

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,200

2

00:00:03,200 --> 00:00:06,320

This is a recording for
the United States Holocaust

3

00:00:06,320 --> 00:00:10,640

Memorial Museum, an interview
with Jaffa Munk conducted

4

00:00:10,640 --> 00:00:14,900

by Margaret Garrett
on August 8, 1996

5

00:00:14,900 --> 00:00:21,640

in Baltimore, Maryland,
tape one, side A. What

6

00:00:21,640 --> 00:00:23,510

was your name at birth?

7

00:00:23,510 --> 00:00:28,920

My name at birth
was Noemi Donath.

8

00:00:28,920 --> 00:00:30,970

And where were you born?

9

00:00:30,970 --> 00:00:36,810

I was born in Ã“nod, which
is the county of Borsod.

10

00:00:36,810 --> 00:00:43,350

It's about 9 kilometer
or 9 miles from Miskolc.

11

00:00:43,350 --> 00:00:45,310

And what was your date of birth?

12

00:00:45,310 --> 00:00:50,490

My date of birth was
April the 10th, 1931.

13
00:00:50,490 --> 00:00:53,650
Would you talk about
your childhood?

14
00:00:53,650 --> 00:00:54,150
Yes.

15
00:00:54,150 --> 00:00:56,730
I grew up as the
daughter of a rabbi.

16
00:00:56,730 --> 00:00:59,040
My father was a rabbi.

17
00:00:59,040 --> 00:01:04,470
And 26 little towns belonged
to his congregation.

18
00:01:04,470 --> 00:01:08,430
I had a beautiful
childhood, growing up

19
00:01:08,430 --> 00:01:11,620
among three brothers
and sisters.

20
00:01:11,620 --> 00:01:13,290
And what were their names?

21
00:01:13,290 --> 00:01:16,350
The name of my
brother was Joseph.

22
00:01:16,350 --> 00:01:19,680
And my sister is Esther,
who is alive and is

23
00:01:19,680 --> 00:01:22,590
living in Montreal.

24

00:01:22,590 --> 00:01:26,340

My parents were very
educated people,

25

00:01:26,340 --> 00:01:30,180

and they looked into it
that the children should

26

00:01:30,180 --> 00:01:32,430

be going to the best schools.

27

00:01:32,430 --> 00:01:35,340

I attended a Lutheran
school, because there

28

00:01:35,340 --> 00:01:38,940

was no more Jewish school
at the time when I grew up.

29

00:01:38,940 --> 00:01:41,790

However, we had been
learning Jewish studies

30

00:01:41,790 --> 00:01:44,500

in the afternoons.

31

00:01:44,500 --> 00:01:46,890

Also, I had a private
teacher who was

32

00:01:46,890 --> 00:01:50,150

teaching the German language.

33

00:01:50,150 --> 00:01:53,040

That was the language
that more advanced people,

34

00:01:53,040 --> 00:01:56,080

more intellectual people
had been learning.

35

00:01:56,080 --> 00:02:02,970

And my father was originally
from Bratislava Czechoslovakia,

36
00:02:02,970 --> 00:02:07,510
and he wanted his children
to be very cultured.

37
00:02:07,510 --> 00:02:11,370
We are always going to the
library, picking up books.

38
00:02:11,370 --> 00:02:13,440
My father would see
what we are reading.

39
00:02:13,440 --> 00:02:15,930
He would discuss with us.

40
00:02:15,930 --> 00:02:21,570
I come from a very religious
background, but yet very

41
00:02:21,570 --> 00:02:23,970
open-minded.

42
00:02:23,970 --> 00:02:26,520
We had lots of celebrations.

43
00:02:26,520 --> 00:02:31,800
The holidays, Purim, everybody
would come to the house.

44
00:02:31,800 --> 00:02:32,970
Everybody, who?

45
00:02:32,970 --> 00:02:34,410
Relatives, friends?

46
00:02:34,410 --> 00:02:35,060
Friends.

47
00:02:35,060 --> 00:02:37,780

Friends and people
who lived in the town.

48
00:02:37,780 --> 00:02:41,370
The whole town had only
50 Jewish families.

49
00:02:41,370 --> 00:02:45,720
And how large was the town?

50
00:02:45,720 --> 00:02:49,380
The population of the town
was less than 3,000 people.

51
00:02:49,380 --> 00:02:53,330
And from that, about
300 were Jewish people--

52
00:02:53,330 --> 00:02:56,700
50 families, but large families.

53
00:02:56,700 --> 00:03:02,220
Mostly, the Jewish people in the
town, they were storekeepers.

54
00:03:02,220 --> 00:03:07,810
A lot of the people,
they had big farms.

55
00:03:07,810 --> 00:03:12,060
There were doctors,
some lawyers,

56
00:03:12,060 --> 00:03:16,170
but mainly, really, shopkeepers.

57
00:03:16,170 --> 00:03:19,060
And your father was
the rabbi in the town?

58
00:03:19,060 --> 00:03:21,150
My father was the
rabbi of the town.

59

00:03:21,150 --> 00:03:24,300

And they really loved him.

60

00:03:24,300 --> 00:03:28,370

He had a special
school for big boys,

61

00:03:28,370 --> 00:03:30,570

which one, we call yeshiva.

62

00:03:30,570 --> 00:03:35,900

And I remember very
clearly, the beautiful times

63

00:03:35,900 --> 00:03:42,780

when they were making the matzah
near to the house, singing.

64

00:03:42,780 --> 00:03:48,060

And I used to love, as a
young kid, to walk around

65

00:03:48,060 --> 00:03:52,740

and all these lovely
boys, they used to pet me.

66

00:03:52,740 --> 00:03:55,580

And I used to tell them
that, leave me alone.

67

00:03:55,580 --> 00:04:00,390

So they named me "leave
me alone" in Hungarian.

68

00:04:00,390 --> 00:04:04,820

We had a beautiful house,
lots of fruit trees,

69

00:04:04,820 --> 00:04:08,430

about 50 fruit trees.

70

00:04:08,430 --> 00:04:13,230

My mama used to
cook all the fruit.

71

00:04:13,230 --> 00:04:15,360

It wasn't like today,
you go to the store,

72

00:04:15,360 --> 00:04:17,130

and you buy the canned goods.

73

00:04:17,130 --> 00:04:22,200

She would be putting into
jars, making her own jams

74

00:04:22,200 --> 00:04:25,740

and prune nectar,
all these things.

75

00:04:25,740 --> 00:04:29,440

It was all a lot of fun.

76

00:04:29,440 --> 00:04:34,240

At the end of our house
was a river named Sajo.

77

00:04:34,240 --> 00:04:37,300

And we used to go to
the bank of the river.

78

00:04:37,300 --> 00:04:39,120

It had a lot of grass.

79

00:04:39,120 --> 00:04:42,930

And cousins would come from
the big city of Budapest,

80

00:04:42,930 --> 00:04:45,350

and we would get out there.

81

00:04:45,350 --> 00:04:49,540

And we would be dancing
there, going swimming there,

82
00:04:49,540 --> 00:04:52,750
so we had a lovely upbringing.

83
00:04:52,750 --> 00:04:56,410
I remember that my mother
used to bring a sewing lady,

84
00:04:56,410 --> 00:04:59,440
and she would be sewing
for us beautiful outfits

85
00:04:59,440 --> 00:05:01,570
for the holidays.

86
00:05:01,570 --> 00:05:04,880
She was a very devoted
mother to her children.

87
00:05:04,880 --> 00:05:07,630
We used to tell, mama, you
need, also, something new.

88
00:05:07,630 --> 00:05:10,780
But first was her
three children.

89
00:05:10,780 --> 00:05:15,010
She had a lot of pride
in two daughters.

90
00:05:15,010 --> 00:05:20,080
My sister's name is Judith
Esther, and my brother, Joseph.

91
00:05:20,080 --> 00:05:25,390
And my brother was educated
in the big city in Budapest.

92
00:05:25,390 --> 00:05:27,340
And we used to love
when he came home,

93

00:05:27,340 --> 00:05:31,630

and he told us beautiful
stories about his experience

94

00:05:31,630 --> 00:05:33,190

in the big city.

95

00:05:33,190 --> 00:05:36,280

I can thank him a
lot, what I am today,

96

00:05:36,280 --> 00:05:40,300

because he was the one who
was always introducing to me

97

00:05:40,300 --> 00:05:44,570

a lot of things about
science and books.

98

00:05:44,570 --> 00:05:49,030

He would come home, and he
would encourage that, whatever

99

00:05:49,030 --> 00:05:51,090

you have you, can lose one day.

100

00:05:51,090 --> 00:05:55,730

But what you have in your
mind, nobody can take away.

101

00:05:55,730 --> 00:06:01,540

So that was our life
in the small town.

102

00:06:01,540 --> 00:06:05,300

We have been very friendly
with the Gentile people.

103

00:06:05,300 --> 00:06:06,700

You went to a Lutheran school.

104

00:06:06,700 --> 00:06:10,180

I went to a Lutheran school,
and we were very friendly

105
00:06:10,180 --> 00:06:14,580
with the minister.

106
00:06:14,580 --> 00:06:18,280
We were very friendly with
the doctor of the town.

107
00:06:18,280 --> 00:06:21,150
We were very friendly
with our simple neighbors,

108
00:06:21,150 --> 00:06:24,090
too, who used to love to come.

109
00:06:24,090 --> 00:06:28,980
And my mother was called
the midwife of the town,

110
00:06:28,980 --> 00:06:31,440
because when anybody
gave birth to a child,

111
00:06:31,440 --> 00:06:34,800
my mother was rushing
and helping, warming

112
00:06:34,800 --> 00:06:40,300
water for them, giving
them some kind of food.

113
00:06:40,300 --> 00:06:42,840
So this is not just
Jews, but also Gentiles.

114
00:06:42,840 --> 00:06:43,980
Also Gentiles.

115
00:06:43,980 --> 00:06:45,250
We were very friendly.

116

00:06:45,250 --> 00:06:46,150

We went to school.

117

00:06:46,150 --> 00:06:49,920

And matter of fact, I happened
to be, in my childhood, very

118

00:06:49,920 --> 00:06:51,660

good in arithmetic.

119

00:06:51,660 --> 00:06:55,320

And there was the daughter
of the so-called mayor

120

00:06:55,320 --> 00:06:57,420

of the town.

121

00:06:57,420 --> 00:07:00,890

She had difficulty, and I
used to go to her house,

122

00:07:00,890 --> 00:07:02,910

or she would come to our house.

123

00:07:02,910 --> 00:07:07,860

There was no separation
between us, except religiously.

124

00:07:07,860 --> 00:07:11,040

They went to their church,
and we went to our temple.

125

00:07:11,040 --> 00:07:13,740

But there was such a friendship.

126

00:07:13,740 --> 00:07:19,740

Or we would go to the
farmer to fetch our milk,

127

00:07:19,740 --> 00:07:24,180

because in those days, you
didn't have milk in the store.

