

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,630

2
00:00:03,630 --> 00:00:06,990
This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3
00:00:06,990 --> 00:00:12,690
Volunteer Collection interview
with Liselotte Epstein Ivry,

4
00:00:12,690 --> 00:00:18,300
conducted by Gail Schwartz
on November 29, 2012

5
00:00:18,300 --> 00:00:22,860
in Washington, D.C.
This interview is

6
00:00:22,860 --> 00:00:26,830
being conducted over the phone.

7
00:00:26,830 --> 00:00:29,870
What is your full name?

8
00:00:29,870 --> 00:00:30,650
My full name?

9
00:00:30,650 --> 00:00:31,720
Yes, your full name.

10
00:00:31,720 --> 00:00:34,060
Liselotte Epstein Ivry.

11
00:00:34,060 --> 00:00:35,560
And when were you born?

12
00:00:35,560 --> 00:00:37,160
And where were you born?

13

00:00:37,160 --> 00:00:42,130
I was born in a little village
called, in Czech, [CZECH],,

14
00:00:42,130 --> 00:00:49,000
and in German, Liechtenstein,
in Bohemia, Czech Republic.

15
00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:52,270
And now, let's talk a little
bit about your family.

16
00:00:52,270 --> 00:00:54,520
Your parents' names were?

17
00:00:54,520 --> 00:00:57,235
My father's name
was Victor Ivry--

18
00:00:57,235 --> 00:00:58,975
[LAUGHS] Victor Ivry.

19
00:00:58,975 --> 00:01:01,540
Victor Epstein.

20
00:01:01,540 --> 00:01:04,269
Because my son is Victor Ivry.

21
00:01:04,269 --> 00:01:09,742
And my mother's name was
Elsa Epstein, born Sicher,

22
00:01:09,742 --> 00:01:12,610
S-I-C-H-E-R.

23
00:01:12,610 --> 00:01:15,370
Do you know when they
were born and where?

24
00:01:15,370 --> 00:01:20,320
I don't know when
my father was born.

25

00:01:20,320 --> 00:01:23,410

He was born in a village
not far from where

26

00:01:23,410 --> 00:01:29,290

we lived in Ujezd or [CZECH].

27

00:01:29,290 --> 00:01:30,883

Oh, OK.

28

00:01:30,883 --> 00:01:31,800

How do you spell that?

29

00:01:31,800 --> 00:01:34,380

30

00:01:34,380 --> 00:01:36,570

It's OK if you don't--

31

00:01:36,570 --> 00:01:39,320

[INAUDIBLE] In
Czech, it's Ujezd.

32

00:01:39,320 --> 00:01:46,890

U-J-E-Z-D. And I
don't his birthday.

33

00:01:46,890 --> 00:01:47,390

Yes.

34

00:01:47,390 --> 00:01:50,125

Because my father died
when I was 3 and 1/2.

35

00:01:50,125 --> 00:01:50,875

Oh, oh, all right.

36

00:01:50,875 --> 00:01:53,030

So I don't know his birthday.

37

00:01:53,030 --> 00:02:00,690

And my mother was born on
the 27th of September, 1890.

38
00:02:00,690 --> 00:02:04,550
Let's talk a little bit about
your parents' background.

39
00:02:04,550 --> 00:02:06,740
What kind of work
did your father do?

40
00:02:06,740 --> 00:02:12,600
Well, my father, as a
young man, was a soldier.

41
00:02:12,600 --> 00:02:15,320
He was in the First World War.

42
00:02:15,320 --> 00:02:20,330
And when he came back, he got
married to my mother in 1920,

43
00:02:20,330 --> 00:02:21,830
I believe.

44
00:02:21,830 --> 00:02:26,517
And they had a general store.

45
00:02:26,517 --> 00:02:27,350
And then my mother--

46
00:02:27,350 --> 00:02:28,220
Where was that?

47
00:02:28,220 --> 00:02:28,970
Where was that?

48
00:02:28,970 --> 00:02:32,000
That was in [CZECH],,
in Liechtenstein.

49
00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:36,530

And when my father passed away,
my mother continued the store.

50
00:02:36,530 --> 00:02:39,060
It was a very successful store.

51
00:02:39,060 --> 00:02:40,290
What kind of store was it?

52
00:02:40,290 --> 00:02:42,350
Oh, we could sell anything.

53
00:02:42,350 --> 00:02:45,800
We were like-- when somebody
asks me, what kind of store,

54
00:02:45,800 --> 00:02:48,590
I said there were-- like in
Canada I would say Eaton's.

55
00:02:48,590 --> 00:02:53,570
Like in the United States,
I would say like Macy's.

56
00:02:53,570 --> 00:02:57,900
The only thing, Macy's
didn't sell any food.

57
00:02:57,900 --> 00:03:05,090
We sold rice, and flour, and
cream of wheat, and herring,

58
00:03:05,090 --> 00:03:11,540
and salamis, and rolls,
and whatever you--

59
00:03:11,540 --> 00:03:20,690
and also beddings buy
the yard, yard goods.

60
00:03:20,690 --> 00:03:27,671
And we sold things
like buttons, and silk,

61
00:03:27,671 --> 00:03:30,730
and we sold petrol, and nails.

62
00:03:30,730 --> 00:03:33,380
And whatever you
wanted, we had it.

63
00:03:33,380 --> 00:03:34,890
Were you an only child?

64
00:03:34,890 --> 00:03:35,390
No.

65
00:03:35,390 --> 00:03:37,880
I had a younger brother
by the name of--

66
00:03:37,880 --> 00:03:39,620
my mother called him Hans.

67
00:03:39,620 --> 00:03:41,720
But now, he's in Czech.

68
00:03:41,720 --> 00:03:43,940
It's [? Hanush ?] Epstein.

69
00:03:43,940 --> 00:03:45,050
And when was he born?

70
00:03:45,050 --> 00:03:51,180
He was born on the
8th of June, 1927.

71
00:03:51,180 --> 00:03:54,530
And so you said your father
died when you were quite young.

72
00:03:54,530 --> 00:03:56,050
When I was 3 and 1/2.

73

00:03:56,050 --> 00:03:57,440
Yeah.

74
00:03:57,440 --> 00:04:00,458
And how religious
was your family

75
00:04:00,458 --> 00:04:01,500
when you were growing up?

76
00:04:01,500 --> 00:04:05,690
Well, you have to understand,
in Bohemia, in Western Bohemia,

77
00:04:05,690 --> 00:04:08,240
the Jews were not religious.

78
00:04:08,240 --> 00:04:11,650
They kept holidays.

79
00:04:11,650 --> 00:04:15,570
And in our little village,
we didn't have a synagogue.

80
00:04:15,570 --> 00:04:16,070
Oh.

81
00:04:16,070 --> 00:04:22,100
So on the holidays, we
went to next door village,

82
00:04:22,100 --> 00:04:23,480
and there was a synagogue.

83
00:04:23,480 --> 00:04:26,900
But soon after, there
were not enough people.

84
00:04:26,900 --> 00:04:29,670
So we didn't-- we
stopped going there,

85

00:04:29,670 --> 00:04:34,130
and we started going to
another one in another village.

86
00:04:34,130 --> 00:04:37,460
And that was called
[PLACE NAME]..

87
00:04:37,460 --> 00:04:41,523
And there, we went to the
synagogue on the holidays.

88
00:04:41,523 --> 00:04:42,440
On the holidays, yeah.

89
00:04:42,440 --> 00:04:43,620
We kept the holidays.

90
00:04:43,620 --> 00:04:46,130

91
00:04:46,130 --> 00:04:48,754
Did you observe the Sabbath
or anything like that?

92
00:04:48,754 --> 00:04:50,780
Well, we baked our own.

93
00:04:50,780 --> 00:04:52,210
And you know, we--

94
00:04:52,210 --> 00:04:54,410
it's very funny.

95
00:04:54,410 --> 00:05:01,670
Your friend, [? Mikael, ?]
asked me how I called the bread

96
00:05:01,670 --> 00:05:05,650
for Shabbat, the challah,
and I would say we called it

97

00:05:05,650 --> 00:05:06,470
[NON-ENGLISH].

98
00:05:06,470 --> 00:05:09,950
And she said, yes, that's
how they called it.

99
00:05:09,950 --> 00:05:12,320
So you observed the Sabbath?

100
00:05:12,320 --> 00:05:13,570
You observed the Shabbat?

101
00:05:13,570 --> 00:05:14,630
Yes.

102
00:05:14,630 --> 00:05:17,570
My mother had the
store open, but I

103
00:05:17,570 --> 00:05:19,820
wasn't allowed to do anything.

104
00:05:19,820 --> 00:05:22,400
I liked to do, even
as a little girl,

105
00:05:22,400 --> 00:05:24,050
I liked to do handicrafts.

106
00:05:24,050 --> 00:05:27,320
And she would never allow
me to do any handicrafts.

107
00:05:27,320 --> 00:05:29,460
She would say, you
have the whole week.

108
00:05:29,460 --> 00:05:30,560
You can do things.

109
00:05:30,560 --> 00:05:33,260

But on Shabbat,
you don't do that.

110
00:05:33,260 --> 00:05:35,000
Where did you live?

111
00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:37,520
Did you live in a Jewish
neighborhood or was it mixed?

112
00:05:37,520 --> 00:05:40,190
No, it was a little
village of 80 houses.

113
00:05:40,190 --> 00:05:41,550
Oh, only 80 houses?

114
00:05:41,550 --> 00:05:42,050
Yes.

115
00:05:42,050 --> 00:05:45,020
And how many of
them were Jewish?

116
00:05:45,020 --> 00:05:47,300
There were two other
Jewish families.

117
00:05:47,300 --> 00:05:50,060
Did they have children?

118
00:05:50,060 --> 00:05:53,330
Well, the one was
an older couple.

119
00:05:53,330 --> 00:05:57,740
And the younger ones,
they had one child.

120
00:05:57,740 --> 00:06:04,600
And he was born probably
1935 or something.

121
00:06:04,600 --> 00:06:06,500
He was a small baby then.

122
00:06:06,500 --> 00:06:07,890
I remember him.

123
00:06:07,890 --> 00:06:10,230
So your friends were
non-Jewish children?

124
00:06:10,230 --> 00:06:10,850
That's right.

125
00:06:10,850 --> 00:06:12,540
I went to public schools.

126
00:06:12,540 --> 00:06:14,650
I was going to ask you
about your school, yeah.

127
00:06:14,650 --> 00:06:19,370
But you know, this was
only a village school.

128
00:06:19,370 --> 00:06:23,060
It had only four classes
for eight grades.

129
00:06:23,060 --> 00:06:24,230
Oh, OK.

130
00:06:24,230 --> 00:06:28,970
And when I finished
my fifth grade,

131
00:06:28,970 --> 00:06:33,230
my mother felt that I
was a smart girl, that I

132
00:06:33,230 --> 00:06:35,790
should go to high school.

133

00:06:35,790 --> 00:06:40,790

So she inquired the next
city to where we were.

134

00:06:40,790 --> 00:06:44,330

It was called Pilsen, Pilsen.

135

00:06:44,330 --> 00:06:44,830

Yes.

136

00:06:44,830 --> 00:06:47,100

It's where [? Mikaela ?]
comes from.

137

00:06:47,100 --> 00:06:51,410

And so she went to a
school, a German school.

138

00:06:51,410 --> 00:06:54,440

And the principal said
that I have to write

139

00:06:54,440 --> 00:06:57,000

a little the exam, which I did.

140

00:06:57,000 --> 00:06:59,880

And I went there to school.

141

00:06:59,880 --> 00:07:05,110

But even so it only was 18
kilometers from our village,

142

00:07:05,110 --> 00:07:06,940

I couldn't do that.

143

00:07:06,940 --> 00:07:09,040

There was no transportation.

144

00:07:09,040 --> 00:07:12,580

And with horse and buggy, I
couldn't do that twice a day.

145

00:07:12,580 --> 00:07:13,140

Right.

146

00:07:13,140 --> 00:07:16,660

So my mother found a family where I was boarded.

147

00:07:16,660 --> 00:07:21,390

That means when I was 12 years old, I already left home.

148

00:07:21,390 --> 00:07:23,260

Oh.

149

00:07:23,260 --> 00:07:26,260

And but I found--

150

00:07:26,260 --> 00:07:30,160

I used to go to school and give lectures on the Holocaust.

151

00:07:30,160 --> 00:07:33,850

And I would tell the children that at 12 years of age

152

00:07:33,850 --> 00:07:35,740

I would be already on my own.

153

00:07:35,740 --> 00:07:38,410

And they said, oh, how horrible.

154

00:07:38,410 --> 00:07:41,860

And I would say, well, it wasn't so horrible.

155

00:07:41,860 --> 00:07:46,090

I became very self-sufficient, and I had to look after myself.

156

00:07:46,090 --> 00:07:49,630

And I said, it's very important.

157

00:07:49,630 --> 00:07:55,000

And, well, I was taught
from when I was very

158

00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:57,170

young to be self-sufficient.

159

00:07:57,170 --> 00:08:00,850

My mother would
send me on a train

160

00:08:00,850 --> 00:08:03,710

when I was six
years old to visit

161

00:08:03,710 --> 00:08:09,220

a uncle and aunt who had no
children in Southern Bohemia.

162

00:08:09,220 --> 00:08:11,500

And I wasn't afraid at all.

163

00:08:11,500 --> 00:08:13,102

They put me on the
train, and that

164

00:08:13,102 --> 00:08:14,310

was a whole day on the train.

165

00:08:14,310 --> 00:08:19,030

And then the other side, my
uncle would be waiting for me,

166

00:08:19,030 --> 00:08:23,200

and I had absolutely no fear.

167

00:08:23,200 --> 00:08:25,660

When you grow up
in a village, it's

168

00:08:25,660 --> 00:08:27,160

different like in the city.

169
00:08:27,160 --> 00:08:31,990
Because in the village,
you don't have this--

170
00:08:31,990 --> 00:08:34,059
well, we did have burglars.

171
00:08:34,059 --> 00:08:36,640
They burglaried our store.

172
00:08:36,640 --> 00:08:38,950
But I wasn't afraid.

173
00:08:38,950 --> 00:08:43,090
First of all, there was
maybe one or two cars.

174
00:08:43,090 --> 00:08:46,210
One of them was our doctor
from the next village,

175
00:08:46,210 --> 00:08:49,490
and he came through the
village like a crazy guy.

176
00:08:49,490 --> 00:08:52,360
So we used to say, go
away, go away quickly,

177
00:08:52,360 --> 00:08:54,580
because the
[INAUDIBLE] is coming.

178
00:08:54,580 --> 00:08:58,300
You know, even with the chickens
and the geese were running away

179
00:08:58,300 --> 00:08:58,995
on the street.

180
00:08:58,995 --> 00:09:00,590

Right.

181
00:09:00,590 --> 00:09:04,950
In front of our
house was a pond.

182
00:09:04,950 --> 00:09:08,340
And as children, we
would go swimming there.

183
00:09:08,340 --> 00:09:09,420
Nobody taught us.

184
00:09:09,420 --> 00:09:13,410
We just went in the
water and started, first,

185
00:09:13,410 --> 00:09:16,920
with one leg down, and then
we just lifted the other leg.

186
00:09:16,920 --> 00:09:19,260
And that's how we were swimming.

187
00:09:19,260 --> 00:09:24,420
And in winter, it froze over,
and we would be skating on it.

188
00:09:24,420 --> 00:09:25,920
But I was--

189
00:09:25,920 --> 00:09:27,840
I didn't have really
proper skates.

190
00:09:27,840 --> 00:09:29,670
My mother had a pair of skates.

191
00:09:29,670 --> 00:09:32,460
Can you imagine from
the turn of the century?

192

00:09:32,460 --> 00:09:39,880
They were iron skates, and
you attach them to your shoes,

193
00:09:39,880 --> 00:09:40,380
you know?

194
00:09:40,380 --> 00:09:41,300
Mm-hmm.

195
00:09:41,300 --> 00:09:44,220
Like you had a key,
and you had to turn it.

196
00:09:44,220 --> 00:09:47,990
And I would put them on
in front of our house.

197
00:09:47,990 --> 00:09:50,430
And by the time I
got to the pond,

198
00:09:50,430 --> 00:09:52,770
I lost them about three times.

199
00:09:52,770 --> 00:09:55,150
But my brother, he
was very good at it.

200
00:09:55,150 --> 00:09:57,360
And he wanted special skates.

201
00:09:57,360 --> 00:10:01,950
And he told my mother,
you buy me [NON-ENGLISH]..

202
00:10:01,950 --> 00:10:08,910
And these were already good
skates, and they had little--

203
00:10:08,910 --> 00:10:11,670
like little teeth in the front.

204

00:10:11,670 --> 00:10:17,790

And as a matter of fact, one
day he fell into the water,

205

00:10:17,790 --> 00:10:20,610

because we had inns.

206

00:10:20,610 --> 00:10:25,830

And the inns would take the ice
from the pond for the summer

207

00:10:25,830 --> 00:10:30,330

so the beer would be
cold in their cellar.

208

00:10:30,330 --> 00:10:34,690

And overnight, it
would freeze over.

209

00:10:34,690 --> 00:10:36,660

And let's say there
was a little snow.

210

00:10:36,660 --> 00:10:41,790

So you couldn't tell that they
took out the snow, the ice.

211

00:10:41,790 --> 00:10:47,940

And one day my brother crossed
the pond, and he fell in,

212

00:10:47,940 --> 00:10:49,950

and he was standing
in the window.

213

00:10:49,950 --> 00:10:52,770

My mother and I,
we were absolutely

214

00:10:52,770 --> 00:10:56,970

going crazy, because you could
see him going up and down

215

00:10:56,970 --> 00:10:57,960
and up and down.

216

00:10:57,960 --> 00:10:59,700
And then a young man came.

217

00:10:59,700 --> 00:11:03,690
And he laid down on the
ice, and he rescued him.

218

00:11:03,690 --> 00:11:04,890
Oh, my.

219

00:11:04,890 --> 00:11:07,830
He had pneumonia, and
pleurisy, because he

220

00:11:07,830 --> 00:11:09,330
was in that icy water.

221

00:11:09,330 --> 00:11:11,640
Yeah.

222

00:11:11,640 --> 00:11:14,550
Did you experience any
anti-Semitism in the town

223

00:11:14,550 --> 00:11:16,470
or among your friends?

224

00:11:16,470 --> 00:11:17,220
You said you had--

225

00:11:17,220 --> 00:11:17,785
No.

226

00:11:17,785 --> 00:11:18,660
--non-Jewish friends.

227

00:11:18,660 --> 00:11:19,400
No, no.

228
00:11:19,400 --> 00:11:24,130
Because you have
to understand that

229
00:11:24,130 --> 00:11:28,040
we didn't have a radio, because
we didn't have electricity.

230
00:11:28,040 --> 00:11:29,560
So nobody had the radio.

231
00:11:29,560 --> 00:11:34,120
My mother, I think, was the
only person who got a newspaper.

232
00:11:34,120 --> 00:11:38,560
So they really didn't know
what was going on around them.

233
00:11:38,560 --> 00:11:41,200
And it was a
German-speaking village.

234
00:11:41,200 --> 00:11:46,730
People lived there probably,
I don't know, 300 years, 400

235
00:11:46,730 --> 00:11:48,490
years, something like that.

236
00:11:48,490 --> 00:11:50,870
What language did
you speak at home?

237
00:11:50,870 --> 00:11:51,550
German.

238
00:11:51,550 --> 00:11:52,120
German?

239
00:11:52,120 --> 00:11:52,720

Mm-hmm.

240
00:11:52,720 --> 00:11:53,220
OK.

241
00:11:53,220 --> 00:11:56,200

242
00:11:56,200 --> 00:11:58,182
And did you have a
large extended family?

243
00:11:58,182 --> 00:11:59,390
You mentioned some relatives.

244
00:11:59,390 --> 00:12:00,120
Yes.

245
00:12:00,120 --> 00:12:02,680
My mother was a--

246
00:12:02,680 --> 00:12:03,760
they were 10 siblings.

247
00:12:03,760 --> 00:12:04,260
Oh, my.

248
00:12:04,260 --> 00:12:06,940
Five girls and five boys.

249
00:12:06,940 --> 00:12:10,810
And my father, there were five
boys from the first marriage,

250
00:12:10,810 --> 00:12:15,820
and then there were two girls
from the second marriage.

251
00:12:15,820 --> 00:12:19,450
My grandfather
married his niece.

252

00:12:19,450 --> 00:12:22,370

Probably at that
time, it was allowed.

253

00:12:22,370 --> 00:12:23,740

I don't know.

254

00:12:23,740 --> 00:12:26,740

But it was his
brother's daughter.

255

00:12:26,740 --> 00:12:29,320

And he said that
she was so beautiful

256

00:12:29,320 --> 00:12:33,700

that nobody else would be
able to have her but him.

257

00:12:33,700 --> 00:12:35,860

And he had five sons with her.

258

00:12:35,860 --> 00:12:38,590

259

00:12:38,590 --> 00:12:41,980

So you would go visit
all these relatives and--

260

00:12:41,980 --> 00:12:44,300

No, they would come to visit us.

261

00:12:44,300 --> 00:12:44,800

Yeah.

262

00:12:44,800 --> 00:12:47,410

Because we lived in the
village, and they lived in--

263

00:12:47,410 --> 00:12:50,960

like five of them lived
in Prague, and so on.

264

00:12:50,960 --> 00:12:54,850

So during the summer,
we always had visitors.

265

00:12:54,850 --> 00:12:58,390

Was your family
a Zionist family?

266

00:12:58,390 --> 00:13:01,270

Well, living in the village--

267

00:13:01,270 --> 00:13:06,250

and my mother took us to Pilsen.

268

00:13:06,250 --> 00:13:09,380

That was, as I said, the
next big town, the city.

269

00:13:09,380 --> 00:13:09,880

Yes.

270

00:13:09,880 --> 00:13:14,560

And she would take us there
for Hanukkah and the holidays.

271

00:13:14,560 --> 00:13:19,780

So we would be able to know
what it means to be Jewish.

272

00:13:19,780 --> 00:13:24,280

And for Sukkot, we
didn't have a sukkah.

273

00:13:24,280 --> 00:13:28,990

But we put branches from
the trees, the branches--

274

00:13:28,990 --> 00:13:30,400

Yes.

275

00:13:30,400 --> 00:13:35,680

--behind all of the pictures.

276

00:13:35,680 --> 00:13:38,380

So we knew it was Sukkot.

277

00:13:38,380 --> 00:13:41,300

And my mother, which
was very unusual,

278

00:13:41,300 --> 00:13:45,130

knew how to read Hebrew.

279

00:13:45,130 --> 00:13:49,600

Because at that time, women
really didn't know anything.

280

00:13:49,600 --> 00:13:55,630

And to learn something
about being Jewish,

281

00:13:55,630 --> 00:13:59,620

she engaged a rabbi
from another town.

282

00:13:59,620 --> 00:14:03,790

It took him two hours by
bus to come and teach us.

283

00:14:03,790 --> 00:14:06,310

And, of course, we
didn't like him very much

284

00:14:06,310 --> 00:14:08,700

because he was limping.

285

00:14:08,700 --> 00:14:14,890

And children are very cruel,
and so he was different, right?

286

00:14:14,890 --> 00:14:17,160

And we always were somewhere.

287

00:14:17,160 --> 00:14:21,340
They had to look for us in
the village where we were.

288
00:14:21,340 --> 00:14:23,370
So he was teaching
us some Hebrew,

289
00:14:23,370 --> 00:14:27,250
and he was teaching us
the Sh'ma, and so on.

290
00:14:27,250 --> 00:14:31,780
So I knew that I was
Jewish, you know?

291
00:14:31,780 --> 00:14:32,700
Yeah.

292
00:14:32,700 --> 00:14:36,240
But you-- yeah.

293
00:14:36,240 --> 00:14:39,390
So Hitler came
into power in 1933,

294
00:14:39,390 --> 00:14:42,300
and you were only eight
years old, obviously.

295
00:14:42,300 --> 00:14:43,200
When did you first--

296
00:14:43,200 --> 00:14:45,242
Yes, well, at that time,
you know, Czechoslovakia

297
00:14:45,242 --> 00:14:48,660
was a very wonderful country.

298
00:14:48,660 --> 00:14:51,070
There was no difference
between religions.

299
00:14:51,070 --> 00:14:51,570
Yes.

300
00:14:51,570 --> 00:14:54,730
Everybody went to
the same school,

301
00:14:54,730 --> 00:14:57,020
and it was really wonderful.

302
00:14:57,020 --> 00:15:01,410
And the first president
of Czechoslovakia

303
00:15:01,410 --> 00:15:04,500
was a man by the
name of Masaryk.

304
00:15:04,500 --> 00:15:07,890
He was very forward-looking.

305
00:15:07,890 --> 00:15:10,470
As a matter of
fact, he took his--

306
00:15:10,470 --> 00:15:12,060
he married an American.

307
00:15:12,060 --> 00:15:13,740
Her name was Garrigue.

308
00:15:13,740 --> 00:15:18,510
And he incorporated
in his name her name.

309
00:15:18,510 --> 00:15:22,710
So his first name was Tomas,
and then it was Garrigue,

310
00:15:22,710 --> 00:15:24,030
and then it was Masaryk.

311
00:15:24,030 --> 00:15:24,840
Masaryk, yeah.

312
00:15:24,840 --> 00:15:31,380
And he was very, very--

313
00:15:31,380 --> 00:15:34,260
I mean, he was a socialist.

314
00:15:34,260 --> 00:15:39,000
But he was-- sorry,
being Jewish.

315
00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:40,440
There was a process.

316
00:15:40,440 --> 00:15:45,690
One Jewish man was
accused of blood libel,

317
00:15:45,690 --> 00:15:49,110
and he defended this man.

318
00:15:49,110 --> 00:15:53,190
I mean, he was a fantastic man.

319
00:15:53,190 --> 00:15:57,240
The only thing, he
was already older.

320
00:15:57,240 --> 00:16:02,100
He was, during the First World
War, he was a legionnaire.

321
00:16:02,100 --> 00:16:07,590
And of course, he was in
touch with the United States,

322
00:16:07,590 --> 00:16:09,690
and England, and so on.

323

00:16:09,690 --> 00:16:14,850

And this is when Czechoslovakia
became a country, in 1918.

324

00:16:14,850 --> 00:16:18,770

Because before, it was
part of Austria-Hungary.

325

00:16:18,770 --> 00:16:21,970

That was for many,
many, many, many years.

326

00:16:21,970 --> 00:16:23,700

So when did you
first start hearing

327

00:16:23,700 --> 00:16:25,230

about a man named Hitler?

328

00:16:25,230 --> 00:16:28,590

Do you remember your first
time you heard of him?

329

00:16:28,590 --> 00:16:32,220

Well, the thing is,
when I was in Pilsen,

330

00:16:32,220 --> 00:16:36,300

the family I lived with,
every Friday night, we

331

00:16:36,300 --> 00:16:38,590

would go to another
family visiting.

332

00:16:38,590 --> 00:16:42,570

And they always were
listening to the radio.

333

00:16:42,570 --> 00:16:47,770

And the conversation
always was about Germany,

334

00:16:47,770 --> 00:16:50,100
about a man named Hitler.

335

00:16:50,100 --> 00:16:54,540
But where I lived, they
were considered Germans.

336

00:16:54,540 --> 00:16:58,860
So there was a man by
the name of Henlein,

337

00:16:58,860 --> 00:17:00,960
and he formed a party.

338

00:17:00,960 --> 00:17:04,589
And so I knew about
the Henlein Party.

339

00:17:04,589 --> 00:17:08,160
And in our village,
there only were probably

340

00:17:08,160 --> 00:17:11,940
three people who
belonged to that party,

341

00:17:11,940 --> 00:17:13,440
and they didn't live in--

342

00:17:13,440 --> 00:17:15,180
at least the young
people who went

343

00:17:15,180 --> 00:17:19,890
to school, university students,
who went to school in Prague.

344

00:17:19,890 --> 00:17:22,710
And they brought it.

345

00:17:22,710 --> 00:17:27,200
They talked about it,

but nobody else did.

346
00:17:27,200 --> 00:17:32,400
And so, of course,
in 1937, I already

347
00:17:32,400 --> 00:17:36,360
was aware that there was a
man by the name of Hitler.

348
00:17:36,360 --> 00:17:37,460
But really, what--

349
00:17:37,460 --> 00:17:39,270
You were 12 years old then?

350
00:17:39,270 --> 00:17:40,290
I was 12 years old.

351
00:17:40,290 --> 00:17:43,090
And you were still going
to school away from home?

352
00:17:43,090 --> 00:17:43,590
Yes.

353
00:17:43,590 --> 00:17:46,710
And I came home
during the summer,

354
00:17:46,710 --> 00:17:53,490
and that's when it
all started, 1938.

355
00:17:53,490 --> 00:17:54,510
Right.

356
00:17:54,510 --> 00:18:00,930
And, of course, Czechoslovakia
wasn't supposed to be occupied.

357
00:18:00,930 --> 00:18:02,150

Right.

358

00:18:02,150 --> 00:18:05,380

But Hitler said never.

359

00:18:05,380 --> 00:18:12,520

And they mobilized, and of course, people from my village

360

00:18:12,520 --> 00:18:15,190

who were Germans, they also were mobilized.

361

00:18:15,190 --> 00:18:17,500

They all went to the army.

362

00:18:17,500 --> 00:18:22,750

And then in October, Hitler decided, yes,

363

00:18:22,750 --> 00:18:24,100

of course-- or no.

364

00:18:24,100 --> 00:18:25,150

This was like this.

365

00:18:25,150 --> 00:18:34,000

In the spring of 1938, Hitler occupied Austria.

366

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:35,420

Austria, right, and the Anschluss.

367

00:18:35,420 --> 00:18:35,920

Right.

368

00:18:35,920 --> 00:18:38,590

And he promised, of course.

369

00:18:38,590 --> 00:18:40,590

He had the meeting

with Chamberlain

370
00:18:40,590 --> 00:18:42,870
in the summer of 1938.

371
00:18:42,870 --> 00:18:47,260
And he said that he would
not enter Czechoslovakia.

372
00:18:47,260 --> 00:18:51,750
And, of course, he was a liar,
and we know what happened.

373
00:18:51,750 --> 00:18:56,190
And so the 1st of
October, the Germans

374
00:18:56,190 --> 00:19:02,040
started crossing the border
from Bavaria and Saxony.

375
00:19:02,040 --> 00:19:05,070
But they said that our
little village would not

376
00:19:05,070 --> 00:19:11,290
be occupied, because we
had a few Czech citizens.

377
00:19:11,290 --> 00:19:16,890
And so my mother was
worried what's going to be,

378
00:19:16,890 --> 00:19:19,560
but they said we're not
going to be occupied.

379
00:19:19,560 --> 00:19:24,390
But during the night, from
the 7th to the 8th of October,

380
00:19:24,390 --> 00:19:27,030
somebody knocked on

the door, and it was

381

00:19:27,030 --> 00:19:29,730

an officer from the Czech army.

382

00:19:29,730 --> 00:19:36,390

Because they had
some of the soldiers

383

00:19:36,390 --> 00:19:39,750

were billeted in our village.

384

00:19:39,750 --> 00:19:45,250

And so he said whether he could
buy some petrol for this truck.

385

00:19:45,250 --> 00:19:48,560

And my mother says, what do you
need petrol for the trucks now?

386

00:19:48,560 --> 00:19:50,070

It's the middle of the night.

387

00:19:50,070 --> 00:19:51,930

And he said, well,
we are leaving,

388

00:19:51,930 --> 00:19:56,820

because the Germans are going
to occupy your little village.

389

00:19:56,820 --> 00:19:58,680

So she was very upset.

390

00:19:58,680 --> 00:20:02,860

And she asked him whether
they would take us along.

391

00:20:02,860 --> 00:20:03,360

Oh.

392

00:20:03,360 --> 00:20:05,610

And he said, yes, they would.

393
00:20:05,610 --> 00:20:07,410
So in the morning--

394
00:20:07,410 --> 00:20:10,170
This is the three of you-- your
mother, your brother, and you?

395
00:20:10,170 --> 00:20:11,130
Yes.

396
00:20:11,130 --> 00:20:12,240
And we had a maid.

397
00:20:12,240 --> 00:20:15,690
And of course, she
was crying bitterly,

398
00:20:15,690 --> 00:20:18,150
because she was
so attached to us.

399
00:20:18,150 --> 00:20:20,430
And, oh, yes.

400
00:20:20,430 --> 00:20:23,190
And the people assembled
in front of our house.

401
00:20:23,190 --> 00:20:24,600
And they yelled at my mother.

402
00:20:24,600 --> 00:20:26,700
And they said-- they called
her by her first name,

403
00:20:26,700 --> 00:20:29,350
because they all grew
up together then.

404
00:20:29,350 --> 00:20:30,750

My mother's name was Elsa.

405

00:20:30,750 --> 00:20:32,680

And they said, Elsa,
what are you doing?

