

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,430

2  
00:00:01,430 --> 00:00:04,190  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:04,190 --> 00:00:06,950  
interview with Tania  
Rozmaryn, conducted

4  
00:00:06,950 --> 00:00:11,990  
by Gail Schwartz on  
February 23, 1997

5  
00:00:11,990 --> 00:00:14,120  
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

6  
00:00:14,120 --> 00:00:18,350  
This is tape number  
two, side A. And we

7  
00:00:18,350 --> 00:00:22,250  
were talking about your  
journey in their train car,

8  
00:00:22,250 --> 00:00:27,380  
end of December, 1941,  
early January 1942.

9  
00:00:27,380 --> 00:00:29,990  
And I was asking about  
who else was in the car,

10  
00:00:29,990 --> 00:00:33,190  
and what the  
atmosphere was like.

11  
00:00:33,190 --> 00:00:35,430  
Yeah, they were-- the  
rest of the people

12  
00:00:35,430 --> 00:00:37,770  
were from my hometown.

13  
00:00:37,770 --> 00:00:40,110  
I knew most of them.

14  
00:00:40,110 --> 00:00:44,280  
And the atmosphere  
was very glum.

15  
00:00:44,280 --> 00:00:50,910  
Although we didn't know about  
crematoriums or concentration

16  
00:00:50,910 --> 00:00:58,170  
camps or a final solution, but  
we know we are going to work,

17  
00:00:58,170 --> 00:01:04,650  
and maybe that will save us  
until the end of the war.

18  
00:01:04,650 --> 00:01:10,310  
We came to a town in  
Lithuania called  $\text{Å}^{\frac{1}{2}}\text{ie}\text{Å}^{\frac{3}{4}}\text{mariai}$ .

19  
00:01:10,310 --> 00:01:16,940  
And they opened the cars,  
and we all stepped out,

20  
00:01:16,940 --> 00:01:20,760  
and there were trucks  
waiting for us.

21  
00:01:20,760 --> 00:01:23,660  
We got into the trucks,  
and they started

22  
00:01:23,660 --> 00:01:24,950  
moving through the streets.

23  
00:01:24,950 --> 00:01:28,370

As we move through the streets,  
we knew that before the war

24  
00:01:28,370 --> 00:01:34,370  
it must have been  
an 80% Jewish town.

25  
00:01:34,370 --> 00:01:40,190  
Because wherever we passed  
the houses, we saw there--

26  
00:01:40,190 --> 00:01:42,770  
we saw the remnants.

27  
00:01:42,770 --> 00:01:46,220  
We saw the area where  
a mezuzahs used to be,

28  
00:01:46,220 --> 00:01:47,540  
and it was ripped off.

29  
00:01:47,540 --> 00:01:51,650  
So of course we surmised  
that those houses

30  
00:01:51,650 --> 00:01:53,960  
belonged to the Jewish people.

31  
00:01:53,960 --> 00:02:00,430  
After 15, 20 minutes,  
we got to the shul.

32  
00:02:00,430 --> 00:02:04,720  
It was the synagogue  
of the town.

33  
00:02:04,720 --> 00:02:09,110  
It was surrounded  
with barbed wire.

34  
00:02:09,110 --> 00:02:12,700  
And they took us in,  
into the synagogue.

35  
00:02:12,700 --> 00:02:16,250  
And already it was  
totally emptied

36  
00:02:16,250 --> 00:02:18,170  
from whatever it was before.

37  
00:02:18,170 --> 00:02:26,240  
And they had constructed  
three tier bunk beds.

38  
00:02:26,240 --> 00:02:29,360  
But not individual ones.

39  
00:02:29,360 --> 00:02:33,020  
It's like the one that I  
saw at the Holocaust Museum,

40  
00:02:33,020 --> 00:02:37,970  
where like 20, 30  
people were next

41  
00:02:37,970 --> 00:02:40,280  
to each other like sardines.

42  
00:02:40,280 --> 00:02:43,030  
And they were three tiers.

43  
00:02:43,030 --> 00:02:48,280  
And there since I was very  
young as is my cousin,

44  
00:02:48,280 --> 00:02:52,510  
we went on the third  
tier of the bunk bed,

45  
00:02:52,510 --> 00:02:57,390  
and that's where we slept.

46  
00:02:57,390 --> 00:03:04,880  
And there was another house

in the yard, also constructed

47

00:03:04,880 --> 00:03:08,690  
inside with bunk beds for men.

48

00:03:08,690 --> 00:03:10,580  
They gave us some food.

49

00:03:10,580 --> 00:03:15,860  
And the next morning,  
they told us to line up.

50

00:03:15,860 --> 00:03:18,830  
We lined up in the courtyard.

51

00:03:18,830 --> 00:03:23,330  
And then the head of  
the camp came over,

52

00:03:23,330 --> 00:03:26,090  
told us we are  
here in  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai,

53

00:03:26,090 --> 00:03:29,510  
and we are going to build  
a road from  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai,

54

00:03:29,510 --> 00:03:33,950  
which is going to run  
from Kovno to Vilna.

55

00:03:33,950 --> 00:03:36,230  
And they are starting  
on both sides.

56

00:03:36,230 --> 00:03:38,000  
We'll meet someplace  
in the middle.

57

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:40,700  
And then he said  
very nonchalantly,

58

00:03:40,700 --> 00:03:45,030

if anybody feels that  
they are too weak to work,

59

00:03:45,030 --> 00:03:48,560

or they want to go back  
home, by all MEANS we

60

00:03:48,560 --> 00:03:50,840

have more than enough people.

61

00:03:50,840 --> 00:03:54,470

So like 25 people  
stepped forward,

62

00:03:54,470 --> 00:03:59,450

and the rest went  
back to the shul

63

00:03:59,450 --> 00:04:03,500

or to the other  
building that was there.

64

00:04:03,500 --> 00:04:05,210

And they took them away.

65

00:04:05,210 --> 00:04:07,430

And then we found  
out the next day

66

00:04:07,430 --> 00:04:10,040

that they just took them  
like three miles away,

67

00:04:10,040 --> 00:04:16,060

and they killed them all  
and buried them there.

68

00:04:16,060 --> 00:04:20,399

And then we started going  
to work every morning.

69

00:04:20,399 --> 00:04:23,940  
What was the age range  
of these 300 people?

70  
00:04:23,940 --> 00:04:26,360  
Oh, the age range,  
I would say, I

71  
00:04:26,360 --> 00:04:27,870  
must have been the  
youngest there,

72  
00:04:27,870 --> 00:04:38,560  
but they were from 16, 17,  
I would say, through 28, 30.

73  
00:04:38,560 --> 00:04:41,740  
Definitely not older.

74  
00:04:41,740 --> 00:04:44,300  
So you're 13 and  
1/2 at this point.

75  
00:04:44,300 --> 00:04:44,800  
Yeah.

76  
00:04:44,800 --> 00:04:49,090  
And you said, were you  
very small physically?

77  
00:04:49,090 --> 00:04:49,690  
Right.

78  
00:04:49,690 --> 00:04:51,460  
I was very small physically.

79  
00:04:51,460 --> 00:04:55,360  
And I really think I was the  
only one, that I was small.

80  
00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:58,600  
Because later on, as I will  
mention to you, that because I

81  
00:04:58,600 --> 00:05:00,670  
was so tiny and small,  
I caught the eye

82  
00:05:00,670 --> 00:05:04,640  
of the head of the construction.

83  
00:05:04,640 --> 00:05:07,450  
And he was going to  
do me a special favor,

84  
00:05:07,450 --> 00:05:10,540  
but I will get to this later.

85  
00:05:10,540 --> 00:05:12,370  
Were you staying  
close by your cousin?

86  
00:05:12,370 --> 00:05:15,140  
Oh, we slept together,  
and we worked together.

87  
00:05:15,140 --> 00:05:19,930  
At night, we would cuddle up  
like sardines to stay warm.

88  
00:05:19,930 --> 00:05:25,323  
But still we did not feel  
that our life was threatened.

89  
00:05:25,323 --> 00:05:26,740  
Were you wearing  
that special coat

90  
00:05:26,740 --> 00:05:28,480  
that your mother gave  
you and the boots?

91  
00:05:28,480 --> 00:05:31,940  
Yes, I was wearing the red  
boots and that shearling,



92  
00:05:31,940 --> 00:05:33,340  
gray shearling coat.

93  
00:05:33,340 --> 00:05:34,480  
Yes.

94  
00:05:34,480 --> 00:05:37,440  
And I was very comfortable  
and very, very warm.

95  
00:05:37,440 --> 00:05:40,750  
And of course, my mother gave  
us some food in the beginning.

96  
00:05:40,750 --> 00:05:43,180  
I don't know even where  
she got it, some chicken

97  
00:05:43,180 --> 00:05:49,510  
and other things that we had to  
add to whatever we got there.

98  
00:05:49,510 --> 00:05:52,540  
What else did you  
bring with you?

99  
00:05:52,540 --> 00:05:53,770  
Nothing, really.

100  
00:05:53,770 --> 00:05:58,440  
Just what I wore, and  
maybe one more dress.

101  
00:05:58,440 --> 00:05:59,250  
That's it.

102  
00:05:59,250 --> 00:06:00,488  
Nothing else.

103  
00:06:00,488 --> 00:06:01,530  
You were wearing a dress?

104

00:06:01,530 --> 00:06:04,050

A dress and gloves.

105

00:06:04,050 --> 00:06:07,230

Yes, no-- nobody wore  
pants at that time.

106

00:06:07,230 --> 00:06:07,980

No women.

107

00:06:07,980 --> 00:06:12,090

No woman wore pants  
in those days.

108

00:06:12,090 --> 00:06:16,800

So the next day,  
they sent us to work.

109

00:06:16,800 --> 00:06:23,730

And he took us with the  
trucks again to an area where

110

00:06:23,730 --> 00:06:27,720

the highway was being  
built. And we got out,

111

00:06:27,720 --> 00:06:30,600

and there was like  
a Choo Choo train.

112

00:06:30,600 --> 00:06:33,510

And then we would get  
on that little train

113

00:06:33,510 --> 00:06:37,830

to get to the workplace  
as we progressed.

114

00:06:37,830 --> 00:06:43,830

And then they divided the  
jobs for what should be done.

115

00:06:43,830 --> 00:06:47,820  
Now, there was one group where  
they were bringing-- of course,

116  
00:06:47,820 --> 00:06:49,890  
after it was all  
prepared and measured,

117  
00:06:49,890 --> 00:06:54,870  
they would put sand on their  
whole area of the highway.

118  
00:06:54,870 --> 00:06:58,000  
And it wasn't like with a  
highway that we know now.

119  
00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:03,630  
It must have been like a  
two-lane highway at most.

120  
00:07:03,630 --> 00:07:07,290  
And then rounded  
stones were brought in,

121  
00:07:07,290 --> 00:07:14,280  
and they were placed, one next  
to the other with the tips up.

122  
00:07:14,280 --> 00:07:16,140  
And we would have  
little shovels,

123  
00:07:16,140 --> 00:07:21,390  
put the stones in, and  
then fasten it in place.

124  
00:07:21,390 --> 00:07:25,020  
And this was-- the younger  
ones were doing that.

125  
00:07:25,020 --> 00:07:26,880  
And then the older  
people, the men

126

00:07:26,880 --> 00:07:29,580  
were sitting on the roadside.

127

00:07:29,580 --> 00:07:32,070  
And they would hammer--  
special hammers,

128

00:07:32,070 --> 00:07:37,110  
they were chopping up stones  
to make them into smaller ones,

129

00:07:37,110 --> 00:07:40,560  
like not gravel  
but smaller stones.

130

00:07:40,560 --> 00:07:43,260  
And then they would take  
those smaller stones

131

00:07:43,260 --> 00:07:50,820  
with wheelbarrows, and they  
go on the freshly put stones,

132

00:07:50,820 --> 00:07:54,090  
and sort of throw them  
off the wheelbarrow

133

00:07:54,090 --> 00:07:58,200  
to fill in the holes  
in between the stones.

134

00:07:58,200 --> 00:08:00,510  
After that was  
done, and of course

135

00:08:00,510 --> 00:08:04,680  
let's say after 50  
yards or 100 yards,

136

00:08:04,680 --> 00:08:08,100  
then the next step was  
they were boiling tar.

137

00:08:08,100 --> 00:08:10,570

And they would  
cover it with tar,

138

00:08:10,570 --> 00:08:12,930

and then they had  
their steam roller.

139

00:08:12,930 --> 00:08:15,480

And that was the last--

140

00:08:15,480 --> 00:08:18,970

that was the last  
thing that they did.

141

00:08:18,970 --> 00:08:22,890

And every day, we used  
to go to work and go on

142

00:08:22,890 --> 00:08:25,300

to proceed further and further.

143

00:08:25,300 --> 00:08:29,520

And we were being  
watched, but not by SS,

144

00:08:29,520 --> 00:08:34,080

but by soldiers from the  
construction kommandos.

145

00:08:34,080 --> 00:08:37,470

But of course, we couldn't  
run away or go anywhere.

146

00:08:37,470 --> 00:08:41,789

We didn't even speak Lithuanian,  
so we were stuck there.

147

00:08:41,789 --> 00:08:44,790

What did they give you to eat  
in the morning before you left?

148

00:08:44,790 --> 00:08:46,890

In the morning, it  
was a bowl, sort of

149

00:08:46,890 --> 00:08:54,600

like black coffee,  
sort of imitation,

150

00:08:54,600 --> 00:08:57,240

with a slice of bread.

151

00:08:57,240 --> 00:09:03,600

It was like a small bread that  
was to be divided into four.

152

00:09:03,600 --> 00:09:07,500

And I remember we used to take--  
and one person was in charge,

153

00:09:07,500 --> 00:09:11,310

so we would take a straw  
to measure that tiny bread.

154

00:09:11,310 --> 00:09:12,930

It was this size.

155

00:09:12,930 --> 00:09:14,068

How many inches?

156

00:09:14,068 --> 00:09:14,610

I don't know.

157

00:09:14,610 --> 00:09:16,350

6, 7 inches.

158

00:09:16,350 --> 00:09:19,230

And we would measure  
with the straw,

159

00:09:19,230 --> 00:09:21,180

and to divide it equally.

160

00:09:21,180 --> 00:09:24,490  
And that was the bread  
for the whole day.

161  
00:09:24,490 --> 00:09:27,390  
And then when we came  
back, there was some kind--

162  
00:09:27,390 --> 00:09:29,160  
some kind of soup.

163  
00:09:29,160 --> 00:09:33,990  
What they did was, we  
used to take the peel

164  
00:09:33,990 --> 00:09:39,270  
from the potatoes from the  
German kitchens, and some grass

165  
00:09:39,270 --> 00:09:42,780  
that they would pick that wasn't  
poisonous to eat, and cook it

166  
00:09:42,780 --> 00:09:47,625  
together, and add some  
flour to it to thicken it.

167  
00:09:47,625 --> 00:09:51,865  
And that was the dinner  
when we came from work.

168  
00:09:51,865 --> 00:09:54,030  
Did they give you  
anything during the day?

169  
00:09:54,030 --> 00:09:54,690  
No, nothing.

170  
00:09:54,690 --> 00:09:57,960  
We had to save from the  
bread that they gave us

171  
00:09:57,960 --> 00:10:00,430

in the morning for the day.

172  
00:10:00,430 --> 00:10:02,910  
Did they count you  
before you left?

173  
00:10:02,910 --> 00:10:04,320  
Naturally, they counted.

174  
00:10:04,320 --> 00:10:07,570  
But there was one other  
thing, what they did.

175  
00:10:07,570 --> 00:10:10,280  
And because really  
they were not--

176  
00:10:10,280 --> 00:10:14,310  
the Nazi commanders, the head of  
the-- a few weeks after we were

177  
00:10:14,310 --> 00:10:20,030  
there, the head of  
the construction,

178  
00:10:20,030 --> 00:10:24,840  
we didn't even know his  
name, but he was hoarse.

179  
00:10:24,840 --> 00:10:28,860  
So we called him the  
[INAUDIBLE] chef.

180  
00:10:28,860 --> 00:10:34,170  
And he told us that on and  
off he would take a truck,

181  
00:10:34,170 --> 00:10:37,410  
and take the head of the  
camp, which was a Jewish man.

