> 00:23:29,820
So that was our
revenge on the Germans.

446
00:23:29,820 --> 00:23:36,030
And I remember there was

one woman who was pregnant.

447

00:23:36,030 --> 00:23:39,780

And they sent her, of course,
to another camp to be gassed.

448

00:23:39,780 --> 00:23:41,290

We never saw her again.

449

00:23:41,290 --> 00:23:50,610

I mean, and I got once sick.

450

00:23:50,610 --> 00:23:54,210

And that was one of the
Polish women who came.

451

00:23:54,210 --> 00:23:55,500

They put me in a--

452

00:23:55,500 --> 00:23:59,970

453

00:23:59,970 --> 00:24:02,850

There was a room, but
they had no nothing.

454

00:24:02,850 --> 00:24:07,470

They had nothing, but you
could go to that place

455

00:24:07,470 --> 00:24:08,760

if you were sick.

456

00:24:08,760 --> 00:24:12,930

And I had high
temperature, but I probably

457

00:24:12,930 --> 00:24:15,030

wanted just to give
up or whatever.

458

00:24:15,030 --> 00:24:19,170

And she came, this Polish woman.

459

00:24:19,170 --> 00:24:25,140

And she was singing
to me Yiddish songs.

460

00:24:25,140 --> 00:24:28,170

I didn't know Yiddish,
but if you know German,

461

00:24:28,170 --> 00:24:30,660

so it's not that far.

462

00:24:30,660 --> 00:24:33,840

It was-- and the
only thing that was

463

00:24:33,840 --> 00:24:37,530

"get up, get up, and
get out of here," which

464

00:24:37,530 --> 00:24:39,690

again probably saved my life.

465

00:24:39,690 --> 00:24:43,290

Because they didn't
keep you there long.

466

00:24:43,290 --> 00:24:45,180

They sent you to--

467

00:24:45,180 --> 00:24:47,880

I think it was
Flossenburg, which

468

00:24:47,880 --> 00:24:51,540

we belonged to, which had
the gas or whatever, shooting

469

00:24:51,540 --> 00:24:52,740

or whatever.

470

00:24:52,740 --> 00:24:54,270
I mean, we were too small.

471
00:24:54,270 --> 00:24:56,410
We were like--

472
00:24:56,410 --> 00:24:58,860
I don't know
whether we were 500,

473
00:24:58,860 --> 00:25:00,900
but it was a small, small camp.

474
00:25:00,900 --> 00:25:01,950
It was really--

475
00:25:01,950 --> 00:25:03,390
Of women only?

476
00:25:03,390 --> 00:25:05,130
Yeah, yeah.

477
00:25:05,130 --> 00:25:08,220
Only women.

478
00:25:08,220 --> 00:25:10,560
I don't know this Polish women.

479
00:25:10,560 --> 00:25:12,300
I think they were--

480
00:25:12,300 --> 00:25:14,460
the Russian women were in--

481
00:25:14,460 --> 00:25:20,160
they were for years, and
gypsies in Auschwitz.

482
00:25:20,160 --> 00:25:22,170
They were not Jews.

483

00:25:22,170 --> 00:25:24,910
They were the prisoners
of war or whatever.

484
00:25:24,910 --> 00:25:31,310

485
00:25:31,310 --> 00:25:34,110
How was it to see dead bodies?

486
00:25:34,110 --> 00:25:34,610
For you?

487
00:25:34,610 --> 00:25:38,540

488
00:25:38,540 --> 00:25:41,510
I don't know whether I saw them.

489
00:25:41,510 --> 00:25:45,560
Either in Auschwitz or?

490
00:25:45,560 --> 00:25:46,490
I don't know.

491
00:25:46,490 --> 00:25:48,882
I don't think I saw them.

492
00:25:48,882 --> 00:25:52,280
No, in this camp
they sent that that

493
00:25:52,280 --> 00:25:56,295
execute whatever was done
somewhere else, in a proper so

494
00:25:56,295 --> 00:25:56,885
to say.

495
00:25:56,885 --> 00:25:58,230
We were the labor.

496

00:25:58,230 --> 00:26:00,340

We were the spin off of that.

497

00:26:00,340 --> 00:26:03,050

498

00:26:03,050 --> 00:26:04,400

Like a satellite camp?

499

00:26:04,400 --> 00:26:05,530

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

500

00:26:05,530 --> 00:26:08,180

501

00:26:08,180 --> 00:26:11,060

So you went to work?

502

00:26:11,060 --> 00:26:13,880

Yes, we worked long hours.

503

00:26:13,880 --> 00:26:16,340

There was always one SS or two--

504

00:26:16,340 --> 00:26:20,480

I don't remember-- sitting in
that place where we worked.

505

00:26:20,480 --> 00:26:22,100

You know, watching.

506

00:26:22,100 --> 00:26:26,180

I don't know what they
were watching, really.

507

00:26:26,180 --> 00:26:30,500

But that was only because they
didn't trust even each other,

508

00:26:30,500 --> 00:26:32,150

because there were

only otherwise

509

00:26:32,150 --> 00:26:40,010

a German supervisor, who had to
be there if something went bad

510

00:26:40,010 --> 00:26:41,030

with the machinery.

511

00:26:41,030 --> 00:26:44,660

And I can't tell you whether
the machinery was modern or old,

512

00:26:44,660 --> 00:26:46,695

because I wouldn't
know till today.

513

00:26:46,695 --> 00:26:49,360

514

00:26:49,360 --> 00:26:56,920

And also what was the
relationship between the women,

515

00:26:56,920 --> 00:26:59,590

different aged women?

516

00:26:59,590 --> 00:27:03,250

I don't know why you are--

517

00:27:03,250 --> 00:27:05,890

at this point,
there was not really

518

00:27:05,890 --> 00:27:08,620

such a difference in age.

519

00:27:08,620 --> 00:27:12,790

Because the older,
they were dead.

520

00:27:12,790 --> 00:27:13,780

They were not there.

521
00:27:13,780 --> 00:27:16,630

522
00:27:16,630 --> 00:27:20,270
Well, as I said, when I mean
older, I mean maybe late 20s.

523
00:27:20,270 --> 00:27:23,320
I'm not talking about older,
older but like a 10 year

524
00:27:23,320 --> 00:27:25,210
difference in age.

525
00:27:25,210 --> 00:27:30,430
Yeah, but you don't--
if you are reduced to--

526
00:27:30,430 --> 00:27:34,050
I mean, those, I think--

527
00:27:34,050 --> 00:27:38,290
you don't-- I don't know
why would be there any kind.

528
00:27:38,290 --> 00:27:41,440
I mean, talking about what?

529
00:27:41,440 --> 00:27:44,920
Nobody talked too much.

530
00:27:44,920 --> 00:27:47,350
We had no opportunity, also.

531
00:27:47,350 --> 00:27:52,030
We worked and went to sleep
and got up at 6:00 or five.

532
00:27:52,030 --> 00:27:53,560
I don't know when it was.

533
00:27:53,560 --> 00:27:54,940
And I think it was--

534
00:27:54,940 --> 00:27:57,640
Did they give you anything
to eat in the morning?

535
00:27:57,640 --> 00:28:00,760
I think there was kind
of so-called coffee.

536
00:28:00,760 --> 00:28:02,380
Not coffee but whatever.