406

00:20:32,680 --> 00:20:34,380

Why are you leaving?

407

00:20:34,380 --> 00:20:37,350

You know, we are not going
to do anything to you.

408

00:20:37,350 --> 00:20:39,330

And she says, but
I have children.

409

00:20:39,330 --> 00:20:42,270

I have to protect my children.

410

00:20:42,270 --> 00:20:49,530

So they offered to send
a truck, and the soldiers

411

00:20:49,530 --> 00:20:52,930

would [? sing ?] from
our store on the truck.

412

00:20:52,930 --> 00:20:55,410

And we didn't take
anything from the house,

413

00:20:55,410 --> 00:20:57,690

only things from the store.

414

00:20:57,690 --> 00:21:01,860

And she asked them whether
they would take me along,

415

00:21:01,860 --> 00:21:05,390

because we had
some relatives in--

416

00:21:05,390 --> 00:21:08,400

it was a bigger
village near Pilsen.

417

00:21:08,400 --> 00:21:13,050

It was called T^Aemo^An^Aj and
they should take me there.

418

00:21:13,050 --> 00:21:16,290

So I went as a 12 and
1/2 year old-- no, no.

419

00:21:16,290 --> 00:21:19,980

I was 13 by that time--

420

00:21:19,980 --> 00:21:22,990

put me on the truck
with the soldiers,

421

00:21:22,990 --> 00:21:25,287

and I arrived at my relatives.

422

00:21:25,287 --> 00:21:27,120

But you were still--
your mother and brother

423

00:21:27,120 --> 00:21:28,245

were still with you, right?

424

00:21:28,245 --> 00:21:28,762

No.

425

00:21:28,762 --> 00:21:29,970

Oh, they put you in separate?

426

00:21:29,970 --> 00:21:31,920

They still were--

427

00:21:31,920 --> 00:21:33,720

I was the first one to leave.

428

00:21:33,720 --> 00:21:34,830
Oh, you were in separate?

429
00:21:34,830 --> 00:21:35,910
I was separate.

430
00:21:35,910 --> 00:21:40,700
And these relatives had
no idea that I would come.

431
00:21:40,700 --> 00:21:42,990
And I really didn't know them.

432
00:21:42,990 --> 00:21:46,410
And so I said, well,
we are running away,

433
00:21:46,410 --> 00:21:48,570
because we're being occupied.

434
00:21:48,570 --> 00:21:49,740
So they took me in.

435
00:21:49,740 --> 00:21:53,760
And the soldiers would wear--

436
00:21:53,760 --> 00:21:57,150
the things they had on the
truck, they put in a barn.

437
00:21:57,150 --> 00:22:00,690
And then my mother and
brother came in the afternoon.

438
00:22:00,690 --> 00:22:03,720
But during the night,
the soldiers came back,

439
00:22:03,720 --> 00:22:05,370
and they stole a lot of stuff.

440
00:22:05,370 --> 00:22:06,140

Oh, my goodness.

441
00:22:06,140 --> 00:22:07,800
Yeah, yeah.

442
00:22:07,800 --> 00:22:10,440
Until my mother-- my
mother got in touch

443
00:22:10,440 --> 00:22:14,790
with some of her brothers
and sisters in Prague.

444
00:22:14,790 --> 00:22:18,000
And they said, well, we
have to come to Prague.

445
00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:21,450
And so I don't know how long
we stayed with these relatives.

446
00:22:21,450 --> 00:22:25,860
Do you remember at that time
being very frightened when

447
00:22:25,860 --> 00:22:27,860
you had to leave your home?

448
00:22:27,860 --> 00:22:32,080
Well, it was-- you really--

449
00:22:32,080 --> 00:22:34,000
You were 13 years old, so.

450
00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:36,780
You really didn't know
what was going on.

451
00:22:36,780 --> 00:22:38,100
You're 13 years old.

452
00:22:38,100 --> 00:22:40,260

And your mother says,
you go with the soldiers.

453
00:22:40,260 --> 00:22:42,240
You go with the
soldiers, you know?

454
00:22:42,240 --> 00:22:44,042
Did you take anything
special with you

455
00:22:44,042 --> 00:22:45,375
when you went with the soldiers?

456
00:22:45,375 --> 00:22:45,875
No.

457
00:22:45,875 --> 00:22:46,900
I really didn't.

458
00:22:46,900 --> 00:22:47,400
No.

459
00:22:47,400 --> 00:22:49,830
Probably my mother
took my clothes.

460
00:22:49,830 --> 00:22:50,390
I didn't.

461
00:22:50,390 --> 00:22:52,705
I have no idea.

462
00:22:52,705 --> 00:22:53,580
You didn't take them.

463
00:22:53,580 --> 00:22:56,100
And then we went to Prague.

464
00:22:56,100 --> 00:22:57,900
Yeah, the three of you?

465

00:22:57,900 --> 00:22:59,250

The three of us.

466

00:22:59,250 --> 00:23:03,000

And some relatives waited
for us on the train.

467

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:05,215

And we went to an
uncle and aunts

468

00:23:05,215 --> 00:23:08,580

where they decided what
they're going to do with us.

469

00:23:08,580 --> 00:23:11,040

And so I was--

470

00:23:11,040 --> 00:23:14,195

Now how long had
you stayed in that--

471

00:23:14,195 --> 00:23:16,570

before you got to Prague, how
long did you stay in that--

472

00:23:16,570 --> 00:23:18,330

With these people into T^A™emoÄ;nÄj?

473

00:23:18,330 --> 00:23:19,080

Yeah.

474

00:23:19,080 --> 00:23:19,980

Oh, very short time.

475

00:23:19,980 --> 00:23:20,897

Oh, just a short time?

476

00:23:20,897 --> 00:23:21,397

Yes.

477

00:23:21,397 --> 00:23:21,900
Oh, OK.

478
00:23:21,900 --> 00:23:23,500
And so I--

479
00:23:23,500 --> 00:23:27,840
So it's still fall of '38,
but you got to Prague?

480
00:23:27,840 --> 00:23:30,600
Yes, on the 8th of--

481
00:23:30,600 --> 00:23:31,920
no.

482
00:23:31,920 --> 00:23:34,468
Maybe it was the 14th.

483
00:23:34,468 --> 00:23:35,010
I don't know.

484
00:23:35,010 --> 00:23:39,260
On the 8th of October, we were
occupied, and we ran away.

485
00:23:39,260 --> 00:23:39,990
Yeah.

486
00:23:39,990 --> 00:23:42,360
And then I went to Prague.

487
00:23:42,360 --> 00:23:45,810
And they said that
my uncle and aunt--

488
00:23:45,810 --> 00:23:48,600
that was the oldest
brother of my mother--

489
00:23:48,600 --> 00:23:51,500
that they would take me in,

and I would stay with them.

490
00:23:51,500 --> 00:23:52,000
[SNEEZE]

491
00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:52,500
Excuse me.

492
00:23:52,500 --> 00:23:56,780
And my mother went
to live with her--

493
00:23:56,780 --> 00:24:00,820
she had a widowed
sister and a bachelor

494
00:24:00,820 --> 00:24:04,530
brother who lived together,
and she went to live with them.

495
00:24:04,530 --> 00:24:08,220
And my brother went
to live with a cousin.

496
00:24:08,220 --> 00:24:09,720
So you all lived
in separate places?

497
00:24:09,720 --> 00:24:11,580
We all lived in separate places.

498
00:24:11,580 --> 00:24:16,050
And I stayed with my
uncle and aunt for--

499
00:24:16,050 --> 00:24:17,250
well, yes.

500
00:24:17,250 --> 00:24:23,520
So when I got there, my aunt
who was a former schoolteacher,

501

00:24:23,520 --> 00:24:25,620
she felt that I have to--

502
00:24:25,620 --> 00:24:27,450
I cannot just sit around.

503
00:24:27,450 --> 00:24:28,750
I should go to school.

504
00:24:28,750 --> 00:24:29,250
Right.

505
00:24:29,250 --> 00:24:31,200
So she took me to a school.

506
00:24:31,200 --> 00:24:33,540
Of course, it was
a Czech school.

507
00:24:33,540 --> 00:24:38,220
And she took me to the principal
and she said, this is my niece.

508
00:24:38,220 --> 00:24:41,400
I would like-- she should
be able to go to school.

509
00:24:41,400 --> 00:24:42,525
And she says, no problem.

510
00:24:42,525 --> 00:24:44,950
She can come tomorrow.

511
00:24:44,950 --> 00:24:47,580
But I didn't speak Czech.

512
00:24:47,580 --> 00:24:48,330
Oh.

513
00:24:48,330 --> 00:24:52,050
But when you are 13 years
old, believe you me,

514
00:24:52,050 --> 00:24:54,570
you learn a language
one, two, three.

515
00:24:54,570 --> 00:24:58,210
And my aunt was very smart.

516
00:24:58,210 --> 00:25:02,640
She engaged a girl who
was a year older than me,

517
00:25:02,640 --> 00:25:06,270
who was smart, and she
taught me the grammar.

518
00:25:06,270 --> 00:25:10,680
Because Czech grammar
is like French.

519
00:25:10,680 --> 00:25:11,625
You have seven cases.

520
00:25:11,625 --> 00:25:13,020
It's not like English.

521
00:25:13,020 --> 00:25:16,830
I mean, English is
cinchy to learn.

522
00:25:16,830 --> 00:25:20,190
There's no grammar to
it, because the words,

523
00:25:20,190 --> 00:25:21,180
they're all the same.

524
00:25:21,180 --> 00:25:23,310
The endings are all the same.

525
00:25:23,310 --> 00:25:25,560
There's only one article.

526
00:25:25,560 --> 00:25:31,050
Whereas, in Czech, you have
three and seven cases, and then

527
00:25:31,050 --> 00:25:32,580
the words change.

528
00:25:32,580 --> 00:25:34,890
Do you remember the name
of the school you went to?

529
00:25:34,890 --> 00:25:37,000
No.

530
00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:38,100
And who were the other--

531
00:25:38,100 --> 00:25:42,926
As a matter of fact,
but I went back in 19--

532
00:25:42,926 --> 00:25:44,758
wait a minute, I will tell you--

533
00:25:44,758 --> 00:25:47,590
1995.

534
00:25:47,590 --> 00:25:50,500
I went back to Prague,
and I went to the school.

535
00:25:50,500 --> 00:25:53,065
And-- or '96, rather.

536
00:25:53,065 --> 00:25:56,475

537
00:25:56,475 --> 00:25:57,990
No, hold on.

538

00:25:57,990 --> 00:26:01,470

I went back to the
school in 1999.

539

00:26:01,470 --> 00:26:05,370

And I went there,
and I said that I

540

00:26:05,370 --> 00:26:06,750

was in the March of the Living.

541

00:26:06,750 --> 00:26:09,330

And I-- what I was doing.

542

00:26:09,330 --> 00:26:12,570

And perhaps they would
be interested to--

543

00:26:12,570 --> 00:26:14,310

that the students
should hear me.

544

00:26:14,310 --> 00:26:16,920

And the teacher was
very excited about it.

545

00:26:16,920 --> 00:26:21,420

And I was talking to the
children there in 1999.

546

00:26:21,420 --> 00:26:21,920

Wonderful.

547

00:26:21,920 --> 00:26:23,070

Wonderful.

548

00:26:23,070 --> 00:26:24,700

So now, you're at school.

549

00:26:24,700 --> 00:26:25,545

Now, I'm at school.

550

00:26:25,545 --> 00:26:27,030
You're 13 years old.

551
00:26:27,030 --> 00:26:27,910
Yes, 13 years old.

552
00:26:27,910 --> 00:26:28,910
You were learning Czech.

553
00:26:28,910 --> 00:26:30,270
And I went to school.

554
00:26:30,270 --> 00:26:32,310
And my aunt was--

555
00:26:32,310 --> 00:26:35,820
she was looking
after my homework,

556
00:26:35,820 --> 00:26:40,350
especially when I had to write
a little story of something.

557
00:26:40,350 --> 00:26:44,440
She made me write it as long
as I didn't make a mistake.

558
00:26:44,440 --> 00:26:47,910
So when I came to school,
I wrote a little story,

559
00:26:47,910 --> 00:26:50,460
and I always was 100%--

560
00:26:50,460 --> 00:26:51,540
better than anybody else.

561
00:26:51,540 --> 00:26:53,400
Wonderful, wonderful.

562
00:26:53,400 --> 00:26:58,950
And, well, everything--

you go to school.

563
00:26:58,950 --> 00:27:03,750
You make friends, and
you get used to things.

564
00:27:03,750 --> 00:27:06,950
You don't take it so
tragic at that point.

565
00:27:06,950 --> 00:27:07,920
Right.

566
00:27:07,920 --> 00:27:10,660
Until one day--

567
00:27:10,660 --> 00:27:14,160
Did you ever listen to the radio
and hear speeches by Hitler?

568
00:27:14,160 --> 00:27:15,190
And do you know?

569
00:27:15,190 --> 00:27:19,230
Yes, but people-- look.

570
00:27:19,230 --> 00:27:20,580
I went to school.

571
00:27:20,580 --> 00:27:21,720
I came home.

572
00:27:21,720 --> 00:27:24,490
I did my homework,
and I went to bed.

573
00:27:24,490 --> 00:27:25,440
Yeah, yeah.

574
00:27:25,440 --> 00:27:27,960
You know, I'm 13 years old.

575

00:27:27,960 --> 00:27:30,840

My aunt, and she had--

576

00:27:30,840 --> 00:27:31,710

Mary, her daughter.

577

00:27:31,710 --> 00:27:35,190

And they probably talked
about it, but I was--

578

00:27:35,190 --> 00:27:39,460

I had to do my homework,
and I couldn't.

579

00:27:39,460 --> 00:27:41,010

It wasn't discussed kind of.

580

00:27:41,010 --> 00:27:41,730

Yeah.

581

00:27:41,730 --> 00:27:44,850

But this one day--

582

00:27:44,850 --> 00:27:49,080

and we went home from
school for lunch.

583

00:27:49,080 --> 00:27:50,470

Oh, OK.

584

00:27:50,470 --> 00:27:50,970

Yes.

585

00:27:50,970 --> 00:27:53,272

All our children
go home for lunch,

586

00:27:53,272 --> 00:27:54,480

because that's the main meal.

587

00:27:54,480 --> 00:27:56,970

And then you go back to school.

588

00:27:56,970 --> 00:28:00,840

And you stay in school
till about 4:00 or so.

589

00:28:00,840 --> 00:28:04,110

But this particular day,
it was a nice, sunny day.

590

00:28:04,110 --> 00:28:07,910

It was March 15.

591

00:28:07,910 --> 00:28:08,640

This is--

592

00:28:08,640 --> 00:28:12,420

And I go-- and I
go from school--

593

00:28:12,420 --> 00:28:13,890

It's 1939?

594

00:28:13,890 --> 00:28:15,090

1939.

595

00:28:15,090 --> 00:28:21,570

And I come to the main
street and got every--

596

00:28:21,570 --> 00:28:27,120

I mean, it was horror, because
the Germans were marching in

597

00:28:27,120 --> 00:28:29,160

with their tanks and everything.

598

00:28:29,160 --> 00:28:32,100

And people were standing
on the sidewalk.

599

00:28:32,100 --> 00:28:34,890

Some were crying, and
some were hailing.

600
00:28:34,890 --> 00:28:38,620
And I didn't know
what was going on.

601
00:28:38,620 --> 00:28:40,770
It was-- and then I came home.

602
00:28:40,770 --> 00:28:43,530
And, of course, my uncle
and aunt were very upset.

603
00:28:43,530 --> 00:28:44,970
Right.

604
00:28:44,970 --> 00:28:51,540
But I was allowed to finish
my school, my class, my year.

605
00:28:51,540 --> 00:28:55,920
The Germans let us stay
and finish the school year.

606
00:28:55,920 --> 00:28:57,420
But there were things.

607
00:28:57,420 --> 00:29:00,240
Every day was
something different.

608
00:29:00,240 --> 00:29:05,760
The first thing, you had to
give up all you your radios.

609
00:29:05,760 --> 00:29:09,230
You had to give up your jewelry.

610
00:29:09,230 --> 00:29:10,560
And I had a little ring.

611

00:29:10,560 --> 00:29:12,720

And my mother gave
it to me, I think,

612

00:29:12,720 --> 00:29:15,855

for my ninth birthday,
or something like that.

613

00:29:15,855 --> 00:29:17,970

I had a little ruby stone.

614

00:29:17,970 --> 00:29:21,510

And my uncle-- my aunt said,
you better give me that ring,

615

00:29:21,510 --> 00:29:26,460

because you don't want to
be punished because you

616

00:29:26,460 --> 00:29:28,380

didn't give up your rings.

617

00:29:28,380 --> 00:29:33,090

I had to give my ring, which
was dramatic a little bit.

618

00:29:33,090 --> 00:29:39,540

And then you were not
allowed to go to the parks.

619

00:29:39,540 --> 00:29:42,030

You were not allowed
to go on the sidewalk.

620

00:29:42,030 --> 00:29:46,200

You were not allowed to go to
the movies and to the theater.

621

00:29:46,200 --> 00:29:51,030

You could only shop
at certain hours,

622

00:29:51,030 --> 00:29:55,740

because probably at
the end of the day

623
00:29:55,740 --> 00:29:57,870
when there wasn't
very much left,

624
00:29:57,870 --> 00:30:03,750
that's when we were allowed
to go shopping on the street.

625
00:30:03,750 --> 00:30:08,635
I think we had to go in
the last car, and so on.

626
00:30:08,635 --> 00:30:10,200
Is this something
you talked over

627
00:30:10,200 --> 00:30:12,720
with your friends,
your Jewish friends?

628
00:30:12,720 --> 00:30:14,790
In the school, there
were no Jewish friends.

629
00:30:14,790 --> 00:30:16,380
You had no Jewish
friends at school?

630
00:30:16,380 --> 00:30:17,190
No.

631
00:30:17,190 --> 00:30:19,345
Anyway, but then--

632
00:30:19,345 --> 00:30:20,970
Did you know any
other-- did you know--

633
00:30:20,970 --> 00:30:26,970
And then so in '39, we could

finish school, and that was it.

634

00:30:26,970 --> 00:30:31,740

So my mother found out that
the Zionist organization

635

00:30:31,740 --> 00:30:33,790

opened a school.

636

00:30:33,790 --> 00:30:38,280

It was a youth Aliyah
school, and she

637

00:30:38,280 --> 00:30:41,670

made me go there, which was
the most wonderful school.

638

00:30:41,670 --> 00:30:44,210

639

00:30:44,210 --> 00:30:46,670

And there, I learned
a great deal.

640

00:30:46,670 --> 00:30:49,580

And our teachers were
not very much older,

641

00:30:49,580 --> 00:30:51,830

because they were
university students,

642

00:30:51,830 --> 00:30:54,560

and they couldn't go to school.

643

00:30:54,560 --> 00:30:55,940

And they were Zionists.

644

00:30:55,940 --> 00:30:57,740

And so they were teaching us.

645

00:30:57,740 --> 00:31:01,550

And we were preparing
to go to Palestine.

646
00:31:01,550 --> 00:31:06,062
Was it September '39 that you
started the Jewish school?

647
00:31:06,062 --> 00:31:08,480
Yes.

648
00:31:08,480 --> 00:31:13,500
And we were planning to
go illegally to Palestine.

649
00:31:13,500 --> 00:31:17,180
So we studied all
the regular subjects,

650
00:31:17,180 --> 00:31:21,170
but we studied Hebrew,
Jewish history.

651
00:31:21,170 --> 00:31:26,570
And it was like a very--

652
00:31:26,570 --> 00:31:30,500
I mean, we learned more
than a regular school.

653
00:31:30,500 --> 00:31:33,480
It was like a
university, I think.

654
00:31:33,480 --> 00:31:35,710
Did the school have
a special name?

655
00:31:35,710 --> 00:31:37,990
It was called Jugend
Aliyah School.

656
00:31:37,990 --> 00:31:39,390
[INAUDIBLE]

657
00:31:39,390 --> 00:31:40,790
Yes.

658
00:31:40,790 --> 00:31:48,490
And so I was in a class at
the beginning, a Czech class.

659
00:31:48,490 --> 00:31:53,020
And then they moved me, and
then I was in a German class.

660
00:31:53,020 --> 00:31:53,980
I could go.

661
00:31:53,980 --> 00:31:56,980
I spoke both languages fluently.

662
00:31:56,980 --> 00:31:58,975
And then I was--

663
00:31:58,975 --> 00:32:06,130
they made class only with girls,
and we learned how to sew.

664
00:32:06,130 --> 00:32:08,380
Because in case
we go to Palestine

665
00:32:08,380 --> 00:32:09,940
so we would know something.

666
00:32:09,940 --> 00:32:13,090
So we learned how to
make patterns and sew.

667
00:32:13,090 --> 00:32:15,610
What did Palestine mean
to you at that age?

668
00:32:15,610 --> 00:32:16,570
Pardon?

669
00:32:16,570 --> 00:32:19,480
What did Palestine mean
to you at that age?

670
00:32:19,480 --> 00:32:21,530
Oh, we were Zionists.

671
00:32:21,530 --> 00:32:23,532
I belonged to a
Zionist organization.

672
00:32:23,532 --> 00:32:27,010

673
00:32:27,010 --> 00:32:33,250
As a side thing, I want to tell
you that there was a young man

674
00:32:33,250 --> 00:32:36,610
by the name of [? Hanan ?]
[? Bakri ?] who was with me

675
00:32:36,610 --> 00:32:39,790
in that Zionist organization.

676
00:32:39,790 --> 00:32:46,900
And then when the war broke out,
we all went to somewhere else

677
00:32:46,900 --> 00:32:49,490
and I never heard
from him again.

678
00:32:49,490 --> 00:32:50,960
I didn't know where he was.

679
00:32:50,960 --> 00:32:55,070
And I received a
newspaper from Prague.

680
00:32:55,070 --> 00:32:56,890

It's called [CZECH].

681
00:32:56,890 --> 00:33:01,360
And one day, there
was a little ad.

682
00:33:01,360 --> 00:33:04,300
A man who was looking
for another man,

683
00:33:04,300 --> 00:33:08,500
and he signs himself
[? Hanan ?] [? Bakri. ?]

684
00:33:08,500 --> 00:33:11,177
And I said to myself, there's
not that many [? Hanan ?]

685
00:33:11,177 --> 00:33:12,010
[? Bakris ?] around.

686
00:33:12,010 --> 00:33:18,290
And there was his address in
Israel, and I wrote to him.

687
00:33:18,290 --> 00:33:23,380
And I said, you know, I think
I know you or you know me.

688
00:33:23,380 --> 00:33:27,370
I belonged to T'helet Lavan.

689
00:33:27,370 --> 00:33:32,170
And anyway, within 10 days,
I got a phone call from him.

690
00:33:32,170 --> 00:33:33,820
He was so excited.

691
00:33:33,820 --> 00:33:36,460
He says, yes, yes, that's me.

692

00:33:36,460 --> 00:33:39,580
And unfortunately, a few--

693
00:33:39,580 --> 00:33:41,980
I was in touch with
him all the time.

694
00:33:41,980 --> 00:33:45,280
And when I went on the March
of the Living, the last time

695
00:33:45,280 --> 00:33:49,270
in 2004, I met him with
his wife in Jerusalem.

696
00:33:49,270 --> 00:33:53,510
And I was now in contact
with him via email.

697
00:33:53,510 --> 00:33:56,580
But his emails
stopped, and I sent

698
00:33:56,580 --> 00:33:59,580
him [? dishes ?]
for Rosh Hashanah,

699
00:33:59,580 --> 00:34:01,720
and I didn't get an answer.

700
00:34:01,720 --> 00:34:05,500
And I started phoning him,
and there was nobody there.

701
00:34:05,500 --> 00:34:07,840
The phone was ringing,
ringing, ringing.

702
00:34:07,840 --> 00:34:10,270
So yesterday, I phoned Israel.

703
00:34:10,270 --> 00:34:12,550
I phoned [NON-ENGLISH].

704
00:34:12,550 --> 00:34:16,000
And I asked about him,
and they were telling me

705
00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:20,469
that a few days ago
was his funeral.

706
00:34:20,469 --> 00:34:24,790
So he was in my [?'futzah ?]
in the Zionist organization.

707
00:34:24,790 --> 00:34:30,520
So we were ardent Zionists, and
we wanted to live in a kibbutz.

708
00:34:30,520 --> 00:34:32,560
And we wanted to
do all the work.

709
00:34:32,560 --> 00:34:34,300
And we were very excited.

710
00:34:34,300 --> 00:34:36,770
Did your brother go
to the same school?

711
00:34:36,770 --> 00:34:37,270
No.

712
00:34:37,270 --> 00:34:38,500
My brother was younger.

713
00:34:38,500 --> 00:34:40,060
He went to a Jewish school.

714
00:34:40,060 --> 00:34:43,270
They had a Jewish school for--

715
00:34:43,270 --> 00:34:44,580
Young children?

716
00:34:44,580 --> 00:34:46,400
--for primary school.

717
00:34:46,400 --> 00:34:49,690
And what did your mother do
while you all were at school?

718
00:34:49,690 --> 00:34:51,199
Well, I didn't live
with my mother.

719
00:34:51,199 --> 00:34:51,699
No, I know.

720
00:34:51,699 --> 00:34:53,600
My mother lived with her sister.

721
00:34:53,600 --> 00:34:54,100
No, I know.

722
00:34:54,100 --> 00:34:54,882
But did she work?

723
00:34:54,882 --> 00:34:55,840
Or did she do anything?

724
00:34:55,840 --> 00:34:56,970
No, she didn't do anything.

725
00:34:56,970 --> 00:34:57,470
She did not?

726
00:34:57,470 --> 00:35:00,040
No.

727
00:35:00,040 --> 00:35:02,570
So the war breaks out--

728
00:35:02,570 --> 00:35:07,570
So it's 1940.

729
00:35:07,570 --> 00:35:13,600
And I went to that f School.

730
00:35:13,600 --> 00:35:15,070
And--

731
00:35:15,070 --> 00:35:18,000
Did you know about Hitler
invading Poland in '39?

732
00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:18,500
Oh, yeah.

733
00:35:18,500 --> 00:35:20,335
Well, then we were
very well-informed.

734
00:35:20,335 --> 00:35:20,920
In '39?

735
00:35:20,920 --> 00:35:24,800
Then, of course-- then,
of course, there was--

736
00:35:24,800 --> 00:35:25,300
yes.

737
00:35:25,300 --> 00:35:27,740
And--

738
00:35:27,740 --> 00:35:30,420
Do you remember being
frightened at all?

739
00:35:30,420 --> 00:35:31,420
No.

740
00:35:31,420 --> 00:35:32,420
No.

741

00:35:32,420 --> 00:35:39,080

We were too involved
with going to Palestine.

742

00:35:39,080 --> 00:35:41,300

And we thought that we would--

743

00:35:41,300 --> 00:35:43,785

even going by myself, you
know, you weren't afraid.

744

00:35:43,785 --> 00:35:44,660

You were a youngster.

745

00:35:44,660 --> 00:35:46,610

You wanted to go.

746

00:35:46,610 --> 00:35:48,140

You wanted to build this--

747

00:35:48,140 --> 00:35:50,390

But you had also said
when you were very young,

748

00:35:50,390 --> 00:35:52,410

you were very independent.

749

00:35:52,410 --> 00:35:54,260

Oh, my mother did that.

750

00:35:54,260 --> 00:35:57,870

And I think she did a fantastic
job to make me independent.

751

00:35:57,870 --> 00:36:02,780

Because she had not that much
time from for me, you know?

752

00:36:02,780 --> 00:36:03,590

Yeah.

753

00:36:03,590 --> 00:36:05,980

But she wanted-- and especially, I was the older one.

754
00:36:05,980 --> 00:36:06,480
Right.

755
00:36:06,480 --> 00:36:08,060
I was the one--

756
00:36:08,060 --> 00:36:08,640
you know?

757
00:36:08,640 --> 00:36:09,140
Right.

758
00:36:09,140 --> 00:36:10,910
I could do things on my own.

759
00:36:10,910 --> 00:36:11,660
Right.

760
00:36:11,660 --> 00:36:12,740
And--

761
00:36:12,740 --> 00:36:13,260
So now--

762
00:36:13,260 --> 00:36:20,000
And then Eichmann came to Prague to the Jewish Community.

763
00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:27,440
And he said that anybody who would

764
00:36:27,440 --> 00:36:30,980
be able to get a visa from a country, they could go.

765
00:36:30,980 --> 00:36:35,570
That the Germans would give them visas and let them go.

766
00:36:35,570 --> 00:36:41,880
So my mother-- they were
Aktion they called it.

767
00:36:41,880 --> 00:36:42,380
You know?

768
00:36:42,380 --> 00:36:42,880
Yes, yes.

769
00:36:42,880 --> 00:36:45,740
They were organizations
who helped people

770
00:36:45,740 --> 00:36:47,840
to go to different countries.

771
00:36:47,840 --> 00:36:52,430
And there was-- and you
remember Dr. Vincent?

772
00:36:52,430 --> 00:36:53,870
Yes, [INAUDIBLE].

773
00:36:53,870 --> 00:36:56,420
But, of course, we
didn't know Dr. Vincent.

774
00:36:56,420 --> 00:37:01,370
We called it [NON-ENGLISH],,
because it was near the museum

775
00:37:01,370 --> 00:37:04,005
that the--

776
00:37:04,005 --> 00:37:06,320
the office.

777
00:37:06,320 --> 00:37:11,960
And so my mother also registered
me there to go to England.

778
00:37:11,960 --> 00:37:14,150
And I had a
guarantor in England.

779
00:37:14,150 --> 00:37:18,320
It was a brother of my
aunt who lived in London.

780
00:37:18,320 --> 00:37:20,150
Because you needed--

781
00:37:20,150 --> 00:37:20,960
A sponsor.

782
00:37:20,960 --> 00:37:22,740
You needed somewhere to go.

783
00:37:22,740 --> 00:37:23,240
Yes.

784
00:37:23,240 --> 00:37:26,400
So he wanted to do that for me.

785
00:37:26,400 --> 00:37:29,180
And I had a cousin who was--

786
00:37:29,180 --> 00:37:32,240
he was I think five
years older than me.

787
00:37:32,240 --> 00:37:33,380
And he went.

788
00:37:33,380 --> 00:37:34,100
He went.

789
00:37:34,100 --> 00:37:38,450
That was in August '40--

790
00:37:38,450 --> 00:37:40,800

in August-- wait a minute.

791
00:37:40,800 --> 00:37:46,940
August '40-- '41.

792
00:37:46,940 --> 00:37:58,760
No, August '41, I
believe, or '39, or '40.

793
00:37:58,760 --> 00:38:02,910
And he-- it was before
the war broke out.

794
00:38:02,910 --> 00:38:05,000
Well, the war broke
out September '39.

795
00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:08,270
Yeah, it was summer of '49.

796
00:38:08,270 --> 00:38:09,470
And he left.

797
00:38:09,470 --> 00:38:11,350
'39, '39.

798
00:38:11,350 --> 00:38:15,350
And I was supposed to go
with the next transport,

799
00:38:15,350 --> 00:38:16,960
and the war broke out.

800
00:38:16,960 --> 00:38:23,300
So these transports, the
Kindertransports, stopped.

801
00:38:23,300 --> 00:38:24,490
Yes, yes.

802
00:38:24,490 --> 00:38:27,960
And so I went to this school.

803
00:38:27,960 --> 00:38:29,810
And--

804
00:38:29,810 --> 00:38:31,940
Do you remember any of
your teachers names?

805
00:38:31,940 --> 00:38:33,180
Of course.

806
00:38:33,180 --> 00:38:34,430
What were some of their names?

807
00:38:34,430 --> 00:38:36,500
Well, I was telling
that yesterday

808
00:38:36,500 --> 00:38:39,520
to the lady in Israel.

809
00:38:39,520 --> 00:38:42,860
Well, the young men
who taught me Hebrew,

810
00:38:42,860 --> 00:38:47,890
he name was [? De'eb ?]
[? Sheik. ?] And he survived,

811
00:38:47,890 --> 00:38:49,310
and he went to Israel.

812
00:38:49,310 --> 00:38:51,770
And he became--

813
00:38:51,770 --> 00:38:54,950
I think he was ambassador
or something to France.

814
00:38:54,950 --> 00:38:59,270
And his son, Danny, is
also in the Foreign Service

815
00:38:59,270 --> 00:39:02,550
now in England, I believe.

816
00:39:02,550 --> 00:39:04,774
Then I had a wonderful teacher.

817
00:39:04,774 --> 00:39:08,870
He taught us science, and his
name was Billy [? Groat. ?]

818
00:39:08,870 --> 00:39:10,990
I found him again.

819
00:39:10,990 --> 00:39:12,030
He survived.

820
00:39:12,030 --> 00:39:13,820
And I found him again in Israel.

821
00:39:13,820 --> 00:39:17,660
And we corresponded for a
while, and then he died.

