

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,990

2
00:00:01,990 --> 00:00:07,480
This is tape two, side A. We
are interviewing Rhoda Kuflik.

3
00:00:07,480 --> 00:00:09,640
I wanted to ask
you if anything has

4
00:00:09,640 --> 00:00:11,300
come to your mind
in the few minutes

5
00:00:11,300 --> 00:00:13,085
that it took me
to flip the tape.

6
00:00:13,085 --> 00:00:14,710
Did you come up with
any other memories

7
00:00:14,710 --> 00:00:16,660
that you wanted to share?

8
00:00:16,660 --> 00:00:18,280
Well, yes.

9
00:00:18,280 --> 00:00:20,080
As a matter of fact,
I showed you a picture

10
00:00:20,080 --> 00:00:22,450
before that I have
from my pictures

11
00:00:22,450 --> 00:00:25,210
that I saved from Kutty.

12
00:00:25,210 --> 00:00:29,540

And I'm wearing this
little polka dot dress.

13
00:00:29,540 --> 00:00:32,560

And that really
stands out in my mind

14
00:00:32,560 --> 00:00:43,100

because after the Aktion in
Kuty in April of 1942 when

15
00:00:43,100 --> 00:00:47,120

we came out from our
hiding, what I remember,

16
00:00:47,120 --> 00:00:50,840

too, is my neighbor's
little girl

17
00:00:50,840 --> 00:00:55,190

across the street, a
Gentile family, peasants--

18
00:00:55,190 --> 00:00:58,680

Polish peasants, the little
girl was wearing my clothes.

19
00:00:58,680 --> 00:01:00,830

She's wearing the same dress.

20
00:01:00,830 --> 00:01:02,600

She's wearing the
polka dot dress

21
00:01:02,600 --> 00:01:05,900

with the same little apron--

22
00:01:05,900 --> 00:01:07,700

little apron that I had on.

23
00:01:07,700 --> 00:01:12,770

And I remember telling my
mother, look, mom, look.

24
00:01:12,770 --> 00:01:15,170
And my mom says, shh,
don't say anything.

25
00:01:15,170 --> 00:01:19,220
Because you were asking
me about was I told to--

26
00:01:19,220 --> 00:01:20,750
so I knew this--

27
00:01:20,750 --> 00:01:26,040
you just had to
accept certain things.

28
00:01:26,040 --> 00:01:28,260
But I also was
thinking of something

29
00:01:28,260 --> 00:01:29,760
which I do want to say again.

30
00:01:29,760 --> 00:01:39,480
I personally feel that if it
hadn't been for the Ukrainians,

31
00:01:39,480 --> 00:01:43,320
I don't think the Nazis would
have gotten every single Jew.

32
00:01:43,320 --> 00:01:49,160
Because the Ukrainians went and
thought out whatever Jew tried

33
00:01:49,160 --> 00:01:52,730
to escape, or tried to run
away, or tried to hide,

34
00:01:52,730 --> 00:01:56,690
they were the Nazis' and
the Gestapo's right hand.

35

00:01:56,690 --> 00:01:59,690

They were the people who
carried out some of the things

36

00:01:59,690 --> 00:02:00,500

for them.

37

00:02:00,500 --> 00:02:04,160

The Gestapo used to
come down in their cars

38

00:02:04,160 --> 00:02:10,090

with the machine guns for the
murder, for the final blow.

39

00:02:10,090 --> 00:02:12,670

Or the days when they drove
around on their motorcycles

40

00:02:12,670 --> 00:02:16,240

just shooting people that
they saw wearing the band

41

00:02:16,240 --> 00:02:19,110

around the hand saying, Jude.

42

00:02:19,110 --> 00:02:23,310

But it was the Ukrainians
who went and enforced things.

43

00:02:23,310 --> 00:02:26,760

If a Jew hid a piece
of cloth or something

44

00:02:26,760 --> 00:02:30,270

that they thought he should
have given away to them,

45

00:02:30,270 --> 00:02:32,010

they shot them.

46

00:02:32,010 --> 00:02:35,850

They ran to the houses to see
the Jews didn't hide there

47
00:02:35,850 --> 00:02:38,340
when the Gestapo
ordered everybody should

48
00:02:38,340 --> 00:02:39,810
gather in a certain area.

49
00:02:39,810 --> 00:02:41,760
They were the ones,
the Ukrainians,

50
00:02:41,760 --> 00:02:44,310
that went looking to make
sure that everybody was out

51
00:02:44,310 --> 00:02:45,510
of the house.

52
00:02:45,510 --> 00:02:51,480
My dad tells of his cousin
who hid and left his baby

53
00:02:51,480 --> 00:02:54,390
in a crib, because they didn't
want to take the baby down

54
00:02:54,390 --> 00:02:58,500
in the bunker to hide,
because it would make a noise

55
00:02:58,500 --> 00:02:59,520
and so they left it.

56
00:02:59,520 --> 00:03:02,520
And when the Ukrainians came
into the house, not only

57
00:03:02,520 --> 00:03:05,730
did they take the cousin,
but they saw the baby

58
00:03:05,730 --> 00:03:07,380
and they took the baby along.

