

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,090

2

00:00:08,090 --> 00:00:11,000

This is the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3

00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:13,700

interview with Jack Ophir.

4

00:00:13,700 --> 00:00:20,720

It is being conducted by Gail
Schwartz on August 16, 2015,

5

00:00:20,720 --> 00:00:23,600

and is taking place at the
United States Holocaust

6

00:00:23,600 --> 00:00:25,520

Memorial Museum.

7

00:00:25,520 --> 00:00:28,730

This is track number one.

8

00:00:28,730 --> 00:00:31,140

What is your full name?

9

00:00:31,140 --> 00:00:34,280

My name is Jack Ophir.

10

00:00:34,280 --> 00:00:37,200

And where were you born
and when were you born?

11

00:00:37,200 --> 00:00:43,340

I was born in Lodz,
Poland, in 1938.

12

00:00:43,340 --> 00:00:48,800

To be precise, April 6, 1938.

13

00:00:48,800 --> 00:00:51,560

Let's talk a little
bit about your family.

14

00:00:51,560 --> 00:00:53,960

How far back does your
family go in Lodz?

15

00:00:53,960 --> 00:00:56,750

16

00:00:56,750 --> 00:01:02,120

I think that my family goes
in Lodz maybe two or three

17

00:01:02,120 --> 00:01:06,410

generations prior to my birth.

18

00:01:06,410 --> 00:01:09,470

I do not know where
they came before that.

19

00:01:09,470 --> 00:01:12,080

This is on my mother's side.

20

00:01:12,080 --> 00:01:16,970

My father's side,
they came from .

21

00:01:16,970 --> 00:01:22,375

And that is three or four
generations, as well, in .

22

00:01:22,375 --> 00:01:27,860

23

00:01:27,860 --> 00:01:30,600

What were your parents' names?

24

00:01:30,600 --> 00:01:39,280

My mother's name was [? Dorca ?]
Tiger and my father's name

25
00:01:39,280 --> 00:01:42,310
was Jehuda Leib Feingold.

26
00:01:42,310 --> 00:01:45,360

27
00:01:45,360 --> 00:01:45,860
All right.

28
00:01:45,860 --> 00:01:49,470
And what kind of work
did your father do?

29
00:01:49,470 --> 00:01:58,310
My father used to be a
judge, or I should say

30
00:01:58,310 --> 00:02:05,180
a juvenile delinquent judge.

31
00:02:05,180 --> 00:02:10,160
Later on, he was
also a merchant.

32
00:02:10,160 --> 00:02:12,980

33
00:02:12,980 --> 00:02:27,800
He dealt in porcelains and
very unusual housewares.

34
00:02:27,800 --> 00:02:28,860
OK.

35
00:02:28,860 --> 00:02:31,400
And did your mother work?

36
00:02:31,400 --> 00:02:34,070
I don't believe my
mother worked, no.

37

00:02:34,070 --> 00:02:40,650

But she was brought up
in a family of furriers.

38

00:02:40,650 --> 00:02:47,010

And I guess she married
pretty young and did not work.

39

00:02:47,010 --> 00:02:48,770

What were your
grandparents' names?

40

00:02:48,770 --> 00:02:49,910

Do you know what they are?

41

00:02:49,910 --> 00:02:55,610

My grandparents name
on my mother's side--

42

00:02:55,610 --> 00:03:03,710

her father's name
[? Josef ?] Tiger, T-I-G-E-R.

43

00:03:03,710 --> 00:03:13,490

And her mother's name was Miriam
or [? Manya Wehrenberg. ?] Of

44

00:03:13,490 --> 00:03:19,080

course, as she married
it was Tiger, as well.

45

00:03:19,080 --> 00:03:22,590

Now, you said your
father's name was Fein--

46

00:03:22,590 --> 00:03:24,155

My father's name was Feingold.

47

00:03:24,155 --> 00:03:24,780

--was Feingold.

48

00:03:24,780 --> 00:03:27,500

So when you were born, what was your name at birth?

49

00:03:27,500 --> 00:03:30,380

At birth my name was Feingold.

50

00:03:30,380 --> 00:03:31,520

And your first name?

51

00:03:31,520 --> 00:03:38,495

And my first name was Jurek or Jacob.

52

00:03:38,495 --> 00:03:41,550

53

00:03:41,550 --> 00:03:46,300

Was Lazar part of your name?

54

00:03:46,300 --> 00:03:50,260

Lazar was a middle name that was actually

55

00:03:50,260 --> 00:03:57,767

adopted when we were on the way to the concentration camp.

56

00:03:57,767 --> 00:03:58,975

Oh, so that's a later-- yeah.

57

00:03:58,975 --> 00:04:00,335

That came a little bit later.

58

00:04:00,335 --> 00:04:00,835

I see.

59

00:04:00,835 --> 00:04:02,140

OK.

60

00:04:02,140 --> 00:04:04,690

Now, let's talk about your family a little bit.

61
00:04:04,690 --> 00:04:07,780
Were they a religious family?

62
00:04:07,780 --> 00:04:12,280
My mother came from a,
relatively speaking,

63
00:04:12,280 --> 00:04:16,240
assimilated family, and
non-religious family.

64
00:04:16,240 --> 00:04:21,730
My father came from an
ultra Orthodox family.

65
00:04:21,730 --> 00:04:29,560
There were the Hasidiums
of Gora rabbi in Warsaw.

66
00:04:29,560 --> 00:04:33,520
Nevertheless, he was
somewhat bohemian,

67
00:04:33,520 --> 00:04:39,460
and he left that tradition
when he married my mother.

68
00:04:39,460 --> 00:04:40,780
Oh.

69
00:04:40,780 --> 00:04:48,710
The Feingolds in Warsaw
where ultrareligious.

70
00:04:48,710 --> 00:04:50,810
And how did his family
feel about that?

71
00:04:50,810 --> 00:04:54,440
Do you know?

72

00:04:54,440 --> 00:05:01,870
His father, at the time he
married, was already deceased.

73
00:05:01,870 --> 00:05:05,860
And his mother, if
I'm not mistaken,

74
00:05:05,860 --> 00:05:10,690
she was on the way
to Israel together

75
00:05:10,690 --> 00:05:14,710
with two of his siblings.

76
00:05:14,710 --> 00:05:20,020
So there wasn't too much of the
family in Poland on his side

77
00:05:20,020 --> 00:05:21,520
when he married my mother.

78
00:05:21,520 --> 00:05:24,385
I see. yeah.

79
00:05:24,385 --> 00:05:25,310
You mentioned Israel.

80
00:05:25,310 --> 00:05:26,575
Were your parents Zionists?

81
00:05:26,575 --> 00:05:30,810

82
00:05:30,810 --> 00:05:37,230
None of my parents, to my
knowledge, were Zionists.

83
00:05:37,230 --> 00:05:41,310
Otherwise, they would have
traveled to Israel together

84

00:05:41,310 --> 00:05:45,660
with their other siblings.

85
00:05:45,660 --> 00:05:49,270
Did you have any siblings
or were you an only child?

86
00:05:49,270 --> 00:05:51,000
I was an only child.

87
00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:53,250
And what year did your
parents get married?

88
00:05:53,250 --> 00:05:59,360

89
00:05:59,360 --> 00:05:59,860
OK.

90
00:05:59,860 --> 00:06:00,485
It's all right.

91
00:06:00,485 --> 00:06:02,980
[LAUGHS]

92
00:06:02,980 --> 00:06:04,370
I would think--

93
00:06:04,370 --> 00:06:04,870
It's OK.

94
00:06:04,870 --> 00:06:08,080
I'm not completely
positive, but I

95
00:06:08,080 --> 00:06:11,485
would think that my parents
got married in 1936.

96
00:06:11,485 --> 00:06:12,340
OK.

97
00:06:12,340 --> 00:06:13,690
OK.

98
00:06:13,690 --> 00:06:16,675
Now, granted, you were very
young when the war started,

99
00:06:16,675 --> 00:06:17,215
I know.

100
00:06:17,215 --> 00:06:17,950
I was.

101
00:06:17,950 --> 00:06:18,820
Yes, of course.

102
00:06:18,820 --> 00:06:22,360

103
00:06:22,360 --> 00:06:24,425
And you hadn't had any
schooling, I assume,

104
00:06:24,425 --> 00:06:25,300
when the war started.