128
00:07:24,180 --> 00:07:27,090
So we would go, and we would
sing with them while they

129
00:07:27,090 --> 00:07:28,520
were milking the milk.

130
00:07:28,520 --> 00:07:32,070
Or they would come over to
us and taste the cookies.

131
00:07:32,070 --> 00:07:34,770
My mother was an
excellent baker.

132
00:07:34,770 --> 00:07:40,530
And we didn't feel that there
is any kind of hostility

133
00:07:40,530 --> 00:07:45,330
between us and our
gentle people in the town

134
00:07:45,330 --> 00:07:50,760
until about 1942 or
'43 when they started

135
00:07:50,760 --> 00:07:54,590
to throw bad words towards us.

136
00:07:54,590 --> 00:07:58,770
Now, before 1942, were
you aware that there was

137
00:07:58,770 --> 00:08:01,590
anything different going on?

138
00:08:01,590 --> 00:08:05,790
No, nothing that was going,
on except certainly kind

139

00:08:05,790 --> 00:08:10,440
of restriction, such as that
the Jewish people could not

140
00:08:10,440 --> 00:08:15,030
any more have beef,
because they did not

141
00:08:15,030 --> 00:08:20,130
allow any more to
kill cows according

142
00:08:20,130 --> 00:08:23,520
to the rituals of
the Jewish faith.

143
00:08:23,520 --> 00:08:25,340
So that was the very--

144
00:08:25,340 --> 00:08:28,050
So this was the Hungarian
government that said--

145
00:08:28,050 --> 00:08:29,570
The Hungarian
government had said.

146
00:08:29,570 --> 00:08:32,177
--you can no longer kill cows
according to the Jewish faith?

147
00:08:32,177 --> 00:08:33,510
According to the-- that's right.

148
00:08:33,510 --> 00:08:36,600
That was the very first
thing that I recall.

149
00:08:36,600 --> 00:08:38,789
And then later on,
when we started

150
00:08:38,789 --> 00:08:42,330

to fear that there is
something going on,

151
00:08:42,330 --> 00:08:47,610
us, as children, was that we
went one sabbath afternoon,

152
00:08:47,610 --> 00:08:50,610
a Saturday afternoon,
we went for a walk.

153
00:08:50,610 --> 00:08:54,900
And we were singing some
kind of Jewish song.

154
00:08:54,900 --> 00:08:59,700
And the first time that
a lot of the town people,

155
00:08:59,700 --> 00:09:03,420
they started to scream,
dirty Jew, go to Palestine.

156
00:09:03,420 --> 00:09:06,120
That time, Israel
was called Palestine.

157
00:09:06,120 --> 00:09:08,940
Were these people
that you knew or?

158
00:09:08,940 --> 00:09:11,060
These were not people
that we really knew.

159
00:09:11,060 --> 00:09:14,230
These were-- you can
call it sometimes,

160
00:09:14,230 --> 00:09:17,790
hoodlums, who were
in the street.

161

00:09:17,790 --> 00:09:21,630

So we didn't pay too
much attention to that.

162

00:09:21,630 --> 00:09:25,320

Yet I have to state
it that my father had

163

00:09:25,320 --> 00:09:30,060

brothers and sisters living
in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

164

00:09:30,060 --> 00:09:33,480

And he used to receive
some letters from them.

165

00:09:33,480 --> 00:09:36,060

And I, as a young
child, who happened

166

00:09:36,060 --> 00:09:40,170

to be hardly maybe 10
years old at that time,

167

00:09:40,170 --> 00:09:45,810

I remember hearing my father
that, oh, poor brother of mine.

168

00:09:45,810 --> 00:09:48,180

He has to be in a bunker.

169

00:09:48,180 --> 00:09:53,130

Or poor brother of mine,
they don't know where he is.

170

00:09:53,130 --> 00:09:58,980

But I think being the
youngest of the family,

171

00:09:58,980 --> 00:10:01,530

or even if I wouldn't
be maybe the youngest,

172

00:10:01,530 --> 00:10:05,070

perhaps they wanted
to shield us children.

173

00:10:05,070 --> 00:10:06,960

And they were not
too much talking

174

00:10:06,960 --> 00:10:10,050

about what's going
on in the world.

175

00:10:10,050 --> 00:10:13,320

I remember very vividly
that my father used

176

00:10:13,320 --> 00:10:17,930

to listen to the secret radio.

177

00:10:17,930 --> 00:10:22,170

There were certain
channels that brought news

178

00:10:22,170 --> 00:10:25,410

from out of Hungary.

179

00:10:25,410 --> 00:10:30,990

And they would come home
and tell, oh, thank goodness

180

00:10:30,990 --> 00:10:37,260

that Americans are advancing, or
that the Britons are advancing,

181

00:10:37,260 --> 00:10:41,490

that they are hoping that
they are going to succeed

182

00:10:41,490 --> 00:10:45,780

to win the war against Germany.

183

00:10:45,780 --> 00:10:46,950

That, I remember.

184
00:10:46,950 --> 00:10:54,610
But being a young kid, they
did not involve too much

185
00:10:54,610 --> 00:10:56,500
into the politics.

186
00:10:56,500 --> 00:10:59,290
But here and there,
I get it, that

187
00:10:59,290 --> 00:11:01,630
must be something going on.

188
00:11:01,630 --> 00:11:05,410
And it's very important that
the German people should not

189
00:11:05,410 --> 00:11:11,120
be able to capture more
and more countries.

190
00:11:11,120 --> 00:11:16,750
I also remember-- that
is already in 1943--

191
00:11:16,750 --> 00:11:21,940
that a lot of people smuggled
into Hungary, Jewish people

192
00:11:21,940 --> 00:11:23,410
from Poland--

193
00:11:23,410 --> 00:11:26,080
not to small towns,
because in a small town,

194
00:11:26,080 --> 00:11:30,520
they rightly would notice
if somebody is foreign.

195

00:11:30,520 --> 00:11:35,590
But we had relatives-- my mother
had two brothers and a sister

196
00:11:35,590 --> 00:11:37,540
in the city of Budapest.

197
00:11:37,540 --> 00:11:41,950
And they wrote that
they have some guests

198
00:11:41,950 --> 00:11:49,470
from different country, and they
telling us terrifying stories.

199
00:11:49,470 --> 00:11:52,720
But what exactly they were
telling, that my mother

200
00:11:52,720 --> 00:11:55,330
or father would not tell us.

201
00:11:55,330 --> 00:12:01,350
So I assume, remembering
these little episodes,

202
00:12:01,350 --> 00:12:04,720
that my parents were,
to a certain degree,

203
00:12:04,720 --> 00:12:07,620
aware of it, that
there is something bad

204
00:12:07,620 --> 00:12:11,562
going on in Poland
and in Czechoslovakia.

205
00:12:11,562 --> 00:12:17,050
Also, in 1942,
'43 a lot of girls

206
00:12:17,050 --> 00:12:22,680

came over from Czechoslovakia,
who escaped from bunkers where

207
00:12:22,680 --> 00:12:25,320
they were already hiding
and they could not

208
00:12:25,320 --> 00:12:30,660
hide any more, certain relatives
who arrived to the big city.

209
00:12:30,660 --> 00:12:35,040
And that was the other sign
that something going on there,

210
00:12:35,040 --> 00:12:38,820
that they had to
run away from home

211
00:12:38,820 --> 00:12:42,700
and abandon even
their own family.

212
00:12:42,700 --> 00:12:46,920
You said that you would
not be able to hide Jews

213
00:12:46,920 --> 00:12:48,240
in a small town.

214
00:12:48,240 --> 00:12:52,290
Where you lived if,
a Jew had suddenly

215
00:12:52,290 --> 00:12:54,540
shown up and started
to live in your house,

216
00:12:54,540 --> 00:12:56,590
what would have happened?

217
00:12:56,590 --> 00:13:01,720
Well, the local

police would come,

218

00:13:01,720 --> 00:13:04,430

and they would arrest them.

219

00:13:04,430 --> 00:13:08,450

Now, when we are talking
about hiding in a small town,

220

00:13:08,450 --> 00:13:11,180

this is really a
story for later on.

221

00:13:11,180 --> 00:13:14,180

But it's related to this.

222

00:13:14,180 --> 00:13:19,100

In 1944, when the Germans
marched into Hungary,

223

00:13:19,100 --> 00:13:22,940

my parents approached
the Catholic priest,

224

00:13:22,940 --> 00:13:25,580

would he hide the children?

225

00:13:25,580 --> 00:13:30,890

So that also is telling
that my parents were aware

226

00:13:30,890 --> 00:13:34,460

that something bad
is waiting for us.

227

00:13:34,460 --> 00:13:39,830

And at first the Catholic
priest was thinking of it,

228

00:13:39,830 --> 00:13:42,200

that he would hide us children.

229

00:13:42,200 --> 00:13:44,240

And then he said,
how can I do that?

230

00:13:44,240 --> 00:13:49,880

They right away knew that these
are the children of the rabbi.

231

00:13:49,880 --> 00:13:50,830

That's number one.

232

00:13:50,830 --> 00:13:53,810

Number two, he said,
I have no wife.

233

00:13:53,810 --> 00:13:55,490

I have no children.

234

00:13:55,490 --> 00:13:59,760

How can I have children
suddenly in my household?

235

00:13:59,760 --> 00:14:03,380

So my father told him,
but after all, you

236

00:14:03,380 --> 00:14:05,920

can have some students.

237

00:14:05,920 --> 00:14:10,470

But the end of the story is
that he refused to hide us.

238

00:14:10,470 --> 00:14:16,820

So back in 1942, if
extra Jews had appeared,

239

00:14:16,820 --> 00:14:20,750

would anybody have done
anything about it then?

240

00:14:20,750 --> 00:14:21,450

Yes.

241
00:14:21,450 --> 00:14:21,950
Yes.

242
00:14:21,950 --> 00:14:22,950
In '42, they would have.

243
00:14:22,950 --> 00:14:23,810
In '42, already.

244
00:14:23,810 --> 00:14:30,100
But your family, as Jews, were
living as they had before?

245
00:14:30,100 --> 00:14:33,200
We had been living as
before, yes, I think.

246
00:14:33,200 --> 00:14:36,200
But if new Jews had arrived,
something would have happened?

247
00:14:36,200 --> 00:14:37,450
Something would happen.

248
00:14:37,450 --> 00:14:39,590
The local police
would come, and they

249
00:14:39,590 --> 00:14:43,520
would have to identify
themselves, who are they?

250
00:14:43,520 --> 00:14:49,070
In many fact, in
1942, we had a cantor

251
00:14:49,070 --> 00:14:51,980
who was singing in our temple.

252
00:14:51,980 --> 00:14:57,800
And since he had no

Hungarian nationality--

253

00:14:57,800 --> 00:15:00,830
in Hungary, it takes much
longer than in America.

254

00:15:00,830 --> 00:15:04,050
In America, in five years,
you can become a citizen.

255

00:15:04,050 --> 00:15:07,220
He was not a citizen,
because it takes 25 years.

