

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,010

2  
00:00:09,010 --> 00:00:12,220  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:12,220 --> 00:00:15,040  
interview with Agnes  
Hoffman, conducted

4  
00:00:15,040 --> 00:00:20,410  
by Gail Schwartz on  
January 10th, 2014

5  
00:00:20,410 --> 00:00:23,710  
at the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

6  
00:00:23,710 --> 00:00:27,700  
This is track number one.

7  
00:00:27,700 --> 00:00:30,470  
Please tell me your full name.

8  
00:00:30,470 --> 00:00:33,820  
My name is Agnes Hoffman.

9  
00:00:33,820 --> 00:00:36,280  
And what name did  
you have at birth?

10  
00:00:36,280 --> 00:00:38,020  
What was your maiden name?

11  
00:00:38,020 --> 00:00:41,790  
Agnes Weisbrun.

12  
00:00:41,790 --> 00:00:43,670  
OK, and where were you born?

13

00:00:43,670 --> 00:00:48,730

I was born in Budapest,  
Hungary, and I

14

00:00:48,730 --> 00:00:52,630

lived in a city called Miskolc.

15

00:00:52,630 --> 00:00:55,090

When were you born?

16

00:00:55,090 --> 00:01:00,820

January 21, 1931.

17

00:01:00,820 --> 00:01:04,090

Let's now talk a little  
bit about your family.

18

00:01:04,090 --> 00:01:06,380

Your parents' names?

19

00:01:06,380 --> 00:01:13,000

My mother's name  
was Anna Weisbrun

20

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:17,740

and her maiden  
name was Weinstock.

21

00:01:17,740 --> 00:01:19,580

And where was she  
from originally?

22

00:01:19,580 --> 00:01:25,150

And she was from a  
small village, Ricse.

23

00:01:25,150 --> 00:01:28,390

24

00:01:28,390 --> 00:01:35,620

And my father's name  
was Bela Weisbrun

25  
00:01:35,620 --> 00:01:40,510  
and he was born in  
Miskolc, Hungary.

26  
00:01:40,510 --> 00:01:44,120

27  
00:01:44,120 --> 00:01:47,360  
All right, how far back can  
you go with your family?

28  
00:01:47,360 --> 00:01:49,460  
Your grandparents-- you  
have any information

29  
00:01:49,460 --> 00:01:51,170  
about your grandparents?

30  
00:01:51,170 --> 00:02:00,090  
My grandfather had  
a store selling

31  
00:02:00,090 --> 00:02:10,500  
the finest of delicate meats and  
it was famous all over Europe.

32  
00:02:10,500 --> 00:02:20,730  
People were ordering food from  
him from everywhere in Europe.

33  
00:02:20,730 --> 00:02:24,960  
A delicacy and meats  
and fantastic--

34  
00:02:24,960 --> 00:02:27,660  
How far back did his  
family go that you know?

35  
00:02:27,660 --> 00:02:30,540  
How many generations back?

36

00:02:30,540 --> 00:02:32,400  
Well, I--

37  
00:02:32,400 --> 00:02:36,420  
Do you have any more  
information about that?

38  
00:02:36,420 --> 00:02:45,930  
My grandfather was a very  
educated man, highly respected.

39  
00:02:45,930 --> 00:02:56,400  
And my father had a brother  
and his name was Jula.

40  
00:02:56,400 --> 00:02:59,520  
I will spell it later.

41  
00:02:59,520 --> 00:03:03,150  
And he had gone to--

42  
00:03:03,150 --> 00:03:05,940  
at that time, it was Palestine.

43  
00:03:05,940 --> 00:03:08,370  
He moved to Palestine.

44  
00:03:08,370 --> 00:03:15,120  
Also, my father's sister,  
her name was Elsa.

45  
00:03:15,120 --> 00:03:24,120  
They lived there until  
my Elsa died young.

46  
00:03:24,120 --> 00:03:32,190  
And then my uncle  
moved to Australia,

47  
00:03:32,190 --> 00:03:37,680  
and he had lived in  
Australia till the end.

48

00:03:37,680 --> 00:03:45,960

And my grandmother  
was a fantastic lady.

49

00:03:45,960 --> 00:03:52,290

Her name was Ida, or  
in Hungarian, Eda.

50

00:03:52,290 --> 00:03:58,680

And she was-- they  
were religious people.

51

00:03:58,680 --> 00:04:04,050

But my grandmother  
appeared in theater,

52

00:04:04,050 --> 00:04:09,840

was very, very well known.

53

00:04:09,840 --> 00:04:16,329

And my whole family were  
practically writers.

54

00:04:16,329 --> 00:04:20,380

My father was a writer.

55

00:04:20,380 --> 00:04:24,090

He wrote movie manuscripts.

56

00:04:24,090 --> 00:04:27,240

He was in the movie business.

57

00:04:27,240 --> 00:04:32,490

He traveled to Budapest  
back and forth.

58

00:04:32,490 --> 00:04:35,420

He arranged and he  
picked the movies

59

00:04:35,420 --> 00:04:38,940

that the theaters would play.

60  
00:04:38,940 --> 00:04:47,830  
And he had also--

61  
00:04:47,830 --> 00:04:53,710  
he had written novels.

62  
00:04:53,710 --> 00:05:00,880  
And towards the end, he wrote  
a book that he told in the book

63  
00:05:00,880 --> 00:05:05,380  
that the war would be  
over in six months.

64  
00:05:05,380 --> 00:05:11,950  
Well, it was close to  
it, but he never made it.

65  
00:05:11,950 --> 00:05:15,290  
And he hid that book.

66  
00:05:15,290 --> 00:05:22,930  
He said, when the war is over, I  
am going to get this published.

67  
00:05:22,930 --> 00:05:30,020  
So he put the book on the  
shelf in a certain place.

68  
00:05:30,020 --> 00:05:38,140  
But I will tell you, when  
he traveled to Budapest when

69  
00:05:38,140 --> 00:05:44,740  
the Germans came in and we  
had to wear the yellow star,

70  
00:05:44,740 --> 00:05:49,600  
the Jews could not travel  
public transportation,

71

00:05:49,600 --> 00:05:52,900  
could not go to  
any public places.

72  
00:05:52,900 --> 00:05:58,540  
But my father had to  
travel on the train.

73  
00:05:58,540 --> 00:05:59,980  
So he was wait--

74  
00:05:59,980 --> 00:06:03,670  
and he took off  
his star in order

75  
00:06:03,670 --> 00:06:08,440  
to be able to go for his work.

76  
00:06:08,440 --> 00:06:16,450  
And he was waiting for the  
train and a Hungarian man

77  
00:06:16,450 --> 00:06:21,820  
went to the SS and  
said, there is a Jew.

78  
00:06:21,820 --> 00:06:28,600  
So the soldier, he went over  
to my father and he said,

79  
00:06:28,600 --> 00:06:30,100  
what's your religion?

80  
00:06:30,100 --> 00:06:32,890  
And he said, Jewish.

81  
00:06:32,890 --> 00:06:36,460  
So they had to take  
him away right away.

82  
00:06:36,460 --> 00:06:43,735  
They put him, I assume, to  
a camp in Hungary until--

83  
00:06:43,735 --> 00:06:45,670  
Well, we'll get to that  
a little bit later.

84  
00:06:45,670 --> 00:06:47,590  
I want to talk more  
about your childhood.

85  
00:06:47,590 --> 00:06:48,190  
Yes.

86  
00:06:48,190 --> 00:06:53,860  
Oh, I want to tell  
you about just--

87  
00:06:53,860 --> 00:07:00,580  
so the Jews had  
to go to a ghetto,

88  
00:07:00,580 --> 00:07:08,420  
but the first one was to move  
into an area of 33 streets.

89  
00:07:08,420 --> 00:07:08,920  
Right.

90  
00:07:08,920 --> 00:07:09,820  
No, I know.

91  
00:07:09,820 --> 00:07:12,260  
We'll get to that  
in a few minutes.

92  
00:07:12,260 --> 00:07:15,660  
I want to get your childhood  
before the war first.

93  
00:07:15,660 --> 00:07:16,840  
Oh, yeah.

94  
00:07:16,840 --> 00:07:20,290



OK, any information about your mother's side of the family?

95

00:07:20,290 --> 00:07:22,930

You told me about your father's side.

96

00:07:22,930 --> 00:07:32,350

I loved going to the small town or village, Ricse,

97

00:07:32,350 --> 00:07:35,960

every summer as children.

98

00:07:35,960 --> 00:07:43,300

I have three little sisters, and every summer we went to Ricse.

99

00:07:43,300 --> 00:07:47,110

And we could not wait to go there.

100

00:07:47,110 --> 00:07:49,100

It was so much fun.

101

00:07:49,100 --> 00:07:50,890

What were their names--

102

00:07:50,890 --> 00:07:52,490

your sister's names?

103

00:07:52,490 --> 00:08:05,440

My sister was Susan, or Zuzanna, and Elsa and Eva.

104

00:08:05,440 --> 00:08:07,890

And I was the oldest one--

105

00:08:07,890 --> 00:08:08,390

13.

106

00:08:08,390 --> 00:08:11,170

107  
00:08:11,170 --> 00:08:14,960  
Susan, she was 11.

108  
00:08:14,960 --> 00:08:18,070  
Elsa was 6.

109  
00:08:18,070 --> 00:08:23,260  
And Eva was 2.

110  
00:08:23,260 --> 00:08:30,385  
And Eva won a beauty contest  
number one in Hungary.

111  
00:08:30,385 --> 00:08:35,100

112  
00:08:35,100 --> 00:08:37,905  
And maternal grandparents?

113  
00:08:37,905 --> 00:08:39,280  
What about your  
mother's parents?

114  
00:08:39,280 --> 00:08:41,020  
Yes.

115  
00:08:41,020 --> 00:08:46,840  
Weinstock, Samuel-- Samuel.

116  
00:08:46,840 --> 00:08:54,580  
And he was a fantastic,  
wonderful man

117  
00:08:54,580 --> 00:08:57,940  
and loving and caring.

118  
00:08:57,940 --> 00:09:02,980  
And he had, in the  
little village,

119

00:09:02,980 --> 00:09:06,490  
he had the movie theater.

120

00:09:06,490 --> 00:09:13,750  
And he had-- they called it a  
hotel, but it was a small one.

121

00:09:13,750 --> 00:09:18,070  
So all the traveling  
salesmen and people,

122

00:09:18,070 --> 00:09:20,440  
they stayed over there.

123

00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:24,970  
But it was not a huge hotel.

124

00:09:24,970 --> 00:09:36,400  
And he also had a pub,  
the pub in the town

125

00:09:36,400 --> 00:09:44,990  
where all the  
gendarmes came there

126

00:09:44,990 --> 00:09:50,270  
and had their beer and wine.