822
00:39:17,660 --> 00:39:23,450
Then I had a teacher by the name
of [? Gonda ?] [? Redly. ?] He

823
00:39:23,450 --> 00:39:25,040
thought, I believe, history.

824
00:39:25,040 --> 00:39:27,140
I'm not quite sure.

825
00:39:27,140 --> 00:39:32,040
And he didn't survive.

826
00:39:32,040 --> 00:39:36,140
He was a fellow in--

827
00:39:36,140 --> 00:39:39,200

you will have his
book, I'm sure, there.

828
00:39:39,200 --> 00:39:42,260
It's his son found--

829
00:39:42,260 --> 00:39:44,810
his diary was
found in Theresien.

830
00:39:44,810 --> 00:39:48,380
And it was published, and
I'm sure you must have it--

831
00:39:48,380 --> 00:39:52,010
the story of
[? Gonda ?] [? Redly. ?]

832
00:39:52,010 --> 00:39:57,080
He was the one who put the
names together for the transport

833
00:39:57,080 --> 00:39:58,325
from Theresien to Poland.

834
00:39:58,325 --> 00:39:59,220
Oh.

835
00:39:59,220 --> 00:40:00,650
So he had a terrible job.

836
00:40:00,650 --> 00:40:02,360
Yes, yes.

837
00:40:02,360 --> 00:40:04,820
So if you're
interested, I'm sure you

838
00:40:04,820 --> 00:40:06,180
can find it in your library.

839
00:40:06,180 --> 00:40:07,074

Yeah, I'm sure.

840
00:40:07,074 --> 00:40:07,670
Yeah, yeah.

841
00:40:07,670 --> 00:40:09,080
And--

842
00:40:09,080 --> 00:40:10,730
So you weren't able
to go to England.

843
00:40:10,730 --> 00:40:12,120
So then what happened?

844
00:40:12,120 --> 00:40:14,070
Well, I continued
going to school.

845
00:40:14,070 --> 00:40:14,570
Yeah.

846
00:40:14,570 --> 00:40:18,890
And we hoped to go to Palestine.

847
00:40:18,890 --> 00:40:24,710
But then in the fall
of 1940, as I told you

848
00:40:24,710 --> 00:40:29,260
that Eichmann said that the
Jews could leave whoever has got

849
00:40:29,260 --> 00:40:30,350
visas.

850
00:40:30,350 --> 00:40:35,300
So some people got visas,
and they went to England--

851
00:40:35,300 --> 00:40:37,430
few some.

852
00:40:37,430 --> 00:40:41,150
America had quotas, so
they didn't take us.

853
00:40:41,150 --> 00:40:43,100
And Mr. Roosevelt
didn't want us,

854
00:40:43,100 --> 00:40:45,380
because he was running
for a second term.

855
00:40:45,380 --> 00:40:48,680
So he couldn't use us.

856
00:40:48,680 --> 00:40:57,310
And a few people went to
Cuba, to Guatemala, to Quito,

857
00:40:57,310 --> 00:40:59,720
and to South America.

858
00:40:59,720 --> 00:41:02,490
They would go to a
priest, and the priest

859
00:41:02,490 --> 00:41:05,690
would give them the papers
that they were Catholic.

860
00:41:05,690 --> 00:41:07,610
That's how they got
to South America.

861
00:41:07,610 --> 00:41:10,530

862
00:41:10,530 --> 00:41:13,950
And since Eichmann
couldn't get rid of us,

863

00:41:13,950 --> 00:41:17,160
so he had to find a
place where to send us.

864
00:41:17,160 --> 00:41:20,960
And so he found
this place called

865
00:41:20,960 --> 00:41:27,240
Theresien or Theresienstadt
east of Prague.

866
00:41:27,240 --> 00:41:30,790
But before that, he
couldn't wait that long.

867
00:41:30,790 --> 00:41:36,510
So in October 1941, the
first transports were sent,

868
00:41:36,510 --> 00:41:44,020
five of them, 1,000 persons
each, to the Lodz ghetto.

869
00:41:44,020 --> 00:41:45,490
That was the beginning.

870
00:41:45,490 --> 00:41:50,220
And then they sent about
150 young men to Theresien

871
00:41:50,220 --> 00:41:53,760
to prepare the
camp, to make bunks,

872
00:41:53,760 --> 00:41:56,700
and the kitchens had to be--

873
00:41:56,700 --> 00:41:59,080
because it was a military time.

874
00:41:59,080 --> 00:41:59,910
Right, right.

875
00:41:59,910 --> 00:42:01,530
And so they prepared it.

876
00:42:01,530 --> 00:42:08,820
And then the first transport to
Theresien went in December '41.

877
00:42:08,820 --> 00:42:14,670
So then they knew
that we will be moved,

878
00:42:14,670 --> 00:42:19,170
but nobody had any idea what it
was like, where we were going

879
00:42:19,170 --> 00:42:20,580
to go, what's going to be.

880
00:42:20,580 --> 00:42:23,770
And I didn't go to school.

881
00:42:23,770 --> 00:42:24,640
It stopped.

882
00:42:24,640 --> 00:42:30,700
And anyway, it was
a very uneasy time.

883
00:42:30,700 --> 00:42:33,360
So you just stayed home
with your relatives?

884
00:42:33,360 --> 00:42:34,530
No.

885
00:42:34,530 --> 00:42:37,680
My relatives are fed up with me.

886
00:42:37,680 --> 00:42:42,150
Because, you see, after school,
my school was till 6 o'clock.

887
00:42:42,150 --> 00:42:46,410
We had a long day, because
we had to accomplish a lot.

888
00:42:46,410 --> 00:42:49,920
And because I belonged to
a Zionist organization,

889
00:42:49,920 --> 00:42:55,770
I still went to a [NON-ENGLISH],,
a get together from the Zionist

890
00:42:55,770 --> 00:42:57,090
organization.

891
00:42:57,090 --> 00:43:01,710
And Jews had to be
home by 8 o'clock.

892
00:43:01,710 --> 00:43:05,820
And I didn't want to.

893
00:43:05,820 --> 00:43:09,270
We had a nice time with
all these young people.

894
00:43:09,270 --> 00:43:11,340
We learned how to
sing Hebrew songs.

895
00:43:11,340 --> 00:43:14,070
We learned how to
March, and everything

896
00:43:14,070 --> 00:43:18,180
was Zionists they're doing,
preparing to go to Palestine.

897
00:43:18,180 --> 00:43:19,860
Did you wear a
uniform or anything?

898
00:43:19,860 --> 00:43:20,640
No, no, no.

899
00:43:20,640 --> 00:43:21,730
Just your regular clothes?

900
00:43:21,730 --> 00:43:22,740
My regular clothes.

901
00:43:22,740 --> 00:43:27,270
And I started running
home like crazy--

902
00:43:27,270 --> 00:43:29,370
because I couldn't
wait for a streetcar,

903
00:43:29,370 --> 00:43:31,080
because that was too slow--

904
00:43:31,080 --> 00:43:33,430
because I had to be
home before 8:00.

905
00:43:33,430 --> 00:43:35,400
Right, right.

906
00:43:35,400 --> 00:43:37,170
Because if they
would have caught me,

907
00:43:37,170 --> 00:43:38,970
they could put me into jail.

908
00:43:38,970 --> 00:43:42,070
And my poor uncle
and aunt, they were

909
00:43:42,070 --> 00:43:44,580
on pins and needles,
because it was five to 8:00,

910

00:43:44,580 --> 00:43:46,450

and I still wasn't home.

911

00:43:46,450 --> 00:43:50,250

And so I had arrived

maybe 1 minute past 8:00.

912

00:43:50,250 --> 00:43:53,580

And my poor uncle was

standing already in the door.

913

00:43:53,580 --> 00:43:57,300

My aunt must have given him an

order that he should give me

914

00:43:57,300 --> 00:43:58,170

one, you know?

915

00:43:58,170 --> 00:43:59,106

Yeah.

916

00:43:59,106 --> 00:44:04,740

[INAUDIBLE] And so they decided

that they cannot take it,

917

00:44:04,740 --> 00:44:06,930

because it's--

918

00:44:06,930 --> 00:44:09,792

I'm doing terrible

things to them.

919

00:44:09,792 --> 00:44:13,370

And when you're 14

years old or 15--

920

00:44:13,370 --> 00:44:14,438

Right, right.

921

00:44:14,438 --> 00:44:16,480

--you know, you want to

be with the young people.

922
00:44:16,480 --> 00:44:16,980
Of course.

923
00:44:16,980 --> 00:44:20,190
You don't take these
things so serious.

924
00:44:20,190 --> 00:44:25,290
And so they asked my mother
that she should find a place,

925
00:44:25,290 --> 00:44:26,700
to send me somewhere.

926
00:44:26,700 --> 00:44:30,480
So my mother went to
the Jewish community

927
00:44:30,480 --> 00:44:36,390
and to social services and
says, I have a daughter.

928
00:44:36,390 --> 00:44:37,980
And I cannot keep her.

929
00:44:37,980 --> 00:44:41,820
Perhaps you have a place
where you could place her.

930
00:44:41,820 --> 00:44:47,190
So they did place
me with young woman.

931
00:44:47,190 --> 00:44:52,720
It was like a women's
shelter, but most of them

932
00:44:52,720 --> 00:44:56,790
were a little older, and they
were not of very good repute.

933

00:44:56,790 --> 00:45:01,170
And they did things which
I really didn't like,

934
00:45:01,170 --> 00:45:02,410
and I felt--

935
00:45:02,410 --> 00:45:04,450
I went to school from there--

936
00:45:04,450 --> 00:45:08,780
but I felt that this wasn't
the right place for me.

937
00:45:08,780 --> 00:45:12,890
So I, myself, already at that
time, was very self-sufficient,

938
00:45:12,890 --> 00:45:14,280
I must tell you.

939
00:45:14,280 --> 00:45:16,380
And I went to the
social services

940
00:45:16,380 --> 00:45:19,820
and I told them, listen,
this is not a place for me.

941
00:45:19,820 --> 00:45:22,380
These girls are doing
things which are not--

942
00:45:22,380 --> 00:45:23,780
Were they Jewish girls?

943
00:45:23,780 --> 00:45:24,295
Yeah, yeah.

944
00:45:24,295 --> 00:45:25,170
They were all Jewish.

945

00:45:25,170 --> 00:45:25,670
OK.

946
00:45:25,670 --> 00:45:27,010
Yeah, they were all refugees.

947
00:45:27,010 --> 00:45:32,970
They were mostly from Caraptho,
Russia, which is now Ukraine.

948
00:45:32,970 --> 00:45:33,820
Yeah, yeah.

949
00:45:33,820 --> 00:45:35,160
And so I went there.

950
00:45:35,160 --> 00:45:41,250
And he says, well, we have now
a home for young girls and boys.

951
00:45:41,250 --> 00:45:44,710
And we will place you there.

952
00:45:44,710 --> 00:45:48,900
And these are children
from a town called Ostrava,

953
00:45:48,900 --> 00:45:53,250
where their fathers were
sent to Poland to work,

954
00:45:53,250 --> 00:45:54,640
the Jewish fathers.

955
00:45:54,640 --> 00:45:56,050
They took the Jewish men.

956
00:45:56,050 --> 00:45:56,550
Yes.

957
00:45:56,550 --> 00:45:57,460
And they send them.

958
00:45:57,460 --> 00:46:03,710
It was called [? Nisko. ?]
And so the children

959
00:46:03,710 --> 00:46:04,700
were sent to Prague.

960
00:46:04,700 --> 00:46:07,790
And there was-- we
were in two apartment

961
00:46:07,790 --> 00:46:10,505
houses in two
different apartments,

962
00:46:10,505 --> 00:46:11,960
like large apartments.

963
00:46:11,960 --> 00:46:15,930
And one for the girls, and then
the other one for the boys.

964
00:46:15,930 --> 00:46:21,600
And we get our food there, but
the food was hardly any food.

965
00:46:21,600 --> 00:46:25,470
And I got extremely thin.

966
00:46:25,470 --> 00:46:28,210
And they become worried.

967
00:46:28,210 --> 00:46:34,230
So they found two families where
I went for lunch, two lunches

968
00:46:34,230 --> 00:46:41,110
a week, so I shouldn't
get so skinny.

969
00:46:41,110 --> 00:46:45,320

And that's when I
still went to school.

970
00:46:45,320 --> 00:46:49,400

971
00:46:49,400 --> 00:46:55,010
And so then I was
sent to another home.

972
00:46:55,010 --> 00:47:00,110
You know, how you are being
shoveled from one end,

973
00:47:00,110 --> 00:47:02,210
from one place to another.

974
00:47:02,210 --> 00:47:05,240
And the transports
were going already.

975
00:47:05,240 --> 00:47:07,250
And my mother and my brother--

976
00:47:07,250 --> 00:47:10,625
even so, my brother
lived in an orphanage,

977
00:47:10,625 --> 00:47:13,280
and my mother lived
with her sister.

978
00:47:13,280 --> 00:47:16,580
But when the
transport was called,

979
00:47:16,580 --> 00:47:19,910
my mother and brother
went together.

980
00:47:19,910 --> 00:47:24,140
In August '42, they
went to Theresien.

981
00:47:24,140 --> 00:47:29,720
And I went to Theresien
on the 9th of September.

982
00:47:29,720 --> 00:47:36,740
I believe 1942 was the
transport BF, and my number 992.

983
00:47:36,740 --> 00:47:39,250
I remember that very well.

984
00:47:39,250 --> 00:47:41,440
And I worked then.

985
00:47:41,440 --> 00:47:42,580
I came there.

986
00:47:42,580 --> 00:47:49,790
I knew someone, a young man,
and I worked in a hospital

987
00:47:49,790 --> 00:47:51,310
as a nurse's aide.

988
00:47:51,310 --> 00:47:54,070
My mother worked
also as a nurse.

989
00:47:54,070 --> 00:47:57,350
And as a matter of
fact, we had typhoid.

990
00:47:57,350 --> 00:48:01,750
And she worked in the hospital
where the children had typhoid.

991
00:48:01,750 --> 00:48:06,100
And my brother, he
was very young then.

992
00:48:06,100 --> 00:48:08,090

He was 15.

993

00:48:08,090 --> 00:48:15,100

He was making toys for
children, like wooden toys.

994

00:48:15,100 --> 00:48:17,340

I mean, not for the
children, for [INAUDIBLE]..

995

00:48:17,340 --> 00:48:20,980

The Germans took all
these things out.

996

00:48:20,980 --> 00:48:24,330

They took it to Germany.

997

00:48:24,330 --> 00:48:30,930

And in Theresienstadt,
it was, again,

998

00:48:30,930 --> 00:48:32,430

we were the young people.

999

00:48:32,430 --> 00:48:37,550

And then I was already 18--

1000

00:48:37,550 --> 00:48:40,580

no, 17.

1001

00:48:40,580 --> 00:48:45,060

And we would get
together in the loft.

1002

00:48:45,060 --> 00:48:46,520

We had lofts.

1003

00:48:46,520 --> 00:48:50,570

The Germans kind of didn't
know that we had these lofts,

1004

00:48:50,570 --> 00:48:52,040

and we would get together.

1005

00:48:52,040 --> 00:48:55,790

And we would-- there would be
somebody who would read poetry,

1006

00:48:55,790 --> 00:48:58,080

and somebody would sing.

1007

00:48:58,080 --> 00:49:05,440

I mean, it was like what
young people are doing.

1008

00:49:05,440 --> 00:49:10,480

But the thing was that
people started to leave,

1009

00:49:10,480 --> 00:49:14,610

and nobody knew where
these people were going.

1010

00:49:14,610 --> 00:49:16,690

And people-- oh, yes.

1011

00:49:16,690 --> 00:49:18,540

A lot of people
came from Germany,

1012

00:49:18,540 --> 00:49:21,720

and German Jews were
told that they're

1013

00:49:21,720 --> 00:49:30,750

going to be sent to a bath,
like marine bath, health spa,

1014

00:49:30,750 --> 00:49:31,770

to a spa.

1015

00:49:31,770 --> 00:49:32,510

Right.

1016

00:49:32,510 --> 00:49:38,100
And they were allowed to
bring their mattresses along

1017
00:49:38,100 --> 00:49:39,210
was something.

1018
00:49:39,210 --> 00:49:40,560
And they'll say, arrived.

1019
00:49:40,560 --> 00:49:43,380
And they said, so
where is the spa?

1020
00:49:43,380 --> 00:49:44,840
Because they lied to them.

1021
00:49:44,840 --> 00:49:45,480
Yes, yes.

1022
00:49:45,480 --> 00:49:48,600
And with loads of
old people, and they

1023
00:49:48,600 --> 00:49:51,720
started dying out very fast.

1024
00:49:51,720 --> 00:49:53,340
And we are the young ones.

1025
00:49:53,340 --> 00:49:55,050
Well, we kept on going.

1026
00:49:55,050 --> 00:49:57,960
We did our thing even when--

1027
00:49:57,960 --> 00:50:00,990
the only thing we were afraid
that we would be sent away,

1028
00:50:00,990 --> 00:50:04,510
and nobody knew where

you're going to be sent.

1029
00:50:04,510 --> 00:50:07,470
They sent you a little piece
of paper, and you said--

1030
00:50:07,470 --> 00:50:16,320
they said, you have to be at
8:00 at this place of assembly.

1031
00:50:16,320 --> 00:50:19,860
And so my mother was one
who got a little paper once,

1032
00:50:19,860 --> 00:50:23,850
and because she was
a nurse, she was

1033
00:50:23,850 --> 00:50:25,890
looking after people
who had typhoid,

1034
00:50:25,890 --> 00:50:27,570
so they took her out again.

1035
00:50:27,570 --> 00:50:31,740
That's what
[INAUDIBLE] was doing.

1036
00:50:31,740 --> 00:50:36,890
And then one day,
again, she came to me.

1037
00:50:36,890 --> 00:50:39,410
And she said she
was called up again.

1038
00:50:39,410 --> 00:50:44,630
And that was September '43.

1039
00:50:44,630 --> 00:50:48,680
And at night came my
brother to see me.

1040
00:50:48,680 --> 00:50:50,120
And he says, you know what?

1041
00:50:50,120 --> 00:50:53,300
I'm going voluntarily
with mother,

1042
00:50:53,300 --> 00:50:57,170
because I cannot let
her go by herself.

1043
00:50:57,170 --> 00:50:58,710
My mother wasn't that old.

1044
00:50:58,710 --> 00:51:03,620
My mother was in her early 50s.

1045
00:51:03,620 --> 00:51:04,680
That was '43.

1046
00:51:04,680 --> 00:51:06,710
That means she was 53 years old.

1047
00:51:06,710 --> 00:51:07,520
Oh, gosh.

1048
00:51:07,520 --> 00:51:08,400
Yeah.

1049
00:51:08,400 --> 00:51:11,030
But he said he couldn't
let her go by herself.

1050
00:51:11,030 --> 00:51:13,580
Anyway, so they left.

1051
00:51:13,580 --> 00:51:17,360
And I-- this is the
famous DM transport.

1052

00:51:17,360 --> 00:51:21,260

Well, I suppose you
know that all of them

1053

00:51:21,260 --> 00:51:26,480

got killed on the
8th of March, 1944.

1054

00:51:26,480 --> 00:51:28,610

But my mother died.

1055

00:51:28,610 --> 00:51:29,840

She got diarrhea.

1056

00:51:29,840 --> 00:51:34,430

And when somebody got diarrhea,
they died from dehydration.

1057

00:51:34,430 --> 00:51:35,030

Yeah.

1058

00:51:35,030 --> 00:51:41,840

And my mother died on
the 4th of January, 1944.

1059

00:51:41,840 --> 00:51:45,500

And my brother, who was
in this DM transport,

1060

00:51:45,500 --> 00:51:49,040

and the whole transport
was called up.

1061

00:51:49,040 --> 00:51:52,995

And they were killed, all
of them, close to 4,000

1062

00:51:52,995 --> 00:52:00,270

Czech Jews, were killed
on the 8th of March, 1944.

1063

00:52:00,270 --> 00:52:05,300

And so we were left

in that, in Birkenau.

1064

00:52:05,300 --> 00:52:10,850

And we were waiting when we
are going to be called up.

1065

00:52:10,850 --> 00:52:14,645

Because, you see, when
you arrived in Birkenau,

1066

00:52:14,645 --> 00:52:18,100

in Auschwitz-Birkenau,
you had to sign a paper,

1067

00:52:18,100 --> 00:52:21,830

that after six months, it's
going to be special treatment.

1068

00:52:21,830 --> 00:52:25,070

And our six months
would be up very soon.

1069

00:52:25,070 --> 00:52:29,220

So we knew this is what's
going to happen to us.

1070

00:52:29,220 --> 00:52:33,860

But in the meantime, the
Germans sent in more prisoners

1071

00:52:33,860 --> 00:52:38,840

from Theresien to [INAUDIBLE].

1072

00:52:38,840 --> 00:52:42,620

That's the million
camp-- to fill it up.

1073

00:52:42,620 --> 00:52:50,150

And then what we didn't know
was the invasion of Europe,

1074

00:52:50,150 --> 00:52:58,670

you know, 1944 when the

British went to Dunkirk,

1075

00:52:58,670 --> 00:53:01,850
and the Canadians, and so on,
they started invading Europe.

1076

00:53:01,850 --> 00:53:04,070
We didn't know that right.

1077

00:53:04,070 --> 00:53:06,500
So one day--

1078

00:53:06,500 --> 00:53:09,830
I mean, you know, there
were always rumors.

1079

00:53:09,830 --> 00:53:13,160
And there were
rumors that there's

1080

00:53:13,160 --> 00:53:14,270
going to be a selection.

1081

00:53:14,270 --> 00:53:18,800
See, in our camp, there
was never a selection.

1082

00:53:18,800 --> 00:53:22,670
Like in the men, where the
men were, in the D camp,

1083

00:53:22,670 --> 00:53:24,410
there were always selections.

1084

00:53:24,410 --> 00:53:28,220
And they always took out the
people who were old, or sick,

1085

00:53:28,220 --> 00:53:29,930
or couldn't work anymore.

1086

00:53:29,930 --> 00:53:34,820

And they took them out,
and they gassed them.

1087
00:53:34,820 --> 00:53:36,110
That happened.

1088
00:53:36,110 --> 00:53:37,850
I don't know how
often during the week,

1089
00:53:37,850 --> 00:53:40,130
but it happened very often.

1090
00:53:40,130 --> 00:53:43,850
Can we go back a
little bit in time?

1091
00:53:43,850 --> 00:53:51,800
And tell me, going from
Theresien to Auschwitz for you,

1092
00:53:51,800 --> 00:53:53,990
can you tell me about that?

1093
00:53:53,990 --> 00:53:59,040
Yes, that was terrible,
because I had high fever.

1094
00:53:59,040 --> 00:54:01,790
I had tonsillitis, and so forth.

1095
00:54:01,790 --> 00:54:03,920
They couldn't care less.

1096
00:54:03,920 --> 00:54:08,810
They put you in these cattle
cars, and without water,

1097
00:54:08,810 --> 00:54:09,880
without toilets.

1098
00:54:09,880 --> 00:54:12,260

And when was this?

1099
00:54:12,260 --> 00:54:15,140
What was the date that
you left Theresien?

1100
00:54:15,140 --> 00:54:18,410
On the 15th of December, '43.

1101
00:54:18,410 --> 00:54:20,120
15th of December?

1102
00:54:20,120 --> 00:54:29,760
Yeah, that was transport
DR. And we were one,

1103
00:54:29,760 --> 00:54:33,180
and then the next day
came another transport.

1104
00:54:33,180 --> 00:54:36,690
And so tell me a little
bit about that journey

1105
00:54:36,690 --> 00:54:38,250
from Theresien.

1106
00:54:38,250 --> 00:54:39,520
You said you were sick.

1107
00:54:39,520 --> 00:54:42,650
I wasn't very much with
it, because I was--

1108
00:54:42,650 --> 00:54:44,580
we were in this cattle car.

1109
00:54:44,580 --> 00:54:46,110
There was nowhere to--

1110
00:54:46,110 --> 00:54:47,570
there were no

benches, no nothing.

1111
00:54:47,570 --> 00:54:51,790
You were just-- I was standing,
or trying to sit, or something.

1112
00:54:51,790 --> 00:54:55,540
And they always did that
during-- they always

1113
00:54:55,540 --> 00:54:57,040
moved you during the night.

1114
00:54:57,040 --> 00:54:59,230
They put you late afternoon.

1115
00:54:59,230 --> 00:55:02,860
They put you in the trains,
and then you traveled.

1116
00:55:02,860 --> 00:55:03,940
And you had no--

1117
00:55:03,940 --> 00:55:05,920
we tried to look out
that little window.

1118
00:55:05,920 --> 00:55:09,070
And, of course, we had no
idea where we were going.

1119
00:55:09,070 --> 00:55:13,950
And then we arrived
in the morning.

1120
00:55:13,950 --> 00:55:15,510
And the doors opened.

1121
00:55:15,510 --> 00:55:18,570
And the Germans started yelling.

1122
00:55:18,570 --> 00:55:21,570

How was the journey?

1123
00:55:21,570 --> 00:55:23,340
It must have been overnight.

1124
00:55:23,340 --> 00:55:24,060
Just overnight.

1125
00:55:24,060 --> 00:55:25,650
OK.

1126
00:55:25,650 --> 00:55:28,260
And were you with
friends your age?

1127
00:55:28,260 --> 00:55:29,610
No.

1128
00:55:29,610 --> 00:55:30,780
Who were you with?

1129
00:55:30,780 --> 00:55:32,680
All kinds of people.

1130
00:55:32,680 --> 00:55:35,280
I don't have no idea.

1131
00:55:35,280 --> 00:55:41,370
I have absolutely no idea who
was with me on that train.

1132
00:55:41,370 --> 00:55:43,740
And so we jumped.

1133
00:55:43,740 --> 00:55:45,630
They yelled us to
get out, get out.

1134
00:55:45,630 --> 00:55:49,980
And we had to jump out,
and we saw young boys

1135

00:55:49,980 --> 00:55:52,920
in their pajamas running around.

1136

00:55:52,920 --> 00:55:55,230
And they would say,
they would say to us,

1137

00:55:55,230 --> 00:55:56,520
don't go on the trucks.

1138

00:55:56,520 --> 00:55:59,310
Don't go on the trucks, because
if you go on the trucks,

1139

00:55:59,310 --> 00:56:01,920
you go to heaven.

1140

00:56:01,920 --> 00:56:07,060
But you know, you
are completely--

1141

00:56:07,060 --> 00:56:09,250
you don't know what's
going on with you.

1142

00:56:09,250 --> 00:56:12,220
You have absolutely no
control about your thoughts

1143

00:56:12,220 --> 00:56:19,220
or anything, because
it's like a strange land.

1144

00:56:19,220 --> 00:56:23,950
And they put you on
the trucks, and you go.

1145

00:56:23,950 --> 00:56:28,720
And so they drove us
from there into the camp.

1146

00:56:28,720 --> 00:56:31,780

And we landed in
that family camp.

1147
00:56:31,780 --> 00:56:35,070
And so they divided
the girls separate,

1148
00:56:35,070 --> 00:56:38,380
and the women separate,
and the men separate.

1149
00:56:38,380 --> 00:56:44,980
And I ended up in that
house or block number 11.

1150
00:56:44,980 --> 00:56:47,680
And there were about
800 women in one

1151
00:56:47,680 --> 00:56:51,010
of these houses, these blocks.

1152
00:56:51,010 --> 00:56:54,910
And we had these bunks,
three-story high bunks,

1153
00:56:54,910 --> 00:57:02,860
and about 8 women would
lie on a shelf kind of.

1154
00:57:02,860 --> 00:57:04,210
Right, right.

1155
00:57:04,210 --> 00:57:07,330
And since when you're young,
so you could climb up.

1156
00:57:07,330 --> 00:57:08,560
So you were up there.

1157
00:57:08,560 --> 00:57:10,300
And, of course, when
you were up there,

1158
00:57:10,300 --> 00:57:12,040
which was good,
because you had air.

1159
00:57:12,040 --> 00:57:15,490
And when you were old and
sick, you were on the bottom,

1160
00:57:15,490 --> 00:57:16,840
and it was pitch dark.

1161
00:57:16,840 --> 00:57:19,390
And it was like hell there.

1162
00:57:19,390 --> 00:57:21,660
What were you wearing?

1163
00:57:21,660 --> 00:57:22,410
What did you wear?

1164
00:57:22,410 --> 00:57:23,240
What did I wear?

1165
00:57:23,240 --> 00:57:28,490

1166
00:57:28,490 --> 00:57:31,310
Oh, yeah, I know what I wore.

1167
00:57:31,310 --> 00:57:32,990
Now you reminded me.

1168
00:57:32,990 --> 00:57:37,094

1169
00:57:37,094 --> 00:57:38,078
We bartered.

1170
00:57:38,078 --> 00:57:40,490
In camp, you barter for things.

1171
00:57:40,490 --> 00:57:46,500
And I bartered with
someone for a man's suit.

1172
00:57:46,500 --> 00:57:50,020
I don't remember what
I gave, but I ended up

1173
00:57:50,020 --> 00:57:51,090
with a man's suit.

1174
00:57:51,090 --> 00:57:54,570
It was a very nice
brown men's suit.

1175
00:57:54,570 --> 00:57:58,150
And there were women who
were working in-- well,

1176
00:57:58,150 --> 00:57:59,500
they had sewing machines.

1177
00:57:59,500 --> 00:58:02,580
They were sewing, so they
did things on the side

1178
00:58:02,580 --> 00:58:06,250
for a piece of
bread or something.

1179
00:58:06,250 --> 00:58:09,450
I don't know how many slices
of bread I gave her for that,

1180
00:58:09,450 --> 00:58:13,050
and she made me
a beautiful suit.

1181
00:58:13,050 --> 00:58:18,900
She turned it inside out,
and I had a lovely jacket.

1182
00:58:18,900 --> 00:58:22,170
And from the pants,
she made me a skirt.

1183
00:58:22,170 --> 00:58:28,260
And then I found
somewhere a piece of fur,

1184
00:58:28,260 --> 00:58:31,650
and somebody made me a cap.

1185
00:58:31,650 --> 00:58:36,750
So I had a fur hat,
and I had a fur collar.

1186
00:58:36,750 --> 00:58:38,910
So I looked really snazzy.

1187
00:58:38,910 --> 00:58:42,760
And in that thing,
I came to Auschwitz.

1188
00:58:42,760 --> 00:58:43,860
Now, I remember that.

1189
00:58:43,860 --> 00:58:45,680
Sometimes I forget
things already.

1190
00:58:45,680 --> 00:58:48,780
Oh, this was your clothes
in Theresien, you're saying?

1191
00:58:48,780 --> 00:58:51,300
That was-- yeah, yes.

1192
00:58:51,300 --> 00:58:55,500
We as girls, we wanted to
look nice in Theresien.

1193
00:58:55,500 --> 00:58:59,100
Most of the girls

wore plaid skirts.

1194
00:58:59,100 --> 00:59:01,490
These skirts were
made from blankets.

1195
00:59:01,490 --> 00:59:02,850
Oh.

1196
00:59:02,850 --> 00:59:05,490
I don't know where we got
these blankets, but we had--

1197
00:59:05,490 --> 00:59:08,250
we wore these--

1198
00:59:08,250 --> 00:59:10,740
So that's what you wore to--

1199
00:59:10,740 --> 00:59:13,320
that new suit you
had is what you wore?

1200
00:59:13,320 --> 00:59:14,530
That new suit, oh, yes.

1201
00:59:14,530 --> 00:59:16,470
You wore that to Auschwitz?

1202
00:59:16,470 --> 00:59:17,880
That was very--

1203
00:59:17,880 --> 00:59:19,107
I was very fashionable.

1204
00:59:19,107 --> 00:59:20,940
But I'm saying, that's
what you were wearing

1205
00:59:20,940 --> 00:59:22,230
when you got to Auschwitz?

1206

00:59:22,230 --> 00:59:23,370

That's what I was--

1207

00:59:23,370 --> 00:59:24,150

yes.

1208

00:59:24,150 --> 00:59:27,270

And so we were there

a little while,

1209

00:59:27,270 --> 00:59:30,330

and then they took us

out to another block.

1210

00:59:30,330 --> 00:59:34,260

And there, a girl

sitting, Polish girls

1211

00:59:34,260 --> 00:59:36,090

sitting at little tables.

1212

00:59:36,090 --> 00:59:38,190

And we had to sit down

at the little tables,

1213

00:59:38,190 --> 00:59:40,440

and that's where

they tattooed us.

1214

00:59:40,440 --> 00:59:45,120

And I got my number,

and my number is 70663.

1215

00:59:45,120 --> 00:59:47,790

And my number is very

much on my forearm,

1216

00:59:47,790 --> 00:59:51,210

because that jacket

had very tight sleeves,

1217

00:59:51,210 --> 00:59:54,150

and I couldn't
move my sleeves up.

