

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,510

2

00:00:00,510 --> 00:00:03,510

This is an interview for the
US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

3

00:00:03,510 --> 00:00:05,250

We are interviewing Eva Adam.

4

00:00:05,250 --> 00:00:06,780

My name is Esther Finder.

5

00:00:06,780 --> 00:00:10,450

Today is March 31, 1997.

6

00:00:10,450 --> 00:00:15,350

This is Tape 1, Side A.

7

00:00:15,350 --> 00:00:18,660

Can you tell me,
what is your name?

8

00:00:18,660 --> 00:00:21,380

My name is Eva Hava Adam.

9

00:00:21,380 --> 00:00:22,980

Was this your name at birth?

10

00:00:22,980 --> 00:00:24,320

Oh, yes.

11

00:00:24,320 --> 00:00:25,530

Of course, I married.

12

00:00:25,530 --> 00:00:26,930

So this is my married name.

13

00:00:26,930 --> 00:00:30,200

I was Eva Hava Beer.

14
00:00:30,200 --> 00:00:31,700
Could you spell
that for me, please?

15
00:00:31,700 --> 00:00:33,770
It is Beer in English.

16
00:00:33,770 --> 00:00:37,100
B-E-E-R.

17
00:00:37,100 --> 00:00:38,490
When were you born?

18
00:00:38,490 --> 00:00:43,650
I was born in September
the 3rd, 1932.

19
00:00:43,650 --> 00:00:44,850
And where were you born?

20
00:00:44,850 --> 00:00:48,600
In Budapest, which is
the capital of Hungary.

21
00:00:48,600 --> 00:00:49,890
Is that where you grew up?

22
00:00:49,890 --> 00:00:52,980
Oh, yes yes.

23
00:00:52,980 --> 00:00:54,960
What was it like
growing up in Budapest?

24
00:00:54,960 --> 00:00:56,250
Wonderful.

25
00:00:56,250 --> 00:00:58,820
We were an orthodox
Jewish family.

26

00:00:58,820 --> 00:01:02,580

We were quite well to do.

27

00:01:02,580 --> 00:01:03,770

We worked hard.

28

00:01:03,770 --> 00:01:09,180

We joined the only

Jewish affairs.

29

00:01:09,180 --> 00:01:14,100

We never included ourself
into anything else.

30

00:01:14,100 --> 00:01:18,840

Therefore, we were quite
protected from many things

31

00:01:18,840 --> 00:01:21,480

that we might not

be in if we would

32

00:01:21,480 --> 00:01:27,560

go to a different school, not
a Jewish one if it wouldn't be.

33

00:01:27,560 --> 00:01:31,170

Always almost in Jewish company.

34

00:01:31,170 --> 00:01:33,210

Did you live in a

Jewish neighborhood?

35

00:01:33,210 --> 00:01:35,750

Not really, no.

36

00:01:35,750 --> 00:01:37,580

We lived in very
good neighborhood,

37

00:01:37,580 --> 00:01:38,570

but it wasn't Jewish.

38
00:01:38,570 --> 00:01:43,400
It was near the Jewish
school that we all attended.

39
00:01:43,400 --> 00:01:47,010
And it was a very
beautiful, unusual setup.

40
00:01:47,010 --> 00:01:48,080
So we stayed there.

41
00:01:48,080 --> 00:01:50,620

42
00:01:50,620 --> 00:01:52,720
Let me ask you a few
questions about your family.

43
00:01:52,720 --> 00:01:55,190
What did your family
do for a living?

44
00:01:55,190 --> 00:02:04,570
My father was a contractor,
a painter of synagogues,

45
00:02:04,570 --> 00:02:10,270
of artistic works.

46
00:02:10,270 --> 00:02:12,190
My mother was a housewife.

47
00:02:12,190 --> 00:02:16,120
Also, she was the buyer
for a big textile company

48
00:02:16,120 --> 00:02:18,820
for my grandfather and others.

49
00:02:18,820 --> 00:02:24,790
All my families otherwise

were either music minded,

50

00:02:24,790 --> 00:02:33,790

or musicians, or painters of
different degrees and letters.

51

00:02:33,790 --> 00:02:35,040

What were your parents' names?

52

00:02:35,040 --> 00:02:39,160

53

00:02:39,160 --> 00:02:43,820

Beer, [? Adolf. ?] [? Artu, ?]
my mother, [? Tee ?] Gizella.

54

00:02:43,820 --> 00:02:46,350

55

00:02:46,350 --> 00:02:48,130

Did you have any
brothers or sisters?

56

00:02:48,130 --> 00:02:51,870

I do have a brother
and a sister in Israel.

57

00:02:51,870 --> 00:02:55,110

And my brother,
Menachem George Beer.

58

00:02:55,110 --> 00:02:58,650

And my sister, Sara
[? Rubini ?] Beer.

59

00:02:58,650 --> 00:03:01,890

60

00:03:01,890 --> 00:03:03,510

Were the oldest or the youngest?

61

00:03:03,510 --> 00:03:04,350

Where did you fall?

62

00:03:04,350 --> 00:03:08,416

I am the third, and
I'm the youngest.

63

00:03:08,416 --> 00:03:09,930

Yes.

64

00:03:09,930 --> 00:03:14,270

We are coming from a very large
extended family and a very

65

00:03:14,270 --> 00:03:18,250

close knit extended family.

66

00:03:18,250 --> 00:03:22,600

Till today, we feel that we are
coming from there although it

67

00:03:22,600 --> 00:03:26,410

seems to be so sensible,
much younger because

68

00:03:26,410 --> 00:03:32,700

of the Holocaust where
we lost most everybody.

69

00:03:32,700 --> 00:03:34,770

When you think about
growing up in Budapest,

70

00:03:34,770 --> 00:03:38,260

what kinds of memories
come to your mind?

71

00:03:38,260 --> 00:03:42,080

Mostly nice memories,
almost all nice memories.

72

00:03:42,080 --> 00:03:44,980

I was the youngest, as I said.

73

00:03:44,980 --> 00:03:47,770

And it was full of music.

74

00:03:47,770 --> 00:03:48,830

It was full of museums.

75

00:03:48,830 --> 00:03:51,390

76

00:03:51,390 --> 00:03:54,910

It was hardship also
because of the later years.

77

00:03:54,910 --> 00:03:58,420

Because of the war, my father
couldn't earn as much as

78

00:03:58,420 --> 00:04:00,050

before.

79

00:04:00,050 --> 00:04:03,200

But by and large,
I know that there

80

00:04:03,200 --> 00:04:05,160

are people that dislike us.

81

00:04:05,160 --> 00:04:07,450

We did not pay that
much attention to them.

82

00:04:07,450 --> 00:04:10,480

83

00:04:10,480 --> 00:04:15,500

We were sometimes told
"Jew" and something.

84

00:04:15,500 --> 00:04:18,550

Then I really feel
that as a child

85

00:04:18,550 --> 00:04:22,070

I felt that I could answer back,
"You are a dirty this and this

86

00:04:22,070 --> 00:04:24,160

if I am a dirty Jew."

87

00:04:24,160 --> 00:04:28,030

And it did not
probably affect me

88

00:04:28,030 --> 00:04:32,950

the same way if I would
have been taught to be quiet

89

00:04:32,950 --> 00:04:34,385

or not to answer.

90

00:04:34,385 --> 00:04:37,000

91

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:43,180

To be proud to be Jew, it
was one of the absolute basis

92

00:04:43,180 --> 00:04:45,550

and base of life.

93

00:04:45,550 --> 00:04:46,880

Absolutely.

94

00:04:46,880 --> 00:04:52,050

During, before, and, I
think, after hard times,

95

00:04:52,050 --> 00:04:53,390

the Holocaust.

96

00:04:53,390 --> 00:04:57,560

This made a big difference.

97

00:04:57,560 --> 00:04:59,600

You said you came from
an orthodox family.

98

00:04:59,600 --> 00:05:01,250

What traditions did you observe?

99

00:05:01,250 --> 00:05:03,140

Did your mother wear a wig?

100

00:05:03,140 --> 00:05:07,060

And did your father
wear a yarmulke?

101

00:05:07,060 --> 00:05:11,020

My father did wear
a hat all the time.

102

00:05:11,020 --> 00:05:14,290

And my mother was
in every respect

103

00:05:14,290 --> 00:05:21,520

an orthodox woman, except
long sleeves and hair.

104

00:05:21,520 --> 00:05:23,860

Otherwise, we very
truly belonged

105

00:05:23,860 --> 00:05:26,470

to the orthodox community.

106

00:05:26,470 --> 00:05:32,110

Those two things-- my mother
said our feelings are inside,

107

00:05:32,110 --> 00:05:34,970

and it's not necessary
always to show them.

108

00:05:34,970 --> 00:05:37,870

We are as good and

orthodox as anybody else.

109

00:05:37,870 --> 00:05:40,260

We kept extremely kosher.

110

00:05:40,260 --> 00:05:41,520

We never ate any of that.

111

00:05:41,520 --> 00:05:45,940

We didn't ring the bell
on the Shabbat to come in.

112

00:05:45,940 --> 00:05:49,630

We used to beat on the door.

113

00:05:49,630 --> 00:05:53,270

We didn't tear paper
for any reason.

114

00:05:53,270 --> 00:05:54,040

We didn't drive.

115

00:05:54,040 --> 00:05:54,950

We didn't.

116

00:05:54,950 --> 00:05:58,270

And most of the
morning, we prayed.

117

00:05:58,270 --> 00:06:00,910

We went to the synagogue.

118

00:06:00,910 --> 00:06:04,150

And also Friday evening,
Sabbath evening.

119

00:06:04,150 --> 00:06:09,180

Of course, every and
any holiday obviously.

120

00:06:09,180 --> 00:06:14,920

And I prayed at least

three times a day,

121

00:06:14,920 --> 00:06:18,960
which means the morning, after
meal, and in the evening.

122

00:06:18,960 --> 00:06:22,330
And Saturdays more.

123

00:06:22,330 --> 00:06:24,930
And it was a very nice life.

124

00:06:24,930 --> 00:06:33,194
It was a very, very demanding
and very rich type of life.

125

00:06:33,194 --> 00:06:33,694
Yeah.

126

00:06:33,694 --> 00:06:36,498

127

00:06:36,498 --> 00:06:38,290
Did you have a favorite
holiday growing up?

128

00:06:38,290 --> 00:06:41,100

129

00:06:41,100 --> 00:06:45,870
Maybe when we-- all the
holidays my favorite, really.

130

00:06:45,870 --> 00:06:50,260
You can't help but [? pass ?]
when you clean the whole house,

131

00:06:50,260 --> 00:06:52,140
and then everything is new.

132

00:06:52,140 --> 00:06:56,460
And everything has a different

fragrance, of course.

133

00:06:56,460 --> 00:06:59,240

And then, I love
very much when we

134

00:06:59,240 --> 00:07:03,700

had to bring in a lot
of flowers and put

135

00:07:03,700 --> 00:07:07,600

behind every picture
and every place

136

00:07:07,600 --> 00:07:10,780

where we could to
dress up the house for.

137

00:07:10,780 --> 00:07:14,260

And to be [? smart ?]
we also had.

138

00:07:14,260 --> 00:07:20,710

And Purim, Hanukka,
they were our favorite.

139

00:07:20,710 --> 00:07:23,790

Not the high holy days,
they are never favorite.

140

00:07:23,790 --> 00:07:30,746

They always very,
very frightening also.

141

00:07:30,746 --> 00:07:32,480

Yeah.

142

00:07:32,480 --> 00:07:35,480

What did you do for fun
when you were a little girl?

143

00:07:35,480 --> 00:07:39,350

We lived in a world of music.

144
00:07:39,350 --> 00:07:44,540
We really, truly did since
the age of three or four.

145
00:07:44,540 --> 00:07:48,020
Not only that we have learned
and studied music but, well,

146
00:07:48,020 --> 00:07:48,990
our family played.

147
00:07:48,990 --> 00:07:54,710
So we were used to extremely
good quality music, therefore.

148
00:07:54,710 --> 00:07:58,850
And we went to
concerts, preferably

149
00:07:58,850 --> 00:08:00,860
not too expensive ones.

150
00:08:00,860 --> 00:08:05,870
All of us, we went to
Jewish private schools

151
00:08:05,870 --> 00:08:10,940
where it was customary to bring
in at least two or three times

152
00:08:10,940 --> 00:08:15,410
a year Jewish theater or
children's theater, which

153
00:08:15,410 --> 00:08:19,590
was Jewish, by the way
also, and to go outing.

154
00:08:19,590 --> 00:08:20,620
We did swim.

155

00:08:20,620 --> 00:08:23,930
We did skiing, skate.

156
00:08:23,930 --> 00:08:26,480

157
00:08:26,480 --> 00:08:30,410
We rode bicycles, although
it was bought secondhand.

158
00:08:30,410 --> 00:08:31,010
That's true.

159
00:08:31,010 --> 00:08:34,340
But we repainted it.