105
00:06:25,300 --> 00:06:25,800
No.

106
00:06:25,800 --> 00:06:28,880
I had absolutely no
schooling in Poland.

107
00:06:28,880 --> 00:06:29,380
Yeah.

108
00:06:29,380 --> 00:06:30,310
Yeah.

109
00:06:30,310 --> 00:06:31,960

Do you have any--

110
00:06:31,960 --> 00:06:33,890
again, you were so little--

111
00:06:33,890 --> 00:06:39,460
any memories before the war,
before September '39 or not?

112
00:06:39,460 --> 00:06:40,810
You were such a little boy.

113
00:06:40,810 --> 00:06:43,913
Well, the only memories that I--

114
00:06:43,913 --> 00:06:44,830
No, you couldn't have.

115
00:06:44,830 --> 00:06:46,210
Were only a year and a half.

116
00:06:46,210 --> 00:06:47,820
So you were young.

117
00:06:47,820 --> 00:06:48,320
Yeah.

118
00:06:48,320 --> 00:06:48,820
Yeah.

119
00:06:48,820 --> 00:06:49,570
Yeah.

120
00:06:49,570 --> 00:06:54,410
So let's talk about
your first memories.

121
00:06:54,410 --> 00:06:57,770
My first memories come--

122
00:06:57,770 --> 00:07:05,560

come to mind when I was a
little boy looking for toys,

123
00:07:05,560 --> 00:07:09,040
and there were none to be found.

124
00:07:09,040 --> 00:07:12,913
The only toy that
I remember is a--

125
00:07:12,913 --> 00:07:16,084

126
00:07:16,084 --> 00:07:20,290
it's a bank type of a--

127
00:07:20,290 --> 00:07:24,810
of a rider.

128
00:07:24,810 --> 00:07:25,430
A train?

129
00:07:25,430 --> 00:07:26,355
A little train?

130
00:07:26,355 --> 00:07:27,506
Not a train, no.

131
00:07:27,506 --> 00:07:29,880
Like, a--

132
00:07:29,880 --> 00:07:30,610
A crane?

133
00:07:30,610 --> 00:07:31,110
A truck?

134
00:07:31,110 --> 00:07:33,960

135
00:07:33,960 --> 00:07:34,460

It swivels.

136
00:07:34,460 --> 00:07:34,960
A top?

137
00:07:34,960 --> 00:07:36,050
A top?

138
00:07:36,050 --> 00:07:36,925
It swivels when you--

139
00:07:36,925 --> 00:07:37,640
A top?

140
00:07:37,640 --> 00:07:38,320
A top.

141
00:07:38,320 --> 00:07:38,510
A top.

142
00:07:38,510 --> 00:07:39,010
Yeah.

143
00:07:39,010 --> 00:07:40,190
Yeah, it was a top.

144
00:07:40,190 --> 00:07:42,650
That's just about the only--

145
00:07:42,650 --> 00:07:44,000
This was in Lodz?

146
00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:49,340
This is still in Lodz, where
we-- were when we were hiding

147
00:07:49,340 --> 00:07:52,550
and the Germans were
coming into Lodz.

148
00:07:52,550 --> 00:07:53,060

OK.

149

00:07:53,060 --> 00:07:55,220

I know this is
what you've heard.

150

00:07:55,220 --> 00:07:57,170

So can you tell me what
you heard about what

151

00:07:57,170 --> 00:07:57,890

happened to your family?

152

00:07:57,890 --> 00:07:59,150

You were a baby, of course.

153

00:07:59,150 --> 00:08:04,550

But what do you know of what
happened when the war started?

154

00:08:04,550 --> 00:08:06,635

The only thing that I know--

155

00:08:06,635 --> 00:08:08,030

Know of--

156

00:08:08,030 --> 00:08:13,820

--that I know of that
happened, that the Germans

157

00:08:13,820 --> 00:08:15,650

moved into Lodz.

158

00:08:15,650 --> 00:08:16,370

Yeah.

159

00:08:16,370 --> 00:08:19,760

And, for the longest
time, my parents

160

00:08:19,760 --> 00:08:23,990

were not really concerned

because they thought it's

161
00:08:23,990 --> 00:08:25,980
something that will go away.

162
00:08:25,980 --> 00:08:27,290
It will pass.

163
00:08:27,290 --> 00:08:32,299
They were very-- both of them
were very established people.

164
00:08:32,299 --> 00:08:34,700
And they did not
think that anything

165
00:08:34,700 --> 00:08:41,870
would happen to established
people in Lodz or in Poland.

166
00:08:41,870 --> 00:08:45,680
When it did happen,
both of them,

167
00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:52,550
as, many other people were
looking for foreign countries

168
00:08:52,550 --> 00:08:54,560
to intercept them.

169
00:08:54,560 --> 00:08:58,880
And they were looking
for papers or passports

170
00:08:58,880 --> 00:09:08,530
to be either gotten
or purchased in Lodz.

171
00:09:08,530 --> 00:09:13,950
They could not
achieve this request.

172

00:09:13,950 --> 00:09:17,730

And both of them,
together with me,

173

00:09:17,730 --> 00:09:25,830

traveled through the
tunnels to Lodz--

174

00:09:25,830 --> 00:09:28,560

I'm sorry, to .

175

00:09:28,560 --> 00:09:29,910

From Lodz to Warsaw.

176

00:09:29,910 --> 00:09:30,480

To Warsaw.

177

00:09:30,480 --> 00:09:32,605

Through tunnels?

178

00:09:32,605 --> 00:09:33,105

Partially.

179

00:09:33,105 --> 00:09:34,050

Yeah.

180

00:09:34,050 --> 00:09:38,880

In other words, we traveled
from Lodz by either--

181

00:09:38,880 --> 00:09:41,910

by train or buses.

182

00:09:41,910 --> 00:09:44,730

But when we arrived before--

183

00:09:44,730 --> 00:09:48,660

when we arrived to Warsaw,
we traveled to most

184

00:09:48,660 --> 00:09:52,665

of the route via tunnels.

185
00:09:52,665 --> 00:09:57,366

186
00:09:57,366 --> 00:10:02,410
I believe those
tunnels are called--

187
00:10:02,410 --> 00:10:03,940
Do you know what
year this was, when

188
00:10:03,940 --> 00:10:05,255
you left Lodz to go to Warsaw?

189
00:10:05,255 --> 00:10:07,860

190
00:10:07,860 --> 00:10:11,775
This was in 1940.

191
00:10:11,775 --> 00:10:13,521
In 1940.

192
00:10:13,521 --> 00:10:17,880
In 19-- in 1942.

193
00:10:17,880 --> 00:10:20,460
I'm sorry, in 1942.

194
00:10:20,460 --> 00:10:24,630
Approximately what month,
approximately, if you know?

195
00:10:24,630 --> 00:10:28,590
I would say towards the end
of 1942, maybe November,

196
00:10:28,590 --> 00:10:31,210
December of 1942.

197

00:10:31,210 --> 00:10:33,750

Yeah.

198

00:10:33,750 --> 00:10:36,400

And the only memory you have
up to that point, you said,

199

00:10:36,400 --> 00:10:37,900

was playing with
the top and things.

200

00:10:37,900 --> 00:10:38,630

That's about it.

201

00:10:38,630 --> 00:10:39,380

That's it in Lodz.

202

00:10:39,380 --> 00:10:40,320

OK.

203

00:10:40,320 --> 00:10:42,780

That's about all I
remember from Lodz.

204

00:10:42,780 --> 00:10:43,280

OK.

205

00:10:43,280 --> 00:10:46,680

Do you remember about
the trip to Warsaw?

206

00:10:46,680 --> 00:10:52,950

The trip that I remember
when we arrived in Warsaw

207

00:10:52,950 --> 00:10:55,470

was going through the tunnels.

208

00:10:55,470 --> 00:10:56,670

Oh, OK.

209

00:10:56,670 --> 00:11:02,070
And I was carried on
my father's shoulders.

210
00:11:02,070 --> 00:11:07,920
And the guide that showed us
the way to our hiding place

211
00:11:07,920 --> 00:11:15,010
in Warsaw was a fellow by
the name of [? Vacek-- ?]