1218
00:59:54,150 --> 00:59:57,910
Normally, the number
is near the elbow,

1219
00:59:57,910 --> 01:00:03,090
but my number is very low down,
because I couldn't move up

1220
01:00:03,090 --> 01:00:04,920
the sleeve.

1221
01:00:04,920 --> 01:00:06,510
What was that like for you?

1222
01:00:06,510 --> 01:00:10,860
I mean, here you're, what,
18 years old, and getting

1223
01:00:10,860 --> 01:00:12,996
a tattoo?

1224
01:00:12,996 --> 01:00:14,850
You're in a trance.

1225
01:00:14,850 --> 01:00:17,190
You are not there.

1226
01:00:17,190 --> 01:00:19,920
So when you arrived
in Auschwitz,

1227
01:00:19,920 --> 01:00:24,500
it was like you went from one--

1228
01:00:24,500 --> 01:00:28,340
you were like a marionette.

1229
01:00:28,340 --> 01:00:30,650
Where they put you,

there you went,

1230
01:00:30,650 --> 01:00:33,470
and you had no idea what
was going on with you.

1231
01:00:33,470 --> 01:00:36,500
Because, as I say, it was
like being in a trance.

1232
01:00:36,500 --> 01:00:38,000
Did they take off your hair?

1233
01:00:38,000 --> 01:00:38,880
Did they shave--

1234
01:00:38,880 --> 01:00:39,490
Wait a minute.

1235
01:00:39,490 --> 01:00:39,990
OK.

1236
01:00:39,990 --> 01:00:42,770
So when we had the
number, we again

1237
01:00:42,770 --> 01:00:44,810
lined up in front of the block.

1238
01:00:44,810 --> 01:00:47,930
And all the women--

1239
01:00:47,930 --> 01:00:49,970
the men were in
different blocks,

1240
01:00:49,970 --> 01:00:51,640
and the women were
in different blocks.

1241
01:00:51,640 --> 01:00:56,540
And they started marching

us to outside of the camp

1242
01:00:56,540 --> 01:01:00,660
to a building.

1243
01:01:00,660 --> 01:01:03,560
We had no idea what
this building was.

1244
01:01:03,560 --> 01:01:05,650
When we arrived
in that building,

1245
01:01:05,650 --> 01:01:09,590
we had to get undressed,
and the only thing

1246
01:01:09,590 --> 01:01:14,390
we were allowed to keep
were our stockings.

1247
01:01:14,390 --> 01:01:20,330
And they put something on
our hair in case we had lice,

1248
01:01:20,330 --> 01:01:24,200
I suppose, and they put
us under the showers.

1249
01:01:24,200 --> 01:01:28,430
Now, we had no idea that
these were gas chambers,

1250
01:01:28,430 --> 01:01:30,110
because this was--

1251
01:01:30,110 --> 01:01:34,070
you could use this as a shower
place or as a gas chamber.

1252
01:01:34,070 --> 01:01:36,110
Because the only thing--

1253

01:01:36,110 --> 01:01:39,410
the difference was when they
wanted to kill the people.

1254

01:01:39,410 --> 01:01:43,340
There were little
openings in the ceiling.

1255

01:01:43,340 --> 01:01:45,440
And through those
ceilings, they put

1256

01:01:45,440 --> 01:01:50,930
in the canisters of Cyclone B,
and the pebbles would slowly

1257

01:01:50,930 --> 01:01:54,820
come down, and the
people would suffocate.

1258

01:01:54,820 --> 01:01:56,240
Right.

1259

01:01:56,240 --> 01:01:59,420
But [AUDIO OUT] round,
but we had no idea.

1260

01:01:59,420 --> 01:02:03,020
But then we took a
shower, and we were

1261

01:02:03,020 --> 01:02:04,790
allowed to keep our stockings.

1262

01:02:04,790 --> 01:02:07,610
And there was a bench, and
we put the stockings there.

1263

01:02:07,610 --> 01:02:10,670
And when it was time for
me to get my stockings,

1264

01:02:10,670 --> 01:02:13,170
they weren't there.

1265
01:02:13,170 --> 01:02:16,770
I was hysterical,
because it was December,

1266
01:02:16,770 --> 01:02:19,890
and I had no stockings.

1267
01:02:19,890 --> 01:02:24,330
So, of course, they took
all our clothes away,

1268
01:02:24,330 --> 01:02:26,280
the shoes and everything.

1269
01:02:26,280 --> 01:02:28,320
And then but I
found another pair.

1270
01:02:28,320 --> 01:02:29,430
I don't whose it was.

1271
01:02:29,430 --> 01:02:32,430
Probably this person took
mine, so she left hers.

1272
01:02:32,430 --> 01:02:36,480
And they moved us to another
room where there was a girl,

1273
01:02:36,480 --> 01:02:39,720
and she threw at us clothes--

1274
01:02:39,720 --> 01:02:40,450
literally.

1275
01:02:40,450 --> 01:02:44,460
She had a big bundle of
clothes, and she would throw it.

1276

01:02:44,460 --> 01:02:48,225
And whether you were tall,
or small, or whatever.

1277
01:02:48,225 --> 01:02:51,460
It was horrible clothes.

1278
01:02:51,460 --> 01:02:56,840
And I think we had-- she gave
us a little coat or something.

1279
01:02:56,840 --> 01:02:59,680
And instead of shoes,
we got these pantofles.

1280
01:02:59,680 --> 01:03:01,050
You know the wooden clogs?

1281
01:03:01,050 --> 01:03:02,800
Oh, yes.

1282
01:03:02,800 --> 01:03:05,260
But that was really a savior.

1283
01:03:05,260 --> 01:03:09,190
Because if we would have been
standing in those leather

1284
01:03:09,190 --> 01:03:11,800
shoes, it would have
been even worse.

1285
01:03:11,800 --> 01:03:17,070
They wouldn't-- at least
we didn't have frozen toes.

1286
01:03:17,070 --> 01:03:19,900
Because we were standing
outside for hours

1287
01:03:19,900 --> 01:03:23,890
being counted in the
morning and the afternoon.

1288
01:03:23,890 --> 01:03:27,845
And then they start us moving--

1289
01:03:27,845 --> 01:03:31,390
and we were marched
back to the camp.

1290
01:03:31,390 --> 01:03:34,220
And I was on that block 11.

1291
01:03:34,220 --> 01:03:36,580
Yes.

1292
01:03:36,580 --> 01:03:39,040
And we were not
allowed to go out.

1293
01:03:39,040 --> 01:03:41,650
There was a
quarantine of 14 days.

1294
01:03:41,650 --> 01:03:44,440
You're talking about
still the family camp?

1295
01:03:44,440 --> 01:03:45,650
That was in the family camp.

1296
01:03:45,650 --> 01:03:46,150
Yeah, yeah.

1297
01:03:46,150 --> 01:03:46,930
Yeah.

1298
01:03:46,930 --> 01:03:50,320
But we were a
quarantine of 14 days.

1299
01:03:50,320 --> 01:03:55,240
But we found out things-- what
it was like, where we were.

1300
01:03:55,240 --> 01:03:57,530
I mean, there's always
somebody who comes in.

1301
01:03:57,530 --> 01:04:00,520
The girls who brought
the soup, they would--

1302
01:04:00,520 --> 01:04:02,410
we would try to talk to them.

1303
01:04:02,410 --> 01:04:07,390
I found out the previous
transport with my mother

1304
01:04:07,390 --> 01:04:09,290
and brother is also there.

1305
01:04:09,290 --> 01:04:11,270
So I found out
where my mother was.

1306
01:04:11,270 --> 01:04:13,810
Oh.

1307
01:04:13,810 --> 01:04:18,180
And when we were allowed to--

1308
01:04:18,180 --> 01:04:20,730
after the 14 days,
then we were allowed

1309
01:04:20,730 --> 01:04:22,780
to walk around in the camp.

1310
01:04:22,780 --> 01:04:28,350
I went to look for my mother,
and she was on block 27.

1311
01:04:28,350 --> 01:04:33,430
So that was quite far away

and having only those clogs.

1312
01:04:33,430 --> 01:04:35,190
And in Poland, it's very--

1313
01:04:35,190 --> 01:04:37,860
the mud is unbelievable,
because it's clay.

1314
01:04:37,860 --> 01:04:40,020
You sink into it.

1315
01:04:40,020 --> 01:04:44,190
Like you had to take a
step, take your pantofle

1316
01:04:44,190 --> 01:04:47,820
and put it down, and
then you put them on.

1317
01:04:47,820 --> 01:04:51,750
I did find my mother, and
she was in a terrible state

1318
01:04:51,750 --> 01:04:52,300
already.

1319
01:04:52,300 --> 01:04:53,970
Oh, my.

1320
01:04:53,970 --> 01:04:55,390
She had diarrhea.

1321
01:04:55,390 --> 01:04:56,760
How do I know she had diarrhea?

1322
01:04:56,760 --> 01:05:00,300
Because anybody you
saw with a white mouth.

1323
01:05:00,300 --> 01:05:04,410
They gave out a powder

against diarrhea,

1324
01:05:04,410 --> 01:05:07,290
so I knew that already
that she was not well.

1325
01:05:07,290 --> 01:05:08,190
Yeah.

1326
01:05:08,190 --> 01:05:11,540
So I said, well, I
have to do something.

1327
01:05:11,540 --> 01:05:16,830
So I volunteered
to carry the soup,

1328
01:05:16,830 --> 01:05:20,450
because if you
carry the barrels--

1329
01:05:20,450 --> 01:05:22,650
it was heavy like hell.

1330
01:05:22,650 --> 01:05:26,370
And the two girls were carrying
the soup-- one in the front

1331
01:05:26,370 --> 01:05:27,270
and one in the back.

1332
01:05:27,270 --> 01:05:28,754
We had like poles, you know?

1333
01:05:28,754 --> 01:05:29,670
Mm-hmm.

1334
01:05:29,670 --> 01:05:34,890
And over the poles,
there was some bands.

1335
01:05:34,890 --> 01:05:36,950

And those, you put
over your shoulders.

1336
01:05:36,950 --> 01:05:37,950
And that's how you walk.

1337
01:05:37,950 --> 01:05:39,480
That's how you carry it.

1338
01:05:39,480 --> 01:05:46,660
But the thing was, when you
went to pick up those barrels,

1339
01:05:46,660 --> 01:05:51,730
you could scrape out
the leftover soup.

1340
01:05:51,730 --> 01:05:56,200
That was-- so I said, I'm
going to go and carry the soup.

1341
01:05:56,200 --> 01:06:01,780
At least I will be able to give
to my mother a little soup.

1342
01:06:01,780 --> 01:06:04,690
Unfortunately, she
got so very ill,

1343
01:06:04,690 --> 01:06:06,490
and she died a few days later.

1344
01:06:06,490 --> 01:06:06,990
Oh.

1345
01:06:06,990 --> 01:06:09,710

1346
01:06:09,710 --> 01:06:15,500
So I stopped carrying the soup,
and we didn't do anything.

1347

01:06:15,500 --> 01:06:17,370
We did not go to work.

1348
01:06:17,370 --> 01:06:21,250
We're just sitting there.

1349
01:06:21,250 --> 01:06:23,920
And most of the time,
we were standing

1350
01:06:23,920 --> 01:06:27,070
outside being counted, because
they counted us in the morning,

1351
01:06:27,070 --> 01:06:29,920
and they counted us
in the afternoon.

1352
01:06:29,920 --> 01:06:33,010
And we had to stand
there, and they

1353
01:06:33,010 --> 01:06:36,430
had to calculate whether
everybody was there, you know?

1354
01:06:36,430 --> 01:06:39,730
They had us to count,
because the dead ones,

1355
01:06:39,730 --> 01:06:42,940
people were put in the back
of the block of the house.

1356
01:06:42,940 --> 01:06:46,360
So they bent in the back,
and they counted the dead.

1357
01:06:46,360 --> 01:06:47,710
And if it didn't--

1358
01:06:47,710 --> 01:06:54,400
if the figures weren't right,

so they started counting again.

1359

01:06:54,400 --> 01:06:57,520

So we sometimes were
standing there for hours.

1360

01:06:57,520 --> 01:07:03,460

How supportive were the
young women to each other?

1361

01:07:03,460 --> 01:07:08,590

Well, we made friends.

1362

01:07:08,590 --> 01:07:12,400

You become friendly with a
person who lied next to you.

1363

01:07:12,400 --> 01:07:15,880

To me lied a girl whom
I never saw in my life.

1364

01:07:15,880 --> 01:07:18,340

And her name was [? Judy ?]
[? Peltzman, ?] and so she

1365

01:07:18,340 --> 01:07:19,520

became my friend.

1366

01:07:19,520 --> 01:07:20,470

Yeah.

1367

01:07:20,470 --> 01:07:25,620

And I mean, I knew
some other people.

1368

01:07:25,620 --> 01:07:29,620

But what we did, like when--

1369

01:07:29,620 --> 01:07:31,030

we didn't go to work.

1370

01:07:31,030 --> 01:07:34,540

So we spent the whole
day in that house.

1371
01:07:34,540 --> 01:07:35,890
And we were sitting there.

1372
01:07:35,890 --> 01:07:40,210
And very often, we were
cooking, imaginary cooking.

1373
01:07:40,210 --> 01:07:41,470
Oh, yes, yes.

1374
01:07:41,470 --> 01:07:44,140
And across from me,
there was a lovely lady.

1375
01:07:44,140 --> 01:07:46,020
Her name was Mrs.
[? Morgenstern, ?]

1376
01:07:46,020 --> 01:07:47,620
and she was older.

1377
01:07:47,620 --> 01:07:50,650
Her son was a very
nice young man.

1378
01:07:50,650 --> 01:07:54,550
And so we were making
strudels, and we were

1379
01:07:54,550 --> 01:07:56,800
making all kinds of things.

1380
01:07:56,800 --> 01:07:59,590
And one would say,
my mother did this.

1381
01:07:59,590 --> 01:08:01,090
And another would
say, no no, no.

1382
01:08:01,090 --> 01:08:02,210
My mother did that.

1383
01:08:02,210 --> 01:08:02,710
Yes.

1384
01:08:02,710 --> 01:08:03,970
And so we were cooking.

1385
01:08:03,970 --> 01:08:04,840
Yeah.

1386
01:08:04,840 --> 01:08:08,720
And also, we also
pretended to take a bath.

1387
01:08:08,720 --> 01:08:09,820
Oh.

1388
01:08:09,820 --> 01:08:12,460
You know?

1389
01:08:12,460 --> 01:08:14,680
How wonderful it
would be, because--

1390
01:08:14,680 --> 01:08:15,190
oh, yes.

1391
01:08:15,190 --> 01:08:18,470
And I also want to tell
you that the young women,

1392
01:08:18,470 --> 01:08:21,550
they're very
conscious of hygiene.

1393
01:08:21,550 --> 01:08:26,470
And we went into the bath house
every morning, got undressed,

1394

01:08:26,470 --> 01:08:29,439
and washed ourselves completely.

1395
01:08:29,439 --> 01:08:32,810
It was cold water.

1396
01:08:32,810 --> 01:08:36,010
We had no towels, but
we washed ourselves.

1397
01:08:36,010 --> 01:08:38,319
And but you know,
we didn't care.

1398
01:08:38,319 --> 01:08:39,580
We were naked.

1399
01:08:39,580 --> 01:08:40,870
Because nobody could see us.

1400
01:08:40,870 --> 01:08:42,789
It was such a--

1401
01:08:42,789 --> 01:08:47,140
it was like a fog, because
from our warm bodies

1402
01:08:47,140 --> 01:08:48,370
in that cold place.

1403
01:08:48,370 --> 01:08:49,960
It was all foggy.

1404
01:08:49,960 --> 01:08:53,890
So nobody could really
tell who was who.

1405
01:08:53,890 --> 01:08:55,760
Did you get your period in--

1406
01:08:55,760 --> 01:09:03,370
Well, that was our luck in

a way, the period stopped

1407
01:09:03,370 --> 01:09:04,120
in Auschwitz.

1408
01:09:04,120 --> 01:09:05,495
Your period stopped,
yeah, right.

1409
01:09:05,495 --> 01:09:09,189
Because before that,
it was horrible.

1410
01:09:09,189 --> 01:09:10,479
You had nothing, you know?

1411
01:09:10,479 --> 01:09:10,979
Yeah.

1412
01:09:10,979 --> 01:09:12,580
It was just terrible.

1413
01:09:12,580 --> 01:09:14,229
But now, we are paying for it.

1414
01:09:14,229 --> 01:09:17,439
Because most of people
who lose their period when

1415
01:09:17,439 --> 01:09:20,815
they're young, you get
osteoporosis much faster.

1416
01:09:20,815 --> 01:09:21,940
You know, like the runners?

1417
01:09:21,940 --> 01:09:22,440
Oh, yes.

1418
01:09:22,440 --> 01:09:24,880
You know the people who--
the women who are runners

1419
01:09:24,880 --> 01:09:27,770
[INAUDIBLE],, they lose
their period also.

1420
01:09:27,770 --> 01:09:31,810
So one good thing,
we lost the period.

1421
01:09:31,810 --> 01:09:33,979
Just to go back, how
did that happen--

1422
01:09:33,979 --> 01:09:38,740
how was that handled
in Theresien?

1423
01:09:38,740 --> 01:09:42,430
If you ask me what we
did, I can't remember.

1424
01:09:42,430 --> 01:09:44,960
It's something, it
just escaped me.

1425
01:09:44,960 --> 01:09:47,140
We probably-- I don't know.

1426
01:09:47,140 --> 01:09:51,939
We probably took some pieces
of cloth or something,

1427
01:09:51,939 --> 01:09:53,951
but I cannot--

1428
01:09:53,951 --> 01:09:56,400
I don't want to
make up any stories.

1429
01:09:56,400 --> 01:09:57,250
No, no.

1430

01:09:57,250 --> 01:09:58,960
But I can't remember exactly.

1431
01:09:58,960 --> 01:10:00,740
I will not-- I will not tell.

1432
01:10:00,740 --> 01:10:01,390
Yeah.

1433
01:10:01,390 --> 01:10:03,700
So now you're in-- you said
you were standing around,

1434
01:10:03,700 --> 01:10:05,290
because you weren't working.

1435
01:10:05,290 --> 01:10:06,940
No, we weren't working.

1436
01:10:06,940 --> 01:10:07,510
Yeah.

1437
01:10:07,510 --> 01:10:18,350
Anyway, it came,
the 7th of March.

1438
01:10:18,350 --> 01:10:19,370
This is '44?

1439
01:10:19,370 --> 01:10:22,520
That's '44.

1440
01:10:22,520 --> 01:10:28,190
And so they called out all the
numbers from the previous--

1441
01:10:28,190 --> 01:10:31,120
from that September transport.

1442
01:10:31,120 --> 01:10:32,360
And they had to--

1443

01:10:32,360 --> 01:10:37,100

they had to line up
until they had everybody.

1444

01:10:37,100 --> 01:10:42,830

They moved them over to
the camp A. We were B,

1445

01:10:42,830 --> 01:10:46,910

and they put them in the camp A.

1446

01:10:46,910 --> 01:10:50,980

And I saw my brother there.

1447

01:10:50,980 --> 01:10:53,830

And I had a pair of mittens.

1448

01:10:53,830 --> 01:10:55,330

And I called to him.

1449

01:10:55,330 --> 01:10:57,580

And I said, would you
like to have my mittens?

1450

01:10:57,580 --> 01:11:01,120

I thought I would throw
them over the wire.

1451

01:11:01,120 --> 01:11:05,870

Had you have any contact with
him before that in Auschwitz?

1452

01:11:05,870 --> 01:11:06,370

No.

1453

01:11:06,370 --> 01:11:07,150

Very little.

1454

01:11:07,150 --> 01:11:10,270

I went to-- after my
mother died, I went--

1455

01:11:10,270 --> 01:11:13,780
on the way down, I
stopped at his block.

1456

01:11:13,780 --> 01:11:16,870
He was in block 16, I believe.

1457

01:11:16,870 --> 01:11:18,370
Block 16 you said?

1458

01:11:18,370 --> 01:11:19,570
I think so.

1459

01:11:19,570 --> 01:11:21,460
I'm not quite sure,
but I think it was.

1460

01:11:21,460 --> 01:11:23,260
And I went-- you couldn't go in.

1461

01:11:23,260 --> 01:11:25,150
You had to say you
want to speak to--

1462

01:11:25,150 --> 01:11:25,960
Yeah.

1463

01:11:25,960 --> 01:11:28,600
So I told the guy who
was standing at the door.

1464

01:11:28,600 --> 01:11:33,610
And I said, I'd like to speak
to [? Hanush ?] Epstein.

1465

01:11:33,610 --> 01:11:36,100
And he called him,
and he came out.

1466

01:11:36,100 --> 01:11:39,040
And I told him that
mother died, and he

1467
01:11:39,040 --> 01:11:40,510
didn't say one word to me.

1468
01:11:40,510 --> 01:11:44,360
He just turned around
and he walked away,

1469
01:11:44,360 --> 01:11:47,620
because he was so
attached to her.

1470
01:11:47,620 --> 01:11:51,610
And I really never
saw him very much,

1471
01:11:51,610 --> 01:11:54,700
because he was
painting the chimneys.

1472
01:11:54,700 --> 01:11:56,210
But everybody knew him.

1473
01:11:56,210 --> 01:11:58,960
He was a very beautiful child.

1474
01:11:58,960 --> 01:12:03,550
And people were
just taken by him.

1475
01:12:03,550 --> 01:12:10,600
And I never saw-- so that day,
and he was on the other side.

1476
01:12:10,600 --> 01:12:12,160
I saw him, and called to him.

1477
01:12:12,160 --> 01:12:14,546
And I said, I have
those mittens.

1478
01:12:14,546 --> 01:12:16,930

Would you like those mittens?

1479

01:12:16,930 --> 01:12:19,480

And he said to me,
where I am going,

1480

01:12:19,480 --> 01:12:23,230

I don't need any mittens.

1481

01:12:23,230 --> 01:12:28,080

And during the night,
from the 7th to the 8th,

1482

01:12:28,080 --> 01:12:30,620

they took them by trucks.

1483

01:12:30,620 --> 01:12:32,220

And they killed
them all that night.

1484

01:12:32,220 --> 01:12:32,720

Oh, god.

1485

01:12:32,720 --> 01:12:34,880

And you could hear them singing.

1486

01:12:34,880 --> 01:12:36,620

They were singing.

1487

01:12:36,620 --> 01:12:39,500

They were singing the
Hatikva, and they were singing

1488

01:12:39,500 --> 01:12:42,380

the Czech national anthem.

1489

01:12:42,380 --> 01:12:47,360

And so we knew that we have
three more months to live.

1490

01:12:47,360 --> 01:12:49,010

But as I told you,

in the meantime,

1491
01:12:49,010 --> 01:12:55,370
they sent another I think 7,500
people to fill up the camp.

1492
01:12:55,370 --> 01:12:59,640
And then one day, well,
these rumors that there's

1493
01:12:59,640 --> 01:13:00,770
going to be a selection.

1494
01:13:00,770 --> 01:13:04,040
Because as I said, we
never had a selection.

1495
01:13:04,040 --> 01:13:08,320
That was end of June, I believe.

1496
01:13:08,320 --> 01:13:11,240
You know, because don't
forget, we had no calendar.

1497
01:13:11,240 --> 01:13:13,560
Right.

1498
01:13:13,560 --> 01:13:17,180
What we did is we made
little marks on our bunks

1499
01:13:17,180 --> 01:13:21,290
and to see how many
more days we have to--

1500
01:13:21,290 --> 01:13:22,100
till with die.

1501
01:13:22,100 --> 01:13:26,600
Kind of we scratched them out.

1502
01:13:26,600 --> 01:13:29,810

And so there were rumors.

1503
01:13:29,810 --> 01:13:33,380
Because in camp, there always
are rumors, and that there's

1504
01:13:33,380 --> 01:13:36,650
going to be a selection.

1505
01:13:36,650 --> 01:13:39,720
And sure enough--
because Mengele

1506
01:13:39,720 --> 01:13:43,050
used to work in our
camp, he did his research

1507
01:13:43,050 --> 01:13:46,110
on dwarfs and twins in our camp.

1508
01:13:46,110 --> 01:13:47,350
Right.

1509
01:13:47,350 --> 01:13:49,320
So they came.

1510
01:13:49,320 --> 01:13:54,140
There came the orders
that we have to line up.

1511
01:13:54,140 --> 01:13:57,180
It was at the end of the
camp, like near where

1512
01:13:57,180 --> 01:14:01,050
the tracks are now.

1513
01:14:01,050 --> 01:14:05,760
And you had to get
undressed completely,

1514
01:14:05,760 --> 01:14:11,940

and you put your clothes
on your right arm,

1515
01:14:11,940 --> 01:14:14,970
because the left arm
you had the numbers.

1516
01:14:14,970 --> 01:14:17,730
And so you went one
after the other.

1517
01:14:17,730 --> 01:14:20,840
And Mengele decided
who is going to live

1518
01:14:20,840 --> 01:14:21,840
and who is going to die.

1519
01:14:21,840 --> 01:14:31,120
And fate is unbelievable, and
that's why I'm so fatalist.

1520
01:14:31,120 --> 01:14:34,630
Because I suffered
from psoriasis.

1521
01:14:34,630 --> 01:14:39,230
And just at that time, I
was completely free of it.

1522
01:14:39,230 --> 01:14:43,940
I didn't have any
blemish on my body.

1523
01:14:43,940 --> 01:14:47,920
And so when I went through,
so he chose me to live.

1524
01:14:47,920 --> 01:14:53,410
Because he just moved
with his thumb as he's

1525
01:14:53,410 --> 01:14:54,730

known what he was doing.

1526

01:14:54,730 --> 01:14:57,800

And the SS men,
they were watching.

1527

01:14:57,800 --> 01:15:02,080

And when he made one sign
to live, and they took you,

1528

01:15:02,080 --> 01:15:04,510

and they wrote down your number.

1529

01:15:04,510 --> 01:15:07,960

And the ones he
said for death, they

1530

01:15:07,960 --> 01:15:11,350

didn't need to write
down the number.

1531

01:15:11,350 --> 01:15:14,590

And so we didn't know
what was going on.

1532

01:15:14,590 --> 01:15:15,790

And we had to--

1533

01:15:15,790 --> 01:15:19,100

then we got dressed, and
we went back to our bunks.

1534

01:15:19,100 --> 01:15:20,950

Let's go back to Mengele.

1535

01:15:20,950 --> 01:15:22,750

Had you seen him
before that day?

1536

01:15:22,750 --> 01:15:24,260

Or was that the only time?

1537

01:15:24,260 --> 01:15:25,520
No, we used to see him.

1538
01:15:25,520 --> 01:15:27,580
He used to come to the camp.

1539
01:15:27,580 --> 01:15:28,720
And so you saw him before.

1540
01:15:28,720 --> 01:15:30,050
Did you know who he was?

1541
01:15:30,050 --> 01:15:30,550
Or what he--

1542
01:15:30,550 --> 01:15:33,370
Yes, we knew that
he was Dr. Mengele.

1543
01:15:33,370 --> 01:15:35,770
Did you know what he was doing?

1544
01:15:35,770 --> 01:15:36,310
Did you--

1545
01:15:36,310 --> 01:15:37,420
That he was doing--

1546
01:15:37,420 --> 01:15:39,175
well, that he was
doing-- in our camp,

1547
01:15:39,175 --> 01:15:41,890
he was doing research
on dwarfs and twins.

1548
01:15:41,890 --> 01:15:43,420
I'm saying, but you knew that?

1549
01:15:43,420 --> 01:15:44,680
Yes.

1550

01:15:44,680 --> 01:15:46,510

How did you know that?

1551

01:15:46,510 --> 01:15:48,010

Well, you know--

1552

01:15:48,010 --> 01:15:49,020

People just talked?

1553

01:15:49,020 --> 01:15:50,885

We knew a lot of stuff.

1554

01:15:50,885 --> 01:15:51,385

How?

1555

01:15:51,385 --> 01:15:53,230

How did you get information?

1556

01:15:53,230 --> 01:15:55,970

Well, for instance,
we got information.

1557

01:15:55,970 --> 01:16:01,420

There were young Polish boys
who lived in the men's camp

1558

01:16:01,420 --> 01:16:08,110

in camp D, and
they were roofers.

1559

01:16:08,110 --> 01:16:11,770

They were fixing the
roofs of the houses.

1560

01:16:11,770 --> 01:16:15,580

And because they could go
from one camp to the other,

1561

01:16:15,580 --> 01:16:17,230

they were very knowledgeable.

1562

01:16:17,230 --> 01:16:19,700
They knew what was going on.

1563
01:16:19,700 --> 01:16:23,470
And they would tell us
all the news, you know?

1564
01:16:23,470 --> 01:16:24,070
Mm-hmm.

1565
01:16:24,070 --> 01:16:27,380
And also, they were--

1566
01:16:27,380 --> 01:16:30,880
the craziest thing is
there was one camp.

1567
01:16:30,880 --> 01:16:32,540
It was all Gypsies.

1568
01:16:32,540 --> 01:16:33,040
Right.

1569
01:16:33,040 --> 01:16:34,840
That was in the D camp.

1570
01:16:34,840 --> 01:16:39,570
And the Gypsies had
better food than we had.

1571
01:16:39,570 --> 01:16:45,240
And they brought the
food from the Gypsy camp

1572
01:16:45,240 --> 01:16:50,170
to the hospital to give it
to the people who were sick.

1573
01:16:50,170 --> 01:16:52,440
Now, that's sick, isn't it?

1574
01:16:52,440 --> 01:16:55,610

1575

01:16:55,610 --> 01:17:00,390
You gas people, but you bring
food from the Gypsy camp

1576

01:17:00,390 --> 01:17:02,190
to give people who are sick.

1577

01:17:02,190 --> 01:17:05,130
I mean, this is
absurd, isn't it?

1578

01:17:05,130 --> 01:17:09,040
So because they were moving
from one camp to the other,

1579

01:17:09,040 --> 01:17:11,970
so they knew the news,
what was going on.

1580

01:17:11,970 --> 01:17:13,590
They were like our postmen.

1581

01:17:13,590 --> 01:17:15,000
Yeah, OK.

1582

01:17:15,000 --> 01:17:19,530
And so we knew a lot of
things which were going on.

1583

01:17:19,530 --> 01:17:23,510
And this also was
the time already

1584

01:17:23,510 --> 01:17:27,870
when they built the
railroads into the camp.

1585

01:17:27,870 --> 01:17:29,890
Because when we came,
it wasn't there.

1586

01:17:29,890 --> 01:17:34,470

So they built that railroad so
that trains could come straight

1587

01:17:34,470 --> 01:17:37,560

into the camp.

1588

01:17:37,560 --> 01:17:44,700

And we saw these trains
arriving every day.

1589

01:17:44,700 --> 01:17:49,800

And then the camp next to
ours, the C camp, was empty.

1590

01:17:49,800 --> 01:17:52,620

But then it started
filling up with girls,

1591

01:17:52,620 --> 01:17:57,780

and these were the Hungarian
girls who they kept alive.

1592

01:17:57,780 --> 01:18:01,740

We would talk to them.

1593

01:18:01,740 --> 01:18:03,950

Probably, we spoke
German to them.

1594

01:18:03,950 --> 01:18:06,090

I don't remember, because
I don't know Hungarian.

1595

01:18:06,090 --> 01:18:06,840

Right.

1596

01:18:06,840 --> 01:18:11,490

And we could kind of
talk, because the camps,

1597

01:18:11,490 --> 01:18:14,910

the division, was only wire.

1598

01:18:14,910 --> 01:18:17,220

So you saw what was
going on next door.

1599

01:18:17,220 --> 01:18:19,440

And, I mean, we didn't
go near the wire,

1600

01:18:19,440 --> 01:18:22,195

because the wire
was electrified.

1601

01:18:22,195 --> 01:18:25,350

The minute you could touch
it, and off you went.

1602

01:18:25,350 --> 01:18:27,450

How did you keep yourself going?

1603

01:18:27,450 --> 01:18:30,068

I mean, here you lost your
mother, and your brother,

1604

01:18:30,068 --> 01:18:31,110

and you're a young woman.

1605

01:18:31,110 --> 01:18:34,780

How did you keep yourself
going at that time?

1606

01:18:34,780 --> 01:18:39,700

You had this tremendous
will to live.

1607

01:18:39,700 --> 01:18:46,090

You wanted to show them
that you are going to live.

1608

01:18:46,090 --> 01:18:49,690

You're going to outlive
them, and you did everything

1609
01:18:49,690 --> 01:18:52,240
possible to stay alive.

1610
01:18:52,240 --> 01:18:55,754
Like staying clean
helps you, you know?

1611
01:18:55,754 --> 01:18:57,116
Mm-hmm.

1612
01:18:57,116 --> 01:19:04,510
And all-- we were discussing
all kinds of books.