160
00:08:34,340 --> 00:08:37,039
We were three children,
but we were in the house

161
00:08:37,039 --> 00:08:39,590
always at least five
children or more

162
00:08:39,590 --> 00:08:43,039
because we were in the
capital city, where

163
00:08:43,039 --> 00:08:45,110
our cousins came to study.

164
00:08:45,110 --> 00:08:46,910
So they lived with us.

165
00:08:46,910 --> 00:08:51,410
Sometimes our other
relatives also.

166
00:08:51,410 --> 00:08:55,100
And before the Holocaust,
it was all different.

167

00:08:55,100 --> 00:08:58,520

People, came and they
had nowhere to leave,

168

00:08:58,520 --> 00:09:04,630

people from Slovakia
and Poland et cetera.

169

00:09:04,630 --> 00:09:11,660

So any good Jew was able
to did have one or two

170

00:09:11,660 --> 00:09:14,360

people like working
for him, cleaning,

171

00:09:14,360 --> 00:09:16,670

or doing whatever there is.

172

00:09:16,670 --> 00:09:19,710

So they will have
the possibility

173

00:09:19,710 --> 00:09:23,200

to remain in Budapest
and to be saved.

174

00:09:23,200 --> 00:09:25,360

So you're talking
about refugees from--

175

00:09:25,360 --> 00:09:28,320

Yeah, but it means that
they lived in the apartment.

176

00:09:28,320 --> 00:09:31,590

I mean, I remember times
when I slept with my sister

177

00:09:31,590 --> 00:09:37,230

on the bed and so forth, which
wasn't really a hardship.

178

00:09:37,230 --> 00:09:40,650

It was not considered
a hardship.

179

00:09:40,650 --> 00:09:43,780

When did you start
taking refugees in?

180

00:09:43,780 --> 00:09:45,070

But I remember.

181

00:09:45,070 --> 00:09:51,400

I could only tell you I remember
at least two years before.

182

00:09:51,400 --> 00:09:56,490

I mean '41, '42, '43.

183

00:09:56,490 --> 00:10:01,480

My father that used
to have many workers,

184

00:10:01,480 --> 00:10:04,630

he took always a few
that they were only

185

00:10:04,630 --> 00:10:08,350

by name professionals.

186

00:10:08,350 --> 00:10:12,470

But this was the only way
to keep them in Budapest.

187

00:10:12,470 --> 00:10:17,210

And they didn't
always know Hungarian.

188

00:10:17,210 --> 00:10:22,020

Sometimes they did,
depending where from.

189

00:10:22,020 --> 00:10:24,930

Did you study a particular

instrument yourself?

190
00:10:24,930 --> 00:10:25,560
Oh, yes.

191
00:10:25,560 --> 00:10:28,740
I was a violinist as a child.

192
00:10:28,740 --> 00:10:29,730
And I sang.

193
00:10:29,730 --> 00:10:33,690
It became apparent that
I could sing very good.

194
00:10:33,690 --> 00:10:36,000
I think even in the
ghetto, I used to sing.

195
00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:40,120
And young people used
to dance to my singing.

196
00:10:40,120 --> 00:10:43,332
We had no any other
thing to make music.

197
00:10:43,332 --> 00:10:45,984

198
00:10:45,984 --> 00:10:47,810
You mentioned that you
had refugees coming

199
00:10:47,810 --> 00:10:50,270
to your home in the '40s.

200
00:10:50,270 --> 00:10:53,210
But let's go back a little bit.

201
00:10:53,210 --> 00:10:58,790
Do you have any recollection of

what was going on in Germany?

202

00:10:58,790 --> 00:11:01,550

Or had you heard anything
when you were growing up?

203

00:11:01,550 --> 00:11:02,696

Before '40s.

204

00:11:02,696 --> 00:11:03,890

Before the '40s.

205

00:11:03,890 --> 00:11:04,660

A lot.

206

00:11:04,660 --> 00:11:09,620

I've heard a lot of things when
my father and others discussed,

207

00:11:09,620 --> 00:11:13,670

mother and so forth, the
situation and the [? front ?]

208

00:11:13,670 --> 00:11:16,970

that the fighting is going on.

209

00:11:16,970 --> 00:11:21,060

It was especially
the Russian front.

210

00:11:21,060 --> 00:11:28,019

One of my uncles was
murdered there where

211

00:11:28,019 --> 00:11:32,210

the dawn, the river dawn turns.

212

00:11:32,210 --> 00:11:37,580

It was a big battle.

213

00:11:37,580 --> 00:11:41,190

And we know for a fact

that he was wounded.

214
00:11:41,190 --> 00:11:46,200
And he went to that station.

215
00:11:46,200 --> 00:11:48,070
And he was beaten to death.

216
00:11:48,070 --> 00:11:52,500
We know this because another
relative saw him at the time.

217
00:11:52,500 --> 00:12:01,090
It was in '42, 1942.

218
00:12:01,090 --> 00:12:06,060
We are talking about
my uncle who was

219
00:12:06,060 --> 00:12:08,250
younger brother of my mother.

220
00:12:08,250 --> 00:12:09,690
Very good looking young guy.

221
00:12:09,690 --> 00:12:13,560
So as a child even, we
liked to play with him.

222
00:12:13,560 --> 00:12:16,350
He was in the army,
not as a soldier

223
00:12:16,350 --> 00:12:20,520
but as a Jewish
soldier, which meant

224
00:12:20,520 --> 00:12:22,170
that you don't have rights.

225
00:12:22,170 --> 00:12:26,200
You don't have-- you

cannot carry a gun.

226

00:12:26,200 --> 00:12:28,140

You have to do any
and every work.

227

00:12:28,140 --> 00:12:32,280

And you are sometimes,
many times not given food.

228

00:12:32,280 --> 00:12:34,590

And you are tortured
in many ways

229

00:12:34,590 --> 00:12:41,700

that they are very well known,
like sending you up on a tree

230

00:12:41,700 --> 00:12:51,690

during the winter of Russia,
and making you shout out

231

00:12:51,690 --> 00:12:57,870

like a bird for hours, and then
thrown at you some cold water

232

00:12:57,870 --> 00:13:03,380

until you fell off
like a broken bird.

233

00:13:03,380 --> 00:13:05,090

And it was really fun.

234

00:13:05,090 --> 00:13:08,440

It was really funny
for the soldiers,

235

00:13:08,440 --> 00:13:10,690

probably, because they
did it quite a lot.

236

00:13:10,690 --> 00:13:14,440

237
00:13:14,440 --> 00:13:16,840
It wasn't the way
that my uncle died.

238
00:13:16,840 --> 00:13:21,530
He was hit by a
bullet in his stomach.

239
00:13:21,530 --> 00:13:29,020
And he crawled, and he moved
toward the first aid station.

240
00:13:29,020 --> 00:13:35,000
And my other uncle, my
other sister's husband,

241
00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:36,950
saw him and tried to help him.

242
00:13:36,950 --> 00:13:39,860
And he was beaten
by the soldiers,

243
00:13:39,860 --> 00:13:41,960
the Hungarian soldiers.

244
00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:49,590
1942.

245
00:13:49,590 --> 00:13:54,732
Back in the '30s, the
late '30s, to the best

246
00:13:54,732 --> 00:13:56,190
of your recollection,
were the Jews

247
00:13:56,190 --> 00:13:58,208
in your community
concerned about what

248

00:13:58,208 --> 00:13:59,250
was happening in Germany?

249

00:13:59,250 --> 00:14:01,710
Was there much talk about
things like Kristallnacht

250

00:14:01,710 --> 00:14:05,430
and the invasion into Poland?

251

00:14:05,430 --> 00:14:07,110
Yes, a lot.

252

00:14:07,110 --> 00:14:12,180
I was then-- as you know, I
was born in September '32.

253

00:14:12,180 --> 00:14:16,550
So my recollection quite clear.

254

00:14:16,550 --> 00:14:24,750
But only here and there some
things that I could remember.

255

00:14:24,750 --> 00:14:29,250
I remember every summer we
went to my grandparents' home

256

00:14:29,250 --> 00:14:34,860
where my other uncles,
aunts, and cousins lived.

257

00:14:34,860 --> 00:14:38,380
And we spent the
whole summer together.

258

00:14:38,380 --> 00:14:41,070
And it was quite
customary for us

259

00:14:41,070 --> 00:14:44,700
to be running away,
laughing, and be

260
00:14:44,700 --> 00:14:50,850
afraid because of the Hungarian
fascist was running after us.

261
00:14:50,850 --> 00:14:52,920
And, "I kill you, I kill you."

262
00:14:52,920 --> 00:14:57,060
They never even tried
to catch us, really.

263
00:14:57,060 --> 00:14:58,200
But it happened.

264
00:14:58,200 --> 00:15:00,090
And we know the names.

265
00:15:00,090 --> 00:15:01,980
These are [? Elish ?] brothers.

266
00:15:01,980 --> 00:15:04,980
Where home, they run
after you, and be careful.

267
00:15:04,980 --> 00:15:13,650
And there were several
occasions when we heard,

268
00:15:13,650 --> 00:15:18,390
mostly in small places
where my family used

269
00:15:18,390 --> 00:15:24,390
to live, outlandish
anti-Semitic remarks.

270
00:15:24,390 --> 00:15:30,160
"Jew, you are
smelly" and so forth.

271
00:15:30,160 --> 00:15:35,980

And we heard discussions of the
happenings in the late '30s,

272
00:15:35,980 --> 00:15:38,700
the very late '30s.

273
00:15:38,700 --> 00:15:41,280
I was born on the
third of September.

274
00:15:41,280 --> 00:15:45,780
And if you recall
from maybe in history,

275
00:15:45,780 --> 00:15:52,320
it was 1939, 3rd of
September, when everything

276
00:15:52,320 --> 00:16:00,070
was known already that the
Germans run over Poland

277
00:16:00,070 --> 00:16:01,430
and so forth.

278
00:16:01,430 --> 00:16:04,270
So this is something
that I remember

279
00:16:04,270 --> 00:16:08,410
very well because of
course it made my birthday

280
00:16:08,410 --> 00:16:12,690
nonexistent in feeling
and in every other way.

281
00:16:12,690 --> 00:16:17,470
Also before that,
some talk mainly

282
00:16:17,470 --> 00:16:22,900
about happenings

in other countries.

283

00:16:22,900 --> 00:16:26,590

It wasn't clear to me
which countries are those.

284

00:16:26,590 --> 00:16:29,760

285

00:16:29,760 --> 00:16:33,150

Did your family ever think
about getting out of Europe?

286

00:16:33,150 --> 00:16:36,390

My family never thought
about getting out of Europe.

287

00:16:36,390 --> 00:16:40,800

My grandfather, who was a very
strong figure in the family

288

00:16:40,800 --> 00:16:43,000

and absolute totally loved.

289

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:45,690

And maybe he was tyrannic.

290

00:16:45,690 --> 00:16:46,420

I don't know.

291

00:16:46,420 --> 00:16:52,020

But he was the person
that we follow, all of us,

292

00:16:52,020 --> 00:16:53,900

not only children.

293

00:16:53,900 --> 00:16:57,440

And he called us together.

294

00:16:57,440 --> 00:17:02,630

And he told us we will be

the last Jews that we ever

295

00:17:02,630 --> 00:17:03,690

leave Hungary.

296

00:17:03,690 --> 00:17:08,240

And we will kiss the earth
if when we could come back

297

00:17:08,240 --> 00:17:09,920

if we have to leave.

298

00:17:09,920 --> 00:17:14,839

We were not supposed to
speak German or Yiddish ever.

299

00:17:14,839 --> 00:17:18,510

We did study German because
it was part of our education.

300

00:17:18,510 --> 00:17:21,770

But he wouldn't
allow, and he wouldn't

301

00:17:21,770 --> 00:17:27,829

let anybody speak the language
except Hungarian in the house.

302

00:17:27,829 --> 00:17:30,380

And we were terribly
patriotic Hungarians.

303

00:17:30,380 --> 00:17:35,780

We did think that we are
Hungarian Israelites.

304

00:17:35,780 --> 00:17:37,970

We didn't think that
we are Jews that

305

00:17:37,970 --> 00:17:41,820

happened to leave in
Hungary, America, [? Rosto ?]

306
00:17:41,820 --> 00:17:42,320
or wherever.

307
00:17:42,320 --> 00:17:45,390

308
00:17:45,390 --> 00:17:49,230
I know very many
families like that.

309
00:17:49,230 --> 00:17:51,630
To be Hungarian,
it was number one.

310
00:17:51,630 --> 00:17:54,060
And to be Jew, also number one.

311
00:17:54,060 --> 00:17:57,480
And we thought that this
is something possible

312
00:17:57,480 --> 00:18:00,270
until we were told [INAUDIBLE].

313
00:18:00,270 --> 00:18:03,150
Did your family have a
long history in Budapest?

314
00:18:03,150 --> 00:18:08,070
On my mother's side, we
know eight generations

315
00:18:08,070 --> 00:18:10,140
of Hungarian descent.