127

00:09:50,270 --> 00:09:54,590  
And at that time,  
they would give us

128

00:09:54,590 --> 00:10:00,050  
a little wine also, because  
in Hungary you could have--

129

00:10:00,050 --> 00:10:03,350  
children could  
have a little wine.

130

00:10:03,350 --> 00:10:06,360  
Was your family very religious?

131  
00:10:06,360 --> 00:10:09,440  
They were religious.

132  
00:10:09,440 --> 00:10:10,580  
They were observant?

133  
00:10:10,580 --> 00:10:11,840  
You observed the holidays?

134  
00:10:11,840 --> 00:10:12,470  
Oh, yes.

135  
00:10:12,470 --> 00:10:13,606  
I'm talking about  
before the war now,

136  
00:10:13,606 --> 00:10:13,960  
but you observed  
all the holidays?

137  
00:10:13,960 --> 00:10:15,350  
Yes, definitely.

138  
00:10:15,350 --> 00:10:16,910  
Yes.

139  
00:10:16,910 --> 00:10:20,420  
Did you have many cousins  
around-- extended family

140  
00:10:20,420 --> 00:10:20,960  
nearby?

141  
00:10:20,960 --> 00:10:22,370  
Yes.

142  
00:10:22,370 --> 00:10:27,140  
In Ricse, I had  
aunts and uncles.

143

00:10:27,140 --> 00:10:34,190  
I had two single aunts,  
and then they had--

144  
00:10:34,190 --> 00:10:36,470  
at that time.

145  
00:10:36,470 --> 00:10:40,600  
And they spoiled us.

146  
00:10:40,600 --> 00:10:45,650  
So when we arrived  
at the station,

147  
00:10:45,650 --> 00:10:50,400  
half the town's children  
were waiting for us.

148  
00:10:50,400 --> 00:10:53,720  
And then when we  
got to their house,

149  
00:10:53,720 --> 00:10:58,460  
outside, before we  
went inside, my aunt

150  
00:10:58,460 --> 00:11:06,830  
came out with a big tray  
of fabulous homemade cakes.

151  
00:11:06,830 --> 00:11:12,290  
And this was a vision  
that we never forgot.

152  
00:11:12,290 --> 00:11:14,150  
What kind of school  
did you go to--

153  
00:11:14,150 --> 00:11:16,970

154  
00:11:16,970 --> 00:11:18,320  
elementary school?

155  
00:11:18,320 --> 00:11:23,750  
You don't want me to  
tell more about Ricse?

156  
00:11:23,750 --> 00:11:25,490  
Well, is there something  
you want to say?

157  
00:11:25,490 --> 00:11:28,890  
If you want to say it, fine.

158  
00:11:28,890 --> 00:11:36,270  
So I had a lot more  
relatives there.

159  
00:11:36,270 --> 00:11:42,390  
Really, a whole lot of the  
people were relatives of ours.

160  
00:11:42,390 --> 00:11:51,690  
And so it was a very  
happy surroundings.

161  
00:11:51,690 --> 00:12:00,660  
And we had a famous uncle--

162  
00:12:00,660 --> 00:12:02,700  
great, great uncle.

163  
00:12:02,700 --> 00:12:05,220  
I want to tell you about him.

164  
00:12:05,220 --> 00:12:08,430  
His name was Adolph Zukor.

165  
00:12:08,430 --> 00:12:09,690  
Oh, yes.

166  
00:12:09,690 --> 00:12:10,920  
Have you heard of him?

167

00:12:10,920 --> 00:12:12,190

Yeah.

168

00:12:12,190 --> 00:12:21,090

He was a great uncle  
and he was 16 years old.

169

00:12:21,090 --> 00:12:24,240

He lived in Ricse  
and his parents

170

00:12:24,240 --> 00:12:27,540

got killed in an accident.

171

00:12:27,540 --> 00:12:34,290

And my great grandfather had--

172

00:12:34,290 --> 00:12:36,750

was raising him.

173

00:12:36,750 --> 00:12:45,010

And one day he said, uncle,  
I want to go to America.

174

00:12:45,010 --> 00:12:52,140

And my great grandfather  
was a well-to-do man.

175

00:12:52,140 --> 00:13:08,190

They had a very great  
business there going.

176

00:13:08,190 --> 00:13:15,670

And he said, OK, I'll  
take you to the ship.

177

00:13:15,670 --> 00:13:19,210

So he traveled and he  
put him on the ship.

178

00:13:19,210 --> 00:13:25,000

And he gave him \$40

to go to America.

179

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:29,670

And reason I'm telling you this  
is because he would come back

180

00:13:29,670 --> 00:13:33,210

to visit them often.

181

00:13:33,210 --> 00:13:38,250

And when he came, he  
would go to the temple

182

00:13:38,250 --> 00:13:42,810

and he would give  
thousands of dollars

183

00:13:42,810 --> 00:13:48,450

to the people in the temple.

184

00:13:48,450 --> 00:13:52,980

And he had sent--

185

00:13:52,980 --> 00:13:57,960

when all the aunts, like  
my mother and her sisters

186

00:13:57,960 --> 00:14:01,890

and her brother, when  
they all got married,

187

00:14:01,890 --> 00:14:07,590

he gave a lot of money for  
each of them as a gift.

188

00:14:07,590 --> 00:14:12,460

And my mother got the most.

189

00:14:12,460 --> 00:14:20,190

And it was really  
the Jewish people

190



00:14:20,190 --> 00:14:24,270  
that lived there were  
really all my relatives.

191  
00:14:24,270 --> 00:14:25,920  
When you were  
growing up, did you

192  
00:14:25,920 --> 00:14:28,740  
live in a Jewish neighborhood?

193  
00:14:28,740 --> 00:14:29,250  
Did you--

194  
00:14:29,250 --> 00:14:31,270  
No, it was a mix.

195  
00:14:31,270 --> 00:14:32,460  
It was a mixed.

196  
00:14:32,460 --> 00:14:35,600  
So did you have friends who were  
not Jewish when you were young?

197  
00:14:35,600 --> 00:14:38,370  
I'm talking about  
before the war now.

198  
00:14:38,370 --> 00:14:43,200  
Did you have friends  
who were Christian?

199  
00:14:43,200 --> 00:14:47,760  
I think the ones  
that were in school.

200  
00:14:47,760 --> 00:14:57,587  
And we had lived our  
lives within the Jewish--

201  
00:14:57,587 --> 00:14:58,087  
Community.

202

00:14:58,087 --> 00:15:00,270  
--community.

203

00:15:00,270 --> 00:15:06,870  
And schools were mixed and  
I had friends there, yes.

204

00:15:06,870 --> 00:15:09,282  
And did you experience  
any anti-Semitism

205

00:15:09,282 --> 00:15:10,740  
when you were young  
before the war.

206

00:15:10,740 --> 00:15:12,330  
No, never.

207

00:15:12,330 --> 00:15:12,860  
Never.

208

00:15:12,860 --> 00:15:14,350  
Nothing from the teachers--

209

00:15:14,350 --> 00:15:15,180  
Nothing.

210

00:15:15,180 --> 00:15:16,755  
--or other non-Jewish friends?

211

00:15:16,755 --> 00:15:17,850  
No.

212

00:15:17,850 --> 00:15:21,420  
What language did  
you speak at home?

213

00:15:21,420 --> 00:15:24,000  
We spoke Hungarian.

214

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:29,850

But my grandmother had  
a sister who was deaf,

215  
00:15:29,850 --> 00:15:35,220  
and she had gone to a  
deaf school in Vienna.

216  
00:15:35,220 --> 00:15:40,600  
And when she came  
back, she spoke German.

217  
00:15:40,600 --> 00:15:46,710  
And you know how they  
spoke not sounded clearly,

218  
00:15:46,710 --> 00:15:49,290  
but we all learned German.

219  
00:15:49,290 --> 00:15:56,940  
And we learned German in school,  
so we spoke German to her

220  
00:15:56,940 --> 00:15:58,680  
all the time.

221  
00:15:58,680 --> 00:16:01,470  
And in school, we learned.

222  
00:16:01,470 --> 00:16:05,970  
So we knew German,  
perfect German.

223  
00:16:05,970 --> 00:16:09,780  
When you were growing up, what  
were your other interests?

224  
00:16:09,780 --> 00:16:12,690  
Did you like to read, or  
did you do any sports?

225  
00:16:12,690 --> 00:16:15,560  
What were your hobbies?

226

00:16:15,560 --> 00:16:18,490

Did you have any  
additional interests?

227

00:16:18,490 --> 00:16:21,840

I'll tell you, it  
was not like America

228

00:16:21,840 --> 00:16:26,430

where you had any  
interests like that.

229

00:16:26,430 --> 00:16:29,220

230

00:16:29,220 --> 00:16:32,610

I used to go to  
the movie theater

231

00:16:32,610 --> 00:16:36,480

that my father was  
associated with.

232

00:16:36,480 --> 00:16:43,370

And it was free for us.

233

00:16:43,370 --> 00:16:49,790

And we could take our friends  
and they were free to go in.

234

00:16:49,790 --> 00:16:52,550

And I was very popular.

235

00:16:52,550 --> 00:16:54,710

I'm sure you were.

236

00:16:54,710 --> 00:17:02,510

But I do want to tell you one  
incident after the Germans came

237

00:17:02,510 --> 00:17:03,010

in--

238  
00:17:03,010 --> 00:17:04,087  
Well, we'll get--

239  
00:17:04,087 --> 00:17:05,170  
--about the movie theater.

240  
00:17:05,170 --> 00:17:06,619  
Yeah, we will get to that.

241  
00:17:06,619 --> 00:17:08,510  
Yeah, I just want to  
stay on before that.

242  
00:17:08,510 --> 00:17:10,339  
Yes, OK.

243  
00:17:10,339 --> 00:17:13,700  
Did you have any  
favorite holidays

244  
00:17:13,700 --> 00:17:15,740  
that you liked to  
celebrate with your family?

245  
00:17:15,740 --> 00:17:20,839  
I had all of them, all  
of them in my family.

246  
00:17:20,839 --> 00:17:23,380  
Did you like to do any sports?

247  
00:17:23,380 --> 00:17:25,030  
Were you very athletic?

248  
00:17:25,030 --> 00:17:25,530  
No.

249  
00:17:25,530 --> 00:17:27,550  
No, you were not.

250

00:17:27,550 --> 00:17:35,690  
In Europe in those days, they  
did not have that kind of life.

251  
00:17:35,690 --> 00:17:38,360  
How would you describe  
yourself as a child?

252  
00:17:38,360 --> 00:17:40,310  
Were you very independent?