212
00:11:15,010 --> 00:11:16,240
[? Vacek, ?] in Poland--

213
00:11:16,240 --> 00:11:17,320
Polish.

214
00:11:17,320 --> 00:11:22,270
--who works for a
living by showing people

215
00:11:22,270 --> 00:11:24,040
where to go in Warsaw.

216
00:11:24,040 --> 00:11:24,970
Yeah.

217
00:11:24,970 --> 00:11:27,550
So your father obviously
paid him to show you.

218
00:11:27,550 --> 00:11:28,050
Absolutely.

219
00:11:28,050 --> 00:11:32,470
He was paid for, and he
brought us to the place

220
00:11:32,470 --> 00:11:35,110
that we were hiding in Warsaw.

221

00:11:35,110 --> 00:11:36,070
OK.

222
00:11:36,070 --> 00:11:42,080
It was on the Jewish side,
in the ghetto side of Warsaw.

223
00:11:42,080 --> 00:11:43,840
It was in the ghetto itself.

224
00:11:43,840 --> 00:11:44,650
In the ghetto.

225
00:11:44,650 --> 00:11:48,710
Right in the ghetto of Warsaw.

226
00:11:48,710 --> 00:12:01,610
And, when we arrived, I remember
a relatively small apartment

227
00:12:01,610 --> 00:12:07,270
or I should say I remember a
room in that apartment that

228
00:12:07,270 --> 00:12:16,000
was completely sealed with
a wardrobe against the wall.

229
00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:20,680
And my mom was coming in
a couple of times a day

230
00:12:20,680 --> 00:12:22,750
to feed me.

231
00:12:22,750 --> 00:12:32,020
And I was there with a
helper, that was not a Jew,

232
00:12:32,020 --> 00:12:38,322
that my mom brought with her
from Lodz to take care of me.

233

00:12:38,322 --> 00:12:39,280

This was like, a nanny?

234

00:12:39,280 --> 00:12:39,910

A child nanny.

235

00:12:39,910 --> 00:12:40,623

A nanny.

236

00:12:40,623 --> 00:12:41,290

That is a nanny.

237

00:12:41,290 --> 00:12:43,060

That's correct.

238

00:12:43,060 --> 00:12:46,690

And her name-- do you
remember what her name is?

239

00:12:46,690 --> 00:12:48,130

Her name was Paula.

240

00:12:48,130 --> 00:12:50,170

OK.

241

00:12:50,170 --> 00:12:51,190

OK.

242

00:12:51,190 --> 00:12:55,310

So you're now 4 and
1/2 when you come to--

243

00:12:55,310 --> 00:12:57,380

Now I'm just about 4 and 1/2--

244

00:12:57,380 --> 00:12:58,510

When you come to Warsaw.

245

00:12:58,510 --> 00:13:00,880

--when we came to Warsaw.

246

00:13:00,880 --> 00:13:04,330

And my father, from
what I understood,

247

00:13:04,330 --> 00:13:11,620

was able to get Palestinian
papers, certificates, from all

248

00:13:11,620 --> 00:13:12,340

the countries.

249

00:13:12,340 --> 00:13:17,050

Because the Americans
certificates or passports

250

00:13:17,050 --> 00:13:19,000

were not available no more.

251

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:20,890

They were all sold out.

252

00:13:20,890 --> 00:13:24,610

And the only thing
that was available

253

00:13:24,610 --> 00:13:29,020

were Palestinian certificates.

254

00:13:29,020 --> 00:13:30,530

And that's what he got.

255

00:13:30,530 --> 00:13:34,420

And one of the reasons
that you got those papers

256

00:13:34,420 --> 00:13:42,130

was that his brother, sister,
and his mother, at that point,

257

00:13:42,130 --> 00:13:44,890

were already in Palestine.

258

00:13:44,890 --> 00:13:46,930

They left Poland.

259

00:13:46,930 --> 00:13:55,060

And my mother's sister
was in Palestine, Israel.

260

00:13:55,060 --> 00:13:57,310

Can you give me the
names of these people?

261

00:13:57,310 --> 00:13:58,480

Yes.

262

00:13:58,480 --> 00:14:03,850

My father's brother was
[? Naftali ?] Feingold.

263

00:14:03,850 --> 00:14:11,380

His sister was Leah or
[? Lurka ?] Blumberg,

264

00:14:11,380 --> 00:14:15,370

but Feingold from
her family home.

265

00:14:15,370 --> 00:14:24,250

And my mother's sister was
Esther or [? Eja ?] Tiger,

266

00:14:24,250 --> 00:14:29,740

or [? Zilberberg ?]
in Palestine.

267

00:14:29,740 --> 00:14:30,240

OK.

268

00:14:30,240 --> 00:14:32,580

So your father now
is able to get--

269

00:14:32,580 --> 00:14:35,070

is trying to get
Palestinian papers.

270
00:14:35,070 --> 00:14:38,340
My father had the
Palestinian papers.

271
00:14:38,340 --> 00:14:42,690
And he believed that
the Germans, of course,

272
00:14:42,690 --> 00:14:45,060
will let us go.

273
00:14:45,060 --> 00:14:54,645
And one morning we were
supposed to move from the--

274
00:14:54,645 --> 00:15:01,330
from ghetto Warsaw to
the other side of Warsaw,

275
00:15:01,330 --> 00:15:06,090
which we called the
Aryan side or the side

276
00:15:06,090 --> 00:15:08,610
that the Polish people--

277
00:15:08,610 --> 00:15:10,450
the Polocks lived.

278
00:15:10,450 --> 00:15:10,950
Right.

279
00:15:10,950 --> 00:15:15,810
How about-- can I just ask
you-- while you're in that room,

280
00:15:15,810 --> 00:15:19,650
as a little boy in
the Warsaw ghetto,

281

00:15:19,650 --> 00:15:21,990

were you able to see
outside the room?

282

00:15:21,990 --> 00:15:25,570

I wasn't able to see anything.

283

00:15:25,570 --> 00:15:30,180

The only thing that I
remember when I left that room

284

00:15:30,180 --> 00:15:36,930

and we went into the tunnel
again to go to the other side,

285

00:15:36,930 --> 00:15:40,860

is the smell of fire.

286

00:15:40,860 --> 00:15:44,510

At that point ghetto Warsaw
was completely in flames.

287

00:15:44,510 --> 00:15:45,010

OK.

288

00:15:45,010 --> 00:15:46,260

So this is the up--

289

00:15:46,260 --> 00:15:47,010

Totally in flames.

290

00:15:47,010 --> 00:15:48,760

This is the uprising
you're talking about.

291

00:15:48,760 --> 00:15:49,930

This is the uprising.

292

00:15:49,930 --> 00:15:51,000

April '43.

293

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:53,380
That's correct.

294
00:15:53,380 --> 00:15:57,120
But any other memories in that
room as a little, little boy?

295
00:15:57,120 --> 00:15:59,327
No other memories while
you're in the room

296
00:15:59,327 --> 00:16:00,160
before the uprising?

297
00:16:00,160 --> 00:16:04,770
There was one other member
that I should mention.

298
00:16:04,770 --> 00:16:10,530
My mother had a daughter,
who was my stepsister, who

299
00:16:10,530 --> 00:16:13,240
was with us as well.

300
00:16:13,240 --> 00:16:19,560
But what were her about and what
did she do, I do not remember.

301
00:16:19,560 --> 00:16:22,170
But she certainly was with us.

302
00:16:22,170 --> 00:16:27,310
And when we left this
particular apartment,

303
00:16:27,310 --> 00:16:29,580
she was with us, as well.

304
00:16:29,580 --> 00:16:36,120
Her name was Erika
or [? Yehudit. ?]

305

00:16:36,120 --> 00:16:41,220

So you were in this room
from December to April?

306

00:16:41,220 --> 00:16:43,845

From December to April.

307

00:16:43,845 --> 00:16:44,700

To April.

308

00:16:44,700 --> 00:16:45,690

Yes.

309

00:16:45,690 --> 00:16:51,570

And this is when we moved
through the tunnels,

310

00:16:51,570 --> 00:16:55,200

again, to the other
side of the ghetto,

311

00:16:55,200 --> 00:16:59,310

while the ghetto was
completely in flames.