182  
00:10:37,410 --> 00:10:40,740  
His name was



[? Ring. ?] And he would

183  
00:10:40,740 --> 00:10:43,290  
take him and two other  
people, and he said,

184  
00:10:43,290 --> 00:10:47,730  
we'll go back to the ghetto,  
and ask your relative

185  
00:10:47,730 --> 00:10:48,828  
to send food for you.

186  
00:10:48,828 --> 00:10:50,370  
And we'll bring you  
the food, and you

187  
00:10:50,370 --> 00:10:52,410  
can write letters to them.

188  
00:10:52,410 --> 00:10:53,190  
So we did.

189  
00:10:53,190 --> 00:10:55,380  
Somebody who had a piece  
of paper or a pencil,

190  
00:10:55,380 --> 00:10:57,630  
they would share.

191  
00:10:57,630 --> 00:11:00,150  
And that's what he  
did, like once a month.

192  
00:11:00,150 --> 00:11:04,820  
He would take a truck and  
go there to the relatives,

193  
00:11:04,820 --> 00:11:09,120  
and bring food for us  
from the relatives.

194

00:11:09,120 --> 00:11:13,830  
At that time, my mother wasn't  
any more in Smorgonie ghetto.

195  
00:11:13,830 --> 00:11:16,920  
At that time, they liquidated  
the Smorgonie ghetto,

196  
00:11:16,920 --> 00:11:22,020  
and they transferred my mother,  
my brother, my grandfather,

197  
00:11:22,020 --> 00:11:23,700  
and my sister.

198  
00:11:23,700 --> 00:11:25,530  
My oldest sister was--

199  
00:11:25,530 --> 00:11:28,290  
my oldest sister was in  
meantime, a few months

200  
00:11:28,290 --> 00:11:32,520  
after I came, he went back  
and he brought more people.

201  
00:11:32,520 --> 00:11:35,100  
But my sister wasn't  
staying with us.

202  
00:11:35,100 --> 00:11:37,900  
My sister was  
working in the office

203  
00:11:37,900 --> 00:11:44,350  
with 10 or 15 other  
girls near the workplace.

204  
00:11:44,350 --> 00:11:46,240  
And they had the  
special barrack there.

205  
00:11:46,240 --> 00:11:51,870

So I really never saw my sister,  
but I knew she was there.

206  
00:11:51,870 --> 00:11:53,260  
Was that a help to you?

207  
00:11:53,260 --> 00:11:53,760  
No.

208  
00:11:53,760 --> 00:11:54,820  
No, not at all.

209  
00:11:54,820 --> 00:12:02,160  
Because she was in the  
labor camp just as I was,

210  
00:12:02,160 --> 00:12:04,710  
except that she  
had a better job.

211  
00:12:04,710 --> 00:12:06,600  
She was working in the office.

212  
00:12:06,600 --> 00:12:08,610  
Were you still wearing  
your yellow star?

213  
00:12:08,610 --> 00:12:11,550  
No, we didn't have to wear  
the yellow star there.

214  
00:12:11,550 --> 00:12:16,290  
We were just wearing what  
we did, but no yellow star.

215  
00:12:16,290 --> 00:12:21,040  
And then-- but they  
transferred all

216  
00:12:21,040 --> 00:12:23,490  
from Smorgonie and  
a few other ghettos

217

00:12:23,490 --> 00:12:27,240  
into Oshmyany, which  
was a larger ghetto.

218

00:12:27,240 --> 00:12:30,270  
So my father, my mother,  
my grandfather, his wife,

219

00:12:30,270 --> 00:12:32,160  
and his daughter,  
and my brother,

220

00:12:32,160 --> 00:12:34,620  
they all went to Oshmyany.

221

00:12:34,620 --> 00:12:38,850  
Something interesting happened  
that my mother told me.

222

00:12:38,850 --> 00:12:41,910  
When they came to the  
ghetto of Oshmyany,

223

00:12:41,910 --> 00:12:45,030  
before they took  
them into the ghetto,

224

00:12:45,030 --> 00:12:51,960  
they made a selection to  
get rid of the old people

225

00:12:51,960 --> 00:12:53,860  
and the children.

226

00:12:53,860 --> 00:12:58,770  
And it was someplace near  
where there was a synagogue.

227

00:12:58,770 --> 00:13:03,360  
So they made a selection,  
and whoever was old,

228

00:13:03,360 --> 00:13:07,860  
feeble, or children, they  
would send into the synagogue.

229  
00:13:07,860 --> 00:13:10,320  
And from the synagogue, they  
would take them immediately

230  
00:13:10,320 --> 00:13:12,790  
to the forest and kill them.

231  
00:13:12,790 --> 00:13:17,430  
So my mother, my brother,  
somehow I don't know why,

232  
00:13:17,430 --> 00:13:20,730  
and my grandfather's  
wife and his daughter,

233  
00:13:20,730 --> 00:13:24,360  
they let them go to  
the Oshmyany ghetto.

234  
00:13:24,360 --> 00:13:27,690  
They grabbed my grandfather  
and said, you're an old man.

235  
00:13:27,690 --> 00:13:31,980  
We have no use for you, and  
they put him into the synagogue.

236  
00:13:31,980 --> 00:13:33,630  
As he was in the  
synagogue, they were

237  
00:13:33,630 --> 00:13:39,780  
pushing people in, invalids  
and the sick people,

238  
00:13:39,780 --> 00:13:41,010  
and old people.

239  
00:13:41,010 --> 00:13:45,120

And my grandfather  
was a healthy man.

240

00:13:45,120 --> 00:13:48,090  
So he went to the door, because  
they would throw them in,

241

00:13:48,090 --> 00:13:53,580  
and then everybody would step  
over the sick and the invalids.

242

00:13:53,580 --> 00:13:56,310  
So he was standing by  
the door and picking up

243

00:13:56,310 --> 00:13:59,600  
the invalids and the sick  
to put them in the corner,

244

00:13:59,600 --> 00:14:02,440  
that nobody should trample them.

245

00:14:02,440 --> 00:14:06,115  
The Nazis there at the door  
noticed it, and they said hey,

246

00:14:06,115 --> 00:14:07,560  
you're still strong.

247

00:14:07,560 --> 00:14:08,610  
We need you.

248

00:14:08,610 --> 00:14:13,110  
And they took him out and sent  
him back to where my mother was

249

00:14:13,110 --> 00:14:14,700  
and his wife.

250

00:14:14,700 --> 00:14:18,150  
And they all went to  
the Oshhmyany ghetto.

251

00:14:18,150 --> 00:14:22,710

Now, going back to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai,  
every day we would go to work,

252

00:14:22,710 --> 00:14:23,670

and then from--

253

00:14:23,670 --> 00:14:26,820

we were already farther away,  
we would get on those choo choo

254

00:14:26,820 --> 00:14:29,100

trains until we got to  
where the trucks were

255

00:14:29,100 --> 00:14:31,530

to get back to camp.

256

00:14:31,530 --> 00:14:34,410

One day I was on  
that choo choo train,

257

00:14:34,410 --> 00:14:37,200

wearing my red boots  
and my shearling,

258

00:14:37,200 --> 00:14:42,150

and the chef, the [INAUDIBLE]  
chef, he came over to me,

259

00:14:42,150 --> 00:14:44,740

sat down next to  
me, and he said,

260

00:14:44,740 --> 00:14:46,320

I know who are little girl.

261

00:14:46,320 --> 00:14:49,020

I met your mother  
on the way here.

262

00:14:49,020 --> 00:14:51,960

She walked to the  
train with you, right?

263  
00:14:51,960 --> 00:14:53,310  
I said yes.

264  
00:14:53,310 --> 00:14:55,740  
He said, you know--  
and it was very cold.

265  
00:14:55,740 --> 00:14:59,660  
It must have been February,  
beginning of March.

266  
00:14:59,660 --> 00:15:06,490  
He said to me, next week,  
we'll be going with the truck

267  
00:15:06,490 --> 00:15:09,200  
to Oshmynany, to ghetto.

268  
00:15:09,200 --> 00:15:11,600  
And I know your mother is there.

269  
00:15:11,600 --> 00:15:14,360  
For food-- Because all  
the people from Smorgonie

270  
00:15:14,360 --> 00:15:16,250  
were in Oshmyany.

271  
00:15:16,250 --> 00:15:18,770  
And if you want, he said,  
you can come with me

272  
00:15:18,770 --> 00:15:20,090  
to see your mother.

273  
00:15:20,090 --> 00:15:23,120  
And apparently, he saw  
that I was frightened.

274



00:15:23,120 --> 00:15:24,680

And he said to me,  
don't be afraid,

275

00:15:24,680 --> 00:15:26,750

nothing will happen to you.

276

00:15:26,750 --> 00:15:30,530

Because the head of  
the camp is coming,

277

00:15:30,530 --> 00:15:32,150

and he was there with me before.

278

00:15:32,150 --> 00:15:33,770

And a few other  
people are coming.

279

00:15:33,770 --> 00:15:36,510

So I assure you that we  
are not going to kill you.

280

00:15:36,510 --> 00:15:37,850

You can come.

281

00:15:37,850 --> 00:15:40,210

I said OK.

282

00:15:40,210 --> 00:15:42,170

The morning, you  
know, the truck came.

283

00:15:42,170 --> 00:15:43,320

I got in the truck.

284

00:15:43,320 --> 00:15:44,390

I was so cold.

285

00:15:44,390 --> 00:15:47,150

It was freezing, and  
it took several hours.

286

00:15:47,150 --> 00:15:50,820  
In the evening, we came  
to the Oshmyany ghetto.

287  
00:15:50,820 --> 00:15:53,630  
And we came in straight  
to the police station,

288  
00:15:53,630 --> 00:15:55,190  
to the Jewish police station.

289  
00:15:55,190 --> 00:15:57,710  
And he came in, and  
he told the policeman

290  
00:15:57,710 --> 00:16:00,590  
to go look for my mother  
and tell her to come,

291  
00:16:00,590 --> 00:16:03,230  
that I am here.

292  
00:16:03,230 --> 00:16:07,400  
My mother came, and of course  
we started kissing and hugging.

293  
00:16:07,400 --> 00:16:09,710  
And then she took  
me to the room where

294  
00:16:09,710 --> 00:16:11,660  
she had at that time a room.

295  
00:16:11,660 --> 00:16:14,060  
My mother, my grandfather,  
his wife, his daughter,

296  
00:16:14,060 --> 00:16:18,005  
and my brother, they had a  
room in somebody's house.

297  
00:16:18,005 --> 00:16:19,880  
And you hadn't seen her

for about two months.

298  
00:16:19,880 --> 00:16:23,330  
I hadn't seen her,  
right, for two months.

299  
00:16:23,330 --> 00:16:24,170  
And I came.

300  
00:16:24,170 --> 00:16:28,950  
I came in, and we were  
there for two days.

301  
00:16:28,950 --> 00:16:31,710  
And then the following  
day, I got up.

302  
00:16:31,710 --> 00:16:36,990  
I was always suffering from  
probably strep throat a million

303  
00:16:36,990 --> 00:16:41,250  
times, because every  
time I had a sore throat,

304  
00:16:41,250 --> 00:16:44,028  
it was absolutely horrendous.

305  
00:16:44,028 --> 00:16:44,820  
I couldn't swallow.

306  
00:16:44,820 --> 00:16:46,440  
I couldn't speak.

307  
00:16:46,440 --> 00:16:51,170  
And I got up, and I had a high  
fever, and I was very sick.

308  
00:16:51,170 --> 00:16:52,473  
So my mother said--

309  
00:16:52,473 --> 00:16:53,890

she said, I don't  
know what to do.

310  
00:16:53,890 --> 00:16:55,840  
How can I let you go?

311  
00:16:55,840 --> 00:17:02,200  
So she went to meet that chef,  
the head of the construction.

312  
00:17:02,200 --> 00:17:06,819  
And she told him that I'm  
very sick and I can't go back.

313  
00:17:06,819 --> 00:17:09,339  
And he said, but  
I cannot go back.

314  
00:17:09,339 --> 00:17:12,890  
I have to have the  
same amount of people.

315  
00:17:12,890 --> 00:17:14,740  
And then somebody  
said to my mother,

316  
00:17:14,740 --> 00:17:20,500  
you know, there is a girl, an  
orphan girl here in ghetto,

317  
00:17:20,500 --> 00:17:21,550  
from Smorgonie.

318  
00:17:21,550 --> 00:17:24,640  
And she has a sister  
that is in Å½ieÅ¾mariai,

319  
00:17:24,640 --> 00:17:26,890  
and she is starving here.

320  
00:17:26,890 --> 00:17:29,140  
You could do her a  
favor and yourself.

321  
00:17:29,140 --> 00:17:32,710  
Let her go instead  
of your daughter.

322  
00:17:32,710 --> 00:17:35,680  
And give her food, and  
give her whatever you can.

323  
00:17:35,680 --> 00:17:37,810  
And my mother, of course,  
was in seventh heaven.

324  
00:17:37,810 --> 00:17:40,450  
She went to meet the girl,  
and she gave her food.

325  
00:17:40,450 --> 00:17:42,790  
She gave her a  
few of my dresses.

326  
00:17:42,790 --> 00:17:49,257  
And she said, go and my first  
cousin will take care of her.

327  
00:17:49,257 --> 00:17:51,340  
And my mother said whenever  
they'll come for food,

328  
00:17:51,340 --> 00:17:53,170  
she'll send food  
for her, and maybe

329  
00:17:53,170 --> 00:17:55,550  
even my sister could help out.

330  
00:17:55,550 --> 00:17:57,100  
And the girl went.

331  
00:17:57,100 --> 00:17:59,860  
And I was there.

332

00:17:59,860 --> 00:18:02,850  
And I got well, and  
I made some friends.

333  
00:18:02,850 --> 00:18:05,440  
And in the spring--

334  
00:18:05,440 --> 00:18:07,330  
What was that ghetto like?

335  
00:18:07,330 --> 00:18:13,000  
In the ghetto, really,  
there was no starvation.

336  
00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:16,630  
People looked well-fed,  
because somehow they

337  
00:18:16,630 --> 00:18:22,360  
would sneak out of the  
ghetto and barter things.

338  
00:18:22,360 --> 00:18:25,300  
And there was a soup  
kitchen always there.

339  
00:18:25,300 --> 00:18:29,800  
And it was a rather  
pleasant atmosphere.

340  
00:18:29,800 --> 00:18:31,450  
People weren't killed.

341  
00:18:31,450 --> 00:18:33,130  
People weren't dying.

342  
00:18:33,130 --> 00:18:34,720  
There was enough food.

343  
00:18:34,720 --> 00:18:41,140  
But it was a ghetto, and people  
were hoping that maybe we'll

344

00:18:41,140 --> 00:18:41,710  
survive.

345

00:18:41,710 --> 00:18:45,640  
The war will soon be over,  
and we'll manage to survive.

346

00:18:45,640 --> 00:18:47,800  
Was it a walled-in ghetto?

347

00:18:47,800 --> 00:18:51,730  
It was a walled-in  
ghetto, barbed wire.

348

00:18:51,730 --> 00:18:53,720  
And I was in the ghetto.

349

00:18:53,720 --> 00:18:56,230  
My mother, I don't  
think she worked.

350

00:18:56,230 --> 00:18:57,880  
And I was in the ghetto.

351

00:18:57,880 --> 00:19:01,720  
It was springtime  
already, like April, May.

352

00:19:01,720 --> 00:19:06,070  
And I met some girls my age,  
and we were walking the streets.

353

00:19:06,070 --> 00:19:08,620  
And it was rather-- we  
were teaching each other,

354

00:19:08,620 --> 00:19:11,350  
and we were reading  
books together.

355

00:19:11,350 --> 00:19:15,340  
And then one day, I was

walking with my friends

356  
00:19:15,340 --> 00:19:19,240  
in the street near the  
entrance of the ghetto.

357  
00:19:19,240 --> 00:19:22,630  
And I saw the chef,  
the [INAUDIBLE] chef

358  
00:19:22,630 --> 00:19:25,470  
is there in a car.

359  
00:19:25,470 --> 00:19:27,580  
And he came over to me.

360  
00:19:27,580 --> 00:19:29,970  
And he says, "Kleine."

361  
00:19:29,970 --> 00:19:32,640  
Means in German "little girl."

362  
00:19:32,640 --> 00:19:35,150  
He said, who are you with?

363  
00:19:35,150 --> 00:19:36,540  
Where's your mother?