253  
00:17:40,310 --> 00:17:42,840  
Did you do things on your  
own, or were you more--

254  
00:17:42,840 --> 00:17:50,540  
Well, I'll tell you  
one thing, I was very

255  
00:17:50,540 --> 00:17:54,350  
into everything that was going.

256  
00:17:54,350 --> 00:18:02,910  
On my father depended on me to  
take care of a lot of business.

257  
00:18:02,910 --> 00:18:05,060  
I knew how to--

258  
00:18:05,060 --> 00:18:09,590  
as young as I was, 10,  
11, he would send me

259  
00:18:09,590 --> 00:18:18,560  
to the movie theater to the  
boss, who would give the money

260  
00:18:18,560 --> 00:18:21,030  
to give to my father.

261  
00:18:21,030 --> 00:18:25,280  
He would-- anything I  
had to take care of,

262  
00:18:25,280 --> 00:18:28,740  
I could take care of it.

263  
00:18:28,740 --> 00:18:35,480  
And so he really trusted  
me with a lot of things

264  
00:18:35,480 --> 00:18:38,180  
that I could handle.

265  
00:18:38,180 --> 00:18:41,760  
So you would describe yourself  
as an independent youngster?

266  
00:18:41,760 --> 00:18:42,680  
Yeah.

267  
00:18:42,680 --> 00:18:45,230  
Yeah, that's good.

268  
00:18:45,230 --> 00:18:48,350  
Were your parents  
strong Zionists at all?

269  
00:18:48,350 --> 00:18:48,860  
Strong--

270  
00:18:48,860 --> 00:18:49,360  
Zionists.

271  
00:18:49,360 --> 00:18:51,380  
--Zionists.

272  
00:18:51,380 --> 00:18:54,380  
No, just regular Jewish.

273  
00:18:54,380 --> 00:18:56,630  
So were you a member of any  
youth groups or anything

274

00:18:56,630 --> 00:18:57,130  
like that?

275  
00:18:57,130 --> 00:18:58,202  
I know you were young.

276  
00:18:58,202 --> 00:18:59,660  
I know you were  
young, but were you

277  
00:18:59,660 --> 00:19:01,100  
in any kind of a youth group?

278  
00:19:01,100 --> 00:19:01,610  
No.

279  
00:19:01,610 --> 00:19:03,360  
No.

280  
00:19:03,360 --> 00:19:04,700  
OK, well let's--

281  
00:19:04,700 --> 00:19:07,850  
I was very private life--

282  
00:19:07,850 --> 00:19:10,220  
all the Jews.

283  
00:19:10,220 --> 00:19:13,040  
Yeah, but you said you did  
have non-Jewish friends also.

284  
00:19:13,040 --> 00:19:13,660  
Oh, yes.

285  
00:19:13,660 --> 00:19:14,270  
You did.

286  
00:19:14,270 --> 00:19:16,603  
And did you go to their houses  
and play at their houses?



287

00:19:16,603 --> 00:19:19,430

288

00:19:19,430 --> 00:19:28,730

Maybe occasionally, but  
we were family-oriented.

289

00:19:28,730 --> 00:19:31,100

Now when did you  
first start hearing

290

00:19:31,100 --> 00:19:32,540

about a man named Hitler?

291

00:19:32,540 --> 00:19:34,550

Do you remember  
what your first--

292

00:19:34,550 --> 00:19:41,390

No, but I'll tell you, we had  
some relatives in Austria.

293

00:19:41,390 --> 00:19:44,030

And they came in--

294

00:19:44,030 --> 00:19:49,040

the Germans came into  
Austria before Hungary.

295

00:19:49,040 --> 00:19:52,880

And our relatives there--

296

00:19:52,880 --> 00:20:03,230

an uncle died, but another  
uncle wanted to take his place.

297

00:20:03,230 --> 00:20:07,400

And what they did  
was they asked where

298

00:20:07,400 --> 00:20:10,460

my grandfather had passed away.

299

00:20:10,460 --> 00:20:17,570

They had asked my  
grandmother to give them

300

00:20:17,570 --> 00:20:27,890

my grandfather's papers, so  
they could get out of Austria.

301

00:20:27,890 --> 00:20:32,820

So that's how it all started.

302

00:20:32,820 --> 00:20:36,560

And we heard all  
the terrible things

303

00:20:36,560 --> 00:20:41,690

about Austria and  
other countries.

304

00:20:41,690 --> 00:20:47,360

And we did not believe  
it, but it was true.

305

00:20:47,360 --> 00:20:51,270

But we never saw  
the extent of it,

306

00:20:51,270 --> 00:20:58,810

and so we haven't really  
heard about Hitler's things--

307

00:20:58,810 --> 00:20:59,560

what he did.

308

00:20:59,560 --> 00:21:02,040

Did you ever hear him give  
a speech on the radio?

309

00:21:02,040 --> 00:21:02,540

No.

310

00:21:02,540 --> 00:21:03,380  
You never heard that?

311  
00:21:03,380 --> 00:21:03,880  
No.

312  
00:21:03,880 --> 00:21:09,500  
OK, so you continued--  
well, then the war started.

313  
00:21:09,500 --> 00:21:13,010  
It has been-- had started.

314  
00:21:13,010 --> 00:21:13,670  
Yeah.

315  
00:21:13,670 --> 00:21:16,020  
OK, and then the  
invasion of Poland

316  
00:21:16,020 --> 00:21:18,230  
and the war starting  
in September '39.

317  
00:21:18,230 --> 00:21:22,070  
Do you have any  
memories of that?

318  
00:21:22,070 --> 00:21:22,640  
No.

319  
00:21:22,640 --> 00:21:23,600  
You were very young.

320  
00:21:23,600 --> 00:21:24,740  
You were only eight.

321  
00:21:24,740 --> 00:21:26,990  
Was it the kind of thing  
that at a young age

322  
00:21:26,990 --> 00:21:29,630

that your parents talked  
things over with you?

323

00:21:29,630 --> 00:21:34,310

Do you remember, you being the  
oldest child in the family,

324

00:21:34,310 --> 00:21:37,040

about what was  
happening in Europe?

325

00:21:37,040 --> 00:21:38,780

Did they discuss that with you?

326

00:21:38,780 --> 00:21:41,750

Well, I did hear about--

327

00:21:41,750 --> 00:21:49,390

because of the relatives in  
Austria, we heard about that.

328

00:21:49,390 --> 00:21:51,050

Yeah.

329

00:21:51,050 --> 00:21:54,200

OK, so the war has  
started in other countries

330

00:21:54,200 --> 00:21:56,450

and you continue  
to go to school.

331

00:21:56,450 --> 00:22:01,500

When did life start to  
then change for you?

332

00:22:01,500 --> 00:22:03,030

Well--

333

00:22:03,030 --> 00:22:08,850

Do you remember the first  
change that you experienced?

334

00:22:08,850 --> 00:22:14,160

We knew that the Germans  
were coming into Hungary,

335

00:22:14,160 --> 00:22:16,890

but that was the final blow.

336

00:22:16,890 --> 00:22:19,560

337

00:22:19,560 --> 00:22:28,080

And so that's when  
they started--

338

00:22:28,080 --> 00:22:31,830

OK, but up to that time, was  
your life affected in any way?

339

00:22:31,830 --> 00:22:34,590

Up to the time that the  
Germans came into Hungary,

340

00:22:34,590 --> 00:22:36,800

was your life  
changed in any way?

341

00:22:36,800 --> 00:22:46,770

Well, they started had to  
stand in line for some bread.

342

00:22:46,770 --> 00:22:55,350

Everything was getting  
weaker and lower and not

343

00:22:55,350 --> 00:22:59,310

the normal kind of living.

344

00:22:59,310 --> 00:23:01,450

I'm talking about before  
the Germans came in.

345

00:23:01,450 --> 00:23:01,960

Yes.

346  
00:23:01,960 --> 00:23:04,530  
Yes, it started that way.

347  
00:23:04,530 --> 00:23:05,490  
Life was changing.

348  
00:23:05,490 --> 00:23:07,860  
Yes.

349  
00:23:07,860 --> 00:23:10,740  
OK, and then the next  
change, the next thing

350  
00:23:10,740 --> 00:23:12,120  
that you remember?

351  
00:23:12,120 --> 00:23:21,730  
Oh, and when they came in, they  
were taking over businesses.

352  
00:23:21,730 --> 00:23:24,470

353  
00:23:24,470 --> 00:23:36,050  
They were taking over  
any buildings or people

354  
00:23:36,050 --> 00:23:38,120  
that people owned.

355  
00:23:38,120 --> 00:23:42,710  
The movie theater,  
the big movie theater

356  
00:23:42,710 --> 00:23:47,390  
that my father was  
closest to, the owner

357  
00:23:47,390 --> 00:23:53,180  
had built a second floor.

358  
00:23:53,180 --> 00:23:57,110  
He had an extra  
apartment for himself.

359  
00:23:57,110 --> 00:24:03,230  
There was also a  
huge lounge where

360  
00:24:03,230 --> 00:24:06,140  
the people, when they  
came to the movie theater

361  
00:24:06,140 --> 00:24:13,050  
and had to wait, they went  
up there and sat and relaxed.

362  
00:24:13,050 --> 00:24:18,140  
And now I'm going to  
tell you the story.

363  
00:24:18,140 --> 00:24:24,320  
So I would go and take  
my friends to the movies.

364  
00:24:24,320 --> 00:24:30,200  
And they had-- oh, and  
the German soldiers

365  
00:24:30,200 --> 00:24:33,080  
took over the second floor.

366  
00:24:33,080 --> 00:24:40,670  
He took-- they took over  
the owner's apartment.

367  
00:24:40,670 --> 00:24:42,920  
They were staying up there.

368  
00:24:42,920 --> 00:24:49,130  
And when we went to  
the movies, they had--

369

00:24:49,130 --> 00:24:53,870

halfway through, they let you  
out and you walked around--

370

00:24:53,870 --> 00:24:54,650

An intermission.

371

00:24:54,650 --> 00:24:57,350

Intermission.

372

00:24:57,350 --> 00:25:03,470

And there were SS soldiers  
roaming around there

373

00:25:03,470 --> 00:25:05,450

in the lobby.

374

00:25:05,450 --> 00:25:10,340

And since they were  
talking German,

375

00:25:10,340 --> 00:25:12,890

and I don't know  
how it happened,

376

00:25:12,890 --> 00:25:17,270

that I started to answer them.

377

00:25:17,270 --> 00:25:22,680

And they didn't  
know I was Jewish.

378

00:25:22,680 --> 00:25:28,310

And they said, we are  
going to wipe all the Jews

379

00:25:28,310 --> 00:25:32,180

off the face of the Earth.