537
00:28:02,380 --> 00:28:07,020
I don't have a memory of that.

538
00:28:07,020 --> 00:28:09,310
But we worked like
12 hours a day.

539
00:28:09,310 --> 00:28:11,780
So that is not--

540
00:28:11,780 --> 00:28:13,780
Were you allowed to talk
while you were working?

541
00:28:13,780 --> 00:28:17,045
No, you were not
working with somebody.

542
00:28:17,045 --> 00:28:17,920
Next to someone else.

543
00:28:17,920 --> 00:28:18,790
Yeah.

544
00:28:18,790 --> 00:28:22,090
And you also had where you
asked to go to the bathroom,

545

00:28:22,090 --> 00:28:26,000

you had to ask a German
sitting there, which

546

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:29,800

were in the same kind of
environment of toilets.

547

00:28:29,800 --> 00:28:33,250

So it was not that you
went somewhere else,

548

00:28:33,250 --> 00:28:36,900

but even that was like, you
could go once in the morning

549

00:28:36,900 --> 00:28:41,200

and once in the
afternoon, whatever.

550

00:28:41,200 --> 00:28:43,700

Had you lost a lot of weight?

551

00:28:43,700 --> 00:28:46,210

Yes.

552

00:28:46,210 --> 00:28:50,550

I'm sure, because when we
came back, we were skeletons.

553

00:28:50,550 --> 00:28:54,300

554

00:28:54,300 --> 00:28:57,060

But I didn't have the
clothes to find out.

555

00:28:57,060 --> 00:29:00,810

556

00:29:00,810 --> 00:29:02,400

When you would look
at your sister,

557
00:29:02,400 --> 00:29:06,360
would you look and feel like
you were looking at yourself,

558
00:29:06,360 --> 00:29:08,100
and this is why I must look?

559
00:29:08,100 --> 00:29:12,960
No, I have no memory that
I would be thinking "I look

560
00:29:12,960 --> 00:29:15,090
terrible" or "I look well."

561
00:29:15,090 --> 00:29:19,110
Because that wasn't in
your making anymore.

562
00:29:19,110 --> 00:29:25,215
That was-- I think that
everything else shuts off.

563
00:29:25,215 --> 00:29:28,230

564
00:29:28,230 --> 00:29:31,780
And it was not that on Sunday
we were going to visit somebody,

565
00:29:31,780 --> 00:29:33,600
so therefore I
should look decent.

566
00:29:33,600 --> 00:29:37,850

567
00:29:37,850 --> 00:29:39,580
And then how long
did you stay there?

568

00:29:39,580 --> 00:29:43,370

569

00:29:43,370 --> 00:29:45,800

It must have been--

570

00:29:45,800 --> 00:29:48,470

first of all, we had no
calendar, so we don't know.

571

00:29:48,470 --> 00:29:49,430

We had no watches.

572

00:29:49,430 --> 00:29:50,450

We had no calendar.

573

00:29:50,450 --> 00:29:51,200

We had nothing.

574

00:29:51,200 --> 00:29:54,260

575

00:29:54,260 --> 00:29:59,930

But I know that we were
during Hitler's birthday,

576

00:29:59,930 --> 00:30:07,775

on 20th of April '45,
in one of those--

577

00:30:07,775 --> 00:30:10,790

578

00:30:10,790 --> 00:30:13,065

being dragged from
nowhere to nowhere.

579

00:30:13,065 --> 00:30:15,610

580

00:30:15,610 --> 00:30:17,420

Because the Russian--

581
00:30:17,420 --> 00:30:22,880
You had left this place by then?

582
00:30:22,880 --> 00:30:27,590
It slowly started to
peter even into the camp

583
00:30:27,590 --> 00:30:32,480
that English occupied
Bergen-Belsen

584
00:30:32,480 --> 00:30:37,100
The Americans are
I don't know where,

585
00:30:37,100 --> 00:30:38,720
and the Russians were nearing.

586
00:30:38,720 --> 00:30:41,300
This was East Germany.

587
00:30:41,300 --> 00:30:45,890
And they were suddenly-- even
the SS started to look very

588
00:30:45,890 --> 00:30:50,590
funny, because the
Russians, I think,

589
00:30:50,590 --> 00:30:53,765
were nearing the Sachsen--

590
00:30:53,765 --> 00:30:54,760
Sachsen Chemnitz.

591
00:30:54,760 --> 00:30:59,350
And to be SS women in the camp
wasn't the best profession

592
00:30:59,350 --> 00:31:01,210

for them.

593
00:31:01,210 --> 00:31:07,560
And they tried to get
rid of us, which is not

594
00:31:07,560 --> 00:31:11,250
that easy as it sounds
if you don't have the gas

595
00:31:11,250 --> 00:31:14,340
chambers or whatever.

596
00:31:14,340 --> 00:31:21,360
And somehow this Elsa
Koch's sister, I mean,

597
00:31:21,360 --> 00:31:24,300
because she had clout
and everything--

598
00:31:24,300 --> 00:31:32,940

599
00:31:32,940 --> 00:31:35,340
This is tape two, side B,
and you were talking about--

600
00:31:35,340 --> 00:31:38,250
Yeah, she somehow
got out of them

601
00:31:38,250 --> 00:31:47,240
that they will try to get
the train for evacuating us.

602
00:31:47,240 --> 00:31:51,810
So that were this time
open cattle wagons.

603
00:31:51,810 --> 00:31:55,890
And first they
wanted us to get us

604

00:31:55,890 --> 00:32:00,000

to one camp, which then was
occupied by some already.

605

00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:02,150

I think that was
like Bergen-Belsen

606

00:32:02,150 --> 00:32:03,700

and the English were there.

607

00:32:03,700 --> 00:32:06,210

And so they decided
on something else,

608

00:32:06,210 --> 00:32:09,270

and the Americans were there.

609

00:32:09,270 --> 00:32:15,440

And I remember that at one--

610

00:32:15,440 --> 00:32:19,450

the American Air Force must have
been which did the strafing.

611

00:32:19,450 --> 00:32:24,270

You know, when the Germans
flat and left us there to stay,

612

00:32:24,270 --> 00:32:30,450

and one of our people was clever
enough and said bend over that

613

00:32:30,450 --> 00:32:33,600

they can see the [? KZ ?]
big on [? that. ?]

614

00:32:33,600 --> 00:32:36,250

Whether they really could
or not, I don't know.

615

00:32:36,250 --> 00:32:38,580
But they did not strafe us.

616
00:32:38,580 --> 00:32:40,270
This is here in these open cars?

617
00:32:40,270 --> 00:32:41,790
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

618
00:32:41,790 --> 00:32:44,730
And you know, those were
the planes which get very--

619
00:32:44,730 --> 00:32:45,720
Come down low.

620
00:32:45,720 --> 00:32:46,540
Yeah.

621
00:32:46,540 --> 00:32:48,630
And so the Germans came back.

622
00:32:48,630 --> 00:32:54,900
And then in the end, they
wanted-- because the German

623
00:32:54,900 --> 00:32:58,320
SS wanted to run
for their life, they

624
00:32:58,320 --> 00:33:02,490
had a dream they
would go to Italy.

625
00:33:02,490 --> 00:33:07,440
Because they told to one of
the girls who worked for them

626
00:33:07,440 --> 00:33:11,670
that they want to go to Italy.

