

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,440

2

00:00:01,440 --> 00:00:04,440

This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:04,440 --> 00:00:07,440

interview with
Stefan Wohl conducted

4

00:00:07,440 --> 00:00:12,330

by Gail Schwartz on
February 16th, 1997

5

00:00:12,330 --> 00:00:14,700

in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

6

00:00:14,700 --> 00:00:23,490

This is tape number one, side A.

7

00:00:23,490 --> 00:00:26,770

What is your full name?

8

00:00:26,770 --> 00:00:29,170

Stefan Wohl.

9

00:00:29,170 --> 00:00:30,920

And where were you born?

10

00:00:30,920 --> 00:00:33,300

I was born in Vienna, Austria.

11

00:00:33,300 --> 00:00:35,190

And when were you born?

12

00:00:35,190 --> 00:00:40,300

I was born on
February 4th, 1934.

13

00:00:40,300 --> 00:00:42,100

Let's talk a little
bit about your family.

14

00:00:42,100 --> 00:00:46,640

Who were the members who made
up your immediate family?

15

00:00:46,640 --> 00:00:50,320

My father, Arthur Wohl,
who was up in age.

16

00:00:50,320 --> 00:00:54,160

And my mother, Gisella Wohl.

17

00:00:54,160 --> 00:00:59,110

And my sister, Lianne Gauss.

18

00:00:59,110 --> 00:01:02,470

At the moment Lianne Gauss,
at that time Lianne Wohl.

19

00:01:02,470 --> 00:01:04,879

Was she younger-- is she
younger or older than you?

20

00:01:04,879 --> 00:01:07,110

She's 1 and 1/2 years older.

21

00:01:07,110 --> 00:01:10,150

22

00:01:10,150 --> 00:01:11,790

I know, obviously,
you were very young.

23

00:01:11,790 --> 00:01:14,250

But let's talk a little
bit about memories

24

00:01:14,250 --> 00:01:17,100

of your childhood.

25

00:01:17,100 --> 00:01:20,440

Did you have a lot
of extended family?

26

00:01:20,440 --> 00:01:23,240

Yes, we had extended
family on both sides.

27

00:01:23,240 --> 00:01:24,750

We lived all together.

28

00:01:24,750 --> 00:01:27,930

We lived-- I was born in
Vienna, but we lived in Krakow

29

00:01:27,930 --> 00:01:29,050

in Poland.

30

00:01:29,050 --> 00:01:30,550

My father had
businesses in Vienna,

31

00:01:30,550 --> 00:01:32,190

so we stayed there for--

32

00:01:32,190 --> 00:01:34,200

is the sound OK?

33

00:01:34,200 --> 00:01:40,750

We stayed there for about
half a year, every year.

34

00:01:40,750 --> 00:01:43,138

So you went back and
forth between Krakow and--

35

00:01:43,138 --> 00:01:44,180

From there and to Vienna.

36

00:01:44,180 --> 00:01:49,000

And you know, also was the
more cosmopolitan city.

37
00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:50,860
And my mother liked it more.

38
00:01:50,860 --> 00:01:52,780
And we stayed there.

39
00:01:52,780 --> 00:01:53,950
We had the house there.

40
00:01:53,950 --> 00:01:56,260
And we stayed there for a while.

41
00:01:56,260 --> 00:01:58,550
What kind of work
did your father do?

42
00:01:58,550 --> 00:02:01,260
He was a banker in Poland.

43
00:02:01,260 --> 00:02:07,700
To illustrate what kind
of a person my father was,

44
00:02:07,700 --> 00:02:13,260
his bank was founded by
his mother, [? Holzig. ?]

45
00:02:13,260 --> 00:02:15,610
And his father worked in this.

46
00:02:15,610 --> 00:02:19,440
And of course, when he
was getting to the age

47
00:02:19,440 --> 00:02:22,390
to start working, his father
called him in, and says,

48
00:02:22,390 --> 00:02:24,400
do you want to work here for me?

49

00:02:24,400 --> 00:02:26,380

And he said no.

50

00:02:26,380 --> 00:02:27,280

No.

51

00:02:27,280 --> 00:02:29,398

But what I'm going to
do, I'm going to Germany,

52

00:02:29,398 --> 00:02:30,190

I'm going to study.

53

00:02:30,190 --> 00:02:32,390

And then I'll buy
the bank from you.

54

00:02:32,390 --> 00:02:33,340

That's what he did.

55

00:02:33,340 --> 00:02:35,410

Then he put his father--

56

00:02:35,410 --> 00:02:37,690

he retired his
father, transformed it

57

00:02:37,690 --> 00:02:41,350

into probably the greatest
private bank in Poland.

58

00:02:41,350 --> 00:02:43,047

What was the name of the bank?

59

00:02:43,047 --> 00:02:46,840

[? Holzig, ?] which was
the name of his mother,

60

00:02:46,840 --> 00:02:47,830

my father's mother.

61

00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:50,490

62

00:02:50,490 --> 00:02:54,150

So did you live half the year
in one city and half the year

63

00:02:54,150 --> 00:02:55,320

in the other?

64

00:02:55,320 --> 00:02:58,560

Which parts did you live when?

65

00:02:58,560 --> 00:02:59,940

Well, we lived in Vienna.

66

00:02:59,940 --> 00:03:03,180

We also went a lot, I
remember, to Sant Anton,

67

00:03:03,180 --> 00:03:04,950

which was a skiing resort.

68

00:03:04,950 --> 00:03:08,570

I think that that's where my
love of skiing comes from.

69

00:03:08,570 --> 00:03:10,710

And we lived in Krakow.

70

00:03:10,710 --> 00:03:12,570

In Krakow, we lived
interestingly,

71

00:03:12,570 --> 00:03:15,780

because the bank was located
on a very good street in front

72

00:03:15,780 --> 00:03:18,060

of the castle on the corner.

73

00:03:18,060 --> 00:03:21,150

And the first floor
was of my parents.

74
00:03:21,150 --> 00:03:22,860
The second floor was ours.

75
00:03:22,860 --> 00:03:30,176
And the third floor was of
my uncle on my father's side.

76
00:03:30,176 --> 00:03:33,450
So we lived all together,
all family lived together.

77
00:03:33,450 --> 00:03:36,010

78
00:03:36,010 --> 00:03:40,560
What kind of relationship did
you have with your parents?

79
00:03:40,560 --> 00:03:43,350
Was it a very close
relationship, spending a lot

80
00:03:43,350 --> 00:03:45,150
of time with you?

81
00:03:45,150 --> 00:03:47,200
That's an interesting question.

82
00:03:47,200 --> 00:03:51,570
And yes, we had-- in a way,
we had a close relationship.

83
00:03:51,570 --> 00:03:54,540
In another way, we
didn't see much of them.

84
00:03:54,540 --> 00:04:01,950
Because at that time, it was
fashionable for the parents

85

00:04:01,950 --> 00:04:04,530

to have their own
life and the children

86

00:04:04,530 --> 00:04:10,920

to have their own
life with a nanny.

87

00:04:10,920 --> 00:04:12,360

With a nanny.

88

00:04:12,360 --> 00:04:16,519

And we ate separately.

89

00:04:16,519 --> 00:04:20,050

We met once a day when my father
came by to go to the bank.

90

00:04:20,050 --> 00:04:23,740

He said good morning,
and he went to the bank.

91

00:04:23,740 --> 00:04:26,180

And our food was different.

92

00:04:26,180 --> 00:04:27,530

Everything was different.

93

00:04:27,530 --> 00:04:28,970

The children were children.

94

00:04:28,970 --> 00:04:32,200

The adults were adults.

95

00:04:32,200 --> 00:04:34,930

But it was a close
relationship, especially when

96

00:04:34,930 --> 00:04:37,120

it came to it during the war.

97

00:04:37,120 --> 00:04:39,330

It was very close, yes.

98

00:04:39,330 --> 00:04:42,050

How religious was your family?

99

00:04:42,050 --> 00:04:43,390

How religious was my family?

100

00:04:43,390 --> 00:04:46,040

Not very religious.

101

00:04:46,040 --> 00:04:51,080

My father was a very
religious man to himself.

102

00:04:51,080 --> 00:04:54,040

He had his own religion.

103

00:04:54,040 --> 00:04:55,720

He knew the Bible.

104

00:04:55,720 --> 00:05:00,090

Not only knew it, but
reread it day by day.

105

00:05:00,090 --> 00:05:04,800

106

00:05:04,800 --> 00:05:10,820

His religion was to
be correct and to go

107

00:05:10,820 --> 00:05:13,280

by the standards of the Bible.

108

00:05:13,280 --> 00:05:14,510

He did not pray.

109

00:05:14,510 --> 00:05:16,132

He was not a praying man.

110

00:05:16,132 --> 00:05:17,340

He belonged to the synagogue.

111

00:05:17,340 --> 00:05:19,310

He was-- I don't know
what he was in the ser--

112

00:05:19,310 --> 00:05:20,960

but he was important.

113

00:05:20,960 --> 00:05:22,680

Did he come from a
religious family?

114

00:05:22,680 --> 00:05:26,570

Yes, he came-- from both sides,
they were religious families.

115

00:05:26,570 --> 00:05:31,100

And an interesting thing
was that the bank in Poland

116

00:05:31,100 --> 00:05:33,330

was open on Saturdays.

117

00:05:33,330 --> 00:05:38,750

So both families made
incredible pressure on him

118

00:05:38,750 --> 00:05:41,390

to close the bank on Saturday.

119

00:05:41,390 --> 00:05:44,440

They were very religious
people on both sides.

120

00:05:44,440 --> 00:05:47,530

And my father, I don't know
whether he couldn't because it

121

00:05:47,530 --> 00:05:49,800

was in Poland, or

whether he would--

122
00:05:49,800 --> 00:05:52,450
it was a private bank,
he probably could do it.

123
00:05:52,450 --> 00:05:55,360
But he compromised by
closing the front doors

124
00:05:55,360 --> 00:05:58,460
and the people went in
the back to the bank.

125
00:05:58,460 --> 00:05:59,600
That was his compromise.

126
00:05:59,600 --> 00:06:02,860
So here you can see what
kind of religious man he was.

127
00:06:02,860 --> 00:06:05,620
But he was very religious
for himself, yes.

128
00:06:05,620 --> 00:06:09,220
Did you celebrate any holidays
at home, religious holidays?

129
00:06:09,220 --> 00:06:11,710
Yes, we celebrated the big ones.

130
00:06:11,710 --> 00:06:13,000
Yes, we celebrated.

131
00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:18,190
I can't remember whether
we celebrated the Shabbos,

132
00:06:18,190 --> 00:06:21,940
but from later on in Brazil, no.

133

00:06:21,940 --> 00:06:24,520

But here's another
curious thing,

134

00:06:24,520 --> 00:06:28,390

which my sister recalls very
well because it made a bigger

135

00:06:28,390 --> 00:06:30,280

impression on her than on me.

136

00:06:30,280 --> 00:06:36,280

But when she was, I think,
five years old or six, we

137

00:06:36,280 --> 00:06:38,710

were allowed, we were
called in for the Seder.

138

00:06:38,710 --> 00:06:42,280

So this was a big thing
to have a Seder together

139

00:06:42,280 --> 00:06:43,660

with our parents.

140

00:06:43,660 --> 00:06:45,640

We sat at the table,
and there were guests,

141

00:06:45,640 --> 00:06:48,260

and there were my parents.

142

00:06:48,260 --> 00:06:51,800

And she was beaming
in happiness.

143

00:06:51,800 --> 00:06:56,680

But then the food appeared, and
everybody got a Seder dinner,

144

00:06:56,680 --> 00:07:01,240

except us, who got the porridge

that we had, every [INAUDIBLE],,

145

00:07:01,240 --> 00:07:03,380

whatever it was every day.

146

00:07:03,380 --> 00:07:05,740

So my sister started crying.

147

00:07:05,740 --> 00:07:07,720

Which she never--
she was an adult, so

148

00:07:07,720 --> 00:07:09,520

she would never do it.

149

00:07:09,520 --> 00:07:12,880

But she felt so offended.

150

00:07:12,880 --> 00:07:15,970

To call her in to give her
this child food, you know.

151

00:07:15,970 --> 00:07:19,922

And my mother was not a very
good child psychologist.

152

00:07:19,922 --> 00:07:21,880

And she couldn't understand
why she was crying.

153

00:07:21,880 --> 00:07:24,790

So out we went, we were
never invited again.

154

00:07:24,790 --> 00:07:28,630

So I guess she must have been
five years old at that time.

155

00:07:28,630 --> 00:07:31,300

What language did
you speak at home?

156

00:07:31,300 --> 00:07:34,540
Our first language was German
because we were born in Vienna,

157
00:07:34,540 --> 00:07:37,360
and my parents
made the special--

158
00:07:37,360 --> 00:07:41,080

159
00:07:41,080 --> 00:07:46,630
they wanted us to know an
important language, I think.

160
00:07:46,630 --> 00:07:48,700
So we didn't know any Polish.

161
00:07:48,700 --> 00:07:50,785
We didn't speak Yiddish
at home, we spoke German.

162
00:07:50,785 --> 00:07:58,840

163
00:07:58,840 --> 00:08:01,300
No, this was already
after the Anschluss.

164
00:08:01,300 --> 00:08:04,240
After the Anschluss, and
I'll come to that later.

165
00:08:04,240 --> 00:08:05,873
But after the
Anschluss, our parents

166
00:08:05,873 --> 00:08:07,165
thought we should learn Polish.

167
00:08:07,165 --> 00:08:12,390

168

00:08:12,390 --> 00:08:18,570

For the Poles and also for
the Germans, if they came in--

169

00:08:18,570 --> 00:08:21,350

which my father didn't believe
for a moment-- but that

170

00:08:21,350 --> 00:08:23,000

we should know Polish.

171

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:25,700

And as a child, you
learn very fast.

172

00:08:25,700 --> 00:08:29,740

And also, you forget very fast.

173

00:08:29,740 --> 00:08:32,690

But Polish, I still
speak, because we spoke it

174

00:08:32,690 --> 00:08:34,679

at home later on, yes.

175

00:08:34,679 --> 00:08:39,140

So it was German and Polish.

176

00:08:39,140 --> 00:08:43,470

And I guess you were too
young to start school, then.

177

00:08:43,470 --> 00:08:43,970

No.

178

00:08:43,970 --> 00:08:45,740

You hadn't started school.

179

00:08:45,740 --> 00:08:46,250

No.

180

00:08:46,250 --> 00:08:48,020
No, we haven't started school.

181
00:08:48,020 --> 00:08:50,710
Neither has my sister, no.

182
00:08:50,710 --> 00:08:53,000
Did you have any
favorite games that you'd

183
00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:57,280
like to play as a
very, very young child?

184
00:08:57,280 --> 00:09:00,640
I remember playing
in the park with my--

185
00:09:00,640 --> 00:09:04,930
I have a nephew,
because my father had--

186
00:09:04,930 --> 00:09:07,060
my mother was his second wife.

187
00:09:07,060 --> 00:09:10,000
So he had two daughters
by my first wife.

188
00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:12,130
And that daughter had a nephew.

189
00:09:12,130 --> 00:09:15,520
He's one year younger than
I. So we played with them.

190
00:09:15,520 --> 00:09:19,660
And from my mother's
side, there was

191
00:09:19,660 --> 00:09:23,800
my uncle who always had the
children who were my age.

192
00:09:23,800 --> 00:09:28,370
But I don't remember anybody
very close and what games.

193
00:09:28,370 --> 00:09:31,300
I remember we played in
the park with some wheels

194
00:09:31,300 --> 00:09:35,300
that you just shuttle
around, but no.