364  
00:19:36,540 --> 00:19:37,800  
I said, my mother is here.

365  
00:19:37,800 --> 00:19:41,100  
My grandfather, his  
wife, my brother.

366  
00:19:41,100 --> 00:19:44,370  
He says, listen closely  
what I'm telling you.

367  
00:19:44,370 --> 00:19:47,640  
Tell your mother-- go  
home, tell your mother



368  
00:19:47,640 --> 00:19:50,290  
to pack everything up.

369  
00:19:50,290 --> 00:19:55,660  
Tomorrow morning, I'm  
taking you all to where--

370  
00:19:55,660 --> 00:19:57,910  
to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai, to  
where you were.

371  
00:19:57,910 --> 00:19:59,530  
He said, don't ask questions.

372  
00:19:59,530 --> 00:20:02,590  
Just do as I say.

373  
00:20:02,590 --> 00:20:04,030  
I went home to my mother.

374  
00:20:04,030 --> 00:20:06,940  
I said, mama, I saw  
the [INAUDIBLE] chef,

375  
00:20:06,940 --> 00:20:08,110  
and that's what he told me.

376  
00:20:08,110 --> 00:20:10,750  
He told me to tell you  
to pack up and come

377  
00:20:10,750 --> 00:20:13,240  
to the entrance of the  
ghetto in the morning.

378  
00:20:13,240 --> 00:20:18,040  
There will be  
horses with wagons,

379  
00:20:18,040 --> 00:20:23,190  
and he's taking

us to Å½ieÅ¾mariai.

380  
00:20:23,190 --> 00:20:26,610  
My mother said, well, so  
far he was nice to us.

381  
00:20:26,610 --> 00:20:27,750  
We're going to do it.

382  
00:20:27,750 --> 00:20:31,320  
The next morning, my  
mother all packed up,

383  
00:20:31,320 --> 00:20:34,920  
and there were maybe  
another 20, 30 families.

384  
00:20:34,920 --> 00:20:36,870  
And in the entrance  
of the ghetto,

385  
00:20:36,870 --> 00:20:41,160  
there were farmers with  
horses and those large wagons

386  
00:20:41,160 --> 00:20:43,170  
that the farmers had.

387  
00:20:43,170 --> 00:20:47,770  
And they put the  
things on the wagons,

388  
00:20:47,770 --> 00:20:53,760  
and they said there is a train,  
which I saw is town here in--

389  
00:20:53,760 --> 00:20:59,592

390  
00:20:59,592 --> 00:21:00,790  
I forgot.

391

00:21:00,790 --> 00:21:03,560  
I forgot the name  
of the little town.

392  
00:21:03,560 --> 00:21:07,450  
We go to that little town,  
and there is a train.

393  
00:21:07,450 --> 00:21:09,760  
And you will put all  
your stuff, your things

394  
00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:12,490  
into the freight cars.

395  
00:21:12,490 --> 00:21:16,540  
And you'll go to sleep  
over in the ghetto.

396  
00:21:16,540 --> 00:21:19,630  
And the next following morning,  
you'll come to the cars,

397  
00:21:19,630 --> 00:21:22,930  
and we will go to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai.

398  
00:21:22,930 --> 00:21:25,420  
And we put-- my  
mother put everything.

399  
00:21:25,420 --> 00:21:27,460  
She had so many  
things in the wagon.

400  
00:21:27,460 --> 00:21:28,810  
And we got on top of it.

401  
00:21:28,810 --> 00:21:32,740  
My grandfather, his wife, her  
daughter, and my mother and I,

402  
00:21:32,740 --> 00:21:37,000  
my brother, we're all

sitting and we're going.

403  
00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:39,670  
And on the way--

404  
00:21:39,670 --> 00:21:41,080  
maybe it was 15 miles.

405  
00:21:41,080 --> 00:21:46,030  
On the way, we  
passed by a village.

406  
00:21:46,030 --> 00:21:48,540  
Å½uprany.

407  
00:21:48,540 --> 00:21:53,880  
In Å½uprany, we saw the  
farmer let everybody go,

408  
00:21:53,880 --> 00:21:58,860  
all the wagon trains, and he  
pulled up to a side street.

409  
00:21:58,860 --> 00:22:04,420  
And all of a sudden, he  
pulled us up to his farm.

410  
00:22:04,420 --> 00:22:07,510  
And there it was his family  
came out with pitchforks

411  
00:22:07,510 --> 00:22:09,670  
and with neighbors,  
his neighbors.

412  
00:22:09,670 --> 00:22:14,640  
And they were ready to kill  
us and take everything we had.

413  
00:22:14,640 --> 00:22:17,390  
As I said, my mother,  
God bless her-- maybe

414

00:22:17,390 --> 00:22:19,310

that's why she  
lives a long life.

415

00:22:19,310 --> 00:22:23,760

Next March the  
5th, she'll be 95.

416

00:22:23,760 --> 00:22:25,530

She jumped off the wagon.

417

00:22:25,530 --> 00:22:30,740

She ran to the street, and  
she saw two German officers.

418

00:22:30,740 --> 00:22:35,060

And with the Germans, if  
they had an order to kill,

419

00:22:35,060 --> 00:22:36,770

they didn't hesitate.

420

00:22:36,770 --> 00:22:40,010

But if they didn't  
have an order to kill,

421

00:22:40,010 --> 00:22:43,100

they behaved like  
civilized people.

422

00:22:43,100 --> 00:22:46,520

And they didn't like the  
white Russians much more

423

00:22:46,520 --> 00:22:49,370

because they were primitive  
in the eyes of the Germans.

424

00:22:49,370 --> 00:22:51,830

So my mother walked  
over to the Germans,

425

00:22:51,830 --> 00:22:55,160  
and she said that  
we are about to go

426  
00:22:55,160 --> 00:23:00,600  
into a labor camp from  
Oshmyany to the other town.

427  
00:23:00,600 --> 00:23:04,880  
And the farmer, they took us,  
pulled us off to his farm,

428  
00:23:04,880 --> 00:23:08,420  
and he is about to kill us  
and take everything we had.

429  
00:23:08,420 --> 00:23:10,530  
They asked my  
mother where is it.

430  
00:23:10,530 --> 00:23:13,490  
And she takes them there,  
was in the next street.

431  
00:23:13,490 --> 00:23:16,310  
And they come in, and they  
saw what was happening.

432  
00:23:16,310 --> 00:23:19,860  
They took out their guns,  
and they told the farmers,

433  
00:23:19,860 --> 00:23:22,730  
you'd better get  
back into the house.

434  
00:23:22,730 --> 00:23:24,980  
And the person that  
the wagon belongs to,

435  
00:23:24,980 --> 00:23:29,580  
you get on the wagon, and take  
them to where they have to go,

436

00:23:29,580 --> 00:23:32,360

or we're going to kill  
you all right now.

437

00:23:32,360 --> 00:23:33,530

They all disappeared.

438

00:23:33,530 --> 00:23:38,420

He got back on his wagon, and  
he took us to the train station.

439

00:23:38,420 --> 00:23:42,920

We got to the train station,  
and we put everything

440

00:23:42,920 --> 00:23:44,030

in the freight cars.

441

00:23:44,030 --> 00:23:46,160

And he told us from  
there, it was not

442

00:23:46,160 --> 00:23:48,110

far to walk to the ghetto.

443

00:23:48,110 --> 00:23:52,160

And my father had relatives  
in that little town,

444

00:23:52,160 --> 00:23:55,460

so we figured they will  
probably be in the ghetto.

445

00:23:55,460 --> 00:23:57,878

What were you doing  
when the farmers started

446

00:23:57,878 --> 00:23:59,045

approaching with pitchforks?

447

00:23:59,045 --> 00:24:01,070

Well, we were

sitting and crying,

448  
00:24:01,070 --> 00:24:03,740  
and then knew that  
that was the end of us,

449  
00:24:03,740 --> 00:24:05,730  
but there was nothing  
we can do about it.

450  
00:24:05,730 --> 00:24:08,540  
We couldn't fight back, and  
we couldn't do anything.

451  
00:24:08,540 --> 00:24:11,560  
What did you think when your  
mother walked away from you?

452  
00:24:11,560 --> 00:24:15,990  
I know that she was going  
to get help and to save us.

453  
00:24:15,990 --> 00:24:16,640  
That I knew.

454  
00:24:16,640 --> 00:24:19,022  
I knew my mother  
wasn't running from us.

455  
00:24:19,022 --> 00:24:19,730  
How did you know?

456  
00:24:19,730 --> 00:24:20,840  
No way.

457  
00:24:20,840 --> 00:24:22,070  
Not my mother.

458  
00:24:22,070 --> 00:24:25,190  
When she risked her life  
in the Smorgonie ghetto,

459



00:24:25,190 --> 00:24:27,790  
in the Oshmyany ghetto  
to barter things

460  
00:24:27,790 --> 00:24:29,540  
and to bring food for  
us, and she wouldn't

461  
00:24:29,540 --> 00:24:32,720  
eat before everybody ate.

462  
00:24:32,720 --> 00:24:35,870  
I knew my mother wasn't  
going to run away from us.

463  
00:24:35,870 --> 00:24:38,640

464  
00:24:38,640 --> 00:24:42,990  
And in the later years, of  
course, even when she was 75,

465  
00:24:42,990 --> 00:24:44,970  
it was still her  
concern to take care

466  
00:24:44,970 --> 00:24:47,580  
of her children and  
her grandchildren.

467  
00:24:47,580 --> 00:24:51,960  
All her life, it  
was her concern.

468  
00:24:51,960 --> 00:24:57,070  
So we came to the ghetto, and  
we asked where the relatives

469  
00:24:57,070 --> 00:24:58,350  
lived, if they were there.

470  
00:24:58,350 --> 00:25:02,283  
And we were told yes, and they

were quite wealthy people.

471  
00:25:02,283 --> 00:25:03,450  
And they were in the ghetto.

472  
00:25:03,450 --> 00:25:05,790  
Their house was in the ghetto,  
so they were essentially

473  
00:25:05,790 --> 00:25:07,110  
in their own home.

474  
00:25:07,110 --> 00:25:09,180  
What is the name of this  
town you're talking--

475  
00:25:09,180 --> 00:25:12,000  
If you will stop for a minute,  
I'll look up on the map

476  
00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:13,050  
if you want me to.

477  
00:25:13,050 --> 00:25:17,910

478  
00:25:17,910 --> 00:25:19,370  
It slipped my mind.

479  
00:25:19,370 --> 00:25:22,670  
Anyway, we found our relatives,  
my father's relatives.

480  
00:25:22,670 --> 00:25:25,490  
And they told us, well, come in.

481  
00:25:25,490 --> 00:25:27,350  
In the room we'll  
give you two beds.

482  
00:25:27,350 --> 00:25:29,360  
They said we have

another room, but we

483

00:25:29,360 --> 00:25:32,240

can't give you the other  
room, because the chef is

484

00:25:32,240 --> 00:25:33,770

coming to sleep over.

485

00:25:33,770 --> 00:25:35,870

This was the nicest  
house in the ghetto.

486

00:25:35,870 --> 00:25:39,530

And he came to sleep  
over in that room.

487

00:25:39,530 --> 00:25:45,020

So I remember we were like four  
people on a bed, and we rested.

488

00:25:45,020 --> 00:25:48,950

And then I walked  
out into the hall.

489

00:25:48,950 --> 00:25:51,580

And I saw the chef.

490

00:25:51,580 --> 00:25:52,700

Again, he called me.

491

00:25:52,700 --> 00:25:54,650

He said, "Kleine, come with me."

492

00:25:54,650 --> 00:25:57,560

Takes me into his  
room, and he said,

493

00:25:57,560 --> 00:26:00,930

listen what I'll tell you.

494

00:26:00,930 --> 00:26:03,510

And tell it to your mother.

495

00:26:03,510 --> 00:26:07,410

He said, I found out  
that within two weeks,

496

00:26:07,410 --> 00:26:11,160

they are going to liquidate  
all the small ghettos

497

00:26:11,160 --> 00:26:14,260

and take them into  
Ponary and kill them.

498

00:26:14,260 --> 00:26:18,570

So I decided to save as  
many people as I can.

499

00:26:18,570 --> 00:26:20,370

So I went to the  
Gebietskommissar,

500

00:26:20,370 --> 00:26:22,530

and I told him that  
I need more workers

501

00:26:22,530 --> 00:26:26,520

to speed up the highway,  
and he should give me

502

00:26:26,520 --> 00:26:30,330

permission to go to the Oshmyany  
ghetto and bring more people.

503

00:26:30,330 --> 00:26:32,460

He said when I came to  
the Oshmyany ghetto,

504

00:26:32,460 --> 00:26:36,420

he said I felt that the first  
people that I need to save

505

00:26:36,420 --> 00:26:39,990

should be the relatives of  
those that are in  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai.

506  
00:26:39,990 --> 00:26:42,630  
And that's why, he  
said, I told your mother

507  
00:26:42,630 --> 00:26:47,760  
not to hesitate and not to  
ask questions and to come.

508  
00:26:47,760 --> 00:26:49,980  
And he said-- he  
opened his wallet,

509  
00:26:49,980 --> 00:26:51,540  
and he showed me a gold coin.

510  
00:26:51,540 --> 00:26:56,340  
And he said, some of the people  
there were trying to bribe me,

511  
00:26:56,340 --> 00:26:59,440  
that I should take  
other families.

512  
00:26:59,440 --> 00:27:02,220  
But he said, well, I  
took this one gold coin,

513  
00:27:02,220 --> 00:27:04,770  
because I'm taking  
people out of the ghetto,

514  
00:27:04,770 --> 00:27:08,670  
but my priority was their  
relatives from the people

515  
00:27:08,670 --> 00:27:10,130  
in  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai.

516  
00:27:10,130 --> 00:27:12,450  
And then he looked

at me and said,

517  
00:27:12,450 --> 00:27:14,700  
if you have somebody  
here in ghetto that you

518  
00:27:14,700 --> 00:27:18,510  
want he should come with  
us, bring that person.

519  
00:27:18,510 --> 00:27:21,390  
Because in two  
weeks, that's what

520  
00:27:21,390 --> 00:27:25,690  
he showed me, that they were  
all going to be slaughtered.

521  
00:27:25,690 --> 00:27:28,150  
And in that ghetto,  
it so happened

522  
00:27:28,150 --> 00:27:32,110  
that I found the daughter--

523  
00:27:32,110 --> 00:27:37,860  
if you recall, when we first ran  
to Lebedev, to my Aunt Golda,

524  
00:27:37,860 --> 00:27:41,720  
that he was a shoemaker,  
and they had three children.

525  
00:27:41,720 --> 00:27:43,120  
So the daughter was there.

526  
00:27:43,120 --> 00:27:47,260  
Somehow she had a boyfriend,  
and they wind up in that ghetto.

527  
00:27:47,260 --> 00:27:50,310  
When she came, she  
told me that she's--

528  
00:27:50,310 --> 00:27:53,630  
I asked, what happened to your  
relatives, to your parents,

529  
00:27:53,630 --> 00:27:54,940  
to your brothers?

530  
00:27:54,940 --> 00:27:59,230  
She told me that a few  
months after we left,

531  
00:27:59,230 --> 00:28:03,880  
they gathered all  
the Jews into a barn,

532  
00:28:03,880 --> 00:28:07,030  
and they sprinkled the  
barn with gasoline,

533  
00:28:07,030 --> 00:28:08,980  
and they burned them all alive.

534  
00:28:08,980 --> 00:28:13,900  
And she was someplace at  
work, and she survived.

535  
00:28:13,900 --> 00:28:16,210  
And then she found a  
boyfriend, and that's

536  
00:28:16,210 --> 00:28:17,740  
why she was in that ghetto.

537  
00:28:17,740 --> 00:28:19,450  
Her name was Rivka.

538  
00:28:19,450 --> 00:28:21,370  
And I said, Rivka, come with us.

539  
00:28:21,370 --> 00:28:23,440  
Come with us, because

we know for a fact

540  
00:28:23,440 --> 00:28:26,032  
that this ghetto  
will be liquidated.

541  
00:28:26,032 --> 00:28:26,740  
She said, no way.

542  
00:28:26,740 --> 00:28:28,640  
She says, I'm not  
going with you.

543  
00:28:28,640 --> 00:28:29,770  
I have a boyfriend here.