1613
01:19:04,510 --> 01:19:08,640
And we were all very
intelligent people,

1614
01:19:08,640 --> 01:19:11,260
so we've been talking
about Tolstoy,

1615
01:19:11,260 --> 01:19:15,220
and Dostoevsky, and
Schiller, and Goethe,

1616
01:19:15,220 --> 01:19:18,550
and all these things.

1617
01:19:18,550 --> 01:19:23,910
We somehow wanted to--

1618
01:19:23,910 --> 01:19:27,472
in Hebrew we say [HEBREW].

1619
01:19:27,472 --> 01:19:27,972
Yes, yes.

1620
01:19:27,972 --> 01:19:28,440
Do you know what that means?

1621
01:19:28,440 --> 01:19:28,940
Yes.

1622
01:19:28,940 --> 01:19:30,000
We are going to show you.

1623
01:19:30,000 --> 01:19:30,500
Right.

1624
01:19:30,500 --> 01:19:32,880
We are going to live out.

1625
01:19:32,880 --> 01:19:35,680
We will manage to survive.

1626
01:19:35,680 --> 01:19:40,710
So anyway, so when he chose us,
the next day we were called.

1627
01:19:40,710 --> 01:19:43,240
All our numbers were called out.

1628
01:19:43,240 --> 01:19:50,590
We also were chosen, and we were
marched to the women's camp.

1629
01:19:50,590 --> 01:19:52,770
And when we came to
the women's camp,

1630
01:19:52,770 --> 01:19:55,170
the orchestra was welcoming us.

1631
01:19:55,170 --> 01:19:57,090
They played for us.

1632
01:19:57,090 --> 01:20:00,480
But there's a book.

1633
01:20:00,480 --> 01:20:04,530
This girl wrote a book

about her being a conductor

1634
01:20:04,530 --> 01:20:06,000
in the women's camp.

1635
01:20:06,000 --> 01:20:06,960
Yes.

1636
01:20:06,960 --> 01:20:09,360
Yes, she was conducting there.

1637
01:20:09,360 --> 01:20:11,440
And they are
playing very nicely.

1638
01:20:11,440 --> 01:20:14,490
And we were marching
in, and they put us up

1639
01:20:14,490 --> 01:20:17,620
in different bunks there.

1640
01:20:17,620 --> 01:20:20,710
But the girls who
were there, they

1641
01:20:20,710 --> 01:20:23,200
didn't like us,
because we had hair.

1642
01:20:23,200 --> 01:20:27,976
We were the only prisoners
who they didn't shave.

1643
01:20:27,976 --> 01:20:28,830
Oh.

1644
01:20:28,830 --> 01:20:32,780
So already, that,
we were different.

1645
01:20:32,780 --> 01:20:35,440

And so they already
didn't like us.

1646
01:20:35,440 --> 01:20:37,990
They were shaven,
because most of them

1647
01:20:37,990 --> 01:20:42,150
came 1942 from
Slovakia and Poland.

1648
01:20:42,150 --> 01:20:43,240
So they already.

1649
01:20:43,240 --> 01:20:48,680
This is 1944, so they are
already there a long time.

1650
01:20:48,680 --> 01:20:52,600
And when we wanted to go,
for instance, to the washroom

1651
01:20:52,600 --> 01:20:56,380
to get washed, there was a girl
standing with the [INAUDIBLE]..

1652
01:20:56,380 --> 01:21:03,508
And she let the
water straight at us.

1653
01:21:03,508 --> 01:21:05,480
I mean, they didn't like us.

1654
01:21:05,480 --> 01:21:06,070
Yeah.

1655
01:21:06,070 --> 01:21:10,060
Because they also knew
already that we are not

1656
01:21:10,060 --> 01:21:11,210
going to stay there.

1657

01:21:11,210 --> 01:21:12,160

Oh.

1658

01:21:12,160 --> 01:21:16,180

And can you imagine they
being there since 1942?

1659

01:21:16,180 --> 01:21:21,590

Now, it's 1944, and that we
are going to be shipped out.

1660

01:21:21,590 --> 01:21:25,330

And they just-- they were not--

1661

01:21:25,330 --> 01:21:26,770

I can understand it.

1662

01:21:26,770 --> 01:21:28,420

Yes.

1663

01:21:28,420 --> 01:21:30,790

They were jealous of us.

1664

01:21:30,790 --> 01:21:32,010

Of course.

1665

01:21:32,010 --> 01:21:32,510

Of course.

1666

01:21:32,510 --> 01:21:35,380

And so we were there a few days.

1667

01:21:35,380 --> 01:21:36,760

I don't know how long.

1668

01:21:36,760 --> 01:21:39,380

I tell you what.

1669

01:21:39,380 --> 01:21:44,240

I think it was the end of June.

1670

01:21:44,240 --> 01:21:48,740

And I think that we
left a week later.

1671

01:21:48,740 --> 01:21:52,520

Now, I have a
literature from Hamburg.

1672

01:21:52,520 --> 01:21:55,310

And there they write
that we arrived

1673

01:21:55,310 --> 01:21:59,240

at between the 16th
and 17th of July.

1674

01:21:59,240 --> 01:22:03,110

But I think we came
there sooner than that.

1675

01:22:03,110 --> 01:22:04,680

I'm not quite sure.

1676

01:22:04,680 --> 01:22:07,190

So you were sent to Hamburg?

1677

01:22:07,190 --> 01:22:07,910

Well, yes.

1678

01:22:07,910 --> 01:22:12,650

So anyway, so they put
together-- they divided us,

1679

01:22:12,650 --> 01:22:16,790

and they added to us
some Hungarian girls.

1680

01:22:16,790 --> 01:22:20,570

And we were standing
always in all in five,

1681

01:22:20,570 --> 01:22:21,830

and they moved us around.

1682
01:22:21,830 --> 01:22:23,930
And we moved around,
because we wanted

1683
01:22:23,930 --> 01:22:25,310
to be with certain girls.

1684
01:22:25,310 --> 01:22:28,110
And we didn't want to
be divided, and so on.

1685
01:22:28,110 --> 01:22:31,010
So there was always
a big doing on,

1686
01:22:31,010 --> 01:22:37,190
and they didn't
do anything to us.

1687
01:22:37,190 --> 01:22:40,090
And anyway, they divided us.

1688
01:22:40,090 --> 01:22:44,230
Part of us went to Hamburg, and
part of us went to Stutthof.

1689
01:22:44,230 --> 01:22:48,230
And they added some
Hungarian girls.

1690
01:22:48,230 --> 01:22:52,500
But I don't know whether
ever anybody told you that.

1691
01:22:52,500 --> 01:22:59,400
Before we left, we were
examined internally,

1692
01:22:59,400 --> 01:23:04,040
because perhaps we were
hiding some gold or something.

1693
01:23:04,040 --> 01:23:05,410
Right.

1694
01:23:05,410 --> 01:23:09,930
So and then we were
brought to the train.

1695
01:23:09,930 --> 01:23:13,660
And when we were
brought to the train

1696
01:23:13,660 --> 01:23:21,130
and we saw that there were not
only SS men, but soldiers--

1697
01:23:21,130 --> 01:23:23,530
well, first of all, it
was a relief that we left.

1698
01:23:23,530 --> 01:23:26,620
We were going out of
Auschwitz, because nobody

1699
01:23:26,620 --> 01:23:31,650
in their right mind ever could
fathom that that would happen.

1700
01:23:31,650 --> 01:23:32,620
Right.

1701
01:23:32,620 --> 01:23:38,090
So they put us on the
train, and again, there

1702
01:23:38,090 --> 01:23:40,410
was nowhere to sit.

1703
01:23:40,410 --> 01:23:42,260
It's just the train.

1704
01:23:42,260 --> 01:23:45,350

But we stopped quite often,
because they were air raids.

1705
01:23:45,350 --> 01:23:47,060
Because we drove.

1706
01:23:47,060 --> 01:23:49,230
We didn't know
where we were going.

1707
01:23:49,230 --> 01:23:52,640
We drove through the
whole of Germany.

1708
01:23:52,640 --> 01:23:58,610
From Southern Poland we
went all the way to Hamburg.

1709
01:23:58,610 --> 01:24:01,740
So when we arrived at
that place the next day--

1710
01:24:01,740 --> 01:24:03,890
and I do think it
was my birthday,

1711
01:24:03,890 --> 01:24:06,020
and it wasn't the 16th of 17th.

1712
01:24:06,020 --> 01:24:08,900
I believe it was my birthday.

1713
01:24:08,900 --> 01:24:13,820
And so we found out
that we were in Hamburg.

1714
01:24:13,820 --> 01:24:19,130
And they put us
up in a warehouse.

1715
01:24:19,130 --> 01:24:21,610
I found out just a
few years ago that it

1716
01:24:21,610 --> 01:24:24,380
used to be a tobacco warehouse.

1717
01:24:24,380 --> 01:24:26,600
Right now, I have
a picture of it.

1718
01:24:26,600 --> 01:24:31,490
Because as I told you, I
got in touch with Hamburg.

1719
01:24:31,490 --> 01:24:32,000
Yeah.

1720
01:24:32,000 --> 01:24:33,740
And they send me pictures.

1721
01:24:33,740 --> 01:24:37,970
I have pictures of all
the places we were.

1722
01:24:37,970 --> 01:24:39,680
And there, they
write that we arrived

1723
01:24:39,680 --> 01:24:42,410
between the 16th
or 17th, but I'm

1724
01:24:42,410 --> 01:24:45,530
quite sure we came
there a little earlier.

1725
01:24:45,530 --> 01:24:51,590
And it was clean, and the
banks were only two stories,

1726
01:24:51,590 --> 01:24:54,360
like one on the
upper and one lower.

1727

01:24:54,360 --> 01:24:57,650
So that wasn't-- before,
we had three stories.

1728
01:24:57,650 --> 01:25:00,770
And they were smaller ones,
only about two together.

1729
01:25:00,770 --> 01:25:04,010
And we each had our
own little bed kind of.

1730
01:25:04,010 --> 01:25:07,280
And the soup was better.

1731
01:25:07,280 --> 01:25:10,190
And there was no gas chambers.

1732
01:25:10,190 --> 01:25:11,430
Right.

1733
01:25:11,430 --> 01:25:11,950
You know?

1734
01:25:11,950 --> 01:25:12,450
Yeah.

1735
01:25:12,450 --> 01:25:14,310
I mean, we were in heaven.

1736
01:25:14,310 --> 01:25:17,600

1737
01:25:17,600 --> 01:25:22,130
But the first night, the
whole house started to shake,

1738
01:25:22,130 --> 01:25:23,720
and we didn't know what it was.

1739
01:25:23,720 --> 01:25:25,370
It was an air raid.

1740
01:25:25,370 --> 01:25:27,960
And some girls
yelled to the others

1741
01:25:27,960 --> 01:25:29,780
who were upstairs, don't move.

1742
01:25:29,780 --> 01:25:30,712
Why are you moving?

1743
01:25:30,712 --> 01:25:31,670
The whole thing shakes.

1744
01:25:31,670 --> 01:25:32,990
Awe, yeah.

1745
01:25:32,990 --> 01:25:37,890
We had no idea that the bombs
were falling all around us.

1746
01:25:37,890 --> 01:25:40,280
And so we started going to work.

1747
01:25:40,280 --> 01:25:43,700
At first, they put us on a ship.

1748
01:25:43,700 --> 01:25:49,925
I mean, we went to different
places, mostly oil companies.

1749
01:25:49,925 --> 01:25:52,250
We were cleaning up.

1750
01:25:52,250 --> 01:25:55,290
You know, that's what we were
doing first, to clean up.

1751
01:25:55,290 --> 01:25:58,220
And I remember they
brought me to this place,

1752
01:25:58,220 --> 01:26:02,710
and my first job
was to wash windows.

1753
01:26:02,710 --> 01:26:07,180
And I said to the fellow,
could I have some newspaper?

1754
01:26:07,180 --> 01:26:10,210
And he said, what do
you need newspaper for?

1755
01:26:10,210 --> 01:26:12,670
I said, well, to
wash the windows.

1756
01:26:12,670 --> 01:26:14,020
You will see.

1757
01:26:14,020 --> 01:26:16,300
And when I was finished,
they couldn't believe it,

1758
01:26:16,300 --> 01:26:19,230
what a good job I did.

1759
01:26:19,230 --> 01:26:24,340
And we got a little bit
of soup, and there were

1760
01:26:24,340 --> 01:26:27,880
other people working there.

1761
01:26:27,880 --> 01:26:35,310
But we found out later on,
Dutch people and French people.

1762
01:26:35,310 --> 01:26:38,230
They were in work camps,
and they were also

1763
01:26:38,230 --> 01:26:42,430

working in factories to
clean up after the air raids,

1764
01:26:42,430 --> 01:26:45,190
but just to clean up.

1765
01:26:45,190 --> 01:26:50,290
And the air raids were
continuous during the night

1766
01:26:50,290 --> 01:26:51,130
and during the day.

1767
01:26:51,130 --> 01:26:53,535
Like we would go in
the morning, and there

1768
01:26:53,535 --> 01:26:55,690
were houses standing nicely.

1769
01:26:55,690 --> 01:26:57,880
And on the way back,
there was nothing.

1770
01:26:57,880 --> 01:26:58,720
Oh, gosh.

1771
01:26:58,720 --> 01:27:01,270
You could see the
bathtub was hanging on,

1772
01:27:01,270 --> 01:27:04,450
and the stove was on the
other hand hanging there.

1773
01:27:04,450 --> 01:27:07,690
I mean, they did a real
good job, I can tell.

1774
01:27:07,690 --> 01:27:09,460
Yeah.

1775

01:27:09,460 --> 01:27:16,460
But the British knew and the
Americans knew where we were.

1776
01:27:16,460 --> 01:27:19,250
That they were a group of
women, that they're not

1777
01:27:19,250 --> 01:27:21,140
going to bomb us--

1778
01:27:21,140 --> 01:27:22,400
The warehouse, yeah.

1779
01:27:22,400 --> 01:27:25,580
--where we stayed and
even where we worked.

1780
01:27:25,580 --> 01:27:27,140
Yeah.

1781
01:27:27,140 --> 01:27:30,410
And so we were
there a few weeks.

1782
01:27:30,410 --> 01:27:34,910
And I just found from Hamburg--

1783
01:27:34,910 --> 01:27:40,340
I got all this
literature-- and it says--

1784
01:27:40,340 --> 01:27:41,410
just a minute.

1785
01:27:41,410 --> 01:27:42,500
I will tell you.

1786
01:27:42,500 --> 01:27:45,850

1787
01:27:45,850 --> 01:27:49,750

We went to a place
called Neugraben,

1788
01:27:49,750 --> 01:27:57,270
and we arrived there on
the 13th of September.

1789
01:27:57,270 --> 01:28:03,130
And we left there on
the 8th of February.

1790
01:28:03,130 --> 01:28:06,950
So we were there
the whole winter.

1791
01:28:06,950 --> 01:28:07,975
We went to work.

1792
01:28:07,975 --> 01:28:10,510

1793
01:28:10,510 --> 01:28:13,810
People worked all
over, but my group

1794
01:28:13,810 --> 01:28:17,230
went to work in a sandpit.

1795
01:28:17,230 --> 01:28:20,200
Because they built
little houses.

1796
01:28:20,200 --> 01:28:22,908
Because don't forget,
the people of Hamburg,

1797
01:28:22,908 --> 01:28:23,950
they had nowhere to live.

1798
01:28:23,950 --> 01:28:26,500
So we were building
little houses.

1799

01:28:26,500 --> 01:28:31,220

And so I was in a group where
we were working in a sandpit.

1800

01:28:31,220 --> 01:28:35,500

And so we each got a shovel
and started shoveling the sand.

1801

01:28:35,500 --> 01:28:40,300

And we had a little
train, little wagons,

1802

01:28:40,300 --> 01:28:42,950

and we put the sand there.

1803

01:28:42,950 --> 01:28:48,700

And we had a foreman, who was
an old German, skinny guy, who

1804

01:28:48,700 --> 01:28:51,130

was very decent.

1805

01:28:51,130 --> 01:28:55,420

And he saw that I seem
to be a good worker.

1806

01:28:55,420 --> 01:28:56,260

And it's funny.

1807

01:28:56,260 --> 01:28:59,440

When they see that
you are a good worker,

1808

01:28:59,440 --> 01:29:03,580

they always kind of
find you a good job.

1809

01:29:03,580 --> 01:29:05,320

So he stopped me.

1810

01:29:05,320 --> 01:29:09,140

And he says, you are

going to be the switcher.

1811
01:29:09,140 --> 01:29:13,640
So I became the
switcher on the train.

1812
01:29:13,640 --> 01:29:17,780
There was a fellow who was
the driver of the train,

1813
01:29:17,780 --> 01:29:19,550
and I was the switcher.

1814
01:29:19,550 --> 01:29:21,890
And the driver, he
was a Communist.

1815
01:29:21,890 --> 01:29:24,620
And he had to go to
the police, I believe,

1816
01:29:24,620 --> 01:29:28,280
every night or once a week
that he didn't run away

1817
01:29:28,280 --> 01:29:30,770
or something like that.

1818
01:29:30,770 --> 01:29:33,710
But the air raids
were unbelievable.

1819
01:29:33,710 --> 01:29:36,620
And so when the air raids were--

1820
01:29:36,620 --> 01:29:40,240
the thing what we had
to watch out were the--

1821
01:29:40,240 --> 01:29:42,020
it was called Flak.

1822

01:29:42,020 --> 01:29:43,470
That's anti-aircraft.

1823
01:29:43,470 --> 01:29:43,970
Right.

1824
01:29:43,970 --> 01:29:45,075
You know, the splinters?

1825
01:29:45,075 --> 01:29:45,460
Yeah, yeah.

1826
01:29:45,460 --> 01:29:46,043
It splintered.

1827
01:29:46,043 --> 01:29:49,220
And if that caught
you, you were dead.

1828
01:29:49,220 --> 01:29:54,800
So when these little
wagons were empty,

1829
01:29:54,800 --> 01:29:56,330
we would turn them upside down.

1830
01:29:56,330 --> 01:29:57,560
We could do that.

1831
01:29:57,560 --> 01:29:59,143
And we would hide--

1832
01:29:59,143 --> 01:29:59,810
Hide underneath.

1833
01:29:59,810 --> 01:30:00,470
Yes.

1834
01:30:00,470 --> 01:30:02,143
And you could hear
tink, tink, tink.

1835

01:30:02,143 --> 01:30:05,630

You know-- how these
were falling on it.

1836

01:30:05,630 --> 01:30:10,540

So we were there for a
while until, I told you,

1837

01:30:10,540 --> 01:30:14,510

just the 2nd of-- until
the 8th of February.

1838

01:30:14,510 --> 01:30:16,525

And then they moved us again.

1839

01:30:16,525 --> 01:30:19,780

1840

01:30:19,780 --> 01:30:26,760

Oh, by the way, Neugraben
is today a shopping center.

1841

01:30:26,760 --> 01:30:28,480

And I had a friend.

1842

01:30:28,480 --> 01:30:34,500

Her name was Ruth
[? Pinchoski. ?] And she--

1843

01:30:34,500 --> 01:30:37,750

her name afterwards was--

1844

01:30:37,750 --> 01:30:44,520

oh, she married a
fellow, [? Sayon. ?]

1845

01:30:44,520 --> 01:30:47,280

And you know, she was
fighting with Hamburg

1846

01:30:47,280 --> 01:30:52,140

that they shouldn't be allowed

to put a shopping center there.

1847
01:30:52,140 --> 01:30:56,458
But anyway, I have a picture
of the shopping center

1848
01:30:56,458 --> 01:30:57,750
or part of the shopping center.

1849
01:30:57,750 --> 01:31:01,470
And there's a tablet where
it says that we were there.

1850
01:31:01,470 --> 01:31:04,260
That's what I read from.

1851
01:31:04,260 --> 01:31:11,500
And anyway, so they moved us
to a place called Diessdack

1852
01:31:11,500 --> 01:31:15,490
on the 8th of February, right?

1853
01:31:15,490 --> 01:31:17,030
How do you spell that?

1854
01:31:17,030 --> 01:31:17,530
What?

1855
01:31:17,530 --> 01:31:19,600
How do you spell that?

1856
01:31:19,600 --> 01:31:20,410
Diessdack?

1857
01:31:20,410 --> 01:31:21,190
Yeah.

1858
01:31:21,190 --> 01:31:28,230
D-I-E-S-S-D-A-C-K, Diessdack.

1859

01:31:28,230 --> 01:31:35,260
And I was chosen to work
right outside of camp.

1860
01:31:35,260 --> 01:31:38,650
I was making big bricks
with holes, you know?

1861
01:31:38,650 --> 01:31:39,150
Mm-hmm.

1862
01:31:39,150 --> 01:31:40,470
Like I had a helper.

1863
01:31:40,470 --> 01:31:43,690
She was mixing the
cement with a stone,

1864
01:31:43,690 --> 01:31:46,440
and then I would
put it in the form,

1865
01:31:46,440 --> 01:31:50,310
and bang it down, and
make it so its solid.

1866
01:31:50,310 --> 01:31:54,030
And then you put out the form.

1867
01:31:54,030 --> 01:31:56,730
You lift it out, and
you had this brick.

1868
01:31:56,730 --> 01:31:57,870
But you had to work hard.

1869
01:31:57,870 --> 01:32:00,060
Otherwise, it would fall apart.

1870
01:32:00,060 --> 01:32:01,320
And then somebody came in.

1871

01:32:01,320 --> 01:32:02,280

They put it in.

1872

01:32:02,280 --> 01:32:09,660

It would be dried, and this is
how they would make new houses.

1873

01:32:09,660 --> 01:32:12,090

And it's a strange thing.

1874

01:32:12,090 --> 01:32:14,430

I remember most everything.

1875

01:32:14,430 --> 01:32:18,450

But I could not tell you
who was living with me

1876

01:32:18,450 --> 01:32:22,450

in that room where I
was, what it was like.

1877

01:32:22,450 --> 01:32:27,350

They sent me from Hamburg
a picture of that place.

1878

01:32:27,350 --> 01:32:30,310

It doesn't say anything to me.

1879

01:32:30,310 --> 01:32:33,510

I remember that there
was a dining hall, which

1880

01:32:33,510 --> 01:32:37,960

was a long hall, and I remember
exactly where I was working.

1881

01:32:37,960 --> 01:32:42,480

But I couldn't remember that
place, what it looked like,

1882

01:32:42,480 --> 01:32:45,240

or who was with me.

1883

01:32:45,240 --> 01:32:52,200

Because very shortly after
that, one day we went from work,

1884

01:32:52,200 --> 01:32:54,420

which was around--

1885

01:32:54,420 --> 01:32:58,660

I say that it was the end of--

1886

01:32:58,660 --> 01:33:02,170

that was still in February,
but nobody wants to believe me.

1887

01:33:02,170 --> 01:33:05,250

1888

01:33:05,250 --> 01:33:09,990

We went from work, and we
were standing to go in.

1889

01:33:09,990 --> 01:33:14,010

And as we were standing,
the sirens sounded.

1890

01:33:14,010 --> 01:33:18,300

And they told you that
the Flyers were already

1891

01:33:18,300 --> 01:33:22,860

crossing the channel, and
this was called a four alarm.

1892

01:33:22,860 --> 01:33:25,740

And we told the guard,
who was a soldier--

1893

01:33:25,740 --> 01:33:27,670

and he was a nice guy.

1894

01:33:27,670 --> 01:33:30,000

He was a decent guy.

1895
01:33:30,000 --> 01:33:32,660
He was kind of heavy, rotund.

1896
01:33:32,660 --> 01:33:34,650
And we called him Poppy.

1897
01:33:34,650 --> 01:33:36,450
And we said, Poppy, look.

1898
01:33:36,450 --> 01:33:37,380
There's an air raid.

1899
01:33:37,380 --> 01:33:38,490
Can't we go in?

1900
01:33:38,490 --> 01:33:43,140
And he says, I cannot let you
go in, because you have to be

1901
01:33:43,140 --> 01:33:45,090
counted.

1902
01:33:45,090 --> 01:33:49,260
And as we were standing
there, it became a four alarm.

1903
01:33:49,260 --> 01:33:53,370
That meant the Flyers really
are already over the city,

1904
01:33:53,370 --> 01:33:56,040
and the bombs started to fall.

1905
01:33:56,040 --> 01:33:58,710
And it killed Poppy.

1906
01:33:58,710 --> 01:34:01,140
But, of course, he wasn't
killed by the bomb,

1907

01:34:01,140 --> 01:34:03,500
but he was quite
killed by a Flyer.

1908
01:34:03,500 --> 01:34:06,810
The girl next to me, her name
was [? Suzy ?] [? Klasa. ?] She

1909
01:34:06,810 --> 01:34:07,770
was killed.

1910
01:34:07,770 --> 01:34:13,410
And I started running like
crazy through the dining hall.

1911
01:34:13,410 --> 01:34:22,846
And to this day, nobody wants
to own up whose plane it was.

1912
01:34:22,846 --> 01:34:23,346
Yeah.

1913
01:34:23,346 --> 01:34:26,260

1914
01:34:26,260 --> 01:34:27,940
They used to fly over us.

1915
01:34:27,940 --> 01:34:31,700
It was in the spring
of '45 when they

1916
01:34:31,700 --> 01:34:33,500
were bombing Dresden to hell.

1917
01:34:33,500 --> 01:34:34,000
Yeah.

1918
01:34:34,000 --> 01:34:36,970
So they were going
over us every day.

1919

01:34:36,970 --> 01:34:40,900
And because near us
was a power station,

1920
01:34:40,900 --> 01:34:44,620
and this was like at that time,
radar didn't work so well.

1921
01:34:44,620 --> 01:34:47,650
So this was a point they knew
that had to fly over in order

1922
01:34:47,650 --> 01:34:51,460
to go the way onto Dresden.

1923
01:34:51,460 --> 01:34:53,840
Right.

1924
01:34:53,840 --> 01:34:57,200
But the camp was gone.

1925
01:34:57,200 --> 01:35:03,260
And because the camp was
gone, they had to move us.

1926
01:35:03,260 --> 01:35:08,900
And they left us
there a few days yet.

1927
01:35:08,900 --> 01:35:10,980
There was like a
factory, and we were

1928
01:35:10,980 --> 01:35:14,640
sleeping there on some
benches or whatever it was,

1929
01:35:14,640 --> 01:35:16,690
more outside.

1930
01:35:16,690 --> 01:35:18,820
Because also the
luck was that we

1931
01:35:18,820 --> 01:35:21,460
were the only ones who
were in camp, the others,

1932
01:35:21,460 --> 01:35:23,420
because it was early.

1933
01:35:23,420 --> 01:35:25,090
Like it must have been 4:30.

1934
01:35:25,090 --> 01:35:27,350
So that girls still
didn't come back from work

1935
01:35:27,350 --> 01:35:30,040
where they worked
outside of camp,

1936
01:35:30,040 --> 01:35:33,580
except we were near the camp.

1937
01:35:33,580 --> 01:35:38,230
That only a few people got hurt,
and a few people got killed.

1938
01:35:38,230 --> 01:35:41,110
Otherwise, everybody
would have been gone.

1939
01:35:41,110 --> 01:35:49,300
And it was one plane which got
into trouble and had to let go.

1940
01:35:49,300 --> 01:35:52,080
In order to save the
plane and themselves,

1941
01:35:52,080 --> 01:35:57,340
they had to get rid of the
bomb, and they fell on us.

1942

01:35:57,340 --> 01:36:03,280
And I tried to find
out about this plane.

1943
01:36:03,280 --> 01:36:11,940
I wrote to a number of
war museums in England,

1944
01:36:11,940 --> 01:36:14,480
and they don't know
anything about it.

1945
01:36:14,480 --> 01:36:18,870
I wrote to the War
Museum in Washington,

1946
01:36:18,870 --> 01:36:22,230
and there was such a
clever guy who said--

1947
01:36:22,230 --> 01:36:26,160
send me back an email, I
should go to my home office.

1948
01:36:26,160 --> 01:36:29,600
Like Montreal would be
in the United States

1949
01:36:29,600 --> 01:36:33,270
that I could go to
the office, you know?

1950
01:36:33,270 --> 01:36:35,230
He had no idea what
I was talking about.

1951
01:36:35,230 --> 01:36:36,620
Yeah, right.

1952
01:36:36,620 --> 01:36:40,840
So till this day,
nobody wants to own up.

1953

01:36:40,840 --> 01:36:43,260
And I went to the
War Museum in Ottawa,

1954
01:36:43,260 --> 01:36:44,850
and I spoke to an officer.

1955
01:36:44,850 --> 01:36:49,920
And I said, I'd like to know
what happened with that plane,

1956
01:36:49,920 --> 01:36:54,350
because the camp was gone.

1957
01:36:54,350 --> 01:36:58,830
And because the camp was gone,
we were moved to Bergen-Belsen.

1958
01:36:58,830 --> 01:36:59,330
Oh.

1959
01:36:59,330 --> 01:37:03,470
And there, half of the girls
who would have survived

1960
01:37:03,470 --> 01:37:07,220
died there of typhoid.

1961
01:37:07,220 --> 01:37:11,240
So anyway, after a few
days, we went to the train.

1962
01:37:11,240 --> 01:37:14,390
And as we were waiting for the
train, there was an air raid.

1963
01:37:14,390 --> 01:37:18,450
We were sitting there on the
grass, and we just didn't move.

1964
01:37:18,450 --> 01:37:21,435
I mean, we were not
afraid of air raids.

1965
01:37:21,435 --> 01:37:24,120
First of all, we
couldn't go anywhere.

1966
01:37:24,120 --> 01:37:26,720
And then the train came, and
they put us on the train.

1967
01:37:26,720 --> 01:37:30,500
And early in the
morning, we arrived.

1968
01:37:30,500 --> 01:37:31,700
We didn't know where it was.

1969
01:37:31,700 --> 01:37:37,635
And we had to carry some
jackets or some Air Force

1970
01:37:37,635 --> 01:37:38,135
Jackets.

1971
01:37:38,135 --> 01:37:39,860
It was heavy like hell.

1972
01:37:39,860 --> 01:37:44,120
And we schlepped
it to this camp.

1973
01:37:44,120 --> 01:37:47,390
And then we arrived
in the morning.

1974
01:37:47,390 --> 01:37:49,841
What day was this, do you know?

1975
01:37:49,841 --> 01:37:51,980
That, I don't know.

1976
01:37:51,980 --> 01:37:55,400
I am saying-- you see,

this is I am saying,

1977

01:37:55,400 --> 01:37:59,000

but nobody wants to
corroborate that with me--

1978

01:37:59,000 --> 01:38:03,950

that it was sometime
in the end of February.

1979

01:38:03,950 --> 01:38:06,500

1980

01:38:06,500 --> 01:38:12,630

And they said this isn't so,
but my figure, I'm sure it's so.

1981

01:38:12,630 --> 01:38:15,890

And when we arrived,
they had a block there.

1982

01:38:15,890 --> 01:38:17,390

And there was nothing.

1983

01:38:17,390 --> 01:38:19,470

There were no bunks, no nothing.

1984

01:38:19,470 --> 01:38:22,670

And we had to lie on the floor.

1985

01:38:22,670 --> 01:38:27,450

And it was terrible, because one
was lying on top of the other.

1986

01:38:27,450 --> 01:38:29,570

And when you had to
go to the bathroom,

1987

01:38:29,570 --> 01:38:32,240

you had to step on the bathroom.

1988

01:38:32,240 --> 01:38:33,650

The toilet didn't work.

1989

01:38:33,650 --> 01:38:35,340

I mean, we had no water.

1990

01:38:35,340 --> 01:38:36,680

We had no toilets.

1991

01:38:36,680 --> 01:38:37,490

There was nothing.

1992

01:38:37,490 --> 01:38:40,700

It was complete hell there.

1993

01:38:40,700 --> 01:38:43,310

I mean, most of the
people were dead.

1994

01:38:43,310 --> 01:38:45,748

It was-- typhus was--

1995

01:38:45,748 --> 01:38:47,540

This is Bergen-Belsen
you're talking about?

1996

01:38:47,540 --> 01:38:50,600

That's Bergen-Belsen, yes.

1997

01:38:50,600 --> 01:38:52,670

It was horrendous.

1998

01:38:52,670 --> 01:38:56,410

We hardly got anything to eat.

1999

01:38:56,410 --> 01:38:59,905

And water was--
there was no water.

2000

01:38:59,905 --> 01:39:02,222

As I told you, the
toilets didn't work.

2001

01:39:02,222 --> 01:39:03,430

I mean, you couldn't even go.

2002

01:39:03,430 --> 01:39:04,180

You know what?

2003

01:39:04,180 --> 01:39:06,010

We went around the houses.

2004

01:39:06,010 --> 01:39:07,870

It was terrible, because--

2005

01:39:07,870 --> 01:39:10,520

it was just awful.

2006

01:39:10,520 --> 01:39:14,710

And then one day

there was a huge tent.

2007

01:39:14,710 --> 01:39:18,850

And we didn't know the

tent was full of corpses.

