

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,690
This is an interview for the
US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

2
00:00:03,690 --> 00:00:06,180
We are interviewing
Rhoda Kuflik.

3
00:00:06,180 --> 00:00:08,710
Name at birth was
Razhenka Husen.

4
00:00:08,710 --> 00:00:09,210
Right.

5
00:00:09,210 --> 00:00:10,590
Razhenka.

6
00:00:10,590 --> 00:00:11,850
My name is Esther Finder.

7
00:00:11,850 --> 00:00:14,640
Today is July 11, 1997.

8
00:00:14,640 --> 00:00:17,490
And this interview
is going to be

9
00:00:17,490 --> 00:00:20,190
a combination of Mrs.
Kuflik's story of survival,

10
00:00:20,190 --> 00:00:23,820
and also it's going to
supplement a book that we have

11
00:00:23,820 --> 00:00:26,760
in the US Holocaust
Memorial Museum library

12
00:00:26,760 --> 00:00:29,460

entitled The Kitever Yizkor
Book, which was written

13
00:00:29,460 --> 00:00:32,940
by your father, Isaak Husen.

14
00:00:32,940 --> 00:00:33,900
Husen, yes.

15
00:00:33,900 --> 00:00:37,290
And it was published in 1958.

16
00:00:37,290 --> 00:00:44,770
This is tape 1, side A. Can
you tell me, what is your name?

17
00:00:44,770 --> 00:00:47,640
My name is Rhoda Kuflik.

18
00:00:47,640 --> 00:00:49,170
And my maiden name is Husen.

19
00:00:49,170 --> 00:00:52,350

20
00:00:52,350 --> 00:00:53,650
When were you born?

21
00:00:53,650 --> 00:00:58,530
I was born October 1937.

22
00:00:58,530 --> 00:00:59,980
And where were you born?

23
00:00:59,980 --> 00:01:03,900
I was born in Kitev,
it was called, or Kutu

24
00:01:03,900 --> 00:01:05,820
as it's spelled--

25

00:01:05,820 --> 00:01:08,385
K-U-T-Y-- on the maps.

26
00:01:08,385 --> 00:01:12,420

27
00:01:12,420 --> 00:01:16,350
Can you tell me a little
bit about the town?

28
00:01:16,350 --> 00:01:18,540
Yes, I can.

29
00:01:18,540 --> 00:01:24,840
Kuty is located in the
southeastern part of Poland,

30
00:01:24,840 --> 00:01:27,630
now belongs to the Ukraine.

31
00:01:27,630 --> 00:01:32,310
And it's located near
the Romanian border.

32
00:01:32,310 --> 00:01:35,940
There's a river called
the Cheremosh in Kuty

33
00:01:35,940 --> 00:01:41,640
that divides Kuty from Romania.

34
00:01:41,640 --> 00:01:45,210
To tell you a little
bit about the town,

35
00:01:45,210 --> 00:01:47,310
Kuty was a resort area.

36
00:01:47,310 --> 00:01:55,620
It had lovely gardens, it
had many flowering valleys,

37

00:01:55,620 --> 00:01:57,630
mountains.

38
00:01:57,630 --> 00:02:00,690
Many people used to
come there on vacation.

39
00:02:00,690 --> 00:02:03,090
And many things
started there too.

40
00:02:03,090 --> 00:02:07,620
The first Boy Scouts in
Poland started in Kutny.

41
00:02:07,620 --> 00:02:11,790
They had many artists in Kutny.

42
00:02:11,790 --> 00:02:14,760
It was a very nice
place to grow up.

43
00:02:14,760 --> 00:02:19,015

44
00:02:19,015 --> 00:02:20,890
Can you tell me a little
bit about the makeup

45
00:02:20,890 --> 00:02:22,060
of the population?

46
00:02:22,060 --> 00:02:25,090
Were there many
Jews in the town?

47
00:02:25,090 --> 00:02:26,410
Yes.

48
00:02:26,410 --> 00:02:29,380
From what my dad
wrote in the book,

49

00:02:29,380 --> 00:02:35,920

there were about 2,500

Jews living there,

50

00:02:35,920 --> 00:02:37,165

many professional people.

51

00:02:37,165 --> 00:02:41,020

52

00:02:41,020 --> 00:02:44,590

That's what the book states.

53

00:02:44,590 --> 00:02:49,660

I would like to, if I may

before I go on with Kutty,

54

00:02:49,660 --> 00:02:55,210

tell you my reasons

for the tape, if I can.

55

00:02:55,210 --> 00:02:57,580

I wanted to make this tape

because at the moment,

56

00:02:57,580 --> 00:03:00,460

the book is written in Yiddish.

57

00:03:00,460 --> 00:03:03,470

And I'm planning to have

it translated into English.

58

00:03:03,470 --> 00:03:06,340

But before that

happens, I thought

59

00:03:06,340 --> 00:03:08,710

I would make this tape,

because I would like people

60

00:03:08,710 --> 00:03:11,260

to understand a little

bit about this book

61
00:03:11,260 --> 00:03:14,680
and what this book is about.

62
00:03:14,680 --> 00:03:16,330
And also I thought
I would tell you

63
00:03:16,330 --> 00:03:19,210
a little bit about
my dad, because he

64
00:03:19,210 --> 00:03:23,920
dedicated a great part of his
life to writing this book.

65
00:03:23,920 --> 00:03:29,440
He spent five years throughout
the war keeping a diary.

66
00:03:29,440 --> 00:03:32,590
And in this diary, he
kept all the information

67
00:03:32,590 --> 00:03:34,810
about what happened to
the people in town--

68
00:03:34,810 --> 00:03:37,960

69
00:03:37,960 --> 00:03:41,140
not just Kutny, but
the surrounding towns

70
00:03:41,140 --> 00:03:43,930
as well-- many,
many Polish towns.

71
00:03:43,930 --> 00:03:47,980
And Kutny was a typical
town in Poland,

72

00:03:47,980 --> 00:03:53,260
and what happened there happened
to many of the other towns.

73

00:03:53,260 --> 00:03:56,770
He kept this diary for,
as I said, five years.

74

00:03:56,770 --> 00:04:02,710
And then in 1958,
he wrote the book.

75

00:04:02,710 --> 00:04:06,280
That was 16 years after the war.

76

00:04:06,280 --> 00:04:08,710
Now, I think you
have to understand

77

00:04:08,710 --> 00:04:13,330
his reasons for wanting
to write the book as well.

78

00:04:13,330 --> 00:04:17,529
He felt it was his mission
to write this book,

79

00:04:17,529 --> 00:04:20,170
to tell this story.

80

00:04:20,170 --> 00:04:25,960
He felt that he just wanted
people to know about it.

81

00:04:25,960 --> 00:04:27,820
He could not
understand, he didn't

82

00:04:27,820 --> 00:04:31,720
believe that the democratic
world did not know

83

00:04:31,720 --> 00:04:34,060
what was going on in Poland.

84

00:04:34,060 --> 00:04:38,860
And many, many of the Jews
in Poland felt the same way.

85

00:04:38,860 --> 00:04:41,680
And he felt he wanted to
tell the story so that people

86

00:04:41,680 --> 00:04:43,660
would know what happened.

87

00:04:43,660 --> 00:04:48,970
They could not understand how
the democratic world would not

88

00:04:48,970 --> 00:04:54,040
do something about this if
they had known that people were

89

00:04:54,040 --> 00:04:56,410
being murdered for
no reason at all

90

00:04:56,410 --> 00:05:02,530
by the Germans and
the Ukrainians.

91

00:05:02,530 --> 00:05:07,240
He also felt that if he kept
this diary, that after the war

92

00:05:07,240 --> 00:05:10,390
was over, and if
he lived to see it,

93

00:05:10,390 --> 00:05:12,460
he wanted to see that
these people were

94

00:05:12,460 --> 00:05:15,790
brought before a world
tribunal and held

95
00:05:15,790 --> 00:05:20,920
responsible for the atrocities
that they committed.

96
00:05:20,920 --> 00:05:22,550
And so that was his mission.

97
00:05:22,550 --> 00:05:27,460
And I think it almost
kept him alive, because he

98
00:05:27,460 --> 00:05:28,840
was constantly writing.

99
00:05:28,840 --> 00:05:33,460
He knew a lot of people
in the area in Kutu.

100
00:05:33,460 --> 00:05:37,460
He had a lumber yard-- a
huge lumber yard in the area.

101
00:05:37,460 --> 00:05:42,310
And he was friends with many
people, Gentiles as well.

102
00:05:42,310 --> 00:05:44,650
And they brought him
information about all the things

103
00:05:44,650 --> 00:05:48,520
that were going on
and happening in Kutu

104
00:05:48,520 --> 00:05:50,380
as well as in some
of the surrounding

105
00:05:50,380 --> 00:05:52,960

areas, which for
a lot of people,

106
00:05:52,960 --> 00:05:54,490
it was difficult to find out.

107
00:05:54,490 --> 00:05:58,000
Because when things were
happening in these areas,

108
00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:02,030
the Germans would
cut telephone lines,

109
00:06:02,030 --> 00:06:03,910
they would make it
so people would not

110
00:06:03,910 --> 00:06:06,200
know what was going on.

111
00:06:06,200 --> 00:06:09,670
So in any event,
I just wanted you

112
00:06:09,670 --> 00:06:14,560
to have a little bit of a
background about my dad.

113
00:06:14,560 --> 00:06:16,570
As we go on, I'll tell you more.

114
00:06:16,570 --> 00:06:24,660

115
00:06:24,660 --> 00:06:26,175
You wanted to add something?

116
00:06:26,175 --> 00:06:27,720
Yeah, I did.

117
00:06:27,720 --> 00:06:30,990

I just wanted to add
that besides covering

118
00:06:30,990 --> 00:06:36,240
the Polish towns in
the area, he also

119
00:06:36,240 --> 00:06:42,480
writes about the Hungarian
people as well as Romania.

120
00:06:42,480 --> 00:06:50,310
So it's quite interesting to
see how thoroughly he covered

121
00:06:50,310 --> 00:06:53,700
that particular area of Europe.

122
00:06:53,700 --> 00:06:59,860
And also, the first few
chapters of the book

123
00:06:59,860 --> 00:07:03,600
talk about the Jewish
community in Kutny.

124
00:07:03,600 --> 00:07:08,250
And as I said, Kutny, you might
think of it as a typical town,

125
00:07:08,250 --> 00:07:10,950
because it was.

126
00:07:10,950 --> 00:07:16,140
He describes the schools,
and the houses of worship,

127
00:07:16,140 --> 00:07:18,300
and how the Jews made
their livings there,

128
00:07:18,300 --> 00:07:21,330
how they celebrated

their [NON-ENGLISH],,

129
00:07:21,330 --> 00:07:25,620
their weddings and
other occasions.

130
00:07:25,620 --> 00:07:29,550
It gives a full
picture of Jewish life

131
00:07:29,550 --> 00:07:31,710
before World War II.

132
00:07:31,710 --> 00:07:35,430
And in Kutny, it was quite full.

133
00:07:35,430 --> 00:07:38,115
They were very active and
did quite a lot of things.

134
00:07:38,115 --> 00:07:40,710

135
00:07:40,710 --> 00:07:46,740
Now, I guess I should go on
now with what happened to Kutny.

136
00:07:46,740 --> 00:07:49,470

137
00:07:49,470 --> 00:07:55,170
The Germans had
divided Kutny, Poland,

138
00:07:55,170 --> 00:07:58,530
and divided it
with the Russians,

139
00:07:58,530 --> 00:08:00,910
there was a treaty signed,
and they divided it.

140

00:08:00,910 --> 00:08:03,510
And so the Russians
were in Kutly.

141
00:08:03,510 --> 00:08:10,170
And then in World War II, the
Germans decided, no treaty.

142
00:08:10,170 --> 00:08:12,490
They want Kutly and
they want Poland.

143
00:08:12,490 --> 00:08:17,970
So as we all know, they
invaded Poland in 1939.

144
00:08:17,970 --> 00:08:22,140
They came into Kutly in 1941.

145
00:08:22,140 --> 00:08:26,130
That was June 21, 1941.

146
00:08:26,130 --> 00:08:28,500
And my dad wrote in the
book that we woke up

147
00:08:28,500 --> 00:08:32,669
to the German bombing of the
bridges and various other parts

148
00:08:32,669 --> 00:08:35,760
that the Russians
had built there.

149
00:08:35,760 --> 00:08:41,190
And the next day, the Russian
army started to leave Kutly.

150
00:08:41,190 --> 00:08:44,100
As soon as that
happened, the Ukrainians

151
00:08:44,100 --> 00:08:49,920

that were Russian sympathizers
became Nazi sympathizers.

152
00:08:49,920 --> 00:08:53,040
They formed a police
force in town,

153
00:08:53,040 --> 00:08:55,260
and they robbed Jewish homes.

154
00:08:55,260 --> 00:08:58,080
They just went
robbing Jewish homes.

155
00:08:58,080 --> 00:09:03,450
They were very anti-Semitic,
and they were willing partners

156
00:09:03,450 --> 00:09:07,110
in terminating the Jews.

157
00:09:07,110 --> 00:09:13,140
They did a great part of
the killing in Poland.

158
00:09:13,140 --> 00:09:19,800
And in many instances,
I believe that many Jews

159
00:09:19,800 --> 00:09:23,790
might have been alive
if the Ukrainians didn't

160
00:09:23,790 --> 00:09:26,310
go looking for them,
seeking them out, killing

161
00:09:26,310 --> 00:09:30,570
them themselves, and handing
them over to the Nazis.