544  
00:28:29,770 --> 00:28:31,690  
I don't believe  
what you're saying.

545  
00:28:31,690 --> 00:28:33,430  
She didn't come.

546  
00:28:33,430 --> 00:28:34,790  
The next morning, we got up.

547  
00:28:34,790 --> 00:28:37,330  
We all went to the cars.

548  
00:28:37,330 --> 00:28:38,510  
And we got in.

549  
00:28:38,510 --> 00:28:41,290  
They closed the freight train,  
and they took us straight

550  
00:28:41,290 --> 00:28:42,670  
to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai.

551  
00:28:42,670 --> 00:28:43,910  
And we came to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai.



552

00:28:43,910 --> 00:28:46,210

And of course, all the  
relatives then found each other,

553

00:28:46,210 --> 00:28:48,260

and my sister was there, too.

554

00:28:48,260 --> 00:28:50,740

And we were also  
in seventh heaven,

555

00:28:50,740 --> 00:28:53,410

that we found each other.

556

00:28:53,410 --> 00:28:56,770

Why do you think this chief  
singled you out and talked

557

00:28:56,770 --> 00:28:58,270

to you and helped you?

558

00:28:58,270 --> 00:29:02,170

I think that first  
of all my mother

559

00:29:02,170 --> 00:29:07,570

had bribed him well on the way  
to the train, because he did it

560

00:29:07,570 --> 00:29:11,050

to us, especially, as  
you will hear later

561

00:29:11,050 --> 00:29:12,820

how he saved us again.

562

00:29:12,820 --> 00:29:15,100

And maybe by nature he was--

563

00:29:15,100 --> 00:29:16,240

he wasn't a young man.

564

00:29:16,240 --> 00:29:17,840

He was sort of in his 50s.

565

00:29:17,840 --> 00:29:20,620

Maybe he was a  
good person, and he

566

00:29:20,620 --> 00:29:24,930

wanted to do something  
decent for people.

567

00:29:24,930 --> 00:29:26,650

Did you feel singled out?

568

00:29:26,650 --> 00:29:28,990

Yes, because when  
he came and he asked

569

00:29:28,990 --> 00:29:30,400

me-- and I was the only one.

570

00:29:30,400 --> 00:29:34,180

He asked me if I want to go back  
to Oshmyany to see my mother,

571

00:29:34,180 --> 00:29:37,330

I knew he singled me  
out from everybody else.

572

00:29:37,330 --> 00:29:41,790

Because nobody else went  
except the head of the camp.

573

00:29:41,790 --> 00:29:45,890

Did you feel especially lucky?

574

00:29:45,890 --> 00:29:47,720

I felt lucky.

575

00:29:47,720 --> 00:29:53,090

I thought that because I looked  
clean and neat and my boots

576  
00:29:53,090 --> 00:29:55,850  
and my shearling, and  
I always had my hair,

577  
00:29:55,850 --> 00:29:59,360  
I felt that that made a  
difference, that that's why--

578  
00:29:59,360 --> 00:30:02,750  
I didn't let myself go  
and shlumpy and all this.

579  
00:30:02,750 --> 00:30:04,870  
I felt that made a difference.

580  
00:30:04,870 --> 00:30:06,670  
Here he brought us  
back to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai,

581  
00:30:06,670 --> 00:30:09,240  
and he had the places  
prepared for my mother,

582  
00:30:09,240 --> 00:30:13,730  
and my grandfather, and his  
wife, and the little girl,

583  
00:30:13,730 --> 00:30:14,390  
and my brother.

584  
00:30:14,390 --> 00:30:17,480  
He all gave us, and he took my  
mother to work in the bakery,

585  
00:30:17,480 --> 00:30:21,320  
so we were sure that we would  
have bread enough to eat.

586  
00:30:21,320 --> 00:30:25,190  
And the rest of us  
went again to work.

587

00:30:25,190 --> 00:30:35,120

And we worked there  
until the spring of '43.

588

00:30:35,120 --> 00:30:36,620

What was your state of mind?

589

00:30:36,620 --> 00:30:40,970

You said you always were  
a very optimistic person.

590

00:30:40,970 --> 00:30:43,400

You are now 14, 15?

591

00:30:43,400 --> 00:30:50,210

My state of mind at that time  
was, it was one day at a time.

592

00:30:50,210 --> 00:30:56,960

I was composing songs and  
singing with my friends.

593

00:30:56,960 --> 00:30:59,510

We were talking  
about the events,

594

00:30:59,510 --> 00:31:03,770

but I remember  
something distinctly.

595

00:31:03,770 --> 00:31:06,650

On a Sunday, when  
we didn't work,

596

00:31:06,650 --> 00:31:11,620

and I was on top  
of that bunk bed,

597

00:31:11,620 --> 00:31:16,780

and I looked out the  
window, and I saw Christians

598

00:31:16,780 --> 00:31:19,940  
all dressed up,  
with their children,

599  
00:31:19,940 --> 00:31:23,180  
the children wearing patent  
leather shoes, and white socks,

600  
00:31:23,180 --> 00:31:26,820  
and nice dresses, and  
hats going to church.

601  
00:31:26,820 --> 00:31:29,380  
And I looked out the window.

602  
00:31:29,380 --> 00:31:33,640  
And I would sit there  
all day and cry, why?

603  
00:31:33,640 --> 00:31:37,190  
Why is this happening to me?

604  
00:31:37,190 --> 00:31:42,040  
And I poured everything out in  
the songs that I had composed,

605  
00:31:42,040 --> 00:31:45,130  
all the misery and  
all the suffering.

606  
00:31:45,130 --> 00:31:48,880  
And then we would sit at  
night and sing the songs.

607  
00:31:48,880 --> 00:31:52,840  
There was one other thing  
that kept us occupied.

608  
00:31:52,840 --> 00:31:56,350  
We would sit in  
groups, and we would

609  
00:31:56,350 --> 00:32:00,730

make believe it's  
Friday in our home.

610  
00:32:00,730 --> 00:32:05,080  
And we come home from school,  
and all the delicious aromas

611  
00:32:05,080 --> 00:32:08,090  
of fish, and challah, and  
chicken soup, and chicken

612  
00:32:08,090 --> 00:32:09,730  
is there in the kitchen.

613  
00:32:09,730 --> 00:32:12,700  
And the mother is there,  
and the white table cloth,

614  
00:32:12,700 --> 00:32:15,730  
and the candles, and  
we would sort of--

615  
00:32:15,730 --> 00:32:20,070  
everybody would add how their  
home looked on a Friday night,

616  
00:32:20,070 --> 00:32:21,250  
on a Shabbat.

617  
00:32:21,250 --> 00:32:24,160  
But of course, we  
woke up to reality,

618  
00:32:24,160 --> 00:32:28,222  
and it was very, very, very bad.

619  
00:32:28,222 --> 00:32:30,180  
Would you sing one of  
the songs that you wrote?

620  
00:32:30,180 --> 00:32:33,568

621  
00:32:33,568 --> 00:32:35,320  
[SIGHS]

622  
00:32:35,320 --> 00:32:35,820  
In Yiddish?

623  
00:32:35,820 --> 00:32:37,308  
Mm-hmm.

624  
00:32:37,308 --> 00:32:38,730  
I don't know if I--

625  
00:32:38,730 --> 00:32:39,850  
For just a little bit.

626  
00:32:39,850 --> 00:32:40,392  
Maybe a line.

627  
00:32:40,392 --> 00:32:42,760  
OK.

628  
00:32:42,760 --> 00:32:44,820  
[SINGING IN YIDDISH]

629  
00:32:44,820 --> 00:34:11,840

630  
00:34:11,840 --> 00:34:12,570  
I forgot.

631  
00:34:12,570 --> 00:34:16,520  
But the end is that I hope  
that this storm will stop,

632  
00:34:16,520 --> 00:34:20,719  
and just like the river  
is flowing peacefully by,

633  
00:34:20,719 --> 00:34:26,530  
maybe my life will start  
peacefully flowing again.

634  
00:34:26,530 --> 00:34:27,940  
Thank you for doing that.

635  
00:34:27,940 --> 00:34:28,540  
Thank you.

636  
00:34:28,540 --> 00:34:33,780

637  
00:34:33,780 --> 00:34:37,763  
This is a song  
that you composed?

638  
00:34:37,763 --> 00:34:38,639  
Yes.

639  
00:34:38,639 --> 00:34:39,989  
Thank you.

640  
00:34:39,989 --> 00:34:40,872  
Yes.

641  
00:34:40,872 --> 00:34:42,170  
Thank you.

642  
00:34:42,170 --> 00:34:47,010  
Then spring came, 1943.

643  
00:34:47,010 --> 00:34:51,659  
And there were rumors that  
the Russians are pushing back

644  
00:34:51,659 --> 00:34:57,880  
the Germans from the  
Ukraine, and there were

645  
00:34:57,880 --> 00:35:03,290  
heavy, heavy battles going on.

646  
00:35:03,290 --> 00:35:08,060



And we were hoping maybe,  
maybe it will happen to us.

647  
00:35:08,060 --> 00:35:15,570  
But all that happened one  
day, we saw trucks come in.

648  
00:35:15,570 --> 00:35:21,120  
And people come out of the  
trucks, setting up stations,

649  
00:35:21,120 --> 00:35:26,747  
and called everybody to  
come out and to sign up.

650  
00:35:26,747 --> 00:35:27,830  
We didn't know what to do.

651  
00:35:27,830 --> 00:35:29,990  
We're standing there.

652  
00:35:29,990 --> 00:35:33,380  
And all of a sudden, the  
chef came to my mother.

653  
00:35:33,380 --> 00:35:36,260  
He said, go back.

654  
00:35:36,260 --> 00:35:41,270  
These people, this camp  
is going to be liquidated,

655  
00:35:41,270 --> 00:35:47,970  
because the war is getting--  
the front is getting nearby.

656  
00:35:47,970 --> 00:35:50,000  
And this people came.

657  
00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:52,970  
I made arrangements,  
instead of you being sent

658

00:35:52,970 --> 00:35:55,370  
to Ponary all to be killed.

659

00:35:55,370 --> 00:35:59,450  
I found places near  
the Russian border,

660

00:35:59,450 --> 00:36:04,880  
where they need to dig trenches  
and obstacles for tanks.

661

00:36:04,880 --> 00:36:07,880  
So they took my  
advice, and they came

662

00:36:07,880 --> 00:36:10,440  
to sign up the  
people to go there

663

00:36:10,440 --> 00:36:13,310  
to [? Pleskow ?] was the name.

664

00:36:13,310 --> 00:36:17,720  
But he said, don't go because  
there is something else coming.

665

00:36:17,720 --> 00:36:19,550  
Let other people sign up.

666

00:36:19,550 --> 00:36:21,860  
Go into the room, and  
stay back, and wait

667

00:36:21,860 --> 00:36:24,320  
until I'll tell you when.

668

00:36:24,320 --> 00:36:26,330  
So my mother took  
me, and my sister.

669

00:36:26,330 --> 00:36:28,650  
We all went back,

the whole family.

670

00:36:28,650 --> 00:36:29,600

We didn't sign up.

671

00:36:29,600 --> 00:36:33,500

They signed up most of the people, put them in trucks,

672

00:36:33,500 --> 00:36:35,750

and they went away.

673

00:36:35,750 --> 00:36:42,960

The next day, another group of trucks, a caravan came in,

674

00:36:42,960 --> 00:36:44,700

and they opened the trucks.

675

00:36:44,700 --> 00:36:52,350

And we saw men with armbands, blue and white on their arms.

676

00:36:52,350 --> 00:36:53,970

We walked out to look.

677

00:36:53,970 --> 00:36:55,380

We asked, who are you?

678

00:36:55,380 --> 00:36:56,490

Where do you come from?

679

00:36:56,490 --> 00:36:58,470

They said, we are Jewish policemen

680

00:36:58,470 --> 00:37:00,390

from the Kovno ghetto.

681

00:37:00,390 --> 00:37:04,080

And we came out, and then the chef came running to my mother.

682  
00:37:04,080 --> 00:37:07,620  
And he says, now I want  
you to sign up and go.

683  
00:37:07,620 --> 00:37:10,130

684  
00:37:10,130 --> 00:37:11,600  
So we signed up.

685  
00:37:11,600 --> 00:37:14,480  
We were all put on  
trucks, but not my sister.

686  
00:37:14,480 --> 00:37:17,330  
Because my sister was  
working in the office.

687  
00:37:17,330 --> 00:37:18,770  
And he said, don't worry.

688  
00:37:18,770 --> 00:37:21,410  
There are like 15 girls  
working in the office.

689  
00:37:21,410 --> 00:37:23,420  
One day I know  
where you are, I'll

690  
00:37:23,420 --> 00:37:26,830  
bring her to the Kovno ghetto.

691  
00:37:26,830 --> 00:37:31,960  
We got on the trucks, and he  
brought us to the Kovno ghetto.

692  
00:37:31,960 --> 00:37:34,630  
And with us, of course,  
was my Uncle [? Meyer, ?]

693  
00:37:34,630 --> 00:37:37,540

that was in the Judenrat,  
that his daughter, my cousin,

694  
00:37:37,540 --> 00:37:38,780  
was with me.

695  
00:37:38,780 --> 00:37:41,470  
He and his wife, and  
the other two children,

696  
00:37:41,470 --> 00:37:42,640  
they were already--

697  
00:37:42,640 --> 00:37:46,900  
they came with us from Oshmyany  
and to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai and then

698  
00:37:46,900 --> 00:37:47,800  
to the Kovno ghetto.

699  
00:37:47,800 --> 00:37:54,240

700  
00:37:54,240 --> 00:37:57,210  
This is tape two,  
side B. And you

701  
00:37:57,210 --> 00:38:00,690  
were talking about going  
to the Kovno ghetto.

702  
00:38:00,690 --> 00:38:06,030  
We came to the Kovno ghetto, and  
the Jews in the covenant ghetto

703  
00:38:06,030 --> 00:38:12,050  
looked very well  
dressed, very well-fed.

704  
00:38:12,050 --> 00:38:13,980  
And they were very nice to us.

705

00:38:13,980 --> 00:38:16,320  
They divided us into two groups.

706  
00:38:16,320 --> 00:38:19,340  
This is June '43, we're talking.

707  
00:38:19,340 --> 00:38:24,110  
And so you are now 16-years-old.

708  
00:38:24,110 --> 00:38:29,970  
Did you ever have any marking of  
your birthdays up to this time,

709  
00:38:29,970 --> 00:38:32,310  
once the war started?

710  
00:38:32,310 --> 00:38:33,780  
None whatsoever.

711  
00:38:33,780 --> 00:38:40,470  
And I was just still as small as  
when I was 11 or 12-years-old.

712  
00:38:40,470 --> 00:38:43,270  
They divided us into two groups.

713  
00:38:43,270 --> 00:38:46,080  
One group they took  
into a synagogue, which

714  
00:38:46,080 --> 00:38:50,130  
they converted for lodging.

715  
00:38:50,130 --> 00:38:51,750  
And this is where they put us.

716  
00:38:51,750 --> 00:38:53,250  
We walked into the synagogue.

717  
00:38:53,250 --> 00:38:55,440  
There were mattresses  
wall-to-wall

718  
00:38:55,440 --> 00:38:57,900  
in the men's synagogue.

719  
00:38:57,900 --> 00:39:01,440  
And in the ladies  
section up there, there

720  
00:39:01,440 --> 00:39:04,020  
were also mattresses, and  
they put people there.

721  
00:39:04,020 --> 00:39:06,270  
And every family,  
we got one mattress.

722  
00:39:06,270 --> 00:39:09,780  
My mother, my  
brother, and myself.

723  
00:39:09,780 --> 00:39:13,400  
My sister still didn't come.

724  
00:39:13,400 --> 00:39:16,910  
And the rest of them they  
took to another building

725  
00:39:16,910 --> 00:39:19,352  
nearby, which used  
to be a movie house.

726  
00:39:19,352 --> 00:39:20,810  
And they had the  
same arrangements.

727  
00:39:20,810 --> 00:39:23,040  
They had mattresses there.

728  
00:39:23,040 --> 00:39:26,480  
And that's where my uncle,  
and my aunt, and their family

729

00:39:26,480 --> 00:39:29,390  
went to that movie house.

730  
00:39:29,390 --> 00:39:31,460  
And when we had  
nothing to do there,

731  
00:39:31,460 --> 00:39:34,190  
we would go out of the  
synagogue and look around.

