

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,020

2  
00:00:01,020 --> 00:00:03,630  
This is tape two, side a.

3  
00:00:03,630 --> 00:00:06,330  
We're interviewing Eva Adam.

4  
00:00:06,330 --> 00:00:09,420  
And you were telling  
me about the conditions

5  
00:00:09,420 --> 00:00:12,150  
that you had to endure  
during the ghetto.

6  
00:00:12,150 --> 00:00:17,720  
And you had also told me  
about the lasting impression

7  
00:00:17,720 --> 00:00:24,780  
of the Soviet troops breaking  
down the walls of the ghetto.

8  
00:00:24,780 --> 00:00:29,300  
Can you tell me about the  
days after your liberation?

9  
00:00:29,300 --> 00:00:30,140  
Yes.

10  
00:00:30,140 --> 00:00:34,970  
This was the days of awakening.

11  
00:00:34,970 --> 00:00:39,760  
Days of danger still.

12  
00:00:39,760 --> 00:00:49,020  
It is a city that  
was run over by army

13

00:00:49,020 --> 00:00:55,770

that fought years together and  
fought every step of the way.

14

00:00:55,770 --> 00:00:58,380

There were occasions where  
people were picked up

15

00:00:58,380 --> 00:01:02,190

on the street for work, and  
they were never seen again.

16

00:01:02,190 --> 00:01:07,710

There were occasions where same  
soldiers came into our homes

17

00:01:07,710 --> 00:01:09,480

and bought us food.

18

00:01:09,480 --> 00:01:11,700

On the other hand, there  
were other occasions.

19

00:01:11,700 --> 00:01:16,050

I could only talk about  
my own personal knowledge.

20

00:01:16,050 --> 00:01:21,000

And the main thing  
that we did we

21

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:23,530

were looking for our families.

22

00:01:23,530 --> 00:01:29,670

It meant of course, we had to go  
back to some kind of apartment.

23

00:01:29,670 --> 00:01:34,290

And we went back to the house  
that was an apartment for us

24

00:01:34,290 --> 00:01:35,050  
there.

25

00:01:35,050 --> 00:01:39,270  
And if you remember where we  
were taken to the star house,

26

00:01:39,270 --> 00:01:48,030  
the Jewish house because it was  
less damaged than other houses.

27

00:01:48,030 --> 00:01:51,600  
And so you understand  
what I mean,

28

00:01:51,600 --> 00:01:56,320  
we were able to close  
one window with paper

29

00:01:56,320 --> 00:02:00,900  
that we put in some kind of  
oil, turpentine, or something.

30

00:02:00,900 --> 00:02:07,290  
And this gave us a  
modicum of warmth

31

00:02:07,290 --> 00:02:10,289  
because we were able  
to bring in some wood.

32

00:02:10,289 --> 00:02:15,600  
Wood came from the  
telephone electricity poles.

33

00:02:15,600 --> 00:02:17,190  
They were cut up.

34

00:02:17,190 --> 00:02:19,020  
And they were used.

35

00:02:19,020 --> 00:02:20,760

Food was nonexistent.

36  
00:02:20,760 --> 00:02:24,280  
Everybody just tried to  
find wherever they could.

37  
00:02:24,280 --> 00:02:33,000  
And the main thing when  
the trailer bay opened,

38  
00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:36,870  
we went every day and we stood  
there days and days and days

39  
00:02:36,870 --> 00:02:37,410  
and weeks.

40  
00:02:37,410 --> 00:02:39,250  
And I don't know how long.

41  
00:02:39,250 --> 00:02:42,090  
And as everybody  
that arrived, do

42  
00:02:42,090 --> 00:02:43,920  
you know about this  
and this family?

43  
00:02:43,920 --> 00:02:46,830  
Everybody was  
there with pictures

44  
00:02:46,830 --> 00:02:51,270  
and tried to find his family.

45  
00:02:51,270 --> 00:02:55,500  
And one day we had found  
three of my young cousins

46  
00:02:55,500 --> 00:03:03,330  
that came back from my family  
of 36, three of them sisters.

47

00:03:03,330 --> 00:03:10,830

17, 18, and 19  
years old, no teeth,

48

00:03:10,830 --> 00:03:17,280

and some kind of pinkish-orange,  
something like cotton

49

00:03:17,280 --> 00:03:19,800

instead of regular hair.