627
00:33:11,670 --> 00:33:17,310

And so they wanted
to get rid of us.

628
00:33:17,310 --> 00:33:22,290
They couldn't find the
camp, because they were--

629
00:33:22,290 --> 00:33:27,510
And again, I don't know
how long we were there.

630
00:33:27,510 --> 00:33:28,980
For days.

631
00:33:28,980 --> 00:33:30,100
In this open cattle car?

632
00:33:30,100 --> 00:33:30,600
Yeah.

633
00:33:30,600 --> 00:33:32,730
Any food?

634
00:33:32,730 --> 00:33:34,950
They once gave us something.

635
00:33:34,950 --> 00:33:37,440
I remember a piece
of bread or whatever.

636
00:33:37,440 --> 00:33:39,960
That I remember.

637
00:33:39,960 --> 00:33:51,530
And they at least wanted to
get us to Theresienstadt.

638
00:33:51,530 --> 00:33:55,880
Theresienstadt
head of the Germans

639
00:33:55,880 --> 00:33:57,770

didn't want that,
because he said

640
00:33:57,770 --> 00:34:02,630
I have the Red Cross sitting
here around the corner,

641
00:34:02,630 --> 00:34:05,000
waiting to walk in.

642
00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:08,429
And I'm telling them that
nothing ever happened.

643
00:34:08,429 --> 00:34:13,040
And now you are sending
me people with everything.

644
00:34:13,040 --> 00:34:16,580
We had typhoid, and the
other typhoid, and this one,

645
00:34:16,580 --> 00:34:20,179
and that one, and without
hair, and with lice and fleas.

646
00:34:20,179 --> 00:34:27,139
Because-- but in
the end, he gave in.

647
00:34:27,139 --> 00:34:31,744
And we were the second
transport who went back.

648
00:34:31,744 --> 00:34:34,920

649
00:34:34,920 --> 00:34:37,980
And that was--

650
00:34:37,980 --> 00:34:42,900
I remember that we who knew
what Theresienstadt, what

651
00:34:42,900 --> 00:34:46,560
it is about, were very
happy about it, and kind of,

652
00:34:46,560 --> 00:34:52,050
let's hold together, because
we were really on a point of--

653
00:34:52,050 --> 00:34:57,170
And so the Germans
being Germans,

654
00:34:57,170 --> 00:35:04,200
very nicely, came and said,
"do you see the smoke there?"

655
00:35:04,200 --> 00:35:06,875
That's from the people you
thought you left behind."

656
00:35:06,875 --> 00:35:09,960

657
00:35:09,960 --> 00:35:14,970
Now, the Germans were
burning their files,

658
00:35:14,970 --> 00:35:17,220
which we didn't know.

659
00:35:17,220 --> 00:35:19,560
Because apparently
they put the files

660
00:35:19,560 --> 00:35:21,510
to Theresien, which was clever.

661
00:35:21,510 --> 00:35:25,370
Nobody of the Allies
would bomb it.

662

00:35:25,370 --> 00:35:29,820

663

00:35:29,820 --> 00:35:31,950

So that's what
they were burning.

664

00:35:31,950 --> 00:35:36,360

They had no gas chamber,
but they told us, oh, they

665

00:35:36,360 --> 00:35:37,920

built the gas chambers.

666

00:35:37,920 --> 00:35:47,710

And so when we staggered out--
and we were both quite sick.

667

00:35:47,710 --> 00:35:50,370

We had diphtheria
and everything.

668

00:35:50,370 --> 00:35:53,300

I mean, it was kind of a--

669

00:35:53,300 --> 00:35:58,190

probably another day
or whatever, and--

670

00:35:58,190 --> 00:36:07,610

And I saw somebody whom I knew.

671

00:36:07,610 --> 00:36:11,210

And I said, where
are my parents?

672

00:36:11,210 --> 00:36:17,060

And this man said, in
a very whispery voice,

673

00:36:17,060 --> 00:36:19,130

"they will be here soon."

674

00:36:19,130 --> 00:36:23,660

And I thought that that's
true, then they are dead.

675

00:36:23,660 --> 00:36:26,180

They were sent-- because
the Germans said there

676

00:36:26,180 --> 00:36:28,130

was a transport after you.

677

00:36:28,130 --> 00:36:34,460

We somehow were surviving with
that, that my parents are safe,

678

00:36:34,460 --> 00:36:37,860

and we will go back home, home.

679

00:36:37,860 --> 00:36:42,140

And they were saying, I mean,
there was another transporter.

680

00:36:42,140 --> 00:36:46,080

There is another gas
chamber or whatever.

681

00:36:46,080 --> 00:36:52,400

And what happened was that
apparently this man was

682

00:36:52,400 --> 00:36:55,250

greeting everybody, lost voice.

683

00:36:55,250 --> 00:36:57,410

Couldn't talk anymore.

684

00:36:57,410 --> 00:37:00,890

And anyhow, I saw
then mother and father

685

00:37:00,890 --> 00:37:04,190

was hiding somewhere, because

he was so scared that it's not

686
00:37:04,190 --> 00:37:09,540
true that we are in that
transport or whatever.

687
00:37:09,540 --> 00:37:12,620
So and--

688
00:37:12,620 --> 00:37:14,640
So you had this
reunion with them?

689
00:37:14,640 --> 00:37:15,800
Yeah.

690
00:37:15,800 --> 00:37:18,200
And that's why actually
I have no [INAUDIBLE]

691
00:37:18,200 --> 00:37:24,950
because the first thing came
somebody who was a doctor,

692
00:37:24,950 --> 00:37:27,740
who my parents knew and
said you know, you look at--

693
00:37:27,740 --> 00:37:30,860
and he said first they
burned everything.

694
00:37:30,860 --> 00:37:35,120
Which was true, because that's
where typhoid gets around,

695
00:37:35,120 --> 00:37:39,980
is by lice and fleas,
and that was everywhere.

696
00:37:39,980 --> 00:37:41,750
Did you yourself have lice?

697

00:37:41,750 --> 00:37:42,250

Oh, yeah.

698

00:37:42,250 --> 00:37:48,300

699

00:37:48,300 --> 00:37:50,560

But that's why I don't--
you know, everybody said,

700

00:37:50,560 --> 00:37:52,590

didn't you keep the
uniform or whatever?

701

00:37:52,590 --> 00:37:55,530

You know, what we had.

702

00:37:55,530 --> 00:38:01,090

And for us, it was like
the end of the war.

703

00:38:01,090 --> 00:38:02,950

It wasn't, but it was, though.

704

00:38:02,950 --> 00:38:07,030

And it was the beginning
of May, though.

705

00:38:07,030 --> 00:38:09,670

And came, I think, the
first of [INAUDIBLE]..

706

00:38:09,670 --> 00:38:12,500

In every of those country it
came a little bit different,

707

00:38:12,500 --> 00:38:17,260

but the Red Cross
was really mixed up.

708

00:38:17,260 --> 00:38:18,775

So your parents stayed in--

709
00:38:18,775 --> 00:38:19,400
They--

710
00:38:19,400 --> 00:38:20,310
The whole time?

711
00:38:20,310 --> 00:38:22,900
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

712
00:38:22,900 --> 00:38:26,210
Do you remember that, seeing
them for the first time?

713
00:38:26,210 --> 00:38:29,002
Oh, it was incredible,
incredible.