380

00:25:32,180 --> 00:25:42,500

And me, wise guy Agnes, 13 years  
old, said, I am Jewish too.



381  
00:25:42,500 --> 00:25:46,430  
And he said, oh no, no,  
we didn't mean that.

382  
00:25:46,430 --> 00:25:49,850  
That isn't what we meant.

383  
00:25:49,850 --> 00:25:53,400  
And they tried to  
make it look better.

384  
00:25:53,400 --> 00:25:58,670  
They were showing me  
their family's pictures,

385  
00:25:58,670 --> 00:26:00,710  
their babies.

386  
00:26:00,710 --> 00:26:06,780  
And so we went  
back to the movies.

387  
00:26:06,780 --> 00:26:12,390  
When I came home and I  
told my mother about it

388  
00:26:12,390 --> 00:26:17,150  
she says, from now  
on you don't go out

389  
00:26:17,150 --> 00:26:23,840  
of the house, because  
I was a young girl, 13.

390  
00:26:23,840 --> 00:26:29,690  
I was not a child  
as such, but I was.

391  
00:26:29,690 --> 00:26:33,770  
What was your first reaction  
when you saw a German soldier

392  
00:26:33,770 --> 00:26:36,746  
in uniform, an SS officer?

393  
00:26:36,746 --> 00:26:37,430  
I had--

394  
00:26:37,430 --> 00:26:39,720  
Was it frightening to see?

395  
00:26:39,720 --> 00:26:41,360  
No, because they--

396  
00:26:41,360 --> 00:26:42,402  
They weren't frightening.

397  
00:26:42,402 --> 00:26:45,830  
--did not have  
anything to do with us

398  
00:26:45,830 --> 00:26:49,970  
except in that movie theater  
when they were talking to you.

399  
00:26:49,970 --> 00:26:51,710  
Well, when you saw  
a swastika, did

400  
00:26:51,710 --> 00:26:54,380  
that have any meaning to you?

401  
00:26:54,380 --> 00:26:58,480  
They were not  
obvious in our lives.

402  
00:26:58,480 --> 00:27:01,010

403  
00:27:01,010 --> 00:27:04,850  
So the Germans invaded Hungary.

404  
00:27:04,850 --> 00:27:07,790

You continued to go to school  
and be with friends, and then

405  
00:27:07,790 --> 00:27:10,310  
what was the next change?

406  
00:27:10,310 --> 00:27:15,560  
When they said we had to  
go to a ghetto, that all

407  
00:27:15,560 --> 00:27:19,400  
the Jews had to  
go into a ghetto.

408  
00:27:19,400 --> 00:27:28,100  
And the ghetto, the first one,  
was an area of 33 streets.

409  
00:27:28,100 --> 00:27:31,340  
And we had friends  
there who lived there,

410  
00:27:31,340 --> 00:27:36,890  
and they let us move in  
with them at that time

411  
00:27:36,890 --> 00:27:39,890  
because we had to  
be in that area.

412  
00:27:39,890 --> 00:27:43,430  
How much warning did you get?

413  
00:27:43,430 --> 00:27:45,950  
How much time did you have to  
move from one to the other?

414  
00:27:45,950 --> 00:27:47,030  
Not much.

415  
00:27:47,030 --> 00:27:49,550  
So what does a 13-year-old  
girl take with her?

416  
00:27:49,550 --> 00:27:51,930  
What did you take  
with you to the new--

417  
00:27:51,930 --> 00:27:58,640  
Well, basically some  
clothes, very little

418  
00:27:58,640 --> 00:28:04,310  
because we didn't have a  
lot of things like here,

419  
00:28:04,310 --> 00:28:11,960  
and blankets and  
pillows and just basic--

420  
00:28:11,960 --> 00:28:14,930  
Did you take any favorite  
books or anything favorite

421  
00:28:14,930 --> 00:28:18,620  
that you personally loved  
and wanted to keep with you?

422  
00:28:18,620 --> 00:28:21,220

423  
00:28:21,220 --> 00:28:25,110  
I might have taken  
something, but we

424  
00:28:25,110 --> 00:28:32,760  
didn't have a lot of toys  
and books and things.

425  
00:28:32,760 --> 00:28:34,710  
We didn't have a lot.

426  
00:28:34,710 --> 00:28:36,960  
So basically--

427

00:28:36,960 --> 00:28:37,920  
Just the essentials.

428  
00:28:37,920 --> 00:28:39,945  
The essentials, yes.

429  
00:28:39,945 --> 00:28:43,620  
And how did your parents explain  
this to you and your younger

430  
00:28:43,620 --> 00:28:46,380  
sisters that you have to move?

431  
00:28:46,380 --> 00:28:48,690  
Well, I was old enough--

432  
00:28:48,690 --> 00:28:49,680  
To understand.

433  
00:28:49,680 --> 00:28:57,720  
--to understand,  
but the children

434  
00:28:57,720 --> 00:28:59,940  
didn't need any explanation.

435  
00:28:59,940 --> 00:29:03,900  
So you had grown  
up in an apartment?

436  
00:29:03,900 --> 00:29:05,430  
It is--

437  
00:29:05,430 --> 00:29:08,535  
What you grew up before  
the war was in a house?

438  
00:29:08,535 --> 00:29:09,060  
It was--

439  
00:29:09,060 --> 00:29:10,352  
Was it a house or an apartment?

440  
00:29:10,352 --> 00:29:14,430  
It was a--

441  
00:29:14,430 --> 00:29:15,750  
Townhouse?

442  
00:29:15,750 --> 00:29:19,860  
It was not a house,  
not an apartment.

443  
00:29:19,860 --> 00:29:23,010  
It was a garden--

444  
00:29:23,010 --> 00:29:26,570  
it was like a small house.

445  
00:29:26,570 --> 00:29:29,290  
OK, so then you moved  
into the ghetto.

446  
00:29:29,290 --> 00:29:29,790  
Yes.

447  
00:29:29,790 --> 00:29:32,790  
And what was-- can you  
describe the description--

448  
00:29:32,790 --> 00:29:34,620  
the conditions there?

449  
00:29:34,620 --> 00:29:38,940  
Well, it was very nice.

450  
00:29:38,940 --> 00:29:43,590  
The people that we  
knew had a nice place

451  
00:29:43,590 --> 00:29:48,240  
and we were not there very long.

452

00:29:48,240 --> 00:29:54,530  
And they started  
to bomb Hungary.

453  
00:29:54,530 --> 00:29:57,140

454  
00:29:57,140 --> 00:30:03,110  
And actually, they  
started not in the ghetto.

455  
00:30:03,110 --> 00:30:10,220  
They started to  
bomb where we lived

456  
00:30:10,220 --> 00:30:18,230  
at first in a small  
house, but not

457  
00:30:18,230 --> 00:30:22,760  
like the American  
kind of houses.

458  
00:30:22,760 --> 00:30:33,880  
And they were bombing and we  
had to go down to the shelter.

459  
00:30:33,880 --> 00:30:47,530  
And my grandmother's sister,  
Johanna, she would not go.

460  
00:30:47,530 --> 00:30:52,550  
She didn't hear  
the sirens to go.

461  
00:30:52,550 --> 00:30:56,650  
She didn't hear the  
airplanes and the bombing.

462  
00:30:56,650 --> 00:30:59,530  
And we told her  
we had to go down.

463

00:30:59,530 --> 00:31:02,020  
She says, no.

464  
00:31:02,020 --> 00:31:06,400  
She sat down by the  
window and she was

465  
00:31:06,400 --> 00:31:09,700  
praying from her prayers book.

466  
00:31:09,700 --> 00:31:14,170  
She'd stay there while  
we were down below.

467  
00:31:14,170 --> 00:31:20,290  
And when we came  
back up, all around

468  
00:31:20,290 --> 00:31:28,480  
they had bombed the area, but  
where she sat was perfect.

469  
00:31:28,480 --> 00:31:32,600  
She didn't even hear the bombs  
because that window where

470  
00:31:32,600 --> 00:31:35,695  
she sat was perfect.

471  
00:31:35,695 --> 00:31:39,470

472  
00:31:39,470 --> 00:31:41,170  
And so what did you do?

473  
00:31:41,170 --> 00:31:44,570  
What was a typical day  
in the ghetto like?

474  
00:31:44,570 --> 00:31:49,340

475



00:31:49,340 --> 00:31:50,880  
Did you just sit inside?

476  
00:31:50,880 --> 00:31:53,810  
Did you--

477  
00:31:53,810 --> 00:31:57,020  
It was a normal  
home that they had.

478  
00:31:57,020 --> 00:31:59,810  
Yeah, but children were not--

479  
00:31:59,810 --> 00:32:09,980  
in those days and in that kind  
of times, it was not like you--

480  
00:32:09,980 --> 00:32:18,920  
I don't recall us doing  
anything on the outside.

481  
00:32:18,920 --> 00:32:23,570  
They wouldn't want  
us to go outside.

482  
00:32:23,570 --> 00:32:25,523  
Then did you move  
to another place?

483  
00:32:25,523 --> 00:32:27,065  
How long did you  
stay in that first--

484  
00:32:27,065 --> 00:32:32,150  
At the very end  
from there, they--

485  
00:32:32,150 --> 00:32:39,500  
it was an empty in a factory.

486  
00:32:39,500 --> 00:32:41,900  
How do you call--

487

00:32:41,900 --> 00:32:45,080  
a brick factory.

488

00:32:45,080 --> 00:32:53,090  
And it had a place outside,  
a huge one, no sides

489

00:32:53,090 --> 00:32:57,240  
only an awning over it.

490

00:32:57,240 --> 00:32:59,270  
And we were there.

491

00:32:59,270 --> 00:33:02,330  
How did you know-- how did  
your family know to go there?

492

00:33:02,330 --> 00:33:03,740  
Well, they made us.

493

00:33:03,740 --> 00:33:08,540  
The Germans came and  
they brought everybody.

494

00:33:08,540 --> 00:33:11,540  
How they let us  
know, I don't know.

495

00:33:11,540 --> 00:33:15,170  
But everybody had  
to move in there.

496

00:33:15,170 --> 00:33:19,190  
That was the next  
step before Auschwitz.

497

00:33:19,190 --> 00:33:24,980  
And all you could take  
with you from your home

498

00:33:24,980 --> 00:33:29,440  
was what you could carry

with you in your hands.

499

00:33:29,440 --> 00:33:36,050

So we took blankets and  
pillows and whatever

500

00:33:36,050 --> 00:33:41,210

necessity we could carry  
with us in our hands.

501

00:33:41,210 --> 00:33:45,590

Because the people that  
we stayed with initially,

502

00:33:45,590 --> 00:33:49,970

they had a home and  
we were OK there.