50

00:03:19,800 --> 00:03:25,870

They had worked in a  
phosphor bomb factory.

51

00:03:25,870 --> 00:03:28,440

And this what  
phosphor does to you

52

00:03:28,440 --> 00:03:33,900

if you work without  
any kind of equipment.

53

00:03:33,900 --> 00:03:35,100

But they were there.

54

00:03:35,100 --> 00:03:40,080

And amazingly, they asked  
us if we knew anything

55

00:03:40,080 --> 00:03:42,510

about their family,  
their parents

56

00:03:42,510 --> 00:03:47,580

with whom they were  
deported in the same train

57

00:03:47,580 --> 00:03:49,470

with our grandparents.

58

00:03:49,470 --> 00:03:51,750

If you know anything  
about anybody,

59  
00:03:51,750 --> 00:03:56,670  
the younger aunts, 33, 37 years.

60  
00:03:56,670 --> 00:04:02,220  
Because they were in Auschwitz,  
but it was, as we said,

61  
00:04:02,220 --> 00:04:06,330  
in June, July of '44.

62  
00:04:06,330 --> 00:04:12,060  
And it was in six to eight weeks  
that most of Hungarian Jewry

63  
00:04:12,060 --> 00:04:17,790  
was taken to Auschwitz  
and murdered.

64  
00:04:17,790 --> 00:04:20,339  
There were no selections.

65  
00:04:20,339 --> 00:04:25,320  
If you stood in the line of  
five, and one person was old,

66  
00:04:25,320 --> 00:04:31,500  
or one person was either child  
or five, into the crematorium.

67  
00:04:31,500 --> 00:04:34,370

68  
00:04:34,370 --> 00:04:40,230  
As we talked about our  
families, they could not

69  
00:04:40,230 --> 00:04:42,150  
believe what really happened.

70

00:04:42,150 --> 00:04:47,520

It was such an ordeal  
that they did not realize

71

00:04:47,520 --> 00:04:50,010

what is happening with them.

72

00:04:50,010 --> 00:04:52,260

So they came back,  
and they asked us.

73

00:04:52,260 --> 00:04:54,180

We didn't know  
anything, of course.

74

00:04:54,180 --> 00:04:57,750

We heard first time about  
gassing and Auschwitz

75

00:04:57,750 --> 00:05:00,300

when we left the ghetto.

76

00:05:00,300 --> 00:05:06,690

And since then, of course,  
many other [INAUDIBLE]

77

00:05:06,690 --> 00:05:11,340

that came to our  
and your knowledge.

78

00:05:11,340 --> 00:05:22,020

And this is my personal  
feeling was that had I not

79

00:05:22,020 --> 00:05:29,040

been for my family, where to  
be a Jew person, a Hungarian,

80

00:05:29,040 --> 00:05:35,850

it is to be proud, I think that  
I would not be able to survive.

81

00:05:35,850 --> 00:05:39,630

Or what I remember, even  
what I don't remember,

82  
00:05:39,630 --> 00:05:46,380  
everything that I have seen and  
experienced, what held me up

83  
00:05:46,380 --> 00:05:51,780  
was the knowledge that we are  
extremely valuable human being.

84  
00:05:51,780 --> 00:05:56,070  
That we are constantly trying  
to better ourselves and to study

85  
00:05:56,070 --> 00:06:02,190  
and to work hard and to be  
truly careful with other people

86  
00:06:02,190 --> 00:06:03,780  
and caring.

87  
00:06:03,780 --> 00:06:07,845  
I remember in the ghetto,  
when my mother asked me Eva

88  
00:06:07,845 --> 00:06:11,190  
can you think that you  
could forego your soup?

89  
00:06:11,190 --> 00:06:13,740  
There is a little girl  
that her grandma said

90  
00:06:13,740 --> 00:06:15,930  
she didn't need soup two days.

91  
00:06:15,930 --> 00:06:17,880  
And I said, yes, of course.

92  
00:06:17,880 --> 00:06:19,410  
Although I didn't feel like.