732  
00:39:34,190 --> 00:39:37,370  
And one day, two  
girls came over to me,

733  
00:39:37,370 --> 00:39:40,700  
one whose name was [? Sisa ?]  
Trotsky, and the other one

734  
00:39:40,700 --> 00:39:42,260  
was Batsheva.

735  
00:39:42,260 --> 00:39:43,620  
And they came over to me.

736  
00:39:43,620 --> 00:39:47,600  
And they looked much older, and  
they were dressed beautifully.

737  
00:39:47,600 --> 00:39:50,060  
And they asked me my name.

738  
00:39:50,060 --> 00:39:54,500  
And then they said to me, we  
lived all our life in Kovno.

739  
00:39:54,500 --> 00:39:56,995  
Now we're in the ghetto.

740  
00:39:56,995 --> 00:40:00,740  
And why don't you come with us  
and come visit our families?



741

00:40:00,740 --> 00:40:02,450

And I went with  
them, and they really

742

00:40:02,450 --> 00:40:05,900

lived in a beautiful house.

743

00:40:05,900 --> 00:40:09,290

One of them that I became very  
friendly, [? Sisa ?] a Trotsky,

744

00:40:09,290 --> 00:40:10,860

she lives now in New York.

745

00:40:10,860 --> 00:40:13,250

She's the one that  
I mentioned before.

746

00:40:13,250 --> 00:40:16,490

She would know much more  
about the Kovno ghetto.

747

00:40:16,490 --> 00:40:18,440

And they would give us food.

748

00:40:18,440 --> 00:40:20,665

And then they  
introduced us to other--

749

00:40:20,665 --> 00:40:21,290

[PHONE RINGING]

750

00:40:21,290 --> 00:40:22,030

What happened?

751

00:40:22,030 --> 00:40:23,600

I took the phone off--

752

00:40:23,600 --> 00:40:26,900

So they introduced me to  
many more boys than girls.

753

00:40:26,900 --> 00:40:30,290

And these boys and girls, they  
were much older than I am.

754

00:40:30,290 --> 00:40:32,870

And they had already  
an organization.

755

00:40:32,870 --> 00:40:34,340

They had an organization.

756

00:40:34,340 --> 00:40:37,160

They were in contact  
with partisans,

757

00:40:37,160 --> 00:40:40,700

and they knew exactly  
what was going on outside.

758

00:40:40,700 --> 00:40:43,370

And we used to have  
meetings and discuss

759

00:40:43,370 --> 00:40:46,150

even talk about Zionism.

760

00:40:46,150 --> 00:40:48,560

And it was really--

761

00:40:48,560 --> 00:40:51,410

the evenings we would  
spend there together

762

00:40:51,410 --> 00:40:54,560

with these young people  
from the Kovno ghetto.

763

00:40:54,560 --> 00:40:56,780

Did this group have  
a special name?

764

00:40:56,780 --> 00:40:57,560

No.

765

00:40:57,560 --> 00:40:58,820

No, they didn't have a--

766

00:40:58,820 --> 00:41:02,090

not that I know of,  
but we would all meet.

767

00:41:02,090 --> 00:41:05,900

And it was-- for me, it was  
for the first time in my life

768

00:41:05,900 --> 00:41:09,800

that I belonged to a group,  
because I was already

769

00:41:09,800 --> 00:41:12,800

a teenager, and to a  
group of teenagers.

770

00:41:12,800 --> 00:41:16,190

But it was only intellectual.

771

00:41:16,190 --> 00:41:21,830

Of course, people had sympathy,  
this boy likes that girl.

772

00:41:21,830 --> 00:41:24,330

You know how it is under  
normal circumstances.

773

00:41:24,330 --> 00:41:27,500

But there were no  
dating or anything.

774

00:41:27,500 --> 00:41:30,500

We are all concerned about  
the political situation

775

00:41:30,500 --> 00:41:33,050

and about Israel and Zionism.

776  
00:41:33,050 --> 00:41:35,390  
Was this the first  
time that you had heard

777  
00:41:35,390 --> 00:41:38,090  
about any form of resistance?

778  
00:41:38,090 --> 00:41:38,750  
Yes.

779  
00:41:38,750 --> 00:41:40,850  
This was actually the  
first time that we

780  
00:41:40,850 --> 00:41:44,090  
heard that there are  
partisans, they are resisting,

781  
00:41:44,090 --> 00:41:45,290  
and they are in the forests.

782  
00:41:45,290 --> 00:41:48,650  
But of course, it was  
so far away from us

783  
00:41:48,650 --> 00:41:53,270  
that we wouldn't even  
contemplate to run away

784  
00:41:53,270 --> 00:41:54,920  
or to look for them.

785  
00:41:54,920 --> 00:42:00,530  
It was an abstract thing  
that was happening at a time.

786  
00:42:00,530 --> 00:42:03,360  
And all of a sudden,  
I was aware of it.

787  
00:42:03,360 --> 00:42:06,200  
But in the other places that

you had been up to that point,

788  
00:42:06,200 --> 00:42:08,510  
you had not heard of  
talk of resistance?

789  
00:42:08,510 --> 00:42:09,980  
Not at all.

790  
00:42:09,980 --> 00:42:14,780  
And we lived in small towns  
with forests all over,

791  
00:42:14,780 --> 00:42:17,960  
but there were no  
partisans in our area.

792  
00:42:17,960 --> 00:42:21,305  
In the Ukraine there  
were, but not in our area.

793  
00:42:21,305 --> 00:42:23,840

794  
00:42:23,840 --> 00:42:26,300  
And so we were in shul.

795  
00:42:26,300 --> 00:42:28,910  
And then my sister came.

796  
00:42:28,910 --> 00:42:32,090  
This [INAUDIBLE] chef  
brought my sister.

797  
00:42:32,090 --> 00:42:33,830  
And of course when  
we saw her, it

798  
00:42:33,830 --> 00:42:37,520  
was like she came  
from the other world.

799

00:42:37,520 --> 00:42:42,380  
My mother had gotten a job,  
also in a soup kitchen.

800  
00:42:42,380 --> 00:42:45,170  
And of course, so we  
always had some soup

801  
00:42:45,170 --> 00:42:48,940  
with potatoes or whatever.

802  
00:42:48,940 --> 00:42:52,630  
Now somebody found out.

803  
00:42:52,630 --> 00:42:57,100  
Somebody came back from  
A<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>ieA<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>mariai after they found out

804  
00:42:57,100 --> 00:43:00,430  
that the chef took the  
girls to the Kovno together.

805  
00:43:00,430 --> 00:43:02,320  
They came to look for the girls.

806  
00:43:02,320 --> 00:43:04,940  
They wanted them  
back, somebody else.

807  
00:43:04,940 --> 00:43:07,900  
And we were afraid that they  
would come and immediately find

808  
00:43:07,900 --> 00:43:10,630  
my sister, they  
would take her back.

809  
00:43:10,630 --> 00:43:17,270  
One of the friends that we  
made, interesting, she was--

810  
00:43:17,270 --> 00:43:20,660  
she was-- all my other

friends were very educated

811  
00:43:20,660 --> 00:43:22,310  
and sophisticated.

812  
00:43:22,310 --> 00:43:24,970  
Like this [? Sisa's ?]  
mother was a nurse.

813  
00:43:24,970 --> 00:43:28,610  
Her father was a doctor, and  
her uncles were all in medicine.

814  
00:43:28,610 --> 00:43:31,760  
Before the WAR they would  
travel to Paris, and Amsterdam,

815  
00:43:31,760 --> 00:43:33,110  
and to London.

816  
00:43:33,110 --> 00:43:35,060  
So they were all worldly people.

817  
00:43:35,060 --> 00:43:39,050  
But there was one girl that she  
came from a very plain family.

818  
00:43:39,050 --> 00:43:42,110  
Her brothers even I  
think they were like--

819  
00:43:42,110 --> 00:43:44,120  
they were like  
truckers or something.

820  
00:43:44,120 --> 00:43:48,140  
But once in a while, we would go  
to spend a few hours with her.

821  
00:43:48,140 --> 00:43:50,780  
And then I told the girls, I  
said, look what's happening.

822

00:43:50,780 --> 00:43:54,170

They want to grab my sister,  
maybe me, and take us back.

823

00:43:54,170 --> 00:43:56,430

So this girl of all  
people, she said,

824

00:43:56,430 --> 00:43:58,340

I have three strong brothers.

825

00:43:58,340 --> 00:43:59,210

And don't you worry.

826

00:43:59,210 --> 00:44:02,300

You come to us, we'll hide you.

827

00:44:02,300 --> 00:44:03,800

And they won't find you.

828

00:44:03,800 --> 00:44:06,950

And my sister and I stayed  
with them for several weeks

829

00:44:06,950 --> 00:44:09,770

until we knew that  
they probably had left.

830

00:44:09,770 --> 00:44:14,120

And then we went back to the  
synagogue to be with my mother.

831

00:44:14,120 --> 00:44:16,580

One day, as we were  
sitting in the synagogue--

832

00:44:16,580 --> 00:44:20,120

this is one of the miracles  
that I can't explain.

833

00:44:20,120 --> 00:44:23,690

We were sitting



on that mattress,

834  
00:44:23,690 --> 00:44:26,300  
and everybody was sitting  
there on the mattresses.

835  
00:44:26,300 --> 00:44:29,780  
And to the west,  
there was still--

836  
00:44:29,780 --> 00:44:30,950  
the Holy Ark was there.

837  
00:44:30,950 --> 00:44:33,560  
There were no scrolls,  
but the Ark was there.

838  
00:44:33,560 --> 00:44:34,670  
And we were sitting there.

839  
00:44:34,670 --> 00:44:38,540  
And outside whoever had  
some potatoes or flour

840  
00:44:38,540 --> 00:44:42,350  
would make a little  
fire and cook something.

841  
00:44:42,350 --> 00:44:45,350  
And then they started--

842  
00:44:45,350 --> 00:44:47,300  
we didn't go to work yet.

843  
00:44:47,300 --> 00:44:49,700  
All of a sudden,  
a Jewish policeman

844  
00:44:49,700 --> 00:44:53,750  
comes into the synagogue,  
and he has a certain piece

845

00:44:53,750 --> 00:44:54,920  
of paper in his hand.

846  
00:44:54,920 --> 00:45:01,100  
And he says, is there a family  
Marcus and JablanoviÄ here?

847  
00:45:01,100 --> 00:45:01,920  
My mother gets up.

848  
00:45:01,920 --> 00:45:04,430  
She says, yes, I'm Cyla Marcus.

849  
00:45:04,430 --> 00:45:07,160  
He says, and JablanoviÄ  
There were two sisters,

850  
00:45:07,160 --> 00:45:07,850  
and they got up.

851  
00:45:07,850 --> 00:45:09,740  
They said, we're Jablanovic.

852  
00:45:09,740 --> 00:45:10,910  
He said, come with me.

853  
00:45:10,910 --> 00:45:15,266  
I have a room for you in the  
ghetto, instead of being here.

854  
00:45:15,266 --> 00:45:16,460  
We were shocked.

855  
00:45:16,460 --> 00:45:17,690  
We didn't apply.

856  
00:45:17,690 --> 00:45:18,900  
We weren't pushy.

857  
00:45:18,900 --> 00:45:21,980  
We're just sitting  
wherever we were sent.

858  
00:45:21,980 --> 00:45:24,650  
We didn't go out of our  
way, because we didn't

859  
00:45:24,650 --> 00:45:27,950  
know what to do to save  
ourselves or what's bad

860  
00:45:27,950 --> 00:45:29,660  
or what's worse.

861  
00:45:29,660 --> 00:45:31,110  
Did you believe him?

862  
00:45:31,110 --> 00:45:33,350  
Yeah, a Jewish policeman?

863  
00:45:33,350 --> 00:45:33,880  
Certainly.

864  
00:45:33,880 --> 00:45:34,610  
He says come.

865  
00:45:34,610 --> 00:45:37,410  
And I said, but  
how did you know?

866  
00:45:37,410 --> 00:45:40,140  
We didn't apply for a room?

867  
00:45:40,140 --> 00:45:41,460  
How did you pick us out?

868  
00:45:41,460 --> 00:45:43,140  
He says, come with me.

869  
00:45:43,140 --> 00:45:44,190  
I have a room for you.

870  
00:45:44,190 --> 00:45:46,770

There is an old lady  
with a son, and she

871  
00:45:46,770 --> 00:45:48,970  
has two rooms in the ghetto.

872  
00:45:48,970 --> 00:45:53,130  
And one room will be for  
you and the JablanoviÄes.

873  
00:45:53,130 --> 00:45:56,250  
He took us there to  
that room, to that lady.

874  
00:45:56,250 --> 00:45:58,650  
We met her-- I can  
still see her face--

875  
00:45:58,650 --> 00:45:59,340  
with her son.

876  
00:45:59,340 --> 00:46:02,630  
And the second room, he gave  
to us and the two sisters

877  
00:46:02,630 --> 00:46:03,870  
Jablanovic.

878  
00:46:03,870 --> 00:46:05,820  
And we stayed there.

879  
00:46:05,820 --> 00:46:08,400  
And then they started  
sending us all to Å½ieÅ¼mariai.

880  
00:46:08,400 --> 00:46:09,760  
We had to go to work.

881  
00:46:09,760 --> 00:46:12,360  
First, it was very,  
very hard work.

882

00:46:12,360 --> 00:46:16,800

We had to go where  
they had the airport.

883

00:46:16,800 --> 00:46:20,420

But what they did was,  
in order to save--

884

00:46:20,420 --> 00:46:25,140

to protect the plains, they  
had built bunkers around it,

885

00:46:25,140 --> 00:46:28,290

like a double wall  
around the planes--

886

00:46:28,290 --> 00:46:29,970

around the hangars.

887

00:46:29,970 --> 00:46:34,380

And in between was  
filled with sand.

888

00:46:34,380 --> 00:46:36,060

So we had to stand there.

889

00:46:36,060 --> 00:46:37,830

They brought-- sand was brought.

890

00:46:37,830 --> 00:46:39,090

And then we had to--

891

00:46:39,090 --> 00:46:42,120

and then there was  
like a platform.

892

00:46:42,120 --> 00:46:45,600

And we would have to throw  
the sand on the platform.

893

00:46:45,600 --> 00:46:48,390

Then another group would take  
the sand from the platform

894  
00:46:48,390 --> 00:46:51,930  
and put it into the hollow  
in between the two walls

895  
00:46:51,930 --> 00:46:55,770  
to fill up as a  
protection for the hanger.

896  
00:46:55,770 --> 00:46:57,360  
Sand is heavy.

897  
00:46:57,360 --> 00:46:59,265  
How did you have the  
strength to do this?

898  
00:46:59,265 --> 00:47:00,570  
You had to do it.

899  
00:47:00,570 --> 00:47:03,600  
You took as much as  
you could, and you did.

900  
00:47:03,600 --> 00:47:05,700  
You said you were  
small, and obviously you

901  
00:47:05,700 --> 00:47:06,870  
weren't eating that.

902  
00:47:06,870 --> 00:47:07,920  
Right, right.

903  
00:47:07,920 --> 00:47:10,930  
So we did the utmost.

904  
00:47:10,930 --> 00:47:13,920  
But I don't remember  
anybody being hit

905  
00:47:13,920 --> 00:47:15,430  
or anybody being punished.

906  
00:47:15,430 --> 00:47:17,640  
So we did what we could.

907  
00:47:17,640 --> 00:47:21,030  
Did you do any work previous  
to that in the Kovno ghetto?

908  
00:47:21,030 --> 00:47:22,160  
No, no.

909  
00:47:22,160 --> 00:47:25,470  
This was really a short  
time after I we came, maybe

910  
00:47:25,470 --> 00:47:27,870  
three weeks or so.

911  
00:47:27,870 --> 00:47:33,600  
And then-- and we-- really,  
we worked very hard there.

912  
00:47:33,600 --> 00:47:35,580  
Then all of a sudden--

913  
00:47:35,580 --> 00:47:38,160  
and we had to line up at  
the entrance of the ghetto

914  
00:47:38,160 --> 00:47:39,480  
every morning.

915  
00:47:39,480 --> 00:47:44,160  
One day, they looked at  
us, the Jewish policemen,

916  
00:47:44,160 --> 00:47:46,230  
those that were  
assigning the work.