256

00:15:07,220 --> 00:15:09,940
I don't know what the law
today, but in those days

257

00:15:09,940 --> 00:15:12,140
you had to live in
Hungary 25 years

258

00:15:12,140 --> 00:15:14,300
in order to get citizenship.

259

00:15:14,300 --> 00:15:17,010
And this fellow was from Poland.

260

00:15:17,010 --> 00:15:19,340
And he had no
Hungarian citizenship.

261

00:15:19,340 --> 00:15:21,590
He had to leave the country.

262

00:15:21,590 --> 00:15:24,653
And we were crying that
he is leaving the country,

263

00:15:24,653 --> 00:15:25,570
and where is he going?

264

00:15:25,570 --> 00:15:27,650
He went to Palestine.

265
00:15:27,650 --> 00:15:31,760
And today, he is alive
with all his family

266
00:15:31,760 --> 00:15:34,730
and with grandchildren
and so on.

267
00:15:34,730 --> 00:15:37,800
And my family is in ashes.

268
00:15:37,800 --> 00:15:44,020
So in a way, it was luck
that you were not a citizen

269
00:15:44,020 --> 00:15:44,950
and you had to leave.

270
00:15:44,950 --> 00:15:46,730
But that was the law.

271
00:15:46,730 --> 00:15:49,850
If you were not a
Hungarian citizen,

272
00:15:49,850 --> 00:15:52,340
you could not live
in the country.

273
00:15:52,340 --> 00:15:56,900
If you were not Jewish, you also
could not live in the country?

274
00:15:56,900 --> 00:15:58,780
If you were not Jewish, also.

275
00:15:58,780 --> 00:15:59,280
Also.

276

00:15:59,280 --> 00:15:59,780
Also.

277
00:15:59,780 --> 00:16:01,760
So it wasn't just
Jews who had to--

278
00:16:01,760 --> 00:16:06,470
Well, I don't really know
what happened with the people.

279
00:16:06,470 --> 00:16:09,860
If you were just a
temporary citizen,

280
00:16:09,860 --> 00:16:14,270
you were allowed to leave,
except if you were a Jew.

281
00:16:14,270 --> 00:16:17,600
If you were Jewish and you
did not have the citizenship,

282
00:16:17,600 --> 00:16:23,120
that was the first thing that
came out in 1942, that you

283
00:16:23,120 --> 00:16:24,750
had to leave the country.

284
00:16:24,750 --> 00:16:26,180
So that applied to Jews--

285
00:16:26,180 --> 00:16:26,710
To Jews.

286
00:16:26,710 --> 00:16:27,210
--only?

287
00:16:27,210 --> 00:16:27,710
Yes.

288

00:16:27,710 --> 00:16:28,575
OK.

289
00:16:28,575 --> 00:16:32,330
Yeah, only to Jews.

290
00:16:32,330 --> 00:16:36,860
So you were saying that you were
aware that something bad was

291
00:16:36,860 --> 00:16:38,060
happening and at the--

292
00:16:38,060 --> 00:16:39,810
Yes, I was sensing.

293
00:16:39,810 --> 00:16:42,170
I was sensing the tenseness.

294
00:16:42,170 --> 00:16:45,000
I was sensing that
my father is always

295
00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:47,060
secretly talking with Mama.

296
00:16:47,060 --> 00:16:49,430
And when they notice that
the children are coming,

297
00:16:49,430 --> 00:16:52,530
they would change the subject.

298
00:16:52,530 --> 00:16:58,850
I was noticing that my
parents were shielding us

299
00:16:58,850 --> 00:17:02,130
more than before.

300
00:17:02,130 --> 00:17:06,980
If it was going to the

streets or traveling,

301

00:17:06,980 --> 00:17:12,200

they were much more alert to
what's going on than before.

302

00:17:12,200 --> 00:17:20,599

Until 1942, '43, we were living
a fairly free, happy life,

303

00:17:20,599 --> 00:17:27,002

traveling, going to the
theater, going to the circus,

304

00:17:27,002 --> 00:17:29,480

anywhere we wanted to go.

305

00:17:29,480 --> 00:17:33,660

Then later on, I am aware of it.

306

00:17:33,660 --> 00:17:38,190

I mean, I remember it,
that the parents did not

307

00:17:38,190 --> 00:17:42,060

want the children too
much to be in the streets

308

00:17:42,060 --> 00:17:45,570

and not to go to public places.

309

00:17:45,570 --> 00:17:51,390

We were not questioning why,
but that's what I remember.

310

00:17:51,390 --> 00:17:55,120

And what do you remember next?

311

00:17:55,120 --> 00:18:03,990

The next thing that I remember,
in 1943, September, my older

312

00:18:03,990 --> 00:18:04,490
sister--

313
00:18:04,490 --> 00:18:06,480
I am the youngest
in the family--

314
00:18:06,480 --> 00:18:11,600
she went to study, also, in
Budapest in a special school.

315
00:18:11,600 --> 00:18:15,200
And my brother was away,
also, in a special school.

316
00:18:15,200 --> 00:18:21,200
And I remember that the parents
were very worried, are they OK?

317
00:18:21,200 --> 00:18:25,770
When before, they were also
away, except till this time,

318
00:18:25,770 --> 00:18:28,490
they were not so
concerned if everything

319
00:18:28,490 --> 00:18:30,320
is going OK with them.

320
00:18:30,320 --> 00:18:37,010
And in 1944, when the
Germans marched into Hungary,

321
00:18:37,010 --> 00:18:40,700
my parents wanted the
children to come home.

322
00:18:40,700 --> 00:18:42,380
And there was restriction.

323
00:18:42,380 --> 00:18:46,090
Jews could not travel

any more in train.

324

00:18:46,090 --> 00:18:50,920

So we are very worried
if ever my siblings

325

00:18:50,920 --> 00:18:52,960

will be able to come home.

326

00:18:52,960 --> 00:18:57,280

And one morning,
my father is just

327

00:18:57,280 --> 00:19:00,940

stepping out from the
congregation, from the temple,

328

00:19:00,940 --> 00:19:03,310

and here is my sister.

329

00:19:03,310 --> 00:19:05,980

How did you get
home from Budapest?

330

00:19:05,980 --> 00:19:09,640

And she told us the
story, that my aunt

331

00:19:09,640 --> 00:19:12,210

dressed her to look
like a Gentile,

332

00:19:12,210 --> 00:19:17,130

because the Gentile people
were a little bit differently

333

00:19:17,130 --> 00:19:18,130

dressed.

334

00:19:18,130 --> 00:19:20,980

We were a little bit
more fashionable dressed,

335

00:19:20,980 --> 00:19:22,450
the Jewish people.

336

00:19:22,450 --> 00:19:25,450
She should look
more like a peasant.

337

00:19:25,450 --> 00:19:27,440
It's maybe not right
to say Gentiles.

338

00:19:27,440 --> 00:19:29,680
It's right to say that
she should look more

339

00:19:29,680 --> 00:19:31,540
like a peasant girl.

340

00:19:31,540 --> 00:19:33,800
And she shouldn't
be too attractive.

341

00:19:33,800 --> 00:19:35,980
She was a very beautiful girl.

342

00:19:35,980 --> 00:19:39,890
And my father was asking,
how did you got home?

343

00:19:39,890 --> 00:19:41,800
And she said let's
go home quickly.

344

00:19:41,800 --> 00:19:44,860
So she came home and
she told the story,

345

00:19:44,860 --> 00:19:47,950
that relatives put
her on the train.

346

00:19:47,950 --> 00:19:52,930

And luckily, it went smooth.

347

00:19:52,930 --> 00:19:57,580

And when they saw her looking
like a little peasant girl,

348

00:19:57,580 --> 00:19:59,380

they didn't approach her.

349

00:19:59,380 --> 00:20:03,940

And when she arrived, there
was no train station in Å“nod.

350

00:20:03,940 --> 00:20:08,080

It was about seven kilometer
from us, a train station.

351

00:20:08,080 --> 00:20:11,680

And when she unboarded, when
she came down from the train,

352

00:20:11,680 --> 00:20:13,450

she thought, it's night.

353

00:20:13,450 --> 00:20:16,120

What do I do, a young girl?

354

00:20:16,120 --> 00:20:17,890

How do I get home?

355

00:20:17,890 --> 00:20:20,960

I can't walk this in the night.

356

00:20:20,960 --> 00:20:24,940

She remembered that there
is a Jewish family nearby,

357

00:20:24,940 --> 00:20:26,980

and she knocked on the door.

358

00:20:26,980 --> 00:20:30,670

And lo and behold, there

was the headquarter

359

00:20:30,670 --> 00:20:34,090
of the German SS army.

360

00:20:34,090 --> 00:20:37,240
And she is opening the door,
and she said, oh, I am sorry.

361

00:20:37,240 --> 00:20:39,160
I don't want to disturb you.

362

00:20:39,160 --> 00:20:42,160
I just wanted a
little bit of water.

363

00:20:42,160 --> 00:20:44,710
And she quickly went out.

364

00:20:44,710 --> 00:20:48,070
And here, she is
wandering and wandering.

365

00:20:48,070 --> 00:20:49,870
And suddenly, she
remembered there

366

00:20:49,870 --> 00:20:53,050
is the other Jewish
family living in the town.

367

00:20:53,050 --> 00:20:57,860
She went there, and they
told her, your sleep over.

368

00:20:57,860 --> 00:21:01,540
And the next morning,
they brought her home.

369

00:21:01,540 --> 00:21:03,810
So that's how my sister arrived.

370

00:21:03,810 --> 00:21:07,900
And then later on, my
brother arrived home, too,

371
00:21:07,900 --> 00:21:11,410
also in a very special way.

372
00:21:11,410 --> 00:21:18,270
He got some papers
from a Gentile friend.

373
00:21:18,270 --> 00:21:23,010
And he arrived home, too,
so that time, we already

374
00:21:23,010 --> 00:21:27,620
know that we are occupied
by the Germans, Hungary.

375
00:21:27,620 --> 00:21:32,190
Yet Horthy, who was the head
of the Hungarian government,

376
00:21:32,190 --> 00:21:38,040
was refusing to let to do
anything to the Jewish people.

377
00:21:38,040 --> 00:21:40,620
But it didn't take too long.

378
00:21:40,620 --> 00:21:45,770
The Germans override him,
and they fought against that.

379
00:21:45,770 --> 00:21:49,490
And the new decree
that came out was

380
00:21:49,490 --> 00:21:53,900
that we have to have the
yellow star on our clothing,

381
00:21:53,900 --> 00:21:56,840

that we are not allowed
to be in the street,

382
00:21:56,840 --> 00:22:00,860
only at certain
times during the day.

383
00:22:00,860 --> 00:22:02,660
The Gentile people
are not allowed

384
00:22:02,660 --> 00:22:07,370
to sell us any merchandise.

385
00:22:07,370 --> 00:22:12,770
We are not allowed to hire
any non-Jewish people working

386
00:22:12,770 --> 00:22:13,460
for us.