93

00:06:19,410 --> 00:06:23,100

But if your mother  
asks such a question,

94

00:06:23,100 --> 00:06:24,810

then you don't say no.

95

00:06:24,810 --> 00:06:29,250

So in every situation,  
therefore, I really

96

00:06:29,250 --> 00:06:34,350

felt that we could, although  
they are behaving toward us

97

00:06:34,350 --> 00:06:36,570

like toward cockroaches  
that could have

98

00:06:36,570 --> 00:06:39,090

a really good step  
on you, and you

99

00:06:39,090 --> 00:06:44,070

have no right even to try  
to organize for yourself

100

00:06:44,070 --> 00:06:47,250

anything, any  
protection, or anything.

101

00:06:47,250 --> 00:06:49,770

It's all forgotten.

102

00:06:49,770 --> 00:06:52,530

You can't do it.

103

00:06:52,530 --> 00:06:56,590

But you still remain  
a human person.

104

00:06:56,590 --> 00:07:00,880

Maybe because I was with  
my parents it helped.

105  
00:07:00,880 --> 00:07:03,300  
And they are  
bringing that you are

106  
00:07:03,300 --> 00:07:06,840  
so proud to be a good  
human being, a good Jew,

107  
00:07:06,840 --> 00:07:08,230  
and good Hungarian.

108  
00:07:08,230 --> 00:07:11,810  
So this makes a  
lot of difference.

109  
00:07:11,810 --> 00:07:17,540

110  
00:07:17,540 --> 00:07:20,430  
You stayed in Budapest  
after the war for how long?

111  
00:07:20,430 --> 00:07:23,070

112  
00:07:23,070 --> 00:07:26,850  
We ran away from  
Budapest from Hungary.

113  
00:07:26,850 --> 00:07:29,700  
Later, we weren't allowed  
to leave the country.

114  
00:07:29,700 --> 00:07:34,240  
In the first years, we waited  
who comes back from the family.

115  
00:07:34,240 --> 00:07:37,740  
We were involved with  
the Zionist movement.

116  
00:07:37,740 --> 00:07:43,380  
And we had to run away.

117  
00:07:43,380 --> 00:07:44,610  
We were not allowed.

118  
00:07:44,610 --> 00:07:55,110  
It was in 1949 when we left  
Hungary by unlawful ways.

119  
00:07:55,110 --> 00:07:57,600  
And my parents  
were caught and put

120  
00:07:57,600 --> 00:08:00,960  
in jail for almost two years.

121  
00:08:00,960 --> 00:08:04,060

122  
00:08:04,060 --> 00:08:07,230  
I arrived in Israel  
in three months.

123  
00:08:07,230 --> 00:08:13,650  
And I was 16 years old and was  
put in a kibbutz where there

124  
00:08:13,650 --> 00:08:16,230  
were youngsters of my age.

125  
00:08:16,230 --> 00:08:20,130  
And we studied and  
worked half day.

126  
00:08:20,130 --> 00:08:22,390  
And we worried  
about our parents.

127  
00:08:22,390 --> 00:08:23,580  
We wanted to go back.

128  
00:08:23,580 --> 00:08:26,550  
And they sent word from  
the jail not to come back

129  
00:08:26,550 --> 00:08:28,190  
under any circumstances.

130  
00:08:28,190 --> 00:08:30,900

131  
00:08:30,900 --> 00:08:36,059  
So we built a life  
for ourselves.

132  
00:08:36,059 --> 00:08:39,480

133  
00:08:39,480 --> 00:08:40,110  
Who's the we?

134  
00:08:40,110 --> 00:08:41,730  
Were you with your  
brother and sister?

135  
00:08:41,730 --> 00:08:42,840  
Yes.

136  
00:08:42,840 --> 00:08:47,640  
Our parents came out two  
years after we ran away.

137  
00:08:47,640 --> 00:08:50,610  
They were freed.

138  
00:08:50,610 --> 00:09:00,960  
They were in jail all this  
time, from '49 till '51.

139  
00:09:00,960 --> 00:09:02,145  
Then they came to Israel.

140

00:09:02,145 --> 00:09:07,090

141

00:09:07,090 --> 00:09:08,490

How long did you stay in Israel?