195
00:09:35,300 --> 00:09:37,360
Did you have any favorite
songs as a child?

196
00:09:37,360 --> 00:09:40,120

197
00:09:40,120 --> 00:09:41,120
Not that I can remember.

198
00:09:41,120 --> 00:09:46,000
My sister remembers them, and
she sang a song that was later.

199
00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:49,270
But no, no.

200
00:09:49,270 --> 00:09:52,420
So was there a big difference
in age between your father

201
00:09:52,420 --> 00:09:53,350
and your mother?

202
00:09:53,350 --> 00:09:56,260
Yes, quite a big one.

203
00:09:56,260 --> 00:10:02,590
My father was born in 1901,

my father was born in '87.

204

00:10:02,590 --> 00:10:07,390

So there was a 14,
14 years difference.

205

00:10:07,390 --> 00:10:10,530

Which was your favorite place
to be-- in Poland, in Krakow,

206

00:10:10,530 --> 00:10:13,350

or in Vienna?

207

00:10:13,350 --> 00:10:14,610

We had a good life.

208

00:10:14,610 --> 00:10:19,460

We had a good life in Vienna,
we had a good life in Poland.

209

00:10:19,460 --> 00:10:22,280

I don't remember
which was favorite.

210

00:10:22,280 --> 00:10:25,700

But you said you did go
away, did you, on trips?

211

00:10:25,700 --> 00:10:27,530

What other places did you go to?

212

00:10:27,530 --> 00:10:31,130

Mostly, I remember Merano
in Italy for the summer

213

00:10:31,130 --> 00:10:36,350

and Sant Anton was the
usual place for the winter.

214

00:10:36,350 --> 00:10:41,250

Because my parents both
skied and, of course,

215

00:10:41,250 --> 00:10:43,490

the sea is always an
attraction to countries

216

00:10:43,490 --> 00:10:44,930

that don't have the sea.

217

00:10:44,930 --> 00:10:46,760

So we went.

218

00:10:46,760 --> 00:10:49,160

What is your very first memory?

219

00:10:49,160 --> 00:10:53,760

From this Merano, I remember
the little man in the forest,

220

00:10:53,760 --> 00:10:58,770

they had statues of the dwarves.

221

00:10:58,770 --> 00:11:01,650

222

00:11:01,650 --> 00:11:04,230

It looks like something
from Disney World.

223

00:11:04,230 --> 00:11:10,170

And then, of course,
I remember skating.

224

00:11:10,170 --> 00:11:11,490

Skiing, I don't remember.

225

00:11:11,490 --> 00:11:14,700

I think at that time,
children my age didn't ski.

226

00:11:14,700 --> 00:11:16,930

Today they do it very well.

227

00:11:16,930 --> 00:11:19,530
But at that time didn't.

228
00:11:19,530 --> 00:11:21,600
Skating, yes, I skated.

229
00:11:21,600 --> 00:11:28,590
And it seems that I ran
into the Prince of Windsor.

230
00:11:28,590 --> 00:11:34,650
And I probably threw
him on the ice.

231
00:11:34,650 --> 00:11:38,850
And then he consented
in taking pictures

232
00:11:38,850 --> 00:11:41,280
with us, which my father
took very proudly,

233
00:11:41,280 --> 00:11:44,240
and then discovered he didn't
have any film in the camera.

234
00:11:44,240 --> 00:11:47,094

235
00:11:47,094 --> 00:11:50,330
All these are memories of
my parents keep telling us.

236
00:11:50,330 --> 00:11:52,930
So they're not our own.

237
00:11:52,930 --> 00:11:55,150
Before the Anschluss.

238
00:11:55,150 --> 00:11:58,840
And again, you were
such a little child.

239

00:11:58,840 --> 00:12:01,210

Did you have any
feelings of discomfort?

240

00:12:01,210 --> 00:12:04,360

Or did you even know you
were Jewish or different

241

00:12:04,360 --> 00:12:06,500

from anybody else?

242

00:12:06,500 --> 00:12:09,320

Look, that we were
Jewish, I think so.

243

00:12:09,320 --> 00:12:11,030

Yes.

244

00:12:11,030 --> 00:12:17,390

I remember, one memory I
have is of my grandfather--

245

00:12:17,390 --> 00:12:19,700

the father of my father--

246

00:12:19,700 --> 00:12:23,240

to whom we were not so close
as to my mother's family.

247

00:12:23,240 --> 00:12:27,470

But I remember being going for
Sukkot to this little house

248

00:12:27,470 --> 00:12:29,240

built on the tree.

249

00:12:29,240 --> 00:12:30,950

And he always gave us chocolate.

250

00:12:30,950 --> 00:12:35,510

I remember we called
him [SPEAKING GERMAN]..

251
00:12:35,510 --> 00:12:36,890
This is in Poland?

252
00:12:36,890 --> 00:12:38,570
This was in Poland, yes.

253
00:12:38,570 --> 00:12:41,940
They lived in Krakow,
they didn't travel.

254
00:12:41,940 --> 00:12:45,620
I don't think they traveled.

255
00:12:45,620 --> 00:12:48,530
So did you play with
neighborhood children?

256
00:12:48,530 --> 00:12:51,220
Or was it mostly your
cousins and your sister?

257
00:12:51,220 --> 00:12:54,050
Probably some children
that played in the park.

258
00:12:54,050 --> 00:12:59,240
The park was right in front of
our home, in front of the bank.

259
00:12:59,240 --> 00:13:00,600
It's still there.

260
00:13:00,600 --> 00:13:01,730
So there's a park.

261
00:13:01,730 --> 00:13:05,180
And we went down just across the
street and there was the park.

262
00:13:05,180 --> 00:13:08,900
And I remember there

were many children.

263

00:13:08,900 --> 00:13:11,160

No, we didn't.

264

00:13:11,160 --> 00:13:12,680

Such small children.

265

00:13:12,680 --> 00:13:15,320

We were very kept,
you know, safe.

266

00:13:15,320 --> 00:13:21,080

And this was a part of the
city that was not Jewish.

267

00:13:21,080 --> 00:13:23,810

So I don't remember
any memories of--

268

00:13:23,810 --> 00:13:27,830

and if something had happened,
it would have stuck in my head.

269

00:13:27,830 --> 00:13:29,870

Was your governess Jewish?

270

00:13:29,870 --> 00:13:33,140

Yes our governor
was Jewish, yes.

271

00:13:33,140 --> 00:13:35,630

I was very close,
also, to our driver.

272

00:13:35,630 --> 00:13:37,370

We had a big car.

273

00:13:37,370 --> 00:13:40,790

And [? Guszlevicz, ?]
he was not Jewish.

274

00:13:40,790 --> 00:13:44,040
But we were close.

275
00:13:44,040 --> 00:13:45,900
The driver of the family car.

276
00:13:45,900 --> 00:13:47,010
As you see on television.

277
00:13:47,010 --> 00:13:49,180
I'll come back to this.

278
00:13:49,180 --> 00:13:53,570
All this, they helped to save
our lives, all of these people.

279
00:13:53,570 --> 00:13:54,510
Yes.

280
00:13:54,510 --> 00:13:56,670
How would you describe
yourself as a young child?

281
00:13:56,670 --> 00:13:58,710
Were you were very
outgoing, friendly child,

282
00:13:58,710 --> 00:14:00,590
or were you quiet?

283
00:14:00,590 --> 00:14:04,850
I think I was outgoing, but I
was a child and I was spoiled.

284
00:14:04,850 --> 00:14:05,720
Yes.

285
00:14:05,720 --> 00:14:08,270
My sister was always
an adult, although she

286
00:14:08,270 --> 00:14:10,010

was 1 and 1/2 years old.

287

00:14:10,010 --> 00:14:14,150

But she not only took care
of me, but she was the--

288

00:14:14,150 --> 00:14:20,510

my parents gave her the role of
the smart child, of the adult.

289

00:14:20,510 --> 00:14:21,980

And she took it seriously.

290

00:14:21,980 --> 00:14:24,500

291

00:14:24,500 --> 00:14:26,090

Today, when we talk
about this, she

292

00:14:26,090 --> 00:14:28,670

said that she
resents it in a way,

293

00:14:28,670 --> 00:14:31,400

that she didn't have
a childhood as I did.

294

00:14:31,400 --> 00:14:32,600

She never had a childhood.

295

00:14:32,600 --> 00:14:35,060

When we arrived in
Brazil later on,

296

00:14:35,060 --> 00:14:36,990

she didn't come back
to this childhood.

297

00:14:36,990 --> 00:14:39,770

She was 14 years old.

298

00:14:39,770 --> 00:14:41,330
And she was already an adult.

299
00:14:41,330 --> 00:14:47,180
And I became-- my childhood
was lost during the war.

300
00:14:47,180 --> 00:14:49,700
I read Dostoevsky when
I was 11 years old,

301
00:14:49,700 --> 00:14:51,530
and I understood him.

302
00:14:51,530 --> 00:14:53,330
But when I was 12
and came to Brazil,

303
00:14:53,330 --> 00:14:55,010
I started reading comics.

304
00:14:55,010 --> 00:14:57,930
So I went back to my
childhood, which she didn't.

305
00:14:57,930 --> 00:15:00,750

306
00:15:00,750 --> 00:15:05,750
Do you remember seeing German
soldiers on the street?

307
00:15:05,750 --> 00:15:07,370
No, not at that time.

308
00:15:07,370 --> 00:15:08,930
It still wasn't occupied, no.

309
00:15:08,930 --> 00:15:11,710

310
00:15:11,710 --> 00:15:13,803

Let me go to the Anschluss.

311
00:15:13,803 --> 00:15:15,220
I was going to say
let's move now.

312
00:15:15,220 --> 00:15:19,420
In the Anschluss, we, my
sister and I, were in Vienna.

313
00:15:19,420 --> 00:15:21,950
My parents were in Poland.

314
00:15:21,950 --> 00:15:25,140
When they heard
about the Anschluss,

315
00:15:25,140 --> 00:15:30,540
my father also had a bank in
Switzerland, was a partner.

316
00:15:30,540 --> 00:15:34,400
So what he did was
call up this partner.

317
00:15:34,400 --> 00:15:42,550
And the partner's son consented
to go to Vienna and get us out.

318
00:15:42,550 --> 00:15:44,980
So what he did was
very courageous,

319
00:15:44,980 --> 00:15:50,600
because he went there with
his passport as a Swiss.

320
00:15:50,600 --> 00:15:56,930
And our nanny posed as his
wife with her passport.

321
00:15:56,930 --> 00:16:00,080
And we didn't have a passport,

because we at the time

322

00:16:00,080 --> 00:16:03,950

were traveling always
on my parent's passport.

323

00:16:03,950 --> 00:16:04,880

So we fled.

324

00:16:04,880 --> 00:16:10,460

But they took it for granted
that, at the frontier,

325

00:16:10,460 --> 00:16:14,960

if we were sitting in
a compartment together,

326

00:16:14,960 --> 00:16:20,120

they would think
it's a family group.

327

00:16:20,120 --> 00:16:22,270

So this is really what happened.

328

00:16:22,270 --> 00:16:23,500

So he took us to Switzerland.

329

00:16:23,500 --> 00:16:25,090

At the frontier,
they showed them

330

00:16:25,090 --> 00:16:28,510

his passport and her passport.

331

00:16:28,510 --> 00:16:30,490

But she was a Jewish governess?

332

00:16:30,490 --> 00:16:32,980

Yes, but that was not important.

333

00:16:32,980 --> 00:16:38,140

But we were different

names, so if they

334

00:16:38,140 --> 00:16:40,480
had caught on-- but we just
arrived in Switzerland.

335

00:16:40,480 --> 00:16:44,050
And from Switzerland, he
sent us over to Poland.

336

00:16:44,050 --> 00:16:44,910
What was his name?

337

00:16:44,910 --> 00:16:45,410
1938.

338

00:16:45,410 --> 00:16:46,160
What was his name?

339

00:16:46,160 --> 00:16:49,130
Landow, Oswald Landow.

340

00:16:49,130 --> 00:16:52,400
He was the son of the
partner of my father,

341

00:16:52,400 --> 00:16:57,750
Roman Landow was the partner
in the bank, Wohlen Landau,

342

00:16:57,750 --> 00:16:58,820
in Switzerland.

343

00:16:58,820 --> 00:17:02,850
You said you were in Vienna
while your parents were

344

00:17:02,850 --> 00:17:03,350
in Poland.

345

00:17:03,350 --> 00:17:05,550
Was that hard for you to

be away from your parents?

346

00:17:05,550 --> 00:17:06,800

Did it bother you
that your parents

347

00:17:06,800 --> 00:17:07,849

were in different cities?

348

00:17:07,849 --> 00:17:10,849

Look, as I said
before, we were close,

349

00:17:10,849 --> 00:17:14,395

but we were living
separate lives.

350

00:17:14,395 --> 00:17:16,020

So whether we were
there, and my father

351

00:17:16,020 --> 00:17:18,720

would come and say good
morning, or in Vienna you

352

00:17:18,720 --> 00:17:20,040

would probably call up.

353

00:17:20,040 --> 00:17:22,770

So we were with our nanny.

354

00:17:22,770 --> 00:17:28,490

And our nanny was our
real caretaker and mother.

355

00:17:28,490 --> 00:17:29,300

What was her name?

356

00:17:29,300 --> 00:17:32,450

357

00:17:32,450 --> 00:17:33,430

Nanny.

358

00:17:33,430 --> 00:17:35,600

That's a good question.

359

00:17:35,600 --> 00:17:38,640

I don't really remember.

360

00:17:38,640 --> 00:17:39,840

No.

361

00:17:39,840 --> 00:17:43,710

OK, now you go back to Poland to
be with your parents in Krakow.

362

00:17:43,710 --> 00:17:47,760

And then the next
memory that you have?

363

00:17:47,760 --> 00:17:52,340

The next memory I have is
the outbreak of the war.

364

00:17:52,340 --> 00:17:57,200

Who is, well, it's memory, but
it's also told by my parents.

365

00:17:57,200 --> 00:18:00,670

My mother wanted to get
out before the war started.

366

00:18:00,670 --> 00:18:03,830

She wanted to get out.

367

00:18:03,830 --> 00:18:08,230

And my father was
the eternal optimist.

368

00:18:08,230 --> 00:18:10,690

There's going to be no war.

369

00:18:10,690 --> 00:18:14,080

If there's a war, it won't
last more than three weeks.

370
00:18:14,080 --> 00:18:16,960
The English will immediately
enter the Poland side,

371
00:18:16,960 --> 00:18:20,190
they're friends, and
then the Germans will--.

372
00:18:20,190 --> 00:18:25,300
My mother, she was not
not an intelligent woman.

373
00:18:25,300 --> 00:18:28,290
But she had premonitions.

374
00:18:28,290 --> 00:18:30,160
She knew, she was
much more realistic.

375
00:18:30,160 --> 00:18:33,030
My father was an optimist,
eternal optimist.

376
00:18:33,030 --> 00:18:36,040
If we had done what my
father wanted to do,

377
00:18:36,040 --> 00:18:37,870
we would have died
the first week.

378
00:18:37,870 --> 00:18:39,820
There was no other chance.

379
00:18:39,820 --> 00:18:50,320

380
00:18:50,320 --> 00:18:51,610
Yes.

381

00:18:51,610 --> 00:18:55,840
The Germans attacked Poland,
but they didn't come into Krakow

382

00:18:55,840 --> 00:18:56,650
right away.

383

00:18:56,650 --> 00:18:59,080
We're talking about
September, 1939 now.