387
00:22:13,460 --> 00:22:16,350

388
00:22:16,350 --> 00:22:21,200
And slowly and surely,
later on came out

389
00:22:21,200 --> 00:22:24,440
that we have to make a
inventory of whatever we

390
00:22:24,440 --> 00:22:33,660
have in our house and submit
it to the mayor of the town.

391
00:22:33,660 --> 00:22:37,200
I remember that my
mother was taking out

392
00:22:37,200 --> 00:22:41,430
from the closet, the
beautiful tablecloths.

393

00:22:41,430 --> 00:22:45,150

In those days, years
before a girl was married,

394

00:22:45,150 --> 00:22:47,940

they were embroidering
and having

395

00:22:47,940 --> 00:22:51,630

the monograms on the
tablecloth and on the bed

396

00:22:51,630 --> 00:22:54,480

sheets and the pillowcases.

397

00:22:54,480 --> 00:22:59,250

And by each one that she was
folding and writing down,

398

00:22:59,250 --> 00:23:02,220

her tears running from her eye.

399

00:23:02,220 --> 00:23:07,048

And my brother was helping her
to make the inventory and--

400

00:23:07,048 --> 00:23:08,340

And you were watching all this?

401

00:23:08,340 --> 00:23:11,940

And I was watching
all this, because I

402

00:23:11,940 --> 00:23:14,490

was a very curious little girl.

403

00:23:14,490 --> 00:23:20,440

And I think that I did
not grasp it in the depth

404

00:23:20,440 --> 00:23:24,450

that this is not going
to be ours anymore.

405
00:23:24,450 --> 00:23:28,530
I was just admiring to
see the beautiful colors

406
00:23:28,530 --> 00:23:33,250
and the beautiful
embroidery and counting.

407
00:23:33,250 --> 00:23:38,770
And my brother was saying,
Mommy, don't worry.

408
00:23:38,770 --> 00:23:43,590
We come back, I will buy you
the most beautiful linens.

409
00:23:43,590 --> 00:23:48,130
That is ringing in my
ear until this day.

410
00:23:48,130 --> 00:23:50,030
He said, when we come back.

411
00:23:50,030 --> 00:23:51,570
When we come back.

412
00:23:51,570 --> 00:23:56,720
So that time I
understood that it means

413
00:23:56,720 --> 00:23:59,450
we have to leave our house.

414
00:23:59,450 --> 00:24:03,390
And hopefully, we
will come back.

415
00:24:03,390 --> 00:24:09,660
I have to tell that my father
has been chosen to be the head

416
00:24:09,660 --> 00:24:15,200
of the ghetto, which one was is
located not far from Miskolc,

417
00:24:15,200 --> 00:24:17,940
called the place Di³sgyor.

418
00:24:17,940 --> 00:24:24,810
It was a town where they
had factories for iron.

419
00:24:24,810 --> 00:24:30,050
They emptied the
workers houses, which

420
00:24:30,050 --> 00:24:35,620
one was very poor, like one room
and kitchen kind of apartments.

421
00:24:35,620 --> 00:24:39,130
And they had to
organize that place

422
00:24:39,130 --> 00:24:42,640
to become the Jewish ghetto.

423
00:24:42,640 --> 00:24:47,110
And at the time when we
were doing this inventory,

424
00:24:47,110 --> 00:24:51,060
my father was away, because
he had to go and organize

425
00:24:51,060 --> 00:24:54,465
the ghetto in Di³sgyor.

426
00:24:54,465 --> 00:24:57,120
Do you know how they
chose your father

427

00:24:57,120 --> 00:24:58,530
to be the head of the ghetto?

428
00:24:58,530 --> 00:25:02,190
I have no idea why
he was chosen to be,

429
00:25:02,190 --> 00:25:05,280
because not only
people from Å“nod,

430
00:25:05,280 --> 00:25:08,160
but from all the
surrounding towns,

431
00:25:08,160 --> 00:25:12,510
except that he was the chief
rabbi for all these towns.

432
00:25:12,510 --> 00:25:14,700
So maybe that's the
reason that they

433
00:25:14,700 --> 00:25:20,530
had been choosing him to
be the head of the ghetto.

434
00:25:20,530 --> 00:25:24,090
And we were expecting that
Father should come back

435
00:25:24,090 --> 00:25:30,250
from that after he is doing
that job, organizing the place.

436
00:25:30,250 --> 00:25:34,110
However, he never came
back from the ghetto.

437
00:25:34,110 --> 00:25:37,890
After a few days, the
inventory was made.

438

00:25:37,890 --> 00:25:45,310

My mother succeeded to take
a few precious pictures

439

00:25:45,310 --> 00:25:52,450

from the family and from us
children and a few tablecloth

440

00:25:52,450 --> 00:25:56,720

and a few silverware,
such as in which one

441

00:25:56,720 --> 00:26:01,350

she was lighting the Shabbat
candles, some Kiddush cups,

442

00:26:01,350 --> 00:26:03,670

and some silver cups--

443

00:26:03,670 --> 00:26:06,870

one of them, I happen
to have it here--

444

00:26:06,870 --> 00:26:13,780

to our neighbor, who was
very devoted neighbor to us.

445

00:26:13,780 --> 00:26:17,710

Well, we were very devoted,
very good friends, helpful

446

00:26:17,710 --> 00:26:21,190

for each other all the time.

447

00:26:21,190 --> 00:26:25,450

And she asked her,
do me a favor,

448

00:26:25,450 --> 00:26:29,890

Martha, put these things away.

449

00:26:29,890 --> 00:26:35,280

And you know we have to most

probably leave the town.

450

00:26:35,280 --> 00:26:39,030

But when we come back, you
will give this back to me.

451

00:26:39,030 --> 00:26:43,090

And if I am not coming
back, then please,

452

00:26:43,090 --> 00:26:46,240

would you give this
to my children?

453

00:26:46,240 --> 00:26:50,400

So all these little
things indicate

454

00:26:50,400 --> 00:26:57,120

that my mother and father,
they were informed somehow

455

00:26:57,120 --> 00:27:01,530

that elderly people are
killed, or that elderly people,

456

00:27:01,530 --> 00:27:03,810

they don't make it.

457

00:27:03,810 --> 00:27:09,180

They had prayer and hope that
the children will remain.

458

00:27:09,180 --> 00:27:15,060

And she wanted us to have
some mementos, something

459

00:27:15,060 --> 00:27:18,510

that is from our household.

460

00:27:18,510 --> 00:27:19,410

And--

461

00:27:19,410 --> 00:27:23,610

At the time, you did not
realize what your parents did.

462

00:27:23,610 --> 00:27:26,310

But looking back
on what they said,

463

00:27:26,310 --> 00:27:29,580

you can see what they knew.

464

00:27:29,580 --> 00:27:30,630

Exactly.

465

00:27:30,630 --> 00:27:31,710

Exactly.

466

00:27:31,710 --> 00:27:34,680

At that time, I
couldn't understand

467

00:27:34,680 --> 00:27:42,180

why Mother was hiding
gems in the attic,

468

00:27:42,180 --> 00:27:47,460

why was she putting away
certain things or some money,

469

00:27:47,460 --> 00:27:53,390

giving to other Gentile family
in a small town who came

470

00:27:53,390 --> 00:27:56,120

to see if we have everything.

471

00:27:56,120 --> 00:27:58,840

I mean, there were,
which one, we called

472

00:27:58,840 --> 00:28:00,800

them chasidei umot haolam.

473
00:28:00,800 --> 00:28:06,200
They called them the righteous
Gentiles, who were worried.

474
00:28:06,200 --> 00:28:11,780
And they understood and
endangered themselves,

475
00:28:11,780 --> 00:28:15,920
such as that family from
a little town, HÃdvÃ©g,

476
00:28:15,920 --> 00:28:18,860
coming in and
bringing some potato,

477
00:28:18,860 --> 00:28:22,850
knowing that we can't
anymore buy food.

478
00:28:22,850 --> 00:28:24,865
Now, this is before
you went to the ghetto?

479
00:28:24,865 --> 00:28:25,180
You couldn't buy food.

480
00:28:25,180 --> 00:28:26,490
Before we went to the ghetto.

481
00:28:26,490 --> 00:28:28,200
Before we went to the ghetto.

482
00:28:28,200 --> 00:28:31,570
So that family, my
parents used to have

483
00:28:31,570 --> 00:28:34,960
a collection of silver coins.

484
00:28:34,960 --> 00:28:38,850

Today, people are
investing in stock,

485
00:28:38,850 --> 00:28:40,810
or they're putting in bank.

486
00:28:40,810 --> 00:28:43,420
In those days, if you
had a little money,

487
00:28:43,420 --> 00:28:45,940
you bought some silver coins.

488
00:28:45,940 --> 00:28:50,430
The value didn't go down
for the children's education

489
00:28:50,430 --> 00:28:53,230
later or if a child
has to get married.

490
00:28:53,230 --> 00:28:56,830
So my father had a
collection of silver money,

491
00:28:56,830 --> 00:28:59,755
and he gave it to
this Gentile family.

492
00:28:59,755 --> 00:29:02,637

493
00:29:02,637 --> 00:29:03,720
Let's stop here and turn--

494
00:29:03,720 --> 00:29:04,220
Yeah?

495
00:29:04,220 --> 00:29:05,000
--over the tape.

496
00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:05,500

OK.

497

00:29:05,500 --> 00:29:12,200

498

00:29:12,200 --> 00:29:16,082

Tape one, side B.

499

00:29:16,082 --> 00:29:17,980

OK.

500

00:29:17,980 --> 00:29:24,520

Shortly after we had been
submitting the inventory,

501

00:29:24,520 --> 00:29:30,940

giving to our neighbor,
certain items to keep,

502

00:29:30,940 --> 00:29:33,850

it came announcement--

503

00:29:33,850 --> 00:29:36,790

in those days, it was
in the marketplace.

504

00:29:36,790 --> 00:29:40,630

They used to announce
in the loudspeaker,

505

00:29:40,630 --> 00:29:45,040

all the Jewish families
have to pack up.

506

00:29:45,040 --> 00:29:50,200

They are able to take only
certain amount of clothing

507

00:29:50,200 --> 00:29:51,320

with them.

508

00:29:51,320 --> 00:29:54,550

And they have to
go into the ghetto.

509
00:29:54,550 --> 00:30:02,690
Now, we had to hire with
our own money, a horseman,

510
00:30:02,690 --> 00:30:07,060
buggy, pack up, and go.

511
00:30:07,060 --> 00:30:12,430
We had to leave the keys
and all the inventory

512
00:30:12,430 --> 00:30:14,810
at the house of the mayor.

513
00:30:14,810 --> 00:30:24,460
And we had to be at 9 o'clock
in the morning in 1944,

514
00:30:24,460 --> 00:30:25,660
end of May--

515
00:30:25,660 --> 00:30:29,270
I don't exactly
remember completely,

516
00:30:29,270 --> 00:30:33,320
the date, but I do remember
that it was in May--

517
00:30:33,320 --> 00:30:37,960
we had to go into the
ghetto in the Austria.