312

00:16:59,310 --> 00:17:00,840

Totally in flames.

313

00:17:00,840 --> 00:17:05,520

And this is another thing
that I still remember--

314

00:17:05,520 --> 00:17:09,569

smell of fire and flames.

315

00:17:09,569 --> 00:17:14,260

And these are things that
will never leave you.

316

00:17:14,260 --> 00:17:19,690

Matter of fact, until this very
day, when I go by any place

317
00:17:19,690 --> 00:17:24,700
and there's a fire smell,
the picture of ghetto Warsaw

318
00:17:24,700 --> 00:17:26,245
comes in front of my eyes.

319
00:17:26,245 --> 00:17:29,340

320
00:17:29,340 --> 00:17:33,090
Again, you were a small,
small child, very dependent

321
00:17:33,090 --> 00:17:34,050
on your parents.

322
00:17:34,050 --> 00:17:35,200
Were they comforting?

323
00:17:35,200 --> 00:17:40,440
I mean, how do you handle
a five-year-old child?

324
00:17:40,440 --> 00:17:44,760
They were constantly
with me, of course.

325
00:17:44,760 --> 00:17:47,220
I was constantly with them.

326
00:17:47,220 --> 00:17:52,440
And the next thing
I remember was

327
00:17:52,440 --> 00:17:56,610
when we were out of the
tunnels and we were supposed

328
00:17:56,610 --> 00:18:00,700
to go to our new hiding place.

329
00:18:00,700 --> 00:18:03,960
How did you get from
the ghetto, outside--

330
00:18:03,960 --> 00:18:04,680
to the outside?

331
00:18:04,680 --> 00:18:05,670
Through the tunnels.

332
00:18:05,670 --> 00:18:06,570
Through the tunnels.

333
00:18:06,570 --> 00:18:07,890
Through the tunnel.

334
00:18:07,890 --> 00:18:11,370
And you walked
yourself, a little boy?

335
00:18:11,370 --> 00:18:12,670
Could I stop for one second?

336
00:18:12,670 --> 00:18:13,170
Sure.

337
00:18:13,170 --> 00:18:16,940

338
00:18:16,940 --> 00:18:17,720
Yeah.

339
00:18:17,720 --> 00:18:25,170
The tunnels were
actually sewer tunnels--

340
00:18:25,170 --> 00:18:29,340
big, large sewer tunnels.

341
00:18:29,340 --> 00:18:31,512

And when we came out of those--

342

00:18:31,512 --> 00:18:32,970

And you walked--
you were walking--

343

00:18:32,970 --> 00:18:34,880

We walked right
through the tunnels--

344

00:18:34,880 --> 00:18:36,330

--through the sewer tunnels.

345

00:18:36,330 --> 00:18:37,258

--to the other side.

346

00:18:37,258 --> 00:18:38,550

You, yourself, as a little boy.

347

00:18:38,550 --> 00:18:40,380

Myself, absolutely.

348

00:18:40,380 --> 00:18:42,155

My Dad-- my father--

349

00:18:42,155 --> 00:18:43,240

Holding onto your father?

350

00:18:43,240 --> 00:18:46,038

My father carried
me on his shoulder.

351

00:18:46,038 --> 00:18:46,830

Oh, he carried you.

352

00:18:46,830 --> 00:18:50,610

And my mother was
walking together

353

00:18:50,610 --> 00:18:54,970

with my stepsister
in the tunnel.

354
00:18:54,970 --> 00:18:57,220
So you were sitting on
your father's shoulders.

355
00:18:57,220 --> 00:18:57,720
Yes.

356
00:18:57,720 --> 00:19:00,600
I would staying on my
father's shoulders.

357
00:19:00,600 --> 00:19:06,300
When we came out,
we were supposed

358
00:19:06,300 --> 00:19:12,060
to be led to our
new hiding place.

359
00:19:12,060 --> 00:19:17,970
But, at that point, the
Germans were waiting for us

360
00:19:17,970 --> 00:19:21,555
outside the sewer tunnels.

361
00:19:21,555 --> 00:19:22,710
Oh.

362
00:19:22,710 --> 00:19:25,380
We were taken, all of us.

363
00:19:25,380 --> 00:19:27,343
Do you, yourself, have
memories of this or this

364
00:19:27,343 --> 00:19:28,260
is what you were told?

365
00:19:28,260 --> 00:19:28,760
Yes.

366
00:19:28,760 --> 00:19:30,248
No, this I have a memory of.

367
00:19:30,248 --> 00:19:30,790
You remember.

368
00:19:30,790 --> 00:19:32,520
OK.

369
00:19:32,520 --> 00:19:38,070
I do not remember if
it was a violent type

370
00:19:38,070 --> 00:19:43,590
of taking us or just showing us
how to go and where to go to.

371
00:19:43,590 --> 00:19:44,130
Yeah.

372
00:19:44,130 --> 00:19:47,010
But I do remember we were taken.

373
00:19:47,010 --> 00:19:55,620
And we were then placed
into lines of segregation,

374
00:19:55,620 --> 00:19:58,650
where we were told to stand.

375
00:19:58,650 --> 00:20:02,680
And my parents'
idea was that they

376
00:20:02,680 --> 00:20:06,360
would have to
present their papers,

377
00:20:06,360 --> 00:20:10,140
and they would take
us to the place

378

00:20:10,140 --> 00:20:15,120
where we would be able to leave
to Palestine with our Palestine

379

00:20:15,120 --> 00:20:17,380
papers.

380

00:20:17,380 --> 00:20:21,130
This is, of course, what
I was explained later on.

381

00:20:21,130 --> 00:20:24,630
However, this never happened.

382

00:20:24,630 --> 00:20:28,230
And we were put into--

383

00:20:28,230 --> 00:20:30,480
after the segregation--

384

00:20:30,480 --> 00:20:33,120
When you say segregation,
men and women separated--

385

00:20:33,120 --> 00:20:35,340
is that what you're
talking about?

386

00:20:35,340 --> 00:20:43,430
Men and women were not separated
at the point we were at.

387

00:20:43,430 --> 00:20:52,540
And later on we understood why,
or I was explained by my father

388

00:20:52,540 --> 00:20:54,420
why.

389

00:20:54,420 --> 00:21:03,500
Whoever had Palestinian papers,

the Germans took those families

390

00:21:03,500 --> 00:21:10,970

and put them aside for a purpose
of at a later date exchanging

391

00:21:10,970 --> 00:21:15,770

them for the German people
that used to be in Palestine.

392

00:21:15,770 --> 00:21:17,300

Oh, my.

393

00:21:17,300 --> 00:21:26,860

And they only kept in a certain
grouping people who had--

394

00:21:26,860 --> 00:21:30,840

who used to be academicians--

395

00:21:30,840 --> 00:21:36,090

engineers, lawyers,
doctors in their families--

396

00:21:36,090 --> 00:21:39,480

and kept them together
for the purpose

397

00:21:39,480 --> 00:21:45,600

of the exchange of the
scientists and academicians

398

00:21:45,600 --> 00:21:49,500

that the Germans had at
the time in Palestine.

399

00:21:49,500 --> 00:21:51,750

So that's what you
mean by segregation.

400

00:21:51,750 --> 00:21:52,980

That's correct.

401
00:21:52,980 --> 00:21:53,560
OK.

402
00:21:53,560 --> 00:21:55,210
OK.

403
00:21:55,210 --> 00:22:00,730
At that point when
they segregated us,

404
00:22:00,730 --> 00:22:08,830
my mother, who came from a
relatively speaking, very

405
00:22:08,830 --> 00:22:15,460
well-to-do family, had
on her arm an umbrella.

406
00:22:15,460 --> 00:22:22,180
And this is a story that I
was told for all the years.

407
00:22:22,180 --> 00:22:29,710
And this umbrella had the
handle that was removable,

408
00:22:29,710 --> 00:22:37,810
and it was filled with
the family's jewels--

409
00:22:37,810 --> 00:22:44,110
large diamonds, rubies,
all type of jewelry.

410
00:22:44,110 --> 00:22:50,140
As she was [INAUDIBLE], one of
the German officers came to her

411
00:22:50,140 --> 00:22:56,050
and said to her, may
I have this umbrella?