59
00:03:07,380 --> 00:03:09,450
They went looking
for everything.

60
00:03:09,450 --> 00:03:11,760
And as I'm telling
you this, I was

61
00:03:11,760 --> 00:03:13,680
thinking of another situation.

62
00:03:13,680 --> 00:03:16,810
I have-- had a cousin,
because she's dead now,

63
00:03:16,810 --> 00:03:24,860
her name was Khuma, who was the
most brightest person I knew.

64
00:03:24,860 --> 00:03:26,450
She was like my hero.

65
00:03:26,450 --> 00:03:28,490
She was just the
person who survived

66
00:03:28,490 --> 00:03:30,980
a lot of different
happenings in life, too,

67
00:03:30,980 --> 00:03:33,050
during the Holocaust.

68
00:03:33,050 --> 00:03:35,750
And she told of a story
where she was hiding

69
00:03:35,750 --> 00:03:38,060

in a bunker under the ground.

70

00:03:38,060 --> 00:03:41,430

And there was a baby
down there with them.

71

00:03:41,430 --> 00:03:43,400

And when the Gestapo
was in their house,

72

00:03:43,400 --> 00:03:46,100

the baby started to cry.

73

00:03:46,100 --> 00:03:49,460

And the mother took her hand
and covered the baby's mouth

74

00:03:49,460 --> 00:03:53,120

and choked the baby to death
so that the baby would not

75

00:03:53,120 --> 00:03:56,570

give away the other
people in the bunker.

76

00:03:56,570 --> 00:04:00,320

So all these different
thoughts do come to my mind.

77

00:04:00,320 --> 00:04:02,630

I can't always think
about them at the moment

78

00:04:02,630 --> 00:04:03,950

when I'm speaking.

79

00:04:03,950 --> 00:04:05,870

But there are lots
of different memories

80

00:04:05,870 --> 00:04:09,110

that occasionally just
kind of come to mind.

81
00:04:09,110 --> 00:04:11,800

82
00:04:11,800 --> 00:04:15,790
I wanted to ask you why
you collect yourself?

83
00:04:15,790 --> 00:04:19,959
I wanted to ask you what steps
your family took to rebuild

84
00:04:19,959 --> 00:04:23,740
their lives after the war?

85
00:04:23,740 --> 00:04:33,320
Well, my family, as many
other Jewish families,

86
00:04:33,320 --> 00:04:36,920
came to various countries,
like they went to Israel,

87
00:04:36,920 --> 00:04:38,240
they went to--

88
00:04:38,240 --> 00:04:40,330
came to America.

89
00:04:40,330 --> 00:04:43,780
And they did quite well.

90
00:04:43,780 --> 00:04:47,100
They went to school,
educated themselves.

91
00:04:47,100 --> 00:04:52,330
Like my cousin Haim
Drukman, who I remember

92
00:04:52,330 --> 00:04:56,450
as a kid in Czernowitz

when he came across,

93

00:04:56,450 --> 00:05:01,640

the story was he went to buy
me a strand of beads and--

94

00:05:01,640 --> 00:05:04,420

while it was winter,
and he slipped.

95

00:05:04,420 --> 00:05:08,110

And instead of going
to his mom's house,

96

00:05:08,110 --> 00:05:10,210

he decided he wanted
to come to our house.

97

00:05:10,210 --> 00:05:11,200

And he stayed by us.

98

00:05:11,200 --> 00:05:15,700

He had a cast on his leg, and
he stayed in our apartment

99

00:05:15,700 --> 00:05:18,490

and my mom and dad
helped him to get better.

100

00:05:18,490 --> 00:05:22,660

Well, he became a member of
parliament now in Israel.

101

00:05:22,660 --> 00:05:24,790

And as I said, he's
Yeshiva President.

102

00:05:24,790 --> 00:05:29,920

He married a lady in Israel that
was voted the woman of the year

103

00:05:29,920 --> 00:05:33,655

in Israel, because he

and his wife adopted--

104
00:05:33,655 --> 00:05:36,430

105
00:05:36,430 --> 00:05:37,510
can I just speak?

106
00:05:37,510 --> 00:05:38,290
Yeah.

107
00:05:38,290 --> 00:05:42,610
I was saying that they adopt--
my cousin Haim, he adopted--

108
00:05:42,610 --> 00:05:44,260
I think they have
like seven children.

109
00:05:44,260 --> 00:05:46,960
And most of the-- he adopted
quite a few of them--

110
00:05:46,960 --> 00:05:48,010
adopted children.

111
00:05:48,010 --> 00:05:50,530
But he adopted children
that were handicapped.

112
00:05:50,530 --> 00:05:55,750
And each one he
helped to get well.

113
00:05:55,750 --> 00:05:57,970
So they-- she was voted
the mother of the year.

114
00:05:57,970 --> 00:06:02,340
She was-- she's a pediatrician
in Hadassah Hospital.

115

00:06:02,340 --> 00:06:05,010
So people did fine.

