

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,950

2

00:00:02,950 --> 00:00:06,820

The following is an
interview of Barbara Artman.

3

00:00:06,820 --> 00:00:12,850

It is taking place on December
1, 1995, in New York City.

4

00:00:12,850 --> 00:00:15,535

The interview is being
conducted by Gail Schwartz.

5

00:00:15,535 --> 00:00:18,240

6

00:00:18,240 --> 00:00:20,560

Please give us your full name.

7

00:00:20,560 --> 00:00:23,910

My name is Barbara
Feuerstein Artman.

8

00:00:23,910 --> 00:00:25,510

And when were you born?

9

00:00:25,510 --> 00:00:28,740

I was born September 12, 1923.

10

00:00:28,740 --> 00:00:29,860

Where were you born?

11

00:00:29,860 --> 00:00:31,380

In Kosice, Czechoslovakia.

12

00:00:31,380 --> 00:00:36,450

13

00:00:36,450 --> 00:00:38,610

I was born in my
grandparents' home, who

14

00:00:38,610 --> 00:00:43,950

lived about five hours away
from my parents by train in a--

15

00:00:43,950 --> 00:00:46,740

we lived in a little
village, [PLACE NAME]

16

00:00:46,740 --> 00:00:49,530

where my father was
a gentleman farmer.

17

00:00:49,530 --> 00:00:53,400

I had a wonderful childhood,
surrounded by a loving family

18

00:00:53,400 --> 00:00:55,650

in a warm, pleasant atmosphere.

19

00:00:55,650 --> 00:00:59,580

My immediate family consisted
of my father Henry Feuerstein,

20

00:00:59,580 --> 00:01:02,280

my mother Elizabeth
[? Schauman, ?] my brother

21

00:01:02,280 --> 00:01:05,310

[? Irvin, ?] four years my
junior; and my brother George,

22

00:01:05,310 --> 00:01:08,570

eight years younger
than I. Further,

23

00:01:08,570 --> 00:01:12,780

there were my father's parents,
Nathan and Esther Feuerstein,

24

00:01:12,780 --> 00:01:15,900
who lived in [? Benedika, ?]
half an hour's walking distance

25
00:01:15,900 --> 00:01:16,860
from us.

26
00:01:16,860 --> 00:01:20,370
My grandparents were
blessed with eight children,

27
00:01:20,370 --> 00:01:23,670
all married with
children of their own,

28
00:01:23,670 --> 00:01:28,860
all together 14 aunts and
uncles and 27 first cousins.

29
00:01:28,860 --> 00:01:33,330
All 14 aunts and uncles perished
in the ovens of Auschwitz,

30
00:01:33,330 --> 00:01:38,220
along with 12 cousins and
numerous other relatives.

31
00:01:38,220 --> 00:01:40,770
My mother's parents were
Simon and [PERSONAL NAME]

32
00:01:40,770 --> 00:01:44,580
[? Schauman. ?] Had
three children, married.

33
00:01:44,580 --> 00:01:48,010
My two uncles and two
aunts had five children.

34
00:01:48,010 --> 00:01:49,980
They lived in Belgium.

35
00:01:49,980 --> 00:01:52,980

In addition, my grandfather
had two daughters

36
00:01:52,980 --> 00:01:55,170
from his first marriage.

37
00:01:55,170 --> 00:01:57,090
They were married
and had children,

38
00:01:57,090 --> 00:02:01,500
and they all experienced the
horrors of the Nazi regime.

39
00:02:01,500 --> 00:02:05,070
Czechoslovakia was a
very democratic country,

40
00:02:05,070 --> 00:02:08,190
respecting the demands of
the various ethnic groups,

41
00:02:08,190 --> 00:02:11,880
providing schools in the
Hungarian, Czech, Russian,

42
00:02:11,880 --> 00:02:15,240
German languages, even
in the small villages.

43
00:02:15,240 --> 00:02:18,780
When I was 11 years
old, my parents

44
00:02:18,780 --> 00:02:22,140
moved to the neighboring
city, Mukacheve,

45
00:02:22,140 --> 00:02:26,980
so we children could attend
the middle schools, gymnasiums.

46
00:02:26,980 --> 00:02:31,890

Mukacheve was a city of about
30,000 people, had about 10,000

47
00:02:31,890 --> 00:02:33,840
Jewish inhabitants.

48
00:02:33,840 --> 00:02:39,990
It was the first city to open a
Hebrew-language grammar school,

49
00:02:39,990 --> 00:02:42,330
then the Hebrew gymnasium.

50
00:02:42,330 --> 00:02:45,300
I counted myself
very privileged to be

51
00:02:45,300 --> 00:02:50,100
able to attend the
high-standard Hebrew gymnasium.

52
00:02:50,100 --> 00:02:54,000
Our lives were quite happy,
with many relatives, friends,

53
00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:57,030
lots of attention,
financially comfortable.

54
00:02:57,030 --> 00:02:59,310
During the years,
my father's mother

55
00:02:59,310 --> 00:03:01,870
died, and so did
my mother's father.

56
00:03:01,870 --> 00:03:06,090
My grandmother moved
from Kosice to our home

57
00:03:06,090 --> 00:03:11,700
and later joined us in our

fateful journey to Auschwitz.

58

00:03:11,700 --> 00:03:15,840

When Hitler came to power, we
started to listen to the radio.

59

00:03:15,840 --> 00:03:19,650

And slowly, the awareness
of danger, however distant,

60

00:03:19,650 --> 00:03:21,660

affected our thinking.

61

00:03:21,660 --> 00:03:28,980

The real blow hit us
when in 1938, the Germans

62

00:03:28,980 --> 00:03:33,240

were demanding part
of Czechoslovakia.

63

00:03:33,240 --> 00:03:40,410

And their demand for carving
up Czechoslovakia was accepted.

64

00:03:40,410 --> 00:03:45,210

On March 15, 1939,
the Hungarians

65

00:03:45,210 --> 00:03:49,440

marched in to occupy
Subcarpathian Ruthenia,

66

00:03:49,440 --> 00:03:53,610

our part of the world,
as a present for Hitler

67

00:03:53,610 --> 00:03:56,760

for joining the
Rome-Berlin axis.

68

00:03:56,760 --> 00:03:58,570

Our lives completely changed.

69

00:03:58,570 --> 00:04:01,170

70

00:04:01,170 --> 00:04:06,380

The Jews of Polish nationality
were expelled to Poland.

71

00:04:06,380 --> 00:04:11,250

The Jewish businesses had
to hire Aryan supervisors.

72

00:04:11,250 --> 00:04:15,540

And the Jewish young men
were drafted to work camps

73

00:04:15,540 --> 00:04:20,040

and later sent to the Russian
front, where most of them

74

00:04:20,040 --> 00:04:23,300

died, froze.

75

00:04:23,300 --> 00:04:25,560

The Hebrew gymnasium
was permitted

76

00:04:25,560 --> 00:04:29,580

to stay open, even after
Hungarian occupation.

77

00:04:29,580 --> 00:04:34,140

The curriculum was changed to a
degree, the Hungarian language

78

00:04:34,140 --> 00:04:38,310

and history substituted
for the Czech studies.

79

00:04:38,310 --> 00:04:42,690

At age 16, I started to
tutor at-home students who

80

00:04:42,690 --> 00:04:44,550
needed help.

81

00:04:44,550 --> 00:04:48,440
In '42, I graduated from
the Hebrew gymnasium

82

00:04:48,440 --> 00:04:53,220
with excellent grades at the
metriculation examinations.

83

00:04:53,220 --> 00:04:56,430
Since there was numerous
new laws for Jews

84

00:04:56,430 --> 00:05:00,750
at the universities in Hungary,
I couldn't continue my studies.

85

00:05:00,750 --> 00:05:05,970
Instead, I devoted myself
full time to teaching at home.

86

00:05:05,970 --> 00:05:11,910
In 1943, September, with
my parents' permission,

87

00:05:11,910 --> 00:05:18,900
I decided to go to
Budapest to study English,

88

00:05:18,900 --> 00:05:22,130
while giving lessons
in Hebrew to many who

89

00:05:22,130 --> 00:05:27,060
sought to emigrate to Israel.

90

00:05:27,060 --> 00:05:33,460
There was some illegal departure
to Palestine at the time.

91

00:05:33,460 --> 00:05:36,540

Meanwhile, the Russians
made some headways

92

00:05:36,540 --> 00:05:37,590

on the battlefield.

93

00:05:37,590 --> 00:05:42,210

At one point, it seemed they
might liberate our territory.

94

00:05:42,210 --> 00:05:44,660

But suddenly, the
Red Army stopped

95

00:05:44,660 --> 00:05:47,230

near the Carpathian Mountains.

96

00:05:47,230 --> 00:05:52,440

Hitler surprised Hungary by
ordering his troops to occupy

97

00:05:52,440 --> 00:05:57,660

Hungary on March 19, 1944.

98

00:05:57,660 --> 00:06:00,600

The invasion was unopposed.

99

00:06:00,600 --> 00:06:05,160

That evening, I received an
urgent call from my mother

100

00:06:05,160 --> 00:06:11,460

to discuss my decision, whether
I wanted to stay in Budapest

101

00:06:11,460 --> 00:06:14,490

or whether I would have
wanted to come back home.

102

00:06:14,490 --> 00:06:17,310

She left it for me to decide.

103

00:06:17,310 --> 00:06:20,730

After a sleepless night, I
called up the transportation

104

00:06:20,730 --> 00:06:26,010

office to find out whether
Jews were permitted to travel.

105

00:06:26,010 --> 00:06:28,710

Of course, was the
answer, you can come.

106

00:06:28,710 --> 00:06:31,350

You can take the train.

107

00:06:31,350 --> 00:06:35,250

The train was leaving
in the evening.

108

00:06:35,250 --> 00:06:39,680

And I, anxious to go
home, decided to go.

109

00:06:39,680 --> 00:06:44,280

Well, the trip to the
station was smooth.

110

00:06:44,280 --> 00:06:47,070

But at the station, at
the railroad station,

111

00:06:47,070 --> 00:06:50,470

as soon as I arrived there,
they asked my papers.

112

00:06:50,470 --> 00:06:53,310

They asked everybody's
identification papers.

113

00:06:53,310 --> 00:06:56,710

And then I showed them, and they
found out that I was Jewish.

114

00:06:56,710 --> 00:07:00,760

I was put into a special room
with other Jewish people,

115

00:07:00,760 --> 00:07:03,700

which was filled at the time
already with Jewish people.

116

00:07:03,700 --> 00:07:06,750

And I said, well,
I called up, and I

117

00:07:06,750 --> 00:07:09,700

was told that we can travel,
that Jews can travel.

118

00:07:09,700 --> 00:07:13,080

How come that I
am closed in here?

119

00:07:13,080 --> 00:07:14,790

The train is going to leave.

120

00:07:14,790 --> 00:07:16,500

Well, they didn't
pay any attention.

121

00:07:16,500 --> 00:07:21,320

But about five minutes
before the train left,

122

00:07:21,320 --> 00:07:23,580

a Hungarian captain came there.

123

00:07:23,580 --> 00:07:26,370

And I kind of backhand
said that I'd called,

124

00:07:26,370 --> 00:07:27,390

and I have to get home.

125

00:07:27,390 --> 00:07:29,910

My mother is waiting for me,
and these are my two friends

126
00:07:29,910 --> 00:07:32,060
who also want to go.

127
00:07:32,060 --> 00:07:35,310
And miraculously, he
took the three of us,

128
00:07:35,310 --> 00:07:39,450
and he put us on the
train, to my surprise.

129
00:07:39,450 --> 00:07:42,750
The windows of the
train were all dark

130
00:07:42,750 --> 00:07:47,730
because it was war going
on, so everything was dark.

131
00:07:47,730 --> 00:07:49,740
But it was filled up.

132
00:07:49,740 --> 00:07:52,320
And it left Budapest.

133
00:07:52,320 --> 00:07:54,420
And we were sitting there.

134
00:07:54,420 --> 00:07:57,090
And we thought we were
the only Jewish people,

135
00:07:57,090 --> 00:07:59,190
but there were
probably some more.

136
00:07:59,190 --> 00:08:02,880
But all around us, the
Christians, the Hungarians,

137

00:08:02,880 --> 00:08:04,680

started to talk
against the Jews.

138

00:08:04,680 --> 00:08:09,540

Well, now Hitler is going
to show those dirty Jews.

139

00:08:09,540 --> 00:08:13,890

And so it was a
very unhappy trip.

140

00:08:13,890 --> 00:08:18,540

And we stopped about an
hour and a half before--

141

00:08:18,540 --> 00:08:20,610

it was a night trip, one night.

142

00:08:20,610 --> 00:08:25,650

And about an hour and a
half before my city, Munkacs

143

00:08:25,650 --> 00:08:30,140

was the Hungarian name, the
train stopped before a bridge.

144

00:08:30,140 --> 00:08:33,280

And there was a
river, and all out.

145

00:08:33,280 --> 00:08:36,450

Now everybody had to
get out of the train.

146

00:08:36,450 --> 00:08:39,090

And they didn't tell us why.

147

00:08:39,090 --> 00:08:43,289

But we were in the waiting
rooms of that station,

148

00:08:43,289 --> 00:08:48,780
was called [PLACE NAME]
a little town.

149
00:08:48,780 --> 00:08:52,080
And I think-- I don't remember
exactly how much time we spent

150
00:08:52,080 --> 00:08:55,260
there, maybe 20 hours or so.

151
00:08:55,260 --> 00:08:59,750
But one of my friends, she was--

152
00:08:59,750 --> 00:09:03,170
somehow she met this
non-Jewish girl.

153
00:09:03,170 --> 00:09:06,800
And she bought a
paper, her papers.

154
00:09:06,800 --> 00:09:10,310
She gave her some money,
and she got papers,

155
00:09:10,310 --> 00:09:13,100
Aryan name, different name.

156
00:09:13,100 --> 00:09:16,160
And she decided to
return to Budapest.

157
00:09:16,160 --> 00:09:19,370
And she did, and she survived.

158
00:09:19,370 --> 00:09:26,210
My other colleague,
a girl, and I,

159
00:09:26,210 --> 00:09:30,140
when the train was opened
up to continue to Munkacs,

160
00:09:30,140 --> 00:09:33,440
we continued the trip
with some other people.

161
00:09:33,440 --> 00:09:34,730
I arrived.

162
00:09:34,730 --> 00:09:39,005
It was evening, and my mother
didn't know that I'm coming.

163
00:09:39,005 --> 00:09:41,780

164
00:09:41,780 --> 00:09:46,910
At the station there were these
coaches, which you hired to go.

165
00:09:46,910 --> 00:09:49,550
There were no taxis, of course.

166
00:09:49,550 --> 00:09:52,790
And I went home,
knocked the window,

167
00:09:52,790 --> 00:09:57,830
and everybody was very excited
when I arrived, very happy.