162
00:09:30,570 --> 00:09:34,800

163
00:09:34,800 --> 00:09:40,860
Now, when the Germans entered
Kuty, as I said in 1941,

164
00:09:40,860 --> 00:09:45,660
they had the Jews form a
Judenrat The Judenrat was

165
00:09:45,660 --> 00:09:48,600
a group of Jews
in town that were

166
00:09:48,600 --> 00:09:52,800
sort of the go-betweens
between the Nazis and the Jews.

167
00:09:52,800 --> 00:09:55,020
Whenever the Germans
needed something,

168
00:09:55,020 --> 00:09:58,740
they would go to the
Judenrat and they would say,

169
00:09:58,740 --> 00:10:00,000
deliver this to us.

170
00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:03,270
And the Judenrat would go
to the Jewish community

171
00:10:03,270 --> 00:10:06,360
and get it for them.

172
00:10:06,360 --> 00:10:10,410
The Judenrat was ordered
to hand out working cards

173
00:10:10,410 --> 00:10:13,350
to the Jews of Kuty.

174

00:10:13,350 --> 00:10:16,830

And they were told
that as long as they

175

00:10:16,830 --> 00:10:22,920

do the work, which consisted of
building up the bridges which

176

00:10:22,920 --> 00:10:29,400

the Germans bombed, working on
the streets, doing cleaning up

177

00:10:29,400 --> 00:10:31,470

jobs, whatever.

178

00:10:31,470 --> 00:10:35,010

They were safe-- that's
what they were told.

179

00:10:35,010 --> 00:10:36,930

And as my dad
writes in the book,

180

00:10:36,930 --> 00:10:41,610

that was a false security.

181

00:10:41,610 --> 00:10:45,390

The Germans also had
a systematic plan

182

00:10:45,390 --> 00:10:48,540

in their destruction
of the Jews--

183

00:10:48,540 --> 00:10:51,120

systematic plan and
destruction of the Jews

184

00:10:51,120 --> 00:10:53,790

in Poland as a whole.

185

00:10:53,790 --> 00:10:56,220

But I'll tell you about Kutu.

186
00:10:56,220 --> 00:10:58,710
Everybody from the
age of 10 years

187
00:10:58,710 --> 00:11:02,010
had to wear on the
left arm a white band

188
00:11:02,010 --> 00:11:04,140
with a star of David.

189
00:11:04,140 --> 00:11:10,470
And written in the star was
the word, Jude, which is Jew.

190
00:11:10,470 --> 00:11:14,220
From 12:00 PM to 12:00 AM,
they couldn't leave their home.

191
00:11:14,220 --> 00:11:17,280

192
00:11:17,280 --> 00:11:20,930
If they were caught
outside, they were shot.

193
00:11:20,930 --> 00:11:24,260
They used to have motorcycles
driving around town,

194
00:11:24,260 --> 00:11:27,740
they saw somebody,
they would shoot them.

195
00:11:27,740 --> 00:11:29,810
My mother once walked
out of the house,

196
00:11:29,810 --> 00:11:34,070
did not have the band
on her arm, and lived.

197

00:11:34,070 --> 00:11:37,020

They didn't know
that she was a Jew.

198

00:11:37,020 --> 00:11:41,930

Our house was located in an area
where there were other Gentile

199

00:11:41,930 --> 00:11:43,700

homes around.

200

00:11:43,700 --> 00:11:46,520

And I believe since she
didn't have that on her arm,

201

00:11:46,520 --> 00:11:49,010

she was spared.

202

00:11:49,010 --> 00:11:51,590

Now, to get back to
the rules, as I said,

203

00:11:51,590 --> 00:11:53,900

this armband they
had to wear, they

204

00:11:53,900 --> 00:11:58,340

couldn't leave the house
from 12:00 PM to 12:00 AM.

205

00:11:58,340 --> 00:12:01,520

They couldn't have any
contact with Gentiles.

206

00:12:01,520 --> 00:12:05,870

They couldn't go shopping
for food in the marketplace.

207

00:12:05,870 --> 00:12:12,500

And all their warm clothing
like fur coats, wool items,

208

00:12:12,500 --> 00:12:17,540
or any other items of value
they had to give to the Gestapo.

209
00:12:17,540 --> 00:12:19,910
The Ukrainian police
enforced the laws,

210
00:12:19,910 --> 00:12:26,030
and anyone caught with these
goods was immediately shot--

211
00:12:26,030 --> 00:12:29,900
no questions asked, just shot.

212
00:12:29,900 --> 00:12:33,830
Now, after all they had
done this in the town--

213
00:12:33,830 --> 00:12:35,840
after they had
starved the people

214
00:12:35,840 --> 00:12:39,470
and the people
suffered from cold

215
00:12:39,470 --> 00:12:42,770
because they didn't
have any warm clothing,

216
00:12:42,770 --> 00:12:47,405
then they started to
physically eliminate the Jews.

217
00:12:47,405 --> 00:12:50,930

218
00:12:50,930 --> 00:12:56,990
That was the system they used in
Kuty and also many other towns.

219
00:12:56,990 --> 00:13:04,610

The first actually incident that we heard happening in Kosov.

220

00:13:04,610 --> 00:13:11,420
I think it's spelled K-O-S-O-V.
That was in October of 1941.

221

00:13:11,420 --> 00:13:14,840
Do you have any idea how far that area is from your town?

222

00:13:14,840 --> 00:13:16,850
It was about 10 miles from Kutu--

223

00:13:16,850 --> 00:13:18,590
very close.

224

00:13:18,590 --> 00:13:22,850
What happened was a man came to town

225

00:13:22,850 --> 00:13:26,120
and said that he was on his way to Kosov.

226

00:13:26,120 --> 00:13:30,110
And he tried to make a phone call, and the lines were down.

227

00:13:30,110 --> 00:13:32,113
And that was an indication to him

228

00:13:32,113 --> 00:13:33,530
that something was going on there,

229

00:13:33,530 --> 00:13:37,070
because the Germans would always break down the line

230

00:13:37,070 --> 00:13:39,590

system so nobody
would know what goes

231
00:13:39,590 --> 00:13:43,400
on when they were busy
doing something in an area.

232
00:13:43,400 --> 00:13:46,310
So he came to town,
and he told us

233
00:13:46,310 --> 00:13:49,280
that he heard that the
Germans were gathering

234
00:13:49,280 --> 00:13:52,410
all the Jews together there.

235
00:13:52,410 --> 00:13:55,062
And they were telling them
to take little small packages

236
00:13:55,062 --> 00:13:57,020
along with them, and they
were taking them away

237
00:13:57,020 --> 00:14:00,140
to concentration camps.

238
00:14:00,140 --> 00:14:03,140
Well, in our town of
Kuty when we heard that,

239
00:14:03,140 --> 00:14:06,530
we thought they are
coming for us next.

240
00:14:06,530 --> 00:14:10,280
We were all sitting and waiting
for them to come and get us.

241
00:14:10,280 --> 00:14:15,380
Had they come, they would

have just taken us all away.

242

00:14:15,380 --> 00:14:19,410

We were starving in town,
we were cold, we had enough,

243

00:14:19,410 --> 00:14:21,380

and if we could
go someplace where

244

00:14:21,380 --> 00:14:27,950

we didn't know what to expect
there, but we were ready to go.

245

00:14:27,950 --> 00:14:32,060

After a while, a
few days later, we

246

00:14:32,060 --> 00:14:35,090

heard, no, there were
killings in Kosov.

247

00:14:35,090 --> 00:14:38,450

They didn't take them away,
but they were killing them.

248

00:14:38,450 --> 00:14:42,930

Well, my dad decided he was
going to go see for himself.

249

00:14:42,930 --> 00:14:45,170

So he went to a doctor
and he got a note

250

00:14:45,170 --> 00:14:48,380

saying that his child
was sick, and he

251

00:14:48,380 --> 00:14:50,300

had to go and get
the doctor from Kosov

252

00:14:50,300 --> 00:14:52,160

to come to see his child.

253

00:14:52,160 --> 00:14:56,510

He got a wagon and a horse,
and he drove to Kosov.

254

00:14:56,510 --> 00:15:02,060

When he got there,
this is what he saw--

255

00:15:02,060 --> 00:15:05,090

he saw homes that were
demolished, broken

256

00:15:05,090 --> 00:15:07,460

windows and doors.

257

00:15:07,460 --> 00:15:11,210

He didn't see a
living soul in town.

258

00:15:11,210 --> 00:15:13,910

And in the middle of the
town, he saw two mass graves.

259

00:15:13,910 --> 00:15:16,610

260

00:15:16,610 --> 00:15:19,290

He saw a cousin
that we had there.

261

00:15:19,290 --> 00:15:22,460

And she told him what happened.

262

00:15:22,460 --> 00:15:28,190

She told him that the
Nazis gathered the Jews,

263

00:15:28,190 --> 00:15:33,230

shot them, and threw
them into the graves.

264

00:15:33,230 --> 00:15:38,810

She told him they took
small children by the hair,

265

00:15:38,810 --> 00:15:43,070

and with the butt of the gun
they cracked their skulls.

266

00:15:43,070 --> 00:15:45,845

Then they kicked them with
their boots into the graves.

267

00:15:45,845 --> 00:15:48,530

268

00:15:48,530 --> 00:15:52,310

He tells of a story of how
a young doctor that one

269

00:15:52,310 --> 00:15:57,470

of the Nazis knew
and had been going to

270

00:15:57,470 --> 00:16:02,900

was told that he could live, and
the Nazi wanted to let him go.

271

00:16:02,900 --> 00:16:04,730

He chose to die with his bride.

272

00:16:04,730 --> 00:16:07,760

He did not want to go.

273

00:16:07,760 --> 00:16:10,370

My dad gives the
names and people that

274

00:16:10,370 --> 00:16:13,620

lived there and died there.

275

00:16:13,620 --> 00:16:15,590

The remaining Jews

of that town were

276

00:16:15,590 --> 00:16:19,460
taken to Kolomyia, where
they were separated.

277

00:16:19,460 --> 00:16:22,660
The old ones were
shot, the young ones

278

00:16:22,660 --> 00:16:25,720
were sent to work
in labor camps,

279

00:16:25,720 --> 00:16:31,690
and the others were packed
in wagons and taken to Belz.

280

00:16:31,690 --> 00:16:36,400
Many died in those wagons which
were over-packed with people

281

00:16:36,400 --> 00:16:40,660
of lack of air and starvation.

282

00:16:40,660 --> 00:16:44,733
My dad says that if any
people were left in town,

283

00:16:44,733 --> 00:16:45,400
they went crazy.

284

00:16:45,400 --> 00:16:47,920

285

00:16:47,920 --> 00:16:53,530
Well, when my dad
came back from Kosov,

286

00:16:53,530 --> 00:16:58,090
he felt he knew that
what happened there

287

00:16:58,090 --> 00:17:00,710
was going to happen to us.

288

00:17:00,710 --> 00:17:01,210
And--

289

00:17:01,210 --> 00:17:04,150

290

00:17:04,150 --> 00:17:06,640
I want to interrupt
with just a question.

291

00:17:06,640 --> 00:17:11,650
Do you know when your father
started keeping his diary?

292

00:17:11,650 --> 00:17:12,190
Yes.

293

00:17:12,190 --> 00:17:14,170
He kept it throughout the war.

294

00:17:14,170 --> 00:17:19,579
And he started when the
Nazis came into Poland.

295

00:17:19,579 --> 00:17:25,750
And the first atrocity
that happened in Kosov,

296

00:17:25,750 --> 00:17:32,300
he decided to write this down so
that it would not be forgotten.

297

00:17:32,300 --> 00:17:34,270
And then he kept
adding to it all along.

298

00:17:34,270 --> 00:17:37,570

299

00:17:37,570 --> 00:17:44,930

So anyway, when dad
came back from Kosov,

300

00:17:44,930 --> 00:17:46,910

they were very
disturbed in Kutu,

301

00:17:46,910 --> 00:17:49,010

because they knew
that things were

302

00:17:49,010 --> 00:17:52,370

going to happen to them too.

303

00:17:52,370 --> 00:17:56,670

And I have to tell you--

304

00:17:56,670 --> 00:17:59,853

at that time in
Kutu, the people,

305

00:17:59,853 --> 00:18:01,520

they were really
starving, they couldn't

306

00:18:01,520 --> 00:18:05,480

trade with the Polish peasants
anything that they had.

307

00:18:05,480 --> 00:18:08,150

And a lot of the Ukrainians
and Polish peasants,

308

00:18:08,150 --> 00:18:11,240

if they did trade
before for some food,

309

00:18:11,240 --> 00:18:14,870

they did such a great deal
of plundering in Kosov,

310

00:18:14,870 --> 00:18:17,610
they didn't even want to
deal with any more people.

311
00:18:17,610 --> 00:18:21,710
So there were people
starving-- literally

312
00:18:21,710 --> 00:18:25,250
starving-- five to six
people were dying a day.

313
00:18:25,250 --> 00:18:28,610
I remember as a
small child walking

314
00:18:28,610 --> 00:18:32,390
on the street with my dad
and seeing people sitting

315
00:18:32,390 --> 00:18:35,180
on the street half dead.

316
00:18:35,180 --> 00:18:37,430
They were begging
for potato peels.

317
00:18:37,430 --> 00:18:39,860
They had absolutely
nothing to eat.

318
00:18:39,860 --> 00:18:44,480
The weather was getting
colder, and they couldn't even

319
00:18:44,480 --> 00:18:45,350
grow anything.

320
00:18:45,350 --> 00:18:47,670
They had nothing to eat.

321
00:18:47,670 --> 00:18:56,900
So in any event, the Jews in

Kuty became almost mystic.

322

00:18:56,900 --> 00:18:59,150

They didn't know
what to do now, OK?

323

00:18:59,150 --> 00:19:01,430

What happened in Kosov,
what should they do?

324

00:19:01,430 --> 00:19:04,010

They started
believing in miracles.