503

00:33:49,970 --> 00:33:52,280

Do you remember being  
very frightened?

504

00:33:52,280 --> 00:33:53,480

Oh, yes.

505

00:33:53,480 --> 00:33:54,230

Yes.

506

00:33:54,230 --> 00:33:57,020

And how did your mother or  
your father explain to you?

507

00:33:57,020 --> 00:34:01,940

Well, I do want to  
tell you something.

508

00:34:01,940 --> 00:34:07,910

The last time just before  
we moved to the ghetto

509

00:34:07,910 --> 00:34:15,800

the first time, we had to  
leave our home, lock the door,

510  
00:34:15,800 --> 00:34:19,280  
and give them the key.

511  
00:34:19,280 --> 00:34:28,570  
So as we stepped outside  
after we locked the door

512  
00:34:28,570 --> 00:34:34,330  
and gave up the key, the  
mailman came and brought

513  
00:34:34,330 --> 00:34:40,730  
a postcard addressed  
to me from my father.

514  
00:34:40,730 --> 00:34:45,520  
Because when they  
caught my father,

515  
00:34:45,520 --> 00:34:50,560  
they put him in a camp in  
Hungary in some kind of--

516  
00:34:50,560 --> 00:34:56,710  
and that was for  
political prisoners

517  
00:34:56,710 --> 00:35:01,000  
because he took off that star.

518  
00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:04,100

519  
00:35:04,100 --> 00:35:05,540  
So--

520  
00:35:05,540 --> 00:35:08,480  
Do you know the name  
of the camp he was in?

521  
00:35:08,480 --> 00:35:08,980

No.

522

00:35:08,980 --> 00:35:09,480

No.

523

00:35:09,480 --> 00:35:10,830

We never knew.

524

00:35:10,830 --> 00:35:19,580

So the card said, Agnes,  
you should help your mother

525

00:35:19,580 --> 00:35:21,830

with your sisters.

526

00:35:21,830 --> 00:35:29,930

And you are now old enough to  
read Tolstoy's War and Peace

527

00:35:29,930 --> 00:35:32,660

and it is on the shelf.

528

00:35:32,660 --> 00:35:39,860

And he exactly explained  
where it was located.

529

00:35:39,860 --> 00:35:42,080

He hid it.

530

00:35:42,080 --> 00:35:48,290

And it was too late to get it.

531

00:35:48,290 --> 00:35:52,400

The reason why he was saying  
that I'm old enough to read

532

00:35:52,400 --> 00:35:54,980

it and tell me, he was hoping--

533

00:35:54,980 --> 00:35:59,330

he didn't know that we  
were going to the ghetto

534

00:35:59,330 --> 00:36:07,370

and he wanted me to take  
the book wherever we went.

535

00:36:07,370 --> 00:36:11,300

But it wouldn't  
have done any good

536

00:36:11,300 --> 00:36:13,250

because they would have taken--

537

00:36:13,250 --> 00:36:17,790

they took everything  
away from us anyway.

538

00:36:17,790 --> 00:36:27,257

So that was-- and then  
we were under that--

539

00:36:27,257 --> 00:36:29,340

And now you're back--  
you're in the brick factory.

540

00:36:29,340 --> 00:36:31,230

In the brick factory.

541

00:36:31,230 --> 00:36:33,450

We were there for--

542

00:36:33,450 --> 00:36:36,270

I don't know-- one  
week or two weeks.

543

00:36:36,270 --> 00:36:43,560

I really cannot judge anymore  
how long, but not that long.

544

00:36:43,560 --> 00:36:48,630

And they were ready to  
load us up in cow wagons

545

00:36:48,630 --> 00:36:52,920  
and take us  
destination Auschwitz.

546  
00:36:52,920 --> 00:36:56,430  
How much food did you  
have in the brick factory?

547  
00:36:56,430 --> 00:36:57,547  
They brought--

548  
00:36:57,547 --> 00:36:58,505  
Did they hand out food?

549  
00:36:58,505 --> 00:37:00,150  
--some.

550  
00:37:00,150 --> 00:37:05,160  
They brought some, but  
it wasn't very much.

551  
00:37:05,160 --> 00:37:08,040  
I offered to help serve.

552  
00:37:08,040 --> 00:37:11,270

553  
00:37:11,270 --> 00:37:21,500  
Actually, they asked  
me how I could help.

554  
00:37:21,500 --> 00:37:28,370  
And I don't know if I  
helped in the kitchen maybe

555  
00:37:28,370 --> 00:37:34,580  
one day to do dishes  
or whatever that was.

556  
00:37:34,580 --> 00:37:39,830  
But that was it, loaded us up  
and on the way to Auschwitz.

557

00:37:39,830 --> 00:37:44,120

We didn't really know  
where we were going.

558

00:37:44,120 --> 00:37:49,520

But my father was gone  
already, taken away before.

559

00:37:49,520 --> 00:37:50,480

He never came back.

560

00:37:50,480 --> 00:37:52,980

Never came back.

561

00:37:52,980 --> 00:38:01,650

And I got the research here,  
and can I tell you what it said?

562

00:38:01,650 --> 00:38:03,710

Sure.

563

00:38:03,710 --> 00:38:13,250

It said that from Hungary, they  
took him to Auschwitz but only

564

00:38:13,250 --> 00:38:16,130

for two days.

565

00:38:16,130 --> 00:38:22,510

From Auschwitz to Dachau--

566

00:38:22,510 --> 00:38:33,740

not Dachau, another camp--

567

00:38:33,740 --> 00:38:38,570

and from there to Bergen-Belsen.

568

00:38:38,570 --> 00:38:44,840

And that was the last  
stop, the last information.

569



00:38:44,840 --> 00:38:48,290  
And when I called my  
aunt, who was older

570  
00:38:48,290 --> 00:38:55,500  
than I am and she was in  
Germany after the war--

571  
00:38:55,500 --> 00:38:57,560  
she stayed for a while--

572  
00:38:57,560 --> 00:39:03,000  
I told her what they said  
to me about my father.

573  
00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:06,350  
And she said  
Bergen-Belsen, that's

574  
00:39:06,350 --> 00:39:09,080  
where they were killing them.

575  
00:39:09,080 --> 00:39:13,700  
That's why they had no more  
information after that.

576  
00:39:13,700 --> 00:39:15,920  
That was it.

577  
00:39:15,920 --> 00:39:18,170  
So now you're leaving  
the brick factory.

578  
00:39:18,170 --> 00:39:20,870  
What emotional state  
was your mother in?

579  
00:39:20,870 --> 00:39:22,766  
Do you remember?

580  
00:39:22,766 --> 00:39:24,930  
Was she holding  
herself together?

581  
00:39:24,930 --> 00:39:25,610  
Yes.

582  
00:39:25,610 --> 00:39:30,830  
I wrote that she was  
only 35 years old,

583  
00:39:30,830 --> 00:39:42,410  
but she had showed strength  
and did not show any fear.

584  
00:39:42,410 --> 00:39:48,740  
And my grandmother also,  
she held some sister's hands

585  
00:39:48,740 --> 00:40:00,690  
and she also was very strong  
and gave us a lot of strength

586  
00:40:00,690 --> 00:40:04,620  
not to know really what  
was going to happen.

587  
00:40:04,620 --> 00:40:08,608  
When you were in the  
factory, did you get together

588  
00:40:08,608 --> 00:40:09,900  
with any of the other children?

589  
00:40:09,900 --> 00:40:10,665  
No, no.

590  
00:40:10,665 --> 00:40:12,430  
No, you stayed with your family.

591  
00:40:12,430 --> 00:40:13,580  
We stayed there.

592  
00:40:13,580 --> 00:40:17,710  
We were in one spot.

593  
00:40:17,710 --> 00:40:21,420  
OK, now you're going on the  
train to go to Auschwitz,

594  
00:40:21,420 --> 00:40:23,530  
but you said you didn't  
know where you were going.

595  
00:40:23,530 --> 00:40:24,030  
Right.

596  
00:40:24,030 --> 00:40:26,800  
Did Auschwitz at that time  
have any meaning for you?

597  
00:40:26,800 --> 00:40:27,660  
Auschwitz?

598  
00:40:27,660 --> 00:40:28,290  
The name--

599  
00:40:28,290 --> 00:40:29,240  
No.

600  
00:40:29,240 --> 00:40:30,300  
--had no meaning?

601  
00:40:30,300 --> 00:40:31,770  
No.

602  
00:40:31,770 --> 00:40:34,440  
Tell me about the train ride,  
what the conditions were

603  
00:40:34,440 --> 00:40:35,370  
that you remember.

604  
00:40:35,370 --> 00:40:41,620  
No, it was how they  
load cows in there.

605

00:40:41,620 --> 00:40:49,590

They had no windows,  
and so it was dark.

606

00:40:49,590 --> 00:40:53,080

And there were no  
toilets in there.

607

00:40:53,080 --> 00:40:55,090

There was nothing.

608

00:40:55,090 --> 00:40:58,390

It was just a box.

609

00:40:58,390 --> 00:41:01,480

And so you and your family  
stayed together in the car.

610

00:41:01,480 --> 00:41:03,010

Yes.

611

00:41:03,010 --> 00:41:03,520

Yes.

612

00:41:03,520 --> 00:41:04,630

In the car.

613

00:41:04,630 --> 00:41:05,830

And other people--

614

00:41:05,830 --> 00:41:07,435

And cried and cried.

615

00:41:07,435 --> 00:41:10,470

Cried, yeah.

616

00:41:10,470 --> 00:41:13,950

Were you able to lie down  
at all to go to sleep?

617

00:41:13,950 --> 00:41:14,560

No.

618  
00:41:14,560 --> 00:41:15,580  
Didn't have enough room.

619  
00:41:15,580 --> 00:41:17,280  
Nothing.

620  
00:41:17,280 --> 00:41:18,900  
How long did the trip take?

621  
00:41:18,900 --> 00:41:21,720  
No idea.

622  
00:41:21,720 --> 00:41:23,810  
No idea.

623  
00:41:23,810 --> 00:41:25,800  
You don't know.

624  
00:41:25,800 --> 00:41:26,970  
Yeah.

625  
00:41:26,970 --> 00:41:29,400  
And so then you  
arrive at Auschwitz?

626  
00:41:29,400 --> 00:41:35,700  
At Auschwitz, we arrived  
in the middle of the night.

627  
00:41:35,700 --> 00:41:44,940  
And they separated me from  
my mother and grandmother

628  
00:41:44,940 --> 00:41:49,320  
and my great aunt  
and my sisters.

629  
00:41:49,320 --> 00:41:51,630  
They said that women--

630

00:41:51,630 --> 00:42:01,910  
they took women from 18 to 35  
that they put in one group.