168
00:09:57,830 --> 00:10:04,130
And then we stayed there in the
house, wearing the yellow star.

169
00:10:04,130 --> 00:10:09,680
And we were pretty free to walk
the streets for a few weeks.

170
00:10:09,680 --> 00:10:14,150
But the businesses, the Jewish
businesses, were closed, and--

171

00:10:14,150 --> 00:10:17,380
most of them anyway.

172
00:10:17,380 --> 00:10:23,077
We continued that way up
till a new rule came to be--

173
00:10:23,077 --> 00:10:27,060
and just, I'm
looking at the date.

174
00:10:27,060 --> 00:10:32,010
In April, they decided,
the German-Hungarians

175
00:10:32,010 --> 00:10:36,385
decided that all the Jews should
be transferred to ghettos.

176
00:10:36,385 --> 00:10:39,250

177
00:10:39,250 --> 00:10:42,235
They didn't give us
too much time to move.

178
00:10:42,235 --> 00:10:45,400

179
00:10:45,400 --> 00:10:47,650
Before you continue
about talking

180
00:10:47,650 --> 00:10:49,300
about your life in
the ghetto, let's

181
00:10:49,300 --> 00:10:52,030
talk some more about
your childhood.

182
00:10:52,030 --> 00:10:54,970
Was your family a

very religious family?

183

00:10:54,970 --> 00:11:01,116

I would say they were like
today's conservative Jews here.

184

00:11:01,116 --> 00:11:02,540

So they were observant.

185

00:11:02,540 --> 00:11:03,600

You observe holidays?

186

00:11:03,600 --> 00:11:04,100

Yes.

187

00:11:04,100 --> 00:11:05,260

We were Kosher.

188

00:11:05,260 --> 00:11:07,520

We didn't travel on Saturday.

189

00:11:07,520 --> 00:11:11,390

Did you have any kind of
religious training yourself?

190

00:11:11,390 --> 00:11:14,560

Well, we got religious
training in the gymnasium.

191

00:11:14,560 --> 00:11:16,880

They had religion as a subject.

192

00:11:16,880 --> 00:11:20,180

And that was my training.

193

00:11:20,180 --> 00:11:23,990

And were your-- was the
discipline quite strict

194

00:11:23,990 --> 00:11:25,730

in your family when
you were growing up?

195
00:11:25,730 --> 00:11:29,540
No, not at all.

196
00:11:29,540 --> 00:11:33,890
They were very
liberal, very modern.

197
00:11:33,890 --> 00:11:36,480
What kind of relationship did
you have with your mother?

198
00:11:36,480 --> 00:11:39,693
You were the oldest child in
the family, and the daughter.

199
00:11:39,693 --> 00:11:41,360
How would you describe
your relationship

200
00:11:41,360 --> 00:11:42,900
before the war with your mother?

201
00:11:42,900 --> 00:11:45,020
It was excellent
with my parents.

202
00:11:45,020 --> 00:11:47,240
Both my parents were
very, very good.

203
00:11:47,240 --> 00:11:48,830
And I was very--

204
00:11:48,830 --> 00:11:50,150
I loved my family.

205
00:11:50,150 --> 00:11:55,220
And I had no problems, I
mean, no family problems.

206
00:11:55,220 --> 00:11:57,830

And that's why it's hard
to accept for me today

207
00:11:57,830 --> 00:12:03,290
seeing so many who do because
my family was everything for me.

208
00:12:03,290 --> 00:12:06,260
That's why I rushed
home from Budapest.

209
00:12:06,260 --> 00:12:08,920
And without any
sort-- my other--

210
00:12:08,920 --> 00:12:12,890
my friend, she returned right
away, which was, in a way,

211
00:12:12,890 --> 00:12:13,400
smart.

212
00:12:13,400 --> 00:12:15,960
Her family-- the whole
family was that way.

213
00:12:15,960 --> 00:12:18,230
And the whole family escaped.

214
00:12:18,230 --> 00:12:22,520
They all bought the
papers, Aryan papers.

215
00:12:22,520 --> 00:12:24,350
And they moved to Budapest.

216
00:12:24,350 --> 00:12:26,000
And they all survived.

217
00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:29,130
Did you have a healthy
childhood, your health?

218
00:12:29,130 --> 00:12:29,630
Physically?

219
00:12:29,630 --> 00:12:30,310
Yeah.

220
00:12:30,310 --> 00:12:31,840
Fair, yeah.

221
00:12:31,840 --> 00:12:33,380
What kind of problems
did you have?

222
00:12:33,380 --> 00:12:34,880
No serious problems.

223
00:12:34,880 --> 00:12:38,300
I had some problems
with my knee.

224
00:12:38,300 --> 00:12:40,250
I fell a few times.

225
00:12:40,250 --> 00:12:42,450
And I think that I
had a weakened knee.

226
00:12:42,450 --> 00:12:44,360
But otherwise, I didn't--

227
00:12:44,360 --> 00:12:45,850
that was my problem.

228
00:12:45,850 --> 00:12:47,060
That was a physical problem.

229
00:12:47,060 --> 00:12:50,330
Did you have any hobbies,
any outside interests?

230
00:12:50,330 --> 00:12:51,710

I was reading a lot.

231

00:12:51,710 --> 00:12:52,970

And I did sports.

232

00:12:52,970 --> 00:12:54,710

I was ice skating.

233

00:12:54,710 --> 00:13:00,080

And I just spent a lot
of time with my friends.

234

00:13:00,080 --> 00:13:02,120

Were your friends
Jewish friends?

235

00:13:02,120 --> 00:13:04,040

Or did you also have
non-Jewish friends?

236

00:13:04,040 --> 00:13:06,690

Well, mostly Jewish
because from the school.

237

00:13:06,690 --> 00:13:08,870

It was a Jewish school.

238

00:13:08,870 --> 00:13:11,720

Most of my friends
were from the school.

239

00:13:11,720 --> 00:13:18,710

And my family kind of also
associated mostly with Jews.

240

00:13:18,710 --> 00:13:21,690

Was your neighborhood
a mixed neighborhood?

241

00:13:21,690 --> 00:13:24,241

Yes, it was mixed.

242

00:13:24,241 --> 00:13:26,717

And so you had
cordial relationships

243

00:13:26,717 --> 00:13:27,550

with your neighbors?

244

00:13:27,550 --> 00:13:28,050

Yes.

245

00:13:28,050 --> 00:13:29,030

Non-Jewish neighbors.

246

00:13:29,030 --> 00:13:30,320

Right, yes.

247

00:13:30,320 --> 00:13:36,770

Do you remember experiencing
any anti-Semitic situations,

248

00:13:36,770 --> 00:13:37,370

any comments?

249

00:13:37,370 --> 00:13:40,130

Well, some comments there were.

250

00:13:40,130 --> 00:13:40,910

But--

251

00:13:40,910 --> 00:13:42,890

Such as?

252

00:13:42,890 --> 00:13:47,240

Well, just against
Jews, but not too many.

253

00:13:47,240 --> 00:13:51,720

I really didn't feel
threatened by it,

254

00:13:51,720 --> 00:13:53,740

until the Hungarians came.

255
00:13:53,740 --> 00:13:55,320
Then the situation changed.

256
00:13:55,320 --> 00:13:58,550
But in Czechoslovakia,
they were quite liberal.

257
00:13:58,550 --> 00:14:01,430
Sometimes one or two
kids might say something

258
00:14:01,430 --> 00:14:04,775
but nothing serious, really.

259
00:14:04,775 --> 00:14:06,380
You had mentioned
then, of course,

260
00:14:06,380 --> 00:14:07,640
that you went to Budapest.

261
00:14:07,640 --> 00:14:08,360
And then you--

262
00:14:08,360 --> 00:14:14,000
In 1943, September, because
there was not that much to do.

263
00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:15,930
And I wanted to study.

264
00:14:15,930 --> 00:14:19,370
I couldn't go to the
university because of the law.

265
00:14:19,370 --> 00:14:22,770
But I did take
English courses there.

266
00:14:22,770 --> 00:14:23,270
Right.

267

00:14:23,270 --> 00:14:25,610

And how did you feel about
leaving home, leaving

268

00:14:25,610 --> 00:14:28,520

your parents, leaving
your brothers?

269

00:14:28,520 --> 00:14:30,180

Well, I was 20.

270

00:14:30,180 --> 00:14:33,220

I just felt that I had
to get out of the city.

271

00:14:33,220 --> 00:14:35,830

And you felt confident that
you could handle living away--

272

00:14:35,830 --> 00:14:36,330

Oh, yes.

273

00:14:36,330 --> 00:14:37,080

--from the family.

274

00:14:37,080 --> 00:14:38,540

No, I was very independent.

275

00:14:38,540 --> 00:14:39,380

I was a very--

276

00:14:39,380 --> 00:14:41,180

I was raised very independent.

277

00:14:41,180 --> 00:14:43,460

And I was always very,
very independent.

278

00:14:43,460 --> 00:14:44,600

In what way?

279

00:14:44,600 --> 00:14:47,280

And how did you express
your independence?

280

00:14:47,280 --> 00:14:49,220

Well, that I was traveling.

281

00:14:49,220 --> 00:14:52,580

I went to visit my
aunts and uncles

282

00:14:52,580 --> 00:14:55,970

on buses, which I had to
take at a very young age.

283

00:14:55,970 --> 00:15:01,770

I went to my grandmother's to
visit when I was quite young.

284

00:15:01,770 --> 00:15:03,620

And I wasn't afraid doing it.

285

00:15:03,620 --> 00:15:05,460

And this is what
you did by yourself?

286

00:15:05,460 --> 00:15:08,850

Sometimes I went with
my parents, but I did.

287

00:15:08,850 --> 00:15:09,590

And then I was--

288

00:15:09,590 --> 00:15:12,140

I was about 12, I
was in a, actually,

289

00:15:12,140 --> 00:15:16,280

a summer camp away from
home in Italy in Grado.

290

00:15:16,280 --> 00:15:18,620

So that was not even Jewish.

291

00:15:18,620 --> 00:15:20,220

That was mixed.

292

00:15:20,220 --> 00:15:24,170

And I was there for eight weeks.

293

00:15:24,170 --> 00:15:25,700

And then I arrived in Prague.

294

00:15:25,700 --> 00:15:28,050

My uncle lived in

Prague at that time.

295

00:15:28,050 --> 00:15:30,290

And he was at the

station, but he wasn't

296

00:15:30,290 --> 00:15:31,680

where he was supposed to be.

297

00:15:31,680 --> 00:15:32,840

And I was all by myself.

298

00:15:32,840 --> 00:15:36,308

So I was really independent.

299

00:15:36,308 --> 00:15:37,850

And you had confidence

that you could

300

00:15:37,850 --> 00:15:39,430

handle a situation if it arose.

301

00:15:39,430 --> 00:15:39,970

Yes.

302

00:15:39,970 --> 00:15:42,230

Otherwise, I wouldn't have gone.

303

00:15:42,230 --> 00:15:43,670
I wasn't sent away.

304
00:15:43,670 --> 00:15:46,820
I wanted to go.

305
00:15:46,820 --> 00:15:48,290
All right, now
you're in Budapest.

306
00:15:48,290 --> 00:15:50,180
You're a young woman of 20.

307
00:15:50,180 --> 00:15:51,513
And you decide to come home.

308
00:15:51,513 --> 00:15:53,180
As you said, your
mother had called you.

309
00:15:53,180 --> 00:15:57,870
Well, she called because
it was a big problem.

310
00:15:57,870 --> 00:15:59,090
It was a big decision.

311
00:15:59,090 --> 00:16:01,580
It was not that easy,
because my father

312
00:16:01,580 --> 00:16:05,780
felt that maybe if we are not
all together in the family,

313
00:16:05,780 --> 00:16:07,490
there will be easier--

314
00:16:07,490 --> 00:16:10,190
the survival would be easier,
because they were afraid.

315

00:16:10,190 --> 00:16:12,650

As soon as the
Germans came in, they

316

00:16:12,650 --> 00:16:14,380

were afraid for Jewish future.

317

00:16:14,380 --> 00:16:16,130

Well, that's what I
was going to ask next.

318

00:16:16,130 --> 00:16:19,558

How much did you know
of what was happening

319

00:16:19,558 --> 00:16:20,600

in the rest of the world?

320

00:16:20,600 --> 00:16:22,270

You were, as you
say, 20 years old.

321

00:16:22,270 --> 00:16:23,870

Were you aware of
what was happening

322

00:16:23,870 --> 00:16:25,810

in the other countries?

323

00:16:25,810 --> 00:16:28,642

We knew that the
Jews are mistreated.

324

00:16:28,642 --> 00:16:29,250

We knew--

325

00:16:29,250 --> 00:16:30,200

How did you know that?

326

00:16:30,200 --> 00:16:32,860

327

00:16:32,860 --> 00:16:36,870

Well, when, first of all,
Slovakia was occupied--

328

00:16:36,870 --> 00:16:41,280

Slovakia was under
German domination.

329

00:16:41,280 --> 00:16:44,770

And the girls there
were transferred.

330

00:16:44,770 --> 00:16:49,380

A lot of young girls were
transported to Auschwitz.

331

00:16:49,380 --> 00:16:50,500

And we heard about it.

332

00:16:50,500 --> 00:16:52,680

And one of my cousins
was that way, too,

333

00:16:52,680 --> 00:16:53,940

transported to Auschwitz.

334

00:16:53,940 --> 00:16:59,970

I don't know which year, but
before 1943, maybe '41 or '42.

335

00:16:59,970 --> 00:17:01,710

And you knew what Auschwitz was?

336

00:17:01,710 --> 00:17:03,480

We knew that it's a bad place.

337

00:17:03,480 --> 00:17:05,579

We didn't know
exactly what it was.

338

00:17:05,579 --> 00:17:07,920

We knew that it's a
concentration camp.

339
00:17:07,920 --> 00:17:11,760
And we knew it's bad, but I
didn't know the extent of it.

340
00:17:11,760 --> 00:17:14,500
And we knew was that the
German Jews are mistreated

341
00:17:14,500 --> 00:17:16,349
and that the Austrian Jews--

342
00:17:16,349 --> 00:17:19,290
How did you get
your information?

343
00:17:19,290 --> 00:17:20,460
Word of mouth?

344
00:17:20,460 --> 00:17:25,009
I think word of
mouth mostly, yeah.

345
00:17:25,009 --> 00:17:33,410
So my mother's side of the
family, they were in Belgium.

346
00:17:33,410 --> 00:17:35,970
And when Hitler
occupied-- when he--

347
00:17:35,970 --> 00:17:39,180
on the way to
occupy Belgium, they

348
00:17:39,180 --> 00:17:42,720
escaped because they were
in the diamond business.

349
00:17:42,720 --> 00:17:46,710
And they were able
to hire some taxis.

350

00:17:46,710 --> 00:17:50,430

And they were
escaping into Spain.

351

00:17:50,430 --> 00:17:55,290

And from there, they
came out to first Brazil

352

00:17:55,290 --> 00:17:57,320

and then to America.