325

00:19:04,010 --> 00:19:08,330

They thought that it's
not going to happen to us.

326

00:19:08,330 --> 00:19:11,060

327

00:19:11,060 --> 00:19:13,370

People came up with dreams--

328

00:19:13,370 --> 00:19:15,350

they had some dreams
and they spread rumors

329

00:19:15,350 --> 00:19:21,590

about these dreams, that
in the midst of everything,

330

00:19:21,590 --> 00:19:25,350

a miracle is going to happen,
and we were going to be saved.

331

00:19:25,350 --> 00:19:28,430

They spread these
miracle rumors,

332

00:19:28,430 --> 00:19:31,580

even the Gentiles
in town were waiting

333
00:19:31,580 --> 00:19:34,700
to see if that day is going to
come along, because that's how

334
00:19:34,700 --> 00:19:36,890
strong these people believe--

335
00:19:36,890 --> 00:19:38,385
they just believe that way.

336
00:19:38,385 --> 00:19:40,010
But there were other
people who didn't.

337
00:19:40,010 --> 00:19:45,840
They felt if God forsake us,
why shouldn't he forsake Kutzy?

338
00:19:45,840 --> 00:19:51,540
And so people started to
think of other ways of hiding,

339
00:19:51,540 --> 00:19:54,020
and just if things
were to happen in town,

340
00:19:54,020 --> 00:19:57,290
we had to have
someplace to hide.

341
00:19:57,290 --> 00:20:03,390
Now, I can tell you about
our situation in hiding.

342
00:20:03,390 --> 00:20:08,870
We dug a hole in the
ground in one of our rooms.

343
00:20:08,870 --> 00:20:14,750
It was by a wall where a closet
was standing on this wall.

344

00:20:14,750 --> 00:20:17,390

345

00:20:17,390 --> 00:20:19,610

You open the door
from the closet,

346

00:20:19,610 --> 00:20:23,750

and you took out the shelf,
and there was the opening, OK?

347

00:20:23,750 --> 00:20:27,710

348

00:20:27,710 --> 00:20:29,300

There was like a drawer.

349

00:20:29,300 --> 00:20:33,110

You move the drawer out,
and you opened it up,

350

00:20:33,110 --> 00:20:34,940

and you went through
that drawer, which

351

00:20:34,940 --> 00:20:41,660

was flush to the ground, and
you went down into this hole.

352

00:20:41,660 --> 00:20:45,980

In the hole, which we
dug deep, and at night

353

00:20:45,980 --> 00:20:47,720

we dug it so nobody
would see us.

354

00:20:47,720 --> 00:20:52,460

We'd carry the earth out
and get rid of it outdoors.

355

00:20:52,460 --> 00:20:55,850

We put a ladder going down.

356
00:20:55,850 --> 00:20:59,270
And we put a picture
of water in there

357
00:20:59,270 --> 00:21:02,870
and food for two or three days.

358
00:21:02,870 --> 00:21:18,840
We also put a wooden
bench down there that

359
00:21:18,840 --> 00:21:21,870
would seat 10 to 12 people.

360
00:21:21,870 --> 00:21:25,530
And during the
day, we would time

361
00:21:25,530 --> 00:21:30,550
it to see how long it would
take for us to get down there.

362
00:21:30,550 --> 00:21:33,030
And we had one person
look out the window

363
00:21:33,030 --> 00:21:36,420
all the time towards
the road of Kolomyia,

364
00:21:36,420 --> 00:21:40,380
because that's where they would
be coming from, the Nazis,

365
00:21:40,380 --> 00:21:43,590
to watch and be on guard
just in case they came.

366
00:21:43,590 --> 00:21:46,280

367

00:21:46,280 --> 00:21:50,600

And that is what we
did to try and hide.

368

00:21:50,600 --> 00:21:57,800

Now, April 10, 1942--

369

00:21:57,800 --> 00:22:03,320

Passover time-- first
Akcja happened in Kutu.

370

00:22:03,320 --> 00:22:07,790

Akcja was like in the olden
days used to call pogrom,

371

00:22:07,790 --> 00:22:11,217

but the Germans called it akcja.

372

00:22:11,217 --> 00:22:12,800

I don't know if the
Germans called it,

373

00:22:12,800 --> 00:22:16,310

but that's what it was-- akcja.

374

00:22:16,310 --> 00:22:20,930

From the Kosova road, four
large cars with Gestapo and SS

375

00:22:20,930 --> 00:22:24,110

came from Kolomyia.

376

00:22:24,110 --> 00:22:26,630

They drove to the marketplace.

377

00:22:26,630 --> 00:22:32,180

They were shooting people on
the way as they were driving.

378

00:22:32,180 --> 00:22:37,310

Now, as soon as the Gestapo was
seen, the Ukrainians came out.

379
00:22:37,310 --> 00:22:40,490
And the Gestapo
and the Ukrainians,

380
00:22:40,490 --> 00:22:44,870
they were throwing hand grenades
at the houses in the ghetto

381
00:22:44,870 --> 00:22:45,380
area.

382
00:22:45,380 --> 00:22:47,660
The ghetto area was
certain streets in Kutu

383
00:22:47,660 --> 00:22:49,070
where primarily Jews lived.

384
00:22:49,070 --> 00:22:52,910

385
00:22:52,910 --> 00:22:57,470
A sea of flames and smoke
erupted from the entire area.

386
00:22:57,470 --> 00:23:01,340
You could hear screams
from the houses for help.

387
00:23:01,340 --> 00:23:03,970

388
00:23:03,970 --> 00:23:06,370
They caught some children,
and they threw them

389
00:23:06,370 --> 00:23:07,060
into the flames.

390
00:23:07,060 --> 00:23:10,330

391
00:23:10,330 --> 00:23:15,280
They molested the women
before shooting them.

392
00:23:15,280 --> 00:23:17,980
People tried to jump from
their burning rooftops

393
00:23:17,980 --> 00:23:21,190
and were shot by the Nazis.

394
00:23:21,190 --> 00:23:28,600
950 people were murdered
on this Passover of 1942.

395
00:23:28,600 --> 00:23:32,560
In our house, I remember
my dad screamed,

396
00:23:32,560 --> 00:23:36,070
let's go, and we
all started running.

397
00:23:36,070 --> 00:23:39,670
I don't know where
I was, but I ran.

398
00:23:39,670 --> 00:23:43,000
And I ran into the
closet, got down

399
00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:49,270
through that opening in the
drawer, got down, we closed it.

400
00:23:49,270 --> 00:23:52,240
We stayed down there--

401
00:23:52,240 --> 00:23:56,290
I don't know how long
we stayed down there.

402

00:23:56,290 --> 00:24:01,210

But I heard a Jewish voice
in the house say, [YIDDISH]..

403

00:24:01,210 --> 00:24:06,040

404

00:24:06,040 --> 00:24:08,138

We knew we shouldn't come out.

405

00:24:08,138 --> 00:24:10,180

They were saying, come on
out, they left already.

406

00:24:10,180 --> 00:24:15,580

But many times, they used to
get Jewish people or people that

407

00:24:15,580 --> 00:24:18,160

spoke Jewish to say certain
things like that for people

408

00:24:18,160 --> 00:24:19,300

to come out.

409

00:24:19,300 --> 00:24:22,870

So we stayed there longer.

410

00:24:22,870 --> 00:24:26,960

When we finally did
come out, the pitcher

411

00:24:26,960 --> 00:24:29,320

of water we were
drinking was totally mud,

412

00:24:29,320 --> 00:24:31,510

because the earth
kept falling into it.

413

00:24:31,510 --> 00:24:33,430

It was like drinking dirt.

414
00:24:33,430 --> 00:24:39,690
But we couldn't care less--
we were alive and we came out.

415
00:24:39,690 --> 00:24:42,270
That was after the
akcja was over.

416
00:24:42,270 --> 00:24:45,250

417
00:24:45,250 --> 00:24:49,990
My dad went and helped
to bury the people.

418
00:24:49,990 --> 00:24:53,080
And there were mass
graves in town,

419
00:24:53,080 --> 00:24:56,560
and that's where they
buried the people.

420
00:24:56,560 --> 00:25:01,780
People went searching in
the streets for bodies--

421
00:25:01,780 --> 00:25:03,590
parents looking for
their dead children.

422
00:25:03,590 --> 00:25:06,460

423
00:25:06,460 --> 00:25:13,660
My dad said he saw a man
wheeling his 16-year-old son,

424
00:25:13,660 --> 00:25:16,390
his dead body.

425

00:25:16,390 --> 00:25:19,840
My dad said 16 years later
when he wrote the book,

426
00:25:19,840 --> 00:25:22,540
he still was trembling when
he remembered that day.

427
00:25:22,540 --> 00:25:26,060

428
00:25:26,060 --> 00:25:32,490
He went and he tells about
he saw three children.

429
00:25:32,490 --> 00:25:35,900
They were molded together by
their blood all around them--

430
00:25:35,900 --> 00:25:39,200
it was one bloody mess.

431
00:25:39,200 --> 00:25:42,410
They looked like one body.

432
00:25:42,410 --> 00:25:46,820
He helped to separate
them and carry them out.

433
00:25:46,820 --> 00:25:52,430
He saw dead bodies of
families he knew everywhere.

434
00:25:52,430 --> 00:25:55,040
He saw a man lying on the
ground with his eyes open.

435
00:25:55,040 --> 00:25:57,597
He tried to close
the man's eyes,

436
00:25:57,597 --> 00:25:59,555
and some Ukrainians were

standing and laughing.

437

00:25:59,555 --> 00:26:07,360

438

00:26:07,360 --> 00:26:13,930

Now, before the first
akcja, before it happened,

439

00:26:13,930 --> 00:26:17,890

some Jews got together and
they were talking of what to do

440

00:26:17,890 --> 00:26:20,660

and how to survive.

441

00:26:20,660 --> 00:26:26,530

And they found out from
some Polish peasants

442

00:26:26,530 --> 00:26:30,130

who worked on the black
market, that in Czernowitz,

443

00:26:30,130 --> 00:26:34,480

Romania, which is about
80 miles from Kutu,

444

00:26:34,480 --> 00:26:38,020

there were 40,000 Jews living.

445

00:26:38,020 --> 00:26:42,280

They had to wear yellow stars
of David on their lapel,

446

00:26:42,280 --> 00:26:48,370

but they could go out at
certain times to shop for food.

447

00:26:48,370 --> 00:26:50,350

And they live in
their own homes,

448

00:26:50,350 --> 00:26:54,670
and they led normal lives.

449

00:26:54,670 --> 00:27:02,440
So based on this information,
two days after the first akcja

450

00:27:02,440 --> 00:27:06,400
we decided that we were
just going to leave.

451

00:27:06,400 --> 00:27:09,060

452

00:27:09,060 --> 00:27:17,920
Well, I remember I left
that night with my family--

453

00:27:17,920 --> 00:27:18,970
my mother and my father.

454

00:27:18,970 --> 00:27:23,260

455

00:27:23,260 --> 00:27:25,010
I don't know if I
mentioned my mom's name.

456

00:27:25,010 --> 00:27:27,410
My mom's name is Yeta.

457

00:27:27,410 --> 00:27:31,990
And her maiden
name was Liebergal.

458

00:27:31,990 --> 00:27:35,260
Well, her Jewish name is Rivka.

459

00:27:35,260 --> 00:27:37,990
Anyway, we left.

460

00:27:37,990 --> 00:27:42,760

And I remember that
night when we left,

461

00:27:42,760 --> 00:27:46,720

when we walked outside, I saw
people standing on rooftops

462

00:27:46,720 --> 00:27:50,230

with white sheets,
flames everywhere,

463

00:27:50,230 --> 00:27:52,660

and they were still trying
to put the flames out.

464

00:27:52,660 --> 00:27:56,620

That was two days
after that happened.

465

00:27:56,620 --> 00:28:02,470

Now, our house was
not put to flame,

466

00:28:02,470 --> 00:28:06,980

because it was not in a
primarily Jewish area.

467

00:28:06,980 --> 00:28:10,360

It was surrounded
by Gentile homes.

468

00:28:10,360 --> 00:28:13,540

And that's why, really,
it wasn't burning.

469

00:28:13,540 --> 00:28:16,610

470

00:28:16,610 --> 00:28:18,680

Were you an only child?

471

00:28:18,680 --> 00:28:21,410

Yes.

472

00:28:21,410 --> 00:28:26,750

So we left for the
Romanian border.

473

00:28:26,750 --> 00:28:31,370

474

00:28:31,370 --> 00:28:37,160

We went at night, and
we went to the border.

475

00:28:37,160 --> 00:28:41,330

My dad carried me on his back.

476

00:28:41,330 --> 00:28:45,020

When we came to the border,
I remember in the distance

477

00:28:45,020 --> 00:28:47,780

the silhouette of
German soldiers.

478

00:28:47,780 --> 00:28:50,490

479

00:28:50,490 --> 00:28:55,590

The peasant who was
taking us there,

480

00:28:55,590 --> 00:29:00,990

trying to help us get to
the border, told my parents

481

00:29:00,990 --> 00:29:03,880

that we have to be
separated for a while--

482

00:29:03,880 --> 00:29:06,870

it would be safer
than going together.

483

00:29:06,870 --> 00:29:10,860

So he took me somewhere--

484

00:29:10,860 --> 00:29:13,860

to his house, I think--

and I slept on his attic

485

00:29:13,860 --> 00:29:14,785

for a couple of hours.

486

00:29:14,785 --> 00:29:17,350

487

00:29:17,350 --> 00:29:23,290

I must have been around

four, five years old then.

488

00:29:23,290 --> 00:29:28,030

And then he woke me, and he

took me-- it was still night--

489

00:29:28,030 --> 00:29:34,660

and we walked to

a train station.