384

00:18:59,080 --> 00:19:01,840
And you're five years old.

385

00:19:01,840 --> 00:19:04,620
Yes, 5 and 1/2 years old.

386

00:19:04,620 --> 00:19:06,580
OK, the Germans didn't come in.

387

00:19:06,580 --> 00:19:09,330

388

00:19:09,330 --> 00:19:12,880
But of course, they
were advancing.

389

00:19:12,880 --> 00:19:14,020
And we had to get out.

390

00:19:14,020 --> 00:19:17,500
And one day when my father
was walking on the street,

391

00:19:17,500 --> 00:19:19,240
this is told by him.

392

00:19:19,240 --> 00:19:24,630
And a bishop or
cardinal stopped him.

393

00:19:24,630 --> 00:19:29,150

He hid the money of the
Jesuits in the bank.

394

00:19:29,150 --> 00:19:33,640

He also won the Polonia
Restituta medal,

395

00:19:33,640 --> 00:19:37,150

a very important medal,
I think for constructing

396

00:19:37,150 --> 00:19:43,350

the first cable car in
Zakopane for skiing.

397

00:19:43,350 --> 00:19:45,610

He was an avid skier.

398

00:19:45,610 --> 00:19:48,460

Financing it.

399

00:19:48,460 --> 00:19:51,370

So this bishop or
cardinal comes by

400

00:19:51,370 --> 00:19:54,160

and he says, Wohl, what
are you doing here?

401

00:19:54,160 --> 00:19:56,910

You should be out of
the country already.

402

00:19:56,910 --> 00:20:00,030

And my father said, I
can't, I have the money

403

00:20:00,030 --> 00:20:02,003

of the clients in the bank.

404

00:20:02,003 --> 00:20:02,670

How can I close?

405
00:20:02,670 --> 00:20:03,870
How I can go?

406
00:20:03,870 --> 00:20:07,560
And then he said that the
cardinal or bishop, he

407
00:20:07,560 --> 00:20:08,730
blessed him.

408
00:20:08,730 --> 00:20:09,870
But he blessed him.

409
00:20:09,870 --> 00:20:13,710
He said to me that he was very
impressed, because he said,

410
00:20:13,710 --> 00:20:19,230
may the god of Moses, Abraham,
and Saul, or whatever,

411
00:20:19,230 --> 00:20:20,310
look upon your son.

412
00:20:20,310 --> 00:20:23,550
He was very impressed
by this blessing.

413
00:20:23,550 --> 00:20:24,902
But he shouldn't be there.

414
00:20:24,902 --> 00:20:25,860
He shouldn't have been.

415
00:20:25,860 --> 00:20:26,860
He should have been out.

416
00:20:26,860 --> 00:20:28,860
And he had all
the possibilities.

417

00:20:28,860 --> 00:20:30,660

He worked for

Rothschild, he worked--

418

00:20:30,660 --> 00:20:34,600

he had all the possibility

to get out before the war.

419

00:20:34,600 --> 00:20:35,650

But he didn't.

420

00:20:35,650 --> 00:20:37,750

Did your parents talk

about this in front

421

00:20:37,750 --> 00:20:38,770

of you and your sister?

422

00:20:38,770 --> 00:20:39,270

Yes.

423

00:20:39,270 --> 00:20:41,680

What were your recollections

of those conversations,

424

00:20:41,680 --> 00:20:42,400

if you have any?

425

00:20:42,400 --> 00:20:43,210

Yes.

426

00:20:43,210 --> 00:20:48,260

The recollection is always that

my mother wanted out, out, out.

427

00:20:48,260 --> 00:20:50,790

And my father said, no,

it's not going to last,

428

00:20:50,790 --> 00:20:52,600

it's not going na-na-na.

429

00:20:52,600 --> 00:20:58,160

And also, my father was
of German formation.

430

00:20:58,160 --> 00:21:00,520

He was Polish, but he
went to Germany, studied

431

00:21:00,520 --> 00:21:03,800

at a Realschule in Frankfurt.

432

00:21:03,800 --> 00:21:08,640

And he would never believe
that the Germans could--

433

00:21:08,640 --> 00:21:12,020

the atrocities you heard
about before the war

434

00:21:12,020 --> 00:21:17,020

and what happened since 1933
and what happened later.

435

00:21:17,020 --> 00:21:22,420

And he would always blame it on
something else, like many did.

436

00:21:22,420 --> 00:21:25,570

Not the Germans, people
of Beethoven and good.

437

00:21:25,570 --> 00:21:28,520

438

00:21:28,520 --> 00:21:31,260

So there were discussions, yes.

439

00:21:31,260 --> 00:21:34,460

There were discussions.

440

00:21:34,460 --> 00:21:37,910

And fortunately, it

seems that in the end,

441
00:21:37,910 --> 00:21:40,790
my mother won out
most of the time.

442
00:21:40,790 --> 00:21:44,700

443
00:21:44,700 --> 00:21:47,790
Do you remember, at that
time, in September of '39,

444
00:21:47,790 --> 00:21:49,230
being especially frightened?

445
00:21:49,230 --> 00:21:51,630
Did you have any of
awareness, you were so young?

446
00:21:51,630 --> 00:21:53,790
No, not afraid.

447
00:21:53,790 --> 00:21:57,360
No, what I remember next was
our getting into the car.

448
00:21:57,360 --> 00:22:00,900
It was a big American
Graham-Paige.

449
00:22:00,900 --> 00:22:02,340
I think it sat--

450
00:22:02,340 --> 00:22:05,790
it was almost a microbus, it
sat nine people or something

451
00:22:05,790 --> 00:22:06,910
like that.

452
00:22:06,910 --> 00:22:11,520

And I remember that
we and the chauffeur--

453
00:22:11,520 --> 00:22:14,220

454
00:22:14,220 --> 00:22:16,930
my father-- this is my
sister's recollection--

455
00:22:16,930 --> 00:22:23,670
my father called up the
parents of our nanny.

456
00:22:23,670 --> 00:22:27,720
And they agreed to have
us there for a while.

457
00:22:27,720 --> 00:22:30,010
It was a different town.

458
00:22:30,010 --> 00:22:31,560
This is the Jewish nanny?

459
00:22:31,560 --> 00:22:34,100
Yes.

460
00:22:34,100 --> 00:22:36,910
And they did receive as well.

461
00:22:36,910 --> 00:22:41,050
And kept us there for a
while until we went on.

462
00:22:41,050 --> 00:22:44,050
The plan then was to go.

463
00:22:44,050 --> 00:22:46,450
Because the Germans
were advancing.

464
00:22:46,450 --> 00:22:52,120

And the plan was to
go to a place called--

465
00:22:52,120 --> 00:22:53,860
I'm mixing these places up.

466
00:22:53,860 --> 00:22:55,510
There were three crucial places.

467
00:22:55,510 --> 00:23:06,970
One was called Kolomyya,
the other one was Jaroslaw.

468
00:23:06,970 --> 00:23:10,900
Jaroslaw, I think, was the place
where the parents of our nanny

469
00:23:10,900 --> 00:23:12,100
lived.

470
00:23:12,100 --> 00:23:16,600
Then Kolomyya was a
place where, somehow, we

471
00:23:16,600 --> 00:23:20,510
found an abandoned house.

472
00:23:20,510 --> 00:23:23,660
This was already
moving to the east.

473
00:23:23,660 --> 00:23:25,280
We found an abandoned house.

474
00:23:25,280 --> 00:23:31,250
And I remember we went together
with my uncle's family,

475
00:23:31,250 --> 00:23:36,870
with my grandparents, it
was a big [GERMAN] together.

476

00:23:36,870 --> 00:23:38,370

You were all in,
the whole family,

477

00:23:38,370 --> 00:23:40,260

this whole group was in one car?

478

00:23:40,260 --> 00:23:41,210

No, no.

479

00:23:41,210 --> 00:23:43,275

There were two or three cars.

480

00:23:43,275 --> 00:23:45,450

In our car, I think
there were nine people.

481

00:23:45,450 --> 00:23:47,790

And the rest was in other cars.

482

00:23:47,790 --> 00:23:51,360

Because later on, when we went
to Siberia, 14 of us went.

483

00:23:51,360 --> 00:23:53,970

So 14, we left,
and this does not

484

00:23:53,970 --> 00:23:56,100

include my father and my uncle.

485

00:23:56,100 --> 00:23:58,930

So OK.

486

00:23:58,930 --> 00:24:07,720

And now, yes, we went together
also with my father's uncle--

487

00:24:07,720 --> 00:24:15,010

well, my father's sister,
Genia, and her husband Leon,

488

00:24:15,010 --> 00:24:18,790
and their daughter
Stefonia, Stephanie.

489
00:24:18,790 --> 00:24:24,320
So it was a big group.

490
00:24:24,320 --> 00:24:28,610
Well, the cities as I said
were Jaroslaw, Kolomyya.

491
00:24:28,610 --> 00:24:30,920
Swa-- Swasov--

492
00:24:30,920 --> 00:24:32,090
Zwan?

493
00:24:32,090 --> 00:24:34,289
Swasaw?

494
00:24:34,289 --> 00:24:36,221
Let me see.

495
00:24:36,221 --> 00:24:36,960
Zloczow.

496
00:24:36,960 --> 00:24:37,460
Zloczow.

497
00:24:37,460 --> 00:24:39,830
Yes.

498
00:24:39,830 --> 00:24:41,320
Zloczow, too, yes.

499
00:24:41,320 --> 00:24:42,820
We were among
these three cities.

500
00:24:42,820 --> 00:24:53,110
But the goal-- the goal was
to cross the Romanian border.

501
00:24:53,110 --> 00:24:55,570
Because things were
better in Romania.

502
00:24:55,570 --> 00:24:58,870
Romania wasn't still
attacked by the Germans.

503
00:24:58,870 --> 00:25:02,090
And Romania was the goal.

504
00:25:02,090 --> 00:25:09,400
My half sister, the mother of
my nephew, they went through.

505
00:25:09,400 --> 00:25:10,680
They managed to go through.

506
00:25:10,680 --> 00:25:13,380
And then they went to Romania.

507
00:25:13,380 --> 00:25:16,650
During the war, they went
to Egypt and whatever,

508
00:25:16,650 --> 00:25:24,450
and landed in Brazil
in 1942, I think.

509
00:25:24,450 --> 00:25:25,310
Yes.

510
00:25:25,310 --> 00:25:28,810
So that was the goal.

511
00:25:28,810 --> 00:25:34,230
I can show you another very
good example of how impractical

512
00:25:34,230 --> 00:25:36,860
my father was.

513
00:25:36,860 --> 00:25:38,550
My sister told the story, too.

514
00:25:38,550 --> 00:25:42,210
Because he went
out to get supplies

515
00:25:42,210 --> 00:25:48,150
when we were living in Kolomyia,
in this big, abandoned house.

516
00:25:48,150 --> 00:25:52,140
And he came back very
happy, because he had

517
00:25:52,140 --> 00:25:54,300
bought two pounds of pepper.

518
00:25:54,300 --> 00:25:56,850

519
00:25:56,850 --> 00:26:00,420
So you can imagine, it
would have lasted even

520
00:26:00,420 --> 00:26:02,820
if the war had lasted longer.

521
00:26:02,820 --> 00:26:05,940
But this was how
impractical man he was.

522
00:26:05,940 --> 00:26:08,760
Do you remember this
particular trip in this car,

523
00:26:08,760 --> 00:26:10,330
going to these three towns?

524
00:26:10,330 --> 00:26:10,830
Yes.

525
00:26:10,830 --> 00:26:12,750
Like in a dream, yes, yes.

526
00:26:12,750 --> 00:26:14,170
Yes.

527
00:26:14,170 --> 00:26:18,980
Was it a fearful time for
you or more of a jaunt?

528
00:26:18,980 --> 00:26:22,280
Look, I just said
like in a dream.

529
00:26:22,280 --> 00:26:24,650
I didn't say like
in a nightmare.

530
00:26:24,650 --> 00:26:27,480
I never had
nightmares of the war.

531
00:26:27,480 --> 00:26:29,540
And I was a child.

532
00:26:29,540 --> 00:26:34,630
And it was probably a big
adventure the whole time.

533
00:26:34,630 --> 00:26:36,190
I probably understood
something, I

534
00:26:36,190 --> 00:26:38,640
didn't understand other things.

535
00:26:38,640 --> 00:26:41,430
Of course, I was afraid to
die, as we did get protection.

536
00:26:41,430 --> 00:26:44,130

And you want to
protect yourself.

537
00:26:44,130 --> 00:26:51,200
But no, no, I don't
remember anything bad.

538
00:26:51,200 --> 00:26:55,190
I was not a child
that was scared.

539
00:26:55,190 --> 00:26:56,720
I was not scared, no.

540
00:26:56,720 --> 00:27:00,820
I was afraid at certain
times, I wasn't scared.

541
00:27:00,820 --> 00:27:03,790
And so you've gone
through these three towns.

542
00:27:03,790 --> 00:27:05,930
And you had enough food.

543
00:27:05,930 --> 00:27:08,230
Did the family had enough
food besides pepper?

544
00:27:08,230 --> 00:27:09,050
Yes.

545
00:27:09,050 --> 00:27:10,420
Why did we have enough food?

546
00:27:10,420 --> 00:27:14,870
Because my uncle-- and here,
he's entering the story.

547
00:27:14,870 --> 00:27:19,680
But he was with us
the whole of the war.

548

00:27:19,680 --> 00:27:22,090

And he saved our
life everywhere.

549

00:27:22,090 --> 00:27:24,083

Which uncle are we
talking about now?

550

00:27:24,083 --> 00:27:25,590

Josef Stieglitz.

551

00:27:25,590 --> 00:27:31,170

Who is your mother's
brother, not your father's.

552

00:27:31,170 --> 00:27:35,430

My father's brother would
be as impractical as he was.

553

00:27:35,430 --> 00:27:39,030

But this was an incredible
family, the Stieglitz family.

554

00:27:39,030 --> 00:27:44,915

And this uncle saved
us so many times.

555

00:27:44,915 --> 00:27:47,640

556

00:27:47,640 --> 00:27:49,690

And he was in the group
with you in the cars?

557

00:27:49,690 --> 00:27:50,190

Yes.

558

00:27:50,190 --> 00:27:50,850

He was in the group, yes.

559

00:27:50,850 --> 00:27:51,510

And his family.

560
00:27:51,510 --> 00:27:52,620
But he was never at home.

561
00:27:52,620 --> 00:27:55,950
When something happened
bad, he was never--

562
00:27:55,950 --> 00:27:59,670
he always was outside and
he survived to save us.

563
00:27:59,670 --> 00:28:02,670
So at this time, he was working.

564
00:28:02,670 --> 00:28:06,120

565
00:28:06,120 --> 00:28:10,020
He was working for the Russians.

566
00:28:10,020 --> 00:28:11,520
Was it for the Russians?

567
00:28:11,520 --> 00:28:13,140
Yes, it was for--

568
00:28:13,140 --> 00:28:15,690
the Russians, I don't
know how they fit in.

569
00:28:15,690 --> 00:28:18,690
I didn't keep up
with my history.

570
00:28:18,690 --> 00:28:23,140
But we were in Russian zone.

571
00:28:23,140 --> 00:28:24,450
Definitely not in Germany.

572

00:28:24,450 --> 00:28:28,230

573

00:28:28,230 --> 00:28:29,780

Yes, of course.

574

00:28:29,780 --> 00:28:33,320

This was already with
the pact of the Russians

575

00:28:33,320 --> 00:28:34,850

and the Germans.