714
00:38:29,002 --> 00:38:45,730

715
00:38:45,730 --> 00:38:49,570
And I must say that
Theresienstadt again, I mean,

716
00:38:49,570 --> 00:38:52,240
you know that's why, for
me, for instance, it's

717
00:38:52,240 --> 00:38:57,610
so difficult to comprehend how
this country treats refugees

718
00:38:57,610 --> 00:38:58,690
or whatever.

719
00:38:58,690 --> 00:39:02,980
Because when the
transports started

720
00:39:02,980 --> 00:39:06,700
to come back to Theresienstadt,

Theresienstadt as such

721
00:39:06,700 --> 00:39:11,230
decided they have to get
double portion of food.

722
00:39:11,230 --> 00:39:12,530
We don't need to eat.

723
00:39:12,530 --> 00:39:13,810
We were here.

724
00:39:13,810 --> 00:39:16,510
I mean, in everything,
that somehow people

725
00:39:16,510 --> 00:39:20,140
acted like human beings
and not like pigs.

726
00:39:20,140 --> 00:39:22,650

727
00:39:22,650 --> 00:39:24,420
What condition were
your parents in?

728
00:39:24,420 --> 00:39:27,840

729
00:39:27,840 --> 00:39:29,640
Well, better than we were.

730
00:39:29,640 --> 00:39:30,850
I mean, that's true.

731
00:39:30,850 --> 00:39:35,640
But I don't think we even--

732
00:39:35,640 --> 00:39:37,620
we were so glad to--

733

00:39:37,620 --> 00:39:42,300

734

00:39:42,300 --> 00:39:44,220

and the war was nearly over.

735

00:39:44,220 --> 00:39:45,150

I mean, it was--

736

00:39:45,150 --> 00:39:51,030

I mean, you felt that
the Red Cross was--

737

00:39:51,030 --> 00:39:53,400

Your parents
recognized you, even

738

00:39:53,400 --> 00:39:56,580

though you must have looked very
different than when you were--

739

00:39:56,580 --> 00:39:57,540

Oh, come on.

740

00:39:57,540 --> 00:39:58,400

That's not--

741

00:39:58,400 --> 00:40:00,120

[LAUGHTER]

742

00:40:00,120 --> 00:40:01,830

That was never a question.

743

00:40:01,830 --> 00:40:04,650

744

00:40:04,650 --> 00:40:08,010

Even though you said you
looked very different.

745

00:40:08,010 --> 00:40:09,590

No, I didn't say I
looked different.

746
00:40:09,590 --> 00:40:10,740
I don't know how I looked.

747
00:40:10,740 --> 00:40:11,880
You said you had
lost a lot of weight.

748
00:40:11,880 --> 00:40:13,410
Yeah, but I don't
know how I looked.

749
00:40:13,410 --> 00:40:18,750
But still, I mean, I
didn't get blue eyes.

750
00:40:18,750 --> 00:40:19,640
I didn't get--

751
00:40:19,640 --> 00:40:24,330

752
00:40:24,330 --> 00:40:27,150
So then did you stay with
them once you saw them?

753
00:40:27,150 --> 00:40:27,650
Yes, yes.

754
00:40:27,650 --> 00:40:29,830
You were able to live with them?

755
00:40:29,830 --> 00:40:31,200
Yeah.

756
00:40:31,200 --> 00:40:33,090
And then what were
those days like?

757
00:40:33,090 --> 00:40:33,840

What did you--

758

00:40:33,840 --> 00:40:35,010

I don't remember.

759

00:40:35,010 --> 00:40:37,260

I mean, it's--

760

00:40:37,260 --> 00:40:40,050

You stayed with them until when?

761

00:40:40,050 --> 00:40:44,760

I think-- our luck actually was
that because a lot of people

762

00:40:44,760 --> 00:40:49,890

died of this, if they were
liberated then immediately

763

00:40:49,890 --> 00:40:53,280

in a normal place, where they
get the food which they wanted

764

00:40:53,280 --> 00:40:57,240

here was not enough food, so
that they could start to feed

765

00:40:57,240 --> 00:41:01,440

the food which they had,
which was again not--

766

00:41:01,440 --> 00:41:07,350

no fat, no butter, no
real meat or whatever.

767

00:41:07,350 --> 00:41:14,040

So that probably saved us.

768

00:41:14,040 --> 00:41:17,190

And then we were liberated.

769

00:41:17,190 --> 00:41:23,040

Then the Russians were
marching around Theresienstadt.

770
00:41:23,040 --> 00:41:27,510
So my sister and I decided
that we will take the Russians

771
00:41:27,510 --> 00:41:29,320
and go to Prague.

772
00:41:29,320 --> 00:41:31,170
Told that to parents,
you wait here.

773
00:41:31,170 --> 00:41:33,120
We are going.

774
00:41:33,120 --> 00:41:36,930
And there was
already [? cows, ?]

775
00:41:36,930 --> 00:41:39,660
I mean in the German
line, so that we

776
00:41:39,660 --> 00:41:42,780
could get to the Russians.

777
00:41:42,780 --> 00:41:45,900
And they were--

778
00:41:45,900 --> 00:41:50,610
And there came a
Czech teams were

779
00:41:50,610 --> 00:41:57,300
coming from Bohemia
to Theresienstadt

780
00:41:57,300 --> 00:42:00,240
with medical help.

781

00:42:00,240 --> 00:42:08,220
You know, so that
one of them was

782
00:42:08,220 --> 00:42:13,080
a young man whose mother
was originally White Russian

783
00:42:13,080 --> 00:42:13,630
or whatever.

784
00:42:13,630 --> 00:42:15,930
He spoke Russian, so
we said to him, look,

785
00:42:15,930 --> 00:42:18,570
you help us to explain
to the Russians

786
00:42:18,570 --> 00:42:21,210
that they should
take us to Prague.

787
00:42:21,210 --> 00:42:23,220
So he did.

788
00:42:23,220 --> 00:42:29,700
They were kind of horse-driven
carriages with old men.

789
00:42:29,700 --> 00:42:32,790
They were opening tins,
which were American tins,

790
00:42:32,790 --> 00:42:34,680
to give us to eat.

791
00:42:34,680 --> 00:42:38,280
And after, I think, two
hours sitting in hay,

792
00:42:38,280 --> 00:42:43,060
we came to a town which

was like five miles away.

793

00:42:43,060 --> 00:42:51,660

So we went to a nice young,
good-looking kind of officer,

794

00:42:51,660 --> 00:42:53,700

who spoke some language.

795

00:42:53,700 --> 00:43:00,880

I think he spoke German or
I don't know what he spoke.

796

00:43:00,880 --> 00:43:02,580

Because we didn't speak Russian.

797

00:43:02,580 --> 00:43:08,550

And explained that we want to go
to Prague on something faster.

798

00:43:08,550 --> 00:43:09,810

So he said OK.

799

00:43:09,810 --> 00:43:18,810

And he put us each on a
lorry, and told his people--

800

00:43:18,810 --> 00:43:21,330

he was a commanding officer--

801

00:43:21,330 --> 00:43:24,780

that they must give
us enough room.

802

00:43:24,780 --> 00:43:27,450

And that was
fighting army still--

803

00:43:27,450 --> 00:43:33,240

to lie down, because we are
coming from a concentration

804

00:43:33,240 --> 00:43:34,500
camp.