353

00:17:57,320 --> 00:17:59,580

And we even got a
letter from them.

354

00:17:59,580 --> 00:18:02,910

I don't remember whether
it was '41 or '42.

355

00:18:02,910 --> 00:18:06,480

And I remembered their address.

356

00:18:06,480 --> 00:18:09,300

I don't know how, but
it just stuck with me.

357

00:18:09,300 --> 00:18:11,610

And when I was liberated--

358

00:18:11,610 --> 00:18:13,710

and I'm going ahead of myself.

359

00:18:13,710 --> 00:18:15,990

But when I was
liberated, and I was

360

00:18:15,990 --> 00:18:19,620

in Krakow or Lemberg,
one of the cities,

361

00:18:19,620 --> 00:18:22,770

we met some English

prisoners of war.

362

00:18:22,770 --> 00:18:26,610

And I told them about my
uncles being in the USA.

363

00:18:26,610 --> 00:18:29,620

And he offered to mail
a letter if I write it.

364

00:18:29,620 --> 00:18:31,380

And I did.

365

00:18:31,380 --> 00:18:33,380

So I told them that--

366

00:18:33,380 --> 00:18:34,020

who survived.

367

00:18:34,020 --> 00:18:36,660

368

00:18:36,660 --> 00:18:39,210

Did you remember--
do you remember

369

00:18:39,210 --> 00:18:43,080

being particularly frightened
when you were in Budapest

370

00:18:43,080 --> 00:18:44,610

about what was happening?

371

00:18:44,610 --> 00:18:46,830

Do you feel-- were
you threatened?

372

00:18:46,830 --> 00:18:49,050

Well, yes, I was frightened.

373

00:18:49,050 --> 00:18:52,410

But I just wanted to

get home and be them.

374

00:18:52,410 --> 00:18:56,620

I mean, there was no thought
about to change my mind.

375

00:18:56,620 --> 00:18:59,110

I was sure I wanted to go home.

376

00:18:59,110 --> 00:19:01,620

But what I meant was
did you feel comfortable

377

00:19:01,620 --> 00:19:02,803

on the streets?

378

00:19:02,803 --> 00:19:03,720

Was there an overall--

379

00:19:03,720 --> 00:19:05,270

I was just one day there.

380

00:19:05,270 --> 00:19:07,170

Oh, you were just in Budapest--

381

00:19:07,170 --> 00:19:09,000

After it was occupied.

382

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:09,860

Oh, OK.

383

00:19:09,860 --> 00:19:12,510

Before that, no,
it was all right.

384

00:19:12,510 --> 00:19:15,520

From September till
March, I was fine.

385

00:19:15,520 --> 00:19:16,050

I was--

386

00:19:16,050 --> 00:19:16,800

You were relaxed--

387

00:19:16,800 --> 00:19:17,340

--studying.

388

00:19:17,340 --> 00:19:17,980

--and studying.

389

00:19:17,980 --> 00:19:22,310

And I was even tutoring
Christian children, not Hebrew,

390

00:19:22,310 --> 00:19:26,140

but for those who didn't
do well in school.

391

00:19:26,140 --> 00:19:28,980

So you didn't experience
any anti-Jewish situations

392

00:19:28,980 --> 00:19:30,620

in Budapest before?

393

00:19:30,620 --> 00:19:32,010

Not really.

394

00:19:32,010 --> 00:19:32,680

OK.

395

00:19:32,680 --> 00:19:33,180

No really.

396

00:19:33,180 --> 00:19:35,013

So it was a relatively
calm experience.

397

00:19:35,013 --> 00:19:35,980

At that-- yes.

398

00:19:35,980 --> 00:19:36,480

Until.

399

00:19:36,480 --> 00:19:40,170

That was a calm-- until
Hitler came in, in March.

400

00:19:40,170 --> 00:19:42,560

And then I just
was one day there.

401

00:19:42,560 --> 00:19:46,080

And I was terribly
disappointed when I was there.

402

00:19:46,080 --> 00:19:49,110

And all those people who
were left, by the way,

403

00:19:49,110 --> 00:19:51,760

in that room, all
those Jewish people,

404

00:19:51,760 --> 00:19:55,110

they were sent right
from there right away

405

00:19:55,110 --> 00:19:56,740

to concentration camp.

406

00:19:56,740 --> 00:19:59,100

So I would have been-- if
I wouldn't have gotten out

407

00:19:59,100 --> 00:20:04,050

of there through that captain,
I would have been much sooner

408

00:20:04,050 --> 00:20:09,000

in concentration camp, already
from March on, rather than--

409

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:11,310

and it would have been

terrible because my parents

410
00:20:11,310 --> 00:20:13,310
and everything.

411
00:20:13,310 --> 00:20:15,830
So I was very lucky at
that point that I was--

412
00:20:15,830 --> 00:20:19,170
What do you think inspired
you to speak up at that time?

413
00:20:19,170 --> 00:20:21,020
You were only 20 years old.

414
00:20:21,020 --> 00:20:22,350
Well, I don't know.

415
00:20:22,350 --> 00:20:24,760
I just said that I called up.

416
00:20:24,760 --> 00:20:26,250
And they told me I can travel.

417
00:20:26,250 --> 00:20:29,970
And here I am, and my
mother is waiting for me.

418
00:20:29,970 --> 00:20:30,870
I don't know.

419
00:20:30,870 --> 00:20:33,030
I didn't give it any
thought what inspired me.

420
00:20:33,030 --> 00:20:33,750
I just did it.

421
00:20:33,750 --> 00:20:34,590
You just did it.

422

00:20:34,590 --> 00:20:37,620

I just did what I had to do.

423

00:20:37,620 --> 00:20:39,600

OK, now you're back home.

424

00:20:39,600 --> 00:20:42,540

And you said that you had to
start wearing a yellow star.

425

00:20:42,540 --> 00:20:44,430

Yes, we wear a yellow star.

426

00:20:44,430 --> 00:20:48,040

What were your feelings
about having to do that?

427

00:20:48,040 --> 00:20:50,760

Well, it was--

428

00:20:50,760 --> 00:20:54,780

I knew that we are
going to have problems

429

00:20:54,780 --> 00:20:56,700

because of the Germans.

430

00:20:56,700 --> 00:21:02,250

And you see, the Germans
occupied the whole territory,

431

00:21:02,250 --> 00:21:03,480

even the villages.

432

00:21:03,480 --> 00:21:07,740

And the village where we
lived before, where I had--

433

00:21:07,740 --> 00:21:12,430

we had stayed, in that
house, my uncle moved

434

00:21:12,430 --> 00:21:14,940
in there and his children.

435

00:21:14,940 --> 00:21:19,650
And he-- and it was strange
because the Germans were there.

436

00:21:19,650 --> 00:21:22,520
And we were not allowed
to-- at that point,

437

00:21:22,520 --> 00:21:24,130
with the yellow
stars, we weren't

438

00:21:24,130 --> 00:21:28,200
allowed-- the Jews were
not allowed to travel.

439

00:21:28,200 --> 00:21:30,840
And the distance was like
just around 10 kilometers.

440

00:21:30,840 --> 00:21:32,450
I don't know exactly.

441

00:21:32,450 --> 00:21:34,520
But he talked to those Germans.

442

00:21:34,520 --> 00:21:39,050
And they brought him in
to the city to visit us.

443

00:21:39,050 --> 00:21:39,920
Your uncle.

444

00:21:39,920 --> 00:21:47,060
My uncle, [? Kivy. ?] And he
came, and visited my parents,

445

00:21:47,060 --> 00:21:47,850
and talked.

446

00:21:47,850 --> 00:21:49,790

And I was outside.

447

00:21:49,790 --> 00:21:53,660

And the two Germans who drove
in were talking with me.

448

00:21:53,660 --> 00:21:56,300

And they were telling me
about the horrible things

449

00:21:56,300 --> 00:21:57,740

they did in Poland.

450

00:21:57,740 --> 00:21:59,808

I said, how could you do it?

451

00:21:59,808 --> 00:22:00,350

I don't know.

452

00:22:00,350 --> 00:22:02,900

I was just bored at that time.

453

00:22:02,900 --> 00:22:04,370

And they said, well, we did it.

454

00:22:04,370 --> 00:22:06,350

It was an order.

455

00:22:06,350 --> 00:22:09,560

They told us to take some
of the heads of the children

456

00:22:09,560 --> 00:22:12,980

and hit it against the wall.

457

00:22:12,980 --> 00:22:16,710

So they told me that and a
few other horrible things.

458

00:22:16,710 --> 00:22:18,080
And I looked at them.

459
00:22:18,080 --> 00:22:20,690
And because it was
an order, you did it?

460
00:22:20,690 --> 00:22:22,760
And they said, yes, it's war.

461
00:22:22,760 --> 00:22:26,030
I said, now if you get
an order to shoot at me,

462
00:22:26,030 --> 00:22:26,780
would you do it?

463
00:22:26,780 --> 00:22:29,020
He said, yes.

464
00:22:29,020 --> 00:22:31,820
And that was the end
of the discussion.

465
00:22:31,820 --> 00:22:34,430
At least that's what I
remember, nothing more.

466
00:22:34,430 --> 00:22:37,450
Whatever I talked further
I don't remember anymore.

467
00:22:37,450 --> 00:22:38,210
But that was it.

468
00:22:38,210 --> 00:22:43,035
And then he took my uncle
back to [PLACE NAME]

469
00:22:43,035 --> 00:22:44,390
and [INAUDIBLE].

470

00:22:44,390 --> 00:22:47,600

What was amazing, that they
did it, that they brought him

471

00:22:47,600 --> 00:22:48,680

in to visit.

472

00:22:48,680 --> 00:22:50,400

And they were friendly to me.

473

00:22:50,400 --> 00:22:51,340

They didn't touch me.

474

00:22:51,340 --> 00:22:53,780

They did nothing.

475

00:22:53,780 --> 00:22:57,050

So that was one experience when
we were still in our houses.

476

00:22:57,050 --> 00:22:58,340

But then--

477

00:22:58,340 --> 00:23:01,220

Was it difficult to wear
the yellow star for you?

478

00:23:01,220 --> 00:23:02,490

I don't think so.

479

00:23:02,490 --> 00:23:03,410

I don't remember.

480

00:23:03,410 --> 00:23:06,770

Maybe it was, but I don't
remember it being difficult,

481

00:23:06,770 --> 00:23:09,200

maybe because in
retrospect, now I

482

00:23:09,200 --> 00:23:13,130

feel there were so many other
horrible things that this

483
00:23:13,130 --> 00:23:15,170
seemed minimal to me.

484
00:23:15,170 --> 00:23:18,218
What other restrictions--
you had you couldn't travel.

485
00:23:18,218 --> 00:23:19,260
What other restrictions--

486
00:23:19,260 --> 00:23:21,350
Well, we couldn't travel.

487
00:23:21,350 --> 00:23:23,450
We had to be in, so
we weren't allowed

488
00:23:23,450 --> 00:23:25,460
to listen to the radios.

489
00:23:25,460 --> 00:23:32,340
We were-- I don't
remember exactly.

490
00:23:32,340 --> 00:23:35,380
So what did you do
with your time then?

491
00:23:35,380 --> 00:23:39,000
Well, it was just a few weeks,
actually, that we were there.

492
00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:43,370
And we were just
living, nothing special.

493
00:23:43,370 --> 00:23:44,850
Reading, I guess.

494

00:23:44,850 --> 00:23:47,730
We couldn't do anything really.

495
00:23:47,730 --> 00:23:50,800
And from there-- well,
we could visit on the--

496
00:23:50,800 --> 00:23:52,290
you could walk the streets.

497
00:23:52,290 --> 00:23:53,160
So we could visit.

498
00:23:53,160 --> 00:23:54,420
I could visit my friends.

499
00:23:54,420 --> 00:23:56,310
We spent time together.

500
00:23:56,310 --> 00:24:02,250
And then came the order one
night, one day in April.

501
00:24:02,250 --> 00:24:08,940
I think it was April 19, yeah,
that the ghetto is established,

502
00:24:08,940 --> 00:24:10,650
and we have to move out.

503
00:24:10,650 --> 00:24:12,360
And we had to do that.

504
00:24:12,360 --> 00:24:15,480
And we moved whatever we could.

505
00:24:15,480 --> 00:24:16,607
What did you take with you?

506
00:24:16,607 --> 00:24:17,190
Did you take--

507

00:24:17,190 --> 00:24:20,940

Well, we took the
clothes with us.

508

00:24:20,940 --> 00:24:24,870

We had some jewelry still,
of which some we buried.

509

00:24:24,870 --> 00:24:27,390

But some, we took with us.

510

00:24:27,390 --> 00:24:31,210

And some little things
we gave to a neighbor.

511

00:24:31,210 --> 00:24:31,710

And--

512

00:24:31,710 --> 00:24:32,605

Did you take anything personal?

513

00:24:32,605 --> 00:24:33,897

We couldn't take any furniture.

514

00:24:33,897 --> 00:24:35,560

Anything really
personal to yourself?

515

00:24:35,560 --> 00:24:37,250

Well, we took photographs.

516

00:24:37,250 --> 00:24:42,360

We took the papers, what
we needed, and the clothes.

517

00:24:42,360 --> 00:24:45,520

We couldn't because there was
just one room assigned to us.

518

00:24:45,520 --> 00:24:49,030

And we were six people
with my grandmother, too.

519
00:24:49,030 --> 00:24:49,710
So--

520
00:24:49,710 --> 00:24:51,283
What was your
reaction to hearing

521
00:24:51,283 --> 00:24:52,450
that you have to move into--

522
00:24:52,450 --> 00:24:53,575
Well, we were very unhappy.

523
00:24:53,575 --> 00:24:57,450
That was already very, very
painful, that we had to go.

524
00:24:57,450 --> 00:25:01,140
And we-- not only that
we have to move out,

525
00:25:01,140 --> 00:25:04,800
but the thought what's going
to be happening later on.

526
00:25:04,800 --> 00:25:06,630
How long can we
stay in the ghetto?

527
00:25:06,630 --> 00:25:10,380
Because we knew that
actually even before

528
00:25:10,380 --> 00:25:13,320
that they collected a
lot of Jewish people

529
00:25:13,320 --> 00:25:14,520
from the villages.

530
00:25:14,520 --> 00:25:17,430

And they put-- and they
brought them into the city

531
00:25:17,430 --> 00:25:19,720
into a brick factory.

532
00:25:19,720 --> 00:25:23,790
And while we were in
the ghetto, those people

533
00:25:23,790 --> 00:25:29,340
were transferred to the brick
factory from the villages.

534
00:25:29,340 --> 00:25:34,500
So we knew, or thought, that
we will end up there, too.

535
00:25:34,500 --> 00:25:36,120
So that hung over us.

536
00:25:36,120 --> 00:25:39,600
And then in the ghetto one--

537
00:25:39,600 --> 00:25:42,960
might have been Friday night
or maybe Saturday morning.