917  
00:47:46,230 --> 00:47:48,660  
And they said, oh,

don't go there.

918  
00:47:48,660 --> 00:47:51,630  
We're sending you to a  
new place, a new job.

919  
00:47:51,630 --> 00:47:54,330  
My mother, my sister,  
myself, and my brother

920  
00:47:54,330 --> 00:47:56,070  
was at home always.

921  
00:47:56,070 --> 00:47:59,880  
If we had any food, he  
would prepare it for us.

922  
00:47:59,880 --> 00:48:04,800  
So we got in the truck, and  
they brought us to a place

923  
00:48:04,800 --> 00:48:08,520  
where they made galoshes  
and rubber boots.

924  
00:48:08,520 --> 00:48:12,900  
And it was warm, and it  
was clean, and it was nice.

925  
00:48:12,900 --> 00:48:17,590  
And we sat at a conveyor  
belt. And I remember my job,

926  
00:48:17,590 --> 00:48:22,590  
the galoshes would come  
on the wooden form.

927  
00:48:22,590 --> 00:48:29,000  
And I all I had to do is-- and  
I had a whole tray with soles.

928  
00:48:29,000 --> 00:48:31,740  
And all I had to do is put



the sole over the galoshes

929

00:48:31,740 --> 00:48:33,960

and go over with the  
roller and put it back,

930

00:48:33,960 --> 00:48:36,900

and then it went  
another few operations,

931

00:48:36,900 --> 00:48:39,770

and then it went  
to a vulcanizing

932

00:48:39,770 --> 00:48:41,820

oven, where it was hardened.

933

00:48:41,820 --> 00:48:44,640

And that was beautiful sitting.

934

00:48:44,640 --> 00:48:46,920

And what they did, the  
people from the Kovno ghetto

935

00:48:46,920 --> 00:48:50,170

made arrangements for us  
that every day lunchtime,

936

00:48:50,170 --> 00:48:51,610

they made--

937

00:48:51,610 --> 00:48:54,720

they prepared a meal  
for us there at work.

938

00:48:54,720 --> 00:48:56,760

I don't know whether  
everybody had it.

939

00:48:56,760 --> 00:48:59,450

I think just for us, for  
the people who came from

940

00:48:59,450 --> 00:49:00,570

Å½ieÅ¾mariai.

941

00:49:00,570 --> 00:49:02,670

And we worked there,  
and it was really--

942

00:49:02,670 --> 00:49:06,240

it was just wonderful.

943

00:49:06,240 --> 00:49:10,800

And this is how-- so we went  
every day to work, my brother--

944

00:49:10,800 --> 00:49:12,480

Is this men and women?

945

00:49:12,480 --> 00:49:13,500

Men, yes.

946

00:49:13,500 --> 00:49:15,000

Men and women.

947

00:49:15,000 --> 00:49:17,520

Did you notice at this  
point any difference

948

00:49:17,520 --> 00:49:22,500

between men and women, or  
boys and girls in responding

949

00:49:22,500 --> 00:49:25,410

to what was happening?

950

00:49:25,410 --> 00:49:26,130

Really not.

951

00:49:26,130 --> 00:49:28,440

I think people  
kept to themselves,

952

00:49:28,440 --> 00:49:33,030  
unless it was like a group of  
friends or relatives that came.

953  
00:49:33,030 --> 00:49:36,720  
Otherwise, people  
were so absorbed

954  
00:49:36,720 --> 00:49:41,400  
with survival and to  
have some food for today

955  
00:49:41,400 --> 00:49:46,560  
or for tomorrow, that nobody  
really discussed anything else.

956  
00:49:46,560 --> 00:49:52,740  
When you are hungry and  
your life hangs on a thread,

957  
00:49:52,740 --> 00:49:56,340  
you don't discuss  
philosophies, or histories,

958  
00:49:56,340 --> 00:50:02,160  
or any other topic that normal  
human beings would discuss.

959  
00:50:02,160 --> 00:50:06,630  
It was all "today I  
survive, and let's see

960  
00:50:06,630 --> 00:50:08,280  
what will be tomorrow."

961  
00:50:08,280 --> 00:50:11,030  
But I must say, the  
people in the Kovno ghetto

962  
00:50:11,030 --> 00:50:12,750  
were wonderful.

963  
00:50:12,750 --> 00:50:16,530

I remember when we used  
to come to the gate,

964  
00:50:16,530 --> 00:50:22,530  
there were two Jewish policemen  
that they were in charge

965  
00:50:22,530 --> 00:50:25,050  
of the gate, the entrance gate.

966  
00:50:25,050 --> 00:50:26,880  
And people knew already.

967  
00:50:26,880 --> 00:50:31,170  
You know, people used to sew  
pockets into their coats,

968  
00:50:31,170 --> 00:50:32,280  
in the lining.

969  
00:50:32,280 --> 00:50:35,400  
And at work,  
Gentiles would come,

970  
00:50:35,400 --> 00:50:37,590  
and they would barter  
potatoes and carrots or bread

971  
00:50:37,590 --> 00:50:39,570  
or whatever, and they  
would stuff it in.

972  
00:50:39,570 --> 00:50:44,550  
When we came back to the ghetto  
in the gate, there was this--

973  
00:50:44,550 --> 00:50:48,030  
[? Lora ?] [? Aronofsky ?]  
was his name.

974  
00:50:48,030 --> 00:50:51,720  
And then there was the  
Lithuanian policemen.

975  
00:50:51,720 --> 00:50:54,480  
And they would start  
to frisk people.

976  
00:50:54,480 --> 00:50:56,040  
If they would find  
something, they

977  
00:50:56,040 --> 00:50:57,750  
would take everything away.

978  
00:50:57,750 --> 00:51:01,560  
Somehow this policeman--  
and there was Yankel

979  
00:51:01,560 --> 00:51:05,250  
[? Leveblovski. ?] This Yankel  
[? Leveblovski ?] was even more

980  
00:51:05,250 --> 00:51:07,320  
than [? Lora ?] Aronofsky.

981  
00:51:07,320 --> 00:51:11,580  
Yankel [? Leveblovski ?]  
somehow had probably bribed

982  
00:51:11,580 --> 00:51:12,510  
the Lithuanians.

983  
00:51:12,510 --> 00:51:16,440  
So when the gate was  
opened, he would walk over

984  
00:51:16,440 --> 00:51:19,590  
to one side of the  
gate, sort of facing

985  
00:51:19,590 --> 00:51:23,400  
the Lithuanian with his back  
to us, and speaking to him,

986

00:51:23,400 --> 00:51:27,190  
and with his hand, he  
would motion [HEBREW]..

987  
00:51:27,190 --> 00:51:30,360  
Which means in Hebrew like,  
"go, go, go, move on, move on."

988  
00:51:30,360 --> 00:51:33,956  
And this is how people would  
bring in food into the ghetto

989  
00:51:33,956 --> 00:51:37,150  
and survived.

990  
00:51:37,150 --> 00:51:43,490  
And this is how we went to  
work and we managed to survive.

991  
00:51:43,490 --> 00:51:48,750  
Did non-family members come  
to the aid of other people?

992  
00:51:48,750 --> 00:51:50,770  
Obviously, family members  
helped each other,

993  
00:51:50,770 --> 00:51:53,920  
but did you notice help  
between two different families?

994  
00:51:53,920 --> 00:51:58,120  
The people, the Jews in the  
Kovno ghetto were tremendous.

995  
00:51:58,120 --> 00:51:59,840  
They also had in  
the Kovno ghetto,

996  
00:51:59,840 --> 00:52:01,360  
they called it WerkstÄtten.

997  
00:52:01,360 --> 00:52:07,780

It was like workshops that they produced shoes and clothing,

998  
00:52:07,780 --> 00:52:08,710  
all kinds of--

999  
00:52:08,710 --> 00:52:12,190  
I really don't know exactly,  
and many were employed there.

1000  
00:52:12,190 --> 00:52:14,300  
And they managed to get food.

1001  
00:52:14,300 --> 00:52:16,840  
It was really-- when  
I read about what

1002  
00:52:16,840 --> 00:52:20,350  
happened in Lodz and  
in Warsaw, incredible.

1003  
00:52:20,350 --> 00:52:21,590  
In the Kovno ghetto--

1004  
00:52:21,590 --> 00:52:24,790  
And one other thing, the  
head of the ghetto, his name

1005  
00:52:24,790 --> 00:52:27,100  
was Dr. Elkes.

1006  
00:52:27,100 --> 00:52:29,500  
He was a very dedicated Jew.

1007  
00:52:29,500 --> 00:52:32,050  
I remember him.

1008  
00:52:32,050 --> 00:52:35,860  
He had a horse and a  
driver and a chariot.

1009  
00:52:35,860 --> 00:52:38,860

He would sit on  
his chariot and be

1010  
00:52:38,860 --> 00:52:41,560  
driven all around the  
ghetto, and everything

1011  
00:52:41,560 --> 00:52:43,390  
was under his control.

1012  
00:52:43,390 --> 00:52:46,060  
He must have had  
some connections

1013  
00:52:46,060 --> 00:52:51,750  
that made life in the ghetto  
easier for all the Jews.

1014  
00:52:51,750 --> 00:52:56,760  
He was a tremendous man,  
respected by everybody.

1015  
00:52:56,760 --> 00:53:01,620  
Were you thinking at all  
about your father all along,

1016  
00:53:01,620 --> 00:53:03,910  
or at this time?

1017  
00:53:03,910 --> 00:53:04,900  
All the time.

1018  
00:53:04,900 --> 00:53:07,650  
All the time I was thinking,  
if my father was alive,

1019  
00:53:07,650 --> 00:53:09,810  
he would have found  
a way to save us.

1020  
00:53:09,810 --> 00:53:11,370  
He knew so many farmers.



1021

00:53:11,370 --> 00:53:13,200

He knew so many peasants.

1022

00:53:13,200 --> 00:53:16,860

If he was alive, he would  
have taken care of us,

1023

00:53:16,860 --> 00:53:20,700

because we had so much  
trust in my father's ability

1024

00:53:20,700 --> 00:53:24,690

to provide and to  
take care of us.

1025

00:53:24,690 --> 00:53:27,030

Did your mother talk  
about your father?

1026

00:53:27,030 --> 00:53:28,680

No, she did not.

1027

00:53:28,680 --> 00:53:29,680

Did not talk.

1028

00:53:29,680 --> 00:53:30,480

No, no.

1029

00:53:30,480 --> 00:53:32,490

It was sort of a  
wound that didn't

1030

00:53:32,490 --> 00:53:36,440

heal in everybody's hearts.

1031

00:53:36,440 --> 00:53:41,780

One day, one morning we got up,  
and the ghetto was surrounded.

1032

00:53:41,780 --> 00:53:45,140

And we heard rumors  
in the street



00:54:26,370 --> 00:54:29,690  
But before that, they  
took away the old people

1045  
00:54:29,690 --> 00:54:31,220  
and the children.

1046  
00:54:31,220 --> 00:54:35,030  
And then they spread out  
all through the streets

1047  
00:54:35,030 --> 00:54:39,680  
of the Kovno ghetto to grab  
as many as they needed.

1048  
00:54:39,680 --> 00:54:42,570  
And my mother prepared  
for us already

1049  
00:54:42,570 --> 00:54:46,180  
a bag, a sack to take along.

1050  
00:54:46,180 --> 00:54:48,340  
But the woman in the  
house says to us,

1051  
00:54:48,340 --> 00:54:53,920  
she says, you know, we have a  
cellar here, and we can hide.

1052  
00:54:53,920 --> 00:54:57,490  
And I'll describe  
to you that place.

1053  
00:54:57,490 --> 00:54:59,860  
I'm sure you saw  
Schindler's List.

1054  
00:54:59,860 --> 00:55:03,380  
Do you remember that the  
little girl with her family,

1055  
00:55:03,380 --> 00:55:05,780

they opened a door  
into a cellar,

1056  
00:55:05,780 --> 00:55:08,680  
and they got into the  
cellar, closed the door

1057  
00:55:08,680 --> 00:55:10,660  
and covered it with a rug.

1058  
00:55:10,660 --> 00:55:12,950  
That's exactly what we did.

1059  
00:55:12,950 --> 00:55:15,070  
We all got into the  
cellar, and there

1060  
00:55:15,070 --> 00:55:18,350  
was a rug attached to the door.

1061  
00:55:18,350 --> 00:55:22,690  
And once we got into the cellar,  
this lady pulled down the door,

1062  
00:55:22,690 --> 00:55:25,490  
and she locked it.

1063  
00:55:25,490 --> 00:55:29,260  
And as soon as you pulled down  
the door, it looked like a rug

1064  
00:55:29,260 --> 00:55:30,273  
on top of it.

1065  
00:55:30,273 --> 00:55:31,690  
And we were there  
in the basement,

1066  
00:55:31,690 --> 00:55:34,660  
in the cellar sitting  
Quietly and then

1067

00:55:34,660 --> 00:55:37,435  
we heard the Germans coming  
into the room, looking for us.

1068  
00:55:37,435 --> 00:55:38,310  
Where are the people?

1069  
00:55:38,310 --> 00:55:40,910  
They saw bags, packed  
bags but no people.

1070  
00:55:40,910 --> 00:55:42,040  
Where are the people?

1071  
00:55:42,040 --> 00:55:47,650  
They looked around, but they  
didn't find us, and they left.

1072  
00:55:47,650 --> 00:55:49,510  
A few hours later,  
when everything--

1073  
00:55:49,510 --> 00:55:51,970  
we were told the  
coast was clear,

1074  
00:55:51,970 --> 00:55:55,390  
so we came out of hiding, and  
then we found out that they

1075  
00:55:55,390 --> 00:55:57,640  
took away all the  
people from  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai.

1076  
00:55:57,640 --> 00:56:01,690  
The only two families that  
survived were us, the Marcuses,

1077  
00:56:01,690 --> 00:56:04,510  
and the JablanoviÄes  
that were in this house.

1078  
00:56:04,510 --> 00:56:06,330

Nobody else.

1079  
00:56:06,330 --> 00:56:09,480  
Nobody else remained  
in the Kovno ghetto.

1080  
00:56:09,480 --> 00:56:14,730  
How does a 15 and 1/2  
year old young girl

1081  
00:56:14,730 --> 00:56:18,825  
handle that kind of  
knowledge that you just said?

1082  
00:56:18,825 --> 00:56:23,810

1083  
00:56:23,810 --> 00:56:24,710  
Interesting.

1084  
00:56:24,710 --> 00:56:31,620  
I-- I was sad.

1085  
00:56:31,620 --> 00:56:36,075  
I was-- I was terrified.

1086  
00:56:36,075 --> 00:56:38,020  
But I don't know.

1087  
00:56:38,020 --> 00:56:40,660  
On one hand, I was resolved.

1088  
00:56:40,660 --> 00:56:42,560  
Whatever will happen  
to me, will happen.

1089  
00:56:42,560 --> 00:56:43,570  
My father was gone.

1090  
00:56:43,570 --> 00:56:45,790  
All the relatives are dead.

1091  
00:56:45,790 --> 00:56:47,800  
So dying?

1092  
00:56:47,800 --> 00:56:49,900  
So we have to die, I'll die.

1093  
00:56:49,900 --> 00:56:53,910  
On the other hand, I was  
very optimistic, like I said.

1094  
00:56:53,910 --> 00:56:58,430  
And I always believed  
in dreams, even now.

1095  
00:56:58,430 --> 00:57:01,460  
That if I have to make  
a certain decision,

1096  
00:57:01,460 --> 00:57:04,970  
I know I will dream  
about it, and I will get

1097  
00:57:04,970 --> 00:57:08,750  
an answer what to do, always.

1098  
00:57:08,750 --> 00:57:12,560  
Sometimes my dreams frighten  
me, because once when

1099  
00:57:12,560 --> 00:57:14,270  
I was already in  
the United States,

1100  
00:57:14,270 --> 00:57:18,930  
I had a dream that a relative  
came, to an aunt from Israel.

1101  
00:57:18,930 --> 00:57:21,920  
And it was maybe two  
months before Yom Kippur.

1102  
00:57:21,920 --> 00:57:26,750

And I dreamed that night  
that it was after the fast,

1103  
00:57:26,750 --> 00:57:30,200  
and her brother came to our  
door and he knocked at the door.

1104  
00:57:30,200 --> 00:57:32,240  
And I asked him, Moshe,  
what do you want?