2008

01:39:18,850 --> 01:39:19,720

Oh, gosh.

2009

01:39:19,720 --> 01:39:25,090

And they made us drag those

corpses to mass graves,

2010

01:39:25,090 --> 01:39:26,710

because they wanted--

2011

01:39:26,710 --> 01:39:29,290

they knew that they

were going to leave.

2012

01:39:29,290 --> 01:39:31,500

So they wanted to

clean it up kind of.

2013

01:39:31,500 --> 01:39:32,230
Yeah.

2014
01:39:32,230 --> 01:39:33,400
So we did that.

2015
01:39:33,400 --> 01:39:38,240
And when it was certain
hours, I said, enough.

2016
01:39:38,240 --> 01:39:42,190
And so we just dropped
the corpse and went back.

2017
01:39:42,190 --> 01:39:44,650
And we saw like a row
of corpses lying there.

2018
01:39:44,650 --> 01:39:47,240

2019
01:39:47,240 --> 01:39:54,250
And you know, you become
so not feeling, you know?

2020
01:39:54,250 --> 01:39:57,415
You become so nothing.

2021
01:39:57,415 --> 01:40:00,331

2022
01:40:00,331 --> 01:40:02,990
You know that if
this goes on, this

2023
01:40:02,990 --> 01:40:08,740
is what you're going to
be like, and you fight on.

2024
01:40:08,740 --> 01:40:12,570
And then the Germans ran away.

2025

01:40:12,570 --> 01:40:17,610
And then they brought
in Hungarian soldiers,

2026
01:40:17,610 --> 01:40:20,580
and they didn't give us
anything to eat either.

2027
01:40:20,580 --> 01:40:26,680
So we went trying
to find some food.

2028
01:40:26,680 --> 01:40:31,810
And the Germans had storage.

2029
01:40:31,810 --> 01:40:35,050
They stored potatoes,
and turnips,

2030
01:40:35,050 --> 01:40:38,400
and things like
that under straw--

2031
01:40:38,400 --> 01:40:40,090
and like Earth and straw.

2032
01:40:40,090 --> 01:40:47,660
And it was like big
graves, huge things.

2033
01:40:47,660 --> 01:40:50,510
So we went there to dig it up.

2034
01:40:50,510 --> 01:40:54,200
And these damn Hungarians
started shooting,

2035
01:40:54,200 --> 01:40:55,490
and they killed girls.

2036
01:40:55,490 --> 01:40:56,080
Oh, gosh.

2037

01:40:56,080 --> 01:40:56,930

And you know what?

2038

01:40:56,930 --> 01:41:00,200

The funny thing is I'm the
only one who remembers that.

2039

01:41:00,200 --> 01:41:04,790

When you will read
anything about this stuff,

2040

01:41:04,790 --> 01:41:08,210

they don't talk that the
Hungarians were there.

2041

01:41:08,210 --> 01:41:09,740

But they were there.

2042

01:41:09,740 --> 01:41:12,680

Anyway, and then they left.

2043

01:41:12,680 --> 01:41:16,010

And then there was no one.

2044

01:41:16,010 --> 01:41:20,460

There were just a few of us who
still be able to walk around.

2045

01:41:20,460 --> 01:41:23,960

And there was
[AUDIO OUT] and myself.

2046

01:41:23,960 --> 01:41:29,180

And we felt that Red
Cross must be coming.

2047

01:41:29,180 --> 01:41:31,400

Somebody must be coming.

2048

01:41:31,400 --> 01:41:34,130

So we wanted to
prepare for that.

2049
01:41:34,130 --> 01:41:36,960
We found a little table.

2050
01:41:36,960 --> 01:41:38,750
Believe you me, it
was a little table.

2051
01:41:38,750 --> 01:41:42,380
And it was hard for us to
carry this little table.

2052
01:41:42,380 --> 01:41:48,890
We carried it on the main road
to the entrance of the camp.

2053
01:41:48,890 --> 01:41:51,380
And as we were standing
at the entrance,

2054
01:41:51,380 --> 01:41:53,270
somebody started shooting at us.

2055
01:41:53,270 --> 01:41:58,280
And the girl next to me was shot
at, but the bullet went into--

2056
01:41:58,280 --> 01:42:00,740
she had a blouse with a pad.

2057
01:42:00,740 --> 01:42:04,250
And it went into the pad,
so nothing happened to her.

2058
01:42:04,250 --> 01:42:08,390
And as we were standing
there, a huge tank

2059
01:42:08,390 --> 01:42:11,870
arrives with a white star.

2060
01:42:11,870 --> 01:42:14,825

Who the hell knew what it was.

2061

01:42:14,825 --> 01:42:17,490

We had no idea what it was.

2062

01:42:17,490 --> 01:42:20,750

And then the turret opened,
and there was this young man.

2063

01:42:20,750 --> 01:42:26,840

And he said that the division of
the Allies came to liberate us.

2064

01:42:26,840 --> 01:42:28,730

He said it in German.

2065

01:42:28,730 --> 01:42:34,080

[GERMAN],, he said, and
they started driving in.

2066

01:42:34,080 --> 01:42:35,960

And the soldiers came walking.

2067

01:42:35,960 --> 01:42:40,410

And I spoke a little English
already at that time.

2068

01:42:40,410 --> 01:42:46,590

And he told-- the first thing
he told me that Roosevelt died.

2069

01:42:46,590 --> 01:42:48,810

Because Roosevelt
died on the 12th,

2070

01:42:48,810 --> 01:42:52,170

and we were liberated
on the 15th.

2071

01:42:52,170 --> 01:42:55,800

And I, like an
idiot, was crying.

2072

01:42:55,800 --> 01:43:01,050

I never cried throughout my
whole three years, but I cried.

2073

01:43:01,050 --> 01:43:05,400

So now, when I give a
lecture I tell the children

2074

01:43:05,400 --> 01:43:10,410

that I'm ashamed of my tears,
because Mr. Roosevelt could

2075

01:43:10,410 --> 01:43:13,030

have saved thousands of Jews.

2076

01:43:13,030 --> 01:43:13,530

Right.

2077

01:43:13,530 --> 01:43:15,640

And he didn't do anything.

2078

01:43:15,640 --> 01:43:17,890

So that's why I'm
ashamed of my tears.

2079

01:43:17,890 --> 01:43:18,790

Right.

2080

01:43:18,790 --> 01:43:25,030

Anyway, so this the
British army came in.

2081

01:43:25,030 --> 01:43:27,120

This was the first
camp they liberated,

2082

01:43:27,120 --> 01:43:29,760

and they saw the horror.

2083

01:43:29,760 --> 01:43:32,010

Because most people
were dead, and there

2084
01:43:32,010 --> 01:43:35,610
were thousands of them.

2085
01:43:35,610 --> 01:43:39,000
And they got in touch
with the head office.

2086
01:43:39,000 --> 01:43:43,530
And the first thing they
did, they put up showers.

2087
01:43:43,530 --> 01:43:46,890
So at least we could get washed.

2088
01:43:46,890 --> 01:43:51,750
And there was a town not
far from where we were.

2089
01:43:51,750 --> 01:43:55,380
It was called Bergen,
which was an armory town.

2090
01:43:55,380 --> 01:43:58,450
Of course, the German soldiers
were not there anymore.

2091
01:43:58,450 --> 01:44:04,050
And that, they changed
into a hospital town.

2092
01:44:04,050 --> 01:44:08,370
And they tried to take out
all the sick people first.

2093
01:44:08,370 --> 01:44:12,380
So I wasn't sick.

2094
01:44:12,380 --> 01:44:14,120
I was walking around.

2095
01:44:14,120 --> 01:44:16,100

So you should have seen--

2096
01:44:16,100 --> 01:44:18,410
they put down on the ground.

2097
01:44:18,410 --> 01:44:20,600
The soldiers put
down a stretcher.

2098
01:44:20,600 --> 01:44:24,030
Before you knew, there were
10 naked ladies lying there,

2099
01:44:24,030 --> 01:44:27,530
because you were not allowed
to take any of the clothes,

2100
01:44:27,530 --> 01:44:29,210
because it was full
of lice, right?

2101
01:44:29,210 --> 01:44:30,514
Yeah.

2102
01:44:30,514 --> 01:44:35,150
Anyway, so I was one of
the last ones going out.

2103
01:44:35,150 --> 01:44:41,190
And the we come into Bergen.
And there was a square,

2104
01:44:41,190 --> 01:44:44,110
and I was put up
with some other girls

2105
01:44:44,110 --> 01:44:45,820
in one of these buildings.

2106
01:44:45,820 --> 01:44:47,940
And there was a kitchen.

2107

01:44:47,940 --> 01:44:53,220
And I don't know
how smart I got.

2108
01:44:53,220 --> 01:44:55,510
But I'm going to go and
work in the kitchen.

2109
01:44:55,510 --> 01:44:57,450
And I worked in the kitchen.

2110
01:44:57,450 --> 01:45:06,360
And I stole some butter,
and I put it in my chest.

2111
01:45:06,360 --> 01:45:10,110
And I ran home, because I wanted
to bring the girls butter.

2112
01:45:10,110 --> 01:45:13,790
And before I came,
it was running down.

2113
01:45:13,790 --> 01:45:21,250
Anyway, so then the Red
Cross started coming,

2114
01:45:21,250 --> 01:45:25,060
and they had clothes for us.

2115
01:45:25,060 --> 01:45:27,400
Because after all,
we had nothing.

2116
01:45:27,400 --> 01:45:31,525
And I got a leather jacket.

2117
01:45:31,525 --> 01:45:34,990
It was an old leather jacket,
but it was a leather jacket.

2118
01:45:34,990 --> 01:45:38,650
I got and Eisenhower jacket.

2119
01:45:38,650 --> 01:45:41,460

2120
01:45:41,460 --> 01:45:41,960
Yes.

2121
01:45:41,960 --> 01:45:46,100
Oh, yes, but while we
were still on our own

2122
01:45:46,100 --> 01:45:49,470
before we were liberated,
there was nobody.

2123
01:45:49,470 --> 01:45:52,880
We could walk around, and
there were warehouses.

2124
01:45:52,880 --> 01:45:56,240
You have no idea, but the
German had warehouses full of--

2125
01:45:56,240 --> 01:45:59,930

2126
01:45:59,930 --> 01:46:01,130
what do you call it--

2127
01:46:01,130 --> 01:46:02,510
attache cases.

2128
01:46:02,510 --> 01:46:06,230
These leather attache cases
the officers always used.

2129
01:46:06,230 --> 01:46:09,560
When you see films, they
always have this attache--

2130
01:46:09,560 --> 01:46:14,510
a whole building full of

attache cases, a whole building

2131

01:46:14,510 --> 01:46:20,900

full of jacket flyers for the
Air Force, beautiful jackets.

2132

01:46:20,900 --> 01:46:25,220

And then there was old
clothes and all kinds of junk.

2133

01:46:25,220 --> 01:46:30,390

And I found myself
a pair of pants.

2134

01:46:30,390 --> 01:46:33,420

It was-- they were huge.

2135

01:46:33,420 --> 01:46:38,220

So I put I think some
kind of a piece of string

2136

01:46:38,220 --> 01:46:42,540

around it, because I weighed
46 pounds at that time.

2137

01:46:42,540 --> 01:46:43,860

46 pounds?

2138

01:46:43,860 --> 01:46:44,360

Yes.

2139

01:46:44,360 --> 01:46:45,193

That's all you were?

2140

01:46:45,193 --> 01:46:46,590

And I'm 5'8.

2141

01:46:46,590 --> 01:46:48,610

You're 5'8, and you
weighed 46 pounds?

2142

01:46:48,610 --> 01:46:51,570

And anyway, I found those pants.

2143

01:46:51,570 --> 01:46:53,530

And there, I found
the leather jacket--

2144

01:46:53,530 --> 01:46:55,530

not the Red Cross
didn't give me.

2145

01:46:55,530 --> 01:46:57,570

There, I found the
leather jacket.

2146

01:46:57,570 --> 01:47:01,720

And so the Red Cross there
and when we were liberated,

2147

01:47:01,720 --> 01:47:05,850

they tried to give us
clothes, and so on.

2148

01:47:05,850 --> 01:47:09,990

And then the British
soldiers, they're very nice.

2149

01:47:09,990 --> 01:47:12,720

And there was a movie
house, and you only

2150

01:47:12,720 --> 01:47:18,040

were allowed to go to a
movie if you had an escort.

2151

01:47:18,040 --> 01:47:22,890

You had to go with a soldier,
and I found myself a soldier.

2152

01:47:22,890 --> 01:47:26,400

And his name was Goldberg,
and he says he was Jewish,

2153

01:47:26,400 --> 01:47:30,300

and that he came from
Edinburgh, Liverpool.

2154
01:47:30,300 --> 01:47:31,860
I don't remember what--

2155
01:47:31,860 --> 01:47:34,120
somewhere.

2156
01:47:34,120 --> 01:47:36,430
He became my friend kind of.

2157
01:47:36,430 --> 01:47:42,250
And then they said, if
we know of any people we

2158
01:47:42,250 --> 01:47:45,550
want to write to, you could.

2159
01:47:45,550 --> 01:47:47,110
So I raised my hand.

2160
01:47:47,110 --> 01:47:49,780
And they said, you want
to write to someone?

2161
01:47:49,780 --> 01:47:51,280
I said, yes.

2162
01:47:51,280 --> 01:47:54,510
I have an uncle in Canada.

2163
01:47:54,510 --> 01:47:57,370
And they said, but
you know his address?

2164
01:47:57,370 --> 01:47:59,740
I said, damn well
I know the address.

2165
01:47:59,740 --> 01:48:04,670
I said, it's 1448

Bishop Street, Montreal.

2166

01:48:04,670 --> 01:48:06,520

And they looked like I was nuts.

2167

01:48:06,520 --> 01:48:10,830

You know, how could I
remember an address in Canada?

2168

01:48:10,830 --> 01:48:11,330

Right.

2169

01:48:11,330 --> 01:48:14,420

So I did write a letter,
and my uncle got it.

2170

01:48:14,420 --> 01:48:17,090

It was a first letter
arrived from someone who

2171

01:48:17,090 --> 01:48:18,990

was in a concentration camp.

2172

01:48:18,990 --> 01:48:23,150

And I believe it was even
published in the newspaper.

2173

01:48:23,150 --> 01:48:27,750

And so my uncle knew
that I was alive.

2174

01:48:27,750 --> 01:48:29,960

And [INAUDIBLE]--

2175

01:48:29,960 --> 01:48:31,140

Can I ask you this first?

2176

01:48:31,140 --> 01:48:31,640

Yes.

2177

01:48:31,640 --> 01:48:35,420

When you realized

you were liberated,

2178

01:48:35,420 --> 01:48:37,135

did you have any
emotional feeling?

2179

01:48:37,135 --> 01:48:38,510

Did it mean any--

2180

01:48:38,510 --> 01:48:40,100

Oh, wow.

2181

01:48:40,100 --> 01:48:42,741

That's all I can say.

2182

01:48:42,741 --> 01:48:46,230

Yeah, I mean, it was unreal.

2183

01:48:46,230 --> 01:48:48,200

It was absolutely unreal.

2184

01:48:48,200 --> 01:48:52,720

But the thing was that we had
so many friends who were sick.

2185

01:48:52,720 --> 01:48:54,240

And we tried to find them.

2186

01:48:54,240 --> 01:48:56,850

And to find someone,
because there were hundreds,

2187

01:48:56,850 --> 01:49:03,160

and hundreds, and hundreds
of them lying in these places

2188

01:49:03,160 --> 01:49:03,960

there.

2189

01:49:03,960 --> 01:49:08,430

I had a lady, and
how she got through,

2190
01:49:08,430 --> 01:49:11,670
that Mengele didn't take
her was unbelievable.

2191
01:49:11,670 --> 01:49:16,260
She was much older,
and she looked older.

2192
01:49:16,260 --> 01:49:20,730
She had hardly any teeth,
and not a nice-looking woman,

2193
01:49:20,730 --> 01:49:22,900
but a heart of gold.

2194
01:49:22,900 --> 01:49:26,310
She would do the
dirtiest work, and she

2195
01:49:26,310 --> 01:49:27,780
would get a little extra soup.

2196
01:49:27,780 --> 01:49:30,480
And she would give
me a little bit

2197
01:49:30,480 --> 01:49:33,780
of bread or a little
something to help me.

2198
01:49:33,780 --> 01:49:35,460
So I went looking for her.

2199
01:49:35,460 --> 01:49:38,940
It took me days to
find her amongst--

2200
01:49:38,940 --> 01:49:40,720
because there were no lists.

2201
01:49:40,720 --> 01:49:43,650

You only went from bed
to bed to bed to bed.

2202
01:49:43,650 --> 01:49:44,820
And I did find her.

2203
01:49:44,820 --> 01:49:46,830
And she told me, you know what?

2204
01:49:46,830 --> 01:49:49,350
I have a son in Czechoslovakia.

2205
01:49:49,350 --> 01:49:53,390
And she told me where
he lived and his name.

2206
01:49:53,390 --> 01:49:58,340
And after the war, I did
find him, and he got her

2207
01:49:58,340 --> 01:49:58,940
Good.

2208
01:49:58,940 --> 01:50:00,320
I never saw her again.

2209
01:50:00,320 --> 01:50:01,880
But anyway--

2210
01:50:01,880 --> 01:50:05,468
Was there any-- did you have
any sense of celebration when

2211
01:50:05,468 --> 01:50:06,260
you were liberated?

2212
01:50:06,260 --> 01:50:07,400
Do you know what I'm saying?

2213
01:50:07,400 --> 01:50:08,067
Did you feel it?

2214

01:50:08,067 --> 01:50:09,260

Oh, we celebrated.

2215

01:50:09,260 --> 01:50:11,950

I can tell you,
we had a parties.

2216

01:50:11,950 --> 01:50:13,190

Yes, yes.

2217

01:50:13,190 --> 01:50:14,720

We were dancing.

2218

01:50:14,720 --> 01:50:15,380

You did?

2219

01:50:15,380 --> 01:50:17,360

Oh, yes.

2220

01:50:17,360 --> 01:50:21,890

We had-- there were young
men, and the soldiers.

2221

01:50:21,890 --> 01:50:25,850

And the funny thing was there
were some French Canadians.

2222

01:50:25,850 --> 01:50:29,240

They said they're from
Canada, and they spoke French.

2223

01:50:29,240 --> 01:50:30,510

We couldn't understand it.

2224

01:50:30,510 --> 01:50:33,590

How come I spoke
French with the Flyers?

2225

01:50:33,590 --> 01:50:34,580

Right, yeah.

2226

01:50:34,580 --> 01:50:35,870
And also--

2227
01:50:35,870 --> 01:50:39,420
So you did feel liberated,
truly liberated?

2228
01:50:39,420 --> 01:50:45,200
Oh, I mean, it was something,
you can't describe it.

2229
01:50:45,200 --> 01:50:49,320
That you made it, you know?

2230
01:50:49,320 --> 01:50:50,550
Yes.

2231
01:50:50,550 --> 01:50:52,990
You are the ones who made it.

2232
01:50:52,990 --> 01:50:55,830
These horrible people
couldn't get you down,

2233
01:50:55,830 --> 01:50:59,080
and you really made it.

2234
01:50:59,080 --> 01:51:01,370
And so also--

2235
01:51:01,370 --> 01:51:02,870
Yeah, then you said
you were talking

2236
01:51:02,870 --> 01:51:06,600
about that you-- about
your relative in Montreal?

2237
01:51:06,600 --> 01:51:07,100
Yes.

2238
01:51:07,100 --> 01:51:07,870

Yeah.

2239

01:51:07,870 --> 01:51:09,720

And you wrote to him,
and he got the letter?

2240

01:51:09,720 --> 01:51:10,800

Yeah, he got the letter.

2241

01:51:10,800 --> 01:51:14,130

And we were allowed to go
into the villages, you know?

2242

01:51:14,130 --> 01:51:15,840

So we went into the villages.

2243

01:51:15,840 --> 01:51:19,320

And we didn't set
the houses on fire,

2244

01:51:19,320 --> 01:51:21,930

and we didn't beat anybody up.

2245

01:51:21,930 --> 01:51:26,310

And we were so happy to
be alive that we just

2246

01:51:26,310 --> 01:51:27,540

went into the houses.

2247

01:51:27,540 --> 01:51:31,230

We looked around, and we
didn't steal anything.

2248

01:51:31,230 --> 01:51:34,173

It was amazing that
it didn't occur to us

2249

01:51:34,173 --> 01:51:35,340

that we would take anything.

2250

01:51:35,340 --> 01:51:36,960

Yes, yeah.

2251

01:51:36,960 --> 01:51:40,260

And this is what I
tell the young people.

2252

01:51:40,260 --> 01:51:44,220

That here we were, and they
did such terrible things.

2253

01:51:44,220 --> 01:51:48,270

And we went into
the villages, and we

2254

01:51:48,270 --> 01:51:49,710

didn't do anything to anybody.

2255

01:51:49,710 --> 01:51:50,800

We didn't steal.

2256

01:51:50,800 --> 01:51:52,290

We didn't burn down the houses.

2257

01:51:52,290 --> 01:51:56,380

We just looked in awe
to all these things.

2258

01:51:56,380 --> 01:52:00,180

And then I remember we had
a big party on the square,

2259

01:52:00,180 --> 01:52:04,660

and we were kind of
dancing, and so on.

2260

01:52:04,660 --> 01:52:07,230

Anyways, there was a
girl whom I knew already

2261

01:52:07,230 --> 01:52:09,000

from my Zionist days.

2262

01:52:09,000 --> 01:52:14,610
And she said that she got
in touch with her husband.

2263
01:52:14,610 --> 01:52:19,480
And he's coming, and she
will go home with him.

2264
01:52:19,480 --> 01:52:24,470
And so I said to her,
Eva, can I go with you?

2265
01:52:24,470 --> 01:52:26,670
She says, sure.

2266
01:52:26,670 --> 01:52:27,990
So I went with her.

2267
01:52:27,990 --> 01:52:30,980
And then Ruth Bondy--
you might know the name.

2268
01:52:30,980 --> 01:52:32,520
She's a writer.

2269
01:52:32,520 --> 01:52:33,660
She lives in Israel.

2270
01:52:33,660 --> 01:52:35,550
She went with us on that.

2271
01:52:35,550 --> 01:52:40,160
So we went on that
rickety track,

2272
01:52:40,160 --> 01:52:42,580
and we drove through
the whole of Germany,

2273
01:52:42,580 --> 01:52:44,800
from Hamburg all the
way to the Czech border.

2274

01:52:44,800 --> 01:52:46,840

It's a long way.

2275

01:52:46,840 --> 01:52:51,850

And we came there, and
we went to the inn,

2276

01:52:51,850 --> 01:52:55,840

and they didn't know
what to do with us.

2277

01:52:55,840 --> 01:52:58,030

They were so happy for us.

2278

01:52:58,030 --> 01:53:01,810

And the next day, we
drove to the Czech border.

2279

01:53:01,810 --> 01:53:03,980

We got off the truck,
and we stood there,

2280

01:53:03,980 --> 01:53:07,910

and we sang the Czech
national anthem.

2281

01:53:07,910 --> 01:53:11,260

And then we drove into Prague.

2282

01:53:11,260 --> 01:53:17,040

And this young man, with whom
I'm still friends, he said, OK,

2283

01:53:17,040 --> 01:53:19,090

girls.

2284

01:53:19,090 --> 01:53:20,460

That's it.

2285

01:53:20,460 --> 01:53:24,210

And this girl who was my friend,
I called her [? Chinda. ?]

2286
01:53:24,210 --> 01:53:25,940
I didn't know her--

2287
01:53:25,940 --> 01:53:29,515
[? Ornstein ?] was her name, but
we called her [? Chinda. ?] And

2288
01:53:29,515 --> 01:53:31,140
the two of us, we
looked at each other.

2289
01:53:31,140 --> 01:53:34,950
And we said, so
where we are going?

2290
01:53:34,950 --> 01:53:36,960
So there was a young
woman standing there.

2291
01:53:36,960 --> 01:53:39,840
And she saw that we
didn't have where to go.

2292
01:53:39,840 --> 01:53:41,980
She said, what are you
going to do, girls.

2293
01:53:41,980 --> 01:53:43,290
And we said, we don't know.

2294
01:53:43,290 --> 01:53:44,880
She said, you know what?

2295
01:53:44,880 --> 01:53:46,440
I got my apartment back.

2296
01:53:46,440 --> 01:53:48,270
I even found my husband.

2297
01:53:48,270 --> 01:53:51,460
You can come to us.

2298
01:53:51,460 --> 01:53:53,280
So and she left.

2299
01:53:53,280 --> 01:53:55,360
And she gave me the
address, and she left.

2300
01:53:55,360 --> 01:53:57,260
And I knew exactly where it was.

2301
01:53:57,260 --> 01:54:02,050
And so the two of us,
we traveled very light.

2302
01:54:02,050 --> 01:54:03,300
Yeah, right.

2303
01:54:03,300 --> 01:54:05,740
And we didn't have
a penny to our name.

2304
01:54:05,740 --> 01:54:06,310
Right.

2305
01:54:06,310 --> 01:54:08,440
We did have a few clothes--

2306
01:54:08,440 --> 01:54:11,740
not much, but a
little something.

2307
01:54:11,740 --> 01:54:13,600
And we went on the streetcar.

2308
01:54:13,600 --> 01:54:16,400
And we had no money, so
a soldier paid for us.

2309
01:54:16,400 --> 01:54:19,810
And that's how I
started my life again.

2310
01:54:19,810 --> 01:54:22,930
And so you stayed in
Prague for how long?

2311
01:54:22,930 --> 01:54:25,765
Well, since I got in
touch with my uncle.

2312
01:54:25,765 --> 01:54:26,265
Your uncle.

2313
01:54:26,265 --> 01:54:28,610
I did not want to stay
in Czechoslovakia.

2314
01:54:28,610 --> 01:54:29,110
Yeah, right.

2315
01:54:29,110 --> 01:54:32,890
And I came to Canada in '49.

2316
01:54:32,890 --> 01:54:36,340
Even then, it took four
years for me to get a visa.

2317
01:54:36,340 --> 01:54:38,090
What did you do in
those four years?

2318
01:54:38,090 --> 01:54:38,590
Did you--

2319
01:54:38,590 --> 01:54:43,520
Oh, so I had a very good
friend in Theresien.

2320
01:54:43,520 --> 01:54:49,370
He was my boyfriend, but
it was a really girl-boy--

2321
01:54:49,370 --> 01:54:52,280

not lovers.

2322

01:54:52,280 --> 01:54:53,510

Yeah, yeah.

2323

01:54:53,510 --> 01:54:55,820

He was he was a very good boy.

2324

01:54:55,820 --> 01:55:01,700

And he said-- and again, I
have to emphasize that all what

2325

01:55:01,700 --> 01:55:04,890

we needed to know,
we had to memorize.

2326

01:55:04,890 --> 01:55:09,590

And so he gave me
his mother's name,

2327

01:55:09,590 --> 01:55:11,510

because his father
went illegally

2328

01:55:11,510 --> 01:55:15,470

into Palestine in 1940.

2329

01:55:15,470 --> 01:55:20,010

And he gave me his mother's
name and her address.

2330

01:55:20,010 --> 01:55:26,660

And so when I came to Prague--

2331

01:55:26,660 --> 01:55:31,980

and first of all, we had to--

2332

01:55:31,980 --> 01:55:38,480

to go to eat, we went to
Habitat, the Catholic charity.

2333

01:55:38,480 --> 01:55:41,630

And to the nuns we went.

2334

01:55:41,630 --> 01:55:43,790

The nuns fed us lunch.

2335

01:55:43,790 --> 01:55:44,840

We were lined up.

2336

01:55:44,840 --> 01:55:47,360

There were people from
all over the place.

2337

01:55:47,360 --> 01:55:49,370

And I came in my leather jacket.

2338

01:55:49,370 --> 01:55:51,090

And next to me
were two young men.

2339

01:55:51,090 --> 01:55:54,200

And they said, would you
like to barter it for a coat?

2340

01:55:54,200 --> 01:55:57,500

And I said, yeah, sure,
if you have a nice coat.

2341

01:55:57,500 --> 01:55:59,870

So they said, OK,
tomorrow for lunch

2342

01:55:59,870 --> 01:56:02,270

you come, and we'll
bring you the coat.

2343

01:56:02,270 --> 01:56:04,610

So they came, and I
gave them my jacket,

2344

01:56:04,610 --> 01:56:06,320

and they gave me the coat.

2345

01:56:06,320 --> 01:56:07,550
The coat, yeah.

2346
01:56:07,550 --> 01:56:17,600
And so I started
looking for this lady.

2347
01:56:17,600 --> 01:56:22,550
And when I came to
the address, the super

2348
01:56:22,550 --> 01:56:24,470
told me that they moved.

2349
01:56:24,470 --> 01:56:26,690
And he gave me the address.

2350
01:56:26,690 --> 01:56:31,190
But there was a building
in the center of Prague

2351
01:56:31,190 --> 01:56:35,600
where all the people
like me would gather.

2352
01:56:35,600 --> 01:56:38,360
And they would tell us--

2353
01:56:38,360 --> 01:56:41,420
give us information where
we could get the money,

2354
01:56:41,420 --> 01:56:44,040
and where we could
get food, and so on.

2355
01:56:44,040 --> 01:56:46,430
And in the foyer,
there were pictures.

2356
01:56:46,430 --> 01:56:48,270
And it says, this is my brother.

2357

01:56:48,270 --> 01:56:50,000

He was there.

2358

01:56:50,000 --> 01:56:51,210

This is my mother.

2359

01:56:51,210 --> 01:56:52,520

She was there.

2360

01:56:52,520 --> 01:56:55,610

And amongst the pictures,
I found the picture

2361

01:56:55,610 --> 01:56:57,380

of this young man, my friend.

2362

01:56:57,380 --> 01:57:03,510

So I knew already that
he's not back yet.

2363

01:57:03,510 --> 01:57:08,040

And so I went to his family,
and I told them who I was.

2364

01:57:08,040 --> 01:57:12,050

And the they were
very kind to me.

2365

01:57:12,050 --> 01:57:17,600

And the gentleman already
knew that he was not alive,

2366

01:57:17,600 --> 01:57:19,490

but the mother
still didn't know.

2367

01:57:19,490 --> 01:57:23,430

He still was waiting for him.

2368

01:57:23,430 --> 01:57:28,820

He died in Buchenwald
in January '45.

2369
01:57:28,820 --> 01:57:33,620
And so they would ask
me to come for meals,

2370
01:57:33,620 --> 01:57:35,330
and I would go there for meals.

2371
01:57:35,330 --> 01:57:39,650
And then they realized
that he's not coming back,

2372
01:57:39,650 --> 01:57:41,240
but I don't have anybody.

2373
01:57:41,240 --> 01:57:44,210
And I told them that I
have an uncle in Canada,

2374
01:57:44,210 --> 01:57:45,630
that I want to go to Canada.

2375
01:57:45,630 --> 01:57:47,630
I won't stay.

2376
01:57:47,630 --> 01:57:51,170
And so they took me in,
and I lived with them.

2377
01:57:51,170 --> 01:57:54,410
And the gentleman
was very practical.

2378
01:57:54,410 --> 01:57:58,490
And he said, since you want
to go to Canada, you better go

2379
01:57:58,490 --> 01:58:00,000
and start learning English.

2380
01:58:00,000 --> 01:58:03,710
So since I had

somewhere to stay,

2381
01:58:03,710 --> 01:58:05,030
it didn't cost me anything.

2382
01:58:05,030 --> 01:58:09,950
And I went to--

2383
01:58:09,950 --> 01:58:13,280
it was called the Institute
for Modern Languages.

2384
01:58:13,280 --> 01:58:15,140
And I went every day.

2385
01:58:15,140 --> 01:58:16,655
And by the end of the year--

2386
01:58:16,655 --> 01:58:20,120

2387
01:58:20,120 --> 01:58:22,490
I went in the fall
and the spring.

2388
01:58:22,490 --> 01:58:28,630
I wrote my university exam,
and then I looked for a job.

2389
01:58:28,630 --> 01:58:34,270
And he saw that he would
open a little store for me,

2390
01:58:34,270 --> 01:58:37,300
like a flower shop.

2391
01:58:37,300 --> 01:58:40,810
He said he would finance it,
and I would be running it.

2392
01:58:40,810 --> 01:58:42,710
And nothing came of it.

2393
01:58:42,710 --> 01:58:45,250
And then he had a friend
who opened a store,

2394
01:58:45,250 --> 01:58:47,500
and they hired me.

2395
01:58:47,500 --> 01:58:49,600
You know what I had for sale?

2396
01:58:49,600 --> 01:58:52,320
Three pairs of gloves.

2397
01:58:52,320 --> 01:58:53,860
That was my inventory.

2398
01:58:53,860 --> 01:58:54,640
Right.

2399
01:58:54,640 --> 01:58:57,520
And one day I came
and somebody broke in.