538
00:25:42,960 --> 00:25:47,338
But before you get to the
ghetto, how did you get there?

539
00:25:47,338 --> 00:25:48,630
Was it within walking distance?

540
00:25:48,630 --> 00:25:53,058

541
00:25:53,058 --> 00:25:55,020
I think we went by--

542
00:25:55,020 --> 00:25:58,080

I don't think we walked
because we carried quite a bit.

543
00:25:58,080 --> 00:25:59,520
I think that we went by--

544
00:25:59,520 --> 00:26:04,080
What was your parents'
state of mind at that time?

545
00:26:04,080 --> 00:26:06,810
Well, they were
very, very unhappy.

546
00:26:06,810 --> 00:26:09,420
And as a matter
of fact, my mother

547
00:26:09,420 --> 00:26:13,080
was talking about committing
suicide with the family.

548
00:26:13,080 --> 00:26:14,580
And when my little
brother heard it,

549
00:26:14,580 --> 00:26:18,000
he said, well, I
have not lived yet.

550
00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:19,728
So that was the end of that.

551
00:26:19,728 --> 00:26:21,270
And then we just
went to the ghetto--

552
00:26:21,270 --> 00:26:23,070
That the whole family should
commit suicide, or just she?

553
00:26:23,070 --> 00:26:24,445
No, she thought

the whole family.

554

00:26:24,445 --> 00:26:26,365

The whole family, yeah.

555

00:26:26,365 --> 00:26:27,730

[INAUDIBLE] what he said.

556

00:26:27,730 --> 00:26:32,340

Well, she wouldn't have wanted
to die and leave the children.

557

00:26:32,340 --> 00:26:35,680

But were you open in your
talking with your parents?

558

00:26:35,680 --> 00:26:36,410

Were they very--

559

00:26:36,410 --> 00:26:38,110

Oh, they were all very open.

560

00:26:38,110 --> 00:26:40,330

We were-- oh, we
discussed everything.

561

00:26:40,330 --> 00:26:42,175

No, there was no problem.

562

00:26:42,175 --> 00:26:44,400

Well, with my mother
and my father,

563

00:26:44,400 --> 00:26:46,428

they were both very open.

564

00:26:46,428 --> 00:26:49,570

No, they were no--

565

00:26:49,570 --> 00:26:50,810

All right, you're now--

566

00:26:50,810 --> 00:26:53,215

you've taken the
trip into the ghetto.

567

00:26:53,215 --> 00:26:54,950

Yeah, we were in the ghetto.

568

00:26:54,950 --> 00:26:57,680

And that was-- we did
nothing there really.

569

00:26:57,680 --> 00:26:59,030

Well, there was nothing--

570

00:26:59,030 --> 00:27:00,655

Can you describe the
living conditions?

571

00:27:00,655 --> 00:27:03,560

The living conditions were
very poor because it was very--

572

00:27:03,560 --> 00:27:04,760

there were a few streets.

573

00:27:04,760 --> 00:27:09,500

And you had to accommodate
there about 10,000 people or so.

574

00:27:09,500 --> 00:27:13,070

I don't even know how we
fitted in, in a few streets.

575

00:27:13,070 --> 00:27:16,640

So we really, I think we
had a room for ourselves,

576

00:27:16,640 --> 00:27:20,700

that we were like six
people with my grandmother.

577

00:27:20,700 --> 00:27:25,070

And then the other room
was for the other family

578
00:27:25,070 --> 00:27:27,090
who lived originally there.

579
00:27:27,090 --> 00:27:31,680
And then it was just very,
very crowded, very crowded.

580
00:27:31,680 --> 00:27:33,860
But it was already spring.

581
00:27:33,860 --> 00:27:38,240
And it was not cold, so
we spent time outside.

582
00:27:38,240 --> 00:27:40,850
The ghetto was in the
Jewish section of the town.

583
00:27:40,850 --> 00:27:43,500

584
00:27:43,500 --> 00:27:45,830
It was mixed, I think.

585
00:27:45,830 --> 00:27:47,780
We had-- actually,
the Jewish section

586
00:27:47,780 --> 00:27:50,000
was mostly the
Jewish street, where

587
00:27:50,000 --> 00:27:53,840
they had a lot of Jews, which
were very poverty ridden.

588
00:27:53,840 --> 00:27:59,240
But the people who were a little
better off, then they didn't--

589

00:27:59,240 --> 00:28:00,940
they just moved around.

590

00:28:00,940 --> 00:28:05,410
It wasn't that-- just the
Jewish street and around it.

591

00:28:05,410 --> 00:28:07,940
And the ghetto wasn't there.

592

00:28:07,940 --> 00:28:09,530
So I wouldn't say.

593

00:28:09,530 --> 00:28:14,733
I think some of the Christians
probably moved out, or maybe--

594

00:28:14,733 --> 00:28:16,400
So when you say you
shared the apartment

595

00:28:16,400 --> 00:28:18,230
with the original
people who lived there,

596

00:28:18,230 --> 00:28:19,610
that was another Jewish family.

597

00:28:19,610 --> 00:28:19,800
Yes.

598

00:28:19,800 --> 00:28:20,300
Yeah.

599

00:28:20,300 --> 00:28:20,890
Yes.

600

00:28:20,890 --> 00:28:24,660
Well, mostly probably they
were Jewish, actually, people.

601

00:28:24,660 --> 00:28:27,000

But I think that those
who were not Jewish,

602

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:29,030

they just moved out.

603

00:28:29,030 --> 00:28:31,460

And the Jews moved in.

604

00:28:31,460 --> 00:28:33,840

So you didn't have any
privacy, obviously--

605

00:28:33,840 --> 00:28:34,340

No.

606

00:28:34,340 --> 00:28:36,800

--living in that
kind of situation.

607

00:28:36,800 --> 00:28:37,940

No, we didn't.

608

00:28:37,940 --> 00:28:40,380

But as I said, it
was already spring.

609

00:28:40,380 --> 00:28:43,080

And during the day, we
spent the day outdoors.

610

00:28:43,080 --> 00:28:44,180

And we were with friends.

611

00:28:44,180 --> 00:28:47,730

And we were discussing
the situation.

612

00:28:47,730 --> 00:28:49,280

And there were a few offers.

613

00:28:49,280 --> 00:28:53,330
Like some said, would you like
to have some Aryan papers,

614
00:28:53,330 --> 00:28:54,890
and you could go to Budapest?

615
00:28:54,890 --> 00:28:56,262
And I said no.

616
00:28:56,262 --> 00:28:57,220
And then someone said--

617
00:28:57,220 --> 00:28:58,610
Why did you say no?

618
00:28:58,610 --> 00:29:01,320
I wouldn't have left my family.

619
00:29:01,320 --> 00:29:03,780
There was no question about it.

620
00:29:03,780 --> 00:29:07,970
And someone wanted
to hide in the woods.

621
00:29:07,970 --> 00:29:10,730
They felt that the Russians
would come any time.

622
00:29:10,730 --> 00:29:14,470
And then we should try to
hide in the woods until then.

623
00:29:14,470 --> 00:29:17,930
And I just didn't,
because people were afraid

624
00:29:17,930 --> 00:29:20,965
that they will be deported
to Germany or somewhere.

625

00:29:20,965 --> 00:29:23,090
Did you talk to your parents
about the whole family

626
00:29:23,090 --> 00:29:24,560
trying to leave?

627
00:29:24,560 --> 00:29:26,200
We couldn't have done that.

628
00:29:26,200 --> 00:29:28,520
At that point, it
was impossible.

629
00:29:28,520 --> 00:29:31,310
We couldn't have done
that at that time.

630
00:29:31,310 --> 00:29:33,660
Because of the age
of your grand--

631
00:29:33,660 --> 00:29:35,450
Well, it was just
where do you go?

632
00:29:35,450 --> 00:29:38,310
And how do you Go it's
just too dangerous.

633
00:29:38,310 --> 00:29:40,100
And the little one was only 12.

634
00:29:40,100 --> 00:29:41,990
And my grandmother was old.

635
00:29:41,990 --> 00:29:46,140
And just at that point, we
couldn't have done it anymore.

636
00:29:46,140 --> 00:29:48,920
It was too late.

637

00:29:48,920 --> 00:29:51,380

So there were a few
families who did it.

638

00:29:51,380 --> 00:29:54,260

But we couldn't have done it.

639

00:29:54,260 --> 00:29:55,670

Not too many.

640

00:29:55,670 --> 00:29:56,930

Not too many escaped.

641

00:29:56,930 --> 00:29:58,310

A few young people did.

642

00:29:58,310 --> 00:30:00,530

A few young people--
the Zionist--

643

00:30:00,530 --> 00:30:02,940

through the Zionist
movement, a few people.

644

00:30:02,940 --> 00:30:07,700

A friend of mine did, and she
landed in Israel later on.

645

00:30:07,700 --> 00:30:09,620

And so they did.

646

00:30:09,620 --> 00:30:12,800

But the families was
very, very different.

647

00:30:12,800 --> 00:30:16,670

Was your family a particularly
Zionist family when you were

648

00:30:16,670 --> 00:30:17,380

growing up?

649

00:30:17,380 --> 00:30:19,280

Did you belong to any
Zionist organization?

650

00:30:19,280 --> 00:30:21,500

Well, that was a Zionist
school I went to.

651

00:30:21,500 --> 00:30:24,650

The Hebrew gymnasium was a
Zionist school, very, very

652

00:30:24,650 --> 00:30:25,700

Zionist.

653

00:30:25,700 --> 00:30:29,070

And so we used to
sing the Hebrew songs.

654

00:30:29,070 --> 00:30:31,280

And we were very
Zionist-oriented.

655

00:30:31,280 --> 00:30:35,420

Even my grandfather
in Kosice, he

656

00:30:35,420 --> 00:30:41,110

was very happy that I went to
that school and pro-Zionist.

657

00:30:41,110 --> 00:30:43,310

Yeah, because there
was a rabbi of the city

658

00:30:43,310 --> 00:30:44,840

was against Zionism.

659

00:30:44,840 --> 00:30:49,160

And there was friction
between the rabbi of the city

660

00:30:49,160 --> 00:30:50,980
and the Hebrew gymnasium.

661
00:30:50,980 --> 00:30:53,400
But I'm not going to go
into details of that.

662
00:30:53,400 --> 00:30:57,110

663
00:30:57,110 --> 00:30:59,230
What was the food
situation in the ghetto?

664
00:30:59,230 --> 00:31:00,610
Well, we were not hungry.

665
00:31:00,610 --> 00:31:02,070
There was food.

666
00:31:02,070 --> 00:31:05,490
Where did you get
your food from?

667
00:31:05,490 --> 00:31:07,500
We took some food with us.

668
00:31:07,500 --> 00:31:10,860
And I guess they had some
stores in the ghetto.

669
00:31:10,860 --> 00:31:13,960
And so we bought some food.

670
00:31:13,960 --> 00:31:16,770
And the people who were
living there had food.

671
00:31:16,770 --> 00:31:19,860
And certain things were shared.

672
00:31:19,860 --> 00:31:21,780

We didn't go hungry
in the ghetto.

673
00:31:21,780 --> 00:31:24,390
It was food situation--

674
00:31:24,390 --> 00:31:25,350
I'm not aware.

675
00:31:25,350 --> 00:31:28,065
I don't remember that it
would have been a problem.

676
00:31:28,065 --> 00:31:34,730

677
00:31:34,730 --> 00:31:37,520
About your experience
in the ghetto.

678
00:31:37,520 --> 00:31:40,290
And you said food
was not a problem.

679
00:31:40,290 --> 00:31:41,970
The sleeping
conditions were such

680
00:31:41,970 --> 00:31:43,260
that you all were together.

681
00:31:43,260 --> 00:31:45,830
Were you able to sleep well?

682
00:31:45,830 --> 00:31:47,520
Well, I don't remember.

683
00:31:47,520 --> 00:31:49,380
But I think I was
young, and I don't

684
00:31:49,380 --> 00:31:51,120

think I had a problem sleeping.

685

00:31:51,120 --> 00:31:52,710

That was [INAUDIBLE].

686

00:31:52,710 --> 00:31:56,040

I remember one Saturday,
which my father

687

00:31:56,040 --> 00:31:57,090

went to the synagogue.

688

00:31:57,090 --> 00:32:02,010

And he rushed back
because there was police,

689

00:32:02,010 --> 00:32:05,760

or gendarmes the way they
called them there, came in,

690

00:32:05,760 --> 00:32:07,320

and they were
beating up the people

691

00:32:07,320 --> 00:32:09,520

in the synagogue at that time.

692

00:32:09,520 --> 00:32:12,990

So that was difficult.

693

00:32:12,990 --> 00:32:15,550

What did you feel like when
you heard that kind of terrible

694

00:32:15,550 --> 00:32:16,050

[INAUDIBLE]?

695

00:32:16,050 --> 00:32:18,630

Well, we were frightened,
frightened very badly.

696

00:32:18,630 --> 00:32:23,700

And we tried not to get in
their way, so not to go places.

697
00:32:23,700 --> 00:32:25,550
Now we stayed in the ghetto.

698
00:32:25,550 --> 00:32:27,570
We were not supposed
to leave the ghetto.

699
00:32:27,570 --> 00:32:29,040
Was there a wall
around the ghetto?

700
00:32:29,040 --> 00:32:31,350
No, there was no wall.

701
00:32:31,350 --> 00:32:32,550
But there were--

702
00:32:32,550 --> 00:32:35,898
I think they were watching.

703
00:32:35,898 --> 00:32:37,280
They were guarding it.

704
00:32:37,280 --> 00:32:41,120

705
00:32:41,120 --> 00:32:43,410
So what did you
do during the day?

706
00:32:43,410 --> 00:32:45,680
Well, we are talking
just about a few weeks,

707
00:32:45,680 --> 00:32:48,080
like three, four weeks,
and just to settle in,

708
00:32:48,080 --> 00:32:50,260

and talked to friends.

709

00:32:50,260 --> 00:32:53,880

Just talked-- read and
talked, that's all.

710

00:32:53,880 --> 00:32:55,490

Didn't do anything.

711

00:32:55,490 --> 00:32:59,090

And my mother might have
cooked, or prepared, or--

712

00:32:59,090 --> 00:33:00,950

but nothing special.

713

00:33:00,950 --> 00:33:03,230

I mean, we are talking
about the short period.

714

00:33:03,230 --> 00:33:06,550

and worrying about the future,
I guess, and what to do,

715

00:33:06,550 --> 00:33:07,820

and how to escape.

716

00:33:07,820 --> 00:33:10,070

But we didn't find a solution.

717

00:33:10,070 --> 00:33:13,820

Did anybody have any radios?

718

00:33:13,820 --> 00:33:15,080

Not that I know.

719

00:33:15,080 --> 00:33:16,350

I don't remember.

720

00:33:16,350 --> 00:33:19,560

I really don't remember
because it was against the law.