412

00:22:56,050 --> 00:23:04,620
So she responded to him,
I will give you my ring

413
00:23:04,620 --> 00:23:06,230
instead of the umbrella.

414
00:23:06,230 --> 00:23:07,800
It may rain.

415
00:23:07,800 --> 00:23:14,500
And I have two children with me,
and I will want to shield them.

416
00:23:14,500 --> 00:23:16,990
And he answered to her, no.

417
00:23:16,990 --> 00:23:18,460
I don't want your ring.

418
00:23:18,460 --> 00:23:20,380
You can keep your ring.

419
00:23:20,380 --> 00:23:24,070
I'd like to have that umbrella.

420
00:23:24,070 --> 00:23:27,580
And she had, of course,
no choice in the matter.

421
00:23:27,580 --> 00:23:29,890
And she gave him the umbrella.

422
00:23:29,890 --> 00:23:31,940
Oh, my.

423
00:23:31,940 --> 00:23:34,540
This is as much as I
remember from that meeting.

424
00:23:34,540 --> 00:23:37,150

425
00:23:37,150 --> 00:23:40,630
From that point
what I do remember

426
00:23:40,630 --> 00:23:48,046
is being on the train that
took us to Bergen-Belsen.

427
00:23:48,046 --> 00:23:49,990
Oh.

428
00:23:49,990 --> 00:23:52,900
So we were, at that
point, all together.

429
00:23:52,900 --> 00:23:54,640
Now, this is still
the four of you.

430
00:23:54,640 --> 00:23:55,450
The four of us.

431
00:23:55,450 --> 00:23:59,500
How old was the other
child, the stepsister?

432
00:23:59,500 --> 00:24:07,670
My sister was about
seven years older than I.

433
00:24:07,670 --> 00:24:08,170
Oh, OK.

434
00:24:08,170 --> 00:24:11,470
So she was-- so she was 12 or--

435
00:24:11,470 --> 00:24:13,050
If I was 4 and 1/2, 5--

436
00:24:13,050 --> 00:24:13,590
She was 12.

437
00:24:13,590 --> 00:24:15,440
--she was already
12 years of age.

438
00:24:15,440 --> 00:24:15,940
Yes.

439
00:24:15,940 --> 00:24:17,220
OK, so she was older.

440
00:24:17,220 --> 00:24:18,820
Yeah.

441
00:24:18,820 --> 00:24:24,190
And we were all taken to the
train, of course, on the way

442
00:24:24,190 --> 00:24:26,860
to Bergen-Belsen.

443
00:24:26,860 --> 00:24:28,120
Can we back up a little bit?

444
00:24:28,120 --> 00:24:32,200
As a small child, did you have
anything special with you?

445
00:24:32,200 --> 00:24:33,430
Any special--

446
00:24:33,430 --> 00:24:35,230
Absolutely nothing.

447
00:24:35,230 --> 00:24:36,660
Just the clothes on your back.

448
00:24:36,660 --> 00:24:38,660
Just the clothes on my
back and whatever maybe--

449

00:24:38,660 --> 00:24:39,850
No toys or--

450
00:24:39,850 --> 00:24:42,610
My mother had maybe a
few other things for me.

451
00:24:42,610 --> 00:24:43,998
But absolutely--

452
00:24:43,998 --> 00:24:44,540
Nothing else.

453
00:24:44,540 --> 00:24:45,460
--nothing else.

454
00:24:45,460 --> 00:24:51,030
Because we went away
light from Lodz to Warsaw.

455
00:24:51,030 --> 00:24:51,900
From Lodz, yeah.

456
00:24:51,900 --> 00:24:52,400
OK.

457
00:24:52,400 --> 00:24:55,725
So now you're on your
way to Bergen-Belsen.

458
00:24:55,725 --> 00:24:58,360
Now we are on the
way to Bergen-Belsen.

459
00:24:58,360 --> 00:25:01,210

460
00:25:01,210 --> 00:25:04,900
The only thing that I
remember from that trip

461
00:25:04,900 --> 00:25:10,460

is me being most
of the time asleep.

462
00:25:10,460 --> 00:25:13,270
And when I woke--

463
00:25:13,270 --> 00:25:14,710
This was a passenger train?

464
00:25:14,710 --> 00:25:15,560
Passenger train.

465
00:25:15,560 --> 00:25:16,060
OK.

466
00:25:16,060 --> 00:25:17,890
That was a passenger train.

467
00:25:17,890 --> 00:25:21,520
And when we arrived--

468
00:25:21,520 --> 00:25:26,890
I must say that on
this train there

469
00:25:26,890 --> 00:25:33,820
was another sister of my
mother's with her husband.

470
00:25:33,820 --> 00:25:36,360
I do not recall their last name.

471
00:25:36,360 --> 00:25:38,960

472
00:25:38,960 --> 00:25:47,820
Her name was
[? Lilka. ?] And we all

473
00:25:47,820 --> 00:25:50,130
came together to Bergen-Belsen.

474

00:25:50,130 --> 00:25:53,440

Was that by chance that she
happened to be on the train

475

00:25:53,440 --> 00:25:54,030

or you don't--

476

00:25:54,030 --> 00:25:57,560

I don't know their whereabouts,
how they came on the train.

477

00:25:57,560 --> 00:25:58,560

They happened to be on--

478

00:25:58,560 --> 00:26:00,450

OK.

479

00:26:00,450 --> 00:26:07,650

Her husband was an engineer, and
he ended up on the same train

480

00:26:07,650 --> 00:26:08,340

that we did.

481

00:26:08,340 --> 00:26:10,590

Oh, my.

482

00:26:10,590 --> 00:26:14,670

He did not have Palestinian
papers, however.

483

00:26:14,670 --> 00:26:18,270

This is the story that
my father had told me.

484

00:26:18,270 --> 00:26:21,450

He had South American papers.

485

00:26:21,450 --> 00:26:24,600

Nevertheless, being
an academician,

486

00:26:24,600 --> 00:26:29,160

he ended on the same train,
going to the same camp

487

00:26:29,160 --> 00:26:31,560

in Bergen-Belsen.

488

00:26:31,560 --> 00:26:41,350

The camp that we ended up in
was Block 10 in Bergen-Belsen.

489

00:26:41,350 --> 00:26:45,550

Do you remember
arriving there or not?

490

00:26:45,550 --> 00:26:46,180

Any memories?

491

00:26:46,180 --> 00:26:48,910

I do not remember
arriving there.

492

00:26:48,910 --> 00:26:49,480

OK.

493

00:26:49,480 --> 00:26:52,420

I remember me
being in a barrack.

494

00:26:52,420 --> 00:26:53,500

OK.

495

00:26:53,500 --> 00:26:56,840

That, I remember.

496

00:26:56,840 --> 00:27:00,070

And we were all together
in the barracks.

497

00:27:00,070 --> 00:27:05,140

The women, for a while, were
not separated from the men

498

00:27:05,140 --> 00:27:10,870
until maybe a little bit
later, where the men slept

499

00:27:10,870 --> 00:27:13,390
in different barracks
and then the women

500

00:27:13,390 --> 00:27:16,420
slept with the children.

501

00:27:16,420 --> 00:27:18,610
And you're now 5 and 1/2.

502

00:27:18,610 --> 00:27:22,830
Now I am about 5 and 1/2.

503

00:27:22,830 --> 00:27:26,580
And other memories
of Bergen-Belsen--

504

00:27:26,580 --> 00:27:28,950
any memory-- other
memories of Bergen-Belsen?

505

00:27:28,950 --> 00:27:34,260
The memories from Bergen-Belsen
were day-to-day memories

506

00:27:34,260 --> 00:27:43,340
of being hungry all the
time, and I mean hungry.

507

00:27:43,340 --> 00:27:48,590
And the only thing that I
can remember and always was

508

00:27:48,590 --> 00:27:53,840
reminded to me, that
I was crying, asking

509

00:27:53,840 --> 00:27:56,140
for a little piece of bread.

510
00:27:56,140 --> 00:27:59,120

511
00:27:59,120 --> 00:28:04,550
I do remember my mother
begging for some food

512
00:28:04,550 --> 00:28:09,020
from some of the soldiers
and supervisors that

513
00:28:09,020 --> 00:28:11,495
were running around the camp.