490

00:29:34,660 --> 00:29:39,850

Now, the trains did

not stop in Kutu,

491

00:29:39,850 --> 00:29:44,200

but it slowed down at

that particular spot.

492

00:29:44,200 --> 00:29:46,780

My mom and dad

were waiting there.

493

00:29:46,780 --> 00:29:49,460

They said they thought

they'd never see me alive,

494

00:29:49,460 --> 00:29:50,760

would never see me again.

495
00:29:50,760 --> 00:29:53,670

496
00:29:53,670 --> 00:29:56,490
As the train was
approaching, my dad

497
00:29:56,490 --> 00:30:01,140
grabbed me and held my
mother with his other arm,

498
00:30:01,140 --> 00:30:04,530
and we jumped onto the
slowly moving train.

499
00:30:04,530 --> 00:30:07,320

500
00:30:07,320 --> 00:30:13,330
We got on the train, and as
we jumped onto the train,

501
00:30:13,330 --> 00:30:14,920
a conductor came over.

502
00:30:14,920 --> 00:30:17,650

503
00:30:17,650 --> 00:30:21,460
He realized that we were
trying to save ourselves

504
00:30:21,460 --> 00:30:23,050
and that we were Jews.

505
00:30:23,050 --> 00:30:34,450
And he took us, and he put us in
his private area of the train.

506
00:30:34,450 --> 00:30:36,640

He said, sit here.

507

00:30:36,640 --> 00:30:42,280

He said, if we come to a station
and they want to come through,

508

00:30:42,280 --> 00:30:46,360

the Germans, to
search for passports,

509

00:30:46,360 --> 00:30:51,130

he said, just tell them you're
taking your child to Czernowitz

510

00:30:51,130 --> 00:30:55,720

to the doctor, and I'll do
the rest of the talking.

511

00:30:55,720 --> 00:30:57,880

This man was like an angel.

512

00:30:57,880 --> 00:30:58,975

He saved our lives.

513

00:30:58,975 --> 00:31:01,355

514

00:31:01,355 --> 00:31:03,230

Do you by any chance
happen to know his name?

515

00:31:03,230 --> 00:31:03,820

No.

516

00:31:03,820 --> 00:31:04,900

I wish I did.

517

00:31:04,900 --> 00:31:05,400

No.

518

00:31:05,400 --> 00:31:08,140

519

00:31:08,140 --> 00:31:10,270

Now, when we got
to Czernowitz, we

520

00:31:10,270 --> 00:31:22,050

did not have the passports
that we needed there.

521

00:31:22,050 --> 00:31:24,710

I'm going to ask you
a couple of questions.

522

00:31:24,710 --> 00:31:26,140

And if you don't
remember, that's

523

00:31:26,140 --> 00:31:28,780

fine, because I know
you were quite young.

524

00:31:28,780 --> 00:31:31,270

What were you able to bring
with you when you left?

525

00:31:31,270 --> 00:31:33,970

526

00:31:33,970 --> 00:31:35,720

We brought nothing-- nothing.

527

00:31:35,720 --> 00:31:37,120

My dad put on a jacket.

528

00:31:37,120 --> 00:31:40,150

529

00:31:40,150 --> 00:31:45,610

That in itself was almost
like a great miracle for us.

530

00:31:45,610 --> 00:31:49,570

Because what happened
that night when we left--

531
00:31:49,570 --> 00:31:51,670
as I said, it was two
days after the akcja,

532
00:31:51,670 --> 00:31:54,070
and the Germans had
gone through our house.

533
00:31:54,070 --> 00:31:57,730
And so everything
was upside down.

534
00:31:57,730 --> 00:32:00,700
As a small child, I remember
going into a closet,

535
00:32:00,700 --> 00:32:04,630
and looking down, and seeing
a handful of pictures.

536
00:32:04,630 --> 00:32:06,940
I picked up those
pictures, and I put it

537
00:32:06,940 --> 00:32:10,600
into the pocket of a jacket.

538
00:32:10,600 --> 00:32:13,840
That was the jacket
my dad put on.

539
00:32:13,840 --> 00:32:17,110
And when we got to
Czernowitz, he put his hand

540
00:32:17,110 --> 00:32:22,300
into the pocket, and he found
all of our family pictures--

541
00:32:22,300 --> 00:32:30,280

and some of those pictures are
in the book that are of us,

542
00:32:30,280 --> 00:32:35,050
my mom and me, and of
himself and my mother--

543
00:32:35,050 --> 00:32:36,580
wedding pictures
that he did not.

544
00:32:36,580 --> 00:32:38,680
But he has many,
many of the pictures

545
00:32:38,680 --> 00:32:42,080
in this book of our
families and themselves too.

546
00:32:42,080 --> 00:32:45,520

547
00:32:45,520 --> 00:32:47,560
Anyway, as I said,
when we got to Romania,

548
00:32:47,560 --> 00:32:49,150
we did not have passports.

549
00:32:49,150 --> 00:32:53,860
And the way to
Romania was perilous.

550
00:32:53,860 --> 00:33:01,120
Many people tried
to cross the border.

551
00:33:01,120 --> 00:33:05,560
And if they were caught, they
were returned to the Gestapo.

552
00:33:05,560 --> 00:33:09,970
And the Romanian send-off

to Transnistria, which

553

00:33:09,970 --> 00:33:13,910
was their concentration camp.

554

00:33:13,910 --> 00:33:15,758
So many people were
afraid to do that-- they

555

00:33:15,758 --> 00:33:17,050
didn't want to take the chance.

556

00:33:17,050 --> 00:33:21,280

557

00:33:21,280 --> 00:33:25,330
So if you got to Romania, you
tried to get those papers.

558

00:33:25,330 --> 00:33:27,050
If you got the
papers, you were safe.

559

00:33:27,050 --> 00:33:31,660
But even in Romania, they
kept looking for the Jews.

560

00:33:31,660 --> 00:33:34,810
And if they found Jews that
did not have the papers,

561

00:33:34,810 --> 00:33:38,710
they sent them back, as
I said, to the Gestapo.

562

00:33:38,710 --> 00:33:43,250
So we had to hide in
Romania, and we did.

563

00:33:43,250 --> 00:33:45,700
When we first came over
there, we went to a family

564

00:33:45,700 --> 00:33:49,930

that we knew there-- a Jewish family, name was Koerner.

565

00:33:49,930 --> 00:33:51,730

He was a dentist.

566

00:33:51,730 --> 00:33:56,530

And we stayed there for one or two days.

567

00:33:56,530 --> 00:33:58,660

Then we went to another place.

568

00:33:58,660 --> 00:34:01,780

His name was Benzion Stettner.

569

00:34:01,780 --> 00:34:05,980

And he kept us in his house during the day.

570

00:34:05,980 --> 00:34:08,050

And at night, he had a little courtyard--

571

00:34:08,050 --> 00:34:11,739

we would go out and get a little bit of air.

572

00:34:11,739 --> 00:34:15,670

He really saved us, because we spent a good part of the time

573

00:34:15,670 --> 00:34:17,320

with him.

574

00:34:17,320 --> 00:34:21,699

Then just before we got our papers,

575

00:34:21,699 --> 00:34:27,429

we ended up going to another

Jewish family, Dora Klein.

576

00:34:27,429 --> 00:34:30,850

She lived in an
apartment house, and she

577

00:34:30,850 --> 00:34:35,570

allowed us to stay in
the attic, in the roof.

578

00:34:35,570 --> 00:34:37,330

There was an attic space.

579

00:34:37,330 --> 00:34:40,360

And we stayed there-- mom and
dad and I, we slept there.

580

00:34:40,360 --> 00:34:43,630

We stayed there for a few days.

581

00:34:43,630 --> 00:34:47,550

And all of a sudden, she
came and she got us down.

582

00:34:47,550 --> 00:34:49,750

And she says, you can't
stay in the roof anymore.

583

00:34:49,750 --> 00:34:51,340

You got to wait in
my apartment, she

584

00:34:51,340 --> 00:34:53,850

said, because if the
Germans come in now--

585

00:34:53,850 --> 00:34:56,800

they are coming now, they're
coming from house to house--

586

00:34:56,800 --> 00:34:59,470

if they come in here
and they find you,

587
00:34:59,470 --> 00:35:02,920
they'll know that I hid you,
and you cannot stay up there

588
00:35:02,920 --> 00:35:04,810
anymore.

589
00:35:04,810 --> 00:35:08,050
I remember my mother tried
to walk into the kitchen

590
00:35:08,050 --> 00:35:09,810
to get something,
she says, don't hide.

591
00:35:09,810 --> 00:35:10,810
Stay in the living room.

592
00:35:10,810 --> 00:35:12,760
You can't go there.

593
00:35:12,760 --> 00:35:17,110
Well, another miracle--
they stopped at her house.

594
00:35:17,110 --> 00:35:19,930
They did not come upstairs.

595
00:35:19,930 --> 00:35:25,570
And so we were saved, and
eventually got the papers

596
00:35:25,570 --> 00:35:28,540
that we needed.

597
00:35:28,540 --> 00:35:31,810
Now, I have some
memories of Romania.

598
00:35:31,810 --> 00:35:35,800
I remember we had an apartment--

we lived in this apartment

599
00:35:35,800 --> 00:35:36,520
there.

600
00:35:36,520 --> 00:35:39,670
And I remember sitting on the
windowsill and looking out.

601
00:35:39,670 --> 00:35:43,240
And across the street, there
was a [? kazerne ?],, which

602
00:35:43,240 --> 00:35:47,350
is like a canteen for Germans.

603
00:35:47,350 --> 00:35:50,500
And this Nazi was
walking on the street,

604
00:35:50,500 --> 00:35:53,740
and a Jew came
straight on to him.

605
00:35:53,740 --> 00:35:57,460
And he went over to the
Jew, and he slapped him hard

606
00:35:57,460 --> 00:36:00,430
in the face for
no reason at all.

607
00:36:00,430 --> 00:36:02,860
He said to him, you're
not wearing the star,

608
00:36:02,860 --> 00:36:04,990
which they were supposed
to wear-- that yellow star

609
00:36:04,990 --> 00:36:06,100
on their lapel.

610

00:36:06,100 --> 00:36:09,220

The man had it on, the
man didn't say anything.

611

00:36:09,220 --> 00:36:12,450

The German just
laughed and went on.

612

00:36:12,450 --> 00:36:16,950

I was sitting on the
window, I got so scared.

613

00:36:16,950 --> 00:36:18,900

I wiped the window
with my hands so

614

00:36:18,900 --> 00:36:24,390

that nothing would be left
on that window of my breath.

615

00:36:24,390 --> 00:36:25,165

It was horrible.

616

00:36:25,165 --> 00:36:27,930

617

00:36:27,930 --> 00:36:33,510

But in Czernowitz
in Romania, my dad,

618

00:36:33,510 --> 00:36:37,680

because he was
well-known in Kutu,

619

00:36:37,680 --> 00:36:42,210

knew some peasants who helped
to bring other people across.

620

00:36:42,210 --> 00:36:46,150

They brought a cousin of
ours, her name is Sally.

621

00:36:46,150 --> 00:36:47,880
Sally came and stayed with us.

622
00:36:47,880 --> 00:36:51,300
We raised her in our home.

623
00:36:51,300 --> 00:36:54,000
Sally tried to cross the
border with her parents.

624
00:36:54,000 --> 00:37:00,540
Her parents were religious, and
so they put Sally as a child

625
00:37:00,540 --> 00:37:01,440
on the train.

626
00:37:01,440 --> 00:37:02,610
It was Saturday.

627
00:37:02,610 --> 00:37:04,740
They didn't want to go Saturday.

628
00:37:04,740 --> 00:37:06,090
They went Sunday.

629
00:37:06,090 --> 00:37:10,290
Sunday, lots of Germans
were on that train.

630
00:37:10,290 --> 00:37:11,760
They never followed.

631
00:37:11,760 --> 00:37:14,130
She never saw her parents again.

632
00:37:14,130 --> 00:37:16,750
I have to interrupt you
so I can change the tape.

633
00:37:16,750 --> 00:37:17,250
One moment.

634
00:37:17,250 --> 00:37:24,090

635
00:37:24,090 --> 00:37:28,080
We're interviewing Rhoda
Kuflik, this is tape 1, side B.

636
00:37:28,080 --> 00:37:31,553
And you were telling me
about how other people were

637
00:37:31,553 --> 00:37:32,470
managing their escape.

638
00:37:32,470 --> 00:37:34,740
And you had told me
about your cousin

639
00:37:34,740 --> 00:37:37,430
and what had happened
to her parents.

640
00:37:37,430 --> 00:37:40,180
Right.

641
00:37:40,180 --> 00:37:48,060
Well, my dad wrote
letters back to Kutty.

642
00:37:48,060 --> 00:37:52,560
And he was telling them to
try to come, to try and save

643
00:37:52,560 --> 00:37:54,880
themselves and come.

644
00:37:54,880 --> 00:37:58,260
But again, those
false working cars

645
00:37:58,260 --> 00:38:03,510

that the Judenrat gave out to
them, they felt for the moment

646
00:38:03,510 --> 00:38:04,830
they were safe.

647
00:38:04,830 --> 00:38:10,230
And they felt when the time
came, they would try to escape.

648
00:38:10,230 --> 00:38:13,470
But like my dad said
in the book, only

649
00:38:13,470 --> 00:38:17,340
the Gestapo knew when
that moment would be.

650
00:38:17,340 --> 00:38:20,610
And when they tried,
it was too late.

651
00:38:20,610 --> 00:38:26,910
But dad did manage to get out
quite a few people from Kutu.

652
00:38:26,910 --> 00:38:31,440
He got out his mother,
who was already

653
00:38:31,440 --> 00:38:33,550
standing on a death march.