805
00:43:34,500 --> 00:43:37,020
But they mustn't touch us.

806
00:43:37,020 --> 00:43:40,260
And we didn't know
that the Russian-- we

807
00:43:40,260 --> 00:43:42,660
thought these are our saviors.

808
00:43:42,660 --> 00:43:43,440
Yeah.

809
00:43:43,440 --> 00:43:45,100
And we were very lucky.

810
00:43:45,100 --> 00:43:46,470
I mean, quite frankly.

811
00:43:46,470 --> 00:43:51,240
And he would from every half an
hour or whatever, every hour,

812
00:43:51,240 --> 00:43:55,500
stop the whole column
of the lorries.

813
00:43:55,500 --> 00:43:58,380
And those were trucks which
were, I'm sure, American.

814
00:43:58,380 --> 00:44:03,090
Nothing was Russian at that
time in the Russian Army.

815
00:44:03,090 --> 00:44:07,990
And he would stop
them to ask us,

816

00:44:07,990 --> 00:44:10,260
whether we are doing all right.

817
00:44:10,260 --> 00:44:15,400
And we didn't know what's
[? better. ?] We said yeah.

818
00:44:15,400 --> 00:44:18,900
And when we came to a
certain point near Prague,

819
00:44:18,900 --> 00:44:25,170
he again stopped and said now,
look, we are going to Vienna,

820
00:44:25,170 --> 00:44:29,070
because we are still a
fighting army, Austria.

821
00:44:29,070 --> 00:44:31,780
And don't you want
to come with us?

822
00:44:31,780 --> 00:44:34,200
Otherwise, you have to get off.

823
00:44:34,200 --> 00:44:36,420
And we said, no,
we are going home.

824
00:44:36,420 --> 00:44:38,850
But he said, have you
ever been to Vienna?

825
00:44:38,850 --> 00:44:39,480
We said, no.

826
00:44:39,480 --> 00:44:41,280
He said, so Prague
will be there.

827
00:44:41,280 --> 00:44:43,500
That's a Russian

attitude to life.

828
00:44:43,500 --> 00:44:46,410
I mean, that had nothing
to do with communism.

829
00:44:46,410 --> 00:44:52,355
I mean, that kind of "what is
a few years between friends?"

830
00:44:52,355 --> 00:44:55,030

831
00:44:55,030 --> 00:44:56,440
And so we said no.

832
00:44:56,440 --> 00:45:01,080
So he gave to everybody
a carton of cigarettes.

833
00:45:01,080 --> 00:45:03,870
And we said, look,
we don't smoke.

834
00:45:03,870 --> 00:45:06,360
And he said, that's gold.

835
00:45:06,360 --> 00:45:07,300
That's money.

836
00:45:07,300 --> 00:45:08,220
Take it.

837
00:45:08,220 --> 00:45:09,420
So we took it.

838
00:45:09,420 --> 00:45:12,480
I think he gave us two cartons.

839
00:45:12,480 --> 00:45:14,370
Well, we were
standing on the road,

840
00:45:14,370 --> 00:45:16,920
and everything was going by.

841
00:45:16,920 --> 00:45:20,910
The Russians then
came with some, again,

842
00:45:20,910 --> 00:45:24,270
horse carriage with
a big Italian flag,

843
00:45:24,270 --> 00:45:29,115
Italian former prisoners of
war going from Germany home.

844
00:45:29,115 --> 00:45:31,110
So we said, are you
going through Prague?

845
00:45:31,110 --> 00:45:31,920
Yes.

846
00:45:31,920 --> 00:45:33,240
Will you give us a lift?

847
00:45:33,240 --> 00:45:36,544
Yes, but you give us cigarettes.

848
00:45:36,544 --> 00:45:37,740
I mean, that was so Italian.

849
00:45:37,740 --> 00:45:41,730
They took it away immediately.

850
00:45:41,730 --> 00:45:44,250
And they got us up to Prague.

851
00:45:44,250 --> 00:45:48,990
They were-- then Prague was
just after their uprising,

852
00:45:48,990 --> 00:45:52,300
so that nothing worked.

853
00:45:52,300 --> 00:45:56,220
No trams, no nothing, because
they made barricades out

854
00:45:56,220 --> 00:45:57,120
of them.

855
00:45:57,120 --> 00:46:02,100
So we had to walk
through the whole Prague.

856
00:46:02,100 --> 00:46:07,320
But by that time, we
walked on air and went--

857
00:46:07,320 --> 00:46:11,250
in the house where
we used to live,

858
00:46:11,250 --> 00:46:15,580
my parents' best friends who
were not Jewish were living.

859
00:46:15,580 --> 00:46:19,770
So that we went
there, because we

860
00:46:19,770 --> 00:46:22,920
didn't know who else from
the relatives is alive

861
00:46:22,920 --> 00:46:25,750
and who is not.

862
00:46:25,750 --> 00:46:27,040
And--

863
00:46:27,040 --> 00:46:29,740
You said you felt like

you were walking on air.

864
00:46:29,740 --> 00:46:31,150
Yeah, we were.

865
00:46:31,150 --> 00:46:33,590
What did that mean to you?

866
00:46:33,590 --> 00:46:35,260
Well, nothing can happen.

867
00:46:35,260 --> 00:46:38,440
I mean, you know, this is a--

868
00:46:38,440 --> 00:46:44,030
that's real life, and
nothing can happen to us.

869
00:46:44,030 --> 00:46:49,010
And it was that because
we must have been--

870
00:46:49,010 --> 00:46:50,330
we were certainly weak.

871
00:46:50,330 --> 00:46:52,730
We must have been
certainly tired,

872
00:46:52,730 --> 00:46:54,260
but we walked through today--

873
00:46:54,260 --> 00:46:57,080
I mean, you know, Prague
is not that small.

874
00:46:57,080 --> 00:47:00,230
But if somebody leaves you
over in the airport and we

875
00:47:00,230 --> 00:47:01,910
go to the other side.

876
00:47:01,910 --> 00:47:06,200
But I have a feeling
that it was two seconds.

877
00:47:06,200 --> 00:47:07,580
You know, you flew over.

878
00:47:07,580 --> 00:47:11,430

879
00:47:11,430 --> 00:47:14,970
In probably in a month they said
to me, go around the corner.

880
00:47:14,970 --> 00:47:15,470
How?

881
00:47:15,470 --> 00:47:16,640
I have no car!

882
00:47:16,640 --> 00:47:19,260
There is no tram!

883
00:47:19,260 --> 00:47:22,220
And so--

884
00:47:22,220 --> 00:47:25,700
So you're back at your
house, your family home.

885
00:47:25,700 --> 00:47:27,550
No, my family was not home.

886
00:47:27,550 --> 00:47:30,530
No, you went back to your
family home, you said.

887
00:47:30,530 --> 00:47:32,270
It was an apartment.

888

00:47:32,270 --> 00:47:33,290
Oh, it was an apartment.

889
00:47:33,290 --> 00:47:33,980
OK.

890
00:47:33,980 --> 00:47:37,190
Apartment house, and
in the same house

891
00:47:37,190 --> 00:47:40,050
the best friends of
my parents lived.

892
00:47:40,050 --> 00:47:41,890
Right.