116
00:06:05,010 --> 00:06:07,710
In my case, my sister--

117
00:06:07,710 --> 00:06:12,060
I have a sister here
that was born here.

118
00:06:12,060 --> 00:06:15,920
I have-- as I said,
I have a sister that

119
00:06:15,920 --> 00:06:17,540
was born in the United States.

120
00:06:17,540 --> 00:06:21,950
Her name is Shelly, and
she's married, her--

121
00:06:21,950 --> 00:06:24,290
she's Shelly Debate.

122
00:06:24,290 --> 00:06:29,030
She has two children who are
beautiful and the brightest.

123
00:06:29,030 --> 00:06:34,310
I have-- she's a lawyer
and so is her husband.

124
00:06:34,310 --> 00:06:40,010
I have-- myself, I'm married
to a dermatologist who

125
00:06:40,010 --> 00:06:43,820
is quite well known for
his work in cryo surgery

126
00:06:43,820 --> 00:06:47,780
and very nice looking young man.

127

00:06:47,780 --> 00:06:50,480

And I have three children--

128

00:06:50,480 --> 00:06:53,270

a son who is a doctor, a
daughter who's a lawyer,

129

00:06:53,270 --> 00:06:57,110

and another daughter
who's in medicine.

130

00:06:57,110 --> 00:07:02,340

Their names are Melina and
Julie and my son's Avery.

131

00:07:02,340 --> 00:07:09,150

So my cousin Sally, my
cousin Sally is married,

132

00:07:09,150 --> 00:07:12,120

and her last name is Sturm.

133

00:07:12,120 --> 00:07:15,600

She has four children and
they're all professionals,

134

00:07:15,600 --> 00:07:16,870

as well.

135

00:07:16,870 --> 00:07:21,240

So from the people that
I know, or the ones that

136

00:07:21,240 --> 00:07:23,280

are even in Israel,
they've gotten to Israel,

137

00:07:23,280 --> 00:07:26,130

they all did fine.

138

00:07:26,130 --> 00:07:28,320

I need to back you up

just a little bit, though.

139

00:07:28,320 --> 00:07:31,740

And can you tell
me about the steps

140

00:07:31,740 --> 00:07:33,960

that you took to
rebuild your life?

141

00:07:33,960 --> 00:07:36,690

How did you-- where
did you go, first,

142

00:07:36,690 --> 00:07:41,990
and how did you begin again?

143

00:07:41,990 --> 00:07:44,570

You have to explain what you
mean by that before I go into--

144

00:07:44,570 --> 00:07:48,260

After liberation, let's
go back to liberation.

145

00:07:48,260 --> 00:07:51,860

Oh, you mean from
Czernowitz where we went.

146

00:07:51,860 --> 00:07:53,420

Exactly.

147

00:07:53,420 --> 00:07:57,340

Wait a minute, let me
just think a minute.

148

00:07:57,340 --> 00:07:58,135

OK.

149

00:07:58,135 --> 00:07:59,950

Let me just see what I've got.

150

00:07:59,950 --> 00:08:00,450
Well--

151
00:08:00,450 --> 00:08:03,000

152
00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:04,680
I wanted to know--

153
00:08:04,680 --> 00:08:06,390
the war is over now.

154
00:08:06,390 --> 00:08:09,870
You said your father went
back to the hometown.

155
00:08:09,870 --> 00:08:14,450
But after that, what did you do?

156
00:08:14,450 --> 00:08:16,800
Well, we stayed in
Czernowitz for a while,

157
00:08:16,800 --> 00:08:20,570
but the Russians, as I
said, had come in there.

158
00:08:20,570 --> 00:08:24,740
And they were no picnic, either.

159
00:08:24,740 --> 00:08:29,200
What they did one
day, they decided

160
00:08:29,200 --> 00:08:34,340
they needed young
people for work.

161
00:08:34,340 --> 00:08:38,720
So my cousin Sally
was in school.

162

00:08:38,720 --> 00:08:44,280
And so they went to the
public schools, the trucks,

163
00:08:44,280 --> 00:08:46,920
and they got all the young
people from the classrooms

164
00:08:46,920 --> 00:08:50,456
to take them away, never to
see their families again.

165
00:08:50,456 --> 00:08:52,800
Sally said people jumped
out of windows so that they

166
00:08:52,800 --> 00:08:54,600
would break a leg and let go.

167
00:08:54,600 --> 00:08:57,060
She was on her way,
they were marching her

168
00:08:57,060 --> 00:09:03,100
to a truck to take them away,
when she kind of walked away

169
00:09:03,100 --> 00:09:05,410
in a different direction
and saved herself.

170
00:09:05,410 --> 00:09:08,247
So they did funny things,
too, the Russians.

171
00:09:08,247 --> 00:09:09,580
And I shouldn't call them funny.

172
00:09:09,580 --> 00:09:10,300
They weren't.

173
00:09:10,300 --> 00:09:13,000
They were tragic, very tragic.

174
00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:17,570
And we didn't stay
there very long.

175
00:09:17,570 --> 00:09:18,560
We moved on.