721
00:33:19,560 --> 00:33:22,050
And I guess some
people were afraid.

722
00:33:22,050 --> 00:33:23,720
But I really don't remember.

723
00:33:23,720 --> 00:33:26,330
But somehow, you
had the grapevine.

724
00:33:26,330 --> 00:33:30,290
And you knew what was going on.

725
00:33:30,290 --> 00:33:33,560
What did you talk about
with your friends?

726
00:33:33,560 --> 00:33:36,870
About the future,
about the past,

727
00:33:36,870 --> 00:33:39,440
about the immediate situation.

728
00:33:39,440 --> 00:33:41,270
And when you talked
about the future,

729
00:33:41,270 --> 00:33:42,520
do you remember what you said?

730
00:33:42,520 --> 00:33:45,470
Well, that it was
a mistake maybe

731
00:33:45,470 --> 00:33:49,790
not to do an escape
before, months ago when

732
00:33:49,790 --> 00:33:55,970

it was possible, and that
what's the outlook of the war,

733
00:33:55,970 --> 00:34:01,540
and whether the Russians
will eventually come in.

734
00:34:01,540 --> 00:34:04,760
OK, then the next change.

735
00:34:04,760 --> 00:34:08,802
Well, the next change was
that they burst in at the--

736
00:34:08,802 --> 00:34:14,449
in the early morning, on May 15.

737
00:34:14,449 --> 00:34:22,260
And we were told that we have
to leave our temporary shelter,

738
00:34:22,260 --> 00:34:22,940
where we were.

739
00:34:22,940 --> 00:34:24,920
And then we have
to go and march.

740
00:34:24,920 --> 00:34:26,659
In they were all--

741
00:34:26,659 --> 00:34:30,560
they told us just to take
some food, just the most

742
00:34:30,560 --> 00:34:35,300
important things, what we need
for two days or three days.

743
00:34:35,300 --> 00:34:38,030
We should because we
are being resettled.

744

00:34:38,030 --> 00:34:41,480

We are going to be
taken somewhere to work.

745

00:34:41,480 --> 00:34:43,400

And everybody was gathered.

746

00:34:43,400 --> 00:34:48,330

And someone who didn't move
fast, they were hit and beaten.

747

00:34:48,330 --> 00:34:48,830

and--

748

00:34:48,830 --> 00:34:50,449

Did you ever see that?

749

00:34:50,449 --> 00:34:53,134

Yes, yes, sure.

750

00:34:53,134 --> 00:34:56,670

751

00:34:56,670 --> 00:35:00,790

So we were gathered at the
plaza there of the city.

752

00:35:00,790 --> 00:35:03,890

You were still in your family
group, the five of you.

753

00:35:03,890 --> 00:35:04,900

The six of us.

754

00:35:04,900 --> 00:35:05,983

Excuse me, the six of you.

755

00:35:05,983 --> 00:35:06,970

With my grandmother.

756

00:35:06,970 --> 00:35:08,990

We were in the family group.

757

00:35:08,990 --> 00:35:12,610

And we were herded, so
to speak, to that place.

758

00:35:12,610 --> 00:35:14,260

And then we had to--

759

00:35:14,260 --> 00:35:18,640

and they lined us up
in five groups of five,

760

00:35:18,640 --> 00:35:23,890

so to speak, to march
to the brick factory.

761

00:35:23,890 --> 00:35:26,590

And it was about a
mile, I would say.

762

00:35:26,590 --> 00:35:27,730

It was a long walk.

763

00:35:27,730 --> 00:35:30,270

And my mother-- and my
grandmother could hardly walk,

764

00:35:30,270 --> 00:35:31,390

but she did.

765

00:35:31,390 --> 00:35:35,530

And we were all walking.

766

00:35:35,530 --> 00:35:38,080

And some people were hurt.

767

00:35:38,080 --> 00:35:41,310

And if they couldn't,
or they didn't want to,

768

00:35:41,310 --> 00:35:43,130

or they just were hurt.

769

00:35:43,130 --> 00:35:43,630

They were--

770

00:35:43,630 --> 00:35:46,402

Do you remember how big
a group of people total?

771

00:35:46,402 --> 00:35:49,550

It was a long, long--

772

00:35:49,550 --> 00:35:50,050

I don't--

773

00:35:50,050 --> 00:35:50,150

Line.

774

00:35:50,150 --> 00:35:51,070

--remember how many.

775

00:35:51,070 --> 00:35:54,960

But I imagine there were a few
thousand, in the thousands.

776

00:35:54,960 --> 00:35:56,050

We were walking.

777

00:35:56,050 --> 00:35:59,270

And we got there to
the brick factory.

778

00:35:59,270 --> 00:36:01,360

And that was prepared.

779

00:36:01,360 --> 00:36:06,220

Well, actually, the people who
were from the villages taken up

780

00:36:06,220 --> 00:36:10,450

there a few weeks before
that, they were earlier there

781
00:36:10,450 --> 00:36:11,380
gathered.

782
00:36:11,380 --> 00:36:16,750
My grandfather, and some
of my aunts and uncles

783
00:36:16,750 --> 00:36:19,240
who lived in the villages,
they were taken there.

784
00:36:19,240 --> 00:36:27,110
And they were already out from
the city by transport train.

785
00:36:27,110 --> 00:36:34,240
So the transport train
from the factory,

786
00:36:34,240 --> 00:36:38,050
actually, it was near
the transport trains.

787
00:36:38,050 --> 00:36:40,720
So we were there for a few days.

788
00:36:40,720 --> 00:36:42,977
And it was very bad.

789
00:36:42,977 --> 00:36:43,810
People were beaten--

790
00:36:43,810 --> 00:36:45,280
Did you see your grandfather?

791
00:36:45,280 --> 00:36:47,380
I didn't see my
grandfather, no, because he

792
00:36:47,380 --> 00:36:51,290
was gone by the time we

were in the brick factory.

793

00:36:51,290 --> 00:36:55,120

And so we were just together
with my immediate family,

794

00:36:55,120 --> 00:36:57,820

some friends, some relatives,
some uncles who lived

795

00:36:57,820 --> 00:37:01,420

in [? Kochevo, ?]

[? Warsaw. ?] And--

796

00:37:01,420 --> 00:37:03,550

What was the condition
of the brick factory?

797

00:37:03,550 --> 00:37:04,840

Oh, it was horrible.

798

00:37:04,840 --> 00:37:07,750

You couldn't-- there
was just a little floor,

799

00:37:07,750 --> 00:37:10,350

maybe some straw a little bit.

800

00:37:10,350 --> 00:37:11,650

You had to sleep there.

801

00:37:11,650 --> 00:37:14,430

We were there, I don't
remember, maybe three days.

802

00:37:14,430 --> 00:37:16,400

But the different groups--

803

00:37:16,400 --> 00:37:19,740

every day, some people left.

804

00:37:19,740 --> 00:37:21,590

Some people were taken away.

805

00:37:21,590 --> 00:37:23,780

Some people were
taken away, right.

806

00:37:23,780 --> 00:37:25,770

What did you have
with you by then?

807

00:37:25,770 --> 00:37:29,700

Well, we had some food and
some clothes, just one--

808

00:37:29,700 --> 00:37:30,310

Bag.

809

00:37:30,310 --> 00:37:33,070

--bag, yeah, approximately.

810

00:37:33,070 --> 00:37:34,770

And we were all together.

811

00:37:34,770 --> 00:37:36,730

The little boy was
very sensitive,

812

00:37:36,730 --> 00:37:39,660

and he was really
very unhappy there.

813

00:37:39,660 --> 00:37:41,000

Well, we all were unhappy.

814

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:45,290

But I guess the children take
it harder, and my poor grandma.

815

00:37:45,290 --> 00:37:46,640

So we were there.

816

00:37:46,640 --> 00:37:49,880

And some people were
beaten up there.

817
00:37:49,880 --> 00:37:51,440
Our family was not.

818
00:37:51,440 --> 00:37:54,155
I understand my grandfather
before that was.

819
00:37:54,155 --> 00:37:58,920

820
00:37:58,920 --> 00:38:01,340
So then when the time
came-- there were also,

821
00:38:01,340 --> 00:38:04,760
before you were
taken on the train,

822
00:38:04,760 --> 00:38:08,420
you were taught to leave all
the jewelry and everything

823
00:38:08,420 --> 00:38:12,040
behind because the
Hungarians wanted them.

824
00:38:12,040 --> 00:38:15,230
They didn't want us to take
it to, or dispose of it,

825
00:38:15,230 --> 00:38:16,730
or have it.

826
00:38:16,730 --> 00:38:21,380
And some were really, they
just took out some people.

827
00:38:21,380 --> 00:38:24,740
And they were
stripped and examined,

828
00:38:24,740 --> 00:38:27,440
a number of people, whether
they have any hidden

829
00:38:27,440 --> 00:38:30,350
jewelry, or money, or whatever.

830
00:38:30,350 --> 00:38:34,530
So then finally, we
got into that train.

831
00:38:34,530 --> 00:38:37,130
It was very, very crowded.

832
00:38:37,130 --> 00:38:38,160
And you could hardly--

833
00:38:38,160 --> 00:38:39,390
you couldn't sit down.

834
00:38:39,390 --> 00:38:43,890
And they had a big
barrel for the--

835
00:38:43,890 --> 00:38:44,390
Waste?

836
00:38:44,390 --> 00:38:45,500
Waste, yeah.

837
00:38:45,500 --> 00:38:48,580
And you had to do it
in front of everybody.

838
00:38:48,580 --> 00:38:51,450
And that was emptied,
I guess, once or twice.

839
00:38:51,450 --> 00:38:52,570
I don't remember, really.

840

00:38:52,570 --> 00:38:53,700

But it was emptied.

841

00:38:53,700 --> 00:38:57,100

And then they-- we were
not given any food.

842

00:38:57,100 --> 00:38:58,805

We didn't have any food.

843

00:38:58,805 --> 00:39:04,260

We were given some water on
the way once or twice or so.

844

00:39:04,260 --> 00:39:05,705

So we had that.

845

00:39:05,705 --> 00:39:06,565

But it was very--

846

00:39:06,565 --> 00:39:09,526

What were your parents
saying to you at this point?

847

00:39:09,526 --> 00:39:10,280

I don't remember.

848

00:39:10,280 --> 00:39:13,950

We were just all very
tired and unhappy.

849

00:39:13,950 --> 00:39:17,990

But we just tried to
alternate that some

850

00:39:17,990 --> 00:39:21,630

were sitting, because there
was no room to lie down.

851

00:39:21,630 --> 00:39:26,090

So sometimes like one from
the group, we would stand,

852
00:39:26,090 --> 00:39:31,330
and the others were able to
sit down or recline a little.

853
00:39:31,330 --> 00:39:32,790
So we alternated a little.

854
00:39:32,790 --> 00:39:34,680
But you stayed in
your family group--

855
00:39:34,680 --> 00:39:35,180
Oh, yes.

856
00:39:35,180 --> 00:39:35,888
--the whole time.

857
00:39:35,888 --> 00:39:37,160
Yes, on the trip, yes.

858
00:39:37,160 --> 00:39:38,540
The six of you.

859
00:39:38,540 --> 00:39:40,370
In the trip, until we
arrived in Auschwitz.

860
00:39:40,370 --> 00:39:44,630
And then they-- it changed
because we right away were

861
00:39:44,630 --> 00:39:46,510
separated.

862
00:39:46,510 --> 00:39:49,190
Yeah, OK, we'll talk
about that in a minute.

863
00:39:49,190 --> 00:39:51,640
On the train, it took how--

864

00:39:51,640 --> 00:39:53,560

you said it took--

865

00:39:53,560 --> 00:39:54,510

I don't know.

866

00:39:54,510 --> 00:39:56,770

I thought it took

three days. [? Irwin ?]

867

00:39:56,770 --> 00:39:58,220

thinks it took two days.

868

00:39:58,220 --> 00:39:59,720

I'm not sure.

869

00:39:59,720 --> 00:40:00,950

I'm really not--

870

00:40:00,950 --> 00:40:01,610

Was it dark?

871

00:40:01,610 --> 00:40:03,000

It was dark.

872

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:04,910

It was very dark.

873

00:40:04,910 --> 00:40:08,155

Do you have-- remember any

other sensations, of smells,

874

00:40:08,155 --> 00:40:08,980

of sounds?

875

00:40:08,980 --> 00:40:10,910

Oh, sure, of course.

876

00:40:10,910 --> 00:40:12,440

Sometimes people were crying.

877

00:40:12,440 --> 00:40:13,790

Sometimes they were screaming.

878

00:40:13,790 --> 00:40:14,600

Sometimes--

879

00:40:14,600 --> 00:40:17,720

880

00:40:17,720 --> 00:40:22,280

Were people a support
to other families?

881

00:40:22,280 --> 00:40:26,120

Or were you all just involved
with your own immediate family?

882

00:40:26,120 --> 00:40:29,210

Well, I guess we
were involved with--

883

00:40:29,210 --> 00:40:30,170

you couldn't move.

884

00:40:30,170 --> 00:40:32,173

You couldn't walk
over to other parts.

885

00:40:32,173 --> 00:40:33,090

To help somebody else.

886

00:40:33,090 --> 00:40:36,650

So just around yourselves,
the people who were standing

887

00:40:36,650 --> 00:40:37,820

near us, we were involved.

888

00:40:37,820 --> 00:40:39,920

But I don't even
know who they were.

889

00:40:39,920 --> 00:40:41,920

I don't remember anyway.

890

00:40:41,920 --> 00:40:43,250

It just, it was so--

891

00:40:43,250 --> 00:40:45,590

we were so tired
and so exhausted

892

00:40:45,590 --> 00:40:49,328

that we just didn't know
what goes on anymore.

893

00:40:49,328 --> 00:40:50,870

And you said they
were-- they did not

894

00:40:50,870 --> 00:40:51,950

give you anything to eat.

895

00:40:51,950 --> 00:40:54,060

No, no food at all.

896

00:40:54,060 --> 00:40:55,070

We had some food.

897

00:40:55,070 --> 00:40:56,750

They told us to take
some food along.

898

00:40:56,750 --> 00:41:00,920

So we took it, and we had food.

899

00:41:00,920 --> 00:41:03,440

And that was it.

900

00:41:03,440 --> 00:41:05,510

So it was horrible.

901

00:41:05,510 --> 00:41:07,670

The time spent there
was really horrible.

902
00:41:07,670 --> 00:41:10,490
But that's all I remember.

903
00:41:10,490 --> 00:41:11,630
And now you've arrived.

904
00:41:11,630 --> 00:41:14,660
What were your first
sensations of arrival?

905
00:41:14,660 --> 00:41:18,680
Well, when the first arrived,
they opened the door.

906
00:41:18,680 --> 00:41:20,630
So you got some fresh air in.

907
00:41:20,630 --> 00:41:22,400
And that was the first invasion.