893
00:47:41,890 --> 00:47:43,550
Who stayed there the whole--

894
00:47:43,550 --> 00:47:47,420
I mean, we hope that they stayed
there, but they did the whole--

895
00:47:47,420 --> 00:47:50,540
they were non-Jewish,
and they were

896
00:47:50,540 --> 00:47:55,920
saving, which my mother gave
them to save a few things.

897
00:47:55,920 --> 00:48:01,340
Like not the gold
or not the silver.

898
00:48:01,340 --> 00:48:03,920
Not, not the pictures.

899
00:48:03,920 --> 00:48:04,670
No.

900

00:48:04,670 --> 00:48:10,130

A dress for a debutante party for [? Elena ?] and me.

901

00:48:10,130 --> 00:48:10,910

That's some sh--

902

00:48:10,910 --> 00:48:11,720

[LAUGHTER]

903

00:48:11,720 --> 00:48:12,680

I don't know.

904

00:48:12,680 --> 00:48:15,710

You know, the thing is that--

905

00:48:15,710 --> 00:48:17,780

today, it's absolutely ridiculous,

906

00:48:17,780 --> 00:48:21,340

but probably when it happened, it's very important.

907

00:48:21,340 --> 00:48:27,234

What about what will they wear when they go to a debutante--

908

00:48:27,234 --> 00:48:30,640

909

00:48:30,640 --> 00:48:36,890

So there was a great homecoming after.

910

00:48:36,890 --> 00:48:44,510

911

00:48:44,510 --> 00:48:48,980

The first thing this lady--

912

00:48:48,980 --> 00:48:51,020

that first thing
you think about,

913
00:48:51,020 --> 00:48:54,920
then I started to call
whoever is still here.

914
00:48:54,920 --> 00:48:57,890
I mean, which was very few.

915
00:48:57,890 --> 00:49:05,840
And I remember that
there in the tub, which

916
00:49:05,840 --> 00:49:12,620
was my first tub in two
years, I got back my period.

917
00:49:12,620 --> 00:49:16,400

918
00:49:16,400 --> 00:49:22,350
And then she came, a cousin,
who was only half-Jewish.

919
00:49:22,350 --> 00:49:24,920
So she said nothing
happened to my aunt who

920
00:49:24,920 --> 00:49:28,190
was not Jewish at all, another
aunt who was not Jewish.

921
00:49:28,190 --> 00:49:29,840
I mean, you know that
they were coming,

922
00:49:29,840 --> 00:49:34,146
and everybody was crying, and
everybody was [INAUDIBLE]..

923
00:49:34,146 --> 00:49:47,190

924
00:49:47,190 --> 00:49:49,360
I think that's by now enough.

925
00:49:49,360 --> 00:49:49,860
Not?

926
00:49:49,860 --> 00:49:52,675

927
00:49:52,675 --> 00:49:56,090
I go back a bit.

928
00:49:56,090 --> 00:49:59,250
So how long did you stay there?

929
00:49:59,250 --> 00:49:59,760
Where?

930
00:49:59,760 --> 00:50:01,770
In Prague, at your apartment.

931
00:50:01,770 --> 00:50:05,500
Till 1949.

932
00:50:05,500 --> 00:50:06,850
OK, your parents then came?

933
00:50:06,850 --> 00:50:07,350
Yes.

934
00:50:07,350 --> 00:50:09,180
You and your sister had
come back to the apartment,

935
00:50:09,180 --> 00:50:09,690
and then--

936
00:50:09,690 --> 00:50:10,920
Well, we were together.

937
00:50:10,920 --> 00:50:11,545
When I say "I."

938
00:50:11,545 --> 00:50:12,045
Right.

939
00:50:12,045 --> 00:50:12,572
No, right.

940
00:50:12,572 --> 00:50:13,530
But then your parents--

941
00:50:13,530 --> 00:50:17,340
My parents came
and officially was

942
00:50:17,340 --> 00:50:19,810
I think in a week
time or whatever.

943
00:50:19,810 --> 00:50:20,310
OK.

944
00:50:20,310 --> 00:50:23,670
And we got then our
old apartment back,

945
00:50:23,670 --> 00:50:26,730
of course with German furniture.

946
00:50:26,730 --> 00:50:29,490
Horrible.

947
00:50:29,490 --> 00:50:32,430
Because some German lived there.

948
00:50:32,430 --> 00:50:38,760
And the worst part
was then looking

949
00:50:38,760 --> 00:50:43,890

for the people who didn't come
back and never will come back.

950
00:50:43,890 --> 00:50:47,760
Except there was
one great thing.

951
00:50:47,760 --> 00:50:48,820
I was walking--

952
00:50:48,820 --> 00:50:52,140
Prague had no transportation
for quite some time,

953
00:50:52,140 --> 00:50:56,160
because at the end of the war,
when they had the uprising,

954
00:50:56,160 --> 00:51:03,210
they made barricades out of
the stone streets and so on.

955
00:51:03,210 --> 00:51:06,300
And I was walking somewhere,
and I met somebody

956
00:51:06,300 --> 00:51:12,210
whom I knew in Theresienstadt.

957
00:51:12,210 --> 00:51:17,580
So that's what we were
all of us basically

958
00:51:17,580 --> 00:51:21,570
doing, walking around, looking
kind of who's coming back,

959
00:51:21,570 --> 00:51:28,110
and where were you, and did
you see this one and so on.

960
00:51:28,110 --> 00:51:31,510
So after greeting I said,

well, where were you?

961

00:51:31,510 --> 00:51:35,800

And he said, well, after
Auschwitz I was in Majdanek.

962

00:51:35,800 --> 00:51:40,530

And I said, oh, yes, my uncle
was there, and he died there.

963

00:51:40,530 --> 00:51:42,300

And he said, which one?

964

00:51:42,300 --> 00:51:45,870

And so I told him.

965

00:51:45,870 --> 00:51:49,260

And he said, no, he's alive.

966

00:51:49,260 --> 00:51:52,920

And I said, that's
nonsense, because he wrote

967

00:51:52,920 --> 00:51:55,440

to his wife a smuggled letter--

968

00:51:55,440 --> 00:51:57,000

and the wife was in Prague.

969

00:51:57,000 --> 00:51:58,320

I mean, she was not Jewish--

970

00:51:58,320 --> 00:52:01,320

971

00:52:01,320 --> 00:52:04,980

that he got sepsis,
and you know,

972

00:52:04,980 --> 00:52:08,130

that there were no
antibiotics or no nothing,

973
00:52:08,130 --> 00:52:11,040
and that he's
dying, and goodbye.

974
00:52:11,040 --> 00:52:14,730
And he said, yes, except
what you don't know

975
00:52:14,730 --> 00:52:18,750
is that the next day we were
liberated by the Russians,

976
00:52:18,750 --> 00:52:20,970
and they put him
in the hospital,

977
00:52:20,970 --> 00:52:24,780
and gave him whatever
it was necessary,

978
00:52:24,780 --> 00:52:26,220
and he is very much alive.

979
00:52:26,220 --> 00:52:27,960
I said, so where he is?

980
00:52:27,960 --> 00:52:31,260
Said, with the Czech
[? army ?] in Slovakia.

981
00:52:31,260 --> 00:52:33,360
And he honestly couldn't get--

982
00:52:33,360 --> 00:52:36,750
he was trying to call, and
trying to mail a letter,

983
00:52:36,750 --> 00:52:38,880
and nothing worked.