176
00:09:18,560 --> 00:09:21,470
We were hoping to come
to the United States.

177
00:09:21,470 --> 00:09:23,120
We had family here,
and we were waiting

178
00:09:23,120 --> 00:09:25,520
to get a visa to come here.

179
00:09:25,520 --> 00:09:30,420
So from there, we got
a horse and buggy,

180
00:09:30,420 --> 00:09:32,980
and we put all
our stuff into it.

181
00:09:32,980 --> 00:09:36,390
My cousin Khuma, who I mentioned
before, was with us, too.

182
00:09:36,390 --> 00:09:37,710
She joined us.

183
00:09:37,710 --> 00:09:42,780
And we went on to
the train station.

184
00:09:42,780 --> 00:09:45,480
There is a certain area
where we took the train,

185

00:09:45,480 --> 00:09:48,000
and we went to
Romania, to Bucharest.

186
00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:51,200

187
00:09:51,200 --> 00:09:55,370
While on the train, I remember
looking out the train window,

188
00:09:55,370 --> 00:10:04,970
and there were wired
areas, like camp,

189
00:10:04,970 --> 00:10:07,430
and there were Nazis there.

190
00:10:07,430 --> 00:10:09,230
And as the train
was going by, they

191
00:10:09,230 --> 00:10:11,990
were screaming we should
help them for food.

192
00:10:11,990 --> 00:10:14,420
And people from the
train were throwing bread

193
00:10:14,420 --> 00:10:22,850
to them, which was a very
poignant kind of memory

194
00:10:22,850 --> 00:10:24,020
in my mind.

195
00:10:24,020 --> 00:10:27,060
They were begging for food.

196
00:10:27,060 --> 00:10:31,560
Anyway, we got to Romania
and we stayed in Bucharest.

197

00:10:31,560 --> 00:10:36,360

And we kept in touch with our family in America all the time.

198

00:10:36,360 --> 00:10:39,780

My dad had a sister here.

199

00:10:39,780 --> 00:10:52,260

And from Romania, we went to Czechoslovakia, to Prague.

200

00:10:52,260 --> 00:10:55,170

We stayed there for a while, and then we went--

201

00:10:55,170 --> 00:10:57,270

all this time we were waiting to come to America.

202

00:10:57,270 --> 00:10:59,250

We were actually waiting for a visa.

203

00:10:59,250 --> 00:11:01,520

It just took this long.

204

00:11:01,520 --> 00:11:04,670

And then from there we were in Italy

205

00:11:04,670 --> 00:11:13,080

in the camp, which was for displaced people in Trani.

206

00:11:13,080 --> 00:11:14,290

And we stayed there.

207

00:11:14,290 --> 00:11:23,130

People in that camp, they had like huge barracks, big rooms.

208

00:11:23,130 --> 00:11:25,990
And they divided up these rooms.

209
00:11:25,990 --> 00:11:28,710
They put like little cots
in different corners,

210
00:11:28,710 --> 00:11:33,330
and they had like curtains
drawing around each cot.

211
00:11:33,330 --> 00:11:35,880
And that was considered
a little room.

212
00:11:35,880 --> 00:11:37,950
And people just
slept on these cots.

213
00:11:37,950 --> 00:11:40,260
So they were many,
many people there,

214
00:11:40,260 --> 00:11:42,690
hundreds of people
sleeping on these cots.

215
00:11:42,690 --> 00:11:44,010
They had a kitchen.

216
00:11:44,010 --> 00:11:45,690
They gave us food.

217
00:11:45,690 --> 00:11:49,680
They had some
shaliach from Israel.

218
00:11:49,680 --> 00:11:53,370
They had people coming from
Israel to teach us from Israel,

219
00:11:53,370 --> 00:11:55,650
and they were speaking

Hebrew, and they

220

00:11:55,650 --> 00:12:01,050
were showing us how to
do needlework, the women,

221

00:12:01,050 --> 00:12:03,070
and teaching us Hebrew.

222

00:12:03,070 --> 00:12:07,140
And it was just a good feeling
to be together with all

223

00:12:07,140 --> 00:12:10,380
these Jews from everywhere.

224

00:12:10,380 --> 00:12:14,300
Many from there went to America,
and many went to Israel.

225

00:12:14,300 --> 00:12:18,650
And that's where we
got our passports

226

00:12:18,650 --> 00:12:22,640
to go-- come to America.

227

00:12:22,640 --> 00:12:25,700
And we came here.

228

00:12:25,700 --> 00:12:27,860
As I said, my dad had a sister.

229

00:12:27,860 --> 00:12:30,640

230

00:12:30,640 --> 00:12:37,600
Rosner is her last name, Dora
Rosner and Julius Rosner.

231

00:12:37,600 --> 00:12:38,710
And so we came here.

232
00:12:38,710 --> 00:12:44,750
And in America, my dad, he
could have taught Hebrew.

233
00:12:44,750 --> 00:12:49,290
He was very bright,
very scholarly,

234
00:12:49,290 --> 00:12:52,590
but he needed to
earn a living and he

235
00:12:52,590 --> 00:12:55,920
felt he could do it better by
opening up a small store, which

236
00:12:55,920 --> 00:12:59,650
he did, a grocery store.