316
00:18:10,140 --> 00:18:18,720
On my father's side, we know
one generation, only from Poland

317
00:18:18,720 --> 00:18:25,380
where they came from because

of reasons of anti-Semitism

318

00:18:25,380 --> 00:18:29,480

and also looking for a
better life in Hungary.

319

00:18:29,480 --> 00:18:35,560

320

00:18:35,560 --> 00:18:38,900

So when you were
growing up and things

321

00:18:38,900 --> 00:18:41,600

were happening in
other parts of Europe,

322

00:18:41,600 --> 00:18:45,780

you had only partial knowledge
of what was going on?

323

00:18:45,780 --> 00:18:51,000

Yes, very limited, very
limited partial knowledge.

324

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:56,370

But I knew when people
were gathered together

325

00:18:56,370 --> 00:18:59,880

and were taken out of
Hungary because they

326

00:18:59,880 --> 00:19:04,680

came just one or two generations
from Poland and other places,

327

00:19:04,680 --> 00:19:10,680

and they have never asked
for Hungarian papers

328

00:19:10,680 --> 00:19:18,690

to become a Hungarian, to change

their nationality to Hungarian.

329

00:19:18,690 --> 00:19:20,710

And therefore,
they were murdered.

330

00:19:20,710 --> 00:19:24,600

They were sent out from Hungary.

331

00:19:24,600 --> 00:19:26,820

When my father and
mother got married,

332

00:19:26,820 --> 00:19:30,570

and my mother heard
that my father actually

333

00:19:30,570 --> 00:19:38,100

Polish national, she said,
"No, I will not marry a Pole."

334

00:19:38,100 --> 00:19:40,280

So they just asked
for the papers.

335

00:19:40,280 --> 00:19:42,870

So did the whole
family of my father.

336

00:19:42,870 --> 00:19:45,390

And they become
Hungarian nationals,

337

00:19:45,390 --> 00:19:48,750

although my father, of
course, was born in Hungary.

338

00:19:48,750 --> 00:19:52,410

But at the time, you had to ask
for it even if you were there

339

00:19:52,410 --> 00:19:55,230

three or four generations.

340
00:19:55,230 --> 00:19:59,510
So this why we
were not persecuted

341
00:19:59,510 --> 00:20:04,440
as Polish or other
nationalities.

342
00:20:04,440 --> 00:20:10,050
Jews were born in Hungary
for generations that did not

343
00:20:10,050 --> 00:20:11,940
change their nationality.

344
00:20:11,940 --> 00:20:13,230
They were persecuted.

345
00:20:13,230 --> 00:20:18,480
They sent to [? Chelmno ?] and
[? Podolsk ?] as far as I know,

346
00:20:18,480 --> 00:20:23,220
where they were thrown back
and forth on the border,

347
00:20:23,220 --> 00:20:31,950
and gotten raped, and beaten
up, and shot into ditches.

348
00:20:31,950 --> 00:20:36,030
And we knew this because one
of the boys in my brother's

349
00:20:36,030 --> 00:20:40,800
class and his very
outstanding family,

350
00:20:40,800 --> 00:20:45,330
socially, financially,
and intellectually,

351

00:20:45,330 --> 00:20:49,590
were one of those that did not
change their nationalities.

352

00:20:49,590 --> 00:20:55,890
The boy came back because all
the dead bodies fell on him.

353

00:20:55,890 --> 00:21:00,400
His sister was raped and
cut to pieces, actually.

354

00:21:00,400 --> 00:21:03,510
And he came back.

355

00:21:03,510 --> 00:21:07,230
Somebody just felt sorry
for the 16-year-old

356

00:21:07,230 --> 00:21:14,510
and took him back to
Budapest or inside Hungary.

357

00:21:14,510 --> 00:21:18,590
But at the time, the
Hungarian Jews said, OK,

358

00:21:18,590 --> 00:21:20,120
this cannot happen to us.

359

00:21:20,120 --> 00:21:26,690
This only happened to those that
were different nationalities,

360

00:21:26,690 --> 00:21:29,950
although they were born
in Hungary, of course.

361

00:21:29,950 --> 00:21:33,010
Who did this to
this boy's family?

362

00:21:33,010 --> 00:21:36,440

Who actually were
the perpetrators?

363

00:21:36,440 --> 00:21:44,220

On the border of Poland, the
Polish and the Hungarian both

364

00:21:44,220 --> 00:21:49,680

pushed the Jews back and
forth, and murdered them,

365

00:21:49,680 --> 00:21:53,780

and raped them, and
all the terrible things

366

00:21:53,780 --> 00:21:54,722

happened to them.

367

00:21:54,722 --> 00:21:57,550

368

00:21:57,550 --> 00:22:02,210

How did things start to change
for you and your family?

369

00:22:02,210 --> 00:22:04,790

From the late '30s
into the early '40s,

370

00:22:04,790 --> 00:22:07,470

did you see a
progression of change?

371

00:22:07,470 --> 00:22:11,930

Yes, even as a
child, I detected--

372

00:22:11,930 --> 00:22:20,580

not only the financial picture
was extremely different.

373

00:22:20,580 --> 00:22:25,530

All those privileges like
studying in good schools

374
00:22:25,530 --> 00:22:30,930
and studying sport,
or music, or languages

375
00:22:30,930 --> 00:22:33,630
were almost impossible.

376
00:22:33,630 --> 00:22:36,380
Food was a little bit different.

377
00:22:36,380 --> 00:22:39,450
And mainly the
atmosphere at home, it

378
00:22:39,450 --> 00:22:46,770
was filled with the
fear from the future

379
00:22:46,770 --> 00:22:49,950
and what will happen to us.

380
00:22:49,950 --> 00:22:55,240
And also places were
thrown into the--

381
00:22:55,240 --> 00:22:59,080
names of places like
Madagascar, which

382
00:22:59,080 --> 00:23:04,670
was a place that we didn't
know about anything whatsoever.

383
00:23:04,670 --> 00:23:08,620
And we heard that we will
have to leave Hungary and live

384
00:23:08,620 --> 00:23:13,170
in Madagascar, where the
Jews will be taken to.

385
00:23:13,170 --> 00:23:18,890

386
00:23:18,890 --> 00:23:24,740
All sorts of places
that things happened.

387
00:23:24,740 --> 00:23:29,300
Generally, it was
said not already.

388
00:23:29,300 --> 00:23:34,190
It was later, after
'40, '39, '40.

389
00:23:34,190 --> 00:23:41,710
Already, the Polish Jews, and
already the Slovakian Jews,

390
00:23:41,710 --> 00:23:42,680
and so forth.

391
00:23:42,680 --> 00:23:47,860
We also had quite a large
number of people running away

392
00:23:47,860 --> 00:23:53,320
from those places where the
Germans already arrived.

393
00:23:53,320 --> 00:23:59,750
Ever since '39, in September
when the war actually started.

394
00:23:59,750 --> 00:24:07,690
But even before this, we heard
about the terrible happenings

395
00:24:07,690 --> 00:24:12,970
in Austria and Germany itself.

396

00:24:12,970 --> 00:24:16,120
I remember for
some reason that we

397
00:24:16,120 --> 00:24:19,900
heard that many people
killed themselves, jumped out

398
00:24:19,900 --> 00:24:26,650
of the window, not wanting
to live a life of deprivation

399
00:24:26,650 --> 00:24:27,910
and torture.

400
00:24:27,910 --> 00:24:31,090

401
00:24:31,090 --> 00:24:32,220
Those are the things.

402
00:24:32,220 --> 00:24:35,800
And I've heard
terrible stories also.

403
00:24:35,800 --> 00:24:39,580
I don't know if it was true,
but as children, one child

404
00:24:39,580 --> 00:24:41,430
to the other, that goehring--

405
00:24:41,430 --> 00:24:43,900
I remember as [INAUDIBLE].

406
00:24:43,900 --> 00:24:49,600
The goehring caught
the body of Jews

407
00:24:49,600 --> 00:24:55,280
that put their bare
hands like a puppet.

408

00:24:55,280 --> 00:25:01,620

And also, other names came
up, like of course Hitler.

409

00:25:01,620 --> 00:25:07,190

At the time, before '41, we
were able to go to movies.

410

00:25:07,190 --> 00:25:09,530

Later, we were not allowed to.

411

00:25:09,530 --> 00:25:12,980

And we always saw the Germans.

412

00:25:12,980 --> 00:25:19,810

We always, we had seen
Hitler, and the goobers,

413

00:25:19,810 --> 00:25:21,580

and the pictures.

414

00:25:21,580 --> 00:25:26,450

And we heard the way they
talk about Jews and so forth.

415

00:25:26,450 --> 00:25:32,790

And in the school,
in the school system,

416

00:25:32,790 --> 00:25:35,940

we did attend Jewish schools.

417

00:25:35,940 --> 00:25:38,190

Except myself-- for
two years, I went

418

00:25:38,190 --> 00:25:42,570

to a very good Christian school
because of English and things

419

00:25:42,570 --> 00:25:47,070

that my parents

wanted me to study.

420
00:25:47,070 --> 00:25:53,090
And one of my teachers
talked about Jews

421
00:25:53,090 --> 00:25:56,150
in a very derogatory way.

422
00:25:56,150 --> 00:26:01,020
And I asked to be
excused from the session.

423
00:26:01,020 --> 00:26:04,110
And she said, "You want
to go to the bathroom?"

424
00:26:04,110 --> 00:26:07,470
And I said, "No, I
cannot listen to this.

425
00:26:07,470 --> 00:26:09,930
I'm not allowed to be listen."

426
00:26:09,930 --> 00:26:13,170
And I was thrown
out from school.

427
00:26:13,170 --> 00:26:14,280
They called my mother.

428
00:26:14,280 --> 00:26:15,270
We didn't have phones.

429
00:26:15,270 --> 00:26:16,650
Nobody had phones.

430
00:26:16,650 --> 00:26:17,820
It's not only we.

431
00:26:17,820 --> 00:26:20,260
Nobody had phones at the time.

432
00:26:20,260 --> 00:26:23,820
And so I was advised
not to be sent to school

433
00:26:23,820 --> 00:26:27,270
because I am too sensitive
for those times, which

434
00:26:27,270 --> 00:26:32,280
was very nice of them because
they could do more harm.

435
00:26:32,280 --> 00:26:36,210
But school started to
be a very hard place

436
00:26:36,210 --> 00:26:42,600
to visit for a Jewish child
unless it was a Jewish school.

437
00:26:42,600 --> 00:26:46,700
I was sent later to a
Jewish school again.

438
00:26:46,700 --> 00:26:51,600
And then also, the
bigger you were,

439
00:26:51,600 --> 00:26:54,260
the harder it fell
on you because there

440
00:26:54,260 --> 00:26:58,790
are certain things that
you were supposed to do.

441
00:26:58,790 --> 00:27:02,490
But I only want to talk
about my own experiences.

442
00:27:02,490 --> 00:27:07,985
This why I am not

mentioning you.

443

00:27:07,985 --> 00:27:12,750

444

00:27:12,750 --> 00:27:15,240

What changes started occurring?

445

00:27:15,240 --> 00:27:18,300

Can you walk me through some
of the progression of changes?

446

00:27:18,300 --> 00:27:20,760

Did you see, for
example, a change

447

00:27:20,760 --> 00:27:23,730

in the social policy,
the governmental policy

448

00:27:23,730 --> 00:27:25,170

toward Jews?

449

00:27:25,170 --> 00:27:31,500

Did you experience any
new anti-Semitic laws?

450

00:27:31,500 --> 00:27:36,150

Obviously, I am not talking
now about the last year

451

00:27:36,150 --> 00:27:43,170

of the war, which stands
out very much in my mind.

452

00:27:43,170 --> 00:27:46,620

But I am talking
about times before,

453

00:27:46,620 --> 00:27:52,440

when my father could
not have his working

454

00:27:52,440 --> 00:27:58,450

people because he was not
allowed to get big jobs.

455

00:27:58,450 --> 00:28:00,910

And he was certainly
not allowed to have

456

00:28:00,910 --> 00:28:04,300

any Christian working for him.

457

00:28:04,300 --> 00:28:08,680

And since most of the
workers were Christian,

458

00:28:08,680 --> 00:28:10,900

he had to let them go.

459

00:28:10,900 --> 00:28:12,910

Those are people
that worked with him

460

00:28:12,910 --> 00:28:16,520

20 years, no other
job extremely well.

461

00:28:16,520 --> 00:28:21,160

So he couldn't even do the job.

462

00:28:21,160 --> 00:28:24,550

And then, he wouldn't get it.

463

00:28:24,550 --> 00:28:28,030

And we couldn't have a--

464

00:28:28,030 --> 00:28:29,530

where should I start?

465

00:28:29,530 --> 00:28:31,780

We couldn't have a radio.

466

00:28:31,780 --> 00:28:33,760
We couldn't listen.

467
00:28:33,760 --> 00:28:37,900
Of course, we personally
had a very big apartment.