631

00:42:01,910 --> 00:42:03,260  
So they took me.

632

00:42:03,260 --> 00:42:09,510  
The SS took me and put me in  
with the women from 18 to 35.

633

00:42:09,510 --> 00:42:11,260  
Did you look older  
than your age?

634

00:42:11,260 --> 00:42:15,070  
No, I didn't.

635

00:42:15,070 --> 00:42:19,630  
I will show you a  
picture afterwards.

636

00:42:19,630 --> 00:42:26,830  
I was a sweet, little, frail,  
little child, blue-eyed

637

00:42:26,830 --> 00:42:30,520  
and some blonde hair.

638

00:42:30,520 --> 00:42:37,490  
And they-- but I could  
speak German fluently.

639

00:42:37,490 --> 00:42:42,400  
And I said, please, let  
me go with my mother,

640

00:42:42,400 --> 00:42:46,000  
I am only 13 years old.

641

00:42:46,000 --> 00:42:50,530  
And he said, no, you stay there.

642  
00:42:50,530 --> 00:42:55,000  
He knew what would happen  
if I went with them.

643  
00:42:55,000 --> 00:42:59,740  
Then another SS came  
and I asked him.

644  
00:42:59,740 --> 00:43:03,490  
And he said, OK, go ahead.

645  
00:43:03,490 --> 00:43:07,900  
And the first SS said,  
no, you stay there.

646  
00:43:07,900 --> 00:43:11,660  
And when they put my family--

647  
00:43:11,660 --> 00:43:14,200  
mother, grandmother,  
the old people--

648  
00:43:14,200 --> 00:43:17,380  
my mother was holding  
the sister's hand.

649  
00:43:17,380 --> 00:43:22,420  
So they put them in a  
shower and gas came out.

650  
00:43:22,420 --> 00:43:29,710  
Then they put the women  
and me in a shower.

651  
00:43:29,710 --> 00:43:32,410  
Before we went in  
the shower, we had

652  
00:43:32,410 --> 00:43:37,420  
to drop all our clothes on  
the floor and whatever else

653

00:43:37,420 --> 00:43:41,110

we had with us.

654

00:43:41,110 --> 00:43:45,940

How does a 13-year-old girl  
feel about doing something

655

00:43:45,940 --> 00:43:46,477

like that?

656

00:43:46,477 --> 00:43:48,060

Do you remember being  
embarrassed or--

657

00:43:48,060 --> 00:43:50,020

Well, it was--

658

00:43:50,020 --> 00:43:51,110

--humiliated?

659

00:43:51,110 --> 00:43:59,680

It was humiliated because you  
didn't know what was happening.

660

00:43:59,680 --> 00:44:05,950

We went in and when we  
came out we were naked.

661

00:44:05,950 --> 00:44:12,160

And then you had to pick  
up any of the outfits

662

00:44:12,160 --> 00:44:16,900

on top of the pile,  
take one and put it on.

663

00:44:16,900 --> 00:44:20,710

And it just happened so  
that the one on top--

664

00:44:20,710 --> 00:44:25,510

when I came out, the one on



top was a white-flowered,

665

00:44:25,510 --> 00:44:29,650

very long, a woman's--

666

00:44:29,650 --> 00:44:36,760

an adult's dress, thin,

a real thin summer one.

667

00:44:36,760 --> 00:44:38,650

It was June.

668

00:44:38,650 --> 00:44:42,310

But in Auschwitz,

it was bitter cold.

669

00:44:42,310 --> 00:44:47,680

And I had to put it on.

670

00:44:47,680 --> 00:44:57,220

And can I tell you, they had

they had latrines outside.

671

00:44:57,220 --> 00:45:01,300

And it was only

some boards across,

672

00:45:01,300 --> 00:45:03,820

you had to sit on there.

673

00:45:03,820 --> 00:45:07,630

But there was no

paper, no nothing.

674

00:45:07,630 --> 00:45:14,500

And the German soldiers were  
standing behind you with guns.

675

00:45:14,500 --> 00:45:23,140

And so when we came out,

I picked up that dress.

676

00:45:23,140 --> 00:45:28,510  
And it was lucky for me,  
because after that, whenever

677  
00:45:28,510 --> 00:45:34,900  
I went to the latrines  
and I needed to use paper,

678  
00:45:34,900 --> 00:45:40,240  
which we didn't have, I tore  
off a piece of the bottom

679  
00:45:40,240 --> 00:45:43,870  
of my dress and I used this.

680  
00:45:43,870 --> 00:45:48,910  
And then after a while,  
the dress almost fit me.

681  
00:45:48,910 --> 00:45:52,250

682  
00:45:52,250 --> 00:46:03,140  
So when we came out, they got  
us ready to go on wherever.

683  
00:46:03,140 --> 00:46:05,270  
We didn't know where.

684  
00:46:05,270 --> 00:46:09,110  
And that's when we  
took us to Auschwitz.

685  
00:46:09,110 --> 00:46:11,760  
We had to march  
for quite a while.

686  
00:46:11,760 --> 00:46:19,365  
Oh, and because it was so  
cold, my mother tore off--

687  
00:46:19,365 --> 00:46:22,130

688  
00:46:22,130 --> 00:46:25,970  
no, she had a scarf  
and she put it

689  
00:46:25,970 --> 00:46:30,215  
on my head, which  
made me look older.

690  
00:46:30,215 --> 00:46:33,650

691  
00:46:33,650 --> 00:46:46,910  
And that is why I even  
survived, because I was not

692  
00:46:46,910 --> 00:46:55,310  
as tiny and young as my sisters,  
because 11 year old and I

693  
00:46:55,310 --> 00:46:56,510  
was 13.

694  
00:46:56,510 --> 00:47:03,110  
I wasn't much bigger  
or older looking.

695  
00:47:03,110 --> 00:47:07,310  
So now you've finished,  
you've gotten your dress on,

696  
00:47:07,310 --> 00:47:09,440  
and then they take  
you to a barracks?

697  
00:47:09,440 --> 00:47:10,250  
No, no.

698  
00:47:10,250 --> 00:47:11,180  
We marched.

699  
00:47:11,180 --> 00:47:13,190

We marched for a long time--

700  
00:47:13,190 --> 00:47:14,000  
To where?

701  
00:47:14,000 --> 00:47:23,990  
--amidst beatings to  
walk faster and no food.

702  
00:47:23,990 --> 00:47:28,640  
And when we got  
to Auschwitz, they

703  
00:47:28,640 --> 00:47:34,160  
loaded us into barracks,  
about 1,200 people

704  
00:47:34,160 --> 00:47:38,720  
in one barrack, which  
means there were no beds,

705  
00:47:38,720 --> 00:47:41,390  
there were no blankets,  
there was nothing.

706  
00:47:41,390 --> 00:47:44,300  
You had to sleep on the floor.

707  
00:47:44,300 --> 00:47:49,910  
And with 1,200 people in it,  
you didn't even have much room

708  
00:47:49,910 --> 00:47:53,740  
and people were kicking  
each other at night.

709  
00:47:53,740 --> 00:47:56,390

710  
00:47:56,390 --> 00:47:59,120  
Did you know anybody  
there from home?

711  
00:47:59,120 --> 00:47:59,960  
Not from home.

712  
00:47:59,960 --> 00:48:02,830  
Did you see any familiar faces?

713  
00:48:02,830 --> 00:48:03,860  
No.

714  
00:48:03,860 --> 00:48:09,440  
But later on, I had some--

715  
00:48:09,440 --> 00:48:12,420  
I made friends with people.

716  
00:48:12,420 --> 00:48:15,170  
There was one girl.

717  
00:48:15,170 --> 00:48:18,140  
I was 13, she was 18.

718  
00:48:18,140 --> 00:48:22,790  
Her name was Blanca Brown.

719  
00:48:22,790 --> 00:48:30,980  
And we were like  
family, like sisters.

720  
00:48:30,980 --> 00:48:37,220  
And I'm going to tell  
you, you heard of Mengele?

721  
00:48:37,220 --> 00:48:43,700  
Well, Mengele would  
come to make selections

722  
00:48:43,700 --> 00:48:49,380  
to take the skinny people,  
the sick looking ones.

723  
00:48:49,380 --> 00:48:52,970

And he pulled them  
out of the line

724  
00:48:52,970 --> 00:49:00,740  
and put them inside the barrack  
until the search was finished.

725  
00:49:00,740 --> 00:49:04,790  
And that night, a  
bus or a truck came

726  
00:49:04,790 --> 00:49:08,750  
and they loaded those  
sick looking people on

727  
00:49:08,750 --> 00:49:15,260  
and took them to the gas chamber  
and killed them because they

728  
00:49:15,260 --> 00:49:20,390  
had no use for sick people.

729  
00:49:20,390 --> 00:49:25,100  
Only what they  
figured is 18 to 35,

730  
00:49:25,100 --> 00:49:31,370  
people who could eventually go  
and work in their factories.

731  
00:49:31,370 --> 00:49:34,460

732  
00:49:34,460 --> 00:49:36,500  
Now while I was--

733  
00:49:36,500 --> 00:49:38,810  
it's very important to me.

734  
00:49:38,810 --> 00:49:48,200  
While I was in Auschwitz,  
Blanca and I were very close.

735

00:49:48,200 --> 00:49:54,770

And because she was already  
a nurse back in Hungary

736

00:49:54,770 --> 00:50:02,300

before they took her away young,  
they put her in the infirmary

737

00:50:02,300 --> 00:50:04,235

to help the German nurse.

738

00:50:04,235 --> 00:50:08,460

739

00:50:08,460 --> 00:50:21,830

One day the SS came when  
they had the selection.

740

00:50:21,830 --> 00:50:28,860

The Mengele put a young  
woman inside the barrack

741

00:50:28,860 --> 00:50:32,700

that happened to have  
been Blanca's best

742

00:50:32,700 --> 00:50:35,970

girlfriend from home.

743

00:50:35,970 --> 00:50:40,080

They put her in and Blanca  
knew what was coming.

744

00:50:40,080 --> 00:50:44,820

That night they would  
take her away and kill.

745

00:50:44,820 --> 00:50:49,200

So she tried to get  
her out of there.

746

00:50:49,200 --> 00:50:53,220

And they had only  
a little window,

747  
00:50:53,220 --> 00:50:59,880  
like very narrow,  
little window up high.

748  
00:50:59,880 --> 00:51:04,590  
You could not get in or out.

749  
00:51:04,590 --> 00:51:09,370  
And so she found a box.

750  
00:51:09,370 --> 00:51:14,730  
And I don't know how because  
I can't recall any place that

751  
00:51:14,730 --> 00:51:18,990  
possibly could have found one.