908
00:41:22,400 --> 00:41:25,020
So you were glad that
you are there already.

909
00:41:25,020 --> 00:41:25,670
And then the--

910
00:41:25,670 --> 00:41:27,270
Did you know where
you were going?

911
00:41:27,270 --> 00:41:30,050
No, we didn't know
where we are going.

912
00:41:30,050 --> 00:41:35,660
But we thought that we are
going to probably be killed.

913

00:41:35,660 --> 00:41:38,240
I thought maybe killed
or maybe to work.

914
00:41:38,240 --> 00:41:41,040
They said we'd go to work,
but I didn't believe it.

915
00:41:41,040 --> 00:41:41,540
You didn't?

916
00:41:41,540 --> 00:41:44,300
But we didn't--
no, we didn't know.

917
00:41:44,300 --> 00:41:47,760
They didn't tell us.

918
00:41:47,760 --> 00:41:48,830
So the doors have opened.

919
00:41:48,830 --> 00:41:50,000
You've gotten the fresh air.

920
00:41:50,000 --> 00:41:54,650
Yeah, and then right away,
those Polish Jewish inmates

921
00:41:54,650 --> 00:41:57,510
came up with the
striped clothes.

922
00:41:57,510 --> 00:42:01,250
And they said--
what did they say?

923
00:42:01,250 --> 00:42:11,140
Stay together in age,
and you'll be selected.

924
00:42:11,140 --> 00:42:12,420
You will be separated.

925

00:42:12,420 --> 00:42:14,980
The children will go separately.

926

00:42:14,980 --> 00:42:18,360
But they knew we knew that we
will be separated from the man.

927

00:42:18,360 --> 00:42:20,010
You see, there were
two separations.

928

00:42:20,010 --> 00:42:24,330
First of all, they
separated us in gender.

929

00:42:24,330 --> 00:42:27,510
We were males and
females were separated.

930

00:42:27,510 --> 00:42:28,560
And then--

931

00:42:28,560 --> 00:42:31,350
Could you still see your
father and your brothers?

932

00:42:31,350 --> 00:42:33,330
When we arrived, we saw them.

933

00:42:33,330 --> 00:42:34,800
But that was it.

934

00:42:34,800 --> 00:42:36,095
Then we were separated.

935

00:42:36,095 --> 00:42:37,470
And then once you
were separated,

936

00:42:37,470 --> 00:42:38,610
you couldn't see them.

937

00:42:38,610 --> 00:42:39,600

We couldn't see them.

938

00:42:39,600 --> 00:42:42,348

But we saw them

once in the camp.

939

00:42:42,348 --> 00:42:42,890

That's later.

940

00:42:42,890 --> 00:42:44,080

No, but I meant at that point.

941

00:42:44,080 --> 00:42:44,490

No, we couldn't, no.

942

00:42:44,490 --> 00:42:45,210

At that point.

943

00:42:45,210 --> 00:42:45,750

No, no.

944

00:42:45,750 --> 00:42:46,980

Did you say goodbye to them?

945

00:42:46,980 --> 00:42:47,855

Did you say anything?

946

00:42:47,855 --> 00:42:48,630

Or was it--

947

00:42:48,630 --> 00:42:50,164

I don't think-- no.

948

00:42:50,164 --> 00:42:51,420

OK.

949

00:42:51,420 --> 00:42:52,600

You were so frightened.

950

00:42:52,600 --> 00:42:55,920

You see all those SS
standing there and dogs.

951

00:42:55,920 --> 00:42:57,360

You didn't even think.

952

00:42:57,360 --> 00:43:02,002

You just did what they
told you, actually.

953

00:43:02,002 --> 00:43:03,960

So it's you, your mother,
and your grandmother.

954

00:43:03,960 --> 00:43:04,780

Right.

955

00:43:04,780 --> 00:43:09,300

And there was the trucks
there, buses, trucks.

956

00:43:09,300 --> 00:43:12,180

And they said, well, the
children and the old people

957

00:43:12,180 --> 00:43:16,080

will go by the trucks
because it's a long walk.

958

00:43:16,080 --> 00:43:18,720

So we have to take
them separately.

959

00:43:18,720 --> 00:43:22,140

But the others are going
to walk, which was a lie.

960

00:43:22,140 --> 00:43:24,012

And so I thought that--

961

00:43:24,012 --> 00:43:25,470

I didn't know that

they were lying.

962

00:43:25,470 --> 00:43:29,520

And I said, Mother, do you
want to go with Grandma maybe?

963

00:43:29,520 --> 00:43:31,380

You want to go on the truck?

964

00:43:31,380 --> 00:43:34,110

She said, no, I want
to stay with you.

965

00:43:34,110 --> 00:43:39,300

And so-- because she wasn't
the-- she was 40 years old.

966

00:43:39,300 --> 00:43:40,320

Just 40.

967

00:43:40,320 --> 00:43:41,040

When was that?

968

00:43:41,040 --> 00:43:43,470

In '44.

969

00:43:43,470 --> 00:43:46,200

Yeah, almost 41 years old.

970

00:43:46,200 --> 00:43:50,850

So she-- and she looked good.

971

00:43:50,850 --> 00:43:54,390

And so they took my
grandmother to the truck.

972

00:43:54,390 --> 00:43:57,150

But we didn't know
what's going to happen.

973

00:43:57,150 --> 00:43:58,950

And probably my

little brother, too.

974

00:43:58,950 --> 00:44:01,388

I didn't see him being taken.

975

00:44:01,388 --> 00:44:02,430

But evidently [INAUDIBLE]

976

00:44:02,430 --> 00:44:04,700

He was with your
father and brother.

977

00:44:04,700 --> 00:44:05,940

Yeah, but they-- right.

978

00:44:05,940 --> 00:44:07,050

He was with them.

979

00:44:07,050 --> 00:44:09,460

And I guess they took him there.

980

00:44:09,460 --> 00:44:16,050

And so Mother and I
walked together to the--

981

00:44:16,050 --> 00:44:17,940

they let us stay together.

982

00:44:17,940 --> 00:44:19,760

They didn't separate
because sometimes they

983

00:44:19,760 --> 00:44:21,150

took your mothers.

984

00:44:21,150 --> 00:44:22,620

Did she look younger?

985

00:44:22,620 --> 00:44:23,855

She looked young, yeah.

986

00:44:23,855 --> 00:44:26,620
So you think because of that,
they permitted her to stay.

987
00:44:26,620 --> 00:44:27,120
Yes.

988
00:44:27,120 --> 00:44:28,260
Yeah, with me.

989
00:44:28,260 --> 00:44:29,610
So we were walking.

990
00:44:29,610 --> 00:44:32,340
And it was such a short walk.

991
00:44:32,340 --> 00:44:33,720
So it was a lie.

992
00:44:33,720 --> 00:44:36,750
They just wanted
everybody who was weak

993
00:44:36,750 --> 00:44:41,850
or a little bit unwanted to be
comfortable to go by the truck

994
00:44:41,850 --> 00:44:42,780
to the place.

995
00:44:42,780 --> 00:44:45,060
And then they took the
truck directly right away

996
00:44:45,060 --> 00:44:49,140
to the crematoriums, which
we, of course, didn't know.

997
00:44:49,140 --> 00:44:52,330
And there is-- I don't know
whether I should talk about it.

998

00:44:52,330 --> 00:44:55,950

But this I heard from
a cousin of mine.

999

00:44:55,950 --> 00:45:00,030

When she and her family
arrived to Auschwitz--

1000

00:45:00,030 --> 00:45:03,840

she came from a different
city, from [? Musharot. ?]

1001

00:45:03,840 --> 00:45:08,040

And her sister was very, very
beautiful, very blonde hair,

1002

00:45:08,040 --> 00:45:10,590

tall, and blue eyes.

1003

00:45:10,590 --> 00:45:13,322

She looked like a German girl.

1004

00:45:13,322 --> 00:45:17,280

And when the Nazis saw
her-- and she was married.

1005

00:45:17,280 --> 00:45:19,710

She was 26 years old or so.

1006

00:45:19,710 --> 00:45:22,270

And she had a baby,
2-year-old baby.

1007

00:45:22,270 --> 00:45:25,820

Well, I don't know how old
the baby was, but a baby.

1008

00:45:25,820 --> 00:45:28,380

And then the Nazis
saw her, they said,

1009

00:45:28,380 --> 00:45:31,170

you, you give the

baby to your mom.

1010
00:45:31,170 --> 00:45:32,460
And you go that way.

1011
00:45:32,460 --> 00:45:34,860
They didn't want her
to die right away.

1012
00:45:34,860 --> 00:45:37,210
It's strange, but it's
just one of the Nazi--

1013
00:45:37,210 --> 00:45:40,215
and she said, no, I'm
going with my baby.

1014
00:45:40,215 --> 00:45:42,270
And he said, you
have to give it.

1015
00:45:42,270 --> 00:45:43,350
And she had to.

1016
00:45:43,350 --> 00:45:47,610
And he said, you will see
the baby in the camp at work.

1017
00:45:47,610 --> 00:45:49,140
So she did.

1018
00:45:49,140 --> 00:45:50,850
I mean, she had no choice.

1019
00:45:50,850 --> 00:45:51,820
She did.

1020
00:45:51,820 --> 00:45:53,610
And then when she
arrived, and she

1021
00:45:53,610 --> 00:45:58,320

realized what happened,
because she was told by others,

1022
00:45:58,320 --> 00:46:02,261
well, she slowly went mad there.

1023
00:46:02,261 --> 00:46:03,900
And she died.

1024
00:46:03,900 --> 00:46:06,110
So that was, for the
sister to see that,

1025
00:46:06,110 --> 00:46:07,660
that was a terrible thing.

1026
00:46:07,660 --> 00:46:12,300
So anyway, that what happened.

1027
00:46:12,300 --> 00:46:14,600
So there are all kinds of cases.

1028
00:46:14,600 --> 00:46:19,710
And so I don't think that
the story will be told.

1029
00:46:19,710 --> 00:46:23,245
So I interjected it because--

1030
00:46:23,245 --> 00:46:25,650
So you and your mother
are on this walk.

1031
00:46:25,650 --> 00:46:26,400
Well, we were.

1032
00:46:26,400 --> 00:46:28,200
And then we went in there.

1033
00:46:28,200 --> 00:46:30,130
And then they were--

1034

00:46:30,130 --> 00:46:30,630

First place.

1035

00:46:30,630 --> 00:46:32,550

--shaving our heads.

1036

00:46:32,550 --> 00:46:36,450

And they said that you will
shower afterwards, de-licing,

1037

00:46:36,450 --> 00:46:38,190

and all that businesses.

1038

00:46:38,190 --> 00:46:40,450

What do you remember?

1039

00:46:40,450 --> 00:46:43,260

To-- well--

1040

00:46:43,260 --> 00:46:45,670

What were your feelings when
this was being done to you?

1041

00:46:45,670 --> 00:46:46,170

Was awful.

1042

00:46:46,170 --> 00:46:46,670

I mean--

1043

00:46:46,670 --> 00:46:49,110

Do you remember any particular--

1044

00:46:49,110 --> 00:46:52,730

They just went and shaved
all our hair down-- off,

1045

00:46:52,730 --> 00:46:53,950

everybody's, everywhere.

1046

00:46:53,950 --> 00:46:55,710

And all-- we were naked.

1047
00:46:55,710 --> 00:46:59,680
And we felt like animals, the
Nazis walking all around us

1048
00:46:59,680 --> 00:47:00,270
there.

1049
00:47:00,270 --> 00:47:03,030
And everybody was naked.

1050
00:47:03,030 --> 00:47:04,720
And after that, they said--

1051
00:47:04,720 --> 00:47:07,653
What was it like to see
your mother go through this?

1052
00:47:07,653 --> 00:47:09,080
Well, it was very painful.

1053
00:47:09,080 --> 00:47:15,460
I mean-- so--

1054
00:47:15,460 --> 00:47:17,620
Did you recognize each other?

1055
00:47:17,620 --> 00:47:19,820
Well, we were near each
other all the time.

1056
00:47:19,820 --> 00:47:22,180
And you could recognize people.

1057
00:47:22,180 --> 00:47:23,680
I mean, the face was there.

1058
00:47:23,680 --> 00:47:26,613
It's not-- especially
the ones who

1059

00:47:26,613 --> 00:47:30,160
you knew well you recognized.

1060
00:47:30,160 --> 00:47:32,650
So we were taken to the showers.

1061
00:47:32,650 --> 00:47:35,610
And everything-- all the
stuff which we brought along,

1062
00:47:35,610 --> 00:47:40,330
the only thing which you could
take with us were the shoes.

1063
00:47:40,330 --> 00:47:42,550
So we took the
shoes to the shower.

1064
00:47:42,550 --> 00:47:44,680
And we put near the
shower the shoes.

1065
00:47:44,680 --> 00:47:46,670
And we took a shower,
which was very good.

1066
00:47:46,670 --> 00:47:49,425
And we thought-- first, we
thought that maybe these are

1067
00:47:49,425 --> 00:47:50,110
not showers.

1068
00:47:50,110 --> 00:47:53,590
Maybe we-- maybe
they're poisoning us,

1069
00:47:53,590 --> 00:47:55,600
or drown us, or something.

1070
00:47:55,600 --> 00:47:59,170
And to our surprise, we
expect-- at that point,

1071
00:47:59,170 --> 00:48:01,260
we expected the worst, really.

1072
00:48:01,260 --> 00:48:05,020
They gave us even soap and--

1073
00:48:05,020 --> 00:48:09,050
which was good because after
that ride in the rain--

1074
00:48:09,050 --> 00:48:16,510
so-- and they gave us a
dress after it, some dress,

1075
00:48:16,510 --> 00:48:18,790
I mean, from someone.

1076
00:48:18,790 --> 00:48:20,450
And that's it.

1077
00:48:20,450 --> 00:48:20,950
And--

1078
00:48:20,950 --> 00:48:22,090
Any underwear?

1079
00:48:22,090 --> 00:48:23,733
No.

1080
00:48:23,733 --> 00:48:25,150
So you just had a
dress and shoes.

1081
00:48:25,150 --> 00:48:28,540
A long black dress I
had, and the shoes,

1082
00:48:28,540 --> 00:48:31,660
yeah, my old shoes, what I had.

1083

00:48:31,660 --> 00:48:34,030
And everybody else, too.

1084
00:48:34,030 --> 00:48:35,960
And then we were
taken to barracks.

1085
00:48:35,960 --> 00:48:38,530
And every barrack had
about 1,000 people.

1086
00:48:38,530 --> 00:48:43,180
And we had in this-- it
was called the C Lager.

1087
00:48:43,180 --> 00:48:49,030
And, oh, maybe 20,000
people in that whole lager.

1088
00:48:49,030 --> 00:48:52,170
There were about 20 blocks
or so, more than that--

1089
00:48:52,170 --> 00:48:54,160
24, 26?

1090
00:48:54,160 --> 00:48:55,630
I don't know.