576

00:28:34,850 --> 00:28:40,070

So now we are in the Russian
zone, in Kolomyia, I think.

577

00:28:40,070 --> 00:28:45,650

And my uncle is a very
big antique dealer,

578

00:28:45,650 --> 00:28:46,520

very well-known.

579

00:28:46,520 --> 00:28:49,850

He installed the Krakow--

580

00:28:49,850 --> 00:28:53,560

the museum in the
castle, in the Wawel.

581

00:28:53,560 --> 00:28:57,410

He was the great one in Poland.

582

00:28:57,410 --> 00:29:03,440

Already, his father
Abraham Stieglitz,

583

00:29:03,440 --> 00:29:07,640

was the founder of this
dynasty of art dealers.

584

00:29:07,640 --> 00:29:10,040
But he was the big exponent one.

585
00:29:10,040 --> 00:29:14,030
He had-- he just died
last year, the uncle.

586
00:29:14,030 --> 00:29:18,380
He had the biggest collection
in private hands of judaica.

587
00:29:18,380 --> 00:29:19,700
But he didn't start it.

588
00:29:19,700 --> 00:29:21,770
His father started it.

589
00:29:21,770 --> 00:29:25,010
And it was miraculously
saved during the war.

590
00:29:25,010 --> 00:29:28,610
And then before he
died, he donated it

591
00:29:28,610 --> 00:29:30,580
to the Jerusalem Museum.

592
00:29:30,580 --> 00:29:33,560
The tremendous exhibition,
the Stieglitz collection

593
00:29:33,560 --> 00:29:35,990
was the pride of the museum.

594
00:29:35,990 --> 00:29:37,100
It's still there.

595
00:29:37,100 --> 00:29:39,920
The other one was
the traveling one,

596

00:29:39,920 --> 00:29:43,790
which belongs to the
Czechoslovakian state.

597
00:29:43,790 --> 00:29:45,710
These were the two
big collections.

598
00:29:45,710 --> 00:29:48,320

599
00:29:48,320 --> 00:29:55,970
So he was called by the
Russians who invaded there,

600
00:29:55,970 --> 00:30:01,100
because they were
interested in the teesh--.

601
00:30:01,100 --> 00:30:04,730
They stole and they
bought and whatever.

602
00:30:04,730 --> 00:30:09,630
They accumulated artworks,
artworks, and jewels, whatever.

603
00:30:09,630 --> 00:30:11,820
And they needed people
who would understand

604
00:30:11,820 --> 00:30:13,470
and would evaluate them.

605
00:30:13,470 --> 00:30:14,720
So he had a job.

606
00:30:14,720 --> 00:30:18,290
And a good job, he got paid.

607
00:30:18,290 --> 00:30:22,610
So he bought the supplies
besides the pepper,

608
00:30:22,610 --> 00:30:23,690
which we didn't need.

609
00:30:23,690 --> 00:30:29,450
He bought the supplies, and we
lived quite well, I can say.

610
00:30:29,450 --> 00:30:35,380
Then it was time to cross
the border to Romania.

611
00:30:35,380 --> 00:30:38,680
Something must have happened
that accelerated this need.

612
00:30:38,680 --> 00:30:41,340

613
00:30:41,340 --> 00:30:43,200
And we decided to cross.

614
00:30:43,200 --> 00:30:46,730
But we could only
cross separately.

615
00:30:46,730 --> 00:30:51,050
So the first one to
go would be my father.

616
00:30:51,050 --> 00:30:55,520
My uncle on his
side, he's the one

617
00:30:55,520 --> 00:30:58,370
who was married to his sister.

618
00:30:58,370 --> 00:31:02,270
And I would cross to Romania.

619
00:31:02,270 --> 00:31:06,240
And then my sister and

my mother would go.

620
00:31:06,240 --> 00:31:08,070
I'm not talking about
my uncle's family,

621
00:31:08,070 --> 00:31:09,990
because they went
together, their plans

622
00:31:09,990 --> 00:31:13,210
were probably different.

623
00:31:13,210 --> 00:31:15,220
And we were caught.

624
00:31:15,220 --> 00:31:17,630
We being you and your
father and your uncle.

625
00:31:17,630 --> 00:31:18,130
Yes.

626
00:31:18,130 --> 00:31:19,500
We were caught at the frontier.

627
00:31:19,500 --> 00:31:21,730
And that I remember,
because I remember

628
00:31:21,730 --> 00:31:23,500
the crossing was at night.

629
00:31:23,500 --> 00:31:27,170
And I remember dogs
barking and discovering us.

630
00:31:27,170 --> 00:31:30,570
And I remember that
the Russians caught us.

631
00:31:30,570 --> 00:31:33,330

They caught us, and
this was my first jail.

632
00:31:33,330 --> 00:31:37,070
I stayed for one week in
jail and was given back

633
00:31:37,070 --> 00:31:38,537
to my mother.

634
00:31:38,537 --> 00:31:39,620
Let's talk about the jail.

635
00:31:39,620 --> 00:31:42,950
What do you remember about that?

636
00:31:42,950 --> 00:31:46,100
I probably don't remember it,
but I saw so many jail pictures

637
00:31:46,100 --> 00:31:51,630
afterwards, it must have been
a regular jail which they used,

638
00:31:51,630 --> 00:31:53,810
which they had already in town.

639
00:31:53,810 --> 00:31:57,040
I remember being
closed in a cell.

640
00:31:57,040 --> 00:31:59,950
And then I remember being
given back to my mother,

641
00:31:59,950 --> 00:32:04,880
although she wasn't
allowed to see my father.

642
00:32:04,880 --> 00:32:09,030
Well, that's when my
father went his way.

643

00:32:09,030 --> 00:32:11,570

And we haven't seen
them for a while.

644

00:32:11,570 --> 00:32:14,760

What was it like for a
five-year-old to be in a jail

645

00:32:14,760 --> 00:32:15,260

cell?

646

00:32:15,260 --> 00:32:17,940

647

00:32:17,940 --> 00:32:19,560

Don't remember
anything about it.

648

00:32:19,560 --> 00:32:21,090

I remember the dogs barking.

649

00:32:21,090 --> 00:32:23,160

I remember the
Russians catching us.

650

00:32:23,160 --> 00:32:29,770

I remember all of us being
very unhappy about it.

651

00:32:29,770 --> 00:32:32,020

Had your father explained
where you were going?

652

00:32:32,020 --> 00:32:34,840

Did you have any idea
of why you were leaving,

653

00:32:34,840 --> 00:32:35,680

why you were going?

654

00:32:35,680 --> 00:32:36,472

Maybe a little bit.

655
00:32:36,472 --> 00:32:40,174
Maybe I did, but
I don't remember.

656
00:32:40,174 --> 00:32:41,990
No.

657
00:32:41,990 --> 00:32:46,100
So after a week, your mother
came to the jail and got you.

658
00:32:46,100 --> 00:32:48,440
Yes, she was called
in, and she got me.

659
00:32:48,440 --> 00:32:51,080
But she wasn't allowed
to see my father.

660
00:32:51,080 --> 00:32:53,970
And she took me back
to the other house

661
00:32:53,970 --> 00:32:55,370
where we all stayed.

662
00:32:55,370 --> 00:32:57,770
Were you able to say
goodbye to your father?

663
00:32:57,770 --> 00:32:58,310
Oh, yes.

664
00:32:58,310 --> 00:33:01,630
I was with him in the cell, yes.

665
00:33:01,630 --> 00:33:04,140
Did he say anything special
to you when you left?

666
00:33:04,140 --> 00:33:06,000

No, because he didn't
know what was-- he

667
00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:08,160
probably he was an
optimist or thought

668
00:33:08,160 --> 00:33:11,780
that they're going to hold
him a while and give him back.

669
00:33:11,780 --> 00:33:13,310
What was it like
to see your mother?

670
00:33:13,310 --> 00:33:16,980

671
00:33:16,980 --> 00:33:20,430
Well, I went from
father to mother,

672
00:33:20,430 --> 00:33:22,710
reunited the whole family.

673
00:33:22,710 --> 00:33:25,883
No, no memories of that, no.

674
00:33:25,883 --> 00:33:28,050
So now you're back with
your mother and your sister.

675
00:33:28,050 --> 00:33:28,320
Right.

676
00:33:28,320 --> 00:33:28,740
And then the next one?

677
00:33:28,740 --> 00:33:30,032
Then the whole family together.

678
00:33:30,032 --> 00:33:32,570

679

00:33:32,570 --> 00:33:37,260

And well, you asked
me a question.

680

00:33:37,260 --> 00:33:42,000

But what the answer is
that my mother probably

681

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:46,170

never understood why they kept
him, why they released me,

682

00:33:46,170 --> 00:33:47,760

and why they kept him.

683

00:33:47,760 --> 00:33:51,750

And he never knew
why they kept him.

684

00:33:51,750 --> 00:33:53,640

What did you think
was happening?

685

00:33:53,640 --> 00:33:56,280

What was your version,
your five-year-old version?

686

00:33:56,280 --> 00:33:58,860

Look, my version was
that I was explained

687

00:33:58,860 --> 00:34:00,120

we had to cross this frontier.

688

00:34:00,120 --> 00:34:02,220

We had to get out of there.

689

00:34:02,220 --> 00:34:03,960

I knew there was a war going on.

690

00:34:03,960 --> 00:34:06,030

I didn't know, probably,
what a war was.

691

00:34:06,030 --> 00:34:09,460

But I knew there was a war.

692

00:34:09,460 --> 00:34:11,929

All I knew, we had to get
out, and I was caught.

693

00:34:11,929 --> 00:34:13,850

I was given back to my mother.

694

00:34:13,850 --> 00:34:16,342

And that was it.

695

00:34:16,342 --> 00:34:18,540

And my mother was a
very courageous woman.

696

00:34:18,540 --> 00:34:24,790

So at the moment she was
separated from my father,

697

00:34:24,790 --> 00:34:26,350

she took care of us.

698

00:34:26,350 --> 00:34:29,860

And that was it.

699

00:34:29,860 --> 00:34:31,800

So now you're all
you're back together.

700

00:34:31,800 --> 00:34:33,840

And what was the next stage?

701

00:34:33,840 --> 00:34:35,280

We're back together.

702

00:34:35,280 --> 00:34:44,940

The next stage I
remember was when

703
00:34:44,940 --> 00:34:56,510
one night, it was way late
hours of the night, 11,

704
00:34:56,510 --> 00:34:57,482
12 o'clock at night.

705
00:34:57,482 --> 00:34:58,190
We were sleeping.

706
00:34:58,190 --> 00:35:01,400
Were woken up by
banging on the door.

707
00:35:01,400 --> 00:35:05,670
The Russians had come and said
you have one hour to pack.

708
00:35:05,670 --> 00:35:06,390
You're leaving.

709
00:35:06,390 --> 00:35:09,350

710
00:35:09,350 --> 00:35:13,640
You are allowed one
suitcase per person.

711
00:35:13,640 --> 00:35:15,390
There was not such a
big choice because we

712
00:35:15,390 --> 00:35:19,280
had two suitcases a person
when we ran away from Krakow.

713
00:35:19,280 --> 00:35:23,930
So now we were allowed
one suitcase a person.

714

00:35:23,930 --> 00:35:24,770

Where are we going?

715

00:35:24,770 --> 00:35:27,290

716

00:35:27,290 --> 00:35:28,970

Didn't tell us.

717

00:35:28,970 --> 00:35:34,700

We were transported by
trucks to a railroad station,

718

00:35:34,700 --> 00:35:38,870

not to A but to the
Kolomyia railroad station.

719

00:35:38,870 --> 00:35:42,520

And from there, we
were taken to Siberia.

720

00:35:42,520 --> 00:35:44,980

Had you taken anything
special with you--

721

00:35:44,980 --> 00:35:48,140

a childhood toy
when you had left?

722

00:35:48,140 --> 00:35:48,760

No.

723

00:35:48,760 --> 00:35:54,390

Look, I had the suitcase, yes,
but I didn't pack my suitcase.

724

00:35:54,390 --> 00:35:57,100

So probably, I had some clothes
in there and maybe a blanket

725

00:35:57,100 --> 00:35:58,270

or whatever I did.

726
00:35:58,270 --> 00:36:01,105
But not a favorite toy or
anything, a childhood toy.

727
00:36:01,105 --> 00:36:01,980
No, I don't think so.

728
00:36:01,980 --> 00:36:06,130
Well, maybe, but I
don't remember, no.

729
00:36:06,130 --> 00:36:07,210
No.

730
00:36:07,210 --> 00:36:11,300
I remember that we
were taken to a train.

731
00:36:11,300 --> 00:36:19,480
It was 40 wagons
of a freight train.

732
00:36:19,480 --> 00:36:24,890
And we were put about
60 people in each car.

733
00:36:24,890 --> 00:36:29,420
And we had a six-week
trip to Siberia,

734
00:36:29,420 --> 00:36:35,100
in which I caught scarlatina.

735
00:36:35,100 --> 00:36:39,525
Of course, there was a doctor--

736
00:36:39,525 --> 00:36:41,280
in each car, there
must have been

737
00:36:41,280 --> 00:36:44,070

at least one doctor, 60 Jews.

738

00:36:44,070 --> 00:36:47,370

And not only Jews, no, no,
no, no, I'm wrong here.

739

00:36:47,370 --> 00:36:52,660

They picked up all
the not foreigners,

740

00:36:52,660 --> 00:36:56,890

but all the people who were
not from the-- refugees that

741

00:36:56,890 --> 00:36:58,570

were not from Kolomyia.

742

00:36:58,570 --> 00:37:01,310

It was nothing directed
against the Jews.

743

00:37:01,310 --> 00:37:05,150

This was more connected
with Stalin's resettling

744

00:37:05,150 --> 00:37:06,630

the cities and all that.

745

00:37:06,630 --> 00:37:12,510

So they took all the strangers
in the city that night.

746

00:37:12,510 --> 00:37:15,930

40 cars with about 60
people in each car,

747

00:37:15,930 --> 00:37:20,352

you have 2,400 people, I think.

748

00:37:20,352 --> 00:37:22,490

It's quite a lot.

749

00:37:22,490 --> 00:37:24,725

So you have all these
strangers going to Siberia,

750

00:37:24,725 --> 00:37:27,500

where they're Jews,
mostly Jews, yes,

751

00:37:27,500 --> 00:37:29,990

because they were
fleeing from the Germans.

752

00:37:29,990 --> 00:37:35,070

But you had Catholics,
too, or whatever.

753

00:37:35,070 --> 00:37:38,420

And I remember-- well,
this I don't remember.

754

00:37:38,420 --> 00:37:41,360

I remember getting
the scarlatina

755

00:37:41,360 --> 00:37:43,980

and the doctor
saying to my mother,

756

00:37:43,980 --> 00:37:50,170

well, he hasn't got
a chance because he

757

00:37:50,170 --> 00:37:54,900

would have to have a diet
and the medicines and all.

758

00:37:54,900 --> 00:37:55,665

And I'll continue.

759

00:37:55,665 --> 00:38:05,450

760

00:38:05,450 --> 00:38:07,610

This is tape one,
side B. And you

761
00:38:07,610 --> 00:38:12,780
were talking about being in the
car and getting scarlet fever.

762
00:38:12,780 --> 00:38:16,530
Yes, we were in the car.

763
00:38:16,530 --> 00:38:19,550
Let me describe the car
for you a little bit.

764
00:38:19,550 --> 00:38:23,690
Because it was a cattle car.

765
00:38:23,690 --> 00:38:26,930
So there were no windows.