752  
00:51:18,990 --> 00:51:23,970  
So she stood on  
the box, reached in

753  
00:51:23,970 --> 00:51:30,750  
and tried to pull her  
girlfriend out the window,

754  
00:51:30,750 --> 00:51:33,900  
so she doesn't get killed.

755  
00:51:33,900 --> 00:51:35,850  
But they noticed it.

756  
00:51:35,850 --> 00:51:42,120  
They saw it and they put  
her in with her, which

757  
00:51:42,120 --> 00:51:45,480  
means she would be killed.

758  
00:51:45,480 --> 00:51:52,590



The nurse from the infirmary  
walked into the barrack

759  
00:51:52,590 --> 00:51:57,250  
and said to her, Blanca,  
what are you doing here?

760  
00:51:57,250 --> 00:51:59,710  
Get back to work.

761  
00:51:59,710 --> 00:52:02,280  
She saved her life.

762  
00:52:02,280 --> 00:52:08,580  
That was the most,  
most fantastic thing.

763  
00:52:08,580 --> 00:52:11,546  
So after a while--

764  
00:52:11,546 --> 00:52:14,460  
And to go back, did  
you get a tattoo?

765  
00:52:14,460 --> 00:52:15,340  
Did you get a number?

766  
00:52:15,340 --> 00:52:15,840  
No.

767  
00:52:15,840 --> 00:52:18,780  
Because we got there in  
the middle of the night,

768  
00:52:18,780 --> 00:52:20,802  
they did not give tattoos.

769  
00:52:20,802 --> 00:52:21,760  
And did you keep your--

770  
00:52:21,760 --> 00:52:23,670  
Otherwise, I have none.

771  
00:52:23,670 --> 00:52:25,710  
Yeah, and did you  
keep your hair?

772  
00:52:25,710 --> 00:52:26,390  
Did they take--

773  
00:52:26,390 --> 00:52:27,390  
Oh, no, no.

774  
00:52:27,390 --> 00:52:28,920  
I'm glad you mentioned.

775  
00:52:28,920 --> 00:52:32,020  
They shaved your head.

776  
00:52:32,020 --> 00:52:39,870  
And before we were  
marching to Auschwitz,

777  
00:52:39,870 --> 00:52:42,810  
I tore off a piece  
from the bottom--

778  
00:52:42,810 --> 00:52:45,540  
because it was freezing--

779  
00:52:45,540 --> 00:52:51,300  
and tore off a piece of my dress  
and wrapped it around my head.

780  
00:52:51,300 --> 00:52:55,710  
And the German SS  
came to me, slapped me

781  
00:52:55,710 --> 00:52:57,840  
and pulled it off my head.

782  
00:52:57,840 --> 00:53:02,580

783

00:53:02,580 --> 00:53:05,610

So did you-- you're  
in Auschwitz now.

784

00:53:05,610 --> 00:53:06,570

You're in the barracks.

785

00:53:06,570 --> 00:53:08,650

Did you go to work at all?

786

00:53:08,650 --> 00:53:12,690

No, in Auschwitz,  
there was no work.

787

00:53:12,690 --> 00:53:17,920

What they did was,  
ridiculous enough,

788

00:53:17,920 --> 00:53:24,480

they had us go carry bricks  
from one end of the camp

789

00:53:24,480 --> 00:53:28,230

to the other and then back.

790

00:53:28,230 --> 00:53:32,260

That's it, for no reason at all.

791

00:53:32,260 --> 00:53:41,430

And after a while, when I was  
so weak from weeks after that,

792

00:53:41,430 --> 00:53:48,510

I could barely hold myself  
up, no less carry the bricks.

793

00:53:48,510 --> 00:53:51,000

What did they give you to eat?

794

00:53:51,000 --> 00:53:59,730

In the morning black coffee  
or tea, mostly black coffee.

795

00:53:59,730 --> 00:54:08,110

But they had us lined  
up five rows of people.

796

00:54:08,110 --> 00:54:13,920

So we had from the first  
to the last, like that.

797

00:54:13,920 --> 00:54:16,860

798

00:54:16,860 --> 00:54:24,540

There were five people that they  
were giving coffee to in a pot.

799

00:54:24,540 --> 00:54:30,060

So they gave it to the first  
one, you drank some coffee,

800

00:54:30,060 --> 00:54:35,700

gave it to the person behind,  
and then to the next one.

801

00:54:35,700 --> 00:54:40,200

And sometimes by the time  
it came to the last one,

802

00:54:40,200 --> 00:54:42,580

it was all gone.

803

00:54:42,580 --> 00:54:47,850

That's all-- black  
coffee in the morning.

804

00:54:47,850 --> 00:54:53,640

At noon time, they had--

805

00:54:53,640 --> 00:54:59,850

everything was always  
that way in one pot.

806

00:54:59,850 --> 00:55:09,390

It was a soup that was  
green, thin green thing.

807

00:55:09,390 --> 00:55:15,840

And when you drank it, you  
had dirt going into your mouth

808

00:55:15,840 --> 00:55:18,990

because it was grass.

809

00:55:18,990 --> 00:55:24,270

They pulled it out of the grass  
and put it in the soup pot.

810

00:55:24,270 --> 00:55:25,530

That's what they cooked.

811

00:55:25,530 --> 00:55:27,870

That was all.

812

00:55:27,870 --> 00:55:33,930

So I could not even drink that.

813

00:55:33,930 --> 00:55:39,210

At night time, they had--

814

00:55:39,210 --> 00:55:45,090

they cut the loaf of  
bread in small pieces.

815

00:55:45,090 --> 00:55:50,160

They gave you a slice of bread.

816

00:55:50,160 --> 00:55:56,220

And you had either  
a piece of cheese,

817

00:55:56,220 --> 00:56:00,420

which is one little  
slice, and that was--

818

00:56:00,420 --> 00:56:05,800  
[? Clodiglee ?] was the name  
of it, which was smelly cheese,

819  
00:56:05,800 --> 00:56:09,720  
but it was very good cheese.

820  
00:56:09,720 --> 00:56:17,790  
Either the cheese or a  
little piece of margarine

821  
00:56:17,790 --> 00:56:26,680  
or a spoonful of jello--

822  
00:56:26,680 --> 00:56:30,250  
jelly, a spoonful.

823  
00:56:30,250 --> 00:56:35,170  
So one slice of bread  
with something on top.

824  
00:56:35,170 --> 00:56:39,580

825  
00:56:39,580 --> 00:56:42,310  
What did you know about  
your mother and your sisters

826  
00:56:42,310 --> 00:56:43,580  
at that point?

827  
00:56:43,580 --> 00:56:50,740  
At that point, in  
the barracks, there

828  
00:56:50,740 --> 00:57:00,370  
was one woman always from Poland  
who came two years before.

829  
00:57:00,370 --> 00:57:04,960  
And they killed all  
of them except some

830

00:57:04,960 --> 00:57:07,630

of these young women,  
that they put them

831

00:57:07,630 --> 00:57:13,450

in charge of the new transports.

832

00:57:13,450 --> 00:57:17,440

When they came, they were  
in charge of the barrack.

833

00:57:17,440 --> 00:57:20,380

834

00:57:20,380 --> 00:57:33,020

And they had one little room  
at the end of the barrack.

835

00:57:33,020 --> 00:57:40,360

It was one long, long  
empty, dirty room.

836

00:57:40,360 --> 00:57:46,150

And they had a small  
room back there.

837

00:57:46,150 --> 00:57:51,520

And they had a  
little stove there

838

00:57:51,520 --> 00:57:57,550

that these women had kept warm.

839

00:57:57,550 --> 00:58:01,660

They were not allowed  
to, these Polish women,

840

00:58:01,660 --> 00:58:09,040

but they did because they had  
men coming from transports.

841

00:58:09,040 --> 00:58:14,890

Polish men were meeting  
the transports from Hungary

842  
00:58:14,890 --> 00:58:18,820  
and do all the dirty work  
of what they had to do.

843  
00:58:18,820 --> 00:58:21,880  
And they would  
occasionally come and give

844  
00:58:21,880 --> 00:58:26,770  
these Polish or  
Czechoslovak women something

845  
00:58:26,770 --> 00:58:31,690  
that they would  
steal from the train.

846  
00:58:31,690 --> 00:58:40,990  
So they lit the stove and  
they could heat something.

847  
00:58:40,990 --> 00:58:47,380  
And now that was only for them.

848  
00:58:47,380 --> 00:58:52,180  
And they had another tiny,  
little room, very small,

849  
00:58:52,180 --> 00:58:54,220  
with a bed.

850  
00:58:54,220 --> 00:58:58,030  
And they slept there  
and they had cover.

851  
00:58:58,030 --> 00:59:03,760  
These men had supplied  
them once and for all.

852  
00:59:03,760 --> 00:59:05,080  
They didn't come.



853  
00:59:05,080 --> 00:59:07,040  
They couldn't come to visit.

854  
00:59:07,040 --> 00:59:10,550  
They came to do some work.

855  
00:59:10,550 --> 00:59:15,760  
So these women gave me--  
once in a blue moon,

856  
00:59:15,760 --> 00:59:20,650  
they gave me a little  
something to drink

857  
00:59:20,650 --> 00:59:23,470  
or a little piece of bread.

858  
00:59:23,470 --> 00:59:28,570  
Because when I got my bread  
at night, when I slept,

859  
00:59:28,570 --> 00:59:33,850  
some of those women  
around me stole my bread.

860  
00:59:33,850 --> 00:59:38,680  
So they gave me a  
little something.

861  
00:59:38,680 --> 00:59:41,570  
Were there any women  
who helped others?

862  
00:59:41,570 --> 00:59:43,750  
In other words, what  
was the atmosphere?

863  
00:59:43,750 --> 00:59:45,970  
Was it women helping women?

864  
00:59:45,970 --> 00:59:48,465

As you said, some of  
them stole from you,

865  
00:59:48,465 --> 00:59:49,590  
but what about other women?

866  
00:59:49,590 --> 00:59:52,900  
Well, it was rare.

867  
00:59:52,900 --> 00:59:59,410  
If you had somebody next to you  
that you were sleeping next to

868  
00:59:59,410 --> 01:00:03,340  
and if they were hungry, I  
guess they took the piece.

869  
01:00:03,340 --> 01:00:06,140  
But it was not as a rule.

870  
01:00:06,140 --> 01:00:10,120  
So was it generally that  
women were helping other women

871  
01:00:10,120 --> 01:00:12,580  
to get through this?

872  
01:00:12,580 --> 01:00:17,740  
Well, we were together.

873  
01:00:17,740 --> 01:00:22,643  
We had the same problems.

874  
01:00:22,643 --> 01:00:23,560  
Were you the youngest?

875  
01:00:23,560 --> 01:00:24,623  
Yes, I was the youngest.