514
00:28:11,495 --> 00:28:21,150
At one time she was hit and she
was sent back to the barracks.

515
00:28:21,150 --> 00:28:25,290
I do remember that
next door to us

516
00:28:25,290 --> 00:28:32,340
there was another camp
where the [? Kesner ?]

517
00:28:32,340 --> 00:28:37,530
people came from Hungary.

518
00:28:37,530 --> 00:28:46,870
And we, as children, saw that
they were burying in the ground

519
00:28:46,870 --> 00:28:52,090
all kind of belongings before
they were separated and put

520
00:28:52,090 --> 00:28:54,800
into their barracks.

521

00:28:54,800 --> 00:29:01,070

And maybe a day or
two or three later on,

522

00:29:01,070 --> 00:29:03,980

there were a few
children in Bergen-Belsen

523

00:29:03,980 --> 00:29:06,770

that we were friends.

524

00:29:06,770 --> 00:29:14,690

And we went under
the wires and dug out

525

00:29:14,690 --> 00:29:18,680

some of the things
that were hidden there.

526

00:29:18,680 --> 00:29:23,510

Of course, they were
nothing important to us,

527

00:29:23,510 --> 00:29:28,790

with the exception
of little knives,

528

00:29:28,790 --> 00:29:33,590

folding knives, combs, glasses--

529

00:29:33,590 --> 00:29:36,800

things of this nature,
which we brought back

530

00:29:36,800 --> 00:29:39,274

and we played with.

531

00:29:39,274 --> 00:29:42,350

Were there many
children with you?

532

00:29:42,350 --> 00:29:48,680

In our camp, block number
10, there were 10 children.

533
00:29:48,680 --> 00:29:50,540
Oh, my.

534
00:29:50,540 --> 00:29:58,940
Most of them were
liberated together with us.

535
00:29:58,940 --> 00:30:07,790
When we left the camp on the
train to be exterminated,

536
00:30:07,790 --> 00:30:11,670
we were liberated
by the Americans,

537
00:30:11,670 --> 00:30:19,920
by a couple of soldiers that
came from the company of Mickey

538
00:30:19,920 --> 00:30:26,860
Marcus, who was called Mickey
Marcus, who later on ended up

539
00:30:26,860 --> 00:30:27,360
in Israel.

540
00:30:27,360 --> 00:30:30,150

541
00:30:30,150 --> 00:30:33,710
And we were liberated by them.

542
00:30:33,710 --> 00:30:34,210
Yeah.

543
00:30:34,210 --> 00:30:35,910
Well, we'll get to
that in a minute.

544

00:30:35,910 --> 00:30:38,310

I just want a little
more detail, if you can--

545

00:30:38,310 --> 00:30:39,035

In Bergen-Belsen.

546

00:30:39,035 --> 00:30:41,830

--in Bergen-Belsen
as a small child.

547

00:30:41,830 --> 00:30:43,440

What did you have to eat?

548

00:30:43,440 --> 00:30:45,750

I know you said you
cried for bread.

549

00:30:45,750 --> 00:30:50,370

What was your mother able
to get for you to eat?

550

00:30:50,370 --> 00:30:51,070

Some soups--

551

00:30:51,070 --> 00:30:51,570

Soup?

552

00:30:51,570 --> 00:30:52,070

Yeah.

553

00:30:52,070 --> 00:31:01,050

--that were made out of
water, salt, either potatoes,

554

00:31:01,050 --> 00:31:03,780

potatoes peels, and--

555

00:31:03,780 --> 00:31:08,160

556

00:31:08,160 --> 00:31:14,030

[NON-ENGLISH] beets, and beets.

557

00:31:14,030 --> 00:31:17,090

Then is once a day
we were getting

558

00:31:17,090 --> 00:31:20,880

a little piece of bread.

559

00:31:20,880 --> 00:31:29,730

What I do remember vividly,
that once a day the Germans

560

00:31:29,730 --> 00:31:37,380

came from their Kitchens
and they set up milk cans--

561

00:31:37,380 --> 00:31:42,240

old fashioned milk
cans made out of steel.

562

00:31:42,240 --> 00:31:47,220

And they were maybe 3
or 3 and 1/2 feet tall,

563

00:31:47,220 --> 00:31:50,850

with soups in them.

564

00:31:50,850 --> 00:31:55,500

And they were arranging them,
like, maybe six or eight

565

00:31:55,500 --> 00:31:58,400

of them, one after another.

566

00:31:58,400 --> 00:32:02,610

And they made the
people in the camps,

567

00:32:02,610 --> 00:32:10,800

or what they call the prisoners,
stand lines, mostly the men.

568

00:32:10,800 --> 00:32:19,650

And in front of those cans there
were soldiers, German soldiers,

569

00:32:19,650 --> 00:32:29,170

who used to give every one of
the people portions of soup.

570

00:32:29,170 --> 00:32:36,580

They had a habit of maybe
after 10 or 15 people

571

00:32:36,580 --> 00:32:44,110

that they served, they left the
cans and they left the place.

572

00:32:44,110 --> 00:32:50,530

And within seconds,
there were piles

573

00:32:50,530 --> 00:32:55,480

of hundreds of people,
one on top of another,

574

00:32:55,480 --> 00:33:03,190

trying to grasp and get
into those soup cans.

575

00:33:03,190 --> 00:33:09,110

Many died underneath,
and many never made it.

576

00:33:09,110 --> 00:33:14,140

And this was a picture that
I, of course as a child,

577

00:33:14,140 --> 00:33:16,780

will never forget.

578

00:33:16,780 --> 00:33:21,970

This is how we were
filled in the camp.

579

00:33:21,970 --> 00:33:23,080

What did you wear?

580

00:33:23,080 --> 00:33:24,712

What clothing did you have?

581

00:33:24,712 --> 00:33:27,310

582

00:33:27,310 --> 00:33:28,720

I have no memory of my clothing.

583

00:33:28,720 --> 00:33:29,305

No memory.

584

00:33:29,305 --> 00:33:29,805

OK.

585

00:33:29,805 --> 00:33:30,910

None, whatsoever.

586

00:33:30,910 --> 00:33:37,690

My father wore a
striped uniform.

587

00:33:37,690 --> 00:33:43,870

And I don't recall
what my mother wore.

588

00:33:43,870 --> 00:33:46,480

Did anybody have a yellow star?

589

00:33:46,480 --> 00:33:48,520

We all had yellow stars.

590

00:33:48,520 --> 00:33:49,960

Yes.

591

00:33:49,960 --> 00:33:50,740

We were all--

592

00:33:50,740 --> 00:33:53,130

What did that mean to
a five-year-old boy?

593

00:33:53,130 --> 00:33:54,317

It mean anything to you?

594

00:33:54,317 --> 00:33:55,150

Didn't mean a thing.

595

00:33:55,150 --> 00:33:56,350

Didn't mean a thing.

596

00:33:56,350 --> 00:33:57,700

Absolutely not a thing.

597

00:33:57,700 --> 00:34:00,350

598

00:34:00,350 --> 00:34:02,840

And the language that
you spoke, was it Polish?

599

00:34:02,840 --> 00:34:03,950

Polish.

600

00:34:03,950 --> 00:34:04,970

We spoke to my parents--

601

00:34:04,970 --> 00:34:05,990

Did you know any other language?

602

00:34:05,990 --> 00:34:06,740

Did you know any--

603

00:34:06,740 --> 00:34:07,505

None, whatsoever.

604

00:34:07,505 --> 00:34:08,463

You didn't know German?

605

00:34:08,463 --> 00:34:12,830

My mother was-- my mother my
mother was French speaking,

606

00:34:12,830 --> 00:34:13,620

Polish speaking.

607

00:34:13,620 --> 00:34:14,120

Oh, my.

608

00:34:14,120 --> 00:34:20,719

My father was Polish
speaking, Hebrew speaking,

609

00:34:20,719 --> 00:34:24,770

background of the family,
and the full German speaking.

610

00:34:24,770 --> 00:34:31,270

Later on I learned some German,
as well, as I was in the camp.

611

00:34:31,270 --> 00:34:32,580

So what did you do all day?

612

00:34:32,580 --> 00:34:34,260

You said you didn't-- you,
with the other children,

613

00:34:34,260 --> 00:34:36,030

go out and dig up
some of the things.