518
00:30:37,960 --> 00:30:42,050
Now, the mayor was the
father of your good friend.

519
00:30:42,050 --> 00:30:42,650
Is that right?

520

00:30:42,650 --> 00:30:43,660

Yes, that's right.

521

00:30:43,660 --> 00:30:46,990

And what happened to
your friendship with her?

522

00:30:46,990 --> 00:30:50,010

We were friendly
until the last minute.

523

00:30:50,010 --> 00:30:56,070

However, at the time when
the yellow star came out,

524

00:30:56,070 --> 00:30:59,310

that we had to wear
it on our clothing,

525

00:30:59,310 --> 00:31:02,430

our relationship cooled off.

526

00:31:02,430 --> 00:31:09,940

And the last thing that I
remember him saying, the Mayor,

527

00:31:09,940 --> 00:31:11,830

that I am sorry.

528

00:31:11,830 --> 00:31:15,780

I am not in a position
of helping you.

529

00:31:15,780 --> 00:31:20,220

In other words, he must have
to have some kind of emotions.

530

00:31:20,220 --> 00:31:23,220

And yet, he was really
maybe in a position

531

00:31:23,220 --> 00:31:29,370

where he was watched by
the German occupying army,

532
00:31:29,370 --> 00:31:35,140
that he could not do anything
since he was the only one

533
00:31:35,140 --> 00:31:37,900
important person in the town.

534
00:31:37,900 --> 00:31:42,220
So I am not able to blame him.

535
00:31:42,220 --> 00:31:45,970
It hurt at that
time, but you have

536
00:31:45,970 --> 00:31:49,060
to put yourself in the
shoe of the other person.

537
00:31:49,060 --> 00:31:54,130
And I have to state here
that the Hungarian police

538
00:31:54,130 --> 00:31:58,460
department, the
Gendarmerie, they

539
00:31:58,460 --> 00:32:02,040
were worse than the Germans.

540
00:32:02,040 --> 00:32:03,890
They were more brutal.

541
00:32:03,890 --> 00:32:09,670
They were more beating us up
and more hostile in every way.

542
00:32:09,670 --> 00:32:12,360

543

00:32:12,360 --> 00:32:15,120
So we hired the buggy.

544
00:32:15,120 --> 00:32:16,290
We packed up.

545
00:32:16,290 --> 00:32:20,460
My mother took with
her, one chicken.

546
00:32:20,460 --> 00:32:25,870
You have to understand
that we lived in a town.

547
00:32:25,870 --> 00:32:30,950
And in the backyard, my mother
was growing chickens and ducks,

548
00:32:30,950 --> 00:32:32,420
turkey.

549
00:32:32,420 --> 00:32:35,840
And so somehow, she
was so sentimental

550
00:32:35,840 --> 00:32:40,370
with her little chickens,
that one chicken,

551
00:32:40,370 --> 00:32:41,870
she wanted to take with her.

552
00:32:41,870 --> 00:32:45,620
So she took a basket,
she put some straw,

553
00:32:45,620 --> 00:32:50,900
and she took one chicken with us
to the ghetto, and some dishes,

554
00:32:50,900 --> 00:32:54,380
some little leftover
potatoes and little flour,

555
00:32:54,380 --> 00:32:57,230
whatever we still
had in the house.

556
00:32:57,230 --> 00:33:01,100
And each one of us
packed up some suitcase

557
00:33:01,100 --> 00:33:03,410
with some clothing.

558
00:33:03,410 --> 00:33:07,020
And here, we went with the
buggy arriving to the ghetto.

559
00:33:07,020 --> 00:33:11,286
And did you take any favorite
things that you wanted to have?

560
00:33:11,286 --> 00:33:18,410
Only our personal jewelry,
but we were not allowed to.

561
00:33:18,410 --> 00:33:24,380
We had to leave everything,
such as clothing--

562
00:33:24,380 --> 00:33:24,980
Books?

563
00:33:24,980 --> 00:33:26,270
Books.

564
00:33:26,270 --> 00:33:28,700
It had to be in the inventory.

565
00:33:28,700 --> 00:33:31,510
We had to write down
how many books we have

566
00:33:31,510 --> 00:33:33,980

or how many lamps
we have, how many--

567
00:33:33,980 --> 00:33:34,770
So you couldn't--

568
00:33:34,770 --> 00:33:37,293
--furniture we have, but
we could not take with us.

569
00:33:37,293 --> 00:33:38,710
You couldn't take
a favorite book?

570
00:33:38,710 --> 00:33:39,260
No.

571
00:33:39,260 --> 00:33:41,405
No, we couldn't take
a favorite book.

572
00:33:41,405 --> 00:33:43,250
The only thing that
we took with us

573
00:33:43,250 --> 00:33:47,030
was really our personal jewelry.

574
00:33:47,030 --> 00:33:51,440
And my father took
with him, when he--

575
00:33:51,440 --> 00:33:53,450
at the beginning, he
went, he took with him

576
00:33:53,450 --> 00:33:56,030
some books to study.

577
00:33:56,030 --> 00:33:59,240
But we, when we had
to leave the house,

578

00:33:59,240 --> 00:34:01,820

we had to leave
everything in the house.

579

00:34:01,820 --> 00:34:07,520

And the official
statement of the German

580

00:34:07,520 --> 00:34:09,320

was that you will
come back and you

581

00:34:09,320 --> 00:34:11,900

will-- that's why we
are doing the inventory,

582

00:34:11,900 --> 00:34:15,540

so that we can claim,
when we come back,

583

00:34:15,540 --> 00:34:18,290

what is missing from the house.

584

00:34:18,290 --> 00:34:20,270

That's where now,
you know that behind

585

00:34:20,270 --> 00:34:25,820

of all these decrees and
organization of the Jews

586

00:34:25,820 --> 00:34:30,350

to go into the ghettos
in Hungary was Eichmann.

587

00:34:30,350 --> 00:34:33,110

Eichmann was in
Budapest, and he was

588

00:34:33,110 --> 00:34:37,699

the one who was organizing the
departure of the Jewish people

589

00:34:37,699 --> 00:34:39,830
from Hungary.

590

00:34:39,830 --> 00:34:44,480
And the inventory
and what you can take

591

00:34:44,480 --> 00:34:46,370
and what you can't
take, this was

592

00:34:46,370 --> 00:34:51,420
all from the Eichmann office.

593

00:34:51,420 --> 00:34:55,170
And the Jewish
organization was hoping

594

00:34:55,170 --> 00:34:58,530
to have some kind of
dialogue with him,

595

00:34:58,530 --> 00:35:02,850
some kind of agreement
with him, that if people

596

00:35:02,850 --> 00:35:05,970
are going to give you a
certain amount of money,

597

00:35:05,970 --> 00:35:08,520
would you leave
the Jewish people

598

00:35:08,520 --> 00:35:12,390
to stay in the ghetto in
Hungary, or some of them

599

00:35:12,390 --> 00:35:15,880
even in their homes?

600

00:35:15,880 --> 00:35:18,510

We arrived to the
ghetto, and we were

601
00:35:18,510 --> 00:35:23,020
shocked to see how
many Jewish people have

602
00:35:23,020 --> 00:35:25,770
been occupying already.

603
00:35:25,770 --> 00:35:29,610
And the headquarters
that was given to us

604
00:35:29,610 --> 00:35:34,120
was one tiny, small room and
a tiny eensy-peensy little

605
00:35:34,120 --> 00:35:35,350
kitchen.

606
00:35:35,350 --> 00:35:42,490
And yet, I have to say that all
was luxury apartment compared

607
00:35:42,490 --> 00:35:46,990
to many other people who had
to sleep together in two,

608
00:35:46,990 --> 00:35:49,590
three families in one room.

609
00:35:49,590 --> 00:35:51,790
Is this, do you think,
because your father was

610
00:35:51,790 --> 00:35:53,110
the head of the ghetto, that--

611
00:35:53,110 --> 00:35:53,510
Maybe.

612

00:35:53,510 --> 00:35:54,040
--you had better quarters?

613
00:35:54,040 --> 00:35:54,620
Maybe.

614
00:35:54,620 --> 00:35:59,500
And maybe, they, after all,
felt that the rabbi still

615
00:35:59,500 --> 00:36:02,170
is somebody important.

616
00:36:02,170 --> 00:36:03,580
Let's give him--

617
00:36:03,580 --> 00:36:09,010
I really think that that
was the reason for it.

618
00:36:09,010 --> 00:36:12,310
My mother placed the little
basket with the chicken

619
00:36:12,310 --> 00:36:15,270
in the kitchen.

620
00:36:15,270 --> 00:36:19,270
And this made she felt like
there is some part with her

621
00:36:19,270 --> 00:36:21,040
from her childhood.

622
00:36:21,040 --> 00:36:23,730
She was brought up,
she was born in Å“nod.

623
00:36:23,730 --> 00:36:25,630
She was the
daughter-- her father,

624

00:36:25,630 --> 00:36:28,140
my grandfather was
the previous rabbi

625
00:36:28,140 --> 00:36:30,750
before my father
became the rabbi there.

626
00:36:30,750 --> 00:36:35,880
So everything from the town, the
river, the grass, the chicken,

627
00:36:35,880 --> 00:36:36,840
the fruit--

628
00:36:36,840 --> 00:36:40,020
everything was a
part of her life.

629
00:36:40,020 --> 00:36:43,700
And at least, this
chicken reminded her.

630
00:36:43,700 --> 00:36:48,200
And the chicken is a very
special story, because usually,

631
00:36:48,200 --> 00:36:52,100
chickens, they lay
egg every other day,

632
00:36:52,100 --> 00:36:54,590
except today, when
they are in incubator,

633
00:36:54,590 --> 00:36:55,950
and the food is different.

634
00:36:55,950 --> 00:37:01,670
But in the primitive way of
feeding them and raising them,

635
00:37:01,670 --> 00:37:04,880

chickens used to lay
egg every other day.

636
00:37:04,880 --> 00:37:07,820
And while we were in
the ghetto, that chicken

637
00:37:07,820 --> 00:37:11,250
laid egg every single day.

638
00:37:11,250 --> 00:37:13,560
And I remember that
my mother always

639
00:37:13,560 --> 00:37:16,800
said that this egg is
for my youngest daughter

640
00:37:16,800 --> 00:37:20,280
because she is so skinny--

641
00:37:20,280 --> 00:37:24,300
in those days-- and
she should be eating.

642
00:37:24,300 --> 00:37:25,510
And I refused.

643
00:37:25,510 --> 00:37:27,540
So sometimes, she
made a scrambled egg

644
00:37:27,540 --> 00:37:30,960
and divided between all of us.

645
00:37:30,960 --> 00:37:34,230
Sometimes, she collected
at least two eggs,

646
00:37:34,230 --> 00:37:38,340
and she baked a cake
with the little leftover

647

00:37:38,340 --> 00:37:41,400

flours that she
brought with her.