2400
01:58:57,520 --> 01:59:00,430
So that was the end of my job.

2401
01:59:00,430 --> 01:59:03,760
And I went to the
Jewish community,

2402
01:59:03,760 --> 01:59:08,800
and I got a job, which was a
horrible job, back in the place

2403
01:59:08,800 --> 01:59:11,830
that I was once where I lived.

2404
01:59:11,830 --> 01:59:15,400
It was above the synagogue.

2405

01:59:15,400 --> 01:59:20,230
It was a big hall, and they
were clothes brought back

2406
01:59:20,230 --> 01:59:23,660
from Theresien, which
was a horrible thing.

2407
01:59:23,660 --> 01:59:29,950
And we went through them and
put them like the better ones

2408
01:59:29,950 --> 01:59:35,050
aside so people like me
could get some clothes.

2409
01:59:35,050 --> 01:59:40,270
And also, we had a
division from America.

2410
01:59:40,270 --> 01:59:46,330
People from America were sending
parcels, and so we had there,

2411
01:59:46,330 --> 01:59:48,730
and there were blankets.

2412
01:59:48,730 --> 01:59:52,510
They were not woolen blankets,
but there were blankets.

2413
01:59:52,510 --> 01:59:54,520
And you know what?

2414
01:59:54,520 --> 01:59:58,990
We stole them, a lot of them.

2415
01:59:58,990 --> 02:00:03,440
And I had from one of
the blankets made a coat.

2416
02:00:03,440 --> 02:00:05,660
We died those blankets.

2417
02:00:05,660 --> 02:00:11,110
It was brown, and I had a
beautiful brown winter coat.

2418
02:00:11,110 --> 02:00:17,920
And I didn't stay
there too long.

2419
02:00:17,920 --> 02:00:22,000
And I was hired to work in the--

2420
02:00:22,000 --> 02:00:25,360
we had a newspaper, which
is now Rosh Chodesh.

2421
02:00:25,360 --> 02:00:28,420
At that time, it was
called [NON-ENGLISH]..

2422
02:00:28,420 --> 02:00:29,590
And I was working.

2423
02:00:29,590 --> 02:00:30,380
There was a lady.

2424
02:00:30,380 --> 02:00:32,200
We did the addresses.

2425
02:00:32,200 --> 02:00:36,910
We had little plates, and
we put the addresses on.

2426
02:00:36,910 --> 02:00:42,970
And I also would retype the
articles people wrote by hand.

2427
02:00:42,970 --> 02:00:49,210
And I would type them so the
proofreader had an easier time

2428
02:00:49,210 --> 02:00:51,050

to do that.

2429
02:00:51,050 --> 02:00:54,480
But what happened was,
my mother's cousin,

2430
02:00:54,480 --> 02:00:58,900
whom I called Uncle, was
brought back from Israel.

2431
02:00:58,900 --> 02:01:01,180
And he became chief
rabbi of Prague,

2432
02:01:01,180 --> 02:01:06,130
and his name was [? Gustaf ?]
[? Victor. ?] So I was kind

2433
02:01:06,130 --> 02:01:10,140
of a high-ranking
relative there.

2434
02:01:10,140 --> 02:01:13,990
And one day I went
downstairs, and I met a man,

2435
02:01:13,990 --> 02:01:16,540
and the man knew
that I knew English.

2436
02:01:16,540 --> 02:01:19,240
And he says, listen, I
have a good job for you.

2437
02:01:19,240 --> 02:01:22,780
Would you like to work
for the American Joint?

2438
02:01:22,780 --> 02:01:26,110
I said, well, why not?

2439
02:01:26,110 --> 02:01:29,110
So he sent me where

I had to go, and I

2440

02:01:29,110 --> 02:01:30,730
worked for the American Joint.

2441

02:01:30,730 --> 02:01:33,880
And my salary was
twice what I had,

2442

02:01:33,880 --> 02:01:36,730
and I didn't have much work.

2443

02:01:36,730 --> 02:01:39,910
I filled out little pieces of
paper, and I went to the bank

2444

02:01:39,910 --> 02:01:42,310
to get thousands of dollars.

2445

02:01:42,310 --> 02:01:45,340
Because in order
to emigrate, you

2446

02:01:45,340 --> 02:01:49,000
had to pay in dollars,
that we provided

2447

02:01:49,000 --> 02:01:51,670
the people with dollars.

2448

02:01:51,670 --> 02:01:54,550
And so I waited till--

2449

02:01:54,550 --> 02:01:55,690
and, yes.

2450

02:01:55,690 --> 02:01:58,960
And my visa didn't come through.

2451

02:01:58,960 --> 02:02:01,360
It took four years.

2452

02:02:01,360 --> 02:02:04,610

And they were looking
for girls in Australia.

2453

02:02:04,610 --> 02:02:07,060

There was a shortage
of young girls.

2454

02:02:07,060 --> 02:02:11,950

So I had a relative who
was working in immigration

2455

02:02:11,950 --> 02:02:13,093

for the Jewish community.

2456

02:02:13,093 --> 02:02:14,260

And she says, you know what?

2457

02:02:14,260 --> 02:02:19,280

Why don't we make out an
application for a visa for you?

2458

02:02:19,280 --> 02:02:21,740

You know, you're not
getting the visa to Canada,

2459

02:02:21,740 --> 02:02:25,490

so you might as well
try to go to Australia.

2460

02:02:25,490 --> 02:02:31,610

And one day I got the
visa for Australia,

2461

02:02:31,610 --> 02:02:33,830

and the next day I got
the visa for Canada.

2462

02:02:33,830 --> 02:02:34,720

Oh, my.

2463

02:02:34,720 --> 02:02:35,330

Yeah.

2464

02:02:35,330 --> 02:02:36,590

So I didn't go to Austria.

2465

02:02:36,590 --> 02:02:38,780

I said, that's too far away.

2466

02:02:38,780 --> 02:02:40,680

So then you went to Canada?

2467

02:02:40,680 --> 02:02:44,990

I came to Canada

to my uncle, yes.

2468

02:02:44,990 --> 02:02:49,710

And he always wrote to me that I

should learn to become a hair--

2469

02:02:49,710 --> 02:02:51,170

he had a hair dressing salon--

2470

02:02:51,170 --> 02:02:54,620

that I should learn to

manicurists or something

2471

02:02:54,620 --> 02:02:55,290

like that.

2472

02:02:55,290 --> 02:02:57,210

And I would tell him,

yeah, yeah, yeah.

2473

02:02:57,210 --> 02:03:00,080

Because I knew I

wouldn't want to do that.

2474

02:03:00,080 --> 02:03:11,360

Anyway, but he paid for my fare,

and I went by train to Belgium,

2475

02:03:11,360 --> 02:03:12,440

to Ostend.

2476
02:03:12,440 --> 02:03:15,530
And from Ostend,
I went to Dover.

2477
02:03:15,530 --> 02:03:19,640
And then by train,
I went to London.

2478
02:03:19,640 --> 02:03:26,680
And this relative who said I
should apply for Australia,

2479
02:03:26,680 --> 02:03:30,720
she had friends, and she
told them that I was coming.

2480
02:03:30,720 --> 02:03:34,970
And she went with me
on the train, too.

2481
02:03:34,970 --> 02:03:38,390
She wanted I should smuggle
through for her a ring,

2482
02:03:38,390 --> 02:03:39,630
and I refused.

2483
02:03:39,630 --> 02:03:41,150
I said, on account
of a ring, I'm

2484
02:03:41,150 --> 02:03:42,825
not going to be put in jail.

2485
02:03:42,825 --> 02:03:43,530
In danger, yeah.

2486
02:03:43,530 --> 02:03:44,660
I'm sorry.

2487

02:03:44,660 --> 02:03:45,560

I cannot do that.

2488

02:03:45,560 --> 02:03:46,220

Right.

2489

02:03:46,220 --> 02:03:50,670

But these people waited for
me at the station in London.

2490

02:03:50,670 --> 02:03:54,740

And the first thing they asked
me was, I brought Czech salami?

2491

02:03:54,740 --> 02:03:57,551

I did have some Czech salami.

2492

02:03:57,551 --> 02:04:02,270

And they lived in
St. John's Wood.

2493

02:04:02,270 --> 02:04:04,550

How do you like that
I remember all that?

2494

02:04:04,550 --> 02:04:06,420

Wonderful.

2495

02:04:06,420 --> 02:04:08,580

How long did you stay in London?

2496

02:04:08,580 --> 02:04:10,310

Well, just a week.

2497

02:04:10,310 --> 02:04:13,850

I wanted to see London
before I go to--

2498

02:04:13,850 --> 02:04:16,820

so I wasn't-- so I came
to St. John's Wood.

2499

02:04:16,820 --> 02:04:20,960
And the first thing they offered
me, did I want a rum and Coke?

2500
02:04:20,960 --> 02:04:22,830
Did I know what a
rum and Coke was?

2501
02:04:22,830 --> 02:04:24,280
I said, yes.

2502
02:04:24,280 --> 02:04:25,880
Well, I took a few sips.

2503
02:04:25,880 --> 02:04:29,540
And then they told me that
their apartment was too little.

2504
02:04:29,540 --> 02:04:30,950
That I cannot stay with them.

2505
02:04:30,950 --> 02:04:34,670
They arranged for me
to stay somewhere else.

2506
02:04:34,670 --> 02:04:35,900
Well--

2507
02:04:35,900 --> 02:04:37,310
Then you got to Montreal?

2508
02:04:37,310 --> 02:04:38,290
Just one second.

2509
02:04:38,290 --> 02:04:38,790
Oh.

2510
02:04:38,790 --> 02:04:39,750
I went.

2511
02:04:39,750 --> 02:04:44,090
They put me up in a hostel

from the Jewish community.

2512
02:04:44,090 --> 02:04:47,160
It was like back
being in Theresien.

2513
02:04:47,160 --> 02:04:50,330
It was a huge hall for
women, and underneath, there

2514
02:04:50,330 --> 02:04:52,640
was a huge hall for men.

2515
02:04:52,640 --> 02:04:59,060
And the food was served on metal
plates, well, just like camp.

2516
02:04:59,060 --> 02:05:01,940
It was such a shock to me.

2517
02:05:01,940 --> 02:05:03,830
You have no idea.

2518
02:05:03,830 --> 02:05:07,550
And I had a cake
in my [INAUDIBLE]..

2519
02:05:07,550 --> 02:05:13,550
And there was a little boy, and
he knew that I had this cake.

2520
02:05:13,550 --> 02:05:18,560
And during the night he would
say, Mademoiselle, gateau.

2521
02:05:18,560 --> 02:05:22,370
Mademoiselle, silver
plate, gateau.

2522
02:05:22,370 --> 02:05:23,360
He was from Egypt.

2523

02:05:23,360 --> 02:05:26,780
Because at that time, the
Jews from Egypt and India

2524
02:05:26,780 --> 02:05:31,550
who wanted to go to Palestine
had to go through London.

2525
02:05:31,550 --> 02:05:35,120
So these were the people
who I stayed with.

2526
02:05:35,120 --> 02:05:36,800
But I wanted to see London.

2527
02:05:36,800 --> 02:05:40,940
So I took off in the
morning by myself.

2528
02:05:40,940 --> 02:05:43,700
But on the way back,
I always had problems,

2529
02:05:43,700 --> 02:05:46,820
always some man would follow me.

2530
02:05:46,820 --> 02:05:50,840
Because it was in
Aldgate East, which

2531
02:05:50,840 --> 02:05:53,390
is a very bad part of London.

2532
02:05:53,390 --> 02:05:56,060
That's where the
London Tower is.

2533
02:05:56,060 --> 02:05:57,950
And I was smart.

2534
02:05:57,950 --> 02:05:59,832
I said to a policeman,
I would say,

2535
02:05:59,832 --> 02:06:03,350
would you please take
me home, because I

2536
02:06:03,350 --> 02:06:08,600
am being bothered by men?

2537
02:06:08,600 --> 02:06:09,890
They don't leave me alone.

2538
02:06:09,890 --> 02:06:16,700
And that's how I managed to go
out, and go back in, and so on.

2539
02:06:16,700 --> 02:06:19,680
And then I took a
train to Liverpool.

2540
02:06:19,680 --> 02:06:22,520
And I went on the
Empress of France,

2541
02:06:22,520 --> 02:06:27,020
where I was deathly
sick, to Canada.

2542
02:06:27,020 --> 02:06:29,120
And then what did
you do in Canada?

2543
02:06:29,120 --> 02:06:32,090
Well, yes, and all
these ladies who

2544
02:06:32,090 --> 02:06:34,340
were on the train--
on the boat, they

2545
02:06:34,340 --> 02:06:37,280
were mothers of war brides.

2546

02:06:37,280 --> 02:06:40,940
And I was desperately sick,
and they took me to the doctor.

2547
02:06:40,940 --> 02:06:43,340
And since my name
was Epstein, he

2548
02:06:43,340 --> 02:06:48,050
said to me, oh, you must
be a relative of Sir Jacob.

2549
02:06:48,050 --> 02:06:49,550
And I happen to know--

2550
02:06:49,550 --> 02:06:53,510
just by accident, because I
always was interested in art--

2551
02:06:53,510 --> 02:06:56,270
I happened to know that
he was a famous sculptor.

2552
02:06:56,270 --> 02:06:56,900
Right.

2553
02:06:56,900 --> 02:06:59,230
And I said, yes, of course.

2554
02:06:59,230 --> 02:07:00,350
Of course.

2555
02:07:00,350 --> 02:07:04,170
So I was-- so I got the
better treatment kind of.

2556
02:07:04,170 --> 02:07:08,655
And so they always said, how
well you know your uncle?

2557
02:07:08,655 --> 02:07:09,530
I said, I don't know.

2558

02:07:09,530 --> 02:07:12,980

So we come to Montreal, and I'm
standing up there on the boat.

2559

02:07:12,980 --> 02:07:14,930

And I look down, and
I said, there he is.

2560

02:07:14,930 --> 02:07:16,190

That's my uncle.

2561

02:07:16,190 --> 02:07:18,020

I love it.

2562

02:07:18,020 --> 02:07:19,370

Yes.

2563

02:07:19,370 --> 02:07:22,400

Anyway, that's how it was.

2564

02:07:22,400 --> 02:07:24,848

So you got to Montreal, and
then you met your husband?

2565

02:07:24,848 --> 02:07:25,640

Just very quickly--

2566

02:07:25,640 --> 02:07:29,210

Yes, and I got married in 1950.

2567

02:07:29,210 --> 02:07:30,498

Was he from Europe?

2568

02:07:30,498 --> 02:07:31,415

Or was he from Canada?

2569

02:07:31,415 --> 02:07:34,550

He came from Lithuania in 1923.

2570

02:07:34,550 --> 02:07:35,420

Oh, OK.

2571

02:07:35,420 --> 02:07:38,540

His family was-- his father
was here before the First World

2572

02:07:38,540 --> 02:07:40,730

War, and then he came back.

2573

02:07:40,730 --> 02:07:44,180

And now, before the turn
of the century, I must say.

2574

02:07:44,180 --> 02:07:45,600

And his first name?

2575

02:07:45,600 --> 02:07:46,930

His name was Sidney.

2576

02:07:46,930 --> 02:07:48,050

Sidney Ivry.

2577

02:07:48,050 --> 02:07:50,990

And then did you have a family?

2578

02:07:50,990 --> 02:07:51,950

Did you have children?

2579

02:07:51,950 --> 02:07:54,350

Well, at the beginning,
we couldn't have children.

2580

02:07:54,350 --> 02:07:57,770

So I adopted a girl
who was 17 months old.

2581

02:07:57,770 --> 02:07:59,060

Her name is Elsa.

2582

02:07:59,060 --> 02:07:59,810

Oh, yeah.

2583

02:07:59,810 --> 02:08:04,080
And then four years
later, I became pregnant.

2584
02:08:04,080 --> 02:08:06,090
And I had a son, and
his name is Victor.

2585
02:08:06,090 --> 02:08:07,550
Oh, OK.

2586
02:08:07,550 --> 02:08:11,150
But Elsa is not very nice, and
she doesn't talk to me now.

2587
02:08:11,150 --> 02:08:14,360
She's 60 years old, and
she has two children.

2588
02:08:14,360 --> 02:08:15,920
And they have--

2589
02:08:15,920 --> 02:08:17,900
I have two
grandchildren from her

2590
02:08:17,900 --> 02:08:20,420
and five great-grandchildren,
but I don't see them.

2591
02:08:20,420 --> 02:08:21,430
Oh, dear.

2592
02:08:21,430 --> 02:08:22,790
Anyway, that happens.

2593
02:08:22,790 --> 02:08:24,030
What can you do?

2594
02:08:24,030 --> 02:08:24,870
I know.

2595

02:08:24,870 --> 02:08:30,240
And my son has three daughters,
and he lives in California.

2596
02:08:30,240 --> 02:08:32,540
He lives in Orange--

2597
02:08:32,540 --> 02:08:35,510
that's outside of San Francisco.

2598
02:08:35,510 --> 02:08:39,405
Can I ask you some questions,
just general questions, now?

2599
02:08:39,405 --> 02:08:41,630
Yes, sure.

2600
02:08:41,630 --> 02:08:44,990
Well, just to finish
up, did you work?

2601
02:08:44,990 --> 02:08:49,160
When I came here, yes,
I worked, but first

2602
02:08:49,160 --> 02:08:51,270
in the beauty parlor,
which I despised.

2603
02:08:51,270 --> 02:08:51,770
Right.

2604
02:08:51,770 --> 02:08:54,350
Because the ladies
who came there,

2605
02:08:54,350 --> 02:08:58,340
they were real WASP-y type.

2606
02:08:58,340 --> 02:09:01,550
And they were talking about
their birdies and the doggies.

2607

02:09:01,550 --> 02:09:06,590

And then afterwards, I
experienced these things

2608

02:09:06,590 --> 02:09:08,750

they're so banal.

2609

02:09:08,750 --> 02:09:09,710

Yeah.

2610

02:09:09,710 --> 02:09:13,250

And I told my uncle that
I really didn't like it.

2611

02:09:13,250 --> 02:09:15,620

So he knew somebody
at Bell Telephone.

2612

02:09:15,620 --> 02:09:17,810

Bell Telephone is a big company.

2613

02:09:17,810 --> 02:09:18,380

Right.

2614

02:09:18,380 --> 02:09:21,350

And I was-- in
Europe, we learned

2615

02:09:21,350 --> 02:09:29,090

how to do these
designs, construction.

2616

02:09:29,090 --> 02:09:35,160

So I thought I could draw
plans and things like that.

2617

02:09:35,160 --> 02:09:37,970

So I went there, and
I had to pass an exam.

2618

02:09:37,970 --> 02:09:39,740

Everything was fine.

2619
02:09:39,740 --> 02:09:41,960
I could answer
everything except when

2620
02:09:41,960 --> 02:09:46,040
it came to feet and ounces.

2621
02:09:46,040 --> 02:09:48,710
And because after all,
I learned everything--

2622
02:09:48,710 --> 02:09:49,640
On the Metric system.

2623
02:09:49,640 --> 02:09:52,550
On the Metric system,
and so I failed.

2624
02:09:52,550 --> 02:09:59,210
And so I got a job in an
office where I did invoicing.

2625
02:09:59,210 --> 02:10:01,360
And that's where
I met my husband.

2626
02:10:01,360 --> 02:10:06,290
OK, let me ask you
some general questions.

2627
02:10:06,290 --> 02:10:10,730
What are your thoughts
about Germany today?

2628
02:10:10,730 --> 02:10:16,670
Well, I say the people who
were born after the war,

2629
02:10:16,670 --> 02:10:20,200
they are not responsible for it.

2630

02:10:20,200 --> 02:10:25,730
I don't like, for instance,
when I go to a store--

2631
02:10:25,730 --> 02:10:27,860
now, it's not so obvious.

2632
02:10:27,860 --> 02:10:33,950
But years ago, I would stand in
line, and I would hear German.

2633
02:10:33,950 --> 02:10:36,380
I'd immediately turn around.

2634
02:10:36,380 --> 02:10:40,760
And when I saw a person
who was about my age,

2635
02:10:40,760 --> 02:10:43,550
I had very bad
feelings, because I knew

2636
02:10:43,550 --> 02:10:45,560
he must have been somewhere.

2637
02:10:45,560 --> 02:10:46,850
You know?

2638
02:10:46,850 --> 02:10:53,250
And, of course--
a friend of mine.

2639
02:10:53,250 --> 02:10:54,330
He wrote a big article.

2640
02:10:54,330 --> 02:10:58,330
But he says, one eventually
forgives, but one never

2641
02:10:58,330 --> 02:10:58,830
forgets.

2642

02:10:58,830 --> 02:11:00,230
Forgets, yeah, right.

2643
02:11:00,230 --> 02:11:03,560
But I really don't
forgive them either.

2644
02:11:03,560 --> 02:11:08,600
Because, for instance,
the guards in Auschwitz,

2645
02:11:08,600 --> 02:11:10,080
nothing happened to them.

2646
02:11:10,080 --> 02:11:12,590
They went home, and
they got married.

2647
02:11:12,590 --> 02:11:17,570
And they are grandfathers
now or whatever.

2648
02:11:17,570 --> 02:11:18,410
Nothing happened.

2649
02:11:18,410 --> 02:11:21,570
You know, they caught the top.

2650
02:11:21,570 --> 02:11:25,550
But the regular soldiers there
who did just the dirty work,

2651
02:11:25,550 --> 02:11:30,620
and kicked us, and beat us,
and they helped us into--

2652
02:11:30,620 --> 02:11:34,460
pushed us into the gas chamber,
he went home like nothing

2653
02:11:34,460 --> 02:11:36,050
would have happened.

2654

02:11:36,050 --> 02:11:39,475

Did you tell your
children your life story?

2655

02:11:39,475 --> 02:11:40,790

Yes.

2656

02:11:40,790 --> 02:11:42,350

How old were they
when you told them?

2657

02:11:42,350 --> 02:11:45,000

Oh, I told them gradually.

2658

02:11:45,000 --> 02:11:46,310

Yes.

2659

02:11:46,310 --> 02:11:49,310

Yes, they always-- first
of all, I had a number.

2660

02:11:49,310 --> 02:11:50,300

So I had to--

2661

02:11:50,300 --> 02:11:56,630

I couldn't say, well, I
put it there for nothing.

2662

02:11:56,630 --> 02:12:00,290

I had to tell them
who put it there.

2663

02:12:00,290 --> 02:12:05,960

When your children were the age
that you were during the war,

2664

02:12:05,960 --> 02:12:09,510

did that bring back a
lot of memories for you?

2665

02:12:09,510 --> 02:12:11,270

No.

2666
02:12:11,270 --> 02:12:12,200
No.

2667
02:12:12,200 --> 02:12:13,430
You know what?

2668
02:12:13,430 --> 02:12:16,760
It's much worse now.

2669
02:12:16,760 --> 02:12:24,260
Right now, because I live
by myself and I'm not well,

2670
02:12:24,260 --> 02:12:28,100
it haunts me much
more than before.

2671
02:12:28,100 --> 02:12:32,900
When I was young, I was
busy bringing up a family,

2672
02:12:32,900 --> 02:12:37,340
having children, and doing
things, and schoolwork,

2673
02:12:37,340 --> 02:12:39,340
and all that.

2674
02:12:39,340 --> 02:12:41,240
I belonged to a
Zionist organization.

2675
02:12:41,240 --> 02:12:49,160
I belonged to-- what
do you call it--

2676
02:12:49,160 --> 02:12:49,970
Hadassah.

2677
02:12:49,970 --> 02:12:52,470
I belonged to Hadassah,

and I was very active.

2678

02:12:52,470 --> 02:12:53,540

I was a President.

2679

02:12:53,540 --> 02:12:57,485

I was this, and I was that,
and always working for Israel.

2680

02:12:57,485 --> 02:13:00,090

2681

02:13:00,090 --> 02:13:08,880

But the war years, it was pushed
aside, because I was busy.

2682

02:13:08,880 --> 02:13:11,070

I was busy living.

2683

02:13:11,070 --> 02:13:14,205

Do you feel that you
are a different person,

2684

02:13:14,205 --> 02:13:16,080

you would have been a
different person today,

2685

02:13:16,080 --> 02:13:18,420

if you hadn't gone through
what you went through?

2686

02:13:18,420 --> 02:13:19,470

Oh, certainly.

2687

02:13:19,470 --> 02:13:21,070

In what way would you--

2688

02:13:21,070 --> 02:13:24,270

Well, first of all, I would
have been a professional person,

2689

02:13:24,270 --> 02:13:27,690

because, as you can
hear, I'm no dumbbell.

2690
02:13:27,690 --> 02:13:29,390
Right.

2691
02:13:29,390 --> 02:13:31,830
And I would have become some--

2692
02:13:31,830 --> 02:13:33,540
who knows what?

2693
02:13:33,540 --> 02:13:37,890
And so my life would
have been different.

2694
02:13:37,890 --> 02:13:42,000
And I wouldn't have been a
different person as a person,

2695
02:13:42,000 --> 02:13:44,460
because that's what
you are, whether you're

2696
02:13:44,460 --> 02:13:47,520
kind or miserable.

2697
02:13:47,520 --> 02:13:50,820
So I still would like--

2698
02:13:50,820 --> 02:13:51,987
I like to help people now.

2699
02:13:51,987 --> 02:13:54,195
I'm sure I would have liked
to help people then also.

2700
02:13:54,195 --> 02:13:57,750

2701
02:13:57,750 --> 02:14:00,210
But I would have been--

2702
02:14:00,210 --> 02:14:04,560
I can tell, I'm sure
I would have been

2703
02:14:04,560 --> 02:14:07,740
quite an outstanding person.

2704
02:14:07,740 --> 02:14:11,270
I was very talented as
far as art was concerned.

2705
02:14:11,270 --> 02:14:13,860

2706
02:14:13,860 --> 02:14:17,340
When my children were
small, I took art classes,

2707
02:14:17,340 --> 02:14:20,700
and I went back to university.

2708
02:14:20,700 --> 02:14:24,060
My major was-- don't laugh--

2709
02:14:24,060 --> 02:14:28,660
German literature and fine art.

2710
02:14:28,660 --> 02:14:32,220
But when I tell it to somebody,
German literature, I said, yes.

2711
02:14:32,220 --> 02:14:35,880
I studied Thomas Mann,
and Henrich Mann,

2712
02:14:35,880 --> 02:14:38,940
and Kafka, and Heine.

2713
02:14:38,940 --> 02:14:41,340
And after all, these
are all Czech Jews

2714
02:14:41,340 --> 02:14:42,810
except Heine was not--

2715
02:14:42,810 --> 02:14:45,030
but Rilke.

2716
02:14:45,030 --> 02:14:52,530
And so and I did extremely well.

2717
02:14:52,530 --> 02:14:55,410
I finished with magna cum laude.

2718
02:14:55,410 --> 02:15:02,760
And then I was teaching
preschoolers' art for 13 years.

2719
02:15:02,760 --> 02:15:04,140
Is your husband still alive?

2720
02:15:04,140 --> 02:15:04,640
No.

2721
02:15:04,640 --> 02:15:06,120
My husband died in '96.

2722
02:15:06,120 --> 02:15:07,190
Oh, I'm sorry.

2723
02:15:07,190 --> 02:15:08,370
I'm sorry.

2724
02:15:08,370 --> 02:15:11,860
And I understand that you
do a lot of speaking to--

2725
02:15:11,860 --> 02:15:12,750
Well, I used to.

2726
02:15:12,750 --> 02:15:15,960
Right now-- yes, I

did it for 25 years.

2727

02:15:15,960 --> 02:15:16,575

Wonderful.

2728

02:15:16,575 --> 02:15:17,075

Wonderful.

2729

02:15:17,075 --> 02:15:19,710

But you have-- I
published a book.

2730

02:15:19,710 --> 02:15:22,440

You have the book
now in the library,

2731

02:15:22,440 --> 02:15:24,540

because I sent you one.

2732

02:15:24,540 --> 02:15:25,960

And the name of your book?

2733

02:15:25,960 --> 02:15:29,280

It's called, I Am Their Voice.

2734

02:15:29,280 --> 02:15:33,040

I felt that 6 million
people lost their voice.

2735

02:15:33,040 --> 02:15:38,040

So I tried to-- it's even
presumptuous on my part,

2736

02:15:38,040 --> 02:15:39,210

but I thought that--

2737

02:15:39,210 --> 02:15:40,710

Wonderful.

2738

02:15:40,710 --> 02:15:42,840

And it's not about me.

2739

02:15:42,840 --> 02:15:44,880

The book is not about me.

2740

02:15:44,880 --> 02:15:46,720

It's quite different.

2741

02:15:46,720 --> 02:15:50,040

It is letters,
poems, and drawings

2742

02:15:50,040 --> 02:15:52,770

from children I spoke to.

2743

02:15:52,770 --> 02:15:53,790

Wonderful.

2744

02:15:53,790 --> 02:15:54,540

Wonderful.

2745

02:15:54,540 --> 02:15:59,820

So there's so many books
written about people.

2746

02:15:59,820 --> 02:16:02,250

They write their stories.

2747

02:16:02,250 --> 02:16:03,990

And you know what?

2748

02:16:03,990 --> 02:16:06,690

The sad part is,
nobody is reading it.

2749

02:16:06,690 --> 02:16:08,610

Young people [AUDIO OUT].

2750

02:16:08,610 --> 02:16:11,740

They are on their texting
business, you know?

2751

02:16:11,740 --> 02:16:12,240

Yeah.

2752

02:16:12,240 --> 02:16:15,510

So my book is
different, because it

2753

02:16:15,510 --> 02:16:20,980

shows how young people
really can feel with you,

2754

02:16:20,980 --> 02:16:26,880

can have understanding,
and want to--

2755

02:16:26,880 --> 02:16:29,140

are really very sensitive.

2756

02:16:29,140 --> 02:16:34,469

So if you will read it,
the poems are outstanding.

2757

02:16:34,469 --> 02:16:37,440

They are written by
12-year-old kids,

2758

02:16:37,440 --> 02:16:41,459

and I couldn't write
poems like that.

2759

02:16:41,459 --> 02:16:42,750

I had an idea--

2760

02:16:42,750 --> 02:16:48,629

but now since I'm not so well,
it would have taken some time--

2761

02:16:48,629 --> 02:16:52,389

and to find somebody to
put these poems to music.

2762

02:16:52,389 --> 02:16:54,030

Wonderful.

2763

02:16:54,030 --> 02:16:56,280

Maybe some time
somebody will do that,

2764

02:16:56,280 --> 02:16:58,620

because they're
absolutely wonderful.

2765

02:16:58,620 --> 02:17:03,150

Are you angry that you had to go
through what you did, and have

2766

02:17:03,150 --> 02:17:06,870

the losses that you had, and
other people your age living

2767

02:17:06,870 --> 02:17:09,059

over here did not have
to go through that?

2768

02:17:09,059 --> 02:17:10,410

Are you angry about that?

2769

02:17:10,410 --> 02:17:11,780

No.

2770

02:17:11,780 --> 02:17:14,480

No, no, no, I'm
not angry at that.

2771

02:17:14,480 --> 02:17:16,870

As I said, I'm a fatalist.

2772

02:17:16,870 --> 02:17:20,059

It just happens that I
was born in Liechtenstein,

2773

02:17:20,059 --> 02:17:23,780

and I wasn't born
in Washington D.C.

2774

02:17:23,780 --> 02:17:26,750

Or I wasn't born
in who knows where.

2775
02:17:26,750 --> 02:17:28,190
Do you feel Czech?

2776
02:17:28,190 --> 02:17:29,600
Or do you feel Canadian?

2777
02:17:29,600 --> 02:17:30,590
Do you feel Jewish?

2778
02:17:30,590 --> 02:17:32,750
How would you describe yourself?

2779
02:17:32,750 --> 02:17:33,990
All the above.

2780
02:17:33,990 --> 02:17:36,660
All the above.

2781
02:17:36,660 --> 02:17:38,719
Yeah.

2782
02:17:38,719 --> 02:17:40,250
Yes, I speak fluently Czech.

2783
02:17:40,250 --> 02:17:42,469
Even so, my mother
tongue is German.

2784
02:17:42,469 --> 02:17:46,280
I probably better
Czech than German now,

2785
02:17:46,280 --> 02:17:48,709
because I don't speak--

2786
02:17:48,709 --> 02:17:51,110
I have a cleaning
lady who's Czech.

2787

02:17:51,110 --> 02:17:53,180

I speak Czech to her.

2788

02:17:53,180 --> 02:17:57,469

But nobody can get over
it that I speak so well

2789

02:17:57,469 --> 02:17:59,480

Czech without mistakes.

2790

02:17:59,480 --> 02:18:02,030

You know, Czech is quite
a difficult language.

2791

02:18:02,030 --> 02:18:06,209

What were your thoughts
during the Eichmann trial?

2792

02:18:06,209 --> 02:18:06,990

Do you remember?

2793

02:18:06,990 --> 02:18:09,360

Well, I saw Eichmann sometimes.