237
00:12:59,650 --> 00:13:02,560
When did you come to the US?

238
00:13:02,560 --> 00:13:03,325
I have to think.

239
00:13:03,325 --> 00:13:10,920

240
00:13:10,920 --> 00:13:11,960
OK.

241
00:13:11,960 --> 00:13:13,370
See if you can help me out.

242
00:13:13,370 --> 00:13:14,340
How old were you?

243
00:13:14,340 --> 00:13:14,840
OK.

244

00:13:14,840 --> 00:13:19,670
I was-- I think I was about 11.

245
00:13:19,670 --> 00:13:20,170
OK.

246
00:13:20,170 --> 00:13:20,980
So figure it out.

247
00:13:20,980 --> 00:13:25,670
1937-- no way I can think today.

248
00:13:25,670 --> 00:13:30,410
11 and '37 is 1948.

249
00:13:30,410 --> 00:13:33,410
And where did you settle?

250
00:13:33,410 --> 00:13:40,370
We lived-- first, we lived in
King's Highway in Brooklyn--

251
00:13:40,370 --> 00:13:41,523
in Brooklyn.

252
00:13:41,523 --> 00:13:42,815
And I went to Brooklyn College.

253
00:13:42,815 --> 00:13:46,450

254
00:13:46,450 --> 00:13:52,090
And then my sister was born
here in the United States.

255
00:13:52,090 --> 00:13:58,162

256
00:13:58,162 --> 00:14:00,370
I want you to go back and
tell me about your father's

257

00:14:00,370 --> 00:14:02,770

livelihood, but I have one
more question in the interim,

258

00:14:02,770 --> 00:14:06,050

as long as I've
interrupted you anyway.

259

00:14:06,050 --> 00:14:07,790

When you first came
here, how are you

260

00:14:07,790 --> 00:14:10,370

treated by the Americans?

261

00:14:10,370 --> 00:14:12,410

Very nicely.

262

00:14:12,410 --> 00:14:16,650

When I-- first of
all, I had pigtails,

263

00:14:16,650 --> 00:14:20,520

and they thought I looked like
Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz,

264

00:14:20,520 --> 00:14:21,225

Judy Garland.

265

00:14:21,225 --> 00:14:23,940

266

00:14:23,940 --> 00:14:30,890

And my dad taught me during the
war math and everything else.

267

00:14:30,890 --> 00:14:35,250

So when I came here, I really
was even ahead of my grade.

268

00:14:35,250 --> 00:14:38,010

I didn't miss anything

out in school work.

269

00:14:38,010 --> 00:14:43,870

And I felt very comfortable here.

270

00:14:43,870 --> 00:14:46,720

I mean, I felt like I didn't have to get

271

00:14:46,720 --> 00:14:48,080

used to living in America.

272

00:14:48,080 --> 00:14:50,020

I felt it was home.

273

00:14:50,020 --> 00:14:51,160

I felt very good.

274

00:14:51,160 --> 00:14:54,310

275

00:14:54,310 --> 00:14:57,190

Did anybody ask you or your family about your experiences

276

00:14:57,190 --> 00:15:00,510

during the Holocaust?

277

00:15:00,510 --> 00:15:01,770

They did not ask--

278

00:15:01,770 --> 00:15:02,820

well, I was a child.

279

00:15:02,820 --> 00:15:04,050

They wouldn't have asked me.

280

00:15:04,050 --> 00:15:06,900

And maybe they asked my dad.

281

00:15:06,900 --> 00:15:12,040
Well, there was a society
in America made up

282
00:15:12,040 --> 00:15:17,470
of people who had left
Kuty before the Holocaust,

283
00:15:17,470 --> 00:15:21,710
before the war, were
like my aunt living here.

284
00:15:21,710 --> 00:15:25,550
A society of [? Kitevry ?] Jews.

285
00:15:25,550 --> 00:15:29,900
And my dad became the
President of the society,

286
00:15:29,900 --> 00:15:34,770
and they got together,
they did things.

287
00:15:34,770 --> 00:15:37,170
I'm sure there were lots of
other organizations like this

288
00:15:37,170 --> 00:15:38,545
for many of the
other people that

289
00:15:38,545 --> 00:15:40,590
came from various countries.

290
00:15:40,590 --> 00:15:43,040
But that's what they joined.

291
00:15:43,040 --> 00:15:46,730
And they more or less-- yes,
they were certainly interested

292
00:15:46,730 --> 00:15:51,720
in everything and encouraged--

293

00:15:51,720 --> 00:15:55,040

was very happy about dad
having kept this diary,

294

00:15:55,040 --> 00:15:57,110

and that he was going
to write this book.

295

00:15:57,110 --> 00:16:04,620

The book is in the Museum
in Yad Vashem in Israel.

296

00:16:04,620 --> 00:16:08,320

And it's also in the New York
Public Library, the book.