648

00:37:41,400 --> 00:37:46,390

And then, we celebrated
Shavuot, which

649

00:37:46,390 --> 00:37:50,890

one is the holiday of receiving
the Torah and half Sinai,

650

00:37:50,890 --> 00:37:52,360

on Mountain Sinai.

651

00:37:52,360 --> 00:37:53,230

We celebrated.

652

00:37:53,230 --> 00:37:57,610

That was the last holiday that
I was with my parents together.

653

00:37:57,610 --> 00:38:02,050

And before that, there went a
whole discussion, what should

654

00:38:02,050 --> 00:38:03,970

we prepare for the holiday?

655

00:38:03,970 --> 00:38:08,020

We were used to have nice meal.

656

00:38:08,020 --> 00:38:10,800

And my mother started to cry.

657

00:38:10,800 --> 00:38:14,140

And she said, should
we kill the chicken,

658

00:38:14,140 --> 00:38:16,120

and I make a nice meal?

659

00:38:16,120 --> 00:38:19,650
Or should we keep the chicken?

660

00:38:19,650 --> 00:38:21,160
I'm sorry.

661

00:38:21,160 --> 00:38:23,650
So the decision
was that they kill

662

00:38:23,650 --> 00:38:26,110
the chicken, because you
don't know what will be,

663

00:38:26,110 --> 00:38:28,240
really, our fate.

664

00:38:28,240 --> 00:38:32,560
Apparently, they sensed--
again, it's a indication,

665

00:38:32,560 --> 00:38:36,790
which one at that time, I didn't
understand, but looking back--

666

00:38:36,790 --> 00:38:40,210
and Mother made from
that one chicken--

667

00:38:40,210 --> 00:38:41,560
name it, everything.

668

00:38:41,560 --> 00:38:42,760
She made chicken soup.

669

00:38:42,760 --> 00:38:43,990
She made roast chicken.

670

00:38:43,990 --> 00:38:48,250
She made hamburger
from the white part.

671

00:38:48,250 --> 00:38:52,790

And that was the last chicken
soup that my mother made.

672

00:38:52,790 --> 00:38:56,980

And what was your religious
life like in the ghetto?

673

00:38:56,980 --> 00:38:58,810

In the ghetto,
the religious life

674

00:38:58,810 --> 00:39:01,540

was that my father had
a special room where

675

00:39:01,540 --> 00:39:05,890

the people went to pray, and--

676

00:39:05,890 --> 00:39:08,460

This is where everyone
in the ghetto--

677

00:39:08,460 --> 00:39:10,090

For everybody in the ghetto.

678

00:39:10,090 --> 00:39:18,600

But it didn't take too long,
and the Hungarian police

679

00:39:18,600 --> 00:39:20,700

came to the ghetto.

680

00:39:20,700 --> 00:39:27,140

And they came to pressure
and question the people,

681

00:39:27,140 --> 00:39:32,360

where did they hide
things, and where did you

682

00:39:32,360 --> 00:39:34,640

put certain things?

683

00:39:34,640 --> 00:39:38,000

You didn't have everything
in the inventory.

684

00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:40,780

We know that you
had more silverware.

685

00:39:40,780 --> 00:39:43,470

We know that you had
some silver money.

686

00:39:43,470 --> 00:39:45,820

We know that you had a store.

687

00:39:45,820 --> 00:39:48,140

Where is all the money
that you have been

688

00:39:48,140 --> 00:39:50,210

collecting all these years?

689

00:39:50,210 --> 00:39:57,170

And many times, they will
very brutally beat up people,

690

00:39:57,170 --> 00:40:02,930

thinking that if they are
really hiding some things,

691

00:40:02,930 --> 00:40:06,230

seeing that they are so
tortured, they will give in,

692

00:40:06,230 --> 00:40:08,180

and they will tell.

693

00:40:08,180 --> 00:40:13,590

And the headquarters of
the police department

694

00:40:13,590 --> 00:40:16,010
was behind our window.

695

00:40:16,010 --> 00:40:19,840
And my mother used to hear
the screaming of the people

696

00:40:19,840 --> 00:40:21,350
when they were beaten up.

697

00:40:21,350 --> 00:40:23,990
And she just fainted.

698

00:40:23,990 --> 00:40:26,270
She just couldn't take it.

699

00:40:26,270 --> 00:40:30,800
She grew up with all these
people from her childhood on,

700

00:40:30,800 --> 00:40:33,770
and seeing them,
that they are blue,

701

00:40:33,770 --> 00:40:38,090
and that they are losing blood,
and that they are beaten up

702

00:40:38,090 --> 00:40:40,940
so severely, she just
couldn't take it.

703

00:40:40,940 --> 00:40:45,080
Either she was sitting and
praying, either she was crying

704

00:40:45,080 --> 00:40:48,500
or once, I remember
when she fainted,

705

00:40:48,500 --> 00:40:51,500
and I do remember

when that took place,

706

00:40:51,500 --> 00:40:58,700

when our doctor, who was helping
the whole town, giving birth

707

00:40:58,700 --> 00:41:04,720

to children, he was everything,
a general doctor, who

708

00:41:04,720 --> 00:41:08,530

helped heal children
and birth children

709

00:41:08,530 --> 00:41:14,020

and whatnot, he was beaten up
very severely, to that extent

710

00:41:14,020 --> 00:41:21,280

my father had to intervene
and to get permission

711

00:41:21,280 --> 00:41:24,390

to take him to a hospital.

712

00:41:24,390 --> 00:41:29,750

And unfortunately, he
died from the beating-up.

713

00:41:29,750 --> 00:41:31,880

So that was the time
that my mother--

714

00:41:31,880 --> 00:41:36,920

we used to live next
door to the doctor--

715

00:41:36,920 --> 00:41:42,240

and she just-- this
was the height of what

716

00:41:42,240 --> 00:41:44,770

she could suffer, my mother.

717
00:41:44,770 --> 00:41:51,290
And after being in the
ghetto about three weeks,

718
00:41:51,290 --> 00:41:56,040
the new decree came out that
we have to leave the ghetto.

719
00:41:56,040 --> 00:41:57,840
Now, going back to the room--

720
00:41:57,840 --> 00:41:58,340
Yes.

721
00:41:58,340 --> 00:42:01,660
--that your father had set aside
for people to come and pray--

722
00:42:01,660 --> 00:42:02,230
Yeah.

723
00:42:02,230 --> 00:42:06,820
--did that room remain
set aside for people

724
00:42:06,820 --> 00:42:09,370
to pray the whole time
you were in the ghetto?

725
00:42:09,370 --> 00:42:11,570
The whole time that
we were in the ghetto.

726
00:42:11,570 --> 00:42:15,190
And were there services
held for people to come?

727
00:42:15,190 --> 00:42:15,920
Yes.

728
00:42:15,920 --> 00:42:16,420

Yes.

729

00:42:16,420 --> 00:42:17,128

And your father--

730

00:42:17,128 --> 00:42:21,090

Three times in the day,
and my father conducted--

731

00:42:21,090 --> 00:42:21,700

Every day?

732

00:42:21,700 --> 00:42:22,590

--the prayer, yes.

733

00:42:22,590 --> 00:42:23,340

Three times a day.

734

00:42:23,340 --> 00:42:23,840

Yes.

735

00:42:23,840 --> 00:42:26,200

As well, my father
was corresponding

736

00:42:26,200 --> 00:42:32,590

with the Jewish organization
in the big city of Budapest,

737

00:42:32,590 --> 00:42:36,940

who were in contact
with Eichmann, trying

738

00:42:36,940 --> 00:42:41,080

to ease the life of the
people in the ghetto,

739

00:42:41,080 --> 00:42:44,950

questioning them,
what is our fate?

740

00:42:44,950 --> 00:42:46,600

What do we have to do?

741

00:42:46,600 --> 00:42:50,740

Do we have to listen to all
this, or should we rebel?

742

00:42:50,740 --> 00:42:58,930

Should we organize something to
escape or just follow orders?

743

00:42:58,930 --> 00:43:02,110

And that, I recall,
that the order came

744

00:43:02,110 --> 00:43:06,150

in from the Jewish
organization in Budapest

745

00:43:06,150 --> 00:43:09,910

that Eichmann is promising
that we will be taken

746

00:43:09,910 --> 00:43:16,780

to a working camp and nothing
is going to happen to anybody

747

00:43:16,780 --> 00:43:23,260

of us, and that we should be
obeying all the laws and all

748

00:43:23,260 --> 00:43:27,850

the decrees, because
that's the only way

749

00:43:27,850 --> 00:43:31,600

that everything will be smooth
and everything will be good.

750

00:43:31,600 --> 00:43:34,360

So you remember your
father talking about that?

751

00:43:34,360 --> 00:43:35,080

Yes.

752

00:43:35,080 --> 00:43:39,250

Yes, that I already remember
very well from the ghetto,

753

00:43:39,250 --> 00:43:39,930

and--

754

00:43:39,930 --> 00:43:43,930

And the services that your
father conducted in the room,

755

00:43:43,930 --> 00:43:47,560

did the police ever try
to interfere with that?

756

00:43:47,560 --> 00:43:48,130

No.

757

00:43:48,130 --> 00:43:49,550

Do you think they knew about it?

758

00:43:49,550 --> 00:43:50,690

They knew about it.

759

00:43:50,690 --> 00:43:56,710

And that was not their concern,
because as far as I remember,

760

00:43:56,710 --> 00:44:00,790

they said, let them do
what they want to do.

761

00:44:00,790 --> 00:44:02,890

It won't last too long anyway.

762

00:44:02,890 --> 00:44:03,850

OK.

763

00:44:03,850 --> 00:44:05,080

That was their approach.

764
00:44:05,080 --> 00:44:05,780
OK.

765
00:44:05,780 --> 00:44:08,720
So that, they did not
interfere with it.

766
00:44:08,720 --> 00:44:14,270
And from the ghetto,
first of all,

767
00:44:14,270 --> 00:44:19,400
they collected all
able working men.

768
00:44:19,400 --> 00:44:22,670
And at that time, it
was my father taken

769
00:44:22,670 --> 00:44:26,930
from the ghetto and my
brother and all the people

770
00:44:26,930 --> 00:44:31,350
that I can recall from
age 16 till about 45,

771
00:44:31,350 --> 00:44:37,610
50, all able working men has
been collected and taken away

772
00:44:37,610 --> 00:44:39,440
from that ghetto.

773
00:44:39,440 --> 00:44:44,070
It was very sad
kind of a farewell

774
00:44:44,070 --> 00:44:46,490
from each other departing.

775

00:44:46,490 --> 00:44:48,760

We didn't know where
they are taking them

776

00:44:48,760 --> 00:44:50,610

and what will be our fate.

777

00:44:50,610 --> 00:44:53,070

All woman and
babies and children,

778

00:44:53,070 --> 00:44:56,280

we are remaining,
and only old people.