766
00:38:26,930 --> 00:38:29,990
There were some air
vents on the top.

767
00:38:29,990 --> 00:38:33,740
So you had to lift a
person to be able to--

768
00:38:33,740 --> 00:38:38,480
there was the door, sliding
door, which was closed,

769
00:38:38,480 --> 00:38:46,650
which was open, I
think, once at night

770
00:38:46,650 --> 00:38:54,090
when they shoved in very
salty fish soup or something

771
00:38:54,090 --> 00:38:56,540
like that.

772

00:38:56,540 --> 00:39:01,520

We got something in the morning,
bread and tea or something,

773

00:39:01,520 --> 00:39:03,900

and that soup in the evening.

774

00:39:03,900 --> 00:39:04,850

That was it.

775

00:39:04,850 --> 00:39:12,110

And also, what I remember is
that I remember standing more

776

00:39:12,110 --> 00:39:14,000

than going.

777

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:17,480

Because six weeks to Siberia.

778

00:39:17,480 --> 00:39:19,710

This trans-Siberian
took two weeks.

779

00:39:19,710 --> 00:39:22,670

But this took six weeks
because we were not

780

00:39:22,670 --> 00:39:24,350

a preferential thing.

781

00:39:24,350 --> 00:39:28,730

So whenever they had to have
military trains or cargo

782

00:39:28,730 --> 00:39:31,720

trains, we would stand
and they would go past.

783

00:39:31,720 --> 00:39:34,410

So we stood a lot.

784

00:39:34,410 --> 00:39:36,950

But anyway, so I
got scarlet fever.

785

00:39:36,950 --> 00:39:43,310

And this doctor told my
mother, you're still young,

786

00:39:43,310 --> 00:39:47,060

you can have other children.

787

00:39:47,060 --> 00:39:50,840

But then he asked her
a question or whatever.

788

00:39:50,840 --> 00:39:56,440

And he asked her, how
long did you breed him?

789

00:39:56,440 --> 00:40:00,810

790

00:40:00,810 --> 00:40:02,520

Breast-fed him.

791

00:40:02,520 --> 00:40:03,890

And she said, a year.

792

00:40:03,890 --> 00:40:07,690

So he said, well,
then he has a chance.

793

00:40:07,690 --> 00:40:10,310

And that's what saved me.

794

00:40:10,310 --> 00:40:14,390

So you see, this mother who
was leading a separate life,

795

00:40:14,390 --> 00:40:17,780

and she had this premonition.

796

00:40:17,780 --> 00:40:19,490

OK.

797

00:40:19,490 --> 00:40:20,470

She also had another.

798

00:40:20,470 --> 00:40:22,910

Let me go back to this other--

799

00:40:22,910 --> 00:40:24,560

it wasn't a premonition.

800

00:40:24,560 --> 00:40:27,800

She always told us

this story that--

801

00:40:27,800 --> 00:40:30,240

this was 1928, 29.

802

00:40:30,240 --> 00:40:32,300

She was still a young girl.

803

00:40:32,300 --> 00:40:35,190

I don't think she was

married yet to my father.

804

00:40:35,190 --> 00:40:38,810

And she said she was with

her group in a ski resort.

805

00:40:38,810 --> 00:40:40,520

It's always a ski resort.

806

00:40:40,520 --> 00:40:47,240

And they were drinking

and were happy.

807

00:40:47,240 --> 00:40:56,120

And suddenly, one of them

went to entrance a woman.

808

00:40:56,120 --> 00:40:59,810
And nobody at the table
understood what was happening.

809
00:40:59,810 --> 00:41:05,960
The woman stood up and was
completely outside of herself.

810
00:41:05,960 --> 00:41:08,510
And she started
pointing to the people.

811
00:41:08,510 --> 00:41:12,560
And she said, I see a terrible--

812
00:41:12,560 --> 00:41:14,510
she probably didn't
use the word Holocaust,

813
00:41:14,510 --> 00:41:20,750
but it was something similar.

814
00:41:20,750 --> 00:41:23,060
And she said, I see
this terrible Holocaust,

815
00:41:23,060 --> 00:41:25,740
and you're going to die.

816
00:41:25,740 --> 00:41:27,450
You're going to live.

817
00:41:27,450 --> 00:41:30,390
And she pointed out that
all the people at the table.

818
00:41:30,390 --> 00:41:32,990
And then she came
out of the trance.

819
00:41:32,990 --> 00:41:36,534
She said she saw Europe burning.

820

00:41:36,534 --> 00:41:40,870

And to my mother, she
said, you're going to live.

821

00:41:40,870 --> 00:41:45,430

So she always repeated this,
that this gave her hope,

822

00:41:45,430 --> 00:41:45,930

you know?

823

00:41:45,930 --> 00:41:49,190

She knew she was
going to survive.

824

00:41:49,190 --> 00:41:54,240

This was in 1928.

825

00:41:54,240 --> 00:41:56,710

So we were going to
Siberia in this car.

826

00:41:56,710 --> 00:41:58,690

And I was going to
tell you about the car.

827

00:41:58,690 --> 00:42:01,000

So that had vents.

828

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:05,510

And of course all the families.

829

00:42:05,510 --> 00:42:09,300

The first thing they
did was to put a--

830

00:42:09,300 --> 00:42:13,840

it was a big pot or
whatever they had,

831

00:42:13,840 --> 00:42:17,320

which had to be

used as a toilet.

832

00:42:17,320 --> 00:42:20,770

And this was placed in
the middle of the car.

833

00:42:20,770 --> 00:42:22,930

And in the beginning, it
was just in the middle,

834

00:42:22,930 --> 00:42:24,490

and everybody
tried to get as far

835

00:42:24,490 --> 00:42:27,700

away from it as
possible, which the best

836

00:42:27,700 --> 00:42:29,830

places were the corners.

837

00:42:29,830 --> 00:42:32,980

And we had such a heated
corner with water,

838

00:42:32,980 --> 00:42:34,330

because it was a big family.

839

00:42:34,330 --> 00:42:38,980

It was 14 people, our
family, that went to Siberia.

840

00:42:38,980 --> 00:42:45,430

And later on, they put out
of blankets or some clothing

841

00:42:45,430 --> 00:42:46,870

with some rope.

842

00:42:46,870 --> 00:42:50,360

The clothing, at least,
for the top part of it.

843

00:42:50,360 --> 00:42:52,060

So you can still
tell who was sitting

844

00:42:52,060 --> 00:42:56,440

on the throne by his
feet or by the shoes.

845

00:42:56,440 --> 00:42:58,220

Anyway.

846

00:42:58,220 --> 00:43:03,720

So this was the
setup of the train.

847

00:43:03,720 --> 00:43:07,830

Let me tell you who went on
this train from our family.

848

00:43:07,830 --> 00:43:12,450

It was my mother,
my sister, and I.

849

00:43:12,450 --> 00:43:21,445

Then my mother's sister,
Janka, with her two sons.

850

00:43:21,445 --> 00:43:24,850

851

00:43:24,850 --> 00:43:28,690

She was a widow, so
she was she was alone.

852

00:43:28,690 --> 00:43:33,820

Then the wife of
my uncle, who again

853

00:43:33,820 --> 00:43:35,590

was not at home
at that time, who

854

00:43:35,590 --> 00:43:37,120
was working for the Russians.

855
00:43:37,120 --> 00:43:38,730
And that night he
was not at home.

856
00:43:38,730 --> 00:43:41,800
So that's why they didn't
take him to Siberia,

857
00:43:41,800 --> 00:43:43,210
which probably saved us, too.

858
00:43:43,210 --> 00:43:47,300

859
00:43:47,300 --> 00:43:51,260
So it was his wife and
their three children

860
00:43:51,260 --> 00:43:54,780
which were more or less my age.

861
00:43:54,780 --> 00:43:59,370
Two nannies-- their nanny
and my nanny, our nanny.

862
00:43:59,370 --> 00:44:04,160
And my grandparents
from my mother's side.

863
00:44:04,160 --> 00:44:09,170
He was very old already, and
she was very old, bearded.

864
00:44:09,170 --> 00:44:12,050
How old I cannot tell
you, but they were old.

865
00:44:12,050 --> 00:44:16,250
So 14 people from my
family going to Siberia.

866
00:44:16,250 --> 00:44:21,380
Well, after six weeks,
I was recuperated

867
00:44:21,380 --> 00:44:23,180
from my scarlet fever.

868
00:44:23,180 --> 00:44:24,570
We arrived in Siberia.

869
00:44:24,570 --> 00:44:26,600
They arriving in Siberia--

870
00:44:26,600 --> 00:44:30,870
well, the train stopped and
then some trucks picked us up.

871
00:44:30,870 --> 00:44:32,245
But before we talk
about Siberia,

872
00:44:32,245 --> 00:44:34,703
I just want to ask you a few
more questions about the train

873
00:44:34,703 --> 00:44:35,240
ride.

874
00:44:35,240 --> 00:44:38,630
What did your mother do
with two small children

875
00:44:38,630 --> 00:44:41,900
in a train for six weeks?

876
00:44:41,900 --> 00:44:44,720
Did she do anything
special with you?

877
00:44:44,720 --> 00:44:45,620
Yes, yes.

878
00:44:45,620 --> 00:44:50,970
I think she was very fun.

879
00:44:50,970 --> 00:44:52,860
She had a very good
sense of humor.

880
00:44:52,860 --> 00:44:55,140
So did my uncle.

881
00:44:55,140 --> 00:44:58,380
And I do comedies.

882
00:44:58,380 --> 00:45:02,940
And I think what I
have, I inherited.

883
00:45:02,940 --> 00:45:08,850
So she was very
funny and she knew

884
00:45:08,850 --> 00:45:12,820
how to take every bad situation
and turn it into a joke.

885
00:45:12,820 --> 00:45:15,570
Which is a very
Jewish thing, too.

886
00:45:15,570 --> 00:45:19,410
So this saved us
many times, you know.

887
00:45:19,410 --> 00:45:22,620
And of course, on the train,
she used to tell us stories.

888
00:45:22,620 --> 00:45:24,600
She was very well-read.

889
00:45:24,600 --> 00:45:28,645

She knew all the Polish
poets, she recited them.

890
00:45:28,645 --> 00:45:31,650
And Polish-Jewish
Tuwim, he wrote

891
00:45:31,650 --> 00:45:34,740
a thing which I still remember
about the train, which

892
00:45:34,740 --> 00:45:36,160
was very nice.

893
00:45:36,160 --> 00:45:37,770
And she recited things.

894
00:45:37,770 --> 00:45:40,938
She played games with us.

895
00:45:40,938 --> 00:45:41,730
What kind of games?

896
00:45:41,730 --> 00:45:43,500
Things she never
did before the war.

897
00:45:43,500 --> 00:45:46,150
She didn't have the time, yes.

898
00:45:46,150 --> 00:45:47,080
What did you ask?

899
00:45:47,080 --> 00:45:49,540
What kind of games did she play?

900
00:45:49,540 --> 00:45:51,140
I don't remember.

901
00:45:51,140 --> 00:45:52,570
Spoken games.

902

00:45:52,570 --> 00:45:55,120

Spoken, spoken.

903

00:45:55,120 --> 00:45:58,750

Yeah, don't remember-- don't forget, I was sick for a while.

904

00:45:58,750 --> 00:46:02,140

So she took good care of me, and kept me hot,

905

00:46:02,140 --> 00:46:06,480

and fed me whatever there was.

906

00:46:06,480 --> 00:46:08,400

Were you able to get out of the train car

907

00:46:08,400 --> 00:46:09,630

at all in those six weeks?

908

00:46:09,630 --> 00:46:10,320

No.

909

00:46:10,320 --> 00:46:11,970

No, we stayed on the train.

910

00:46:11,970 --> 00:46:15,360

And one station, I remember that somehow--

911

00:46:15,360 --> 00:46:17,190

because we stopped at a station, we

912

00:46:17,190 --> 00:46:20,550

plead the people who were at the station,

913

00:46:20,550 --> 00:46:24,030

sometimes they give us things, you know.

914
00:46:24,030 --> 00:46:28,740
I remember once, they
gave us ice cream.

915
00:46:28,740 --> 00:46:31,650
But this was in the summer.

916
00:46:31,650 --> 00:46:38,600
It was in late summer
or early autumn.

917
00:46:38,600 --> 00:46:39,780
Of 1940?

918
00:46:39,780 --> 00:46:41,520
1940, yes.

919
00:46:41,520 --> 00:46:43,050
1940.

920
00:46:43,050 --> 00:46:47,950
And they somebody
gave us ice cream,

921
00:46:47,950 --> 00:46:53,240
which she melted and gave it
to me, because it was sweet

922
00:46:53,240 --> 00:46:56,960
and that's what I needed.

923
00:46:56,960 --> 00:46:58,845
Did you play with your
sister on the train?

924
00:46:58,845 --> 00:47:01,750

925
00:47:01,750 --> 00:47:04,060
Probably, yes, she was
always very close to me,

926
00:47:04,060 --> 00:47:07,090
but I don't remember.

927
00:47:07,090 --> 00:47:08,530
How did you sleep?

928
00:47:08,530 --> 00:47:11,650
I remember the bad moments
from the train, not the good.

929
00:47:11,650 --> 00:47:13,390
And there were awkward moments.

930
00:47:13,390 --> 00:47:15,370
I mean, there were
bad ones at least.

931
00:47:15,370 --> 00:47:16,870
But how did we sleep?

932
00:47:16,870 --> 00:47:18,910
Like everybody else,
you just lie down.

933
00:47:18,910 --> 00:47:22,300
You had a blanket, whether
they gave us the blankets

934
00:47:22,300 --> 00:47:25,700
or whether this was part of the
values that we were allowed.

935
00:47:25,700 --> 00:47:28,540
But they probably
gave us some blankets.

936
00:47:28,540 --> 00:47:32,250
Can you tell me one or
two of the bad moments?

937
00:47:32,250 --> 00:47:36,990

Well, I can tell you a good
moment when my mother, on one

938
00:47:36,990 --> 00:47:38,550
of the stations--

939
00:47:38,550 --> 00:47:40,830
she always talked to people
and asked them for things,

940
00:47:40,830 --> 00:47:44,290
and sometimes they would
give some food or something,

941
00:47:44,290 --> 00:47:45,990
some clothing.

942
00:47:45,990 --> 00:47:49,860
But on this day, she
went up there to the vent

943
00:47:49,860 --> 00:47:50,910
and looked out.

944
00:47:50,910 --> 00:47:54,540
And she talked a little
bit, and then she came down,

945
00:47:54,540 --> 00:47:57,150
and she said, I think
this time, we're

946
00:47:57,150 --> 00:47:58,830
going to get good results.

947
00:47:58,830 --> 00:48:00,760
I talked to Stalin himself.

948
00:48:00,760 --> 00:48:03,310
There was a big
statue of Stalin.

949

00:48:03,310 --> 00:48:04,110
She was funny.

950
00:48:04,110 --> 00:48:08,710

951
00:48:08,710 --> 00:48:10,690
The bad moments--

952
00:48:10,690 --> 00:48:12,240
I remember there
were dead people.

953
00:48:12,240 --> 00:48:15,980
In every car, there
were people who died,

954
00:48:15,980 --> 00:48:17,830
who arrived were dead.

955
00:48:17,830 --> 00:48:21,150
60 people who were going in
such conditions, you know.

956
00:48:21,150 --> 00:48:24,040
And old people, many,
many old people.

957
00:48:24,040 --> 00:48:29,140
Our family, on the other hand,
arrived safely in Siberia.

958
00:48:29,140 --> 00:48:32,290
Did they at least take out the
dead people as you went along?