614

00:34:36,030 --> 00:34:38,309

Anything else that did
to make the time pass?

615

00:34:38,309 --> 00:34:41,940

There is nothing that I remember
how we passed the time with.

616

00:34:41,940 --> 00:34:43,980

We were with our mothers.

617
00:34:43,980 --> 00:34:46,440
And we played them among--

618
00:34:46,440 --> 00:34:49,050
the few children
that were there,

619
00:34:49,050 --> 00:34:51,550
we played with one another.

620
00:34:51,550 --> 00:34:53,820
But what did we do,
I do not remember.

621
00:34:53,820 --> 00:34:56,280
And what were the
sleeping conditions like?

622
00:34:56,280 --> 00:35:01,470
We slept on the floor
in the barracks.

623
00:35:01,470 --> 00:35:07,050
There were some
wooden beds, as well,

624
00:35:07,050 --> 00:35:14,860
that they were tiered with
one-tiered beds out of wood

625
00:35:14,860 --> 00:35:15,910
that we slept in.

626
00:35:15,910 --> 00:35:18,290
Yeah.

627
00:35:18,290 --> 00:35:22,780
We slept with our mothers,
generally speaking.

628

00:35:22,780 --> 00:35:25,520

Did you ever have to
line up to be counted?

629

00:35:25,520 --> 00:35:27,650

Did they do that there?

630

00:35:27,650 --> 00:35:30,170

Every morning we were counted.

631

00:35:30,170 --> 00:35:37,230

But I don't have a clear
reflection of that.

632

00:35:37,230 --> 00:35:38,305

But we were candid.

633

00:35:38,305 --> 00:35:42,210

634

00:35:42,210 --> 00:35:45,810

And then it was time to leave,
you said, Bergen-Belsen.

635

00:35:45,810 --> 00:35:48,780

And then there was time
to leave Bergen-Belsen.

636

00:35:48,780 --> 00:35:51,840

When was that?

637

00:35:51,840 --> 00:35:55,120

We were notified that
there was a transport

638

00:35:55,120 --> 00:35:57,510

and we are going to Palestine.

639

00:35:57,510 --> 00:35:58,770

Oh.

640

00:35:58,770 --> 00:36:01,530

And we did have the
Palestinian papers,

641
00:36:01,530 --> 00:36:05,160
so we believed it
to be the truth.

642
00:36:05,160 --> 00:36:11,850
My mother's sister was, at that
time, still in Bergen-Belsen.

643
00:36:11,850 --> 00:36:15,210
And, as I was
told, my mother was

644
00:36:15,210 --> 00:36:21,630
begging her to come with us
so we would stay together.

645
00:36:21,630 --> 00:36:25,620
But her husband
convinced her not

646
00:36:25,620 --> 00:36:31,110
to do so because they had
South American papers,

647
00:36:31,110 --> 00:36:36,750
and he was a little
bit more surr--

648
00:36:36,750 --> 00:36:38,670
or he thought so, anyhow--

649
00:36:38,670 --> 00:36:39,660
He was optimistic.

650
00:36:39,660 --> 00:36:43,890
--that he was more optimistic
about having those papers

651
00:36:43,890 --> 00:36:47,670
and being maybe

liberated with them.

652

00:36:47,670 --> 00:36:53,280

So we left the camp with
another large group of people.

653

00:36:53,280 --> 00:36:58,980

We were put on
trains, supposedly

654

00:36:58,980 --> 00:37:07,140

to be sent out to Palestine,
supposedly on the way

655

00:37:07,140 --> 00:37:10,410

to Hamburg.

656

00:37:10,410 --> 00:37:17,460

However, we were on the way,
the trains were stopped.

657

00:37:17,460 --> 00:37:23,400

And when they were stopped
there was a lot of commotion.

658

00:37:23,400 --> 00:37:25,540

There was a lot of bombardment.

659

00:37:25,540 --> 00:37:26,760

Do you have memories of this?

660

00:37:26,760 --> 00:37:27,490

Yes, I do.

661

00:37:27,490 --> 00:37:30,300

I have memories of
the train stopping.

662

00:37:30,300 --> 00:37:32,650

I have memories of
heavy bombardments.

663

00:37:32,650 --> 00:37:34,980

Was this is a
passenger train, also?

664

00:37:34,980 --> 00:37:35,520

No.

665

00:37:35,520 --> 00:37:38,770

That was a--

666

00:37:38,770 --> 00:37:41,380

Was it the cattle car that--

667

00:37:41,380 --> 00:37:45,620

That was a cow train.

668

00:37:45,620 --> 00:37:46,120

Yeah.

669

00:37:46,120 --> 00:37:46,787

They're called--

670

00:37:46,787 --> 00:37:47,545

That was a--

671

00:37:47,545 --> 00:37:50,050

They call them cattle cars.

672

00:37:50,050 --> 00:37:50,800

Cattle cars.

673

00:37:50,800 --> 00:37:51,880

--cattle car.

674

00:37:51,880 --> 00:37:54,070

These were all cattle cars.

675

00:37:54,070 --> 00:37:57,580

And we were all standing
or sitting in there--

676

00:37:57,580 --> 00:38:02,240
in those cars and traveling.

677
00:38:02,240 --> 00:38:08,930
And when the train
stopped, we stopped

678
00:38:08,930 --> 00:38:18,700
in Hillersleben, a small town
not too far from Bergen-Belsen.

679
00:38:18,700 --> 00:38:26,540
We did not travel very far
on the outskirts of Hamburg.

680
00:38:26,540 --> 00:38:32,150
And this is where we were
liberated in the forest.

681
00:38:32,150 --> 00:38:34,520
Two soldiers came out.

682
00:38:34,520 --> 00:38:37,985
One of them was by
the name of Colin.

683
00:38:37,985 --> 00:38:43,410
He introduced himself and said
that help is coming very soon.

684
00:38:43,410 --> 00:38:45,878
So you were in
Bergen-Belsen until when?

685
00:38:45,878 --> 00:38:46,670
When did you leave?

686
00:38:46,670 --> 00:38:54,290
We were in Bergen-Belsen until
the very beginning of April--

687
00:38:54,290 --> 00:38:55,710
'45.

688
00:38:55,710 --> 00:38:58,400
--'45.

689
00:38:58,400 --> 00:39:00,020
To go back to Bergen-Belsen--

690
00:39:00,020 --> 00:39:00,680
I'm sorry.

691
00:39:00,680 --> 00:39:04,330

692
00:39:04,330 --> 00:39:08,510
We were-- yes, until April '45.

693
00:39:08,510 --> 00:39:11,350
'45, when the war was over.

694
00:39:11,350 --> 00:39:13,330
To go back to
Bergen-Belsen, you said

695
00:39:13,330 --> 00:39:18,190
that some people died trying
to get food from the soup cans.

696
00:39:18,190 --> 00:39:19,130
Many people died.

697
00:39:19,130 --> 00:39:21,370
Did you ever see
any dead bodies?

698
00:39:21,370 --> 00:39:24,880
I saw hundreds of dead bodies.

699
00:39:24,880 --> 00:39:27,430
Well, how does a
five-year-old understand that?

700

00:39:27,430 --> 00:39:29,560
And what does it do
to a five-year-old?

701
00:39:29,560 --> 00:39:30,550
And what did you think?

702
00:39:30,550 --> 00:39:31,690
Can you remember?

703
00:39:31,690 --> 00:39:34,360
A five-year-old
doesn't understand it.

704
00:39:34,360 --> 00:39:42,220
A five-year-old, as I had seen
it, just sees piles of people,

705
00:39:42,220 --> 00:39:52,600
one on top of another, and a lot
of screams and hollers and pain

706
00:39:52,600 --> 00:39:54,280
around.

707
00:39:54,280 --> 00:39:56,110
That's what I remember.

708
00:39:56,110 --> 00:40:00,010
What did this really mean,
I didn't know at that time.

709
00:40:00,010 --> 00:40:03,170
Do you remember what your
parents' explanations were?

710
00:40:03,170 --> 00:40:03,670
No.

711
00:40:03,670 --> 00:40:05,230
What does a parent
say to a child?

712

00:40:05,230 --> 00:40:09,700

I do not recall any
explanations whatsoever.