468
00:28:37,900 --> 00:28:40,660
And in one of the
rooms, they put

469
00:28:40,660 --> 00:28:49,960
in a family of a high
ranking refugee officer.

470
00:28:49,960 --> 00:28:51,840
Not a Jew, a Christian.

471
00:28:51,840 --> 00:28:58,420
And we were forever afraid
that he will hear anything

472
00:28:58,420 --> 00:29:00,340
that we might talk about.

473
00:29:00,340 --> 00:29:05,050
We had four rooms were a lot of
rooms at the time in Hungary.

474
00:29:05,050 --> 00:29:08,110
And they took away one.

475
00:29:08,110 --> 00:29:09,880
They were not paying us.

476
00:29:09,880 --> 00:29:10,930
They lived there.

477
00:29:10,930 --> 00:29:19,560
And he was indeed the head
of one of the divisions

478

00:29:19,560 --> 00:29:24,040
that from the whole
Division III Jews came back.

479
00:29:24,040 --> 00:29:25,740
They were sent from there.

480
00:29:25,740 --> 00:29:28,920
We know the story, to
be sent up the tree

481
00:29:28,920 --> 00:29:32,280
and to be doused with water.

482
00:29:32,280 --> 00:29:37,980
And his wife came to my
mother and, on her knees,

483
00:29:37,980 --> 00:29:40,740
after the war to ask her.

484
00:29:40,740 --> 00:29:41,630
I was there.

485
00:29:41,630 --> 00:29:45,100
I know this for a fact.

486
00:29:45,100 --> 00:29:51,390
So she should come to the--

487
00:29:51,390 --> 00:29:56,100

488
00:29:56,100 --> 00:29:57,420
Oh, God.

489
00:29:57,420 --> 00:30:02,160

490
00:30:02,160 --> 00:30:07,950
[? I ?] [? took ?] my mother to
come to the court and to tell

491

00:30:07,950 --> 00:30:11,790
everybody how nicely they
behaved with us when they lived

492

00:30:11,790 --> 00:30:14,100
in our apartment.

493

00:30:14,100 --> 00:30:21,330
And of course,
under his tutelage,

494

00:30:21,330 --> 00:30:25,050
they murdered the
whole division of Jews.

495

00:30:25,050 --> 00:30:26,910
So my mother declined.

496

00:30:26,910 --> 00:30:30,120
And he said although to
us, you didn't do anything.

497

00:30:30,120 --> 00:30:36,600
But we cannot be there
and say anything for you.

498

00:30:36,600 --> 00:30:40,160
And if you live just in
an atmosphere of shh,

499

00:30:40,160 --> 00:30:44,510
hush hush, don't talk, don't
show, don't do anything,

500

00:30:44,510 --> 00:30:47,180
it was extremely
frightening even up

501

00:30:47,180 --> 00:30:55,550
to '44, which was, of
course, the very unusual year

502

00:30:55,550 --> 00:31:00,860
for Hungarian Jews because
although during '42, '41,

503

00:31:00,860 --> 00:31:08,300
and all the 40s up to '44, Jews
were murdered by large numbers

504

00:31:08,300 --> 00:31:12,020
but never in such
a concentrated way.

505

00:31:12,020 --> 00:31:15,440
Never, never in any country.

506

00:31:15,440 --> 00:31:17,240
It never happened.

507

00:31:17,240 --> 00:31:21,470
That within six to eight
weeks, actually, the Jews

508

00:31:21,470 --> 00:31:23,960
were wiped out.

509

00:31:23,960 --> 00:31:27,270
It was Eichmann that came.

510

00:31:27,270 --> 00:31:30,750
If we could arrive there 1944.

511

00:31:30,750 --> 00:31:32,920
You're running ahead of
me just a little bit.

512

00:31:32,920 --> 00:31:36,090
So then, OK.

513

00:31:36,090 --> 00:31:40,860
During the earlier years, before
'44-- and we will get to '44--

514

00:31:40,860 --> 00:31:43,680

did you have any idea
what was happening to Jews

515

00:31:43,680 --> 00:31:44,780

in other parts of Europe?

516

00:31:44,780 --> 00:31:47,410

517

00:31:47,410 --> 00:31:51,310

Since we had people
that were running away

518

00:31:51,310 --> 00:31:56,860

from Poland, and
from Czechoslovakia,

519

00:31:56,860 --> 00:32:00,820

or Slovakia, Czechia, et
cetera, or Yugoslavia,

520

00:32:00,820 --> 00:32:06,610

we had very clear, very clear
picture of what happened.

521

00:32:06,610 --> 00:32:13,240

We didn't know it
maybe as a whole story,

522

00:32:13,240 --> 00:32:19,030

but we had here and there
very deep and exact pictures

523

00:32:19,030 --> 00:32:26,530

brought to us by people that
were staying with us whom

524

00:32:26,530 --> 00:32:32,220

my father took in, like
a worker, a whole family.

525

00:32:32,220 --> 00:32:34,810
The two brothers I remember.

526
00:32:34,810 --> 00:32:38,950
And they told us what
happened to them, that they

527
00:32:38,950 --> 00:32:41,050
were running away at night.

528
00:32:41,050 --> 00:32:46,060
And they saw that their
houses burned down,

529
00:32:46,060 --> 00:32:51,580
and they heard the shouting of
women, and children, and men.

530
00:32:51,580 --> 00:32:54,880
And they were young,
and they don't know

531
00:32:54,880 --> 00:32:56,470
what happened to their parents.

532
00:32:56,470 --> 00:32:57,730
But they could imagine.

533
00:32:57,730 --> 00:33:00,830
And their sisters who
did not run with them.

534
00:33:00,830 --> 00:33:03,220
An older brother I remember.

535
00:33:03,220 --> 00:33:05,590
And then about 29.

536
00:33:05,590 --> 00:33:11,230
And the younger brother, 17,
that used to live with us.

537

00:33:11,230 --> 00:33:14,290
And they worked for my father.

538
00:33:14,290 --> 00:33:18,430
So my father was able to
get some kind of papers

539
00:33:18,430 --> 00:33:20,380
as a working paper.

540
00:33:20,380 --> 00:33:21,100
Paper.

541
00:33:21,100 --> 00:33:23,890
To have papers, it
was a very big thing.

542
00:33:23,890 --> 00:33:28,810
Without, you were constantly
stabbed on the street.

543
00:33:28,810 --> 00:33:32,560
You had to identify yourself
even as a very young one.

544
00:33:32,560 --> 00:33:34,840
If you had no papers,
it was obvious

545
00:33:34,840 --> 00:33:38,560
that something is funny,
something is strange.

546
00:33:38,560 --> 00:33:43,520
And you were taken under
terrible circumstances

547
00:33:43,520 --> 00:33:49,240
to the police or police
offering [? innocent. ?]

548
00:33:49,240 --> 00:33:55,540
And your life was not worth a

lot under the circumstances.

549

00:33:55,540 --> 00:33:58,570

When you were hearing
about what was going on,

550

00:33:58,570 --> 00:34:00,610

did you hear
specifics about things

551

00:34:00,610 --> 00:34:04,188

like ghettos in other
countries or concentration

552

00:34:04,188 --> 00:34:05,230

camps in other countries?

553

00:34:05,230 --> 00:34:06,563

Did you hear anything like that?

554

00:34:06,563 --> 00:34:08,840

No, I did not.

555

00:34:08,840 --> 00:34:09,679

Not me.

556

00:34:09,679 --> 00:34:11,449

I have never heard this.

557

00:34:11,449 --> 00:34:13,780

I've heard that
people were heard.

558

00:34:13,780 --> 00:34:18,550

I've heard that people were
gathered together and put

559

00:34:18,550 --> 00:34:19,929

somewhere.

560

00:34:19,929 --> 00:34:23,050

Never the name of it.

561
00:34:23,050 --> 00:34:25,300
Except later.

562
00:34:25,300 --> 00:34:33,219
Again, this is '44 when we
got to a card, post cards

563
00:34:33,219 --> 00:34:38,739
from my cousins from Auschwitz,
which we didn't know what is it

564
00:34:38,739 --> 00:34:40,179
and where it is.

565
00:34:40,179 --> 00:34:43,540
And my mother said, "Why is
it that only the three girls

566
00:34:43,540 --> 00:34:48,010
signed and not
the whole family?"

567
00:34:48,010 --> 00:34:53,199
then, we started to hear
about names of places.

568
00:34:53,199 --> 00:34:57,370
And truthfully, only
when we came out

569
00:34:57,370 --> 00:35:01,390
of the ghetto of Budapest
we heard the very first time

570
00:35:01,390 --> 00:35:05,020
the whole story of gassing.

571
00:35:05,020 --> 00:35:09,610
And it was something that
my father said, "Don't ever

572

00:35:09,610 --> 00:35:10,600
even listen.

573
00:35:10,600 --> 00:35:14,240
It's impossible that human
beings will do such a thing."

574
00:35:14,240 --> 00:35:17,950

575
00:35:17,950 --> 00:35:21,210
So in your life
experience, you didn't

576
00:35:21,210 --> 00:35:23,370
know what was
going on in Europe,

577
00:35:23,370 --> 00:35:25,050
in other parts of Europe?

578
00:35:25,050 --> 00:35:26,130
I didn't know.

579
00:35:26,130 --> 00:35:30,910
I didn't know names of
concentration camps.

580
00:35:30,910 --> 00:35:34,230
I knew that people
were taken away

581
00:35:34,230 --> 00:35:38,280
to places where they were
murdered and tortured.

582
00:35:38,280 --> 00:35:42,420
I didn't know where
did it happen.

583
00:35:42,420 --> 00:35:44,100
But you knew the Jews
were being killed?

584
00:35:44,100 --> 00:35:44,940
Oh, yes.

585
00:35:44,940 --> 00:35:47,730
Just because being Jews,
they were murdered.

586
00:35:47,730 --> 00:35:54,870
They were thrown
away like just waste.

587
00:35:54,870 --> 00:35:58,080
I did know, yes.

588
00:35:58,080 --> 00:36:02,130
Tell me about what was going
on in your life in the '40s

589
00:36:02,130 --> 00:36:04,575
and into the big year of '44.

590
00:36:04,575 --> 00:36:07,650

591
00:36:07,650 --> 00:36:10,260
As I said, I was thrown
out from the school

592
00:36:10,260 --> 00:36:14,340
because I say that
I am not allowed

593
00:36:14,340 --> 00:36:18,620
to listen when they
are talking about Jews

594
00:36:18,620 --> 00:36:22,110
in a derogatory manner.

595
00:36:22,110 --> 00:36:31,280
And I remember that I was

studying mostly at home

596

00:36:31,280 --> 00:36:37,850

and going back to the Jewish
school, which couldn't really

597

00:36:37,850 --> 00:36:41,720

accept many students because
already everybody wanted

598

00:36:41,720 --> 00:36:45,830

to go to Jewish schools because
it was very hard to be even

599

00:36:45,830 --> 00:36:48,830

in the best Christian school.

600

00:36:48,830 --> 00:36:52,160

Not Christian, I mean
just no denomination.

601

00:36:52,160 --> 00:36:55,500

602

00:36:55,500 --> 00:37:00,240

And it just meant for me
that I did less things.

603

00:37:00,240 --> 00:37:04,860

I couldn't go freely
after all the things

604

00:37:04,860 --> 00:37:08,630

that little children or young
children supposed to do.

605

00:37:08,630 --> 00:37:11,700

606

00:37:11,700 --> 00:37:15,330

There was no money
and no freedom for it.

607

00:37:15,330 --> 00:37:17,940

We were more even more--

608

00:37:17,940 --> 00:37:22,890

not very but we were even
more holding together

609

00:37:22,890 --> 00:37:27,520

family and Jewish
friends than even before.

610

00:37:27,520 --> 00:37:29,940

And of course, we
couldn't participate.

611

00:37:29,940 --> 00:37:37,040

I was a very good gymnast.

612

00:37:37,040 --> 00:37:40,550

And our club-- it
was a Jewish club--

613

00:37:40,550 --> 00:37:43,000

couldn't perform anymore.

614

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:48,350

Every year, we used to
swim with other schools.

615

00:37:48,350 --> 00:37:52,490

And we used to race
with other schools.

616

00:37:52,490 --> 00:37:57,470

And we were of course not
allowed to do this anymore.

617

00:37:57,470 --> 00:38:00,120

I have to pause now
and change the tape.

618

00:38:00,120 --> 00:38:07,480

619

00:38:07,480 --> 00:38:11,603

This is Tape 1, Side B. We
are interviewing Eva Adam.

620

00:38:11,603 --> 00:38:13,020

And you were telling
me about what

621

00:38:13,020 --> 00:38:18,030

it was like as things started
to change in the '40s for you,

622

00:38:18,030 --> 00:38:21,000

and your family, and for
the Jewish community.

623

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:23,670

And I wanted you to
continue telling me,

624

00:38:23,670 --> 00:38:26,700

besides the sporting
opportunities that

625

00:38:26,700 --> 00:38:32,680

were limited because of changes,
what else was happening to you

626

00:38:32,680 --> 00:38:34,350

and the Jewish community
in those years.