142

00:09:08,490 --> 00:09:12,160

143

00:09:12,160 --> 00:09:15,970

I went to the army  
after the young people.

144

00:09:15,970 --> 00:09:18,070

I went to the Academy of Music.

145

00:09:18,070 --> 00:09:19,990

I had finished Academy of Music.

146

00:09:19,990 --> 00:09:26,200

I met, again, this young  
man that they came out

147

00:09:26,200 --> 00:09:28,090

with at the time.

148

00:09:28,090 --> 00:09:29,680

Of course, we fell in love.

149

00:09:29,680 --> 00:09:31,000

We married.

150

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:33,130

We had our first child.

151

00:09:33,130 --> 00:09:38,920

And in 1961, we came out to  
the United States to study.

152

00:09:38,920 --> 00:09:47,650

I got a Metropolitan

Opera workshop engagement.

153

00:09:47,650 --> 00:09:54,520

And my husband got into an  
extremely good program in one

154

00:09:54,520 --> 00:09:59,260

of the [INAUDIBLE]  
College of Medicine.

155

00:09:59,260 --> 00:10:03,530

He wanted a surgical  
oncology, and only here he

156

00:10:03,530 --> 00:10:05,560

could've taken.

157

00:10:05,560 --> 00:10:09,040

In Israel at the time, there  
was no surgical oncology.

158

00:10:09,040 --> 00:10:11,380

We stayed here  
for 10 years, then

159

00:10:11,380 --> 00:10:16,180

we went back to Israel,  
where I sang and taught

160

00:10:16,180 --> 00:10:17,650

in the Academy of Music.

161

00:10:17,650 --> 00:10:23,530

And my husband was head  
of department of surgery

162

00:10:23,530 --> 00:10:27,430

in a government hospital.

163

00:10:27,430 --> 00:10:31,280

And then we came out for--

164

00:10:31,280 --> 00:10:35,750  
he had an invitation,  
and I liked the idea

165  
00:10:35,750 --> 00:10:37,350  
for a year or two.

166  
00:10:37,350 --> 00:10:42,200  
But we remained here and  
become American citizens.

167  
00:10:42,200 --> 00:10:48,680  
And now, we are turning  
and going back to Israel

168  
00:10:48,680 --> 00:10:49,420  
to live there.

169  
00:10:49,420 --> 00:10:58,710

170  
00:10:58,710 --> 00:11:01,080  
I wanted to ask you  
if there's anything

171  
00:11:01,080 --> 00:11:04,330  
that you would like  
to add at this point

172  
00:11:04,330 --> 00:11:07,470  
before we conclude  
the interview.

173  
00:11:07,470 --> 00:11:11,070  
Is there anything that you  
wanted to mention at this time?

174  
00:11:11,070 --> 00:11:15,840  
I only could talk about  
those things that I remember.

175  
00:11:15,840 --> 00:11:21,880  
I succeeded to erase so

much during all those years.

176

00:11:21,880 --> 00:11:24,180

I am 64.

177

00:11:24,180 --> 00:11:29,460

And it is surprising that

I was able to remember even

178

00:11:29,460 --> 00:11:33,870

those things because through

my life most of the time

179

00:11:33,870 --> 00:11:37,440

I've heard that Hungarian

Jewry we have nothing to say.

180

00:11:37,440 --> 00:11:39,090

We have no right.

181

00:11:39,090 --> 00:11:46,350

We did not behave

according to the heroism

182

00:11:46,350 --> 00:11:49,780

of like [? Barashi ?]

ghetto and so forth.

183

00:11:49,780 --> 00:11:54,000

And we all together

have less right

184

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:58,080

to ask at least

pay attention to us

185

00:11:58,080 --> 00:12:00,810

because we have suffered less.

186

00:12:00,810 --> 00:12:06,930

But today, if you ask

me, I don't know really



187

00:12:06,930 --> 00:12:13,470

to be wiped out in eight  
weeks to eight months' time

188

00:12:13,470 --> 00:12:18,030

compared to three, four years  
of terrible, terrible suffering

189

00:12:18,030 --> 00:12:21,450

and more even.