297

00:16:08,320 --> 00:16:18,320

So I think what he
did was a miracle.

298

00:16:18,320 --> 00:16:21,620

It's not just a book, a miracle.

299

00:16:21,620 --> 00:16:24,200

You mentioned that he was
working in a grocery store.

300

00:16:24,200 --> 00:16:26,390

So he was working during
the day, and writing?

301

00:16:26,390 --> 00:16:26,930

Yes.

302

00:16:26,930 --> 00:16:28,100

He worked during the day.

303

00:16:28,100 --> 00:16:31,250

He worked very hard during
the day in the grocery store

304

00:16:31,250 --> 00:16:33,410
carrying packages and
working very hard.

305
00:16:33,410 --> 00:16:40,360
And at night, he would type on
the typewriter the book, yes.

306
00:16:40,360 --> 00:16:44,560
And I think he's mentioned
in the Judea Encyclopedia,

307
00:16:44,560 --> 00:16:46,780
as well, his work.

308
00:16:46,780 --> 00:16:51,930
So he was-- and he had
even somebody write him

309
00:16:51,930 --> 00:16:55,070
up in the Forverts at that
time when we came to America.

310
00:16:55,070 --> 00:16:57,480
So he was very happy about that.

311
00:16:57,480 --> 00:17:00,840
And I think he even--
in Israel, he--

312
00:17:00,840 --> 00:17:03,480
from what I remember, he
knew one or two people

313
00:17:03,480 --> 00:17:06,240
that were in the
parliament that knew him,

314
00:17:06,240 --> 00:17:09,550
because he was into things.

315
00:17:09,550 --> 00:17:13,750
He was interested

in things and he's--

316

00:17:13,750 --> 00:17:17,589

he was, I think,
a marvelous man.

317

00:17:17,589 --> 00:17:20,980

Did you ever go back
to your hometown?

318

00:17:20,980 --> 00:17:23,829

No, I never went back.

319

00:17:23,829 --> 00:17:28,240

I always thought as a child
that if I ever went back there,

320

00:17:28,240 --> 00:17:30,430

I could bring everybody back.

321

00:17:30,430 --> 00:17:33,940

I'd walk down the street
and there they would be.

322

00:17:33,940 --> 00:17:38,520

And probably took all
these years for me

323

00:17:38,520 --> 00:17:42,700

to feel that I could really
tell about everything

324

00:17:42,700 --> 00:17:48,260

and not feel so hurt so
that I couldn't talk.

325

00:17:48,260 --> 00:17:53,230

But I don't feel I would
really want to revisit.

326

00:17:53,230 --> 00:17:56,690

There's probably
nothing there that was--

327
00:17:56,690 --> 00:18:00,210
from what I understand,
Haim went back.

328
00:18:00,210 --> 00:18:04,110
And he said there were
condominiums being built.

329
00:18:04,110 --> 00:18:05,880
And who knows?

330
00:18:05,880 --> 00:18:15,660
But I certainly have
no interest to go.

331
00:18:15,660 --> 00:18:18,290
Do you have any idea how many
people survived from your town?

332
00:18:18,290 --> 00:18:26,030

333
00:18:26,030 --> 00:18:30,830
My dad mentions in the book
the names of three people,

334
00:18:30,830 --> 00:18:40,260
or something like that, that
he heard got out and survived.

335
00:18:40,260 --> 00:18:45,640
But basically, most
of the people did not.

336
00:18:45,640 --> 00:18:47,950
How many people in your
family altogether survived?

337
00:18:47,950 --> 00:18:52,750

338

00:18:52,750 --> 00:19:00,620
Well, again, it would be the
Drukman family, Haim's family,

339
00:19:00,620 --> 00:19:05,010
my cousin Sally,
and Khuma, and just

340
00:19:05,010 --> 00:19:08,020
me and my dad and my mother.

341
00:19:08,020 --> 00:19:10,090
My mother had a
very big family--

342
00:19:10,090 --> 00:19:11,410
brothers and sisters and--

343
00:19:11,410 --> 00:19:14,060

344
00:19:14,060 --> 00:19:16,060
not many.

345
00:19:16,060 --> 00:19:16,650
That's it.

346
00:19:16,650 --> 00:19:21,820

347
00:19:21,820 --> 00:19:25,588
Did you discuss the war
years with your parents

348
00:19:25,588 --> 00:19:26,880
after you came to this country?

349
00:19:26,880 --> 00:19:29,790

350
00:19:29,790 --> 00:19:34,350
No, I never really did.

351
00:19:34,350 --> 00:19:35,390
I don't know why.

352
00:19:35,390 --> 00:19:38,490
I guess because I was so young.

353
00:19:38,490 --> 00:19:42,120
I guess that's the only
reason that I never did,

354
00:19:42,120 --> 00:19:43,980
because I was young.

355
00:19:43,980 --> 00:19:46,480
And it was something
that happened.

356
00:19:46,480 --> 00:19:48,750
It was over.

357
00:19:48,750 --> 00:19:50,700
And we had new lives here.

358
00:19:50,700 --> 00:19:54,810
And I never thought I'd
sit down and talk about it.