627

00:38:34,350 --> 00:38:35,130

Everything.

628

00:38:35,130 --> 00:38:38,835

We were turning very
much toward each other.

629

00:38:38,835 --> 00:38:41,610

630
00:38:41,610 --> 00:38:47,860
Youngsters that started
to play in the orchestras

631
00:38:47,860 --> 00:38:49,530
were thrown out.

632
00:38:49,530 --> 00:38:56,010
So they started a Goldmark,
who is a very well known

633
00:38:56,010 --> 00:38:58,680
Jewish Hungarian composer.

634
00:38:58,680 --> 00:39:04,500
A Goldmark place where the
Jewish youngsters played.

635
00:39:04,500 --> 00:39:10,840
So we were excluded from
more or less everything.

636
00:39:10,840 --> 00:39:17,820
And we started to develop
more even our own Jewish type

637
00:39:17,820 --> 00:39:20,980
of whatever children do.

638
00:39:20,980 --> 00:39:23,970

639
00:39:23,970 --> 00:39:28,770
Of course, it's rather
an unhealthy situation

640
00:39:28,770 --> 00:39:30,810
if you were born in a country.

641
00:39:30,810 --> 00:39:32,940
You speak the language.

642
00:39:32,940 --> 00:39:35,430
You feel that you belong.

643
00:39:35,430 --> 00:39:39,810
But it was accepted as
part of those hard times

644
00:39:39,810 --> 00:39:41,580
that we hoped to get out.

645
00:39:41,580 --> 00:39:49,390
And we had no belief that
it will happen to us.

646
00:39:49,390 --> 00:39:51,750
We heard all those
things that happening,

647
00:39:51,750 --> 00:39:57,870
but it was also explained
forever by the like of Kasztner

648
00:39:57,870 --> 00:40:00,780
and those that
didn't want people

649
00:40:00,780 --> 00:40:03,180
to know what is going on.

650
00:40:03,180 --> 00:40:05,850
I believe, I think,
that the reason we

651
00:40:05,850 --> 00:40:10,300
didn't know names, and
places, and actual stories--

652
00:40:10,300 --> 00:40:13,110
only here and there
pictures that we privately

653

00:40:13,110 --> 00:40:14,850
happened to hear--

654
00:40:14,850 --> 00:40:19,890
that was there was a policy,
probably, of somebody,

655
00:40:19,890 --> 00:40:24,480
definitely, that we should
know this, how it happened.

656
00:40:24,480 --> 00:40:31,410
And Hungarian Jewry was so
readily available to be taken.

657
00:40:31,410 --> 00:40:36,120
And time was not on
our part because when

658
00:40:36,120 --> 00:40:40,080
we arrived to the situation
that we could see what's

659
00:40:40,080 --> 00:40:45,000
happening to us, it was
already very, very versed

660
00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:48,000
and learned by
the Nazis how they

661
00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:55,260
did for the Russian, Polish,
Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia

662
00:40:55,260 --> 00:40:55,980
Jews.

663
00:40:55,980 --> 00:41:00,510
And in Hungary, it was
really like only a triumph.

664
00:41:00,510 --> 00:41:01,950

They did it in eight weeks.

665

00:41:01,950 --> 00:41:03,300

They did it terrifically.

666

00:41:03,300 --> 00:41:09,550

They murdered, and nobody
ever talked about it.

667

00:41:09,550 --> 00:41:11,730

Everybody was afraid
even because this

668

00:41:11,730 --> 00:41:17,760

was the policy, I think, of
the Hungarian hate people,

669

00:41:17,760 --> 00:41:24,010

of those that they were really
supposed to say, "Listen,

670

00:41:24,010 --> 00:41:25,140

this what happening to you.

671

00:41:25,140 --> 00:41:29,880

No matter that you keep quiet,
at least know about it."

672

00:41:29,880 --> 00:41:33,660

No, it wasn't known.

673

00:41:33,660 --> 00:41:39,380

It was not known by
and large, only as

674

00:41:39,380 --> 00:41:44,280

a story from a certain
family to our family.

675

00:41:44,280 --> 00:41:49,440

But none that you were able
to hear when in the school

676

00:41:49,440 --> 00:41:53,430
these young men came back
from communist [INAUDIBLE]..

677

00:41:53,430 --> 00:41:57,660
He wasn't allowed to
talk to the children.

678

00:41:57,660 --> 00:42:04,810
The teachers heard him, and then
they told him, "Keep quiet."

679

00:42:04,810 --> 00:42:06,930
And he kept quiet
until the second time

680

00:42:06,930 --> 00:42:08,370
he was taken to Auschwitz.

681

00:42:08,370 --> 00:42:13,710
And then, there was nobody
to return from his family.

682

00:42:13,710 --> 00:42:19,170
But I believe that
people were supposed

683

00:42:19,170 --> 00:42:23,820
to let people, Jews, know what
is going on in other countries,

684

00:42:23,820 --> 00:42:26,280
not only that we hear
here and there this

685

00:42:26,280 --> 00:42:28,200
happened with my
family, this happened

686

00:42:28,200 --> 00:42:35,280
in my city or my place,
because Hungarian Jewry always

687

00:42:35,280 --> 00:42:40,710

felt as separate and different
because of historical reasons.

688

00:42:40,710 --> 00:42:46,590

1848, Hungary wanted to be so
much free from the Hapsburg,

689

00:42:46,590 --> 00:42:50,520

from the German
Austrian, that they

690

00:42:50,520 --> 00:42:56,640

wrote in every Jewish
family's paper "Hungarian."

691

00:42:56,640 --> 00:43:00,870

And in any other country
in the neighborhood,

692

00:43:00,870 --> 00:43:03,870

all the other countries,
a Jew was a Jew.

693

00:43:03,870 --> 00:43:05,010

He wasn't a Russian.

694

00:43:05,010 --> 00:43:05,970

He wasn't a Pole.

695

00:43:05,970 --> 00:43:08,130

He wasn't anything, just a Jew.

696

00:43:08,130 --> 00:43:11,910

In Hungarian in
1848, because Hungary

697

00:43:11,910 --> 00:43:14,820

wanted to become
independent, they

698

00:43:14,820 --> 00:43:17,340

counted the Jews as Hungarians.

699

00:43:17,340 --> 00:43:23,400

And from this time, there
was a very huge separation.

700

00:43:23,400 --> 00:43:26,340

Hungarian Jewry felt
that they are Hungarian.

701

00:43:26,340 --> 00:43:30,430

And the Slovak Jewry felt that
they are Hungarian, which was,

702

00:43:30,430 --> 00:43:33,430

of course, a big hoax
and nothing else.

703

00:43:33,430 --> 00:43:37,800

But because of
that, we were told

704

00:43:37,800 --> 00:43:41,650

much less than we
would've been otherwise.

705

00:43:41,650 --> 00:43:46,050

And I believe that if many
Hungarian Jewish families did

706

00:43:46,050 --> 00:43:48,840

not speak the Yiddish
or the German,

707

00:43:48,840 --> 00:43:54,600

it did come to play against us
because we understood much less

708

00:43:54,600 --> 00:43:58,290

even when we got to
Auschwitz what's going on.

709

00:43:58,290 --> 00:44:02,100

So all those little things that
I said about my grandfather,

710
00:44:02,100 --> 00:44:03,270
it has meaning.

711
00:44:03,270 --> 00:44:07,170
It has tremendous importance.

712
00:44:07,170 --> 00:44:09,720
Unfortunately, it
couldn't be changed.

713
00:44:09,720 --> 00:44:11,400
It was too late.

714
00:44:11,400 --> 00:44:17,640
And be aware that your
people, that they are heading

715
00:44:17,640 --> 00:44:19,740
the Jewish this
and the Jewish that

716
00:44:19,740 --> 00:44:22,350
should tell you everything
that happens to you

717
00:44:22,350 --> 00:44:26,070
in your own country today
because all those things

718
00:44:26,070 --> 00:44:28,920
wouldn't be ever
thought that could

719
00:44:28,920 --> 00:44:35,310
happen to the Hungarian Jewry,
which are 800,000 people.

720
00:44:35,310 --> 00:44:39,720
And within eight weeks,
they were 200,000 people.

721
00:44:39,720 --> 00:44:40,230
Tell me.

722
00:44:40,230 --> 00:44:43,140
I'm talking about
1944, of course.

723
00:44:43,140 --> 00:44:44,730
Tell me about 1944.

724
00:44:44,730 --> 00:44:46,350
How did things start to change?

725
00:44:46,350 --> 00:44:49,920
And take me step by step.

726
00:44:49,920 --> 00:44:53,610
1944, it did not
start to change.

727
00:44:53,610 --> 00:44:58,580
The change came to a
tremendous fortissimo,

728
00:44:58,580 --> 00:45:04,380
came to a tremendous big bang.

729
00:45:04,380 --> 00:45:05,580
It's not the beginning.

730
00:45:05,580 --> 00:45:09,870
It's what happened before
that for four years.

731
00:45:09,870 --> 00:45:14,040
In four days it would
happen or four hours.

732
00:45:14,040 --> 00:45:16,020
The laws from--

733

00:45:16,020 --> 00:45:17,190

OK, let's start there.

734

00:45:17,190 --> 00:45:23,910

March, 19th of March,

Sunday afternoon.

735

00:45:23,910 --> 00:45:26,070

We all remember

just like here we

736

00:45:26,070 --> 00:45:28,770

remember when Kennedy was shot.

737

00:45:28,770 --> 00:45:33,180

The Germans took over

Hungary because Hungary

738

00:45:33,180 --> 00:45:36,960

wanted to get out of the war.

739

00:45:36,960 --> 00:45:42,120

Hungary's head person

wanted to get out

740

00:45:42,120 --> 00:45:46,220

because he saw that

this is a lost battle.

741

00:45:46,220 --> 00:45:52,550

19 of March 1944,

the German Army

742

00:45:52,550 --> 00:45:57,800

came into Budapest and

other places of Hungary,

743

00:45:57,800 --> 00:46:07,580

took over the army places, the

police stations, the railroads,

744

00:46:07,580 --> 00:46:09,140

whatnot.

745

00:46:09,140 --> 00:46:11,690

This you could see
by just watching

746

00:46:11,690 --> 00:46:13,610

from the window of your home.

747

00:46:13,610 --> 00:46:17,690

You could see suddenly
a lot of German soldiers

748

00:46:17,690 --> 00:46:21,410

with guns and with tanks--

749

00:46:21,410 --> 00:46:26,960

not tanks the way we know
them but they had at the time.

750

00:46:26,960 --> 00:46:32,630

And we all understood that
this is a very, very serious

751

00:46:32,630 --> 00:46:35,720

and very dangerous time.

752

00:46:35,720 --> 00:46:46,070

And people from this day, 19th,
Sunday, of March, every day

753

00:46:46,070 --> 00:46:47,550

there were new laws.

754

00:46:47,550 --> 00:46:53,990

You lost even the semblance
of your citizenship,

755

00:46:53,990 --> 00:46:57,800

and freedom, and any
kind of protection

756

00:46:57,800 --> 00:47:01,820
that the country would
give their own citizens.

757
00:47:01,820 --> 00:47:05,600
Namely, you weren't
allowed to buy food.

758
00:47:05,600 --> 00:47:09,110
You weren't allowed to go
out, only certain hours.

759
00:47:09,110 --> 00:47:15,230
You were supposed to make
yourself stand out by wearing

760
00:47:15,230 --> 00:47:19,130
a 10 by 10 yellow star.

761
00:47:19,130 --> 00:47:24,620
You were not supposed
to use any place that

762
00:47:24,620 --> 00:47:26,780
was run by Christians.

763
00:47:26,780 --> 00:47:30,380
On the other hand, you were
not supposed to run any place.

764
00:47:30,380 --> 00:47:35,510
In the beginning, you could
buy some food and other things

765
00:47:35,510 --> 00:47:37,190
from Jewish stores.

766
00:47:37,190 --> 00:47:40,190
But they were closed down.

767
00:47:40,190 --> 00:47:42,990
People like my father, of
course, never got a job.

768
00:47:42,990 --> 00:47:46,970
They had anyway taken way.

769
00:47:46,970 --> 00:47:50,060
Families were already broken up.

770
00:47:50,060 --> 00:47:55,100
Young people-- young people,
I mean up to 45 and 50--

771
00:47:55,100 --> 00:48:00,080
were taken out from the
families, like young men.

772
00:48:00,080 --> 00:48:09,140
From March the 19th to
the 15th of October,

773
00:48:09,140 --> 00:48:12,200
the situation of the
Jews deteriorated

774
00:48:12,200 --> 00:48:15,110
completely and tremendously.

775
00:48:15,110 --> 00:48:17,690
Their lives was
constantly endangered.

776
00:48:17,690 --> 00:48:18,950
They were taken away.

777
00:48:18,950 --> 00:48:22,670
They were deported.