876  
01:00:24,623 --> 01:00:25,540  
You were the youngest.

877

01:00:25,540 --> 01:00:28,470

13, because all the  
women were from 18 to 35.

878

01:00:28,470 --> 01:00:31,540

You were the only  
one that young.

879

01:00:31,540 --> 01:00:37,380

Now at the-- oh, yes.

880

01:00:37,380 --> 01:00:43,560

So then, because I  
could speak German,

881

01:00:43,560 --> 01:00:49,560

they made me a [? liefern, ?]  
which means a messenger girl.

882

01:00:49,560 --> 01:00:50,911

Can you come closer here?

883

01:00:50,911 --> 01:00:51,411

Yeah.

884

01:00:51,411 --> 01:00:54,300

885

01:00:54,300 --> 01:00:57,240

A messenger girl.

886

01:00:57,240 --> 01:01:03,120

And they would send me-- oh,  
and they gave me-- luckily, they

887

01:01:03,120 --> 01:01:12,270

gave me a jacket, a gray and  
blue striped jacket, to wear.

888

01:01:12,270 --> 01:01:17,940

And when it was bitter cold, we  
had to stand outside for hours

889  
01:01:17,940 --> 01:01:20,590  
in wet and cold.

890  
01:01:20,590 --> 01:01:26,040  
And I would have that  
on and it helped me.

891  
01:01:26,040 --> 01:01:28,640

892  
01:01:28,640 --> 01:01:39,250  
And so they would send  
me to the other barracks

893  
01:01:39,250 --> 01:01:45,280  
to the women in charge,  
or they would send me

894  
01:01:45,280 --> 01:01:53,900  
to the SS women who were  
guarding us, or, last of all,

895  
01:01:53,900 --> 01:01:59,650  
they would send me to the  
gate, to the entrance-- yeah,

896  
01:01:59,650 --> 01:02:06,520  
to the gate to the SS  
soldiers with messages.

897  
01:02:06,520 --> 01:02:13,720  
I was always afraid to  
go there because I never

898  
01:02:13,720 --> 01:02:17,120  
knew what to expect,  
what's going to happen.

899  
01:02:17,120 --> 01:02:23,370

900

01:02:23,370 --> 01:02:29,430  
But there was one woman.

901  
01:02:29,430 --> 01:02:32,880  
I wish I could find her.

902  
01:02:32,880 --> 01:02:36,900  
There was one older SS woman.

903  
01:02:36,900 --> 01:02:43,800  
Her name was Bruner  
and she was tough.

904  
01:02:43,800 --> 01:02:49,980  
But they all loved me  
because I was a child,

905  
01:02:49,980 --> 01:02:54,900  
and I was a miracle child  
to be there with the women.

906  
01:02:54,900 --> 01:03:06,240  
So the people--  
these block guards

907  
01:03:06,240 --> 01:03:14,880  
or whatever in the barrack,  
the women that were in charge,

908  
01:03:14,880 --> 01:03:22,170  
they were not allowed to light  
the fire in their little stove.

909  
01:03:22,170 --> 01:03:27,900  
And they used to put me outside  
the front of the barrack

910  
01:03:27,900 --> 01:03:31,740  
to watch if anybody was coming.

911  
01:03:31,740 --> 01:03:36,000  
And if they did, I had to  
run back and tell them,

912  
01:03:36,000 --> 01:03:40,690  
and then they would  
put the fire out.

913  
01:03:40,690 --> 01:03:49,830  
So this time, Bruner  
came and I was watching.

914  
01:03:49,830 --> 01:03:56,920  
And I had no time to run back,  
she wanted to go back with me.

915  
01:03:56,920 --> 01:04:02,760  
So she went way back  
and she saw the fire

916  
01:04:02,760 --> 01:04:06,780  
in the little, tiny stove.

917  
01:04:06,780 --> 01:04:09,180  
She said, who did that?

918  
01:04:09,180 --> 01:04:11,490  
I said, I don't know.

919  
01:04:11,490 --> 01:04:14,280  
The window was open.

920  
01:04:14,280 --> 01:04:21,390  
And she said, who was  
jumping out the window?

921  
01:04:21,390 --> 01:04:23,770  
I said, I don't know.

922  
01:04:23,770 --> 01:04:31,630  
And she said, was it someone  
who had hair or did not?

923  
01:04:31,630 --> 01:04:39,060  
And I would not tell because

those women had their hair.

924

01:04:39,060 --> 01:04:41,610

They didn't cut their hair.

925

01:04:41,610 --> 01:04:47,610

And so she said, was it a  
woman with or without the hair.

926

01:04:47,610 --> 01:04:52,500

I said, just bare, no hair.

927

01:04:52,500 --> 01:04:57,120

And she knew that  
anybody who lit

928

01:04:57,120 --> 01:05:01,260

the fire who was  
in the back there,

929

01:05:01,260 --> 01:05:08,080

it was the women  
who were in charge.

930

01:05:08,080 --> 01:05:16,380

And she loved the fact that I  
was so wonderful that I did not

931

01:05:16,380 --> 01:05:24,220

tell the truth, because that  
woman would have had trouble.

932

01:05:24,220 --> 01:05:27,360

So I said, it was no hair.

933

01:05:27,360 --> 01:05:32,760

And she was sort of  
smiling and walked out.

934

01:05:32,760 --> 01:05:42,600

And then this I have to tell  
you before the rest of the story

935

01:05:42,600 --> 01:05:43,680  
comes.

936

01:05:43,680 --> 01:05:55,830  
But she loved me because I was  
such an innocent, little child.

937

01:05:55,830 --> 01:06:05,190  
And after, at the end when  
they were dissolving Auschwitz,

938

01:06:05,190 --> 01:06:11,760  
they sent all these  
women to factories.

939

01:06:11,760 --> 01:06:16,650  
And she came in and  
said, wo ist der

940

01:06:16,650 --> 01:06:18,990  
kleine mit den blauen augen?

941

01:06:18,990 --> 01:06:23,250  
Where is the little  
one with the blue eyes?

942

01:06:23,250 --> 01:06:28,686  
And they said, she  
went on a transport.

943

01:06:28,686 --> 01:06:33,480  
Ah, that was-- she was happy  
because she wanted to take me

944

01:06:33,480 --> 01:06:37,020  
out of there, out of Auschwitz.

945

01:06:37,020 --> 01:06:41,670  
So there were  
wonderful people, too,

946

01:06:41,670 --> 01:06:49,960



who could do as little or as  
much as possible to help you.

947  
01:06:49,960 --> 01:06:52,560  
Did you see any bodies,  
any dead bodies,

948  
01:06:52,560 --> 01:06:53,790  
when you were in Auschwitz?

949  
01:06:53,790 --> 01:06:54,330  
No.

950  
01:06:54,330 --> 01:06:55,080  
You did not.

951  
01:06:55,080 --> 01:06:57,120  
No.

952  
01:06:57,120 --> 01:07:05,130  
And when the transfer-- when  
they came from factories

953  
01:07:05,130 --> 01:07:09,450  
to pick people to  
go on the transport

954  
01:07:09,450 --> 01:07:16,920  
to work at the  
factory into cities,

955  
01:07:16,920 --> 01:07:24,060  
there was a beautiful, tall,  
beautiful, German, young SS

956  
01:07:24,060 --> 01:07:30,900  
woman, who actually tried  
or wanted to get out

957  
01:07:30,900 --> 01:07:33,990  
of there with a Polish man.

958

01:07:33,990 --> 01:07:39,660  
They were going to  
sneak away from there,

959  
01:07:39,660 --> 01:07:41,970  
but that was impossible.

960  
01:07:41,970 --> 01:07:47,580  
But she was very sweet  
and sweet to me always.

961  
01:07:47,580 --> 01:07:52,950  
And she said, I'll  
tell you something,

962  
01:07:52,950 --> 01:07:58,260  
don't go just with  
any transport.

963  
01:07:58,260 --> 01:08:03,110  
I will tell you what  
is the best and that's

964  
01:08:03,110 --> 01:08:07,610  
one that you should go with.

965  
01:08:07,610 --> 01:08:12,080  
But first the  
transports came and they

966  
01:08:12,080 --> 01:08:20,359  
were looking at the  
dainty fingers and somehow

967  
01:08:20,359 --> 01:08:22,680  
blue eyes or good eyes--

968  
01:08:22,680 --> 01:08:24,740  
blue eyes.

969  
01:08:24,740 --> 01:08:31,760  
And they picked me to  
go to that factory,

970  
01:08:31,760 --> 01:08:38,370  
and they also picked Blanca  
to go to that factory.

971  
01:08:38,370 --> 01:08:44,609  
And it was such a thrill  
that we still were together.

972  
01:08:44,609 --> 01:08:55,250  
So she got me to change.

973  
01:08:55,250 --> 01:09:02,090  
Wherever I was, she got me  
out to go with that transport.

974  
01:09:02,090 --> 01:09:04,670  
So next day, they took us.

975  
01:09:04,670 --> 01:09:08,149  
We marched and marched  
to Weisswasser.

976  
01:09:08,149 --> 01:09:11,210  
It was another city away.

977  
01:09:11,210 --> 01:09:13,880  
We had to march there.

978  
01:09:13,880 --> 01:09:16,880  
It was an ammunition factory.

979  
01:09:16,880 --> 01:09:17,950  
What month was this?

980  
01:09:17,950 --> 01:09:18,450  
Do you know?

981  
01:09:18,450 --> 01:09:21,885  
Oh, who knew months?

982

01:09:21,885 --> 01:09:24,680  
OK.

983  
01:09:24,680 --> 01:09:30,990  
And so we were marching--

984  
01:09:30,990 --> 01:09:35,779  
unbelievable-- hours, days.

985  
01:09:35,779 --> 01:09:37,520  
We didn't know.

986  
01:09:37,520 --> 01:09:43,020  
And we didn't get any  
food on the march there.

987  
01:09:43,020 --> 01:09:50,810  
And we got to this little town.

988  
01:09:50,810 --> 01:09:58,400  
And lo and behold,  
they had a house

989  
01:09:58,400 --> 01:10:01,250  
where they put us in there.

990  
01:10:01,250 --> 01:10:11,360  
And they had bunk beds and  
they had some kind of water

991  
01:10:11,360 --> 01:10:13,310  
or shower or something.

992  
01:10:13,310 --> 01:10:22,010  
Once every blue moon,  
they let us take a shower.

993  
01:10:22,010 --> 01:10:24,860  
But you could wash your hands.

994  
01:10:24,860 --> 01:10:25,940  
There was water.

995

01:10:25,940 --> 01:10:28,540

You could wash your hands.

996

01:10:28,540 --> 01:10:31,000