1105  
00:57:32,240 --> 00:57:35,150  
He said, you know, my  
sister doesn't cook much.

1106  
00:57:35,150 --> 00:57:36,710  
I know you have a lot of food.

1107  
00:57:36,710 --> 00:57:38,960  
Could you spare some food  
for us to break the fast?

1108  
00:57:38,960 --> 00:57:39,920  
And I said, of course.

1109  
00:57:39,920 --> 00:57:40,910  
I called him in.

1110  
00:57:40,910 --> 00:57:43,310  
It was a few months  
before Yom Kippur.

1111  
00:57:43,310 --> 00:57:47,270  
On the month of Yom Kippur,  
somebody knocks at the door.

1112  
00:57:47,270 --> 00:57:50,180  
And I walk over, and I  
see this man is there.

1113  
00:57:50,180 --> 00:57:53,660  
And he asks me, do  
you have enough food?



1114  
00:57:53,660 --> 00:57:54,860  
I was petrified.

1115  
00:57:54,860 --> 00:57:56,540  
For something, you know, to--

1116  
00:57:56,540 --> 00:57:57,950  
but I always--

1117  
00:57:57,950 --> 00:58:02,690  
I always believe in dreams,  
and my dreams give me messages.

1118  
00:58:02,690 --> 00:58:04,970  
I know how to interpret them.

1119  
00:58:04,970 --> 00:58:08,870  
When I went to school,  
I have a master's

1120  
00:58:08,870 --> 00:58:10,160  
in counsel of education.

1121  
00:58:10,160 --> 00:58:12,330  
I have a master's in marriage  
and family counseling,

1122  
00:58:12,330 --> 00:58:13,680  
which I practice.

1123  
00:58:13,680 --> 00:58:16,460  
So when I went to  
college for my master's

1124  
00:58:16,460 --> 00:58:18,230  
in marriage and  
family counseling,

1125  
00:58:18,230 --> 00:58:21,140  
there was many courses,  
of course, in psychology.

1126  
00:58:21,140 --> 00:58:24,590  
And were discussed dreams  
and interpretation of dreams.

1127  
00:58:24,590 --> 00:58:28,160  
And we always  
discussed my dreams.

1128  
00:58:28,160 --> 00:58:31,250  
It was-- I am afraid,  
you know, to interpret

1129  
00:58:31,250 --> 00:58:35,550  
the dream, because I  
always want it to be good.

1130  
00:58:35,550 --> 00:58:41,390  
Let's go back to when you're  
in hiding in the cellar.

1131  
00:58:41,390 --> 00:58:41,990  
In a minute.

1132  
00:58:41,990 --> 00:58:46,600  
I just want to finish why  
I mentioned the dreams.

1133  
00:58:46,600 --> 00:58:50,380  
That night, one night, I had  
a dream that I was on a lake,

1134  
00:58:50,380 --> 00:58:52,870  
and it was a very stormy  
lake, and it was dark,

1135  
00:58:52,870 --> 00:58:54,490  
and the water was black.

1136  
00:58:54,490 --> 00:58:57,610  
And I was there with my mother,  
with my sister, and myself.

1137  
00:58:57,610 --> 00:59:00,130  
My brother wasn't there.

1138  
00:59:00,130 --> 00:59:04,410  
And I felt that I  
saw we are drowning.

1139  
00:59:04,410 --> 00:59:07,030  
And we were drowning, and  
crying, and screaming.

1140  
00:59:07,030 --> 00:59:10,550  
And then all of  
a sudden, I saw--

1141  
00:59:10,550 --> 00:59:13,160  
I saw a log on the water.

1142  
00:59:13,160 --> 00:59:14,660  
And I grabbed that log.

1143  
00:59:14,660 --> 00:59:17,630  
And I made my mother  
hold onto it, my sister,

1144  
00:59:17,630 --> 00:59:19,730  
and we swam to the shore.

1145  
00:59:19,730 --> 00:59:22,630  
And I got up in the  
morning and I said, mama,

1146  
00:59:22,630 --> 00:59:23,780  
we'll survive the war.

1147  
00:59:23,780 --> 00:59:25,370  
I know it, we will.

1148  
00:59:25,370 --> 00:59:27,890  
Because my dream  
told me that we will.

1149

00:59:27,890 --> 00:59:31,540

1150

00:59:31,540 --> 00:59:32,540

You had asked me?

1151

00:59:32,540 --> 00:59:36,190

Yeah, what did you do when you  
were in hiding in the cellar

1152

00:59:36,190 --> 00:59:39,070

with the top covered  
over by the rug?

1153

00:59:39,070 --> 00:59:40,240

Were you able to talk?

1154

00:59:40,240 --> 00:59:41,740

Did your mother console you?

1155

00:59:41,740 --> 00:59:43,000

What did you do?

1156

00:59:43,000 --> 00:59:44,110

Just sitting.

1157

00:59:44,110 --> 00:59:48,010

Everybody was petrified,  
shivering, and listening,

1158

00:59:48,010 --> 00:59:50,740

and hoping that that door  
will never be pried open.

1159

00:59:50,740 --> 00:59:54,490

We didn't talk,  
because of out of fear

1160

00:59:54,490 --> 00:59:56,440

that we might be discovered.

1161

00:59:56,440 --> 00:59:57,460  
No, not at all.

1162  
00:59:57,460 --> 00:59:58,720  
It was total silence there.

1163  
00:59:58,720 --> 01:00:01,496

1164  
01:00:01,496 --> 01:00:01,996  
Yes.

1165  
01:00:01,996 --> 01:00:05,740

1166  
01:00:05,740 --> 01:00:12,190  
So here we are, they took away  
all the people from  $\frac{1}{2}$ ie $\frac{3}{4}$ mariai,

1167  
01:00:12,190 --> 01:00:15,450  
and we continued.

1168  
01:00:15,450 --> 01:00:20,810  
And we went on with life,  
and if we had enough food.

1169  
01:00:20,810 --> 01:00:23,540  
Nobody-- I didn't see any  
dead people in the ghetto.

1170  
01:00:23,540 --> 01:00:26,120  
Nobody died of starvation.

1171  
01:00:26,120 --> 01:00:34,770  
And then it was in March 1944.

1172  
01:00:34,770 --> 01:00:36,000  
The ghetto was surrounded.

1173  
01:00:36,000 --> 01:00:41,710  
We got up in the morning,  
and we saw the Mercedeses

1174  
01:00:41,710 --> 01:00:49,190  
and the top echelon Nazis  
with those leather coats,

1175  
01:00:49,190 --> 01:00:52,720  
German shepherds, dobermans.

1176  
01:00:52,720 --> 01:00:54,870  
And the ghetto was surrounded.

1177  
01:00:54,870 --> 01:00:57,640  
And we got up, and we  
were told we should go

1178  
01:00:57,640 --> 01:01:01,990  
to the entrance of the ghetto.

1179  
01:01:01,990 --> 01:01:03,750  
And we have to go to work.

1180  
01:01:03,750 --> 01:01:07,600  
Those that are going to  
work have to go to work.

1181  
01:01:07,600 --> 01:01:12,750  
I had a terrible dream that  
night before we got up.

1182  
01:01:12,750 --> 01:01:17,830  
I had a dream that we  
were in a big kitchen,

1183  
01:01:17,830 --> 01:01:22,210  
and there were big pots of  
water boiling on the stove.

1184  
01:01:22,210 --> 01:01:25,180  
And somebody grabbed my  
brother and threw him

1185  
01:01:25,180 --> 01:01:28,180

into a boiling pot.

1186  
01:01:28,180 --> 01:01:29,500  
I got up, and I didn't--

1187  
01:01:29,500 --> 01:01:30,800  
I didn't even want to--

1188  
01:01:30,800 --> 01:01:32,380  
I didn't want to think about it.

1189  
01:01:32,380 --> 01:01:37,240  
We went to work as usual,  
but we knew that something

1190  
01:01:37,240 --> 01:01:38,670  
was going to happen.

1191  
01:01:38,670 --> 01:01:39,460  
And we went there.

1192  
01:01:39,460 --> 01:01:41,410  
We started working  
on the galoshes.

1193  
01:01:41,410 --> 01:01:44,530  
And around midday,  
somebody came and told us

1194  
01:01:44,530 --> 01:01:49,030  
that there was an Aktion,  
that the Germans went

1195  
01:01:49,030 --> 01:01:52,390  
into the ghetto, and they  
took out the old people

1196  
01:01:52,390 --> 01:01:53,990  
and the children.

1197  
01:01:53,990 --> 01:02:01,170  
They took them to the Fortress

#9, and they were all killed.

1198  
01:02:01,170 --> 01:02:03,670  
We came in to our room.

1199  
01:02:03,670 --> 01:02:05,130  
My brother wasn't there.

1200  
01:02:05,130 --> 01:02:08,940  
We started crying and screaming  
and tearing our clothes.

1201  
01:02:08,940 --> 01:02:10,860  
And the neighbors,  
they told us how

1202  
01:02:10,860 --> 01:02:13,140  
he was begging for his life.

1203  
01:02:13,140 --> 01:02:14,930  
And they took him away.

1204  
01:02:14,930 --> 01:02:17,480

1205  
01:02:17,480 --> 01:02:20,840  
The next day, we  
didn't go to work.

1206  
01:02:20,840 --> 01:02:24,710  
At that time, we  
did not live anymore

1207  
01:02:24,710 --> 01:02:26,870  
in that house with the woman.

1208  
01:02:26,870 --> 01:02:30,290  
We lived-- they had two-story  
buildings there, brick

1209  
01:02:30,290 --> 01:02:31,280  
buildings.



1210  
01:02:31,280 --> 01:02:35,570  
We lived in a room  
with other two families

1211  
01:02:35,570 --> 01:02:36,860  
in the Kovno ghetto.

1212  
01:02:36,860 --> 01:02:38,660  
But this is-- at  
that time, I don't

1213  
01:02:38,660 --> 01:02:44,300  
remember when we switched,  
but this is where we lived.

1214  
01:02:44,300 --> 01:02:48,290  
And the next day, they  
told us not to go to work.

1215  
01:02:48,290 --> 01:02:51,440  
We all gathered in  
one of the rooms that

1216  
01:02:51,440 --> 01:02:53,600  
had the window to the front.

1217  
01:02:53,600 --> 01:02:57,540  
My mother, my sister, and many  
of the neighbors that survived.

1218  
01:02:57,540 --> 01:03:00,270  
What was your mother  
like after that?

1219  
01:03:00,270 --> 01:03:01,280  
Oh, my mother was--

1220  
01:03:01,280 --> 01:03:02,810  
my mother was very strong.

1221  
01:03:02,810 --> 01:03:03,980

We all cried.

1222

01:03:03,980 --> 01:03:06,230

We all tore our clothes.

1223

01:03:06,230 --> 01:03:10,250

But she knew that she  
has to be strong for us,

1224

01:03:10,250 --> 01:03:11,475

for my sister and myself.

1225

01:03:11,475 --> 01:03:14,550

1226

01:03:14,550 --> 01:03:17,730

And we sat there, and my  
mother immediately, she

1227

01:03:17,730 --> 01:03:20,110

stuffed up, up my breasts.

1228

01:03:20,110 --> 01:03:22,020

She took-- she  
found some red paper

1229

01:03:22,020 --> 01:03:26,040

and made my lips red and my  
cheeks, and puffed up my hair,

1230

01:03:26,040 --> 01:03:28,920

that I should look mature.

1231

01:03:28,920 --> 01:03:30,540

And we sat there.

1232

01:03:30,540 --> 01:03:33,360

And they were going  
from house to house

1233

01:03:33,360 --> 01:03:37,470

to check, to double check

if any children were left.

1234  
01:03:37,470 --> 01:03:44,940  
In the next two doors  
down, they went in,

1235  
01:03:44,940 --> 01:03:48,820  
and some children were  
hidden there in a bunker.

1236  
01:03:48,820 --> 01:03:52,930  
And probably somebody--  
the children cried.

1237  
01:03:52,930 --> 01:03:57,250  
And they opened up, and they  
found several children there.

1238  
01:03:57,250 --> 01:03:59,560  
And the children were  
screaming, and the mothers

1239  
01:03:59,560 --> 01:04:01,300  
were following them.

1240  
01:04:01,300 --> 01:04:04,210  
They grabbed the  
children by their legs,

1241  
01:04:04,210 --> 01:04:08,140  
and they dragged them downstairs  
with their brains spilling

1242  
01:04:08,140 --> 01:04:10,640  
all over the staircase.

1243  
01:04:10,640 --> 01:04:12,630  
And they came down,  
and we looked out.

1244  
01:04:12,630 --> 01:04:14,390  
There were trucks.

1245

01:04:14,390 --> 01:04:17,330

And they were standing  
there with their bayonets

1246

01:04:17,330 --> 01:04:22,010

and sticking into the babies and  
throwing them inside the truck,

1247

01:04:22,010 --> 01:04:24,590

like you do with a fork  
with a piece of meat.

1248

01:04:24,590 --> 01:04:26,510

And the mothers that  
cried and objected,

1249

01:04:26,510 --> 01:04:28,730

they immediately shot  
them and threw them

1250

01:04:28,730 --> 01:04:30,040

into the truck with them.

1251

01:04:30,040 --> 01:04:32,930

1252

01:04:32,930 --> 01:04:33,950

And we sat there.

1253

01:04:33,950 --> 01:04:37,820

We looked out the window,  
and we saw it all.

1254

01:04:37,820 --> 01:04:41,230

The next day, they ordered  
us to go back to work.

1255

01:04:41,230 --> 01:04:44,000

1256

01:04:44,000 --> 01:04:48,290

And we went back

to work as usual.

1257

01:04:48,290 --> 01:04:50,330

And we did the same work.

1258

01:04:50,330 --> 01:04:59,260

We came home, and we continued until it was the month of July.

1259

01:04:59,260 --> 01:05:04,310

In July, the ghetto was surrounded again.

1260

01:05:04,310 --> 01:05:07,910

And they told us that the ghetto is going to be liquidated.

1261

01:05:07,910 --> 01:05:12,260

And everybody should line up, and everybody

1262

01:05:12,260 --> 01:05:18,160

should take whatever they want, and out of the ghetto.

1263

01:05:18,160 --> 01:05:19,730

We walked out of the ghetto.

1264

01:05:19,730 --> 01:05:23,340

And we walked to the river, to the Nemen.

1265

01:05:23,340 --> 01:05:30,160

This is the river that crossed the city of Kovno.

1266

01:05:30,160 --> 01:05:31,240

We came to the Nemen.

1267

01:05:31,240 --> 01:05:36,520

There were barges, like coal barges or freight barges.

1268

01:05:36,520 --> 01:05:42,700

And they pushed us all into the barges, again like sardines.

1269

01:05:42,700 --> 01:05:43,380

And--

1270

01:05:43,380 --> 01:05:46,710

After seeing what you just described,

1271

01:05:46,710 --> 01:05:52,780

how did you have the will to go on after?

1272

01:05:52,780 --> 01:05:57,650

Somehow I think it's the instinct in us,

1273

01:05:57,650 --> 01:06:00,320

the instinct of survival.

1274

01:06:00,320 --> 01:06:05,030

That as long as you live, you push on to survive.

1275

01:06:05,030 --> 01:06:09,950

Because as we have noticed, especially later on, people

1276

01:06:09,950 --> 01:06:15,110

that were in the same situation that we were, but they gave up

1277

01:06:15,110 --> 01:06:16,410

and they said what's the point?

1278

01:06:16,410 --> 01:06:20,180

As a matter of fact, one sister of the JablanoviÄ sisters said,

1279

01:06:20,180 --> 01:06:21,680

what's the point?

1280

01:06:21,680 --> 01:06:23,610

We are going to be killed.

1281

01:06:23,610 --> 01:06:24,440

And she gave up.

1282

01:06:24,440 --> 01:06:26,360

And she wouldn't eat,  
and she wouldn't wash,

1283

01:06:26,360 --> 01:06:28,520

and then she died.

1284

01:06:28,520 --> 01:06:34,490

So the instinct of survival as  
we all know in a human being is

1285

01:06:34,490 --> 01:06:38,220

very strong of  
self-preservation, as long--

1286

01:06:38,220 --> 01:06:40,280

and in any animal--

1287

01:06:40,280 --> 01:06:42,710

of survival of  
self preservation.