778
00:48:22,670 --> 00:48:26,960
First, we were supposed
to leave our homes

779
00:48:26,960 --> 00:48:34,640
and go to larger places if

we were in a small town, then

780

00:48:34,640 --> 00:48:37,370

to be in a larger
town, then to be

781

00:48:37,370 --> 00:48:40,280

even larger town in the ghetto.

782

00:48:40,280 --> 00:48:50,570

Then during October the 16th
and till October the 16th,

783

00:48:50,570 --> 00:48:55,940

80% of this concentrated
Jewry that they were

784

00:48:55,940 --> 00:48:58,100

concentrated in larger places.

785

00:48:58,100 --> 00:49:02,240

In small places, there
were no Jews whatsoever.

786

00:49:02,240 --> 00:49:04,550

They were taken to Auschwitz.

787

00:49:04,550 --> 00:49:09,030

And they were--

788

00:49:09,030 --> 00:49:11,880

I know my family.

789

00:49:11,880 --> 00:49:13,610

Three of them came back.

790

00:49:13,610 --> 00:49:15,180

They were 36.

791

00:49:15,180 --> 00:49:20,880

Grandfather, grandmother,
or my uncles weren't there.

792
00:49:20,880 --> 00:49:21,930
Excuse me.

793
00:49:21,930 --> 00:49:24,030
They were taken away already.

794
00:49:24,030 --> 00:49:25,260
And very young.

795
00:49:25,260 --> 00:49:27,610
18 years old, they
were taken away.

796
00:49:27,610 --> 00:49:33,850
So those people were
mostly with young children,

797
00:49:33,850 --> 00:49:37,360
parents with young
children, mostly mothers,

798
00:49:37,360 --> 00:49:41,080
grandparents or the
children themselves.

799
00:49:41,080 --> 00:49:44,350
You couldn't find
or seek people.

800
00:49:44,350 --> 00:49:49,420
You couldn't find amongst them
people that really could fight,

801
00:49:49,420 --> 00:49:53,000
not neither women nor men.

802
00:49:53,000 --> 00:50:00,730
And if women, yes, then with
smaller children than 14, 15.

803
00:50:00,730 --> 00:50:02,970

What happened to
you and your family?

804
00:50:02,970 --> 00:50:04,900
What was your experience
during this time?

805
00:50:04,900 --> 00:50:07,330
This time, we didn't know that.

806
00:50:07,330 --> 00:50:13,930
We only knew this when we
got the cards from Auschwitz.

807
00:50:13,930 --> 00:50:19,060
What happened to us,
that we were taken.

808
00:50:19,060 --> 00:50:22,090
We were sent to a
house that is what's

809
00:50:22,090 --> 00:50:27,910
called the stars,
house of stars,

810
00:50:27,910 --> 00:50:31,180
meaning that is a Jewish house.

811
00:50:31,180 --> 00:50:33,640
It means that you
leave your home.

812
00:50:33,640 --> 00:50:36,640
You go to another.

813
00:50:36,640 --> 00:50:41,260
Specifically told you
where you could go,

814
00:50:41,260 --> 00:50:43,840
which houses were Jewish houses.

815

00:50:43,840 --> 00:50:49,480

There was a Jewish big
yellow star put on the house.

816

00:50:49,480 --> 00:50:51,580

And in every
apartment, you had--

817

00:50:51,580 --> 00:50:56,050

I don't know-- five, six,
seven, eight families together.

818

00:50:56,050 --> 00:50:57,550

And you were there.

819

00:50:57,550 --> 00:51:00,430

Food was scarce.

820

00:51:00,430 --> 00:51:05,620

The Jewish community organized
some food for those houses,

821

00:51:05,620 --> 00:51:10,360

but there were some hours that
you were allowed to go out yet.

822

00:51:10,360 --> 00:51:13,540

And if you know people
and they knew you,

823

00:51:13,540 --> 00:51:17,650

so you got some bread,
and this and that.

824

00:51:17,650 --> 00:51:24,580

Later came October the 15th,
which I mentioned several times

825

00:51:24,580 --> 00:51:31,810

with very good reason because
the Hungarian Arrow Cross

826

00:51:31,810 --> 00:51:35,320
party, which was the
Hungarian Nazi party,

827
00:51:35,320 --> 00:51:43,750
took over from the anyway
pro-German and pro-Nazi police.

828
00:51:43,750 --> 00:51:48,370
And from that day,
the 15th of October,

829
00:51:48,370 --> 00:51:54,400
until the end of the war for
us, which for me personally

830
00:51:54,400 --> 00:52:03,160
was the 18th of January
1945, your life was in limbo.

831
00:52:03,160 --> 00:52:04,900
You were taken.

832
00:52:04,900 --> 00:52:08,590
In 20 minutes, you were
supposed to be ready.

833
00:52:08,590 --> 00:52:13,510
And we were taken, myself and my
family, I mean, to the ghetto.

834
00:52:13,510 --> 00:52:17,230
Budapest, where
constantly during the time

835
00:52:17,230 --> 00:52:23,440
that you walked your
city's beloved streets,

836
00:52:23,440 --> 00:52:26,110
you had your hands up.

837
00:52:26,110 --> 00:52:28,580

And in 20 minutes,
you really don't know.

838
00:52:28,580 --> 00:52:30,130
Believe me, it's
a very short time

839
00:52:30,130 --> 00:52:33,250
to decide what is
it that you need.

840
00:52:33,250 --> 00:52:36,550
And you never think about the
things that you really need.

841
00:52:36,550 --> 00:52:43,240
You always take all sort
of albums and whatnot.

842
00:52:43,240 --> 00:52:46,450
And you go, and you
have no clothing.

843
00:52:46,450 --> 00:52:48,700
And you have no food.

844
00:52:48,700 --> 00:52:50,500
And you have no nothing.

845
00:52:50,500 --> 00:52:53,770
And they are just
telling you, "Move.

846
00:52:53,770 --> 00:52:55,930
Otherwise, I hit you."

847
00:52:55,930 --> 00:52:57,430
There were some people they hit.

848
00:52:57,430 --> 00:52:58,960
I was not hit.

849

00:52:58,960 --> 00:53:08,170
And we were taken to a
concentrated square in Hungary,

850
00:53:08,170 --> 00:53:12,010
where we were supposed to
throw all our belongings--

851
00:53:12,010 --> 00:53:19,600
gold, silver, money--
in a few big, big boxes

852
00:53:19,600 --> 00:53:21,760
because we were told
that where we're going

853
00:53:21,760 --> 00:53:25,390
we do not need them at all.

854
00:53:25,390 --> 00:53:26,440
I have a question.

855
00:53:26,440 --> 00:53:28,360
You made a gesture,
which obviously can't

856
00:53:28,360 --> 00:53:29,975
be picked up on the microphone.

857
00:53:29,975 --> 00:53:32,350
You said that when you walked
through the beloved streets

858
00:53:32,350 --> 00:53:34,690
of your town, you had to
walk with your hands up.

859
00:53:34,690 --> 00:53:37,240
And you showed me your
hands up in the air

860
00:53:37,240 --> 00:53:38,530
like you're doing now.

861
00:53:38,530 --> 00:53:40,002
Can you explain that in words?

862
00:53:40,002 --> 00:53:42,210
What do you mean, you had
to walk with your hands up?

863
00:53:42,210 --> 00:53:48,370
You know when somebody holds
a gun against you in a movie?

864
00:53:48,370 --> 00:53:51,550
Hopefully, you never
experience this.

865
00:53:51,550 --> 00:53:53,110
This is the way
you were supposed

866
00:53:53,110 --> 00:53:55,240
to walk through Budapest.

867
00:53:55,240 --> 00:54:01,570
And those were Jewish Hungarian
people because they killed

868
00:54:01,570 --> 00:54:04,780
and they took out all
those that were in there

869
00:54:04,780 --> 00:54:07,270
for enough generations.

870
00:54:07,270 --> 00:54:11,140
And this was the way we were
holding up their hands in order

871
00:54:11,140 --> 00:54:15,430
to show that we are not
going to harm anybody.

872

00:54:15,430 --> 00:54:19,960
And don't forget that we didn't
have our really young people

873
00:54:19,960 --> 00:54:22,930
with us anymore because
they were taken out

874
00:54:22,930 --> 00:54:24,730
in different times.

875
00:54:24,730 --> 00:54:27,100
In Hungary, Eichmann
knew very well

876
00:54:27,100 --> 00:54:29,890
that you leave mothers
with young children

877
00:54:29,890 --> 00:54:32,290
because they will
afraid to do anything.

878
00:54:32,290 --> 00:54:34,660
So they won't harm the children.

879
00:54:34,660 --> 00:54:39,400
You leave all their people who
will either cannot or will not

880
00:54:39,400 --> 00:54:42,070
be able to do anything, or
they will think what with

881
00:54:42,070 --> 00:54:42,860
the family.

882
00:54:42,860 --> 00:54:43,900
I am an old person.

883
00:54:43,900 --> 00:54:44,720
Doesn't matter.

884

00:54:44,720 --> 00:54:45,910

So I'll do it.

885

00:54:45,910 --> 00:54:50,500

So since we didn't
know for a fact

886

00:54:50,500 --> 00:54:54,700

where are we going,
really, so we went.

887

00:54:54,700 --> 00:54:59,050

We just went with our hands up.

888

00:54:59,050 --> 00:55:04,590

In the [? Hosok Tere, ?] in the
square that I have mentioned,

889

00:55:04,590 --> 00:55:07,240

we were divided
into certain groups.

890

00:55:07,240 --> 00:55:11,560

And we were sent, my
mother, and myself,

891

00:55:11,560 --> 00:55:16,780

and my father that came
back from the army duty

892

00:55:16,780 --> 00:55:19,420

just those days.

893

00:55:19,420 --> 00:55:21,610

Of course, not with
the gun or something,

894

00:55:21,610 --> 00:55:24,550

just like a Jew with the star.

895

00:55:24,550 --> 00:55:33,370

And my father came back

because a young woman went out

896

00:55:33,370 --> 00:55:39,070

of her way, a Christian
woman, and took him papers

897

00:55:39,070 --> 00:55:52,810

that he is a Swedish speaking,
Swedish nationality, which

898

00:55:52,810 --> 00:55:53,650

was not true.

899

00:55:53,650 --> 00:55:56,950

But my father's brother
lived in Sweden,

900

00:55:56,950 --> 00:56:00,610

and he sent us several
of those papers, which

901

00:56:00,610 --> 00:56:03,490

usually didn't do
much difference

902

00:56:03,490 --> 00:56:05,480

but it did enough difference.

903

00:56:05,480 --> 00:56:08,920

So he was taken out from
the group that was taken

904

00:56:08,920 --> 00:56:12,220

to Auschwitz from Budapest.

905

00:56:12,220 --> 00:56:17,200

And this young woman name
was Savoy's [? Dobozini. ?]

906

00:56:17,200 --> 00:56:20,290

So we were forever
grateful to her.

907

00:56:20,290 --> 00:56:24,700

And everybody else from
the family was taken away.

908

00:56:24,700 --> 00:56:28,180

My brother, my sister,
and myself, and my parents

909

00:56:28,180 --> 00:56:33,940

remained alive in
Budapest in the ghetto.

910

00:56:33,940 --> 00:56:37,930

In the ghetto, we
were taken from this

911

00:56:37,930 --> 00:56:44,470

square, [? Hosok Tere, ?] to
again all sort of apartments

912

00:56:44,470 --> 00:56:47,140

where nobody knew who
lived there before.

913

00:56:47,140 --> 00:56:49,460

And many families
in the apartment.

914

00:56:49,460 --> 00:56:52,510

But you have to realize
that at the time,

915

00:56:52,510 --> 00:56:57,250

the Second World War became
very, very near to us.

916

00:56:57,250 --> 00:57:01,660

So we didn't have
any more air raids

917

00:57:01,660 --> 00:57:08,920

or maybe had the actual gun
fight for Budapest, this

918
00:57:08,920 --> 00:57:10,720
by the Russian army.

919
00:57:10,720 --> 00:57:16,720
The air raids before that
were some years ago and very

920
00:57:16,720 --> 00:57:21,040
effectively done by the
Americans and the British.

921
00:57:21,040 --> 00:57:29,110
But at this time, 1944, we only
had the fighting of the Russian

922
00:57:29,110 --> 00:57:32,200
Red Army that nearing Budapest.

923
00:57:32,200 --> 00:57:35,620
And they really had to
fight from house to house.

924
00:57:35,620 --> 00:57:38,170
And we were in the ghetto.

925
00:57:38,170 --> 00:57:39,400
There was no food.

926
00:57:39,400 --> 00:57:40,960
There was only lice.

927
00:57:40,960 --> 00:57:45,070
And there was only terror.

928
00:57:45,070 --> 00:57:50,140
Some 15, 16 years old
youngsters came into the house.

929
00:57:50,140 --> 00:57:53,050
At the time, we were
not in the apartments.