654
00:38:33,550 --> 00:38:35,700
He sent somebody and he got her.

655
00:38:35,700 --> 00:38:37,500
I don't know how he
did it, but he did.

656
00:38:37,500 --> 00:38:39,480
He saved her.

657

00:38:39,480 --> 00:38:41,520

He saved his sister.

658

00:38:41,520 --> 00:38:44,130

He saved his sister's son.

659

00:38:44,130 --> 00:38:49,050

The son, whose name is Haum
Drukman, is in Israel now.

660

00:38:49,050 --> 00:38:54,510

He's the head of the
Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

661

00:38:54,510 --> 00:38:57,150

And he was also a member
of the parliament.

662

00:38:57,150 --> 00:39:01,230

663

00:39:01,230 --> 00:39:04,770

One time I remember this
boy that came to our house,

664

00:39:04,770 --> 00:39:08,730

and he stood up in our
apartment there in Czernowitz,

665

00:39:08,730 --> 00:39:12,930

raised his hand, and sang,
Hitler [NON-ENGLISH] the German

666

00:39:12,930 --> 00:39:13,950

anthem.

667

00:39:13,950 --> 00:39:17,820

He was a Jewish
boy that was caught

668

00:39:17,820 --> 00:39:21,700

at the border with his parents

and raised by the Nazis.

669
00:39:21,700 --> 00:39:24,930
He didn't know he was Jewish.

670
00:39:24,930 --> 00:39:27,150
Somehow, people
discovered it, and dad

671
00:39:27,150 --> 00:39:32,520
was able to save him and send
him, I think, to Israel--

672
00:39:32,520 --> 00:39:33,450
I think.

673
00:39:33,450 --> 00:39:35,130
I was young and
I'm not sure, but I

674
00:39:35,130 --> 00:39:38,250
know he saved him, because
they took him from my house

675
00:39:38,250 --> 00:39:40,037
and they sent him somewhere.

676
00:39:40,037 --> 00:39:45,180

677
00:39:45,180 --> 00:39:53,940
So anyway, this is what
was going on in Czernowitz.

678
00:39:53,940 --> 00:39:59,310

679
00:39:59,310 --> 00:40:01,560
I'll go back to Kutny
now so I can tell you

680
00:40:01,560 --> 00:40:05,790

what was happening in Kutu
while we were in Czernowitz.

681
00:40:05,790 --> 00:40:10,350
Maybe you can continue
with what happened to you.

682
00:40:10,350 --> 00:40:10,860
OK.

683
00:40:10,860 --> 00:40:12,277
And let's do that,
and then we can

684
00:40:12,277 --> 00:40:14,310
go back and pick up the book.

685
00:40:14,310 --> 00:40:15,030
OK.

686
00:40:15,030 --> 00:40:17,360
OK.

687
00:40:17,360 --> 00:40:20,130
I know you were young, and
you have pieces of memory.

688
00:40:20,130 --> 00:40:27,390
But can you think of
other events or situations

689
00:40:27,390 --> 00:40:30,550
from that time period-- anything
else stand out in your mind?

690
00:40:30,550 --> 00:40:34,890
Yeah, no, Czernowitz
was interesting too--

691
00:40:34,890 --> 00:40:36,360
interesting, that's
not the word,

692

00:40:36,360 --> 00:40:40,615
but very poignant memories.

693

00:40:40,615 --> 00:40:43,740

694

00:40:43,740 --> 00:40:50,080
We were there, and
the war ended there.

695

00:40:50,080 --> 00:40:56,190
So all of a sudden,
one day the Germans

696

00:40:56,190 --> 00:40:58,710
were running from Czernowitz.

697

00:40:58,710 --> 00:41:01,590
They left Czernowitz.

698

00:41:01,590 --> 00:41:05,040
There was panic--
imagine all the Germans,

699

00:41:05,040 --> 00:41:08,430
they overnight were gone.

700

00:41:08,430 --> 00:41:12,030
People left their apartments
and walked on the streets.

701

00:41:12,030 --> 00:41:14,880
There were empty houses.

702

00:41:14,880 --> 00:41:19,620
People walked into houses
and occupied houses.

703

00:41:19,620 --> 00:41:21,360
We did too.

704

00:41:21,360 --> 00:41:24,930
Now, there were no
clothings or items

705
00:41:24,930 --> 00:41:29,070
of any kind in the houses,
but they were furnished.

706
00:41:29,070 --> 00:41:33,060
People just took over a
house and lived there.

707
00:41:33,060 --> 00:41:39,390
And I remember in
Czernowitz, I saw

708
00:41:39,390 --> 00:41:44,820
the Germans being brought
into town as prisoners

709
00:41:44,820 --> 00:41:47,430
by the Russians.

710
00:41:47,430 --> 00:41:54,570
And as they were marching, I
cannot describe the feeling

711
00:41:54,570 --> 00:41:58,440
to see them being
taken as prisoners.

712
00:41:58,440 --> 00:42:01,110
And I remember one of the
Russians yelling to me,

713
00:42:01,110 --> 00:42:04,500
because I was standing
there sort of frightened,

714
00:42:04,500 --> 00:42:07,740
and he was saying,
don't cry anymore.

715

00:42:07,740 --> 00:42:08,700
It's all over.

716
00:42:08,700 --> 00:42:10,155
Now they are going to be crying.

717
00:42:10,155 --> 00:42:13,050

718
00:42:13,050 --> 00:42:17,190
And we stayed in
Czernowitz for a while.

719
00:42:17,190 --> 00:42:21,360

720
00:42:21,360 --> 00:42:24,990
I wanted to ask
you to think back.

721
00:42:24,990 --> 00:42:27,370
And even though you
were quite young,

722
00:42:27,370 --> 00:42:31,080
do you remember your parents
explaining things to you

723
00:42:31,080 --> 00:42:34,110
or putting restrictions
on your behavior because

724
00:42:34,110 --> 00:42:37,560
of the situation of the times?

725
00:42:37,560 --> 00:42:40,200
Well, I remember when
we first got to--

726
00:42:40,200 --> 00:42:43,830
first of all, I
forgot to mention, now

727

00:42:43,830 --> 00:42:46,890

that you remind me, when
we crossed the border

728

00:42:46,890 --> 00:42:52,230

to go to Czernowitz, my dad
was carrying me on his back,

729

00:42:52,230 --> 00:42:54,510

and I fell into the Cheremosh.

730

00:42:54,510 --> 00:42:56,517

We had to cross that
river as well when

731

00:42:56,517 --> 00:42:58,350

we crossed the border,
we crossed the river,

732

00:42:58,350 --> 00:43:00,680

which I forgot to tell you.

733

00:43:00,680 --> 00:43:02,370

Oh, god.

734

00:43:02,370 --> 00:43:04,170

And I fell.

735

00:43:04,170 --> 00:43:06,610

And my mother says, I
didn't make a sound.

736

00:43:06,610 --> 00:43:08,880

They didn't have to tell me.

737

00:43:08,880 --> 00:43:10,020

You just knew.

738

00:43:10,020 --> 00:43:12,180

You were so scared
most of the time,

739

00:43:12,180 --> 00:43:14,820
you just didn't make a sound.

740

00:43:14,820 --> 00:43:17,760
And then when I
came to Czernowitz,

741

00:43:17,760 --> 00:43:20,400
I remember when we first got
to the first place, which

742

00:43:20,400 --> 00:43:26,040
was Koerner's house,
that dentist, I spoke up,

743

00:43:26,040 --> 00:43:27,610
and somebody in the
house said to me,

744

00:43:27,610 --> 00:43:30,150
you can't talk so loud here.

745

00:43:30,150 --> 00:43:33,930
I wasn't used to
hearing my own voice.

746

00:43:33,930 --> 00:43:36,990
Yes, I knew I had to keep quiet.

747

00:43:36,990 --> 00:43:37,870
I just knew.

748

00:43:37,870 --> 00:43:41,070

749

00:43:41,070 --> 00:43:44,500
You saw such things
happening all the time,

750

00:43:44,500 --> 00:43:46,410
it was just very scary.

751

00:43:46,410 --> 00:43:56,100

I remember in Kutu, I was
sitting once by the window.

752

00:43:56,100 --> 00:44:00,720

And I looked outside,
and my mother's brother

753

00:44:00,720 --> 00:44:03,630

was walking on the street.

754

00:44:03,630 --> 00:44:07,560

And a priest came
in his direction.

755

00:44:07,560 --> 00:44:10,950

And that was another thing--
although I don't know,

756

00:44:10,950 --> 00:44:13,980

it doesn't seem to be
one of the written rules.

757

00:44:13,980 --> 00:44:16,770

But a Jew could not walk on
the same side of the street

758

00:44:16,770 --> 00:44:19,890

or be on the street when
a Gentile came across him.

759

00:44:19,890 --> 00:44:26,580

And I remember my uncle quickly
running off the street and sort

760

00:44:26,580 --> 00:44:28,680

of slouching down
so he would not

761

00:44:28,680 --> 00:44:33,130

be in the way of the priest
that was walking across.

762

00:44:33,130 --> 00:44:37,500

So there were things that
really you knew in your heart

763

00:44:37,500 --> 00:44:41,670

you just had to keep
quiet and suffer through.

764

00:44:41,670 --> 00:44:44,940

And it's almost like unspoken.

765

00:44:44,940 --> 00:44:49,440

Nobody had to tell you
to be afraid or be quiet.

766

00:44:49,440 --> 00:44:50,760

You just knew you had to do it.

767

00:44:50,760 --> 00:44:54,810

768

00:44:54,810 --> 00:44:58,800

While you're waiting to
get the false papers,

769

00:44:58,800 --> 00:45:00,810

were there instructions
given to you

770

00:45:00,810 --> 00:45:03,780

and what you could or
could not say to people?

771

00:45:03,780 --> 00:45:07,290

You mean now in Czernowitz?

772

00:45:07,290 --> 00:45:09,830

I just remember hiding with
my parents, like I said,

773

00:45:09,830 --> 00:45:12,580

in these various places,

and being in the apartment.

774

00:45:12,580 --> 00:45:14,250

I didn't go out.

775

00:45:14,250 --> 00:45:19,740

It's not like I went out on
the street or I went anywhere.

776

00:45:19,740 --> 00:45:26,490

You just had to
stay inside and do

777

00:45:26,490 --> 00:45:28,425

whatever you had to do quietly.

778

00:45:28,425 --> 00:45:31,690

779

00:45:31,690 --> 00:45:36,090

It was not a normal life for me.

780

00:45:36,090 --> 00:45:39,810

My parents never
tried to scare me

781

00:45:39,810 --> 00:45:41,650

in terms of telling me stories.

782

00:45:41,650 --> 00:45:45,780

I saw my mother crying when
they couldn't save her younger

783

00:45:45,780 --> 00:45:48,300

brother, instead
of him following

784

00:45:48,300 --> 00:45:52,080

like the others out of Kutay
when my dad tried to save them.

785

00:45:52,080 --> 00:45:54,750

And she found out that
he was going to an area

786
00:45:54,750 --> 00:45:56,220
where there's a
concentration camp,

787
00:45:56,220 --> 00:45:58,080
and he's going to his death.

788
00:45:58,080 --> 00:46:03,090
I saw the tears, I
saw the heartaches.

789
00:46:03,090 --> 00:46:06,390
But that was part of my life.

790
00:46:06,390 --> 00:46:09,400

791
00:46:09,400 --> 00:46:11,560
You said you were in
hiding underground

792
00:46:11,560 --> 00:46:13,370
for a couple of days.

793
00:46:13,370 --> 00:46:17,050
What did you do during
those couple of days?

794
00:46:17,050 --> 00:46:20,200
You mean when we hid in Kutny?

795
00:46:20,200 --> 00:46:22,540
We did nothing.

796
00:46:22,540 --> 00:46:23,860
It's so hard to believe--

797
00:46:23,860 --> 00:46:29,105
we sat on that wooden bench

and just listened for noises.

798
00:46:29,105 --> 00:46:31,630

799
00:46:31,630 --> 00:46:35,260
That's all I can
tell you I remember.

800
00:46:35,260 --> 00:46:38,050
I don't know if it
was several days.

801
00:46:38,050 --> 00:46:43,330
It might have been a one-day
thing, because the akcja

802
00:46:43,330 --> 00:46:48,700
happened, and then I heard those
people screaming, come on out,

803
00:46:48,700 --> 00:46:50,080
it's OK.

804
00:46:50,080 --> 00:46:51,637
It could have been
a day and a half,

805
00:46:51,637 --> 00:46:52,720
could have been two days--

806
00:46:52,720 --> 00:46:54,400
I don't think it
was more than that.

807
00:46:54,400 --> 00:47:00,070

808
00:47:00,070 --> 00:47:02,010
Is there anything else
that has come to mind

809

00:47:02,010 --> 00:47:05,310
or that you'd like to
mention about the time

810
00:47:05,310 --> 00:47:07,680
that the Germans came to
your town, and the time

811
00:47:07,680 --> 00:47:08,973
that you were liberated?

812
00:47:08,973 --> 00:47:12,150

813
00:47:12,150 --> 00:47:25,230
Well, my memories-- basically,
as I said, I was very small.

814
00:47:25,230 --> 00:47:28,200
And the things that
stand out in my mind

815
00:47:28,200 --> 00:47:31,230
is the night when we left
and the flames all over.

816
00:47:31,230 --> 00:47:36,850
I remember when I came
out from our hiding place

817
00:47:36,850 --> 00:47:39,960
and I went to my
next door neighbor,

818
00:47:39,960 --> 00:47:43,260
I was very friendly with
the little girl next door.

819
00:47:43,260 --> 00:47:44,850
She was my age.