779

00:44:56,280 --> 00:44:59,220

But they said that
they need some workers,

780

00:44:59,220 --> 00:45:03,030

so we hope that it's true,
that they are taken to work.

781

00:45:03,030 --> 00:45:04,620

Did you say they
took your father?

782

00:45:04,620 --> 00:45:05,190

Yes.

783

00:45:05,190 --> 00:45:07,580

So he had been the
head of the ghetto.

784

00:45:07,580 --> 00:45:08,810

So he was no longer--

785

00:45:08,810 --> 00:45:13,050

No longer head of ghetto,
no longer organized things

786

00:45:13,050 --> 00:45:16,170

in the ghetto, no more

praying in the ghetto.

787

00:45:16,170 --> 00:45:17,400

The men were taken.

788

00:45:17,400 --> 00:45:21,090

Two days later, they said
that all the people who

789

00:45:21,090 --> 00:45:25,780

remained in the ghetto, they
have to march 7 kilometer,

790

00:45:25,780 --> 00:45:30,870

which one is approximately
3 mile in our measurements

791

00:45:30,870 --> 00:45:38,640

here, into a brick factory
in the city of Miskolc,

792

00:45:38,640 --> 00:45:43,270

and that from there,
hopefully, in a short time,

793

00:45:43,270 --> 00:45:47,860

we'll go to Czechoslovakia,
where they need working people.

794

00:45:47,860 --> 00:45:52,380

And we will be transported
to that place, the working

795

00:45:52,380 --> 00:45:57,480

camp in Czechoslovakia
in a short time.

796

00:45:57,480 --> 00:45:59,430

So we are walking.

797

00:45:59,430 --> 00:46:04,880

And at that time, not
only Hungarian policemen,

798
00:46:04,880 --> 00:46:11,350
but the German SS soldiers
were going with us,

799
00:46:11,350 --> 00:46:12,740
marching with us.

800
00:46:12,740 --> 00:46:16,570
And if you were going slow,
they were beating you up.

801
00:46:16,570 --> 00:46:19,960
And they were hollering
that you go faster.

802
00:46:19,960 --> 00:46:21,700
We have no time.

803
00:46:21,700 --> 00:46:27,490
And we arrived to the brick
factory, which consisted only

804
00:46:27,490 --> 00:46:35,380
from a roof and no
walls, no nothing

805
00:46:35,380 --> 00:46:40,660
on the ground except
some leftover bricks.

806
00:46:40,660 --> 00:46:44,160
And as we are arriving
to that place,

807
00:46:44,160 --> 00:46:48,010
we hear some men
screaming to us.

808
00:46:48,010 --> 00:46:52,630
And we thought that we hear
the voice of my father,

809

00:46:52,630 --> 00:46:54,280
but we couldn't recognize him.

810

00:46:54,280 --> 00:46:57,100
Lo and behold, he was there.

811

00:46:57,100 --> 00:47:00,670
And they sheared his beard.

812

00:47:00,670 --> 00:47:04,210
They took off his
hair completely.

813

00:47:04,210 --> 00:47:09,130
He did not had any
more, his nice suit.

814

00:47:09,130 --> 00:47:12,530
He was in pants and a shirt.

815

00:47:12,530 --> 00:47:17,030
And then, we got united.

816

00:47:17,030 --> 00:47:20,270
And we were in
the brick factory,

817

00:47:20,270 --> 00:47:26,600
not doing nothing except crying
and starving for a few days.

818

00:47:26,600 --> 00:47:28,910
Did you have anything to eat?

819

00:47:28,910 --> 00:47:31,620
Only some leftover
bread that Mama

820

00:47:31,620 --> 00:47:38,760
baked yet in the ghetto
and maybe a few potatoes.

821

00:47:38,760 --> 00:47:44,700

I remember that my mother
went out in the ground,

822

00:47:44,700 --> 00:47:47,620

and she collected some woods.

823

00:47:47,620 --> 00:47:50,490

And she had still
with her, one pot.

824

00:47:50,490 --> 00:47:53,070

And she cooked some
kind of a potato soup,

825

00:47:53,070 --> 00:47:58,080

but it was more water than
potato or anything else in it.

826

00:47:58,080 --> 00:48:01,460

But at least it was warm.

827

00:48:01,460 --> 00:48:05,270

And really, what
we ate, mainly, it

828

00:48:05,270 --> 00:48:09,570

was stale bread that
we had still with us.

829

00:48:09,570 --> 00:48:13,190

And one day, the Germans
soldiers came in,

830

00:48:13,190 --> 00:48:16,700

and they said that they
need some few hundred girls

831

00:48:16,700 --> 00:48:22,820

to work in their headquarters,
to clean and to shine shoes.

832

00:48:22,820 --> 00:48:27,230

So my mother thought
that, here, my girls are

833

00:48:27,230 --> 00:48:30,110

going to die from starvation.

834

00:48:30,110 --> 00:48:32,810

Let them go to work.

835

00:48:32,810 --> 00:48:34,520

Maybe they will be fed.

836

00:48:34,520 --> 00:48:36,560

Maybe they can
bring home some food

837

00:48:36,560 --> 00:48:38,265

for the rest of the family.

838

00:48:38,265 --> 00:48:41,640

We were taken with army truck.

839

00:48:41,640 --> 00:48:44,740

Yet my mother gave a
whole speech-- be careful,

840

00:48:44,740 --> 00:48:47,800

you're going with
soldiers, et cetera.

841

00:48:47,800 --> 00:48:51,820

And they said that they bring
us back in the afternoon.

842

00:48:51,820 --> 00:48:57,280

We went with the soldiers
two times, two days.

843

00:48:57,280 --> 00:49:01,720

And our work was to clean
dishes, to wash their clothing,

844

00:49:01,720 --> 00:49:04,810

to iron for them, to
shine their shoes.

845

00:49:04,810 --> 00:49:09,490

And they threw us some bread
and some cooked potato,

846

00:49:09,490 --> 00:49:12,670

which was luxurious for us.

847

00:49:12,670 --> 00:49:16,860

And we brought home, we hide it
in our pocket, a few potatoes,

848

00:49:16,860 --> 00:49:18,220

a little bit bread.

849

00:49:18,220 --> 00:49:21,520

And they brought it
back to the factory.

850

00:49:21,520 --> 00:49:24,580

And the third day, we
were waiting and waiting

851

00:49:24,580 --> 00:49:29,050

that they come to pick us up
again, because at least we

852

00:49:29,050 --> 00:49:29,980

were occupied.

853

00:49:29,980 --> 00:49:31,990

We were doing something.

854

00:49:31,990 --> 00:49:36,250

Plus, to eat, we were given a
little bit something to eat.

855

00:49:36,250 --> 00:49:37,900

They didn't come.

856
00:49:37,900 --> 00:49:42,370
And instead of that,
again, they announced

857
00:49:42,370 --> 00:49:47,200
that we have to march
from the factory, which

858
00:49:47,200 --> 00:49:50,170
was very close to
the railroad, we

859
00:49:50,170 --> 00:49:53,410
have to march to the railroad.

860
00:49:53,410 --> 00:49:58,360
And we can take as many things
we have still left over.

861
00:49:58,360 --> 00:50:02,380
And we are now going to
travel to the real good place.

862
00:50:02,380 --> 00:50:06,130
We are going to
travel to the factory

863
00:50:06,130 --> 00:50:10,495
in Czechoslovakia, to a working
camp-- not to a factory,

864
00:50:10,495 --> 00:50:12,610
but to a working camp.

865
00:50:12,610 --> 00:50:16,060
So little we understood
or little, really,

866
00:50:16,060 --> 00:50:20,780
we knew what that meant,
to go to the railroad.

867

00:50:20,780 --> 00:50:24,180

Again, the Germans,
with their huge dogs

868

00:50:24,180 --> 00:50:29,400

this time, they were the ones
who were taking care of us,

869

00:50:29,400 --> 00:50:31,230

watching over us.

870

00:50:31,230 --> 00:50:35,920

And whoever was collapsing,
the dog just tore it apart.

871

00:50:35,920 --> 00:50:43,870

We were walking, rushing to
work, rushing to the railroad.

872

00:50:43,870 --> 00:50:49,380

And we just couldn't believe
our eyes, what kind of train

873

00:50:49,380 --> 00:50:51,760

was waiting for us.

874

00:50:51,760 --> 00:50:55,980

It was the cattle
train without window.

875

00:50:55,980 --> 00:51:02,280

They pushed us in, 70
people into one cattle

876

00:51:02,280 --> 00:51:04,860

train, to one wagon.

877

00:51:04,860 --> 00:51:07,350

And they gave us two bottles.

878

00:51:07,350 --> 00:51:13,020

In one was water, and the

other one, instead of bathroom.

879

00:51:13,020 --> 00:51:20,260

Old people screaming and
crying, squeezed like sardines.

880

00:51:20,260 --> 00:51:23,540

And they closed the door.

881

00:51:23,540 --> 00:51:26,750

Here we are in the cattle train.

882

00:51:26,750 --> 00:51:32,230

And my mother and father were
sitting next to each other.

883

00:51:32,230 --> 00:51:34,910

And it was nighttime.

884

00:51:34,910 --> 00:51:39,590

And I heard my mother crying.

885

00:51:39,590 --> 00:51:44,630

And my father said, I wish
that at least the children

886

00:51:44,630 --> 00:51:46,700

should remain alive.

887

00:51:46,700 --> 00:51:52,220

So again, I am sure
that they sensed it.

888

00:51:52,220 --> 00:51:53,660

They knew it.

889

00:51:53,660 --> 00:51:56,450

They had some kind
of information.

890

00:51:56,450 --> 00:51:59,330

They were fearful, their

instinct, whatever,

891
00:51:59,330 --> 00:52:03,890
but they knew that this is
not going to a good place.

892
00:52:03,890 --> 00:52:06,170
You don't take people in a--

893
00:52:06,170 --> 00:52:07,580
And what about you?

894
00:52:07,580 --> 00:52:10,970
Do you remember what you
were thinking at the time?

895
00:52:10,970 --> 00:52:13,220
At the time, I was just
thinking, where could

896
00:52:13,220 --> 00:52:16,500
I have some air?

897
00:52:16,500 --> 00:52:20,100
Where could I have
something to drink?

898
00:52:20,100 --> 00:52:24,870
How could I calm the younger
children that were crying?

899
00:52:24,870 --> 00:52:27,000
So you were thinking of
the immediate present--

900
00:52:27,000 --> 00:52:27,970
Of in the--

901
00:52:27,970 --> 00:52:28,530
--and not--

902
00:52:28,530 --> 00:52:29,150

Yes.

903

00:52:29,150 --> 00:52:29,733

Nothing that--

904

00:52:29,733 --> 00:52:31,650

--thinking about what
going to happen so much?

905

00:52:31,650 --> 00:52:32,160

No.

906

00:52:32,160 --> 00:52:33,495

No, I was not thinking.