984
00:52:38,880 --> 00:52:40,260

I mean, it was another--

985

00:52:40,260 --> 00:52:43,530

I don't know-- a
week that I ran home.

986

00:52:43,530 --> 00:52:46,170

I said to mother,
you now sit down

987

00:52:46,170 --> 00:52:48,270

and I will tell you good news.

988

00:52:48,270 --> 00:52:50,940

So I told her, and
she cried, and then

989

00:52:50,940 --> 00:52:55,380

she called that aunt,
because it was her brother.

990

00:52:55,380 --> 00:52:57,480

And out of her--

991

00:52:57,480 --> 00:53:02,340

all the relatives, she
had one other sister

992

00:53:02,340 --> 00:53:06,590

or two other sister
who died in Auschwitz.

993

00:53:06,590 --> 00:53:09,430

One brother was in
England during the war.

994

00:53:09,430 --> 00:53:10,620

So he was OK.

995

00:53:10,620 --> 00:53:13,680

And this one and the
third one, again died.

996

00:53:13,680 --> 00:53:17,880

So that except-- and her
parents died in Auschwitz.

997

00:53:17,880 --> 00:53:23,100

So that's the--
and their children.

998

00:53:23,100 --> 00:53:25,260

[? These ?] are everybody, so--

999

00:53:25,260 --> 00:53:28,170

And so that was a great news.

1000

00:53:28,170 --> 00:53:33,330

You know, so she went
over to the aunt.

1001

00:53:33,330 --> 00:53:36,710

1002

00:53:36,710 --> 00:53:39,350

But otherwise, they
were not too many.

1003

00:53:39,350 --> 00:53:43,040

We were sitting at that
time mostly at the radio,

1004

00:53:43,040 --> 00:53:45,690

and they would
interrupt programs

1005

00:53:45,690 --> 00:53:50,330

saying that in that
concentration camp was

1006

00:53:50,330 --> 00:53:53,810

liberated in Austria
or in Germany,

1007

00:53:53,810 --> 00:53:58,610

and those and those of
Czech origin are there.

1008
00:53:58,610 --> 00:54:04,020
Because there was no other way
how to find out who is alive.

1009
00:54:04,020 --> 00:54:08,150
And we-- I remember that
we came really nothing.

1010
00:54:08,150 --> 00:54:11,240
I was wearing a pair
of father's shoes.

1011
00:54:11,240 --> 00:54:14,720
Somebody gave me
some pair of pants.

1012
00:54:14,720 --> 00:54:17,600
And I mean, we
had-- we came as--

1013
00:54:17,600 --> 00:54:19,460
we had absolutely nothing.

1014
00:54:19,460 --> 00:54:24,830
And in Prague, the
shops were empty.

1015
00:54:24,830 --> 00:54:31,730
And so that you had to
go to some authority

1016
00:54:31,730 --> 00:54:38,210
and ask for a permit to get
somewhere a pair of shoes,

1017
00:54:38,210 --> 00:54:41,060
and a pair of this one,
or a pair of that one.

1018
00:54:41,060 --> 00:54:45,170

So I went and they said,
well, we don't have shoes.

1019
00:54:45,170 --> 00:54:47,780
I would give you a pair, but-

1020
00:54:47,780 --> 00:54:50,640
And I said but
look, I am wearing

1021
00:54:50,640 --> 00:54:56,100
man's shoes, which are two or
three sizes too big for me.

1022
00:54:56,100 --> 00:54:59,270
And he said, no, if you
wear it until now, you

1023
00:54:59,270 --> 00:55:02,550
will survive another month.

1024
00:55:02,550 --> 00:55:07,410
So then-- because there was
nothing in the [? country. ?]

1025
00:55:07,410 --> 00:55:11,540
I mean, there were
peasants who would

1026
00:55:11,540 --> 00:55:17,135
take some of the bourgeoisie
things for some food

1027
00:55:17,135 --> 00:55:17,635
or whatever.

1028
00:55:17,635 --> 00:55:22,490
I mean, the things
which my mother saved

1029
00:55:22,490 --> 00:55:28,050
and the friend of ours came
for, there was nothing.

1030
00:55:28,050 --> 00:55:29,900
I mean, especially
for people who

1031
00:55:29,900 --> 00:55:34,850
didn't for now for a long
time had the connection

1032
00:55:34,850 --> 00:55:36,430
with the black market.

1033
00:55:36,430 --> 00:55:42,980

1034
00:55:42,980 --> 00:55:44,930
Did you go back to school or?

1035
00:55:44,930 --> 00:55:48,290
We could-- they
put through a law

1036
00:55:48,290 --> 00:55:52,580
that you can try for the
class where you belong,

1037
00:55:52,580 --> 00:55:55,070
but you have to take the exams.

1038
00:55:55,070 --> 00:55:58,340
And that they will
have cramming sessions

1039
00:55:58,340 --> 00:55:59,405
through the whole summer.

1040
00:55:59,405 --> 00:56:03,800

1041
00:56:03,800 --> 00:56:05,780
And if you pass, you pass.

1042
00:56:05,780 --> 00:56:09,590
If not, you go, you
repeat the class.

1043
00:56:09,590 --> 00:56:12,410
And we would have,
my sister and I,

1044
00:56:12,410 --> 00:56:17,400
being at the end
of the high school.

1045
00:56:17,400 --> 00:56:21,950
So we had to cram four years
into the three months, which

1046
00:56:21,950 --> 00:56:23,570
we did.

1047
00:56:23,570 --> 00:56:30,280
I think what I today
don't know about physics

1048
00:56:30,280 --> 00:56:34,060
would fill the Smithsonian.

1049
00:56:34,060 --> 00:56:35,960
I mean, because there
were certain which

1050
00:56:35,960 --> 00:56:42,180
started when we already were
not in school, about chemistry,

1051
00:56:42,180 --> 00:56:42,680
physics.

1052
00:56:42,680 --> 00:56:46,990
I mean, really, they
really tried their best.

1053
00:56:46,990 --> 00:56:48,740

I remember this.

1054

00:56:48,740 --> 00:56:53,130

I had really to promise

I will never go to study,

1055

00:56:53,130 --> 00:56:57,630

that I will go to study

law or some literature,

1056

00:56:57,630 --> 00:57:00,470

or whatever it is,

but not chemistry.

1057

00:57:00,470 --> 00:57:03,440

1058

00:57:03,440 --> 00:57:05,450

Which we did.

1059

00:57:05,450 --> 00:57:08,030

Because it started

that in October.

1060

00:57:08,030 --> 00:57:13,310

Because the university was

closed by the Germans anyhow.

1061

00:57:13,310 --> 00:57:17,780

And so that we were

able to finish,

1062

00:57:17,780 --> 00:57:21,660

I remember, that my parents

sent us first thing to a doctor.

1063

00:57:21,660 --> 00:57:24,620

The doctor said, look,

they should go SOMEWHERE

1064

00:57:24,620 --> 00:57:26,480

to some place.

1065

00:57:26,480 --> 00:57:29,950

Because otherwise they
will get mental breakdowns.

1066

00:57:29,950 --> 00:57:31,730

They said we have no time.