820
00:47:44,850 --> 00:47:46,590
And they came out

from their bunkers

821
00:47:46,590 --> 00:47:49,150
wherever they were hiding.

822
00:47:49,150 --> 00:47:52,590
And she seemed half-dressed.

823
00:47:52,590 --> 00:47:57,330
She seemed terrible-- like
you never see yourself,

824
00:47:57,330 --> 00:48:00,270
but you see somebody else.

825
00:48:00,270 --> 00:48:04,890
And I remember hearing stories
when we were in Czernowitz

826
00:48:04,890 --> 00:48:07,980
that she was taken away
to a concentration camp,

827
00:48:07,980 --> 00:48:10,425
and that she jumped
from a moving train,

828
00:48:10,425 --> 00:48:11,175
and that she died.

829
00:48:11,175 --> 00:48:14,340

830
00:48:14,340 --> 00:48:18,150
My cousin Sally told me
where they were hiding.

831
00:48:18,150 --> 00:48:24,730
Their house was in
not the ghetto area,

832
00:48:24,730 --> 00:48:27,600

but they were primarily living
in the Jewish area with all

833
00:48:27,600 --> 00:48:29,220
the other Jewish homes.

834
00:48:29,220 --> 00:48:31,305
So they hid in a stove.

835
00:48:31,305 --> 00:48:36,870

836
00:48:36,870 --> 00:48:41,490
They hid under the
stove in the ground.

837
00:48:41,490 --> 00:48:44,820
The stove was
standing on that spot.

838
00:48:44,820 --> 00:48:50,970
And the air they breathed
was through the stove.

839
00:48:50,970 --> 00:48:53,760
And she said when
she came out, all

840
00:48:53,760 --> 00:48:59,430
she heard was the screaming
and wailing of sounds,

841
00:48:59,430 --> 00:49:01,110
because they lived right there.

842
00:49:01,110 --> 00:49:03,420
I didn't hear that because
our house, like I said,

843
00:49:03,420 --> 00:49:06,960
was surrounded by
some Gentile homes.

844

00:49:06,960 --> 00:49:09,840

So at least I was spared that.

845

00:49:09,840 --> 00:49:11,250

Oh, I didn't tell you--

846

00:49:11,250 --> 00:49:16,590

for air, we had a
hole in the wall

847

00:49:16,590 --> 00:49:18,850

from underneath
where we were hiding.

848

00:49:18,850 --> 00:49:20,340

And that's how we breathed.

849

00:49:20,340 --> 00:49:23,130

that's how we did that too.

850

00:49:23,130 --> 00:49:25,960

That's what stands
out in my mind.

851

00:49:25,960 --> 00:49:28,750

How was the hole concealed?

852

00:49:28,750 --> 00:49:30,270

Dad writes in the book--

853

00:49:30,270 --> 00:49:32,800

I think it was covered by
something, I'm not sure.

854

00:49:32,800 --> 00:49:36,450

It's hard to make out the Jewish
expression he used in the book.

855

00:49:36,450 --> 00:49:41,340

But I know it was a hole that
was covered by something,

856
00:49:41,340 --> 00:49:44,850
and it was in the wall.

857
00:49:44,850 --> 00:49:46,260
You know what it is?

858
00:49:46,260 --> 00:49:48,780
It's a hole in the
wall, but I think

859
00:49:48,780 --> 00:49:51,265
it went towards the outside.

860
00:49:51,265 --> 00:49:52,140
You know what I mean?

861
00:49:52,140 --> 00:49:54,570
It wasn't inside the house.

862
00:49:54,570 --> 00:49:59,910
It was a hole going
through the wall outside.

863
00:49:59,910 --> 00:50:02,200
That's what it was.

864
00:50:02,200 --> 00:50:02,700
Yeah.

865
00:50:02,700 --> 00:50:08,950

866
00:50:08,950 --> 00:50:13,090
Meanwhile, back
in your hometown,

867
00:50:13,090 --> 00:50:15,130
things were still
continuing to develop.

868
00:50:15,130 --> 00:50:20,470

And your father, was
he able to maintain

869
00:50:20,470 --> 00:50:24,280
contact with the
people in the town?

870
00:50:24,280 --> 00:50:25,390
Yes, he did.

871
00:50:25,390 --> 00:50:29,680
Again, like I said, my dad,
because he was so well-known

872
00:50:29,680 --> 00:50:34,540
in town, he had
peasants from the town.

873
00:50:34,540 --> 00:50:37,180
They brought all the
information all the time.

874
00:50:37,180 --> 00:50:40,240
He knew exact dates,
he knew the names

875
00:50:40,240 --> 00:50:43,810
of the people that were killed.

876
00:50:43,810 --> 00:50:45,100
He knew how they were killed.

877
00:50:45,100 --> 00:50:48,260
He knew exactly what was
happening-- everything.

878
00:50:48,260 --> 00:50:51,910
And so he kept all this
information in his diary,

879
00:50:51,910 --> 00:50:52,630
as I said.

880

00:50:52,630 --> 00:50:56,560

And he writes that
on April the 11th--

881

00:50:56,560 --> 00:50:58,760

that was after the
akcja that we left--

882

00:50:58,760 --> 00:51:01,990

we were gone.

883

00:51:01,990 --> 00:51:07,630

The Germans came out with
an order that all the Jews

884

00:51:07,630 --> 00:51:12,132

from Kutty, in 24 hours, they
had to leave to Kolomyia

885

00:51:12,132 --> 00:51:12,715

to the ghetto.

886

00:51:12,715 --> 00:51:18,860

887

00:51:18,860 --> 00:51:20,390

OK, you know what?

888

00:51:20,390 --> 00:51:24,740

I'm just looking at my dad's
dates here in the book.

889

00:51:24,740 --> 00:51:28,790

And the order that
the Gestapo came out

890

00:51:28,790 --> 00:51:35,000

with that the Jews had to go
to Kolomyia 24 hours from town

891

00:51:35,000 --> 00:51:37,130

came out on April the 11th.

892
00:51:37,130 --> 00:51:43,970
And we left a day later,
because on the 11th,

893
00:51:43,970 --> 00:51:46,220
that was the next day
after the akcja, that's

894
00:51:46,220 --> 00:51:49,130
when my dad helped bury all
the bodies and everything.

895
00:51:49,130 --> 00:51:53,450
So must have been a day later,
and we left on the 12th,

896
00:51:53,450 --> 00:51:54,170
I would imagine.

897
00:51:54,170 --> 00:51:58,100
That's when it happened, yeah.

898
00:51:58,100 --> 00:52:02,690
Anyway, they didn't go
through with that order,

899
00:52:02,690 --> 00:52:08,930
because there were so many
bodies to be still cleaned up.

900
00:52:08,930 --> 00:52:12,380
And there were so many things
to make in order in Kutý,

901
00:52:12,380 --> 00:52:14,450
they needed the
Jews for the work.

902
00:52:14,450 --> 00:52:15,470
So they postponed it.

903

00:52:15,470 --> 00:52:18,950
They postponed it
for several months.

904
00:52:18,950 --> 00:52:26,960
Now, the only people that
were allowed to remain in Kutu

905
00:52:26,960 --> 00:52:31,970
were the ones that got
working cards after that--

906
00:52:31,970 --> 00:52:34,220
people who they
needed for the work--

907
00:52:34,220 --> 00:52:37,430
for the cleanup and who
could do all this work.

908
00:52:37,430 --> 00:52:42,320
So what happened
now is the business

909
00:52:42,320 --> 00:52:44,000
with the working cards.

910
00:52:44,000 --> 00:52:46,790
The Judenrat had the
power to give people

911
00:52:46,790 --> 00:52:48,350
these working cards.

912
00:52:48,350 --> 00:52:53,120
Some men would get married
or just write a woman's name

913
00:52:53,120 --> 00:52:55,760
to their card so that they could
stay with them so that they

914
00:52:55,760 --> 00:52:57,710

wouldn't be sent away.

915

00:52:57,710 --> 00:53:00,680

And they felt they
had these cards

916

00:53:00,680 --> 00:53:02,665

and they were secure
with these cards.

917

00:53:02,665 --> 00:53:04,790

And as a matter of fact,
when we wrote them letters

918

00:53:04,790 --> 00:53:09,440

from Czernowitz to come,
they said they had the cards,

919

00:53:09,440 --> 00:53:11,660

and right now they're
leaving them alone.

920

00:53:11,660 --> 00:53:15,270

So these cards were like
a false security for them.

921

00:53:15,270 --> 00:53:19,520

I don't know why the Judenrat
did not look into this

922

00:53:19,520 --> 00:53:24,570

and made them more aware that
this is a false security.

923

00:53:24,570 --> 00:53:28,250

They saw all these
things happening anyway.

924

00:53:28,250 --> 00:53:32,330

To get back to Kutu, the
next thing that happened

925

00:53:32,330 --> 00:53:33,530

was also in April.

926

00:53:33,530 --> 00:53:39,950

It was April 24 of
the same year, 1942.

927

00:53:39,950 --> 00:53:42,560

The Jews that did not
have these working cards

928

00:53:42,560 --> 00:53:47,090

and could not work were lined
up on several roads leading

929

00:53:47,090 --> 00:53:49,430

to Kolomyia.

930

00:53:49,430 --> 00:53:51,110

They were sentenced to death.

931

00:53:51,110 --> 00:53:55,730

The march was called the
March of the Living Dead.

932

00:53:55,730 --> 00:54:00,920

They were primarily old
people, sick people, women,

933

00:54:00,920 --> 00:54:08,000

and children, and young men
who could not find work to do.

934

00:54:08,000 --> 00:54:14,362

Now, many of these old
people did not want to go.

935

00:54:14,362 --> 00:54:16,070

They felt they were
going to their death.

936

00:54:16,070 --> 00:54:18,020

They wanted to die at home.

937

00:54:18,020 --> 00:54:23,420

My dad writes in the book, he
tells the name of this one son

938

00:54:23,420 --> 00:54:26,480

who after the mother
begged him and begged him,

939

00:54:26,480 --> 00:54:30,350

poisoned her so that she
would not go on this march.

940

00:54:30,350 --> 00:54:32,360

The other people that
were lined up there,

941

00:54:32,360 --> 00:54:33,680

they had nothing with them.

942

00:54:33,680 --> 00:54:36,320

They had nothing left
to take with them.

943

00:54:36,320 --> 00:54:39,185

And they knew this was
their last journey.

944

00:54:39,185 --> 00:54:42,120

945

00:54:42,120 --> 00:54:42,620

OK.

946

00:54:42,620 --> 00:54:45,350

947

00:54:45,350 --> 00:54:47,390

Well, they were
going to Kolomyia.

948

00:54:47,390 --> 00:54:49,400

But from there, of

course, they were

949
00:54:49,400 --> 00:54:54,050
being taken to the gas
chambers of the ghettos.

950
00:54:54,050 --> 00:54:55,070
And they knew it.

951
00:54:55,070 --> 00:54:56,900
They knew it.

952
00:54:56,900 --> 00:55:01,700
That's what was
happening to them.

953
00:55:01,700 --> 00:55:05,870
What I meant to say, they were
going to the Kolomyia ghettos.

954
00:55:05,870 --> 00:55:09,560
And from there, they were going
to end up in the gas chambers.

955
00:55:09,560 --> 00:55:14,130
And all these people knew it.

956
00:55:14,130 --> 00:55:17,030
So at that point, you knew
about the gas chambers.

957
00:55:17,030 --> 00:55:17,660
They knew it.

958
00:55:17,660 --> 00:55:18,980
Yes, they did.

959
00:55:18,980 --> 00:55:24,380
But my dad writes,
most of them were so--

960
00:55:24,380 --> 00:55:27,290

like I say, they were
the old, the sick--

961
00:55:27,290 --> 00:55:28,340
they just had it.

962
00:55:28,340 --> 00:55:32,330
They just were starving
without the food.

963
00:55:32,330 --> 00:55:34,070
They had nothing left.

964
00:55:34,070 --> 00:55:35,960
And they just
resigned themselves.

965
00:55:35,960 --> 00:55:37,910
They just couldn't live.

966
00:55:37,910 --> 00:55:44,210

967
00:55:44,210 --> 00:55:54,680
Now, September the 7th,
the Judenrat got an order

968
00:55:54,680 --> 00:55:57,710
from the Gestapo to call
all the Jews together

969
00:55:57,710 --> 00:56:01,130
on some reason they had to check
some things on their cards,

970
00:56:01,130 --> 00:56:02,960
whatever.

971
00:56:02,960 --> 00:56:06,360
At that time,
September the 7th--

972

00:56:06,360 --> 00:56:07,830
What year?

973
00:56:07,830 --> 00:56:08,330
'42.

974
00:56:08,330 --> 00:56:11,090

975
00:56:11,090 --> 00:56:14,330
The Jews knew they just
didn't trust it anymore.

976
00:56:14,330 --> 00:56:17,450
They knew they were
calling them together,

977
00:56:17,450 --> 00:56:19,820
and many times when that
happened, they never

978
00:56:19,820 --> 00:56:22,010
returned home.

979
00:56:22,010 --> 00:56:23,420
So many tried to flee.

980
00:56:23,420 --> 00:56:28,040
250 tried to cross
the Romanian border.

981
00:56:28,040 --> 00:56:30,410
They actually handed
themselves over

982
00:56:30,410 --> 00:56:34,430
to the Romanian border guards.

983
00:56:34,430 --> 00:56:41,090
And the others that showed up at
this meeting, they were right.

984

00:56:41,090 --> 00:56:44,990
They shouldn't have,
because everybody

985
00:56:44,990 --> 00:56:47,270
who showed up at
this meeting, they

986
00:56:47,270 --> 00:56:52,610
were taken to a
certain place in Kutu.