359
00:19:54,810 --> 00:20:01,230
My children discussed it
with my mother and my dad.

360
00:20:01,230 --> 00:20:02,550
They were more interested.

361
00:20:02,550 --> 00:20:05,490
They-- I remember always my
son would sit with my mother

362
00:20:05,490 --> 00:20:07,890
and ask her things,
and she would tell him

363

00:20:07,890 --> 00:20:11,940

about different little stories
about the town and all that.

364

00:20:11,940 --> 00:20:17,880

But I don't personally remember
really sitting down and talking

365

00:20:17,880 --> 00:20:18,380

about it.

366

00:20:18,380 --> 00:20:24,140

367

00:20:24,140 --> 00:20:25,520

I really don't.

368

00:20:25,520 --> 00:20:33,290

I wanted to ask you when
you lost your parents.

369

00:20:33,290 --> 00:20:44,360

Well, my dad died in
1979, and my mother 1989.

370

00:20:44,360 --> 00:20:45,710

Not-- they--

371

00:20:45,710 --> 00:20:46,970

I think my dad was 72--

372

00:20:46,970 --> 00:20:50,450

373

00:20:50,450 --> 00:20:51,500

71, 72.

374

00:20:51,500 --> 00:20:52,715

My mother was 82.

375

00:20:52,715 --> 00:20:56,553

376

00:20:56,553 --> 00:20:58,220

Do you have any
recollection on how long

377

00:20:58,220 --> 00:21:01,370

it took your father to
actually write the book that we

378

00:21:01,370 --> 00:21:02,470

have before us today?

379

00:21:02,470 --> 00:21:06,370

380

00:21:06,370 --> 00:21:08,440

I could only guess at it.

381

00:21:08,440 --> 00:21:12,760

I know I remember him sitting at
that typewriter for many nights

382

00:21:12,760 --> 00:21:13,360

and doing it.

383

00:21:13,360 --> 00:21:19,675

I would say, like maybe
two years, at least.

384

00:21:19,675 --> 00:21:24,070

385

00:21:24,070 --> 00:21:27,580

I did want to ask you
if there's anything

386

00:21:27,580 --> 00:21:29,620

that you wanted to add
before we conclude,

387

00:21:29,620 --> 00:21:32,230
if anything else has
come to your mind?

388
00:21:32,230 --> 00:21:36,520
Again, I realize that you
remember episodes, but is there

389
00:21:36,520 --> 00:21:39,380
any other image in
your mind, any person

390
00:21:39,380 --> 00:21:44,020
that stands out in your mind,
an event, that you can recall?

391
00:21:44,020 --> 00:21:51,940
Well, one thing I remember, and
I know my mother had told this

392
00:21:51,940 --> 00:21:58,690
to my son, as well, is that when
we were in Kutu at one time,

393
00:21:58,690 --> 00:22:02,290
one of the SS people
came to our house.

394
00:22:02,290 --> 00:22:07,060
And he was telling my
parents that his wife wants

395
00:22:07,060 --> 00:22:09,580
to have a baby and
she can't have a baby.

396
00:22:09,580 --> 00:22:12,920
And he said, why don't you
give me your little girl?

397
00:22:12,920 --> 00:22:14,140
I will take care of her.

398

00:22:14,140 --> 00:22:16,150
At least she'll be alive.

399
00:22:16,150 --> 00:22:18,062
Because you
certainly don't think

400
00:22:18,062 --> 00:22:19,270
you're going to survive this.

401
00:22:19,270 --> 00:22:21,590
You're not going to make it.

402
00:22:21,590 --> 00:22:24,205
And it just stands
out in my mind

403
00:22:24,205 --> 00:22:27,930
how people can sit and talk
about this very casually

404
00:22:27,930 --> 00:22:30,010
and walk away from it.

405
00:22:30,010 --> 00:22:31,440
But he was serious.

406
00:22:31,440 --> 00:22:41,190
And I guess we believed him,
but we didn't go the next day

407
00:22:41,190 --> 00:22:44,110
and take our things and run.

408
00:22:44,110 --> 00:22:45,565
That sort of stood
out in my mind.

409
00:22:45,565 --> 00:22:48,560

410
00:22:48,560 --> 00:22:53,900

And I'll tell you,
there were stories--

411
00:22:53,900 --> 00:22:58,980
I remember in Czernowitz when we
were there, nothing terribly--

412
00:22:58,980 --> 00:23:01,530
but there were things
lying all over the place,

413
00:23:01,530 --> 00:23:03,510
like shells and things.

414
00:23:03,510 --> 00:23:08,350
I remember picking up a
bullet and playing with it.

415
00:23:08,350 --> 00:23:11,200
And then I just threw
it away and it exploded.

416
00:23:11,200 --> 00:23:13,780
And nothing happened
to me, but I'm just

417
00:23:13,780 --> 00:23:15,530
saying these things
are lying everywhere.

418
00:23:15,530 --> 00:23:21,760
And it was still like after the
war and different incidents,

419
00:23:21,760 --> 00:23:26,180
which it was just part of life.