1091
00:48:55,630 --> 00:49:02,480
And they had-- you probably
saw these bunker beds--

1092
00:49:02,480 --> 00:49:03,010
beds.

1093
00:49:03,010 --> 00:49:03,670
They were not.

1094
00:49:03,670 --> 00:49:07,950
They were just wooden beds--

1095

00:49:07,950 --> 00:49:08,700
Slats.

1096
00:49:08,700 --> 00:49:10,660
Slats-- well, whatever.

1097
00:49:10,660 --> 00:49:12,040
Did you get a number tattoo?

1098
00:49:12,040 --> 00:49:12,770
I didn't.

1099
00:49:12,770 --> 00:49:14,300
No, we didn't get it.

1100
00:49:14,300 --> 00:49:16,270
The women didn't get it.

1101
00:49:16,270 --> 00:49:22,360
I don't know-- that block, where
we were in this, the C Lager,

1102
00:49:22,360 --> 00:49:24,170
the people didn't
get the numbers.

1103
00:49:24,170 --> 00:49:26,470
So I don't have a number.

1104
00:49:26,470 --> 00:49:28,390
And my mother didn't
have a number.

1105
00:49:28,390 --> 00:49:36,340
And in that-- we saw my
brother and my father next day,

1106
00:49:36,340 --> 00:49:37,878
I think, or a day later.

1107
00:49:37,878 --> 00:49:38,420
I don't know.

1108
00:49:38,420 --> 00:49:39,390
How did that happen?

1109
00:49:39,390 --> 00:49:40,270
We were just walking.

1110
00:49:40,270 --> 00:49:42,040
And somehow I guess
they didn't have

1111
00:49:42,040 --> 00:49:44,440
ready the barracks for the man.

1112
00:49:44,440 --> 00:49:49,630
And they took some men into the
C Lager, too, at that point.

1113
00:49:49,630 --> 00:49:51,040
And that's how they were there.

1114
00:49:51,040 --> 00:49:52,360
And we just saw them.

1115
00:49:52,360 --> 00:49:55,000
And my father said,
oh, my goodness.

1116
00:49:55,000 --> 00:49:56,060
You are all shaved.

1117
00:49:56,060 --> 00:50:00,700
I will try to get you some
kerchiefs to cover it.

1118
00:50:00,700 --> 00:50:02,785
And got some soap, and he--

1119
00:50:02,785 --> 00:50:05,530
we never got the kerchiefs
because then they moved--

1120

00:50:05,530 --> 00:50:09,160
were moved out of that C Lager.

1121

00:50:09,160 --> 00:50:12,040
Do you remember what
you said to your father?

1122

00:50:12,040 --> 00:50:14,632
I don't remember what I said.

1123

00:50:14,632 --> 00:50:16,590
What was your mother's
reaction to seeing them?

1124

00:50:16,590 --> 00:50:18,040
Well, terrible.

1125

00:50:18,040 --> 00:50:19,090
I mean, to see--

1126

00:50:19,090 --> 00:50:22,870
she was glad about seeing
him and my brother.

1127

00:50:22,870 --> 00:50:23,730
And I was happy.

1128

00:50:23,730 --> 00:50:25,880
But we were asked about--

1129

00:50:25,880 --> 00:50:27,430
we asked about George.

1130

00:50:27,430 --> 00:50:29,530
And, of course, he
wasn't with them.

1131

00:50:29,530 --> 00:50:30,790
So we didn't know.

1132

00:50:30,790 --> 00:50:32,390

At that point, you didn't know.

1133
00:50:32,390 --> 00:50:33,110
We didn't know.

1134
00:50:33,110 --> 00:50:38,050
It's, strangely enough, quite
a number of his classmates,

1135
00:50:38,050 --> 00:50:39,760
because all his
classmate-- he, too,

1136
00:50:39,760 --> 00:50:41,770
went to the Hebrew gymnasium.

1137
00:50:41,770 --> 00:50:44,000
And all his classmates
were Jewish.

1138
00:50:44,000 --> 00:50:46,210
And some of his
classmates were tall,

1139
00:50:46,210 --> 00:50:49,420
and they were not taken right
away to the crematorium.

1140
00:50:49,420 --> 00:50:52,120
But George was on
the smaller side.

1141
00:50:52,120 --> 00:50:53,680
And I guess he was.

1142
00:50:53,680 --> 00:50:59,860
And then those children who
survived the initial time,

1143
00:50:59,860 --> 00:51:03,085
we heard that they were
all taken on Rosh Hashanah

1144

00:51:03,085 --> 00:51:06,910
to the crematoriums later.

1145

00:51:06,910 --> 00:51:08,100
Did you know about the--

1146

00:51:08,100 --> 00:51:11,200
Only one child that survived.

1147

00:51:11,200 --> 00:51:13,810
Did you know about
the crematoriums?

1148

00:51:13,810 --> 00:51:17,170
We found out there in the--

1149

00:51:17,170 --> 00:51:19,960
yeah, we found out
about it because a lot

1150

00:51:19,960 --> 00:51:24,558
of people whom we knew were
working in the crematoriums

1151

00:51:24,558 --> 00:51:25,100
in Auschwitz.

1152

00:51:25,100 --> 00:51:26,800
And up to that
point, had you known

1153

00:51:26,800 --> 00:51:27,400
that there were such things?

1154

00:51:27,400 --> 00:51:28,995
What do mean, up to that point?

1155

00:51:28,995 --> 00:51:30,660
Up to we arrived in Auschwitz?

1156

00:51:30,660 --> 00:51:31,160

Yeah.

1157
00:51:31,160 --> 00:51:32,077
No, I didn't know.

1158
00:51:32,077 --> 00:51:33,910
You did not know anything
about crematorium?

1159
00:51:33,910 --> 00:51:35,720
No, I don't think I knew.

1160
00:51:35,720 --> 00:51:39,081
I don't remember
knowing about it.

1161
00:51:39,081 --> 00:51:42,190
No, but there they
showed us the smoke.

1162
00:51:42,190 --> 00:51:44,380
And they said, well, they
are burning the people,

1163
00:51:44,380 --> 00:51:45,700
and that's the smoke.

1164
00:51:45,700 --> 00:51:49,300
And we saw the smoke.

1165
00:51:49,300 --> 00:51:51,900
With your mother, did you
talk about those kinds

1166
00:51:51,900 --> 00:51:52,910
of things with her?

1167
00:51:52,910 --> 00:51:53,980
Yes.

1168
00:51:53,980 --> 00:51:54,680
What--

1169
00:51:54,680 --> 00:51:55,862
After-- there, we did.

1170
00:51:55,862 --> 00:51:56,570
We were together.

1171
00:51:56,570 --> 00:51:56,860
When you were there.

1172
00:51:56,860 --> 00:51:57,560
Oh, yes.

1173
00:51:57,560 --> 00:51:57,651
Right.

1174
00:51:57,651 --> 00:51:58,292
No, I'm saying when
you were there.

1175
00:51:58,292 --> 00:51:58,792
Oh, sure.

1176
00:51:58,792 --> 00:52:01,570
We were very-- my mother
took it harder than I did

1177
00:52:01,570 --> 00:52:03,670
because, well, she was older.

1178
00:52:03,670 --> 00:52:09,560
And she had a son, which makes
a big difference, I think.

1179
00:52:09,560 --> 00:52:13,107
And she just took
it much harder.

1180
00:52:13,107 --> 00:52:14,815
And I used to tell
her, you know, Mother,

1181

00:52:14,815 --> 00:52:17,620

it's a war in Europe.

1182

00:52:17,620 --> 00:52:19,510

And everybody's suffering.

1183

00:52:19,510 --> 00:52:22,360

And we just have to be
strong to survive it.

1184

00:52:22,360 --> 00:52:24,820

And people are
killed in the war.

1185

00:52:24,820 --> 00:52:26,620

And this is part of it.

1186

00:52:26,620 --> 00:52:28,900

That's what I told her.

1187

00:52:28,900 --> 00:52:30,600

I still remember saying that.

1188

00:52:30,600 --> 00:52:33,230

And she was really blue.

1189

00:52:33,230 --> 00:52:35,960

So in a sense, you
became her support.

1190

00:52:35,960 --> 00:52:38,140

Well, I think she
supported me, too.

1191

00:52:38,140 --> 00:52:40,030

I think she was more aggressive.

1192

00:52:40,030 --> 00:52:46,000

For instance, she would go
and somehow get some food

1193

00:52:46,000 --> 00:52:48,780
from somewhere, from
I don't know how.

1194
00:52:48,780 --> 00:52:50,890
Or she was supportive.

1195
00:52:50,890 --> 00:52:51,910
I was sick there.

1196
00:52:51,910 --> 00:52:53,060
I was very sick.

1197
00:52:53,060 --> 00:52:56,260
I had the measles.

1198
00:52:56,260 --> 00:53:01,630
And I was saying that, oh, if I
could take this black dress off

1199
00:53:01,630 --> 00:53:04,930
and have a night gown,
because you know, it itches.

1200
00:53:04,930 --> 00:53:08,800
Luckily, I didn't have it in
my face, so they didn't see it.

1201
00:53:08,800 --> 00:53:12,370
And with the measles, I had
to stand for hours appell.

1202
00:53:12,370 --> 00:53:13,990
You know what's appell.

1203
00:53:13,990 --> 00:53:16,870
And so every morning
and every evening

1204
00:53:16,870 --> 00:53:18,430
we were standing appell.

1205

00:53:18,430 --> 00:53:22,150

And I had to do it, and
they didn't notice it.

1206

00:53:22,150 --> 00:53:26,080

But after that, later on,
I had an ear infection,

1207

00:53:26,080 --> 00:53:27,680

after the measles.

1208

00:53:27,680 --> 00:53:30,160

And she got me an
aspirin from somewhere.

1209

00:53:30,160 --> 00:53:32,360

So that was very helpful.

1210

00:53:32,360 --> 00:53:34,220

How did she do that?

1211

00:53:34,220 --> 00:53:37,840

Well, oddly enough,
they had a place where

1212

00:53:37,840 --> 00:53:39,790

they called the infirmary.

1213

00:53:39,790 --> 00:53:41,200

And they had some--

1214

00:53:41,200 --> 00:53:42,250

very little.

1215

00:53:42,250 --> 00:53:45,940

And sometime, they did
take someone in there.

1216

00:53:45,940 --> 00:53:49,540

And from there, she was managed
to get an aspirin somehow.

1217

00:53:49,540 --> 00:53:54,130

Some of the Jewish doctors
did help but very little.

1218

00:53:54,130 --> 00:53:56,440

I mean, they were very limited.

1219

00:53:56,440 --> 00:53:57,970

And she gave me
an aspirin, which

1220

00:53:57,970 --> 00:54:03,040

was a lifesaver because that
ear was just unbearable.

1221

00:54:03,040 --> 00:54:06,430

And there were
some typhoid cases,

1222

00:54:06,430 --> 00:54:10,510

which right away were
taken away to-- and killed.

1223

00:54:10,510 --> 00:54:14,640

And any real illness
there, if they saw it,

1224

00:54:14,640 --> 00:54:16,660

they took them away,
and they killed them.

1225

00:54:16,660 --> 00:54:18,520

If they would have known
that I had measles,

1226

00:54:18,520 --> 00:54:20,050

I would have been killed.

1227

00:54:20,050 --> 00:54:23,185

Did you form any
close relationships

1228

00:54:23,185 --> 00:54:25,060

outside, obviously, the
one with your mother?

1229
00:54:25,060 --> 00:54:28,630
Did you form any close
relationships with other women?

1230
00:54:28,630 --> 00:54:32,020
Well, I had my
best friend there,

1231
00:54:32,020 --> 00:54:37,000
but not in the same-- somehow,
it was not the same block.

1232
00:54:37,000 --> 00:54:39,020
She was, I think, at that time--

1233
00:54:39,020 --> 00:54:40,210
we were first 22.

1234
00:54:40,210 --> 00:54:44,680
We were designated the blocks as
we were arriving we had to go.

1235
00:54:44,680 --> 00:54:47,920
And then we were not allowed
to change it unless they

1236
00:54:47,920 --> 00:54:50,380
changed it for some reason.

1237
00:54:50,380 --> 00:54:53,860
So by that time, I was
in 10, and she was in 7.

1238
00:54:53,860 --> 00:54:57,700
And so we spent a lot of time
together because, you see,

1239
00:54:57,700 --> 00:54:59,500
some people worked there.

1240

00:54:59,500 --> 00:55:03,130

They were in the kitchen, or
they were doing some work.

1241

00:55:03,130 --> 00:55:08,020

And for a while, we did also
do some sewing on blankets.

1242

00:55:08,020 --> 00:55:11,740

But nothing-- we didn't
really work hard in Auschwitz.

1243

00:55:11,740 --> 00:55:13,540

We had a lot of
time on our hands,

1244

00:55:13,540 --> 00:55:16,960

where we did gather
together with the people.

1245

00:55:16,960 --> 00:55:19,030

And we were talking, actually.

1246

00:55:19,030 --> 00:55:20,560

But that was very strict.

1247

00:55:20,560 --> 00:55:23,890

For hours, we had to stand
appell in the morning

1248

00:55:23,890 --> 00:55:25,090

and in the evening.

1249

00:55:25,090 --> 00:55:29,080

That-- they counted again and
again and again to make sure

1250

00:55:29,080 --> 00:55:30,530

no one was running away.

1251

00:55:30,530 --> 00:55:32,380

So they had the

number of people.

1252

00:55:32,380 --> 00:55:35,080

They wanted to know the
exact number of people there.

1253

00:55:35,080 --> 00:55:37,330

And no one was running away.

1254

00:55:37,330 --> 00:55:39,270

Did you ever think at
that point in time--

1255

00:55:39,270 --> 00:55:39,770

No.

1256

00:55:39,770 --> 00:55:40,410

--to run away?

1257

00:55:40,410 --> 00:55:41,390

I couldn't have.

1258

00:55:41,390 --> 00:55:43,600

I just wouldn't
have been able to.

1259

00:55:43,600 --> 00:55:44,800

I'm not that type.

1260

00:55:44,800 --> 00:55:45,820

I can't hide.

1261

00:55:45,820 --> 00:55:48,190

I can be independent,
and I can--

1262

00:55:48,190 --> 00:55:50,345

but I can't hide
from authorities.

1263

00:55:50,345 --> 00:55:53,470

I just not that

type of a person.

1264
00:55:53,470 --> 00:55:54,830
Can't do it.

1265
00:55:54,830 --> 00:55:55,330
Any other--

1266
00:55:55,330 --> 00:55:59,420
And I was aware of it,
that I can't do it.

1267
00:55:59,420 --> 00:56:04,545
No, no one ran away from that,
not that I know of, from there,

1268
00:56:04,545 --> 00:56:06,670
no.

1269
00:56:06,670 --> 00:56:09,250
What about generally the
women that you were with?

1270
00:56:09,250 --> 00:56:10,690
Were people helping each other?