930
00:57:53,050 --> 00:57:56,650
Nobody was because of the
bombs and the gunfight.

931
00:57:56,650 --> 00:58:03,730
We were in the bunkers
below the house.

932
00:58:03,730 --> 00:58:09,700
And those young
soldiers came in,

933
00:58:09,700 --> 00:58:12,620
and they took out
half of the house.

934
00:58:12,620 --> 00:58:16,600
And they shot them
to the Danube River.

935
00:58:16,600 --> 00:58:24,730
And some of us also stood us
against the wall with the hands

936
00:58:24,730 --> 00:58:26,170
up.

937
00:58:26,170 --> 00:58:27,940
And they said, "This one goes.

938
00:58:27,940 --> 00:58:28,780
This one goes.

939
00:58:28,780 --> 00:58:29,830
This one not goes."

940
00:58:29,830 --> 00:58:33,490
And they pointed to each and
every one who will go out.

941
00:58:33,490 --> 00:58:35,830

And you didn't know
why would he go out

942
00:58:35,830 --> 00:58:40,000
and why would you
be staying behind.

943
00:58:40,000 --> 00:58:42,790
And then, they sent
back all of them.

944
00:58:42,790 --> 00:58:46,630
Then, we heard they
took the other building.

945
00:58:46,630 --> 00:58:49,450
And all of them were
shot into the Danube,

946
00:58:49,450 --> 00:58:51,850
including the children.

947
00:58:51,850 --> 00:58:57,610
And things like this
showed the deterioration,

948
00:58:57,610 --> 00:59:00,220
the complete deterioration
of everything.

949
00:59:00,220 --> 00:59:02,710
I didn't mention, of course,
we didn't have water.

950
00:59:02,710 --> 00:59:04,820
We didn't have fire.

951
00:59:04,820 --> 00:59:06,640
We didn't have food.

952
00:59:06,640 --> 00:59:10,720
We didn't have
electricity, God forbid.

953
00:59:10,720 --> 00:59:14,140
We only had the
constant rattling

954
00:59:14,140 --> 00:59:21,100
of guns, big and small, and
the possibility to be murdered.

955
00:59:21,100 --> 00:59:24,490
We were told that the whole
ghetto will be blown up.

956
00:59:24,490 --> 00:59:25,940
But they didn't have time.

957
00:59:25,940 --> 00:59:28,690
They did blow up all
the bridges, too,

958
00:59:28,690 --> 00:59:32,680
because the Germans found
that this is more important.

959
00:59:32,680 --> 00:59:36,710
The Russians fought heroically.

960
00:59:36,710 --> 00:59:40,060
They have freed
us in the ghetto.

961
00:59:40,060 --> 00:59:42,310
They didn't harm us in
any way, although we

962
00:59:42,310 --> 00:59:46,840
heard that in other places they
didn't behave so chivalrously.

963
00:59:46,840 --> 00:59:49,840
But with us, they did.

964

00:59:49,840 --> 00:59:53,920
When you were in the ghetto,
was it an enclosed ghetto?

965
00:59:53,920 --> 00:59:55,480
Was there a fence, a wall?

966
00:59:55,480 --> 00:59:59,110
There were huge fences
around the ghetto.

967
00:59:59,110 --> 01:00:03,890
When we were taken in and the
day that the ghetto was opened,

968
01:00:03,890 --> 01:00:06,460
they did not have the fence.

969
01:00:06,460 --> 01:00:09,370
They built the fence.

970
01:00:09,370 --> 01:00:11,860
The Jews had to build the fence.

971
01:00:11,860 --> 01:00:15,790
And the fence was
not closed down.

972
01:00:15,790 --> 01:00:19,690
At least about a week, you
couldn't get out to buy food.

973
01:00:19,690 --> 01:00:24,580
I did look rather not Jewish.

974
01:00:24,580 --> 01:00:32,270
And I was the one that went
out to bring bread or whatever.

975
01:00:32,270 --> 01:00:37,270
And I remember an
old Jew asking me,

976

01:00:37,270 --> 01:00:39,370

"For you, it's nothing, darling.

977

01:00:39,370 --> 01:00:42,850

Please, please if you
know God, go out and buy

978

01:00:42,850 --> 01:00:45,340

this medication for my wife."

979

01:00:45,340 --> 01:00:48,460

And I didn't want
to say I am Jewish.

980

01:00:48,460 --> 01:00:50,720

I just took off my star.

981

01:00:50,720 --> 01:00:55,240

So I went out again, and
I gave him the medication.

982

01:00:55,240 --> 01:00:58,000

But it was almost
impossible already

983

01:00:58,000 --> 01:01:02,470

because there were no breads,
not only for the ghetto,

984

01:01:02,470 --> 01:01:03,160

I think.

985

01:01:03,160 --> 01:01:07,090

I believe that they
had some difficulty

986

01:01:07,090 --> 01:01:11,020

to find food for
everybody by this time.

987

01:01:11,020 --> 01:01:17,140

I am talking about October,

November, and December.

988

01:01:17,140 --> 01:01:20,410

In October, you were able
to go out of the ghetto

989

01:01:20,410 --> 01:01:24,220

if you took a chance and
they took off your star.

990

01:01:24,220 --> 01:01:26,980

You had a hard time
to come back then.

991

01:01:26,980 --> 01:01:28,510

I was caught once.

992

01:01:28,510 --> 01:01:32,440

And I was in a very
perilous situation.

993

01:01:32,440 --> 01:01:35,200

And somebody went to
my brother and told him

994

01:01:35,200 --> 01:01:39,530

he wore a Nazi
Hungarian uniform.

995

01:01:39,530 --> 01:01:41,590

And he came to my rescue.

996

01:01:41,590 --> 01:01:45,850

And he started to shout at
me, "What are you crying here?"

997

01:01:45,850 --> 01:01:47,140

Go to hell."

998

01:01:47,140 --> 01:01:51,940

And he pushed me into the
ghetto so I could go home.

999

01:01:51,940 --> 01:01:59,470

And most of the youngsters,
like 18 years old, or 17, or 16,

1000

01:01:59,470 --> 01:02:02,860

like my brother and
sister, they were

1001

01:02:02,860 --> 01:02:07,570

trying to live amongst the
Christian population because

1002

01:02:07,570 --> 01:02:08,890

in the ghetto.

1003

01:02:08,890 --> 01:02:12,670

But later it became
very dangerous for them

1004

01:02:12,670 --> 01:02:14,860

because if you are
18 years old, what

1005

01:02:14,860 --> 01:02:20,560

are you doing not fighting
against the Russians?

1006

01:02:20,560 --> 01:02:26,720

So life was so perilous,
it's incredible.

1007

01:02:26,720 --> 01:02:29,500

The way you stayed
alive, you really

1008

01:02:29,500 --> 01:02:33,070

don't have much explanation.

1009

01:02:33,070 --> 01:02:34,540

There was no food.

1010

01:02:34,540 --> 01:02:38,920

And I know for a fact
that for grown ups,

1011
01:02:38,920 --> 01:02:42,130
they allotted 390 calories.

1012
01:02:42,130 --> 01:02:45,610
And for workers, 600.

1013
01:02:45,610 --> 01:02:59,880
And for children,
growing children, 900.

1014
01:02:59,880 --> 01:03:03,990
I wanted to ask you who
was guarding the ghetto.

1015
01:03:03,990 --> 01:03:06,520

1016
01:03:06,520 --> 01:03:07,600
Nobody.

1017
01:03:07,600 --> 01:03:09,560
The Jews were
guarding the ghetto.

1018
01:03:09,560 --> 01:03:13,960
I remember I was sent to
guard duty in the building

1019
01:03:13,960 --> 01:03:15,490
where we lived.

1020
01:03:15,490 --> 01:03:17,870
And I was standing--

1021
01:03:17,870 --> 01:03:20,590
I was 11 years old.

1022
01:03:20,590 --> 01:03:25,810
I was at least 27 kilograms.

1023
01:03:25,810 --> 01:03:34,480
I was standing inside
the closed gate door.

1024
01:03:34,480 --> 01:03:37,510
And of course there
were bombings.

1025
01:03:37,510 --> 01:03:40,360
And the door fell
in and fell on me.

1026
01:03:40,360 --> 01:03:44,350
But I don't believe
that anybody ever

1027
01:03:44,350 --> 01:03:49,600
was guarding the ghetto because
everybody could come in.

1028
01:03:49,600 --> 01:03:53,470
If you have any kind of gun
and you say, "Let me in,

1029
01:03:53,470 --> 01:03:56,950
you Jew," you don't let
him, then he shots you.

1030
01:03:56,950 --> 01:03:59,290
So what difference does it make?

1031
01:03:59,290 --> 01:04:02,920
There was no guard
in the ghetto.

1032
01:04:02,920 --> 01:04:07,690
No expect, no thought that
somebody wants to guard you.

1033
01:04:07,690 --> 01:04:11,890
The Hungarians wanted to kill
you as much as the Germans

1034
01:04:11,890 --> 01:04:14,350
if they were Nazis.

1035
01:04:14,350 --> 01:04:16,510
There was no difference.

1036
01:04:16,510 --> 01:04:19,420
Those that took the
people out to the Danube

1037
01:04:19,420 --> 01:04:22,450
and killed them, and
murdered them, and shot them,

1038
01:04:22,450 --> 01:04:27,020
they were Hungarian officers
and Hungarian 15, 16,

1039
01:04:27,020 --> 01:04:34,390
17 years old that were put into
uniform or not put in uniform.

1040
01:04:34,390 --> 01:04:41,530
But they had the Arrow
Cross armband and the hat,

1041
01:04:41,530 --> 01:04:50,050
which many Jewish young men
used in order to save Jews.

1042
01:04:50,050 --> 01:04:55,450
There were many instances
on the [? Danube ?] actually

1043
01:04:55,450 --> 01:05:01,120
were Jewish boys came in
with the Hungarian logos

1044
01:05:01,120 --> 01:05:02,530
and armbands.

1045

01:05:02,530 --> 01:05:06,130
And "I need five Jews to
kill in the other side.

1046
01:05:06,130 --> 01:05:07,070
We have only 20.

1047
01:05:07,070 --> 01:05:07,570
Give me."

1048
01:05:07,570 --> 01:05:12,550
And he took them away,
and he sent them to houses

1049
01:05:12,550 --> 01:05:16,460
where they were more
or less protected.

1050
01:05:16,460 --> 01:05:21,280
There were many
instances where even we--

1051
01:05:21,280 --> 01:05:27,130
I remember we prepared papers.

1052
01:05:27,130 --> 01:05:29,460
I told you that the
identification papers

1053
01:05:29,460 --> 01:05:32,320
were very important
things for some reason,

1054
01:05:32,320 --> 01:05:34,330
up to a certain time.

1055
01:05:34,330 --> 01:05:36,250
There were some days
that nothing helped,

1056
01:05:36,250 --> 01:05:39,130
of course, some time.

1057

01:05:39,130 --> 01:05:44,140

And identification papers were
supposed to be old papers.

1058

01:05:44,140 --> 01:05:48,310

I remember myself sitting
on a small Ottoman

1059

01:05:48,310 --> 01:05:54,250

and, with a hairbrush, trying
to make the paper look very old.

1060

01:05:54,250 --> 01:05:58,300

And my father who drew very
nicely, and he was really

1061

01:05:58,300 --> 01:06:03,680

an artist, was able to make
out any kind of identification

1062

01:06:03,680 --> 01:06:04,180

papers.

1063

01:06:04,180 --> 01:06:06,070

So we manufactured them.

1064

01:06:06,070 --> 01:06:09,790

And my brother, and sister,
and other youngsters.

1065

01:06:09,790 --> 01:06:14,470

Later, I've learned that
they are from a Zionist

1066

01:06:14,470 --> 01:06:15,650

party or something.

1067

01:06:15,650 --> 01:06:17,950

But at the time, I didn't know.

1068

01:06:17,950 --> 01:06:22,510

We just did it, and we

tried to supply everybody

1069

01:06:22,510 --> 01:06:25,060
with as many papers.

1070

01:06:25,060 --> 01:06:27,360
Some other people did it, too.

1071

01:06:27,360 --> 01:06:34,060
It wasn't such an, I
think, unusual situation.

1072

01:06:34,060 --> 01:06:36,160
I know my brother
and sister, they

1073

01:06:36,160 --> 01:06:42,280
were living amongst Christians
with papers like this,

1074

01:06:42,280 --> 01:06:44,320
like they have
some kind of work.

1075

01:06:44,320 --> 01:06:47,830
Or people earlier that
worked for my father,

1076

01:06:47,830 --> 01:06:52,840
this is the way they got their
papers, all important identity

1077

01:06:52,840 --> 01:06:53,470
papers.

1078

01:06:53,470 --> 01:07:02,380
Of course, the day that the
Jewish women of Budapest

1079

01:07:02,380 --> 01:07:03,730
were taken out--

1080

01:07:03,730 --> 01:07:06,790
they were from
Budapest, from Hungary--

1081
01:07:06,790 --> 01:07:11,200
there were no more
enough trains.