420
00:23:26,180 --> 00:23:28,970
You said that the
German soldier offered

421
00:23:28,970 --> 00:23:30,710
to take you from your parents.

422
00:23:30,710 --> 00:23:32,540
Were you blond?

423
00:23:32,540 --> 00:23:33,290
No.

424
00:23:33,290 --> 00:23:35,030
No, but I was--

425
00:23:35,030 --> 00:23:37,250
if you look at my
pictures, I was cute.

426
00:23:37,250 --> 00:23:43,070
I had-- my hair was short,
cut very short, butch like,

427
00:23:43,070 --> 00:23:46,370
real short, but dark looking.

428
00:23:46,370 --> 00:23:51,500
And we were well off to
do family once in Kutu,

429
00:23:51,500 --> 00:23:53,840
so I had pretty little clothes.

430
00:23:53,840 --> 00:23:55,340
And I had one or
two little dresses,

431
00:23:55,340 --> 00:23:57,110
and I probably look
cute walking around.

432
00:23:57,110 --> 00:24:03,090
And he decided this is somebody
he'd want to have as a child.

433
00:24:03,090 --> 00:24:06,720
It's interesting that he just

didn't say, I'm taking her.

434
00:24:06,720 --> 00:24:08,580
But he-- they didn't--

435
00:24:08,580 --> 00:24:10,930
they had certain days
that they came for you.

436
00:24:10,930 --> 00:24:13,530
And they had certain days that
they were going to kill you.

437
00:24:13,530 --> 00:24:18,630
And they-- it was all
planned out like from A to Z.

438
00:24:18,630 --> 00:24:23,760
And they liquidated all
the Jews in Poland in 1943.

439
00:24:23,760 --> 00:24:27,130
And Poland was judenfrei.

440
00:24:27,130 --> 00:24:28,270
No Jews.

441
00:24:28,270 --> 00:24:30,940
And they did it in
a systematic manner.

442
00:24:30,940 --> 00:24:32,650
There's no question about it.

443
00:24:32,650 --> 00:24:35,080
Because if they came around
and they were shooting people

444
00:24:35,080 --> 00:24:39,040
on the street with the
machine guns, and the next day

445

00:24:39,040 --> 00:24:41,872
you could walk out and
they wouldn't shoot you.

446
00:24:41,872 --> 00:24:42,830
Isn't that interesting?

447
00:24:42,830 --> 00:24:46,320
Why didn't they come
all at once and get you?

448
00:24:46,320 --> 00:24:47,820
So they had a plan.

449
00:24:47,820 --> 00:24:49,590
It was a planned type of thing.

450
00:24:49,590 --> 00:24:54,020
And, oh, there's a story,
too, in Kutny, and my dad--

451
00:24:54,020 --> 00:24:58,500
but my dad has lots
of these stories.

452
00:24:58,500 --> 00:25:03,037
One of the stories that he tells
in the book is the Judensrat.

453
00:25:03,037 --> 00:25:05,120
They were the ones that
got the Germans everything

454
00:25:05,120 --> 00:25:08,310
they needed from the Jews, and
if they needed other things.

455
00:25:08,310 --> 00:25:12,320
So some of the SS people,
they wanted certain villas,

456
00:25:12,320 --> 00:25:14,510
certain houses in Kutny.

457
00:25:14,510 --> 00:25:17,410
And the Judensrat
got it for them.

458
00:25:17,410 --> 00:25:20,870
And when they moved in, they
brought their sweethearts

459
00:25:20,870 --> 00:25:23,120
and their mother
to come to Kutu.

460
00:25:23,120 --> 00:25:24,800
And what they did
is, the SS, they

461
00:25:24,800 --> 00:25:27,740
took them around
to show them where

462
00:25:27,740 --> 00:25:29,990
they buried the Jews,
where the Jews are buried,

463
00:25:29,990 --> 00:25:33,050
and to show them how
well they're handling

464
00:25:33,050 --> 00:25:36,380
the liquidation of the Jews.

465
00:25:36,380 --> 00:25:39,500
We were like, I don't know
what specimens in there

466
00:25:39,500 --> 00:25:42,946
eyes, really, some things
they had to get rid of.

467
00:25:42,946 --> 00:25:44,070
And that's what they did.

468

00:25:44,070 --> 00:25:46,670

469

00:25:46,670 --> 00:25:52,620

It was like my dad said,
the worst tragedy ever,

470

00:25:52,620 --> 00:25:55,410

because these were
innocent people.

471

00:25:55,410 --> 00:26:02,220

No-- didn't do anybody
any harm, and they just

472

00:26:02,220 --> 00:26:05,624

decided in different
fashions to get rid of them.

473

00:26:05,624 --> 00:26:12,953

474

00:26:12,953 --> 00:26:14,870

I thank you very much
for doing the interview.

475

00:26:14,870 --> 00:26:17,990

I know it was not
easy for you today.

476

00:26:17,990 --> 00:26:21,500

And with that, I will
conclude the interview today.

477

00:26:21,500 --> 00:26:22,000