987
00:56:52,610 --> 00:56:59,760
And the 250 that tried to
escape across the border,

988
00:56:59,760 --> 00:57:03,170
they were returned as well.

989
00:57:03,170 --> 00:57:07,370
The Romanian border guards
returned them to the Gestapo

990
00:57:07,370 --> 00:57:08,300
in Kutu.

991
00:57:08,300 --> 00:57:11,780
So they brought them there too.

992
00:57:11,780 --> 00:57:14,540
And after they
gathered them together,

993
00:57:14,540 --> 00:57:17,300
they lined them
up a certain way.

994
00:57:17,300 --> 00:57:22,970
My dad writes they put the men
in the center and the women

995
00:57:22,970 --> 00:57:24,620
and children on

either side of them

996

00:57:24,620 --> 00:57:26,412

so that they could
watch them and that they

997

00:57:26,412 --> 00:57:28,550

wouldn't run away.

998

00:57:28,550 --> 00:57:29,960

Now, my dad knew all this.

999

00:57:29,960 --> 00:57:34,760

He knew exactly what was
happening because, as I said,

1000

00:57:34,760 --> 00:57:39,240

he had a huge lumber yard
in the area at one time.

1001

00:57:39,240 --> 00:57:41,390

And he had all these
people working for him,

1002

00:57:41,390 --> 00:57:43,790

and they brought him
all this information.

1003

00:57:43,790 --> 00:57:44,960

He told them.

1004

00:57:44,960 --> 00:57:48,560

He told them he wanted the
information-- he has a book

1005

00:57:48,560 --> 00:57:50,930

and he wants the information.

1006

00:57:50,930 --> 00:57:53,990

And they did it.

1007

00:57:53,990 --> 00:57:57,620

They gave him the information.

1008

00:57:57,620 --> 00:58:01,790

Now, just to show you--

1009

00:58:01,790 --> 00:58:04,970

I was saying these peasants
helped dad with this--

1010

00:58:04,970 --> 00:58:08,960

in Kutu, there were
many Ukrainian priests.

1011

00:58:08,960 --> 00:58:12,800

When they preached to
their congregation,

1012

00:58:12,800 --> 00:58:15,800

they would tell them,
don't give the Jews food.

1013

00:58:15,800 --> 00:58:16,940

Don't help them.

1014

00:58:16,940 --> 00:58:20,600

They would say, their own
God has forsaken them.

1015

00:58:20,600 --> 00:58:22,670

Why would you help?

1016

00:58:22,670 --> 00:58:24,960

But there was one that did--

1017

00:58:24,960 --> 00:58:27,470

one priest who did.

1018

00:58:27,470 --> 00:58:31,190

He saved some of
the Torahs from--

1019

00:58:31,190 --> 00:58:34,860

and I think he might have even helped some people in town.

1020

00:58:34,860 --> 00:58:41,730

So these peasants gave my father information that he kept--

1021

00:58:41,730 --> 00:58:44,270

helped him to write the diary.

1022

00:58:44,270 --> 00:58:47,120

So he knew he knew, for example, that this gathering, as I

1023

00:58:47,120 --> 00:58:51,860

said, in Kutu on September the 8th, 1942--

1024

00:58:51,860 --> 00:58:59,270

this one German officer came, and he sorted out the people.

1025

00:58:59,270 --> 00:59:04,310

The weak people, they were shot right there.

1026

00:59:04,310 --> 00:59:07,370

The strong that he felt were strong enough to work,

1027

00:59:07,370 --> 00:59:11,510

he sent to camps for work in Lemberg.

1028

00:59:11,510 --> 00:59:14,390

And the others, he packed off in wagons

1029

00:59:14,390 --> 00:59:15,470

and he sent them to Belz.

1030

00:59:15,470 --> 00:59:18,420

1031
00:59:18,420 --> 00:59:22,410
Now, the Jews in Lemberg,
they were sent for work,

1032
00:59:22,410 --> 00:59:26,760
they died from hunger, and
beatings, and the hard work.

1033
00:59:26,760 --> 00:59:33,090
Every day before
they started to work,

1034
00:59:33,090 --> 00:59:34,980
the Germans made them run.

1035
00:59:34,980 --> 00:59:37,920
And if they couldn't run,
the ones that dropped,

1036
00:59:37,920 --> 00:59:40,290
they would just shoot them.

1037
00:59:40,290 --> 00:59:45,150
And the ones that went
in the wagons to camp,

1038
00:59:45,150 --> 00:59:47,640
they were like 200
to 300 packed--

1039
00:59:47,640 --> 00:59:51,060
and they just died on the
way from starvation and lack

1040
00:59:51,060 --> 00:59:52,440
of air.

1041
00:59:52,440 --> 00:59:54,900
And of course, whoever reached
there died in the camp.

1042

00:59:54,900 --> 00:59:58,470

1043

00:59:58,470 --> 01:00:02,010

There were 2,500 Jews in Kutu.

1044

01:00:02,010 --> 01:00:09,600

And November 1943, the Jews
in Kutu were all liquidated,

1045

01:00:09,600 --> 01:00:13,170

as well as the
surrounding areas--

1046

01:00:13,170 --> 01:00:17,220

all the towns in the
surrounding areas.

1047

01:00:17,220 --> 01:00:24,120

Now, the Germans had various
liquidation systems as a whole,

1048

01:00:24,120 --> 01:00:26,010

and they did it in
different manners.

1049

01:00:26,010 --> 01:00:31,410

If they decided to liquidate
the Jews in a small town,

1050

01:00:31,410 --> 01:00:33,510

it took them maybe
one akcion to do it.

1051

01:00:33,510 --> 01:00:36,270

They would go screaming,
Jude heraus That means,

1052

01:00:36,270 --> 01:00:37,467

Jew get out from the house.

1053

01:00:37,467 --> 01:00:38,550

And they would shoot them.

1054
01:00:38,550 --> 01:00:42,615
They would make mass
graves out of town

1055
01:00:42,615 --> 01:00:43,740
and shoot them all at once.

1056
01:00:43,740 --> 01:00:44,640
And that would be it.

1057
01:00:44,640 --> 01:00:49,620
In other areas where
there were more Jews,

1058
01:00:49,620 --> 01:00:53,190
they decided to put them
in a ghetto area, which

1059
01:00:53,190 --> 01:00:57,330
means they had
certain streets where

1060
01:00:57,330 --> 01:01:00,630
the Jews had to stay and live.

1061
01:01:00,630 --> 01:01:06,750
And the Ukrainian police watched
so that nobody would escape.

1062
01:01:06,750 --> 01:01:10,030
And that's what they
did in other areas.

1063
01:01:10,030 --> 01:01:15,420
And I will mention
certain towns here

1064
01:01:15,420 --> 01:01:20,730
that I picked out of
the book, Polish towns,

1065

01:01:20,730 --> 01:01:23,220
there were many more
that dad mentions,

1066
01:01:23,220 --> 01:01:24,720
but I would like
to mention these

1067
01:01:24,720 --> 01:01:30,690
because I think they sort of
stood out in my mind anyway.

1068
01:01:30,690 --> 01:01:34,260
For example, in Kolomyia,
they had a ghetto.

1069
01:01:34,260 --> 01:01:41,250
It was so overcrowded that they
took 20 to 30 people in a room.

1070
01:01:41,250 --> 01:01:43,800
They just didn't have enough
space for all these people.

1071
01:01:43,800 --> 01:01:46,020
They just put them there.

1072
01:01:46,020 --> 01:01:48,810
People were sleeping
on the streets.

1073
01:01:48,810 --> 01:01:51,930
So they came up with
this system, the Gestapo.

1074
01:01:51,930 --> 01:01:55,230
What they would do is they
would have several akcjas.

1075
01:01:55,230 --> 01:01:58,290
And in one, they would
come, and they would just

1076

01:01:58,290 --> 01:02:02,280
take out the old people
and take them away.

1077
01:02:02,280 --> 01:02:05,820
In another one, they would come
for the women, in another one,

1078
01:02:05,820 --> 01:02:07,890
for the children.

1079
01:02:07,890 --> 01:02:11,820
And in that way, there
would be less people there.

1080
01:02:11,820 --> 01:02:16,320
The men, they were out to
work for the hard work labor.

1081
01:02:16,320 --> 01:02:18,810
They would come home
after work, they

1082
01:02:18,810 --> 01:02:20,400
wouldn't see their
families anymore.

1083
01:02:20,400 --> 01:02:23,260
They'd be gone.

1084
01:02:23,260 --> 01:02:28,870
Then when the ghetto was
mostly all out, nobody there,

1085
01:02:28,870 --> 01:02:29,830
they were tortured.

1086
01:02:29,830 --> 01:02:32,180
And whoever was left in
there would just die.

1087
01:02:32,180 --> 01:02:34,330
They were tortured

from all sides,

1088
01:02:34,330 --> 01:02:38,050
and they would burn it down.

1089
01:02:38,050 --> 01:02:44,800
Now, another one is Stanislav.

1090
01:02:44,800 --> 01:02:48,817

1091
01:02:48,817 --> 01:02:50,650
I wanted to mention
something about Kolomyia

1092
01:02:50,650 --> 01:02:55,000
too, because that was
sort of another thing

1093
01:02:55,000 --> 01:02:58,300
that I read about
it in the book.

1094
01:02:58,300 --> 01:03:01,870
After they took the women, the
children, and the old people

1095
01:03:01,870 --> 01:03:06,700
away from Kolomyia, the Germans
decided, the SS decided,

1096
01:03:06,700 --> 01:03:08,200
they didn't really
see any blood,

1097
01:03:08,200 --> 01:03:11,110
they said, because they
took them all away.

1098
01:03:11,110 --> 01:03:13,780
They didn't see any blood.

1099

01:03:13,780 --> 01:03:18,160
They ordered 250 Jews lined
up, and they shot them

1100
01:03:18,160 --> 01:03:19,690
so that they could see blood.

1101
01:03:19,690 --> 01:03:22,600

1102
01:03:22,600 --> 01:03:24,670
Well, that was Kolomyia.

1103
01:03:24,670 --> 01:03:25,900
Then was Stanislav.

1104
01:03:25,900 --> 01:03:29,695
And Stanislav,
the German Gestapo

1105
01:03:29,695 --> 01:03:32,320
decided they were going to take
all the professional people out

1106
01:03:32,320 --> 01:03:34,030
of the town--

1107
01:03:34,030 --> 01:03:36,250
all the doctors,
all the lawyers.

1108
01:03:36,250 --> 01:03:38,860
They came, and
that's all they took.

1109
01:03:38,860 --> 01:03:42,880
Their families didn't know
what happened to them.

1110
01:03:42,880 --> 01:03:43,870
Jews only?

1111

01:03:43,870 --> 01:03:44,590
Jews.

1112
01:03:44,590 --> 01:03:46,600
Jews only.

1113
01:03:46,600 --> 01:03:49,940
So the families tried to
find out what happened.

1114
01:03:49,940 --> 01:03:53,060
So the Gestapo told them,
we're taking them away.

1115
01:03:53,060 --> 01:03:56,470
Bring food and
clothing for them.

1116
01:03:56,470 --> 01:03:59,170
The Jewish families--
the parents, the mothers,

1117
01:03:59,170 --> 01:04:01,630
they brought everything
they had for their sons,

1118
01:04:01,630 --> 01:04:02,950
for their husbands--

1119
01:04:02,950 --> 01:04:03,880
everything.

1120
01:04:03,880 --> 01:04:07,108
The Gestapo took it all.

1121
01:04:07,108 --> 01:04:11,320
A few days later, they found
out they were all murdered,

1122
01:04:11,320 --> 01:04:15,490
all killed, and
put in mass graves.

1123

01:04:15,490 --> 01:04:18,760

So that was Stanislav.

1124

01:04:18,760 --> 01:04:22,450

That was September 7, 1941.

1125

01:04:22,450 --> 01:04:25,930

My dad has dates
and information--

1126

01:04:25,930 --> 01:04:29,470

exact dates-- on what
happened in all these places.

1127

01:04:29,470 --> 01:04:30,740

Then there was Zabolotiv.

1128

01:04:30,740 --> 01:04:33,250

1129

01:04:33,250 --> 01:04:36,760

In Zabolotiv, they had
men working over a bridge.

1130

01:04:36,760 --> 01:04:39,970

They had to repair this bridge.

1131

01:04:39,970 --> 01:04:44,860

The Polish students,
Ukrainians, and the Gestapo

1132

01:04:44,860 --> 01:04:49,390

closed up the street and
entered the houses in town,

1133

01:04:49,390 --> 01:04:53,770

took the Jews out in cars.

1134

01:04:53,770 --> 01:04:57,640

They had mass graves outside
the city prepared for them.

1135

01:04:57,640 --> 01:05:01,030

And as they were taking
them to their death,

1136

01:05:01,030 --> 01:05:05,200

the men working over the
bridge saw their families

1137

01:05:05,200 --> 01:05:07,960

being taken to the graves.

1138

01:05:07,960 --> 01:05:10,960

That was the last time that
they saw their children,

1139

01:05:10,960 --> 01:05:12,681

their wives, and everybody.

1140

01:05:12,681 --> 01:05:15,270

1141

01:05:15,270 --> 01:05:25,250

In Horodenka, the Gestapo told
the Jews to pack their things

1142

01:05:25,250 --> 01:05:29,910

and to come to a
certain gathering.

1143

01:05:29,910 --> 01:05:32,880

When they came there
too, they took them away

1144

01:05:32,880 --> 01:05:36,000

to the mass graves
and shot them.

1145

01:05:36,000 --> 01:05:41,490

Then they went to the
Judenrat and demanded money

1146

01:05:41,490 --> 01:05:45,420

for each person to
cover for the bullet

1147
01:05:45,420 --> 01:05:47,940
that they shot each person.