907

00:52:33,495 --> 00:52:36,610

908

00:52:36,610 --> 00:52:39,100

For sure, I was
thinking of my mother,

909

00:52:39,100 --> 00:52:43,110

because I saw that she is
really not feeling good anymore.

910

00:52:43,110 --> 00:52:47,010

And I was very
close to my mother.

911

00:52:47,010 --> 00:52:53,550

And I used to pet her and calm
her and say to her that God is

912

00:52:53,550 --> 00:52:55,830

with us, and it will be good.

913

00:52:55,830 --> 00:52:58,550

And my mother would say,
for sure, you will have yet,

914

00:52:58,550 --> 00:53:00,150

a beautiful life.

915

00:53:00,150 --> 00:53:04,290

And then, she would
overcome her sadness,

916

00:53:04,290 --> 00:53:09,820

just to reassure her children
that everything will be OK.

917

00:53:09,820 --> 00:53:12,910

When we got to the
city of Kosice,

918

00:53:12,910 --> 00:53:19,050

which is a border city between
Hungary and Czechoslovakia--

919

00:53:19,050 --> 00:53:20,300

What was the name of it?

920

00:53:20,300 --> 00:53:22,150

Kosice.

921

00:53:22,150 --> 00:53:29,800

And they opened the wagon,
the train, the cattle train,

922

00:53:29,800 --> 00:53:33,670

and they said that
one person can

923

00:53:33,670 --> 00:53:42,580

go down and fetch some water
and empty the bathroom bucket.

924

00:53:42,580 --> 00:53:45,550

So nobody was daring to do that.

925

00:53:45,550 --> 00:53:48,770

They thought that this
is some kind of a trick

926

00:53:48,770 --> 00:53:54,560

that the Germans are trying to
have some person to go down,

927

00:53:54,560 --> 00:53:57,320

and they will kill that person.

928

00:53:57,320 --> 00:54:00,520

My brother volunteered.

929

00:54:00,520 --> 00:54:02,830

And he went down.

930

00:54:02,830 --> 00:54:08,200

And he looked around, and he
saw that we are in a city.

931

00:54:08,200 --> 00:54:13,540

From the train station, he
could sense it or recognize it.

932

00:54:13,540 --> 00:54:16,150

And he fetched the water.

933

00:54:16,150 --> 00:54:20,440

And he asked, aren't we
getting all off from the train?

934

00:54:20,440 --> 00:54:22,850

And that the German
soldier said, no, no, no,

935

00:54:22,850 --> 00:54:27,140

we are not yet in the place
where your working camp is.

936

00:54:27,140 --> 00:54:30,240

It is taking a
little bit longer.

937

00:54:30,240 --> 00:54:32,470

And before they really

closed the door,

938

00:54:32,470 --> 00:54:38,840

they asked that if you still
have on you any jewelry,

939

00:54:38,840 --> 00:54:40,160

please give it now.

940

00:54:40,160 --> 00:54:41,430

You will get it back.

941

00:54:41,430 --> 00:54:47,730

But because we are going over
a border, and it's not good,

942

00:54:47,730 --> 00:54:51,690

and it might get lost,
and all kind of stories,

943

00:54:51,690 --> 00:54:56,310

and they took away the last
jewelry that we still had.

944

00:54:56,310 --> 00:54:59,700

By the way, I forgot to start
that before we went away

945

00:54:59,700 --> 00:55:02,310

from the ghetto, they
already took it away

946

00:55:02,310 --> 00:55:06,930

from us all the jewelry
except each one of us

947

00:55:06,930 --> 00:55:13,110

was trying to hide a mementos,
ring, or my mother, her wedding

948

00:55:13,110 --> 00:55:20,040

band, or my father had a very
special gold watch that he

949
00:55:20,040 --> 00:55:22,560
had it in his pocket.

950
00:55:22,560 --> 00:55:25,800
And they came,
and they screamed.

951
00:55:25,800 --> 00:55:29,250
And they said, you better
give it, because otherwise, we

952
00:55:29,250 --> 00:55:30,960
beat you to death.

953
00:55:30,960 --> 00:55:35,220
So everybody got scared,
and the last jewelry

954
00:55:35,220 --> 00:55:39,820
or the last possession that
we had, we gave it right away.

955
00:55:39,820 --> 00:55:42,450
They closed the
door, and the train

956
00:55:42,450 --> 00:55:46,830
was going like mad, was rushing.

957
00:55:46,830 --> 00:55:50,700
Where is the train
rushing so much?

958
00:55:50,700 --> 00:55:52,630
And the noise was tremendous.

959
00:55:52,630 --> 00:55:55,850
And the crying,
and people died--

960
00:55:55,850 --> 00:55:59,270

people in the train.

961
00:55:59,270 --> 00:56:01,790
And after three days--

962
00:56:01,790 --> 00:56:06,920
3 and 1/2, they said, actually,
traveling in this abnormal kind

963
00:56:06,920 --> 00:56:09,170
of situation--

964
00:56:09,170 --> 00:56:10,610
no more water.

965
00:56:10,610 --> 00:56:13,990
The bucket was full
with what people made.

966
00:56:13,990 --> 00:56:18,860
This smell, the starvation,
the crying, the screaming,

967
00:56:18,860 --> 00:56:20,720
the unknown--

968
00:56:20,720 --> 00:56:24,650
people were
completely washed out.

969
00:56:24,650 --> 00:56:28,520
Some old people who
died, they smelled.

970
00:56:28,520 --> 00:56:33,590
And suddenly, they
open the train.

971
00:56:33,590 --> 00:56:36,620
We are in Auschwitz.

972
00:56:36,620 --> 00:56:42,250

When we arrive to Auschwitz,
first the German soldiers

973
00:56:42,250 --> 00:56:45,670
with their dog, they
came to the door.

974
00:56:45,670 --> 00:56:48,220
And they said that
you have to get off

975
00:56:48,220 --> 00:56:51,370
very fast from the
train, because you

976
00:56:51,370 --> 00:56:55,060
are going to start to work.

977
00:56:55,060 --> 00:56:57,520
And leave your belongings.

978
00:56:57,520 --> 00:56:59,250
That will be shipped
to your camp.

979
00:56:59,250 --> 00:57:02,070
Why should you carry it?

980
00:57:02,070 --> 00:57:06,640
Then there were some
striped-clothed men,

981
00:57:06,640 --> 00:57:10,790
who were screaming
also that, go fast!

982
00:57:10,790 --> 00:57:13,900
You have to line
up five in a row.

983
00:57:13,900 --> 00:57:17,180
And in between
screaming to us, they

984

00:57:17,180 --> 00:57:22,880

talk to us in Yiddish, a few
verse in the Jewish language,

985

00:57:22,880 --> 00:57:28,070

saying to us that, don't go,
the mothers with the babies.

986

00:57:28,070 --> 00:57:31,610

Give the babies to
the old grandmothers.

987

00:57:31,610 --> 00:57:33,620

And we thought they're crazy.

988

00:57:33,620 --> 00:57:36,080

Why are they saying this?

989

00:57:36,080 --> 00:57:38,600

Why should a mother
give up her child

990

00:57:38,600 --> 00:57:43,760

and give it to a old grandmother
that hardly can walk anymore?

991

00:57:43,760 --> 00:57:48,860

We all looked pale,
hungry, tired.

992

00:57:48,860 --> 00:57:50,570

There are none.

993

00:57:50,570 --> 00:57:54,740

The mental facilities, they
are not working properly

994

00:57:54,740 --> 00:57:58,420

anymore when you've starved for
such a long time, when you've

995

00:57:58,420 --> 00:58:01,400
suffered with the darkness.

996
00:58:01,400 --> 00:58:07,260
We didn't want to believe
what they are saying to us

997
00:58:07,260 --> 00:58:09,680
or to do what they are telling.

998
00:58:09,680 --> 00:58:14,730
There were people, though, whose
mind was maybe working better,

999
00:58:14,730 --> 00:58:18,000
who took the babies and gave
it to the grandmother, which

1000
00:58:18,000 --> 00:58:19,980
one saved many people's life.

1001
00:58:19,980 --> 00:58:23,120

1002
00:58:23,120 --> 00:58:28,530
But we didn't want
to depart from Mama.

1003
00:58:28,530 --> 00:58:31,170
They said, don't go
families together.

1004
00:58:31,170 --> 00:58:33,240
Then, they would
holler in German.

1005
00:58:33,240 --> 00:58:36,000
But in between, each
time, they would give us

1006
00:58:36,000 --> 00:58:41,260
some little advice,
something that later on, we

1007
00:58:41,260 --> 00:58:45,490
understood how much they
wanted to try to help us

1008
00:58:45,490 --> 00:58:47,560
and to save us.

1009
00:58:47,560 --> 00:58:50,875
Then, when they noticed that the
German soldier with the big dog

1010
00:58:50,875 --> 00:58:53,680
is coming, they would
holler, schnell, schnell!

1011
00:58:53,680 --> 00:58:55,840
Los, los!

1012
00:58:55,840 --> 00:58:59,200
You have to go fast and
line up, separate the men,

1013
00:58:59,200 --> 00:59:01,090
separate the women.

1014
00:59:01,090 --> 00:59:01,940
We lined up.

1015
00:59:01,940 --> 00:59:06,010
And we were standing, Mama in
the middle, my sister, and me,

1016
00:59:06,010 --> 00:59:10,090
and then two other girls
from our home town,

1017
00:59:10,090 --> 00:59:14,500
and the men in a separate line.

1018
00:59:14,500 --> 00:59:20,470
And I remember my father

screaming my name.

1019

00:59:20,470 --> 00:59:24,140

He was very worried
because I was the youngest.

1020

00:59:24,140 --> 00:59:26,440

So you were then about 13?

1021

00:59:26,440 --> 00:59:29,890

Yes, and I was very,
very skinny girl.

1022

00:59:29,890 --> 00:59:32,230

They used to send
me to a resort place

1023

00:59:32,230 --> 00:59:34,460

to gain a little bit of weight.

1024

00:59:34,460 --> 00:59:38,830

When I was a child, I just
happened to be very slim.

1025

00:59:38,830 --> 00:59:42,100

And my father was
screaming my name.

1026

00:59:42,100 --> 00:59:46,180

And I turned around, and
he said, whatever happens,

1027

00:59:46,180 --> 00:59:50,690

wherever you go, you
continue to believe in God.

1028

00:59:50,690 --> 00:59:53,890

And that's the last
verse of my father

1029

00:59:53,890 --> 00:59:56,310

that's ringing each
time in my ear.

1030
00:59:56,310 --> 00:59:59,190

1031
00:59:59,190 --> 01:00:05,160
Apparently, he knew that
terrible things are coming,

1032
01:00:05,160 --> 01:00:09,690
and he wanted to reassure
that we should continue

1033
01:00:09,690 --> 01:00:13,290
or that the faith
should give us strength.

1034
01:00:13,290 --> 01:00:16,550
Let's stop here and
turn over the tape.

1035
01:00:16,550 --> 01:00:18,138