190

00:12:21,450 --> 00:12:24,450

But really to be  
murdered, and you

191

00:12:24,450 --> 00:12:28,620

know that when the Hungarian  
Jews arrived for three days

192

00:12:28,620 --> 00:12:31,530

the Earth moved because  
the children were not

193

00:12:31,530 --> 00:12:33,510

to be put in the gas.

194

00:12:33,510 --> 00:12:38,700

They were put  
alive in the Earth.

195

00:12:38,700 --> 00:12:41,670

And it took them days to die.

196

00:12:41,670 --> 00:12:45,120

So I am not sure  
that in the ghetto

197

00:12:45,120 --> 00:12:48,840

where we were about 200,000,  
and after several weeks

198

00:12:48,840 --> 00:12:56,400

we were 100,000 or less, and  
I don't know how to say it.

199  
00:12:56,400 --> 00:12:59,490  
You suffer even in a short  
time when the suffering

200  
00:12:59,490 --> 00:13:02,580  
gets so tremendous.

201  
00:13:02,580 --> 00:13:04,640  
It's not right.

202  
00:13:04,640 --> 00:13:05,990  
It's not true.

203  
00:13:05,990 --> 00:13:12,500  
It's not correct to say that  
you didn't do your duty as a Jew

204  
00:13:12,500 --> 00:13:15,620  
because you didn't  
have an uprising.

205  
00:13:15,620 --> 00:13:18,260  
Because in Russia,  
it took three years.

206  
00:13:18,260 --> 00:13:22,700  
And the young people were there  
until there was an uprising.

207  
00:13:22,700 --> 00:13:25,700  
Not that I want to say  
anything besides that

208  
00:13:25,700 --> 00:13:31,660  
they were the heroes  
of all history.

209  
00:13:31,660 --> 00:13:37,220  
But the fact that  
the Hungarian Jews,

210  
00:13:37,220 --> 00:13:41,510  
whatever we were able to do  
to stay alive to show them

211  
00:13:41,510 --> 00:13:43,940  
that we are still  
human being, you behave

212  
00:13:43,940 --> 00:13:47,660  
to us like cockroaches,  
but we are very valuable,

213  
00:13:47,660 --> 00:13:48,920  
very upright people.

214  
00:13:48,920 --> 00:13:50,930  
And we are very capable.

215  
00:13:50,930 --> 00:13:52,700  
We are tricking you.

216  
00:13:52,700 --> 00:13:54,230  
And we won't let you.

217  
00:13:54,230 --> 00:14:00,350  
And we are making  
papers, and we are

218  
00:14:00,350 --> 00:14:03,110  
doing whatever is  
possible to run away

219  
00:14:03,110 --> 00:14:04,640  
to live like Christians.

220  
00:14:04,640 --> 00:14:09,440  
To a child like myself, when  
they took us to the ghetto

221  
00:14:09,440 --> 00:14:12,110  
in the 20 minutes we are

so surprised that we didn't

222

00:14:12,110 --> 00:14:16,400  
take any clothing and any food.

223

00:14:16,400 --> 00:14:20,390  
The day after this, when  
the ghetto was yet open,

224

00:14:20,390 --> 00:14:24,500  
I went back personally,  
11 years old myself,

225

00:14:24,500 --> 00:14:27,530  
and took down from the  
apartment everything

226

00:14:27,530 --> 00:14:29,510  
I could put my hand on it.

227

00:14:29,510 --> 00:14:32,630  
And I took a person  
that knew me--

228

00:14:32,630 --> 00:14:37,490  
it was dangerous--  
with his horse.

229

00:14:37,490 --> 00:14:40,880  
And he took to the  
ghetto all the stuff

230

00:14:40,880 --> 00:14:42,470  
that we really lived on.

231

00:14:42,470 --> 00:14:44,300  
The reason we didn't die.

232

00:14:44,300 --> 00:14:48,740  
So even children, even young  
people, even old people,

233

00:14:48,740 --> 00:14:53,120  
we all did the most that  
within a few weeks' time

234  
00:14:53,120 --> 00:14:57,130  
was possible to do.

235  
00:14:57,130 --> 00:14:59,112  
I want a clarification  
on something

236  
00:14:59,112 --> 00:15:00,070  
that you had mentioned.