959
00:48:32,290 --> 00:48:34,090
Yes, yes, yes, that I remember.

960
00:48:34,090 --> 00:48:35,570
Yes.

961

00:48:35,570 --> 00:48:38,140
You remember the
sound of those doors.

962
00:48:38,140 --> 00:48:41,750
I don't remember, but I took
it from pictures later on.

963
00:48:41,750 --> 00:48:46,880
But the sound I can hear, of
these doors sliding and people

964
00:48:46,880 --> 00:48:47,870
being taken out.

965
00:48:47,870 --> 00:48:51,620
And I asked what what eh?

966
00:48:51,620 --> 00:48:53,760
Did you know being dead meant?

967
00:48:53,760 --> 00:48:55,910
Probably, yes, yes.

968
00:48:55,910 --> 00:48:58,540
You learn fast.

969
00:48:58,540 --> 00:49:02,440
I didn't want to
know, but I did.

970
00:49:02,440 --> 00:49:05,550
That's all I remember
from this ride, anyway.

971
00:49:05,550 --> 00:49:07,970
It was a long ride and
not much happened on it.

972
00:49:07,970 --> 00:49:10,800
It was the same
routine every day.

973

00:49:10,800 --> 00:49:13,990

It stopped and stopped,
and then we moved.

974

00:49:13,990 --> 00:49:15,610

We didn't know
where we were going.

975

00:49:15,610 --> 00:49:17,670

Nobody knew.

976

00:49:17,670 --> 00:49:21,510

We didn't know why we were
going, where we were going.

977

00:49:21,510 --> 00:49:26,210

Nobody had read about the
Stalin plan, so we didn't know.

978

00:49:26,210 --> 00:49:28,760

Especially it must have
been puzzling, also,

979

00:49:28,760 --> 00:49:30,560

because there were
non-Jews on the train,

980

00:49:30,560 --> 00:49:34,610

too, who also didn't know
why they were being taken.

981

00:49:34,610 --> 00:49:37,550

Did the non-Jews and
the Jews mix together?

982

00:49:37,550 --> 00:49:39,290

Yes, yes, definitely, yes.

983

00:49:39,290 --> 00:49:41,420

They were all refugees, no.

984

00:49:41,420 --> 00:49:42,770

Did people help each other?

985

00:49:42,770 --> 00:49:43,990

Do you remember?

986

00:49:43,990 --> 00:49:45,230

Did people share?

987

00:49:45,230 --> 00:49:48,080

You probably fought for yourself
first or for your family

988

00:49:48,080 --> 00:49:49,430

and then you helped.

989

00:49:49,430 --> 00:49:52,350

990

00:49:52,350 --> 00:49:53,700

Nothing to the contrary.

991

00:49:53,700 --> 00:49:56,710

So I guess we did.

992

00:49:56,710 --> 00:49:59,470

And then we arrived somewhere.

993

00:49:59,470 --> 00:50:06,930

And they took us by trucks,
I think for two more days.

994

00:50:06,930 --> 00:50:08,850

What was your first
response when you knew

995

00:50:08,850 --> 00:50:10,110

you had arrived at a place?

996

00:50:10,110 --> 00:50:13,540

997

00:50:13,540 --> 00:50:15,400

I don't know whether
we knew where.

998

00:50:15,400 --> 00:50:17,335

They probably told us
the name of the place.

999

00:50:17,335 --> 00:50:19,900

1000

00:50:19,900 --> 00:50:21,670

It was near the Lena river.

1001

00:50:21,670 --> 00:50:24,530

1002

00:50:24,530 --> 00:50:28,320

I forgot the name of the close--

1003

00:50:28,320 --> 00:50:31,970

Yes, we arrived in Yakutsk.

1004

00:50:31,970 --> 00:50:38,420

Yakutsk was the end station
of the Siberian train.

1005

00:50:38,420 --> 00:50:41,190

Now, a few years ago, we
went together with my sister.

1006

00:50:41,190 --> 00:50:42,950

We went to Siberia.

1007

00:50:42,950 --> 00:50:45,050

But it was a different Siberia.

1008

00:50:45,050 --> 00:50:48,410

It was summer, we were
in a luxury train.

1009

00:50:48,410 --> 00:50:51,950

And we were in those parts
which I wanted to go.

1010
00:50:51,950 --> 00:50:54,470
At the time, it
was still closed.

1011
00:50:54,470 --> 00:50:57,500
Now it's open, so maybe
I'll venture there.

1012
00:50:57,500 --> 00:51:00,960
What was it like to get out
of the train onto the ground?

1013
00:51:00,960 --> 00:51:02,960
Good, good, good.

1014
00:51:02,960 --> 00:51:04,430
But we still weren't
on the ground.

1015
00:51:04,430 --> 00:51:07,250
We went for two days on trucks.

1016
00:51:07,250 --> 00:51:10,040
Then they dropped us.

1017
00:51:10,040 --> 00:51:13,520
And it was not a town, it was--

1018
00:51:13,520 --> 00:51:15,230
I don't know what
will you call it.

1019
00:51:15,230 --> 00:51:16,325
A settlement?

1020
00:51:16,325 --> 00:51:16,980
A settlement?

1021
00:51:16,980 --> 00:51:18,147

Anyway, something like that.

1022
00:51:18,147 --> 00:51:20,510
Small settlement where
there were some buildings

1023
00:51:20,510 --> 00:51:21,530
made out of wood.

1024
00:51:21,530 --> 00:51:24,740
There was a school,
a wooden school.

1025
00:51:24,740 --> 00:51:27,500
Everything very, very,
very, very Siberian,

1026
00:51:27,500 --> 00:51:31,460
very, very Russian, like
you see all over Russia,

1027
00:51:31,460 --> 00:51:34,700
these houses made of logs.

1028
00:51:34,700 --> 00:51:38,990
And as we were 14 people,
we were very lucky

1029
00:51:38,990 --> 00:51:40,800
because we had a
house to ourself.

1030
00:51:40,800 --> 00:51:43,540

1031
00:51:43,540 --> 00:51:50,790
Not only a house, but a very
big 14-holding people bed.

1032
00:51:50,790 --> 00:51:54,090
We all slept together.

1033

00:51:54,090 --> 00:51:57,320

In the winter, it was very
good because we cuddle up

1034

00:51:57,320 --> 00:51:58,590

to each other, you know.

1035

00:51:58,590 --> 00:52:02,370

So it was very
good, 14-people bed.

1036

00:52:02,370 --> 00:52:06,700

I remember it was a bed
that went around three

1037

00:52:06,700 --> 00:52:10,770

corners of the wall.

1038

00:52:10,770 --> 00:52:15,300

So we had the house to ourselves
where we stayed all together.

1039

00:52:15,300 --> 00:52:17,445

And my sister went to school.

1040

00:52:17,445 --> 00:52:21,870

1041

00:52:21,870 --> 00:52:24,600

She was at an age where
she could be taught

1042

00:52:24,600 --> 00:52:28,200

a little bit of communism.

1043

00:52:28,200 --> 00:52:31,390

By now, you're 6 and 1/2.

1044

00:52:31,390 --> 00:52:36,170

By now, I'm six, 6
and 1/2, that's right.

1045

00:52:36,170 --> 00:52:38,500
She's eight.

1046
00:52:38,500 --> 00:52:40,090
So she goes to school, yes.

1047
00:52:40,090 --> 00:52:43,470

1048
00:52:43,470 --> 00:52:48,240
I won't tell you her stories,
because her stories you have.

1049
00:52:48,240 --> 00:52:50,280
Here, you asked me
before about playing.

1050
00:52:50,280 --> 00:52:53,130
I remember playing
with my cousin,

1051
00:52:53,130 --> 00:52:58,200
with my uncle's daughter, middle
daughter, the youngest son,

1052
00:52:58,200 --> 00:53:02,400
Danek, he had a middle
daughter called Eva,

1053
00:53:02,400 --> 00:53:05,010
and an older
daughter called Mira.

1054
00:53:05,010 --> 00:53:07,230
Mira was a little bit
too old for me to play,

1055
00:53:07,230 --> 00:53:08,940
Eva was exactly my age.

1056
00:53:08,940 --> 00:53:12,480
So we played together and
we went mushroom-seeking

1057
00:53:12,480 --> 00:53:13,770
in the forest there.

1058
00:53:13,770 --> 00:53:17,820
And I remember we picked
up a mushroom that

1059
00:53:17,820 --> 00:53:21,940
was the size of an umbrella,
which is probably exaggerated,

1060
00:53:21,940 --> 00:53:24,760
but I was very small.

1061
00:53:24,760 --> 00:53:26,333
And so I remember
those mushrooms.

1062
00:53:26,333 --> 00:53:27,000
And we ate them.

1063
00:53:27,000 --> 00:53:29,070
They were very good.

1064
00:53:29,070 --> 00:53:30,870
Did you miss your father?

1065
00:53:30,870 --> 00:53:32,460
No, no, no.

1066
00:53:32,460 --> 00:53:34,060
I didn't miss my father.

1067
00:53:34,060 --> 00:53:34,560
Why?

1068
00:53:34,560 --> 00:53:36,270
Because we never talked.

1069
00:53:36,270 --> 00:53:39,570

My mother, always the
first person who arrived

1070
00:53:39,570 --> 00:53:42,300
or something, she asked
about news of my father,

1071
00:53:42,300 --> 00:53:45,130
as if he could know.

1072
00:53:45,130 --> 00:53:46,810
But he couldn't know.

1073
00:53:46,810 --> 00:53:50,330
She asked the soldiers,
she asked everybody.

1074
00:53:50,330 --> 00:53:54,580
But I don't think she
spoke too much to us

1075
00:53:54,580 --> 00:53:56,440
about him because he was gone.

1076
00:53:56,440 --> 00:54:00,370
I mean, she never expected,
maybe, to see him again,

1077
00:54:00,370 --> 00:54:07,240
so we had to live for the
moment, what we were living.

1078
00:54:07,240 --> 00:54:10,800
But we talked about a lot about
my uncle because he was alive

1079
00:54:10,800 --> 00:54:14,130
and he was sending us
packages to Siberia.

1080
00:54:14,130 --> 00:54:15,750
Where was he at this time?

1081

00:54:15,750 --> 00:54:19,230

He was in Kolomyia
or whereabouts.

1082

00:54:19,230 --> 00:54:21,750

He was still working
for the Russians.

1083

00:54:21,750 --> 00:54:26,860

And he had the money to buy
packages and send them to us.

1084

00:54:26,860 --> 00:54:30,380

And they arrived, incredible.

1085

00:54:30,380 --> 00:54:34,280

They arrived with
food, with cigarettes.

1086

00:54:34,280 --> 00:54:36,530

My mother was an avid smoker.

1087

00:54:36,530 --> 00:54:40,410

So he put in cigarettes
and she sold.

1088

00:54:40,410 --> 00:54:57,740

1089

00:54:57,740 --> 00:55:00,560

Was he able to put in written
letters to your mother?

1090

00:55:00,560 --> 00:55:02,540

Yes, yes.

1091

00:55:02,540 --> 00:55:03,710

She sold the cigarettes.

1092

00:55:03,710 --> 00:55:07,270

She exchanged them
for butter for us.

1093
00:55:07,270 --> 00:55:10,655

1094
00:55:10,655 --> 00:55:11,155
Yes.

1095
00:55:11,155 --> 00:55:14,170

1096
00:55:14,170 --> 00:55:15,790
He sent letters.

1097
00:55:15,790 --> 00:55:18,400
And they were very,
very funny letters.

1098
00:55:18,400 --> 00:55:23,540
Because he would say you
have to read this book--

1099
00:55:23,540 --> 00:55:25,440
he would put a communist
book or something.

1100
00:55:25,440 --> 00:55:27,760
Read it very carefully,
it's very interesting.

1101
00:55:27,760 --> 00:55:31,230
And there was
something put inside.

1102
00:55:31,230 --> 00:55:34,965
And he would write, the
rice is a little bit dirty,

1103
00:55:34,965 --> 00:55:35,920
you have to clean it.

1104
00:55:35,920 --> 00:55:38,880
Then we would find things there.

1105
00:55:38,880 --> 00:55:43,680
Money, he didn't send, but he
sent things that were valuable.

1106
00:55:43,680 --> 00:55:44,790
Why didn't he send money?

1107
00:55:44,790 --> 00:55:49,740
Because money in Siberia
was of not much use.

1108
00:55:49,740 --> 00:55:52,320
In order to survive,
you had to work.

1109
00:55:52,320 --> 00:55:55,520
And when you work,
you got coupons.

1110
00:55:55,520 --> 00:55:58,550
And with these coupons,
you could buy things,

1111
00:55:58,550 --> 00:56:01,120
not with money.

1112
00:56:01,120 --> 00:56:01,620
OK.

1113
00:56:01,620 --> 00:56:06,980
So this was whoever
worked survived

1114
00:56:06,980 --> 00:56:09,680
because he got the coupons.

1115
00:56:09,680 --> 00:56:14,210
But as I said, we could
exchange some of the things,

1116
00:56:14,210 --> 00:56:16,650

and the others we ate.

1117
00:56:16,650 --> 00:56:19,110
And there was probably
some clothing.

1118
00:56:19,110 --> 00:56:21,330
Also, it was my first
skiing experience.

1119
00:56:21,330 --> 00:56:25,560
Because out of the wooden
panels of the packages,

1120
00:56:25,560 --> 00:56:26,730
we would make skis.

1121
00:56:26,730 --> 00:56:28,410
I was small, the
skis were small.

1122
00:56:28,410 --> 00:56:31,410
Now they're using them
again, the small skis.

1123
00:56:31,410 --> 00:56:35,550
But this cousin of mine, Eva
and I, we skied a little bit,

1124
00:56:35,550 --> 00:56:38,110
skied.

1125
00:56:38,110 --> 00:56:39,900
We walked on these
wooden things,

1126
00:56:39,900 --> 00:56:43,730
we reached down or slid down.

1127
00:56:43,730 --> 00:56:46,370
Did your mother work or
was she home with you?

1128

00:56:46,370 --> 00:56:47,480

She worked.

1129

00:56:47,480 --> 00:56:52,820

She was a very beautiful
woman and she was frail.

1130

00:56:52,820 --> 00:56:57,290

And she was a great
human relations person.

1131

00:56:57,290 --> 00:56:59,180

She got along with everybody.

1132

00:56:59,180 --> 00:57:01,940

And she talked and she joked.

1133

00:57:01,940 --> 00:57:05,480

And at the end of the
day, whatever you did,

1134

00:57:05,480 --> 00:57:09,620

pick corn, or
wheat, or whatever.

1135

00:57:09,620 --> 00:57:13,610

Or go to the farms
and cut down trees.

1136

00:57:13,610 --> 00:57:16,940

They had different
tasks for everybody.

1137

00:57:16,940 --> 00:57:20,420

And you would bring what you--

1138

00:57:20,420 --> 00:57:23,580

1139

00:57:23,580 --> 00:57:27,570

you would bring over
what you got that day.

1140
00:57:27,570 --> 00:57:29,160
And they would weigh it.

1141
00:57:29,160 --> 00:57:30,990
And by the weight
of what you brought,

1142
00:57:30,990 --> 00:57:33,570
then you would get your
coupons, better coupons

1143
00:57:33,570 --> 00:57:35,880
or lesser coupons.

1144
00:57:35,880 --> 00:57:39,510
And she said that always some
soldier would put his foot

1145
00:57:39,510 --> 00:57:45,070
under the weight to raise it.

1146
00:57:45,070 --> 00:57:47,470
She was very well-liked.