1288

01:06:42,710 --> 01:06:45,710

And this is how we  
functioned from day to day,

1289

01:06:45,710 --> 01:06:50,660

on animal instinct  
of self-preservation,

1290

01:06:50,660 --> 01:06:57,850

without thinking or discussing  
the current situation

1291

01:06:57,850 --> 01:06:59,320  
that we were in.

1292  
01:06:59,320 --> 01:07:01,300  
None whatsoever.

1293  
01:07:01,300 --> 01:07:04,120  
Only the animal  
instinct prevailed.

1294  
01:07:04,120 --> 01:07:08,240  
If I can get some food,  
if we will survive.

1295  
01:07:08,240 --> 01:07:12,480  
Well, we weren't  
even afraid of death.

1296  
01:07:12,480 --> 01:07:14,370  
Just like animals.

1297  
01:07:14,370 --> 01:07:17,040  
This is what they did.

1298  
01:07:17,040 --> 01:07:19,320  
This is what they  
turned us into.

1299  
01:07:19,320 --> 01:07:24,960  
Became like animals  
without any human reaction

1300  
01:07:24,960 --> 01:07:28,560  
to what surrounded  
us, or what was,

1301  
01:07:28,560 --> 01:07:31,400  
or what happened  
to our loved ones.

1302  
01:07:31,400 --> 01:07:35,300  
We were absolutely  
stunned or petrified



1303  
01:07:35,300 --> 01:07:39,290  
into like a four-legged  
animal, nothing else.

1304  
01:07:39,290 --> 01:07:43,510

1305  
01:07:43,510 --> 01:07:48,420  
And then it was in July  
they put us into the barges,

1306  
01:07:48,420 --> 01:07:50,520  
on the river Nemen.

1307  
01:07:50,520 --> 01:07:57,020  
And the barges were going West.

1308  
01:07:57,020 --> 01:08:01,130  
For a few days, the  
sun was boiling,

1309  
01:08:01,130 --> 01:08:04,440  
and our lips were parched,  
and we didn't have water.

1310  
01:08:04,440 --> 01:08:08,210  
And then as I looked  
out of the barge,

1311  
01:08:08,210 --> 01:08:12,470  
the water was so beautiful  
on both sides and both banks.

1312  
01:08:12,470 --> 01:08:16,760  
And there were flowers,  
and grass, and trees,

1313  
01:08:16,760 --> 01:08:19,460  
and everything was so beautiful.

1314  
01:08:19,460 --> 01:08:24,990

And here we were, being  
decimated in those barges

1315  
01:08:24,990 --> 01:08:27,140  
under those conditions.

1316  
01:08:27,140 --> 01:08:34,069  
A few days later,  
we came to a town

1317  
01:08:34,069 --> 01:08:39,380  
which was called  
Elbing, a German town.

1318  
01:08:39,380 --> 01:08:44,040  
They took us out of the barges,  
and they put us in a train.

1319  
01:08:44,040 --> 01:08:49,149  
And we went into the train  
wherever it would take us.

1320  
01:08:49,149 --> 01:08:52,140  
Did they give you anything  
to eat on the barge?

1321  
01:08:52,140 --> 01:08:53,550  
They gave us some--

1322  
01:08:53,550 --> 01:08:55,470  
they gave us some  
water, I remember.

1323  
01:08:55,470 --> 01:09:00,090  
And no food, but we did  
have some food with us.

1324  
01:09:00,090 --> 01:09:04,887  
We tried to stretch it out  
for as long as possible.

1325  
01:09:04,887 --> 01:09:06,720  
Now you're with your

mother and your sister?

1326

01:09:06,720 --> 01:09:08,850

My mother and my sister, yes.

1327

01:09:08,850 --> 01:09:10,849

How was your health  
at this point?

1328

01:09:10,849 --> 01:09:12,630

Oh, my health was--

1329

01:09:12,630 --> 01:09:13,590

I was strong.

1330

01:09:13,590 --> 01:09:14,580

I was healthy.

1331

01:09:14,580 --> 01:09:18,779

It so happened that obviously  
we have healthy genes.

1332

01:09:18,779 --> 01:09:21,149

And we did not suffer hunger.

1333

01:09:21,149 --> 01:09:24,330

Because until we came to  
Stutthof, to the concentration

1334

01:09:24,330 --> 01:09:28,529

camp, we still had  
gold coins, jewelry.

1335

01:09:28,529 --> 01:09:31,620

I remember the last thing my  
mother sold in the Kovno ghetto

1336

01:09:31,620 --> 01:09:38,270

was a pocketwatch of my  
father, a 24-karat pocketwatch,

1337

01:09:38,270 --> 01:09:39,819

diamond-studded.

1338  
01:09:39,819 --> 01:09:40,560  
And she kept it.

1339  
01:09:40,560 --> 01:09:42,460  
She held on to  
it, held on to it.

1340  
01:09:42,460 --> 01:09:45,540  
And that was the last thing that  
she sold in the Kovno ghetto.

1341  
01:09:45,540 --> 01:09:48,660  
Where did she keep all  
of these valuables?

1342  
01:09:48,660 --> 01:09:52,620  
We would always sew it  
into a coat, in the pads,

1343  
01:09:52,620 --> 01:09:56,530  
shoulder pads, or  
wherever it was possible.

1344  
01:09:56,530 --> 01:09:57,810  
All sewn in.

1345  
01:09:57,810 --> 01:10:01,230  
Nothing was anywhere loose.

1346  
01:10:01,230 --> 01:10:06,150  
And one by one, you know, she  
would take it out and sell it

1347  
01:10:06,150 --> 01:10:06,780  
for food.

1348  
01:10:06,780 --> 01:10:10,320

1349  
01:10:10,320 --> 01:10:16,060

We came to a place which  
we didn't know where.

1350  
01:10:16,060 --> 01:10:22,770  
They opened the freight cars,  
yelling "Alle aussteigen!"

1351  
01:10:22,770 --> 01:10:26,630  
"Get out, line up into five."

1352  
01:10:26,630 --> 01:10:30,110  
We walked out, and we saw  
barracks, lots of barracks,

1353  
01:10:30,110 --> 01:10:35,110  
and a tall chimney, and smoke  
coming out of the chimney.

1354  
01:10:35,110 --> 01:10:38,020  
And the whole place  
smelled like sometimes

1355  
01:10:38,020 --> 01:10:40,870  
if you forget you  
cook meat, and you

1356  
01:10:40,870 --> 01:10:44,230  
forget to take it off the  
stove, and it burns down

1357  
01:10:44,230 --> 01:10:46,400  
to the bottom of the pot.

1358  
01:10:46,400 --> 01:10:49,060  
This is how the place smelled.

1359  
01:10:49,060 --> 01:10:53,150  
We still didn't  
know where we were.

1360  
01:10:53,150 --> 01:10:58,850  
They took us to a very,  
very, very large room.

1361

01:10:58,850 --> 01:11:02,810

And I remember we all had double dresses and double underwear

1362

01:11:02,810 --> 01:11:06,620

on us, just because we saw that they were taking everything

1363

01:11:06,620 --> 01:11:08,280

away from us.

1364

01:11:08,280 --> 01:11:09,710

This is men?

1365

01:11:09,710 --> 01:11:10,760

These are men and women?

1366

01:11:10,760 --> 01:11:12,500

Men and women.

1367

01:11:12,500 --> 01:11:14,810

And then the selected.

1368

01:11:14,810 --> 01:11:16,490

Men separate, women separate.

1369

01:11:16,490 --> 01:11:19,940

They did not give us tattooed numbers on the arms,

1370

01:11:19,940 --> 01:11:25,340

but they did right down on the hand a number.

1371

01:11:25,340 --> 01:11:27,680

And then they wrote it on a piece of cloth.

1372

01:11:27,680 --> 01:11:32,240

And there was somebody sewing it on the jacket

1373  
01:11:32,240 --> 01:11:35,600  
or whatever we had.

1374  
01:11:35,600 --> 01:11:40,850  
And we saw that they were  
selecting men separate,

1375  
01:11:40,850 --> 01:11:45,170  
separating families, women  
separate, children separate.

1376  
01:11:45,170 --> 01:11:46,880  
And people realized already.

1377  
01:11:46,880 --> 01:11:50,420  
And they said that  
they were going

1378  
01:11:50,420 --> 01:11:54,170  
to send us to an Entlausung,  
that we should leave everything

1379  
01:11:54,170 --> 01:11:57,380  
behind, because they are  
going to send us to a place,

1380  
01:11:57,380 --> 01:11:59,570  
because they assumed  
that we had lice,

1381  
01:11:59,570 --> 01:12:01,790  
that they are going  
to send us to a place

1382  
01:12:01,790 --> 01:12:03,380  
to get rid of the lice.

1383  
01:12:03,380 --> 01:12:07,590  
But people already realized  
what was happening.

1384

01:12:07,590 --> 01:12:09,830  
Did you know about  
concentration camps then?

1385  
01:12:09,830 --> 01:12:11,960  
Not at all.

1386  
01:12:11,960 --> 01:12:14,350  
But when we walked in,  
we saw the chimneys.

1387  
01:12:14,350 --> 01:12:18,710  
Some people said to us, well,  
this is the concentration camp.

1388  
01:12:18,710 --> 01:12:20,030  
But we still didn't know.

1389  
01:12:20,030 --> 01:12:23,030  
I was in the gas chamber, and  
I didn't know I was there.

1390  
01:12:23,030 --> 01:12:26,230

1391  
01:12:26,230 --> 01:12:30,250  
I walked in there, in that  
next-- in that large place

1392  
01:12:30,250 --> 01:12:34,660  
where all the people  
gathered, there was a latrine.

1393  
01:12:34,660 --> 01:12:38,710  
And it was a big, deep hole.

1394  
01:12:38,710 --> 01:12:44,380  
And then there was like a board  
stretched over maybe 20 feet.

1395  
01:12:44,380 --> 01:12:47,080  
And whoever needed to take  
care of their personal needs



1396  
01:12:47,080 --> 01:12:48,880  
went in there.

1397  
01:12:48,880 --> 01:12:51,190  
And when I walked  
in, I went in there,

1398  
01:12:51,190 --> 01:12:56,170  
and we saw people were dumping  
all kinds of jewelry and money

1399  
01:12:56,170 --> 01:12:56,770  
and dumping.

1400  
01:12:56,770 --> 01:12:59,680  
And then somebody said  
that several people

1401  
01:12:59,680 --> 01:13:02,410  
had jumped in to die  
there, because they

1402  
01:13:02,410 --> 01:13:04,120  
saw what was happening.

1403  
01:13:04,120 --> 01:13:06,070  
They were desperate.

1404  
01:13:06,070 --> 01:13:08,930  
As we were there, and they  
started selecting, selecting--

1405  
01:13:08,930 --> 01:13:12,540  
and there were thousands  
of people-- selecting,

1406  
01:13:12,540 --> 01:13:14,760  
all of a sudden,  
it came our turn.

1407  
01:13:14,760 --> 01:13:20,100

My mother, my sister, and  
myself, came our turn.

1408  
01:13:20,100 --> 01:13:22,950  
And they told us to go in.

1409  
01:13:22,950 --> 01:13:27,060  
There was a door, to  
go into that door.

1410  
01:13:27,060 --> 01:13:29,970  
Well, it was a small room.

1411  
01:13:29,970 --> 01:13:31,380  
It was maybe like--

1412  
01:13:31,380 --> 01:13:38,395  
first it was like 3,  
4, 5 people in a queue.

1413  
01:13:38,395 --> 01:13:40,470  
And there-- I never  
saw it in my life.

1414  
01:13:40,470 --> 01:13:41,520  
And I was so embarrassed.

1415  
01:13:41,520 --> 01:13:45,240  
Because in those days, mothers,  
especially Jewish mothers,

1416  
01:13:45,240 --> 01:13:48,090  
didn't discuss with  
daughters the period.

1417  
01:13:48,090 --> 01:13:51,030  
I know my sister, when  
she started wearing a bra,

1418  
01:13:51,030 --> 01:13:55,860  
my mother sewed her a bra,  
and nobody could see it.

1419

01:13:55,860 --> 01:14:00,790

Or talk, discuss the  
period, it was unheard of.

1420

01:14:00,790 --> 01:14:01,950

We walked into that room.

1421

01:14:01,950 --> 01:14:07,950

There were two chairs,  
gynecological chairs.

1422

01:14:07,950 --> 01:14:09,955

And they made the women--

1423

01:14:09,955 --> 01:14:10,710

didn't touch me.

1424

01:14:10,710 --> 01:14:14,070

He made the women get  
there, put their--

1425

01:14:14,070 --> 01:14:16,860

spread their feet,  
legs, and disperse,

1426

01:14:16,860 --> 01:14:20,000

and they would  
check their insides.

1427

01:14:20,000 --> 01:14:23,190

And I was really surprised,  
because at that time

1428

01:14:23,190 --> 01:14:25,080

I didn't know what  
was happening.

1429

01:14:25,080 --> 01:14:27,300

And they would pull  
out little bundles,

1430

01:14:27,300 --> 01:14:30,180

probably with jewelry  
or diamonds or what,

1431  
01:14:30,180 --> 01:14:33,810  
and throw it in the corner,  
which was a big pile.

1432  
01:14:33,810 --> 01:14:37,375  
And then, group by  
group, they sent us in.

1433  
01:14:37,375 --> 01:14:39,990  
Who did this examining,  
men or women?

1434  
01:14:39,990 --> 01:14:41,030  
Men.

1435  
01:14:41,030 --> 01:14:42,835  
Men were there.

1436  
01:14:42,835 --> 01:14:45,050  
The SS.

1437  
01:14:45,050 --> 01:14:45,800  
SS.

1438  
01:14:45,800 --> 01:14:48,920  
And then they sent  
us into a room

1439  
01:14:48,920 --> 01:14:56,260  
that was a square room  
as big as this area.

1440  
01:14:56,260 --> 01:15:00,060  
Maybe I would say  
400 square feet.

1441  
01:15:00,060 --> 01:15:02,390  
And I saw the walls.

1442

01:15:02,390 --> 01:15:04,700  
And they told us  
to strip before we

1443  
01:15:04,700 --> 01:15:07,220  
got in there, to leave  
all the clothes behind

1444  
01:15:07,220 --> 01:15:12,000  
before we went into that room,  
where they checked the women.

1445  
01:15:12,000 --> 01:15:16,820  
What were the Germans saying  
when they were doing this exam?

1446  
01:15:16,820 --> 01:15:18,635  
Oh, to them, they were just--

1447  
01:15:18,635 --> 01:15:21,300  
"up, on, checked.

1448  
01:15:21,300 --> 01:15:23,620  
Out, on, out."

1449  
01:15:23,620 --> 01:15:25,970  
That's it.

1450  
01:15:25,970 --> 01:15:27,890  
What did the women say?

1451  
01:15:27,890 --> 01:15:29,180  
The women were petrified.

1452  
01:15:29,180 --> 01:15:30,060  
They were hiding.

1453  
01:15:30,060 --> 01:15:30,920  
They were holding.

1454  
01:15:30,920 --> 01:15:34,980  
They were-- some of them

were massaging their uterus.

1455

01:15:34,980 --> 01:15:37,790

I guess they were hoping maybe  
it would go inside deeper

1456

01:15:37,790 --> 01:15:39,470

and they wouldn't find it.

1457

01:15:39,470 --> 01:15:44,060

This is now that I know  
what was happening.

1458

01:15:44,060 --> 01:15:45,440

Then we got into that room.

1459

01:15:45,440 --> 01:15:48,390

It was maybe 400 square feet.

1460

01:15:48,390 --> 01:15:51,080

And of course, we were  
already all naked.

1461

01:15:51,080 --> 01:15:53,180

And I looked around,  
and they said

1462

01:15:53,180 --> 01:15:56,600

they are sending guys to the  
shower, to the Entlausung,

1463

01:15:56,600 --> 01:15:58,940

to get rid of the lice.

1464

01:15:58,940 --> 01:16:03,350

And I looked around, and  
I saw the walls were all

1465

01:16:03,350 --> 01:16:09,470

covered with metal, sheets of  
metal, studded, and the roof.

1466

01:16:09,470 --> 01:16:13,460  
And then from the roof, there  
were several shower heads

1467  
01:16:13,460 --> 01:16:15,370  
coming down.

1468  
01:16:15,370 --> 01:16:16,000