2794

02:18:09,360 --> 02:18:13,350

He came to Auschwitz
to inspect everything.

2795

02:18:13,350 --> 02:18:14,430

You did see him?

2796

02:18:14,430 --> 02:18:18,150

Yeah, well, I mean probably.

2797

02:18:18,150 --> 02:18:22,799

Just you were-- he just
was passing by kind of.

2798

02:18:22,799 --> 02:18:23,610

How did you know?

2799

02:18:23,610 --> 02:18:26,940
And the thing is, of
course, I was in Prague

2800
02:18:26,940 --> 02:18:29,040
when Heydrich was killed.

2801
02:18:29,040 --> 02:18:30,510
Oh, yes.

2802
02:18:30,510 --> 02:18:33,030
And you know what they did?

2803
02:18:33,030 --> 02:18:36,320
Because they knew that--

2804
02:18:36,320 --> 02:18:38,340
they came on bicycles.

2805
02:18:38,340 --> 02:18:40,650
So they woke you up in
the middle of the night.

2806
02:18:40,650 --> 02:18:46,080
The police came and said, do
you know how to ride a bicycle?

2807
02:18:46,080 --> 02:18:47,520
And I would say, yes.

2808
02:18:47,520 --> 02:18:48,660
You own a bicycle?

2809
02:18:48,660 --> 02:18:51,389
I said, no.

2810
02:18:51,389 --> 02:18:54,180
And you know what they did?

2811
02:18:54,180 --> 02:18:57,780
After that, they
sent 1,000 Jews--

2812
02:18:57,780 --> 02:19:01,020
right after Eichmann did that--

2813
02:19:01,020 --> 02:19:06,540
8,000 Jews immediately to
Poland to death, 1,000.

2814
02:19:06,540 --> 02:19:11,370
And the funny part is, the
initial of that transport

2815
02:19:11,370 --> 02:19:13,559
is A-A-H.

2816
02:19:13,559 --> 02:19:16,139
And we call it [NON-ENGLISH].

2817
02:19:16,139 --> 02:19:18,570
It just happened that way.

2818
02:19:18,570 --> 02:19:22,170
I am [? BF. ?] But
that transport in May

2819
02:19:22,170 --> 02:19:24,719
is A-A-H. If you
look at it, you will

2820
02:19:24,719 --> 02:19:29,730
see that 1,000 people
from Prague went directly.

2821
02:19:29,730 --> 02:19:34,040
And were you aware of the
town that was destroyed

2822
02:19:34,040 --> 02:19:36,299
after Heydrich was killed--

2823
02:19:36,299 --> 02:19:37,370
Ledecka?

2824
02:19:37,370 --> 02:19:38,070
Ledecka?

2825
02:19:38,070 --> 02:19:39,030
Ledecka.

2826
02:19:39,030 --> 02:19:40,879
Yes, we knew about Ledecka.

2827
02:19:40,879 --> 02:19:41,549
You did?

2828
02:19:41,549 --> 02:19:42,219
Yeah.

2829
02:19:42,219 --> 02:19:42,719
Yeah.

2830
02:19:42,719 --> 02:19:45,000

2831
02:19:45,000 --> 02:19:46,160
Any thoughts on that?

2832
02:19:46,160 --> 02:19:48,570
It's a terrible
thing at Ledecka.

2833
02:19:48,570 --> 02:19:49,270
Yeah.

2834
02:19:49,270 --> 02:19:51,940
And you know, some of
the children from Ledecka

2835
02:19:51,940 --> 02:19:57,670
came to Theresien,
some of the small--

2836
02:19:57,670 --> 02:20:01,150

I don't know how many, but
that's what I was told.

2837
02:20:01,150 --> 02:20:03,280
I never saw them.

2838
02:20:03,280 --> 02:20:08,810
And you know, I
have a gym teacher.

2839
02:20:08,810 --> 02:20:11,840
We were talking about--
because I remember teachers.

2840
02:20:11,840 --> 02:20:14,480
His name was Fredy Hirsch.

2841
02:20:14,480 --> 02:20:15,670
Oh, yes, well-known.

2842
02:20:15,670 --> 02:20:16,250
Yes.

2843
02:20:16,250 --> 02:20:19,670
But he was my gym teacher.

2844
02:20:19,670 --> 02:20:22,310
And you know what happened?

2845
02:20:22,310 --> 02:20:25,670
There came a
transport of children,

2846
02:20:25,670 --> 02:20:29,750
and they put them not
too far from Theresien.

2847
02:20:29,750 --> 02:20:32,210
And because he was
so fond of children,

2848
02:20:32,210 --> 02:20:37,430

he went there to
look how it's going.

2849
02:20:37,430 --> 02:20:40,520

And the SS found him
there, and that's

2850
02:20:40,520 --> 02:20:42,080
how they sent him to Auschwitz.

2851
02:20:42,080 --> 02:20:45,380
Otherwise, he might
have survived.

2852
02:20:45,380 --> 02:20:47,585
And he committed suicide.

2853
02:20:47,585 --> 02:20:49,250
Suicide, yes, yes.

2854
02:20:49,250 --> 02:20:52,080
And Fredy, he was
such a fantastic guy.

2855
02:20:52,080 --> 02:20:53,060
Yeah.

2856
02:20:53,060 --> 02:20:54,440
And you know, he was gay.

2857
02:20:54,440 --> 02:20:58,250
But there was never
ever any suspicion

2858
02:20:58,250 --> 02:21:01,100
that he would mistreat
anybody-- never.

2859
02:21:01,100 --> 02:21:02,720
And he was my gym teacher.

2860
02:21:02,720 --> 02:21:07,190

And in all the war
years, we went to gym.

2861
02:21:07,190 --> 02:21:09,110
And we had a place.

2862
02:21:09,110 --> 02:21:10,940
That was the only
place we could go.

2863
02:21:10,940 --> 02:21:12,920
It was called [NON-ENGLISH].

2864
02:21:12,920 --> 02:21:15,260
And there, we would
be able to run.

2865
02:21:15,260 --> 02:21:16,970
And he had a table.

2866
02:21:16,970 --> 02:21:19,220
And he was standing
on the table,

2867
02:21:19,220 --> 02:21:21,170
and he would be whistling.

2868
02:21:21,170 --> 02:21:23,560
So we were doing gym.

2869
02:21:23,560 --> 02:21:25,490
He was so handsome.

2870
02:21:25,490 --> 02:21:27,260
There's a little book about him.

2871
02:21:27,260 --> 02:21:32,060
A young girl, who
did research, it

2872
02:21:32,060 --> 02:21:36,770
was for her doctorate

or something.

2873

02:21:36,770 --> 02:21:40,400

She wrote about him,
and I have this book.

2874

02:21:40,400 --> 02:21:46,483

And Wexler, the
one who ran away?

2875

02:21:46,483 --> 02:21:47,150

There were two--

2876

02:21:47,150 --> 02:21:48,010

Oh, yes, yes.

2877

02:21:48,010 --> 02:21:48,510

Yes.

2878

02:21:48,510 --> 02:21:55,590

So they went to Fredy already
when the whole transport

2879

02:21:55,590 --> 02:21:56,760

was in that A camp.

2880

02:21:56,760 --> 02:21:59,820

And they went to Fredy
and say, listen, Fredy,

2881

02:21:59,820 --> 02:22:02,814

we really want to make a--

2882

02:22:02,814 --> 02:22:08,550

we don't want that we
all go to hell tomorrow.

2883

02:22:08,550 --> 02:22:16,170

Let's do something to
disrupt the whole thing.

2884

02:22:16,170 --> 02:22:19,360

And he said to them, give me--

2885

02:22:19,360 --> 02:22:22,410

I don't know how many
hours he gave them.

2886

02:22:22,410 --> 02:22:24,360

And they came back,
and he was dead.

2887

02:22:24,360 --> 02:22:24,900

He was dead.

2888

02:22:24,900 --> 02:22:27,420

A doctor gave him some pills.

2889

02:22:27,420 --> 02:22:30,990

And he swallowed
them, and he died.

2890

02:22:30,990 --> 02:22:34,170

He was such a handsome man.

2891

02:22:34,170 --> 02:22:35,580

But there was never--

2892

02:22:35,580 --> 02:22:40,230

and there was never
anything that he

2893

02:22:40,230 --> 02:22:42,870

would go after the boys, never.

2894

02:22:42,870 --> 02:22:46,230

And you know, he looked after
the children in Theresien.

2895

02:22:46,230 --> 02:22:49,470

They had-- as a matter
of fact, today I

2896

02:22:49,470 --> 02:22:51,470

send you through the
Holocaust Center,

2897
02:22:51,470 --> 02:22:55,380
a 10-year-old kid
wrote a newspaper,

2898
02:22:55,380 --> 02:22:57,910
and somebody gave me a copy.

2899
02:22:57,910 --> 02:23:01,240
It's not-- some of
it is not very clear.

2900
02:23:01,240 --> 02:23:05,040
But anyway, they made copies
for me here at the Holocaust

2901
02:23:05,040 --> 02:23:08,550
Center, and they sent
it to [? Mikael. ?]

2902
02:23:08,550 --> 02:23:10,485
And you will be able to see it.

2903
02:23:10,485 --> 02:23:11,970
It's like a newspaper.

2904
02:23:11,970 --> 02:23:15,720
The handwriting of this
10-year-old kid, and, yes.

2905
02:23:15,720 --> 02:23:18,690
And I went through all
the list, because I

2906
02:23:18,690 --> 02:23:19,960
have the book from Theresien.

2907
02:23:19,960 --> 02:23:22,890
And so I can tell
when they were born,

2908

02:23:22,890 --> 02:23:25,230
and I can tell which transport.

2909

02:23:25,230 --> 02:23:27,270
So I made the list.

2910

02:23:27,270 --> 02:23:31,680
Of all these children who
wrote in that little newspaper,

2911

02:23:31,680 --> 02:23:33,210
one survived.

2912

02:23:33,210 --> 02:23:36,090
You know, there were 15,000
children in Theresien.

2913

02:23:36,090 --> 02:23:41,010
And from the
15,000, 50 survived.

2914

02:23:41,010 --> 02:23:42,010
Yeah.

2915

02:23:42,010 --> 02:23:43,920
Yeah.

2916

02:23:43,920 --> 02:23:47,530
Are you more comfortable
around other survivors?

2917

02:23:47,530 --> 02:23:48,030
No.

2918

02:23:48,030 --> 02:23:50,680
To me, it doesn't
make any difference.

2919

02:23:50,680 --> 02:23:52,424
The Hungarians bother me.

2920

02:23:52,424 --> 02:23:53,280
Oh.

2921
02:23:53,280 --> 02:23:56,340
Sorry to say.

2922
02:23:56,340 --> 02:24:02,940
You know, because I
left in 1938 my home.

2923
02:24:02,940 --> 02:24:08,040
And they left in 1944.

2924
02:24:08,040 --> 02:24:10,320
They had six years to do good.

2925
02:24:10,320 --> 02:24:13,890
It is true, they
killed so many of them.

2926
02:24:13,890 --> 02:24:14,850
Yes.

2927
02:24:14,850 --> 02:24:16,320
And you know what?

2928
02:24:16,320 --> 02:24:18,240
When they tell the
story, they say

2929
02:24:18,240 --> 02:24:24,340
that Mengele was the one who
did the selection at the train.

2930
02:24:24,340 --> 02:24:26,220
So I always would tease them.

2931
02:24:26,220 --> 02:24:28,620
I said, tell me, did
he introduce himself?

2932
02:24:28,620 --> 02:24:31,350

Or did he-- how did you
know he was Mengele?

2933

02:24:31,350 --> 02:24:37,080
Because there were so many other
SS men who did the selection.

2934

02:24:37,080 --> 02:24:40,380
But they say-- because
that's the name they know.

2935

02:24:40,380 --> 02:24:42,330
And I always say,
don't say that.

2936

02:24:42,330 --> 02:24:44,220
Because we have deniers.

2937

02:24:44,220 --> 02:24:47,100
And if they find out that
you are telling a lie,

2938

02:24:47,100 --> 02:24:48,700
that's not very good.

2939

02:24:48,700 --> 02:24:49,800
Yeah.

2940

02:24:49,800 --> 02:24:51,330
Do you think the
world has learned

2941

02:24:51,330 --> 02:24:53,190
the lesson about the Holocaust?

2942

02:24:53,190 --> 02:24:55,060
No.

2943

02:24:55,060 --> 02:24:58,413
No, not whatsoever.

2944

02:24:58,413 --> 02:24:59,360

As a matter of fact--

2945

02:24:59,360 --> 02:24:59,530

Can it happen again?

2946

02:24:59,530 --> 02:25:01,210

Do you think it
can happen again?

2947

02:25:01,210 --> 02:25:03,100

Yes.

2948

02:25:03,100 --> 02:25:04,870

It doesn't have to
happen to the Jews.

2949

02:25:04,870 --> 02:25:09,040

It can happen to another nation,
that there's a crazy guy.

2950

02:25:09,040 --> 02:25:12,640

And there's all these
people are no good.

2951

02:25:12,640 --> 02:25:15,100

But we Jews have a--

2952

02:25:15,100 --> 02:25:17,180

but they can't get
rid of us, you know?

2953

02:25:17,180 --> 02:25:18,760

We are here a long time.

2954

02:25:18,760 --> 02:25:24,790

And so many pogroms and so
many things are done to us,

2955

02:25:24,790 --> 02:25:27,030

and we are still here.

2956

02:25:27,030 --> 02:25:32,275

Look, I believe that the Jews
in Bohemia are Spanish Jews,

2957

02:25:32,275 --> 02:25:35,740
and my family are Spanish Jews.

2958

02:25:35,740 --> 02:25:40,030
Because if you would see
the pictures of my aunts,

2959

02:25:40,030 --> 02:25:42,680
you would say, oh, my
goodness, gracious,

2960

02:25:42,680 --> 02:25:47,770
look at their big, black eyes,
and their huge black hair.

2961

02:25:47,770 --> 02:25:53,680
And I have-- on
one side my family,

2962

02:25:53,680 --> 02:25:59,860
from my grandfather's side,
I can go back to 1752,

2963

02:25:59,860 --> 02:26:03,100
and the other one, to 1715.

2964

02:26:03,100 --> 02:26:09,910
And as a matter of fact,
I was telling [? Mikael ?]

2965

02:26:09,910 --> 02:26:13,600
that there is a book out--

2966

02:26:13,600 --> 02:26:16,420
it's also written by a woman
by the name of [? Richkova-- ?]

2967

02:26:16,420 --> 02:26:19,100
about the Jews in my area.

2968

02:26:19,100 --> 02:26:23,770

And the first ones arrived
there in 16-something.

2969

02:26:23,770 --> 02:26:29,280

So I wrote to her
an email and I said

2970

02:26:29,280 --> 02:26:32,640

to thank her for all the
work she did, for all the

2971

02:26:32,640 --> 02:26:38,200

the digging and uncovering all
the facts about all the Jews.

2972

02:26:38,200 --> 02:26:40,930

And she's not Jewish.

2973

02:26:40,930 --> 02:26:45,620

But one thing I want to know
is, where did they come from?

2974

02:26:45,620 --> 02:26:49,420

And I also was at the
main archives in Prague

2975

02:26:49,420 --> 02:26:51,610

and where they did
research for me.

2976

02:26:51,610 --> 02:26:56,950

And they said that my family,
they can date back to 1715.

2977

02:26:56,950 --> 02:26:59,380

But where they came
from, they cannot tell.

2978

02:26:59,380 --> 02:27:01,630

Do you get reparations?

2979

02:27:01,630 --> 02:27:02,530
From Germany?

2980
02:27:02,530 --> 02:27:03,760
Yeah.

2981
02:27:03,760 --> 02:27:04,820
Very little, yes.

2982
02:27:04,820 --> 02:27:08,030

2983
02:27:08,030 --> 02:27:09,730
Is there anything
else you would like

2984
02:27:09,730 --> 02:27:13,470
to talk about before we close?

2985
02:27:13,470 --> 02:27:16,060
Well, you tell me
what interests you.

2986
02:27:16,060 --> 02:27:19,120

2987
02:27:19,120 --> 02:27:21,190
Any message to
your grandchildren

2988
02:27:21,190 --> 02:27:25,370
that you'd like to give
her or great-grandchildren?

2989
02:27:25,370 --> 02:27:30,280
To my grandchildren, I want
to say that they should never

2990
02:27:30,280 --> 02:27:31,790
forget where they came from.

2991
02:27:31,790 --> 02:27:33,430

Yeah.

2992

02:27:33,430 --> 02:27:34,270

But you know what?

2993

02:27:34,270 --> 02:27:35,980

My granddaughter

just got married,

2994

02:27:35,980 --> 02:27:38,320

and I could not

go to the wedding,

2995

02:27:38,320 --> 02:27:40,180

because it was in San Francisco.

2996

02:27:40,180 --> 02:27:46,420

And I wasn't up to go.

2997

02:27:46,420 --> 02:27:48,100

But she married a non-Jews.

2998

02:27:48,100 --> 02:27:53,690

2999

02:27:53,690 --> 02:27:54,920

They had a huppah.

3000

02:27:54,920 --> 02:27:58,760

And and he broke the

glass, and so on.

3001

02:27:58,760 --> 02:28:01,645

Do you feel more Jewish because

of what you went through?

3002

02:28:01,645 --> 02:28:03,020

Do you think that

your experience

3003

02:28:03,020 --> 02:28:04,770

made you feel more Jewish?

3004
02:28:04,770 --> 02:28:05,360
No, no.

3005
02:28:05,360 --> 02:28:07,400
I was very Jewish to begin with.

3006
02:28:07,400 --> 02:28:08,900
My mother was very Jewish.

3007
02:28:08,900 --> 02:28:10,200
Yes, yes.

3008
02:28:10,200 --> 02:28:12,680
Yes.

3009
02:28:12,680 --> 02:28:13,340
Oh, yes.

3010
02:28:13,340 --> 02:28:15,140
And you know, we always--

3011
02:28:15,140 --> 02:28:17,990
like, for instance,
when my children small,

3012
02:28:17,990 --> 02:28:20,180
when I went to synagogue,
I always walked.

3013
02:28:20,180 --> 02:28:21,860
And it wasn't around the corner.

3014
02:28:21,860 --> 02:28:23,940
And it was in
honor of my mother.

3015
02:28:23,940 --> 02:28:27,770
Because when we went to
our little synagogue,

3016

02:28:27,770 --> 02:28:32,270
we had to go through woods,
and fields, and meadows.

3017
02:28:32,270 --> 02:28:35,330
And we always walked.

3018
02:28:35,330 --> 02:28:42,440
The only thing, on Yom
Kippur, at Ne'ila, the fellow

3019
02:28:42,440 --> 02:28:45,890
who looked after the horses,
he came there with the horses

3020
02:28:45,890 --> 02:28:47,240
to take us home.

3021
02:28:47,240 --> 02:28:53,270
But my mother would
never drive, never.

3022
02:28:53,270 --> 02:28:56,170
And so I did the same thing.

3023
02:28:56,170 --> 02:28:59,360
I always walked with
my children to school.

3024
02:28:59,360 --> 02:29:01,610
And my children went
to a Jewish school.

3025
02:29:01,610 --> 02:29:04,700
My son spoke very well Hebrew.

3026
02:29:04,700 --> 02:29:10,080
And he studied
Tanahk and all that.

3027
02:29:10,080 --> 02:29:11,510
Yes.

3028

02:29:11,510 --> 02:29:13,460

But, you know,
now, he's far away.

3029

02:29:13,460 --> 02:29:17,360

And he's in a surroundings
which is not very Jewish.

3030

02:29:17,360 --> 02:29:21,530

He does go on the
holidays to a temple,

3031

02:29:21,530 --> 02:29:26,600

because the woman he married,
they belong to the temple.

3032

02:29:26,600 --> 02:29:28,730

As a matter of fact,
my son got divorced

3033

02:29:28,730 --> 02:29:32,210

after 28 years, which is--

3034

02:29:32,210 --> 02:29:35,690

I got sick, and he got
divorced, and everything

3035

02:29:35,690 --> 02:29:37,325

at the same time.

3036

02:29:37,325 --> 02:29:40,280

It was very hard on me.

3037

02:29:40,280 --> 02:29:42,830

Do you feel that you're two
different people, because

3038

02:29:42,830 --> 02:29:45,770

of what you went through--
someone on the inside that's

3039

02:29:45,770 --> 02:29:47,860

different than the
one on the outside?

3040
02:29:47,860 --> 02:29:49,170
No.

3041
02:29:49,170 --> 02:29:50,510
No, no.

3042
02:29:50,510 --> 02:29:53,000
I never hide who I am.

3043
02:29:53,000 --> 02:29:57,170

3044
02:29:57,170 --> 02:29:58,980
This is who I am.

3045
02:29:58,980 --> 02:30:06,950
I had the misfortune to live
in Europe in a horrible time.

3046
02:30:06,950 --> 02:30:09,710
But I'm a fatalist,
and this is--

3047
02:30:09,710 --> 02:30:14,510
and it was my fate that
I didn't have psoriasis

3048
02:30:14,510 --> 02:30:16,050
and Mengele chose me to live.

3049
02:30:16,050 --> 02:30:18,920
And otherwise, I would have
been dead a long time ago.

3050
02:30:18,920 --> 02:30:19,730
Yes.

3051
02:30:19,730 --> 02:30:23,690
And right now, I'm sick,

and I'm very much alone.

3052

02:30:23,690 --> 02:30:29,580

And that is worse than anything
else that you can imagine.

3053

02:30:29,580 --> 02:30:32,090

I'm always by myself.

3054

02:30:32,090 --> 02:30:37,100

And I have a friend whom I
played bridge twice a week.

3055

02:30:37,100 --> 02:30:38,700

And he's getting on.

3056

02:30:38,700 --> 02:30:40,010

And he's now 92.

3057

02:30:40,010 --> 02:30:43,240

And he's now in
residence, but it's

3058

02:30:43,240 --> 02:30:45,290

a very beautiful residence.

3059

02:30:45,290 --> 02:30:47,300

And I phoned him, and he cries.

3060

02:30:47,300 --> 02:30:48,830

He doesn't stop crying.

3061

02:30:48,830 --> 02:30:50,510

He says, you know what?

3062

02:30:50,510 --> 02:30:53,090

When I was young, I
did all these things.

3063

02:30:53,090 --> 02:31:01,010

And now, this, it doesn't
leave me, and I'm just a wreck.

3064
02:31:01,010 --> 02:31:06,420
And so it comes back
more then before.

3065
02:31:06,420 --> 02:31:08,860
It haunts us much more.

3066
02:31:08,860 --> 02:31:10,310
Yes, yes.

3067
02:31:10,310 --> 02:31:12,380
And this is the bad part.

3068
02:31:12,380 --> 02:31:13,820
Yeah, yeah.

3069
02:31:13,820 --> 02:31:18,720
And you see, a person like
you can understand that.

3070
02:31:18,720 --> 02:31:23,360
But how could you tell
that to your neighbor?

3071
02:31:23,360 --> 02:31:27,260
How would they know
what you feel like?

3072
02:31:27,260 --> 02:31:36,090
So you are there, and you have
to keep on fighting and hoping

3073
02:31:36,090 --> 02:31:41,970
that you are not going
to die by yourself.

3074
02:31:41,970 --> 02:31:45,570
That's all I'm worried about.

3075
02:31:45,570 --> 02:31:47,700
I have a lifeline.

3076
02:31:47,700 --> 02:31:49,440
Good.

3077
02:31:49,440 --> 02:31:52,830
But the thing is
that I still try to--

3078
02:31:52,830 --> 02:31:54,960
as a matter of fact,
now I'm doing research

3079
02:31:54,960 --> 02:32:02,475
on Mrs. Albright,
Mrs. Albright's life.

3080
02:32:02,475 --> 02:32:04,830
You know that I met her cousin?

3081
02:32:04,830 --> 02:32:05,890
Oh, you did?

3082
02:32:05,890 --> 02:32:06,390
Yes.

3083
02:32:06,390 --> 02:32:08,460
I met her cousin in--

3084
02:32:08,460 --> 02:32:14,520
[? Dascha. ?] I met her
cousin in 1998, I believe.

3085
02:32:14,520 --> 02:32:18,180
Because this friend of mine,
whom I told you who's--

3086
02:32:18,180 --> 02:32:19,680
he was in Prague
at the same time.

3087
02:32:19,680 --> 02:32:21,000
And he was staying in a hotel.

3088
02:32:21,000 --> 02:32:22,140
And I phoned him.

3089
02:32:22,140 --> 02:32:24,270
And he says, come on over.

3090
02:32:24,270 --> 02:32:25,770
I have a visitor here.

3091
02:32:25,770 --> 02:32:26,590
Come on over.

3092
02:32:26,590 --> 02:32:27,810
So I went to the hotel.

3093
02:32:27,810 --> 02:32:30,210
And her cousin,
[? Dascha, ?] was there.

3094
02:32:30,210 --> 02:32:37,380
And we talked, but nothing much.

3095
02:32:37,380 --> 02:32:41,280
Like visiting in the hotel,
you talk about the city

3096
02:32:41,280 --> 02:32:44,570
or whatever it was,
because he comes

3097
02:32:44,570 --> 02:32:47,210
from the same town as Dachau.

3098
02:32:47,210 --> 02:32:50,270
And that's-- he knew
her as a young girl.

3099
02:32:50,270 --> 02:32:55,520
And her parents, her father,
was their family doctor.

3100

02:32:55,520 --> 02:32:58,400

And so she says,
I have to go now.

3101

02:32:58,400 --> 02:32:59,870

I said, I have to go now, too.

3102

02:32:59,870 --> 02:33:00,740

And so we left.

3103

02:33:00,740 --> 02:33:04,370

And we went downstairs, and we
crossed the [? Mensa ?] Square.

3104

02:33:04,370 --> 02:33:07,130

And I said to her,
tell me, how can

3105

02:33:07,130 --> 02:33:10,290

she say that she didn't
know she was Jewish?

3106

02:33:10,290 --> 02:33:15,440

So she said to me, her
daughter said, Mommy,

3107

02:33:15,440 --> 02:33:18,750

when she looks in the mirror,
doesn't she see who she is?

3108

02:33:18,750 --> 02:33:20,980

Right, right.

3109

02:33:20,980 --> 02:33:24,440

I tell you, I cannot
understand that.

3110

02:33:24,440 --> 02:33:27,800

She came back to Prague in 1947.

3111

02:33:27,800 --> 02:33:29,690

That means she was 10 years old.

3112
02:33:29,690 --> 02:33:30,470
Right.

3113
02:33:30,470 --> 02:33:34,430
Her cousin, [? Dascha, ?]
who was older, came back

3114
02:33:34,430 --> 02:33:37,130
at the same time from England.

3115
02:33:37,130 --> 02:33:42,140
And her cousin, [? Dascha, ?]
her parents weren't there.

3116
02:33:42,140 --> 02:33:45,950
They were all killed,
and her grandparents.

3117
02:33:45,950 --> 02:33:50,330
Didn't she ask, what
happened to Uncle so-and-so?

3118
02:33:50,330 --> 02:33:52,520
I mean, even if you
are 10 years old.

3119
02:33:52,520 --> 02:33:57,070
The bad person is her father.

3120
02:33:57,070 --> 02:34:02,150
I hate him, because he
was such a bureaucrat.

3121
02:34:02,150 --> 02:34:04,220
He didn't want that
anything should

3122
02:34:04,220 --> 02:34:06,290
interfere with his climb.

3123
02:34:06,290 --> 02:34:08,330

He wanted to become ambassador.

3124
02:34:08,330 --> 02:34:12,860
You know that being a
Jew, he was afraid maybe

3125
02:34:12,860 --> 02:34:16,040
they wouldn't promote him.

3126
02:34:16,040 --> 02:34:17,900
So they all became--

3127
02:34:17,900 --> 02:34:20,460
they all were
baptized in England.

3128
02:34:20,460 --> 02:34:24,690
I mean, she's such
a smart woman.

3129
02:34:24,690 --> 02:34:28,140
Not only that, she
was teaching history.

3130
02:34:28,140 --> 02:34:31,080
So didn't she teach history,
what was going on in Europe?

3131
02:34:31,080 --> 02:34:32,730
Didn't she know?

3132
02:34:32,730 --> 02:34:34,170
I mean, how could--

3133
02:34:34,170 --> 02:34:36,240
if I would meet
her, I would say,

3134
02:34:36,240 --> 02:34:39,530
Mrs. Albright, you are
such a smart person,

3135

02:34:39,530 --> 02:34:40,980
but you are such a damn liar.

3136
02:34:40,980 --> 02:34:44,020

3137
02:34:44,020 --> 02:34:49,140
Anyway, what I'm doing
now, research in her book.

3138
02:34:49,140 --> 02:34:53,160
If you seem to have
the book, on page 276,

3139
02:34:53,160 --> 02:34:57,240
there is an article
[AUDIO OUT] by the name of

3140
02:34:57,240 --> 02:35:01,320
[? Eugena Smalkova, ?]
that she was in Auschwitz.

3141
02:35:01,320 --> 02:35:05,130
And she was pulled
out by a SS man,

3142
02:35:05,130 --> 02:35:08,220
and that's how she survived,
and went to Hamburg.

3143
02:35:08,220 --> 02:35:18,180
This is a bloody lie, because
we were not in the showers.

3144
02:35:18,180 --> 02:35:22,890
We were selected in the camp.

3145
02:35:22,890 --> 02:35:24,460
And then she arrived.

3146
02:35:24,460 --> 02:35:27,120
She went to Neugraben,
which is a lie, too.

3147
02:35:27,120 --> 02:35:29,160
Because we went
from Auschwitz, we

3148
02:35:29,160 --> 02:35:33,030
went first to
Hamburg, Friehausen,

3149
02:35:33,030 --> 02:35:34,990
and then we went to Neugraben.

3150
02:35:34,990 --> 02:35:37,710
So the whole thing
doesn't make sense.

3151
02:35:37,710 --> 02:35:39,990
And not only that.

3152
02:35:39,990 --> 02:35:42,030
I have the book
where everybody is

3153
02:35:42,030 --> 02:35:46,560
listed who went to camp
from Theresien, right?

3154
02:35:46,560 --> 02:35:47,370
Right.

3155
02:35:47,370 --> 02:35:49,800
I cannot find her.

3156
02:35:49,800 --> 02:35:53,610
They cannot find her in
[INAUDIBLE] Theresien either.

3157
02:35:53,610 --> 02:35:57,660
So we cannot-- we
don't know who she is.

3158
02:35:57,660 --> 02:36:03,960

But she writes this
that her daughter

3159
02:36:03,960 --> 02:36:06,600
is working for Mrs. Albright.

3160
02:36:06,600 --> 02:36:10,050
So I told your
friend, [? Mikaela, ?]

3161
02:36:10,050 --> 02:36:15,280
I said, why don't you ask
this daughter which transport

3162
02:36:15,280 --> 02:36:18,350
she went to Auschwitz?

3163
02:36:18,350 --> 02:36:20,150
Because we cannot find us.

3164
02:36:20,150 --> 02:36:25,580
Her name is [? Eugena ?]
[? Smalkova. ?] We cannot find

3165
02:36:25,580 --> 02:36:27,690
her anywhere.

3166
02:36:27,690 --> 02:36:31,520
So this is my latest thing.

3167
02:36:31,520 --> 02:36:32,990
Yes.

3168
02:36:32,990 --> 02:36:37,710
And I want to write to
the publisher and say--

3169
02:36:37,710 --> 02:36:40,320
I don't want to say they
should change it now.

3170
02:36:40,320 --> 02:36:43,380

But in case there's
a reprint, either you

3171
02:36:43,380 --> 02:36:48,030
leave the whole thing out,
or say the truth how it is.

3172
02:36:48,030 --> 02:36:51,810
Because [? Eugena ?]
[? Smalkova ?] can't be found

3173
02:36:51,810 --> 02:36:53,880
to go to Auschwitz.

3174
02:36:53,880 --> 02:36:56,230
Well, I wish you good
luck on that research.

3175
02:36:56,230 --> 02:36:58,320
And we're going to
have to close now.

3176
02:36:58,320 --> 02:36:59,270
Yeah, OK.

3177
02:36:59,270 --> 02:37:02,250
So I want to thank you so
much for doing this interview.

3178
02:37:02,250 --> 02:37:03,900
You're very welcome.

3179
02:37:03,900 --> 02:37:05,790
And I'm going to
close with this.

3180
02:37:05,790 --> 02:37:09,360
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

3181
02:37:09,360 --> 02:37:14,220
interview with
Liselotte Epstein Ivry.

3182
02:37:14,220 --> 02:37:15,190
Thank you.

3183
02:37:15,190 --> 02:37:16,020
Thank you.

3184
02:37:16,020 --> 02:37:17,070
Have a nice day.

3185
02:37:17,070 --> 02:37:17,950
You, too.

3186
02:37:17,950 --> 02:37:18,450
Bye.

3187
02:37:18,450 --> 02:37:20,000
Bye.