1147
00:57:47,470 --> 00:57:51,550
Mostly because of her
humor, of her nature.

1148
00:57:51,550 --> 00:57:54,790
And yes, she worked,
as everybody else did.

1149
00:57:54,790 --> 00:57:57,710
Except the children, who
when they were at school age,

1150
00:57:57,710 --> 00:58:00,130
they went to school,
and when they were not,

1151
00:58:00,130 --> 00:58:02,590

they played when they
were five, six years old.

1152
00:58:02,590 --> 00:58:05,050
How did you keep yourself clean?

1153
00:58:05,050 --> 00:58:11,960
Oh, we made a tub out
of a barrel of whatever.

1154
00:58:11,960 --> 00:58:14,240
These houses had
already been lived

1155
00:58:14,240 --> 00:58:18,140
in by prisoners or whatever.

1156
00:58:18,140 --> 00:58:23,270
These people probably progressed
later to better quarters.

1157
00:58:23,270 --> 00:58:27,320
But we kept ourselves clean.

1158
00:58:27,320 --> 00:58:31,010
I remember taking baths
and being scrubbed

1159
00:58:31,010 --> 00:58:32,990
and everybody
scrubbed each other.

1160
00:58:32,990 --> 00:58:37,100
There was big danger of
these things in your hair--

1161
00:58:37,100 --> 00:58:37,910
Lice?

1162
00:58:37,910 --> 00:58:38,840
Yeah.

1163

00:58:38,840 --> 00:58:42,260

So we picked and
we combed things.

1164

00:58:42,260 --> 00:58:44,270

But with the packages
we got, which

1165

00:58:44,270 --> 00:58:50,350

also had some hygienic
things, it was all right.

1166

00:58:50,350 --> 00:58:54,020

A beautiful thing
about these packages

1167

00:58:54,020 --> 00:59:00,080

was that my uncle, he was
told by other people who

1168

00:59:00,080 --> 00:59:04,400

had family in
Siberia, he said, why

1169

00:59:04,400 --> 00:59:07,400

are you sending these
packages, I mean, how do you

1170

00:59:07,400 --> 00:59:09,750

know they'll get there?

1171

00:59:09,750 --> 00:59:14,370

And he said, well, I don't
know whether they'll get there,

1172

00:59:14,370 --> 00:59:16,410

but I'm sure yours
won't get there,

1173

00:59:16,410 --> 00:59:18,870

because you're not sending them.

1174

00:59:18,870 --> 00:59:20,340

So that was the thing.

1175

00:59:20,340 --> 00:59:22,490

And we were lucky,
they all got there.

1176

00:59:22,490 --> 00:59:26,270

1177

00:59:26,270 --> 00:59:28,370

Were you still wearing
the same clothes

1178

00:59:28,370 --> 00:59:33,050

that you had had
for quite some time?

1179

00:59:33,050 --> 00:59:33,960

Yes and no.

1180

00:59:33,960 --> 00:59:36,560

Well, in the winter
it was beastly cold.

1181

00:59:36,560 --> 00:59:42,350

It went down to 45 below
zero in Centigrade.

1182

00:59:42,350 --> 00:59:44,240

Was very cold in the winter.

1183

00:59:44,240 --> 00:59:48,620

The winter in Siberia is about
eight months long, on and off.

1184

00:59:48,620 --> 00:59:50,570

Gets cold.

1185

00:59:50,570 --> 00:59:53,510

There's one month of
summer, very hot summer,

1186

00:59:53,510 --> 00:59:57,050
and little bit of autumn.

1187
00:59:57,050 --> 01:00:03,330
And now, they, like
until a few years ago,

1188
01:00:03,330 --> 01:00:05,250
they had the store
there, where you could

1189
01:00:05,250 --> 01:00:07,500
buy with the coupon things.

1190
01:00:07,500 --> 01:00:17,280
And they would advise you,
today we got number 37 shoes.

1191
01:00:17,280 --> 01:00:21,000
So if you had a 37 foot
and arrived in time,

1192
01:00:21,000 --> 01:00:22,710
you could buy the--

1193
01:00:22,710 --> 01:00:26,700
they were called, my
sister knows the name.

1194
01:00:26,700 --> 01:00:29,670
Valenkas, valenkas.

1195
01:00:29,670 --> 01:00:37,920
They were fur boots made out
of very light felt and fur,

1196
01:00:37,920 --> 01:00:39,120
mostly felt, I think.

1197
01:00:39,120 --> 01:00:40,230
Felt, yes.

1198

01:00:40,230 --> 01:00:45,040
And we were in Russia.

1199
01:00:45,040 --> 01:00:48,750
And now visiting there,
she remembered the valenkas

1200
01:00:48,750 --> 01:00:50,850
and said, let's go and buy them.

1201
01:00:50,850 --> 01:00:52,770
So we walked in the
store and they had them.

1202
01:00:52,770 --> 01:00:54,700
But they only had
one number again.

1203
01:00:54,700 --> 01:01:00,130
So it wasn't her number, but
it was her grandchild's number.

1204
01:01:00,130 --> 01:01:02,400
So she took it for him.

1205
01:01:02,400 --> 01:01:05,070
But the conditions
haven't changed.

1206
01:01:05,070 --> 01:01:06,330
But they were hot.

1207
01:01:06,330 --> 01:01:08,100
Once you had them,
they were good.

1208
01:01:08,100 --> 01:01:11,610
And as they got in
the weekly shipment,

1209
01:01:11,610 --> 01:01:13,650
we had them for everybody.

1210

01:01:13,650 --> 01:01:15,390

So we had the valenkas.

1211

01:01:15,390 --> 01:01:18,745

And we had some
very warm clothes.

1212

01:01:18,745 --> 01:01:21,660

1213

01:01:21,660 --> 01:01:24,450

What about what
about your governess?

1214

01:01:24,450 --> 01:01:25,680

Did she stay with you?

1215

01:01:25,680 --> 01:01:26,700

She stayed with us.

1216

01:01:26,700 --> 01:01:27,810

And come to Siberia?

1217

01:01:27,810 --> 01:01:30,510

And she stayed
with us in Siberia.

1218

01:01:30,510 --> 01:01:35,130

And one of them even
became a communist.

1219

01:01:35,130 --> 01:01:38,250

She says she doesn't want
to work for us anymore.

1220

01:01:38,250 --> 01:01:39,890

This was ours, I think.

1221

01:01:39,890 --> 01:01:42,480

And she married a Russian.

1222

01:01:42,480 --> 01:01:44,870
And I think she stayed there.

1223
01:01:44,870 --> 01:01:48,190
Well anyway, she stayed there
longer than any of us did.

1224
01:01:48,190 --> 01:01:51,140
The other one, I
think, went later

1225
01:01:51,140 --> 01:01:57,030
on with my immediate
family when they left.

1226
01:01:57,030 --> 01:01:58,530
But I'll come to that.

1227
01:01:58,530 --> 01:01:59,450
OK.

1228
01:01:59,450 --> 01:02:01,580
You had mentioned
on the train car

1229
01:02:01,580 --> 01:02:04,220
that the sound of the
door closing and opening

1230
01:02:04,220 --> 01:02:05,120
stays with you.

1231
01:02:05,120 --> 01:02:09,050
Are there any sounds or
sights that stay with you

1232
01:02:09,050 --> 01:02:10,880
from your experience in Siberia?

1233
01:02:10,880 --> 01:02:13,070
Yes, definitely.

1234

01:02:13,070 --> 01:02:15,190

One sight which I
remember, for instance,

1235

01:02:15,190 --> 01:02:17,780

is in the winter when we went.

1236

01:02:17,780 --> 01:02:20,720

We didn't have water in
the house, of course.

1237

01:02:20,720 --> 01:02:26,030

It was an affluent of the Lena
River, way up north, Siberia.

1238

01:02:26,030 --> 01:02:28,645

And we had to go
to the river with--

1239

01:02:28,645 --> 01:02:31,250

1240

01:02:31,250 --> 01:02:31,760

Buckets?

1241

01:02:31,760 --> 01:02:34,190

Buckets, with buckets.

1242

01:02:34,190 --> 01:02:38,150

But it wasn't so simple, because
we had also to have access.

1243

01:02:38,150 --> 01:02:41,810

1244

01:02:41,810 --> 01:02:44,410

The older people went
with buckets, with axes.

1245

01:02:44,410 --> 01:02:48,040

And they would have to
slice the ice, make a hole,

1246

01:02:48,040 --> 01:02:51,490
then put the buckets in.

1247

01:02:51,490 --> 01:02:53,500
And we would bring
them to the house.

1248

01:02:53,500 --> 01:02:55,510
Of course, the children
and smaller ones.

1249

01:02:55,510 --> 01:02:57,070
The adults and bigger.

1250

01:02:57,070 --> 01:02:59,350
And when we returned,
a few minutes later,

1251

01:02:59,350 --> 01:03:04,060
it was already ice
cold again, iced.

1252

01:03:04,060 --> 01:03:06,670
So we had to make
the hole again.

1253

01:03:06,670 --> 01:03:08,150
This was the whole routine.

1254

01:03:08,150 --> 01:03:10,180
I remember that very well.

1255

01:03:10,180 --> 01:03:13,390
I remember the skiing.

1256

01:03:13,390 --> 01:03:17,530
I remember the sleeping
of the 14 people together,

1257

01:03:17,530 --> 01:03:19,825
the mushroom-seeking
in the autumn.

1258
01:03:19,825 --> 01:03:23,110

1259
01:03:23,110 --> 01:03:24,870
There wasn't such a big novelty.

1260
01:03:24,870 --> 01:03:26,860
The arrival of the
packages, which

1261
01:03:26,860 --> 01:03:30,260
was wonderful, because there
was something for everybody.

1262
01:03:30,260 --> 01:03:32,100
And they came so often.

1263
01:03:32,100 --> 01:03:33,910
How often did they
come, do you remember?

1264
01:03:33,910 --> 01:03:39,010
I think if not every
week, maybe twice a week.

1265
01:03:39,010 --> 01:03:41,960
They came and came and came.

1266
01:03:41,960 --> 01:03:45,890
Look, it was his family,
especially his family was

1267
01:03:45,890 --> 01:03:47,390
there, so he was sending there.

1268
01:03:47,390 --> 01:03:49,490
But also we were very close.

1269
01:03:49,490 --> 01:03:52,040
What was the health
of your grandparents?

1270
01:03:52,040 --> 01:03:53,150
Very good.

1271
01:03:53,150 --> 01:03:55,510
Siberia is an ideal climate.

1272
01:03:55,510 --> 01:03:58,190
You have the oldest
people there.

1273
01:03:58,190 --> 01:03:59,120
Yes.

1274
01:03:59,120 --> 01:04:02,060
If you had something to
eat, the climate-- you

1275
01:04:02,060 --> 01:04:05,600
always see these
Siberians with 130 years.

1276
01:04:05,600 --> 01:04:06,530
Ideal.

1277
01:04:06,530 --> 01:04:11,970
Very cold, very dry,
healthy, very healthy.

1278
01:04:11,970 --> 01:04:14,407
So you did not go to
school, you stayed home.

1279
01:04:14,407 --> 01:04:15,240
But your sister did.

1280
01:04:15,240 --> 01:04:16,220
I stayed home.

1281
01:04:16,220 --> 01:04:20,490
I played in the
fields or whatever.

1282
01:04:20,490 --> 01:04:23,920
But my sister went
to school, yes.

1283
01:04:23,920 --> 01:04:24,480
And yes.

1284
01:04:24,480 --> 01:04:28,020
Did you make friends
with the other children?

1285
01:04:28,020 --> 01:04:31,600
No, because look, we
were a 14-member family

1286
01:04:31,600 --> 01:04:36,060
so I had several
which were my own age.

1287
01:04:36,060 --> 01:04:39,810
I don't remember
anybody else's children.

1288
01:04:39,810 --> 01:04:44,995
Probably, my mother
probably, my aunt--

1289
01:04:44,995 --> 01:04:49,050

1290
01:04:49,050 --> 01:04:50,940
there were no men in our group.

1291
01:04:50,940 --> 01:04:52,590
I mean men, men.

1292
01:04:52,590 --> 01:04:54,630
Because there was
the donor children,

1293
01:04:54,630 --> 01:04:58,410

which was 11 or
12, the oldest one.

1294
01:04:58,410 --> 01:05:00,210
And then there was
the grandfather.

1295
01:05:00,210 --> 01:05:07,740
But there was no one and it
was and her husband had died.

1296
01:05:07,740 --> 01:05:13,000
The other end was married
to this life saver.

1297
01:05:13,000 --> 01:05:17,660
And my mother was
with my father.

1298
01:05:17,660 --> 01:05:20,090
And the nannies weren't married.

1299
01:05:20,090 --> 01:05:22,730
So you could not read
or write at this point.

1300
01:05:22,730 --> 01:05:23,510
No.

1301
01:05:23,510 --> 01:05:25,290
Neither could my sister.

1302
01:05:25,290 --> 01:05:26,480
But we spoke Russian.

1303
01:05:26,480 --> 01:05:28,610
We learned very quickly.

1304
01:05:28,610 --> 01:05:29,930
We spoke Russian.

1305
01:05:29,930 --> 01:05:31,970

How did you learn Russian?

1306

01:05:31,970 --> 01:05:36,250

As a child, you learn so
quickly just by picking it up.

1307

01:05:36,250 --> 01:05:38,860

And also, you forget quickly.

1308

01:05:38,860 --> 01:05:39,760

But we spoke.

1309

01:05:39,760 --> 01:05:45,640

And now, when we went to
Russia, I learned the alphabet.

1310

01:05:45,640 --> 01:05:47,100

And oh, you have plenty of time.

1311

01:05:47,100 --> 01:05:51,825

I learned the alphabet and
my sister remembered a lot.

1312

01:05:51,825 --> 01:05:53,500

A lot came back to her.

1313

01:05:53,500 --> 01:05:56,800

So whenever I
would read Raymond,

1314

01:05:56,800 --> 01:05:59,880

let's say, she's,
oh, that's a store.

1315

01:05:59,880 --> 01:06:02,310

Fixing store, they fix things.

1316

01:06:02,310 --> 01:06:05,940

So she remembered,
and I read it.

1317

01:06:05,940 --> 01:06:07,930

If I had stayed there
for two or three months,

1318
01:06:07,930 --> 01:06:10,760
it would have come back.

1319
01:06:10,760 --> 01:06:13,972
But we spoke quite good Russian.

1320
01:06:13,972 --> 01:06:14,930
What about your mother?

1321
01:06:14,930 --> 01:06:16,430
You spoke German to your mother?

1322
01:06:16,430 --> 01:06:18,860
No, Polish, Polish, Polish.

1323
01:06:18,860 --> 01:06:19,790
Everything was Polish.

1324
01:06:19,790 --> 01:06:22,820

1325
01:06:22,820 --> 01:06:26,420
No, we went-- after
the war broke out,

1326
01:06:26,420 --> 01:06:29,660
or maybe after the Anschluss,
we didn't speak German anymore.

1327
01:06:29,660 --> 01:06:33,093
That's when we learned Polish
because my father thought it

1328
01:06:33,093 --> 01:06:34,760
was-- or my mother
that it wasn't good--

1329
01:06:34,760 --> 01:06:36,800
But your very first

language was German?

1330
01:06:36,800 --> 01:06:37,532
Yes.

1331
01:06:37,532 --> 01:06:38,570
But we didn't speak.

1332
01:06:38,570 --> 01:06:40,390
I forgot it completely.

1333
01:06:40,390 --> 01:06:42,890
Then I lived later after the
war, I lived there for a while.