1082
01:07:11,200 --> 01:07:13,690
They were mostly bombed
down, and Hungary

1083
01:07:13,690 --> 01:07:15,820
didn't have enough trains.

1084
01:07:15,820 --> 01:07:17,290
So they were taken.

1085
01:07:17,290 --> 01:07:20,110
It was called the Death March.

1086
01:07:20,110 --> 01:07:26,440
They were taken by walk
to Vienna, toward Vienna.

1087
01:07:26,440 --> 01:07:29,800
And of course, 80% of
them never arrived.

1088
01:07:29,800 --> 01:07:31,870
They were shot on the
road, and they were

1089
01:07:31,870 --> 01:07:35,800
killed in all sort of ways.

1090
01:07:35,800 --> 01:07:42,400
Of course, no food and no
any human possibilities.

1091
01:07:42,400 --> 01:07:51,940
In the ghetto itself,
it was hellish.

1092
01:07:51,940 --> 01:07:53,740
I tried.

1093
01:07:53,740 --> 01:07:57,500
I understand today that I
tried not to see what I see.

1094
01:07:57,500 --> 01:08:00,760
I saw all the bodies lined up.

1095
01:08:00,760 --> 01:08:02,410
It was January.

1096
01:08:02,410 --> 01:08:03,850
It was December.

1097
01:08:03,850 --> 01:08:07,840
So it was minus
30, something cold.

1098
01:08:07,840 --> 01:08:13,610
And 30 Celsius, not Fahrenheit.

1099
01:08:13,610 --> 01:08:21,439
And the bodies were just
like pieces of fire food

1100
01:08:21,439 --> 01:08:24,170
lined up high.

1101
01:08:24,170 --> 01:08:30,260
And you saw children in the
snow and people in the snow.

1102
01:08:30,260 --> 01:08:31,970
And you just tried to walk.

1103
01:08:31,970 --> 01:08:35,465
And the big difference
between me and others

1104

01:08:35,465 --> 01:08:39,529

was that I was with
my own parents.

1105

01:08:39,529 --> 01:08:43,729

And in the very last few
days, my sister and brother

1106

01:08:43,729 --> 01:08:45,920

came to the ghetto
because outside it

1107

01:08:45,920 --> 01:08:48,200

was just impossible for them.

1108

01:08:48,200 --> 01:08:55,790

And we put them in the basement
in a bed behind the coal.

1109

01:08:55,790 --> 01:08:59,210

And because even
as Christians they

1110

01:08:59,210 --> 01:09:00,800

weren't supposed to be there.

1111

01:09:00,800 --> 01:09:04,790

They were supposed to
be fighting the Russians

1112

01:09:04,790 --> 01:09:08,279

or some kind of other enemies.

1113

01:09:08,279 --> 01:09:11,479

So life was really no life.

1114

01:09:11,479 --> 01:09:25,120

And the day we were freed, it is
a day that will never leave me.

1115

01:09:25,120 --> 01:09:29,310

I will always remember

because it is a very, very

1116
01:09:29,310 --> 01:09:34,470
huge human experience.

1117
01:09:34,470 --> 01:09:35,910
People coming down.

1118
01:09:35,910 --> 01:09:38,580
You can't move already
a week at least.

1119
01:09:38,580 --> 01:09:39,359
You don't eat.

1120
01:09:39,359 --> 01:09:40,300
You don't anything.

1121
01:09:40,300 --> 01:09:41,819
You just stare.

1122
01:09:41,819 --> 01:09:43,319
Your father also.

1123
01:09:43,319 --> 01:09:48,689
And foreign soldiers
coming, and picking you up,

1124
01:09:48,689 --> 01:09:53,729
and saying, "No, no, nyet,"
and tearing off your star,

1125
01:09:53,729 --> 01:09:57,990
putting you out under the
little sun in December.

1126
01:09:57,990 --> 01:10:01,530
There is not on
January 18th not much.

1127
01:10:01,530 --> 01:10:04,680
And bringing you some

kind of little fruits.

1128
01:10:04,680 --> 01:10:09,210
Or suddenly, you
pick up your head,

1129
01:10:09,210 --> 01:10:14,910
and you see all those
soldiers with the fur hats

1130
01:10:14,910 --> 01:10:16,410
and with the Kalashnikov.

1131
01:10:16,410 --> 01:10:20,160
They are using
their Kalashnikovs

1132
01:10:20,160 --> 01:10:25,620
to break down the
walls of the ghetto.

1133
01:10:25,620 --> 01:10:30,120
I tell you for romantic
and sentimental value,

1134
01:10:30,120 --> 01:10:37,320
there is nothing like
memories of anybody

1135
01:10:37,320 --> 01:10:39,720
that comes to your rescue.

1136
01:10:39,720 --> 01:10:45,960
You ask me who was
standing posted the ghetto?

1137
01:10:45,960 --> 01:10:47,250
Nobody.

1138
01:10:47,250 --> 01:10:49,770
Nobody wanted to save Jews.

1139

01:10:49,770 --> 01:10:54,210

The Jews didn't have right,
a right to save themselves.

1140

01:10:54,210 --> 01:10:58,703

There was no such
a kind of idea.

1141

01:10:58,703 --> 01:11:00,120

So there was nobody
guarding them.

1142

01:11:00,120 --> 01:11:01,600

So Jews could not get out.

1143

01:11:01,600 --> 01:11:03,570

Is that what you're
trying to tell me?

1144

01:11:03,570 --> 01:11:05,740

Nobody got out.

1145

01:11:05,740 --> 01:11:06,540

They are out.

1146

01:11:06,540 --> 01:11:08,670

They are out.

1147

01:11:08,670 --> 01:11:10,950

There is maybe a dead horse.

1148

01:11:10,950 --> 01:11:16,320

And a friend of ours
who was also a child

1149

01:11:16,320 --> 01:11:21,660

ran out and cut a piece
of meat from the horse,

1150

01:11:21,660 --> 01:11:26,820

and brought it back, and
tried to feed his sister.

1151

01:11:26,820 --> 01:11:28,200

She was about five years old.

1152

01:11:28,200 --> 01:11:29,910

And she was already dead.

1153

01:11:29,910 --> 01:11:33,220

He didn't notice because

he was seven years old.

1154

01:11:33,220 --> 01:11:37,110

So the situation was such

that it's almost impossible

1155

01:11:37,110 --> 01:11:43,600

as much as you try to say,

to tell, to conjure up,

1156

01:11:43,600 --> 01:11:45,360

it's almost--

1157

01:11:45,360 --> 01:11:49,440

you don't really want to,

maybe, because also everything

1158

01:11:49,440 --> 01:11:54,750

must be explained by

such different terms.

1159

01:11:54,750 --> 01:11:56,370

Dirt is not dirt.

1160

01:11:56,370 --> 01:12:03,360

Dirt means that lice is moving

in somebody's hair and clothing

1161

01:12:03,360 --> 01:12:07,420

that you see the

constant movement.

1162

01:12:07,420 --> 01:12:10,320

1163
01:12:10,320 --> 01:12:13,440
What do you mean,
dirt or no dirt?

1164
01:12:13,440 --> 01:12:16,620
There is no water in the
whole city for how long.

1165
01:12:16,620 --> 01:12:18,510
There is no hot water.

1166
01:12:18,510 --> 01:12:21,000
No wait.

1167
01:12:21,000 --> 01:12:24,900
I remember myself like a maniac.

1168
01:12:24,900 --> 01:12:30,060
I was ironing-- ironing,
would you believe?--

1169
01:12:30,060 --> 01:12:39,090
my white kerchief because this
was the only thing probably

1170
01:12:39,090 --> 01:12:42,850
in my life that was white,
and clean, and ironed.

1171
01:12:42,850 --> 01:12:43,350
Iron.

1172
01:12:43,350 --> 01:12:44,670
How did I iron?

1173
01:12:44,670 --> 01:12:47,900
You don't even ask me.

1174
01:12:47,900 --> 01:12:53,100
We had a piece of
some kind of material.

1175
01:12:53,100 --> 01:12:57,360
And I heated it up in the coals.

1176
01:12:57,360 --> 01:12:59,610
And it wasn't an iron.

1177
01:12:59,610 --> 01:13:02,940
We didn't have this kind of
iron anymore, but something.

1178
01:13:02,940 --> 01:13:07,110
And it was so important
for me that my kerchief

1179
01:13:07,110 --> 01:13:08,670
will be ironed.

1180
01:13:08,670 --> 01:13:11,700
It didn't matter that
I had millions of lice

1181
01:13:11,700 --> 01:13:15,120
and all sorts of
bodily problems.

1182
01:13:15,120 --> 01:13:16,470
Of course, I had.

1183
01:13:16,470 --> 01:13:22,770
I had [? folliculitis. ?] I
had rheumatism really very bad.

1184
01:13:22,770 --> 01:13:25,380
And I was underfed like hell.

1185
01:13:25,380 --> 01:13:27,690
And I should have
been in sunshine.

1186
01:13:27,690 --> 01:13:36,880

1187
01:13:36,880 --> 01:13:43,070
You were telling me about
the conditions and the idea,

1188
01:13:43,070 --> 01:13:46,120
the concept of what is dirty.

1189
01:13:46,120 --> 01:13:50,590
Also, there is a concept,
what is food, what is dirty,

1190
01:13:50,590 --> 01:13:59,410
what is to change clothing, what
is to be able to wash yourself.

1191
01:13:59,410 --> 01:14:03,040

1192
01:14:03,040 --> 01:14:05,155
It is not Auschwitz,
but this is the ghetto

1193
01:14:05,155 --> 01:14:10,690
of Budapest, where there
is no any kind of heating.

1194
01:14:10,690 --> 01:14:12,040
It is December.

1195
01:14:12,040 --> 01:14:13,120
It is November.

1196
01:14:13,120 --> 01:14:19,840
It is January, where
the times itself

1197
01:14:19,840 --> 01:14:22,760
are very hard and very cold.

1198
01:14:22,760 --> 01:14:24,640
It's huge snow.

1199

01:14:24,640 --> 01:14:27,610

No shoes, no.

1200

01:14:27,610 --> 01:14:32,773

You can't go and buy a pair of anything, You have a sweater

1201

01:14:32,773 --> 01:14:33,940

or you don't have a sweater.

1202

01:14:33,940 --> 01:14:35,410

You have a coat or you don't have a coat.

1203

01:14:35,410 --> 01:14:36,400

This what you have.

1204

01:14:36,400 --> 01:14:37,630

You will not have.

1205

01:14:37,630 --> 01:14:41,710

There are no shops, not for Jews at all.

1206

01:14:41,710 --> 01:14:44,890

And not in any time.

1207

01:14:44,890 --> 01:14:51,070

Everybody else has allotment of bread, or clothing, of shoes.

1208

01:14:51,070 --> 01:14:54,790

Jews do not have such luxuries.

1209

01:14:54,790 --> 01:14:58,610

Of course, you do not have any kind of transportation.

1210

01:14:58,610 --> 01:15:02,020

And if there is any kind, you are not allowed to use it.

1211
01:15:02,020 --> 01:15:05,620
Of course, you're not
allowed to go to the movies.

1212
01:15:05,620 --> 01:15:11,290
I don't even-- it
never occurred to me,

1213
01:15:11,290 --> 01:15:14,980
but for years we
were not allowed

1214
01:15:14,980 --> 01:15:20,500
to have a radio or any
kind of understanding,

1215
01:15:20,500 --> 01:15:25,210
global understanding
of what even you could

1216
01:15:25,210 --> 01:15:28,060
hear which will be distorted.

1217
01:15:28,060 --> 01:15:30,970
But at least you
hear the distorted.

1218
01:15:30,970 --> 01:15:36,700
Since from the
Hungarian Jewish elite,

1219
01:15:36,700 --> 01:15:39,850
you didn't hear anything
because their belief was

1220
01:15:39,850 --> 01:15:47,170
the best will be if we know
anything because then somehow

1221
01:15:47,170 --> 01:15:47,940
we will survive.

1222

01:15:47,940 --> 01:15:51,670

1223

01:15:51,670 --> 01:15:57,940

But for us, it was a
very, very terrible time.

1224

01:15:57,940 --> 01:16:04,810

Of course, since I was
with my parents and this

1225

01:16:04,810 --> 01:16:06,550

what made the whole difference.

1226

01:16:06,550 --> 01:16:08,500

Nevertheless, I had lice.

1227

01:16:08,500 --> 01:16:10,270

And they tried to clean it.

1228

01:16:10,270 --> 01:16:11,620

There was no way.

1229

01:16:11,620 --> 01:16:15,100

And you see the
people on the street.

1230

01:16:15,100 --> 01:16:20,170

Their hair is just like
a huge, huge forest.

1231

01:16:20,170 --> 01:16:31,400

And you come closer, and you see
the huge amount of infestation.

1232

01:16:31,400 --> 01:16:34,090

I have to stop and change tape.

1233

01:16:34,090 --> 01:16:35,000