1067

00:57:31,730 --> 00:57:33,940

I mean, you know that's--

1068

00:57:33,940 --> 00:57:39,470

And so we did the
schooling in whatever time

1069

00:57:39,470 --> 00:57:43,760

it was then and however.

1070

00:57:43,760 --> 00:57:48,080

And were able to go
to the University

1071

00:57:48,080 --> 00:57:49,910

And what did you study
in the university?

1072

00:57:49,910 --> 00:57:54,020

I started with law, and which--

1073

00:57:54,020 --> 00:57:55,070

it bored me.

1074

00:57:55,070 --> 00:57:58,400

And then opposite the
philosophical faculty

1075

00:57:58,400 --> 00:58:01,760

was a marvelous
professor who was

1076

00:58:01,760 --> 00:58:08,390

lecturing on the French
literature, whatever.

1077
00:58:08,390 --> 00:58:09,530
So I changed.

1078
00:58:09,530 --> 00:58:10,340
Both of us.

1079
00:58:10,340 --> 00:58:14,660
I changed for
comparative literature.

1080
00:58:14,660 --> 00:58:19,490
And then you completed-- did
you complete your university?

1081
00:58:19,490 --> 00:58:22,640
No, because then the communists
came and threw me out

1082
00:58:22,640 --> 00:58:24,805
because I was of
bourgeois origin.

1083
00:58:24,805 --> 00:58:28,590

1084
00:58:28,590 --> 00:58:30,620
What did you do?

1085
00:58:30,620 --> 00:58:37,580
Well, before we got
out, because then

1086
00:58:37,580 --> 00:58:42,023
I landed in a communistic jail.

1087
00:58:42,023 --> 00:58:42,523
And--

1088
00:58:42,523 --> 00:58:46,020

1089

00:58:46,020 --> 00:58:48,260

Why did they put you in jail?

1090

00:58:48,260 --> 00:58:53,690

Because I was one of the--

1091

00:58:53,690 --> 00:59:00,590

I was a secretary of the Social
Democratic Student Association.

1092

00:59:00,590 --> 00:59:06,500

And we prepared the
demonstration against--

1093

00:59:06,500 --> 00:59:08,075

the student
demonstration, which was

1094

00:59:08,075 --> 00:59:10,790

the only demonstration,
which the Czech were

1095

00:59:10,790 --> 00:59:13,400

able to put together.

1096

00:59:13,400 --> 00:59:22,790

And we were firstly
thrown out of the--

1097

00:59:22,790 --> 00:59:27,320

they came in-- of
the university.

1098

00:59:27,320 --> 00:59:31,640

We were four of us.

1099

00:59:31,640 --> 00:59:40,060

Because of-- and I remember
that a professor of Soviet--

1100

00:59:40,060 --> 00:59:43,010

sorry, of Russian

literature, who

1101
00:59:43,010 --> 00:59:46,130
was an elderly gentleman
and always a communist.

1102
00:59:46,130 --> 00:59:48,650
I mean, not a new one,
one of those intellectual,

1103
00:59:48,650 --> 00:59:51,050
but always was--

1104
00:59:51,050 --> 00:59:52,910
went to plead with me--

1105
00:59:52,910 --> 00:59:55,670
with them, with the
communistic kind of.

1106
00:59:55,670 --> 00:59:59,880
And they said, comrade, that's
our business, not yours.

1107
00:59:59,880 --> 01:00:03,920
And they said I'm of
bourgeois origin and out.

1108
01:00:03,920 --> 01:00:06,080
And that was bad,
because it was like

1109
01:00:06,080 --> 01:00:09,680
with the Germans a little
bit, that if you didn't have

1110
01:00:09,680 --> 01:00:12,470
the piece of paper
what you do, they

1111
01:00:12,470 --> 01:00:17,990
could send you to wash
the windows, which

1112
01:00:17,990 --> 01:00:21,050
is a very kind of what
they liked very much--

1113
01:00:21,050 --> 01:00:24,935
window washing from
elements like us.

1114
01:00:24,935 --> 01:00:31,790
I mean, today, when
Havel took power there

1115
01:00:31,790 --> 01:00:36,470
and all the great painters
there and the writers

1116
01:00:36,470 --> 01:00:38,870
were window washers
under communists.

1117
01:00:38,870 --> 01:00:44,600
I don't know, but I went
once also window washing.

1118
01:00:44,600 --> 01:00:47,905
After all you had been
through before that--

1119
01:00:47,905 --> 01:00:48,500
Any--

1120
01:00:48,500 --> 01:00:49,190
No,no, no.

1121
01:00:49,190 --> 01:00:52,790
But after all you had been
through, being in jail,

1122
01:00:52,790 --> 01:00:54,080
was that a very difficult?

1123

01:00:54,080 --> 01:00:57,660

Yes, because you cannot repeat the experience twice.

1124

01:00:57,660 --> 01:00:59,610

You know what can happen.

1125

01:00:59,610 --> 01:01:02,780

That's a frightening thing.

1126

01:01:02,780 --> 01:01:06,650

Because somehow it was not they will get me out

1127

01:01:06,650 --> 01:01:09,980

and this is nonsense, and you know, I'm [? no ?] German.

1128

01:01:09,980 --> 01:01:16,310

It's more that you know what can happen.

1129

01:01:16,310 --> 01:01:23,210

When the first time you don't, your whole kind of whatever it

1130

01:01:23,210 --> 01:01:26,420

is, it's revolting that this cannot be happening

1131

01:01:26,420 --> 01:01:27,620

and something.

1132

01:01:27,620 --> 01:01:29,450

It won't last or whatever.

1133

01:01:29,450 --> 01:01:32,270

But twice you can't go through that.

1134

01:01:32,270 --> 01:01:35,720

So when I got out, which was like--

1135
01:01:35,720 --> 01:01:38,570
they caught somebody who
was running over the border,

1136
01:01:38,570 --> 01:01:42,800
and he had the names of
us, so that we were all

1137
01:01:42,800 --> 01:01:45,560
taken in more like
two weeks, three

1138
01:01:45,560 --> 01:01:48,380
weeks in the prison in Prague.

1139
01:01:48,380 --> 01:01:52,580
But they did some
interrogations, the 10 people

1140
01:01:52,580 --> 01:01:54,530
sitting interrogating you.

1141
01:01:54,530 --> 01:01:56,730
And--

1142
01:01:56,730 --> 01:01:57,920
What was that like for you?

1143
01:01:57,920 --> 01:02:00,920
That was frightening,
because they knew a lot.

1144
01:02:00,920 --> 01:02:04,580
You didn't look-- in
a non-free regime,

1145
01:02:04,580 --> 01:02:07,160
everybody is guilty
of something.

1146
01:02:07,160 --> 01:02:11,180

But you want to pretend
that you are not,

1147
01:02:11,180 --> 01:02:13,430
but you don't know
what they know.

1148
01:02:13,430 --> 01:02:15,460
I mean, it's not that you know--

1149
01:02:15,460 --> 01:02:18,530
I didn't steal a piece of bread.

1150
01:02:18,530 --> 01:02:22,700
I probably whispered to somebody
that I don't like communist

1151
01:02:22,700 --> 01:02:23,910
or whatever it is.

1152
01:02:23,910 --> 01:02:29,790
And so that you know that
they know something about you,

1153
01:02:29,790 --> 01:02:32,110
but you don't know what.

1154
01:02:32,110 --> 01:02:33,217