237  
00:15:00,070 --> 00:15:03,790  
You mentioned that your father  
had done some kind of service,

238  
00:15:03,790 --> 00:15:06,353  
some kind of military,  
paramilitary, something.

239  
00:15:06,353 --> 00:15:08,020  
You said he was in  
some kind of service.

240  
00:15:08,020 --> 00:15:09,370  
And he returned.

241  
00:15:09,370 --> 00:15:12,460  
And you also mentioned your  
brother had an armband.

242  
00:15:12,460 --> 00:15:16,150  
Can you clarify the role  
of the men in your family

243  
00:15:16,150 --> 00:15:17,290  
during this time?

244  
00:15:17,290 --> 00:15:19,510  
Yes, I can.

245

00:15:19,510 --> 00:15:26,050

Jewish men were called into  
service not as soldiers,

246

00:15:26,050 --> 00:15:30,940

but as the Jewish Legion.

247

00:15:30,940 --> 00:15:34,270

They had, as I  
explained, no right

248

00:15:34,270 --> 00:15:38,920

to any kind of protection.

249

00:15:38,920 --> 00:15:45,100

No right to food more  
than just somebody that

250

00:15:45,100 --> 00:15:47,680

gives them or not.

251

00:15:47,680 --> 00:15:55,210

They did not serve as  
soldiers, but as personnel

252

00:15:55,210 --> 00:16:00,670

that prepared roads,  
prepared ditches,

253

00:16:00,670 --> 00:16:03,940

prepared the way for the army.

254

00:16:03,940 --> 00:16:07,270

They were tortured  
with behavior.

255

00:16:07,270 --> 00:16:08,290

They were killed.

256

00:16:08,290 --> 00:16:10,030

They were murdered.

257

00:16:10,030 --> 00:16:17,740  
And everybody from the age of  
16 till the age of 50 something

258

00:16:17,740 --> 00:16:25,750  
was supposed to belong to those  
army helpers, so did my father

259

00:16:25,750 --> 00:16:28,360  
and so did my brother.

260

00:16:28,360 --> 00:16:31,180  
And they constantly ran away.

261

00:16:31,180 --> 00:16:34,120  
And to run away, it was  
extremely dangerous.

262

00:16:34,120 --> 00:16:36,530  
You were killed for nothing.

263

00:16:36,530 --> 00:16:42,490  
Not to mention running  
away was a form of heroism.

264

00:16:42,490 --> 00:16:44,380  
And you didn't help them.

265

00:16:44,380 --> 00:16:46,000  
You tried not to do this.

266

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:48,850  
And you tried not  
to do anything that

267

00:16:48,850 --> 00:16:54,080  
would make their life easier.

268

00:16:54,080 --> 00:16:58,570  
So my family did the same,  
unfortunately, of course.

269

00:16:58,570 --> 00:17:01,720

Besides my father  
and my brother,

270

00:17:01,720 --> 00:17:05,500

all my father's  
brothers were murdered

271

00:17:05,500 --> 00:17:10,780

during this time as soldier  
helpers, all of them.

272

00:17:10,780 --> 00:17:15,339

All my mother's  
brothers, one of them

273

00:17:15,339 --> 00:17:21,520

done in Russia, the other one  
in Budapest, not to mention

274

00:17:21,520 --> 00:17:23,890

grandfathers and all  
their relatives that

275

00:17:23,890 --> 00:17:29,680

were taken to Auschwitz.

276

00:17:29,680 --> 00:17:37,690

So young people were  
separated, not fed, tortured,

277

00:17:37,690 --> 00:17:40,870

killed just like old people.

278

00:17:40,870 --> 00:17:44,830

But Eichmann know his lesson  
much better, much more

279

00:17:44,830 --> 00:17:46,390

than he knew before.

280

00:17:46,390 --> 00:17:50,680



And the time he had was much shorter because it was really

281  
00:17:50,680 --> 00:17:56,620  
from 19th of March  
till the end, which

282  
00:17:56,620 --> 00:18:03,810  
was for the ghetto, the  
18th of January, 1945.

283  
00:18:03,810 --> 00:18:05,310  
I thank you for  
doing the interview.

284  
00:18:05,310 --> 00:18:07,500  
This concludes the  
interview today.

285  
00:18:07,500 --> 00:18:08,000