1148
01:05:47,940 --> 01:05:49,920
And the Judenrat
went to the Jews--

1149
01:05:49,920 --> 01:05:53,010

1150
01:05:53,010 --> 01:05:55,080
in other areas, I would
suppose, because there

1151
01:05:55,080 --> 01:05:57,660
weren't many left there--

1152
01:05:57,660 --> 01:06:02,760
to get money to pay the
Nazis for the bullets.

1153
01:06:02,760 --> 01:06:07,570
In [? Otanya, ?] they came
in the middle of the night.

1154
01:06:07,570 --> 01:06:09,570
They got the Jews
out of their house.

1155
01:06:09,570 --> 01:06:11,520
They weren't even dressed.

1156
01:06:11,520 --> 01:06:13,620
They had no clothes on.

1157
01:06:13,620 --> 01:06:17,580
Some tried to run away, the
Ukrainians ran after them,

1158

01:06:17,580 --> 01:06:20,220
and they slaughtered
them with knives

1159
01:06:20,220 --> 01:06:22,680
as they were trying to run.

1160
01:06:22,680 --> 01:06:27,210
In [? Jobya-- ?] in [? Jobya, ?]
the Ukrainians had a great part

1161
01:06:27,210 --> 01:06:29,610
in liquidating the Jews.

1162
01:06:29,610 --> 01:06:31,920
The Ukrainian
police told the Jews

1163
01:06:31,920 --> 01:06:34,290
to go to a certain
designated area.

1164
01:06:34,290 --> 01:06:35,190
They did it.

1165
01:06:35,190 --> 01:06:36,960
The Gestapo gave
them the right to do

1166
01:06:36,960 --> 01:06:39,150
whatever they wanted there.

1167
01:06:39,150 --> 01:06:44,070
They robbed the homes after
the Jews left the homes,

1168
01:06:44,070 --> 01:06:48,450
and the Ukrainians themselves
slaughtered the Jews.

1169
01:06:48,450 --> 01:06:51,090
Then they called the Gestapo
to come and finish off

1170
01:06:51,090 --> 01:06:52,410
whatever was left there.

1171
01:06:52,410 --> 01:06:54,960

1172
01:06:54,960 --> 01:06:58,560
Well, those are
just some examples

1173
01:06:58,560 --> 01:07:04,080
of what happened to people
in some of the Polish towns.

1174
01:07:04,080 --> 01:07:07,260
There are many more that my
dad mentions, writes about,

1175
01:07:07,260 --> 01:07:10,230
and even has names of
people that died there

1176
01:07:10,230 --> 01:07:11,190
and how they died.

1177
01:07:11,190 --> 01:07:15,270

1178
01:07:15,270 --> 01:07:23,910
Now, in 1944, when we were
still in Czernowitz, Romania--

1179
01:07:23,910 --> 01:07:26,490
that was after the war--

1180
01:07:26,490 --> 01:07:28,560
dad decided that he
was going to go back

1181
01:07:28,560 --> 01:07:36,000
to Kutny for the last time

and see what was there.

1182
01:07:36,000 --> 01:07:41,310
When he got there, he
says the town was ghostly.

1183
01:07:41,310 --> 01:07:44,940
He saw nobody around.

1184
01:07:44,940 --> 01:07:48,580
Not even Ukrainians
were walking around.

1185
01:07:48,580 --> 01:07:53,070
He felt somehow they were more
afraid of the Jewish ghosts

1186
01:07:53,070 --> 01:07:57,660
than they were of the living
people that were there.

1187
01:07:57,660 --> 01:08:03,060
He said he went to town, and
it was very painful for him

1188
01:08:03,060 --> 01:08:05,730
because he remembered
his memories of the town

1189
01:08:05,730 --> 01:08:09,280
where he used to spend
with his friends.

1190
01:08:09,280 --> 01:08:15,060
And as he was walking
around, one man, a Gentile--

1191
01:08:15,060 --> 01:08:16,950
I guess a Ukrainian--

1192
01:08:16,950 --> 01:08:20,080
recognized him.

1193

01:08:20,080 --> 01:08:22,920

He came over and he
touched him, because he

1194

01:08:22,920 --> 01:08:26,819

couldn't believe that my
dad was there and was alive.

1195

01:08:26,819 --> 01:08:30,720

He crossed himself and ran away.

1196

01:08:30,720 --> 01:08:36,149

My dad walked over to the graves
where the people were buried.

1197

01:08:36,149 --> 01:08:38,490

There was no sign
there-- nothing.

1198

01:08:38,490 --> 01:08:43,620

So he tore a white wooden
plank from a fence,

1199

01:08:43,620 --> 01:08:48,840

and he wrote on it in charcoal--

1200

01:08:48,840 --> 01:08:53,550

here are resting the
[NON-ENGLISH] souls--

1201

01:08:53,550 --> 01:09:01,410

men, women, and children
who were, on April 10, 1942,

1202

01:09:01,410 --> 01:09:06,069

by the Germans and Ukrainians,
in a murderous fashion

1203

01:09:06,069 --> 01:09:08,520

annihilated.

1204

01:09:08,520 --> 01:09:14,850

And that was the last time
that my dad was in Kutu.

1205
01:09:14,850 --> 01:09:18,200
And that was it.

1206
01:09:18,200 --> 01:09:22,930

1207
01:09:22,930 --> 01:09:25,180
I can tell you a little
bit now about my family

1208
01:09:25,180 --> 01:09:26,840
if you're interested.

1209
01:09:26,840 --> 01:09:29,590
I would like to know
about your upbringing.

1210
01:09:29,590 --> 01:09:32,080
Did you come from
a religious family?

1211
01:09:32,080 --> 01:09:35,990
My background was religious.

1212
01:09:35,990 --> 01:09:41,274
My grandfather, my mother's
father, Liebergal, was a rabbi.

1213
01:09:41,274 --> 01:09:44,740

1214
01:09:44,740 --> 01:09:47,529
We were religious.

1215
01:09:47,529 --> 01:09:50,410
At home, I guess
we were religious--

1216
01:09:50,410 --> 01:09:54,880

not in the sense that we wore
the [NON-ENGLISH] and were

1217
01:09:54,880 --> 01:09:58,630
ultra ultra-religious, as
some people were mystically

1218
01:09:58,630 --> 01:10:02,660
religious, but I came
from a kosher home.

1219
01:10:02,660 --> 01:10:03,160
Yes.

1220
01:10:03,160 --> 01:10:08,670

1221
01:10:08,670 --> 01:10:12,630
I did have some questions.

1222
01:10:12,630 --> 01:10:15,840
I was not quite clear
about-- you mentioned

1223
01:10:15,840 --> 01:10:21,030
that your father had
found out about what

1224
01:10:21,030 --> 01:10:26,250
had happened in another
town, I think it was Kosov.

1225
01:10:26,250 --> 01:10:32,280
And then he came back and began
to prepare a hiding place.

1226
01:10:32,280 --> 01:10:35,940
Do you have any idea
how much time elapsed

1227
01:10:35,940 --> 01:10:40,350
or how much time it took to
put together this hiding place?

1228
01:10:40,350 --> 01:10:46,350
It took a while, because
we had to do it at night.

1229
01:10:46,350 --> 01:10:49,980
They were digging, I remember,
and carrying it in bags out--

1230
01:10:49,980 --> 01:10:52,690
the earth from under the ground.

1231
01:10:52,690 --> 01:10:57,570
And so the whole thing
must have taken a while.

1232
01:10:57,570 --> 01:11:01,020
I guess we were lucky to have
the time before the first akcja

1233
01:11:01,020 --> 01:11:02,910
actually happened.

1234
01:11:02,910 --> 01:11:04,500
But it took a while.

1235
01:11:04,500 --> 01:11:07,460

1236
01:11:07,460 --> 01:11:09,420
Do you remember there
being a sense of urgency

1237
01:11:09,420 --> 01:11:12,450
to hurry up and get it done?

1238
01:11:12,450 --> 01:11:17,250
Yes, because dad knew
it was going to come.

1239
01:11:17,250 --> 01:11:22,905
And as I said, we

afterwards timed ourselves

1240
01:11:22,905 --> 01:11:25,030
to see how long it would
take us to get down there.

1241
01:11:25,030 --> 01:11:26,140
We were prepared.

1242
01:11:26,140 --> 01:11:28,600
We were definitely prepared.

1243
01:11:28,600 --> 01:11:31,920
We knew that they were
going to come into the town

1244
01:11:31,920 --> 01:11:34,650
and it was just a
question of when.

1245
01:11:34,650 --> 01:11:39,270
And during the day,
we had constant watch

1246
01:11:39,270 --> 01:11:41,700
from the window to see
if they were coming.

1247
01:11:41,700 --> 01:11:46,980
And they came from the
direction of the Kolomyia road.

1248
01:11:46,980 --> 01:11:49,980
And so they were just constantly
looking in that direction

1249
01:11:49,980 --> 01:11:51,300
to see.

1250
01:11:51,300 --> 01:11:56,100
And so it was just
a matter of time.

1251

01:11:56,100 --> 01:11:58,470

Prior to that, did
you have any idea

1252

01:11:58,470 --> 01:12:01,560

of how Jews were being treated
in the areas of Poland that

1253

01:12:01,560 --> 01:12:04,380

had been occupied by the Nazis?

1254

01:12:04,380 --> 01:12:08,490

Well, it was difficult to
find out, because as I said,

1255

01:12:08,490 --> 01:12:10,800

they would disrupt
communication.

1256

01:12:10,800 --> 01:12:15,390

1257

01:12:15,390 --> 01:12:18,930

Like this man who came to
town to tell us about Kosov--

1258

01:12:18,930 --> 01:12:21,780

1259

01:12:21,780 --> 01:12:24,030

we knew that things
were happening.

1260

01:12:24,030 --> 01:12:27,250

1261

01:12:27,250 --> 01:12:34,710

I'm not sure just how much in
detail we knew at every moment

1262

01:12:34,710 --> 01:12:36,240

when it was happening.

1263
01:12:36,240 --> 01:12:38,700
But dad did get all
the information,

1264
01:12:38,700 --> 01:12:41,490
because if you read
his book, you'd

1265
01:12:41,490 --> 01:12:47,640
see he puts down dates and
even the day of the week

1266
01:12:47,640 --> 01:12:51,485
when it happened-- whether
it's morning or night.

1267
01:12:51,485 --> 01:12:53,610
They came in the middle of
the night, he would say,

1268
01:12:53,610 --> 01:12:55,693
and he would give you the
date, and when they did,

1269
01:12:55,693 --> 01:12:58,370
and what they did.

1270
01:12:58,370 --> 01:12:59,910
It was his mission.

1271
01:12:59,910 --> 01:13:02,560
That was his mission,
his goal in life.

1272
01:13:02,560 --> 01:13:06,030
I can't believe
sometimes thinking

1273
01:13:06,030 --> 01:13:11,430
about it, what he must have
felt seeing his friends

1274

01:13:11,430 --> 01:13:18,400
and people he knew dead before
him and helping to bury them.

1275

01:13:18,400 --> 01:13:20,460
And he felt he had a mission.

1276

01:13:20,460 --> 01:13:22,710
He felt the world
didn't know about this,

1277

01:13:22,710 --> 01:13:24,510
and he would let
them know about this.

1278

01:13:24,510 --> 01:13:27,360
And he wanted to write down
the names of the people who did

1279

01:13:27,360 --> 01:13:29,040
it-- and he does in the book.

1280

01:13:29,040 --> 01:13:31,230
He even writes
down the SS people

1281

01:13:31,230 --> 01:13:34,090
who did some of these things--

1282

01:13:34,090 --> 01:13:37,590
and he writes down the names.

1283

01:13:37,590 --> 01:13:40,500
He has all the names
of the people that died

1284

01:13:40,500 --> 01:13:42,990
and how they died.

1285

01:13:42,990 --> 01:13:48,360
He did nothing but write for
five years during the Holocaust

1286
01:13:48,360 --> 01:13:55,320
days in the war of what
was happening in Poland.

1287
01:13:55,320 --> 01:14:01,020
And then when we
came to America,

1288
01:14:01,020 --> 01:14:03,450
he wrote this book himself.

1289
01:14:03,450 --> 01:14:06,990
He got a Hebrew typewriter--

1290
01:14:06,990 --> 01:14:10,890
and he had a grocery
store when he came here--

1291
01:14:10,890 --> 01:14:16,050
and he just sat and
wrote the book himself.

1292
01:14:16,050 --> 01:14:21,930
So he was very dedicated in
finding out whatever he could.

1293
01:14:21,930 --> 01:14:26,820
And I think the fact that he
lived there during the time

1294
01:14:26,820 --> 01:14:29,850
that all this was happening,
and when he found something out,

1295
01:14:29,850 --> 01:14:34,830
it was within a day or
two of what was happening,

1296
01:14:34,830 --> 01:14:38,730
would be the right information.

1297

01:14:38,730 --> 01:14:41,230
Because when you get
something a year later,

1298
01:14:41,230 --> 01:14:43,500
two years later from something,
that's something else.

1299
01:14:43,500 --> 01:14:46,590
But he knew-- and like I
said, his mother, for example,

1300
01:14:46,590 --> 01:14:48,120
he got her off the death march.

1301
01:14:48,120 --> 01:14:51,750
She was on her way to be taken
on the death march, which

1302
01:14:51,750 --> 01:14:54,210
was the last akcja in Kutny.

1303
01:14:54,210 --> 01:14:56,250
So he had all the information.

1304
01:14:56,250 --> 01:14:57,720
He knew just when
it was happening

1305
01:14:57,720 --> 01:15:00,930
and the dates as well.

1306
01:15:00,930 --> 01:15:03,950
We're going to pause so
I can change the tape.

1307
01:15:03,950 --> 01:15:08,060