1271
00:56:10,690 --> 00:56:12,230
Were they a comfort?

1272
00:56:12,230 --> 00:56:13,110
Yes.

1273
00:56:13,110 --> 00:56:15,685
Yes, I think that
was very helpful

1274
00:56:15,685 --> 00:56:17,240
that we talked with each other.

1275
00:56:17,240 --> 00:56:19,690
There was a pregnant woman.

1276

00:56:19,690 --> 00:56:21,790

And they let her
deliver the baby.

1277

00:56:21,790 --> 00:56:24,760

And then they killed the
baby, and she stayed alive.

1278

00:56:24,760 --> 00:56:27,490

I don't understand how they
let her do that, I mean,

1279

00:56:27,490 --> 00:56:31,870

that they didn't take her right
away and killed her, you know?

1280

00:56:31,870 --> 00:56:35,230

Because-- but they
did these things which

1281

00:56:35,230 --> 00:56:38,060

were amazing that they did.

1282

00:56:38,060 --> 00:56:39,930

Sometimes we were surprised.

1283

00:56:39,930 --> 00:56:43,360

Oh, we had once, a few times,
two or three times, I think,

1284

00:56:43,360 --> 00:56:46,420

we had some music.

1285

00:56:46,420 --> 00:56:47,580

They had a chorus.

1286

00:56:47,580 --> 00:56:51,290

They had some piano
players, some violin.

1287

00:56:51,290 --> 00:56:53,320

Well, the piano

wasn't brought in.

1288

00:56:53,320 --> 00:56:57,460

But they had a group of people
coming in to perform for us.

1289

00:56:57,460 --> 00:56:58,700

These were other prisoners?

1290

00:56:58,700 --> 00:57:01,450

Other prisoners,
Jewish prisoners, yes.

1291

00:57:01,450 --> 00:57:02,680

To perform for you.

1292

00:57:02,680 --> 00:57:08,210

Yes, a few times during
my stay there, they did.

1293

00:57:08,210 --> 00:57:09,500

They were singing.

1294

00:57:09,500 --> 00:57:11,500

They liked music.

1295

00:57:11,500 --> 00:57:13,865

They were listening
to it, too, I guess.

1296

00:57:13,865 --> 00:57:15,490

The German soldier--
the German guards.

1297

00:57:15,490 --> 00:57:16,090

Right.

1298

00:57:16,090 --> 00:57:18,430

And so they did that.

1299

00:57:18,430 --> 00:57:21,820

And then what they did

also a number of times,

1300
00:57:21,820 --> 00:57:23,770
they were selecting out people.

1301
00:57:23,770 --> 00:57:26,290
And they were selecting
out people with blue eyes.

1302
00:57:26,290 --> 00:57:28,440
They were selecting
out very strong people.

1303
00:57:28,440 --> 00:57:30,250
They were selecting
out very weak people.

1304
00:57:30,250 --> 00:57:34,240
We never knew where
these people will go.

1305
00:57:34,240 --> 00:57:37,300
And then they were
selecting very weak people.

1306
00:57:37,300 --> 00:57:39,670
And they selected them
up, and they burned them.

1307
00:57:39,670 --> 00:57:44,860
So no one wanted to be among
those because, well, it

1308
00:57:44,860 --> 00:57:48,550
was suspicious that if they
select really weak people,

1309
00:57:48,550 --> 00:57:50,240
they probably want to kill them.

1310
00:57:50,240 --> 00:57:53,890
So no one-- and at one point,
my mother was selected out.

1311
00:57:53,890 --> 00:57:57,590
And she managed to run away,
to come back to our group

1312
00:57:57,590 --> 00:57:58,090
later on.

1313
00:57:58,090 --> 00:57:59,650
She was taken away,
and came back.

1314
00:57:59,650 --> 00:58:02,590
Well, she was still
in the C block.

1315
00:58:02,590 --> 00:58:04,420
She was-- she wasn't--

1316
00:58:04,420 --> 00:58:12,300
she was taken to a barrack,
so not out of the camp,

1317
00:58:12,300 --> 00:58:12,910
to a barrack.

1318
00:58:12,910 --> 00:58:15,850
And from that barrack, I
don't know how she came back.

1319
00:58:15,850 --> 00:58:17,260
Did she tell you?

1320
00:58:17,260 --> 00:58:18,340
She just went away.

1321
00:58:18,340 --> 00:58:20,830
She just managed to get out.

1322
00:58:20,830 --> 00:58:22,750
What were your feelings
when she was taken?

1323
00:58:22,750 --> 00:58:24,070
Oh, I was very unhappy.

1324
00:58:24,070 --> 00:58:25,640
But I didn't know what to do.

1325
00:58:25,640 --> 00:58:28,590
I was crying, but I
couldn't help her.

1326
00:58:28,590 --> 00:58:31,450
You were standing in line
when they select you.

1327
00:58:31,450 --> 00:58:32,490
And they just take you.

1328
00:58:32,490 --> 00:58:34,060
And if I would
have run after her,

1329
00:58:34,060 --> 00:58:36,220
they would have
shot me right away.

1330
00:58:36,220 --> 00:58:38,930
And I didn't know what
they going to do with her.

1331
00:58:38,930 --> 00:58:39,790
I wasn't sure.

1332
00:58:39,790 --> 00:58:42,580
And it was a good
thing I didn't do it.

1333
00:58:42,580 --> 00:58:44,380
And then she came back.

1334
00:58:44,380 --> 00:58:49,840
And then what happened was

in, I don't even know when.

1335
00:58:49,840 --> 00:58:51,310
You didn't know the dates.

1336
00:58:51,310 --> 00:58:52,840
You just lived from day to day.

1337
00:58:52,840 --> 00:58:54,790
You didn't know
what date it was.

1338
00:58:54,790 --> 00:58:58,420
And you heard some things
about the war situation

1339
00:58:58,420 --> 00:58:59,410
on the grapevine.

1340
00:58:59,410 --> 00:59:02,500
But you just didn't
register the date.

1341
00:59:02,500 --> 00:59:04,900
So I don't even know
exactly when it was,

1342
00:59:04,900 --> 00:59:09,310
but I think sometime in October,
they-- again, we stood there.

1343
00:59:09,310 --> 00:59:11,770
We all had to be lined up.

1344
00:59:11,770 --> 00:59:18,500
And they selected the people,
the very strong people.

1345
00:59:18,500 --> 00:59:20,410
They were looking for
very strong people,

1346

00:59:20,410 --> 00:59:21,770
young, strong people.

1347
00:59:21,770 --> 00:59:27,940
And they selected me
and not my mother.

1348
00:59:27,940 --> 00:59:31,840
And as I was led away,
I started to cry.

1349
00:59:31,840 --> 00:59:33,910
And one Nazi was there.

1350
00:59:33,910 --> 00:59:36,970
I said, I don't want to
go because my mother is

1351
00:59:36,970 --> 00:59:38,900
here, stupidly enough.

1352
00:59:38,900 --> 00:59:40,090
And I want to be with her.

1353
00:59:40,090 --> 00:59:40,960
I want to stay.

1354
00:59:40,960 --> 00:59:44,980
So he hit me, and I had to go.

1355
00:59:44,980 --> 00:59:47,890
He slapped me, slapped my face.

1356
00:59:47,890 --> 00:59:51,640
And I was led to another
barrack in the same--

1357
00:59:51,640 --> 00:59:53,200
the collected the people.

1358
00:59:53,200 --> 00:59:55,930
And my mother managed

to get in there.

1359

00:59:55,930 --> 00:59:56,740

She was very good.

1360

00:59:56,740 --> 00:59:57,698

That's what I'm saying.

1361

00:59:57,698 --> 00:59:59,620

She was some woman.

1362

00:59:59,620 --> 01:00:01,800

She got in because she
wanted to be with me.

1363

01:00:01,800 --> 01:00:05,740

And she managed somehow to
slip in, and they didn't look.

1364

01:00:05,740 --> 01:00:07,300

So there we were.

1365

01:00:07,300 --> 01:00:09,490

And we didn't know
where we are going

1366

01:00:09,490 --> 01:00:12,140

or whatever is going
to happen to us.

1367

01:00:12,140 --> 01:00:14,230

But they did
periodically, as I said,

1368

01:00:14,230 --> 01:00:15,550

they selected these people.

1369

01:00:15,550 --> 01:00:17,650

My girlfriend was selected out.

1370

01:00:17,650 --> 01:00:22,000

And she was sent to a city, and

she was working on airplanes,

1371

01:00:22,000 --> 01:00:23,410
later on.

1372

01:00:23,410 --> 01:00:28,090
And we were-- we didn't know
where we were going to be.

1373

01:00:28,090 --> 01:00:30,070
We were-- we took a shower.

1374

01:00:30,070 --> 01:00:32,920
They gave us new clothes,
different clothes,

1375

01:00:32,920 --> 01:00:36,680
not new, but different
clothes, and a coat,

1376

01:00:36,680 --> 01:00:40,830
and some warm, I think panties.

1377

01:00:40,830 --> 01:00:45,550
And so we figured
if we get a coat,

1378

01:00:45,550 --> 01:00:49,200
so we might go somewhere
where it's cold.

1379

01:00:49,200 --> 01:00:52,060
They took us, I
don't know, into--

1380

01:00:52,060 --> 01:00:55,285
as a matter of fact, they
put us on regular train.

1381

01:00:55,285 --> 01:00:57,680
OK, before we get to that,
let's talk a little bit more

1382
01:00:57,680 --> 01:01:00,670
before you left there.

1383
01:01:00,670 --> 01:01:02,320
Were you menstruating?

1384
01:01:02,320 --> 01:01:03,650
Not in the--

1385
01:01:03,650 --> 01:01:04,150
Camp.

1386
01:01:04,150 --> 01:01:05,450
--camp.

1387
01:01:05,450 --> 01:01:06,128
No.

1388
01:01:06,128 --> 01:01:06,670
I don't know.

1389
01:01:06,670 --> 01:01:12,440
They said they gave some
bromides in the food,

1390
01:01:12,440 --> 01:01:13,310
and that's why.

1391
01:01:13,310 --> 01:01:18,190
But we were not
menstruating, which was good.

1392
01:01:18,190 --> 01:01:20,830
What were the sanitation--
sanitary facilities

1393
01:01:20,830 --> 01:01:22,570
like in your barracks?

1394
01:01:22,570 --> 01:01:24,670
In the barrack,

there was nothing.

1395

01:01:24,670 --> 01:01:31,960

But they had toilets holes
in one barrack, just toilets.

1396

01:01:31,960 --> 01:01:35,680

And everybody, I mean, you had
to go before everybody else.

1397

01:01:35,680 --> 01:01:39,190

They had these holes, and
that's where you went.

1398

01:01:39,190 --> 01:01:41,650

And then they had
one barrack, or I

1399

01:01:41,650 --> 01:01:44,350

don't know, a whole
barrack, but some facilities

1400

01:01:44,350 --> 01:01:47,420

to wash up in the morning.

1401

01:01:47,420 --> 01:01:48,310

We could wash up.

1402

01:01:48,310 --> 01:01:50,680

We couldn't shower,
but we could wash up.

1403

01:01:50,680 --> 01:01:53,013

Cold water, but
we could do that.

1404

01:01:53,013 --> 01:01:55,180

And you said you were wearing
that same black dress.

1405

01:01:55,180 --> 01:01:56,540

The same dress.

1406

01:01:56,540 --> 01:01:58,405

But then once it was changed.

1407

01:01:58,405 --> 01:01:59,550

That time that it was--

1408

01:01:59,550 --> 01:02:01,240

Yeah, it was once changed.

1409

01:02:01,240 --> 01:02:03,430

Later on, they gave
me another one.

1410

01:02:03,430 --> 01:02:06,060

We went also again
for some showers.

1411

01:02:06,060 --> 01:02:11,710

And then, so and then
they changed the dresses.

1412

01:02:11,710 --> 01:02:16,970

Was the atmosphere in the
barracks a calm atmosphere?

1413

01:02:16,970 --> 01:02:18,670

Or was it emotionally--

1414

01:02:18,670 --> 01:02:19,930

Well, it was--

1415

01:02:19,930 --> 01:02:21,120

--charged?

1416

01:02:21,120 --> 01:02:25,020

Well, it was-- had to be calm
because otherwise we were

1417

01:02:25,020 --> 01:02:25,900

just--

1418

01:02:25,900 --> 01:02:27,830
it would be much worse.

1419
01:02:27,830 --> 01:02:28,600
So--

1420
01:02:28,600 --> 01:02:30,910
What was the age range of
the women in your barrack?

1421
01:02:30,910 --> 01:02:39,250
I would say approximately
from age 17, 18, to about 40--

1422
01:02:39,250 --> 01:02:46,440
probably till 40 and some few
45, 48, something like that,

1423
01:02:46,440 --> 01:02:49,120
about, right.

1424
01:02:49,120 --> 01:02:52,990
But you at that time were not
subject to hard physical labor.

1425
01:02:52,990 --> 01:02:54,160
You said you were sewing.

1426
01:02:54,160 --> 01:02:56,170
No, in Auschwitz we didn't.

1427
01:02:56,170 --> 01:02:57,050
I wasn't.

1428
01:02:57,050 --> 01:03:00,730
Our group, our barrack was not--

1429
01:03:00,730 --> 01:03:02,830
What was a typical day like?

1430
01:03:02,830 --> 01:03:07,130
Well, it was they woke us

up early in the morning.

1431
01:03:07,130 --> 01:03:07,630
And--

1432
01:03:07,630 --> 01:03:08,672
How did they wake you up?

1433
01:03:08,672 --> 01:03:11,770

1434
01:03:11,770 --> 01:03:13,700
I didn't think of
that for a long time.

1435
01:03:13,700 --> 01:03:15,790
But they get up.

1436
01:03:15,790 --> 01:03:18,800
And I don't remember the words.

1437
01:03:18,800 --> 01:03:19,930
I don't remember the words.

1438
01:03:19,930 --> 01:03:21,888
Somebody came into the
barrack and woke you up.

1439
01:03:21,888 --> 01:03:22,430
They shouted.

1440
01:03:22,430 --> 01:03:22,930
Shouted.

1441
01:03:22,930 --> 01:03:23,660
Yeah.

1442
01:03:23,660 --> 01:03:24,868
To get up, get up.

1443
01:03:24,868 --> 01:03:25,660

And then we got up.

1444

01:03:25,660 --> 01:03:26,960

Did you sleep with your mother?

1445

01:03:26,960 --> 01:03:27,750

Yes.

1446

01:03:27,750 --> 01:03:30,400

And on the same level?

1447

01:03:30,400 --> 01:03:33,683

On the same level about six,
seven people [INAUDIBLE]..

1448

01:03:33,683 --> 01:03:35,350

And you always were
next to your mother?

1449

01:03:35,350 --> 01:03:36,500

Always--

1450

01:03:36,500 --> 01:03:37,000