1334
01:06:42,890 --> 01:06:43,932
And then I remembered it.

1335
01:06:43,932 --> 01:06:45,170
But now, I speak it.

1336
01:06:45,170 --> 01:06:47,910

1337
01:06:47,910 --> 01:06:49,500
Yes, I didn't speak
it at that time.

1338
01:06:49,500 --> 01:06:51,780
Which we spoke
Polish, because also,

1339
01:06:51,780 --> 01:06:56,070
our immediate family
was all Polish-speaking.

1340
01:06:56,070 --> 01:06:58,440
Maybe we even spoke
some Russian with them.

1341
01:06:58,440 --> 01:07:00,840
Maybe, maybe, because

everybody had to learn.

1342
01:07:00,840 --> 01:07:02,910
I mean, you were there for life.

1343
01:07:02,910 --> 01:07:06,660
Siberia, all you read
about was that was it.

1344
01:07:06,660 --> 01:07:09,630

1345
01:07:09,630 --> 01:07:13,270
So we spent almost a year there.

1346
01:07:13,270 --> 01:07:17,030
And in the summer,
my mother is called.

1347
01:07:17,030 --> 01:07:19,640
No news about my
father whatsoever.

1348
01:07:19,640 --> 01:07:22,120
She's called to
a different city.

1349
01:07:22,120 --> 01:07:24,110
She's picked up by carriage.

1350
01:07:24,110 --> 01:07:25,310
Not a car, by carriage.

1351
01:07:25,310 --> 01:07:27,270
And she's taken there.

1352
01:07:27,270 --> 01:07:32,220
She comes back and she
says, we're free to go.

1353
01:07:32,220 --> 01:07:34,260
They told us we're free to go.

1354
01:07:34,260 --> 01:07:35,230
What do you mean?

1355
01:07:35,230 --> 01:07:36,360
Everybody wants to know.

1356
01:07:36,360 --> 01:07:42,090
Says, Stefan, Ria, and I am
free to go back to Poland.

1357
01:07:42,090 --> 01:07:44,486
Or wherever we want to go.

1358
01:07:44,486 --> 01:07:45,710
We're free.

1359
01:07:45,710 --> 01:07:47,540
The rest, no.

1360
01:07:47,540 --> 01:07:48,200
How come?

1361
01:07:48,200 --> 01:07:49,730
I don't know.

1362
01:07:49,730 --> 01:07:54,620
And she asked them, when she was
there, how come I'm free to go?

1363
01:07:54,620 --> 01:07:56,710
Where's my husband?

1364
01:07:56,710 --> 01:07:57,210
No need.

1365
01:07:57,210 --> 01:07:58,190
You're free to go.

1366
01:07:58,190 --> 01:07:59,720
All you have to do is--

1367
01:07:59,720 --> 01:08:01,250
and they knew.

1368
01:08:01,250 --> 01:08:03,650
They knew about my
uncle, of course.

1369
01:08:03,650 --> 01:08:08,480
So she says, I don't have any
money to buy a ticket back

1370
01:08:08,480 --> 01:08:09,665
to Poland, let's say.

1371
01:08:09,665 --> 01:08:12,680
Says, write your brother.

1372
01:08:12,680 --> 01:08:14,390
So they knew.

1373
01:08:14,390 --> 01:08:16,760
Every package was
opened and read,

1374
01:08:16,760 --> 01:08:20,260
and sure, the letters were read.

1375
01:08:20,260 --> 01:08:22,899
They probably saw the frequency.

1376
01:08:22,899 --> 01:08:27,260
Nobody got such packages as
we did, and so frequently.

1377
01:08:27,260 --> 01:08:32,410
So said, write to your brother
and tell him to send you

1378
01:08:32,410 --> 01:08:34,930
money for the tickets.

1379

01:08:34,930 --> 01:08:36,410

So that's what she did.

1380

01:08:36,410 --> 01:08:37,479

She wrote to him.

1381

01:08:37,479 --> 01:08:40,720

But she told him,
look, how will he

1382

01:08:40,720 --> 01:08:48,640

know it's not something you're
making up to get the money?

1383

01:08:48,640 --> 01:08:54,180

And so they told, well,
that's your problem.

1384

01:08:54,180 --> 01:08:59,770

So she wrote to him and said she
was called up there and given

1385

01:08:59,770 --> 01:09:03,380

the chance to leave Russia.

1386

01:09:03,380 --> 01:09:05,840

And of course, he
got the letter.

1387

01:09:05,840 --> 01:09:06,760

He didn't believe it.

1388

01:09:06,760 --> 01:09:09,359

1389

01:09:09,359 --> 01:09:15,740

So he wrote back, and he
said, I got your letter

1390

01:09:15,740 --> 01:09:19,160

and said what's the
name of our cousin

1391
01:09:19,160 --> 01:09:21,970
who lives in California
or something like that?

1392
01:09:21,970 --> 01:09:27,890
So this was what they
called a [PORTUGUESE]----

1393
01:09:27,890 --> 01:09:29,270
password.

1394
01:09:29,270 --> 01:09:33,500
So she wrote him and then
he knew it was all right.

1395
01:09:33,500 --> 01:09:36,590
So he sent her the tickets.

1396
01:09:36,590 --> 01:09:40,740
And she asked him
about my father.

1397
01:09:40,740 --> 01:09:43,000
No news from him.

1398
01:09:43,000 --> 01:09:43,630
OK.

1399
01:09:43,630 --> 01:09:45,880
So this took about--

1400
01:09:45,880 --> 01:09:47,590
yes, then they took us in.

1401
01:09:47,590 --> 01:09:48,729
We didn't know why.

1402
01:09:48,729 --> 01:09:52,660
This time I and my sister and
my mother went to this town.

1403

01:09:52,660 --> 01:09:54,279

They photographed us.

1404

01:09:54,279 --> 01:09:55,880

Maybe we didn't go to this town.

1405

01:09:55,880 --> 01:09:59,680

This I cannot tell you
whether they took our picture.

1406

01:09:59,680 --> 01:10:04,870

I remember them taking pictures
of us, of the three of us.

1407

01:10:04,870 --> 01:10:11,790

And then it took some
more weeks and then

1408

01:10:11,790 --> 01:10:14,550

it started, and we
started going back.

1409

01:10:14,550 --> 01:10:17,730

Now, let me go around
to my father's story.

1410

01:10:17,730 --> 01:10:26,140

Because my father, when
we were taken to jail,

1411

01:10:26,140 --> 01:10:29,350

I was giving back, and
my father disappeared.

1412

01:10:29,350 --> 01:10:34,400

So he disappeared for 18 months.

1413

01:10:34,400 --> 01:10:39,070

So we stayed one
year in Siberia,

1414

01:10:39,070 --> 01:10:43,600

plus the trip, which took two months, one and a half months

1415
01:10:43,600 --> 01:10:46,630
going there and two weeks coming back.

1416
01:10:46,630 --> 01:10:50,560
So we have 14 months.

1417
01:10:50,560 --> 01:10:54,430
Which means he was in jail for 18 months.

1418
01:10:54,430 --> 01:10:59,430
Which means that four months before they

1419
01:10:59,430 --> 01:11:07,140
took us from Kolomyia to Serbia.

1420
01:11:07,140 --> 01:11:16,200
Well, my father went to 16 or 17 jails without knowing why.

1421
01:11:16,200 --> 01:11:21,360
And he ended up in the Lubyanka, which was the jail of Beria

1422
01:11:21,360 --> 01:11:26,280
at that time in Moscow, with a Persian carpet in front

1423
01:11:26,280 --> 01:11:29,430
of the cell or inside the cell, anyway, that's what.

1424
01:11:29,430 --> 01:11:35,520
He got from more important to more important jail.

1425
01:11:35,520 --> 01:11:40,560
Now, why was never

really explained.

1426

01:11:40,560 --> 01:11:45,390

What they wanted from him
was never really explained.

1427

01:11:45,390 --> 01:11:49,260

My mother, what she
said, is that my father,

1428

01:11:49,260 --> 01:11:56,060

seeing that his situation was
hopeless, he gave himself--

1429

01:11:56,060 --> 01:12:00,330

there's more
important than he was.

1430

01:12:00,330 --> 01:12:03,750

So whenever they took
him and questioned him,

1431

01:12:03,750 --> 01:12:06,420

he says, well, wait
till, I don't know,

1432

01:12:06,420 --> 01:12:11,310

Bernabau hears about
this, or Rothschild, or--

1433

01:12:11,310 --> 01:12:16,210

you know, the whole Europe is
going to move because of him.

1434

01:12:16,210 --> 01:12:17,990

He dropped names.

1435

01:12:17,990 --> 01:12:21,060

And he said he was the banker.

1436

01:12:21,060 --> 01:12:24,460

He could do this and
he could do that.

1437
01:12:24,460 --> 01:12:28,000
So probably, that was
my mother's theory.

1438
01:12:28,000 --> 01:12:30,340
That's why they got
interested in him.

1439
01:12:30,340 --> 01:12:31,930
Then he used to
say that one night,

1440
01:12:31,930 --> 01:12:35,350
he was taken at 11
o'clock at night.

1441
01:12:35,350 --> 01:12:39,430
He was driven from his
cell, put in an amphitheater

1442
01:12:39,430 --> 01:12:43,320
on the stage, with a lot of
people sitting and looking.

1443
01:12:43,320 --> 01:12:49,020
And everybody in silence until
five or 10 minutes later,

1444
01:12:49,020 --> 01:12:53,670
says, here is the
Bolshoi Bourgeois.

1445
01:12:53,670 --> 01:12:55,920
He's a capitalist banker.

1446
01:12:55,920 --> 01:12:59,280
And I don't know whether
they applauded or not.

1447
01:12:59,280 --> 01:13:01,110
They took him back.

1448

01:13:01,110 --> 01:13:04,170

So these people have never
seen a banker before.

1449

01:13:04,170 --> 01:13:06,920

1450

01:13:06,920 --> 01:13:11,760

And somehow, I don't
know what clicked,

1451

01:13:11,760 --> 01:13:14,820

but maybe that was a
thing that my mother said,

1452

01:13:14,820 --> 01:13:18,960

that he gave himself more
important air than he was.

1453

01:13:18,960 --> 01:13:24,430

And maybe he thought that
if they released him,

1454

01:13:24,430 --> 01:13:27,000

he could do something for them.

1455

01:13:27,000 --> 01:13:31,290

He probably saw this, he
probably understood this,

1456

01:13:31,290 --> 01:13:36,700

and he fed on this, that
he could do things for them

1457

01:13:36,700 --> 01:13:38,470

if they needed him later on.

1458

01:13:38,470 --> 01:13:40,660

He could bank the
revolution, whatever.

1459

01:13:40,660 --> 01:13:45,110

1460
01:13:45,110 --> 01:13:51,080
Yes, at this time, how,
what, never explained again.

1461
01:13:51,080 --> 01:13:54,440
We became Bolivian citizens.

1462
01:13:54,440 --> 01:13:56,930
With passports from Bolivia.

1463
01:13:56,930 --> 01:13:59,390
Real passports, not fakes.

1464
01:13:59,390 --> 01:14:02,120
My sister says half fakes, OK.

1465
01:14:02,120 --> 01:14:02,630
What?

1466
01:14:02,630 --> 01:14:05,060
They were given by the
Bolivian consulate.

1467
01:14:05,060 --> 01:14:07,093
They were bought, but given.

1468
01:14:07,093 --> 01:14:08,510
This was one of
the possibilities.

1469
01:14:08,510 --> 01:14:09,860
They were bought.

1470
01:14:09,860 --> 01:14:12,590
They were selling
Bolivian passports.

1471
01:14:12,590 --> 01:14:15,530
But real ones, they
were not fakes.

1472
01:14:15,530 --> 01:14:18,110
The Bolivian consulate where?

1473
01:14:18,110 --> 01:14:21,020
In Poland, and I don't know.

1474
01:14:21,020 --> 01:14:24,530
My sister says that
they came from America.

1475
01:14:24,530 --> 01:14:27,170
We had the cousin
Holzer, Arnold Holzer,

1476
01:14:27,170 --> 01:14:32,320
who was rich, powerful guy,
that he bought them for us.

1477
01:14:32,320 --> 01:14:36,670
I don't believe this because it
wouldn't give this importance.

1478
01:14:36,670 --> 01:14:40,120
How we came to be Bolivian
citizens with the provision

1479
01:14:40,120 --> 01:14:44,240
that we could go anywhere in
the world, except to Bolivia.

1480
01:14:44,240 --> 01:14:47,050
How we came into the possession
of this passport, I don't know.

1481
01:14:47,050 --> 01:14:49,160
Whether they were very
important, I don't know.

1482
01:14:49,160 --> 01:14:50,830
But what the important
thing was this,

1483

01:14:50,830 --> 01:14:55,540

that one day, after 18 months
in jail, I came to my father

1484

01:14:55,540 --> 01:14:57,170

and said, you're free.

1485

01:14:57,170 --> 01:14:57,670

No.

1486

01:14:57,670 --> 01:15:02,560

This was not after 18 months,
this was after 15 months.

1487

01:15:02,560 --> 01:15:03,220

You're free.

1488

01:15:03,220 --> 01:15:07,300

And he says, look, this
is the war going on.

1489

01:15:07,300 --> 01:15:10,270

You can see the
situation, 1940--

1490

01:15:10,270 --> 01:15:12,680

1941.

1491

01:15:12,680 --> 01:15:15,850

And he said, I don't want to go.

1492

01:15:15,850 --> 01:15:16,780

I'm not going out.

1493

01:15:16,780 --> 01:15:18,220

I'm not leaving here.

1494

01:15:18,220 --> 01:15:19,000

Says, why not?

1495

01:15:19,000 --> 01:15:21,960

Says, because I don't
know where my family is.

1496
01:15:21,960 --> 01:15:24,540
So now they start
to search for us.

1497
01:15:24,540 --> 01:15:27,550

1498
01:15:27,550 --> 01:15:30,520
Takes two months
and they locate us.

1499
01:15:30,520 --> 01:15:33,290
That's when my
mother was called.

1500
01:15:33,290 --> 01:15:36,780
They didn't say why.

1501
01:15:36,780 --> 01:15:39,670
They tell you,
you're free to go.

1502
01:15:39,670 --> 01:15:41,670
And she says the same
thing, where's my husband,

1503
01:15:41,670 --> 01:15:42,810
where's this?

1504
01:15:42,810 --> 01:15:46,330
We don't know so they
communicate to Moscow,

1505
01:15:46,330 --> 01:15:49,950
to the Lubyanka,
that they found us.

1506
01:15:49,950 --> 01:15:54,240
And my father, the important
man, sits and says,

1507
01:15:54,240 --> 01:15:58,150
yes, but I don't believe you.

1508
01:15:58,150 --> 01:16:00,490
So again, we are called in.

1509
01:16:00,490 --> 01:16:03,680
They take our pictures.

1510
01:16:03,680 --> 01:16:06,410
It's so crazy.

1511
01:16:06,410 --> 01:16:09,060
Because this is Russia
with a popular--

1512
01:16:09,060 --> 01:16:10,880
and this is a war going on.

1513
01:16:10,880 --> 01:16:13,010
We take our pictures
because my father doesn't

1514
01:16:13,010 --> 01:16:14,622
believe that they have us.

1515
01:16:14,622 --> 01:16:15,830
And they showed the pictures.

1516
01:16:15,830 --> 01:16:17,700
Now, will you please go?

1517
01:16:17,700 --> 01:16:20,440
So then he says, now I will go.

1518
01:16:20,440 --> 01:16:22,000