713

00:40:09,700 --> 00:40:13,500

I only remember
clinging to my mother.

714

00:40:13,500 --> 00:40:14,000

Yes.

715

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:20,080

716

00:40:20,080 --> 00:40:20,580

OK.

717

00:40:20,580 --> 00:40:21,455

Let's move ahead now.

718

00:40:21,455 --> 00:40:24,780

You're at the
liberation, you said.

719

00:40:24,780 --> 00:40:27,570

We were first
liberated and then--

720

00:40:27,570 --> 00:40:29,085

Outside of Hamburg, you said?

721

00:40:29,085 --> 00:40:30,030

I'm sorry?

722

00:40:30,030 --> 00:40:31,230

Outside of Hamburg?

723

00:40:31,230 --> 00:40:34,590

Outside of Hamburg.

724

00:40:34,590 --> 00:40:43,350

And everybody, at that time,
realized that we are liberated.

725
00:40:43,350 --> 00:40:46,095
And all the people that could--

726
00:40:46,095 --> 00:40:50,210

727
00:40:50,210 --> 00:40:53,840
I remember one other
thing, that before--

728
00:40:53,840 --> 00:40:57,980
maybe hours before
we were liberated,

729
00:40:57,980 --> 00:41:05,620
the Germans came to the train,
to the cars, and asked--

730
00:41:05,620 --> 00:41:08,300
well, didn't ask--
took from everybody

731
00:41:08,300 --> 00:41:12,590
they could civilian clothing.

732
00:41:12,590 --> 00:41:17,720
And, at that point,
many of the men

733
00:41:17,720 --> 00:41:21,260
realized that
something is going on.

734
00:41:21,260 --> 00:41:25,610
Because they were putting
those clothing on and

735
00:41:25,610 --> 00:41:27,620
they were running away.

736

00:41:27,620 --> 00:41:33,620

So when we were actually
liberated, some of the older

737

00:41:33,620 --> 00:41:36,590

men, they were half naked.

738

00:41:36,590 --> 00:41:39,320

And they were
looking for clothing.

739

00:41:39,320 --> 00:41:42,800

And they all ran into the--

740

00:41:42,800 --> 00:41:47,060

into town, which was not
too far away from where

741

00:41:47,060 --> 00:41:51,440

the train stopped.

742

00:41:51,440 --> 00:41:55,880

And we were left
there with my mother,

743

00:41:55,880 --> 00:41:58,160

and other women were there.

744

00:41:58,160 --> 00:42:01,700

And the men ran to
bring food and clothing.

745

00:42:01,700 --> 00:42:04,970

746

00:42:04,970 --> 00:42:09,050

And that's how I remember
we were liberated.

747

00:42:09,050 --> 00:42:16,780

And later on I remember that
we were brought to a camp,

748
00:42:16,780 --> 00:42:27,110
I would say it was, or a
area of identification.

749
00:42:27,110 --> 00:42:31,910
What does liberation mean
to now a seven-year-old?

750
00:42:31,910 --> 00:42:32,990
Was it a difference?

751
00:42:32,990 --> 00:42:34,430
Did it make a difference to you?

752
00:42:34,430 --> 00:42:37,340
It didn't mean anything.

753
00:42:37,340 --> 00:42:42,110
It meant to me that I
had something to eat.

754
00:42:42,110 --> 00:42:47,630
That was the only thing
that I had seen or practiced

755
00:42:47,630 --> 00:42:49,400
differently.

756
00:42:49,400 --> 00:42:52,867
But I did not really realize--

757
00:42:52,867 --> 00:42:53,450
What it meant.

758
00:42:53,450 --> 00:42:54,320
--what it meant.

759
00:42:54,320 --> 00:42:55,220
Yeah.

760

00:42:55,220 --> 00:42:56,870
None, whatsoever.

761
00:42:56,870 --> 00:42:59,570
Do you remember if there was--
and, again, you were so young--

762
00:42:59,570 --> 00:43:06,070
a change in your parents'
feelings, and relief?

763
00:43:06,070 --> 00:43:07,730
Did you sense any
of that or not?

764
00:43:07,730 --> 00:43:08,540
You were too young.

765
00:43:08,540 --> 00:43:10,040
I was too young to sense that.

766
00:43:10,040 --> 00:43:10,540
Yeah.

767
00:43:10,540 --> 00:43:10,750
Of course.

768
00:43:10,750 --> 00:43:11,320
Of course.

769
00:43:11,320 --> 00:43:14,040

770
00:43:14,040 --> 00:43:19,300
I do remember their plans
that we are going away.

771
00:43:19,300 --> 00:43:21,180
We are going someplace.

772
00:43:21,180 --> 00:43:23,490
At that point-- at that

time, I didn't even

773

00:43:23,490 --> 00:43:25,830
know where we're going.

774

00:43:25,830 --> 00:43:33,020
But, at one point, I
was separated from them.

775

00:43:33,020 --> 00:43:34,090
From your parents?

776

00:43:34,090 --> 00:43:34,980
From my parents.

777

00:43:34,980 --> 00:43:36,570
From my mother.

778

00:43:36,570 --> 00:43:44,490
And I was either looking for
food or looking for something--

779

00:43:44,490 --> 00:43:45,750
food.

780

00:43:45,750 --> 00:43:48,330
And I was separated from them.

781

00:43:48,330 --> 00:43:54,060
And, matter of fact, my
parents were elsewhere.

782

00:43:54,060 --> 00:43:58,290
My mother was elsewhere
someplace looking for food,

783

00:43:58,290 --> 00:43:59,710
as well.

784

00:43:59,710 --> 00:44:02,160
And when she came
back to where I was,

785
00:44:02,160 --> 00:44:05,160
or when I came back
looking for her,

786
00:44:05,160 --> 00:44:07,710
we didn't find one another.

787
00:44:07,710 --> 00:44:12,585
And I was placed with a
lot of other children.

788
00:44:12,585 --> 00:44:15,660

789
00:44:15,660 --> 00:44:19,830
They had a special camp for
children-- for left children.

790
00:44:19,830 --> 00:44:22,410
There were no parents.

791
00:44:22,410 --> 00:44:26,280
For a few days--

792
00:44:26,280 --> 00:44:32,420
I don't remember how many
days, but maybe not very long.

793
00:44:32,420 --> 00:44:34,680
Maybe two days, a
day, or three days--

794
00:44:34,680 --> 00:44:36,530
I don't remember how long.

795
00:44:36,530 --> 00:44:41,930
But my mother did come, and
she had to convince-- now,

796
00:44:41,930 --> 00:44:44,900
this is what was

told to me later on.

797

00:44:44,900 --> 00:44:54,160

She had to convince the
caretakers to have me.

798

00:44:54,160 --> 00:44:57,070

Because they did
not believe anybody.

799

00:44:57,070 --> 00:45:02,740

People had the tendency
to urge getting children

800

00:45:02,740 --> 00:45:06,760

to their families because
they're lost children.

801

00:45:06,760 --> 00:45:11,830

And the only way she
was able to get me--

802

00:45:11,830 --> 00:45:15,880

I have a birthmark on my back.

803

00:45:15,880 --> 00:45:19,570

And she had told the
guards over there,

804

00:45:19,570 --> 00:45:23,260

if you take off
the child's shirt,

805

00:45:23,260 --> 00:45:31,560

you will see that he has a
brown mark on his left side,

806

00:45:31,560 --> 00:45:33,940

right below his shoulder.

807

00:45:33,940 --> 00:45:35,560

And they did.

808

00:45:35,560 --> 00:45:39,010

And they let her have me.

809

00:45:39,010 --> 00:45:41,380

And this is how we
got back together.

810

00:45:41,380 --> 00:45:43,330

Oh, my.

811

00:45:43,330 --> 00:45:45,550

And the next stop
from that point--

812

00:45:45,550 --> 00:45:47,650

Do you remember that
situation or not?

813

00:45:47,650 --> 00:45:48,190

No.

814

00:45:48,190 --> 00:45:49,610

You were told that.

815

00:45:49,610 --> 00:45:50,200

That was--

816

00:45:50,200 --> 00:45:50,470

Told to you.

817

00:45:50,470 --> 00:45:51,100

--told to me.

818

00:45:51,100 --> 00:45:51,600

OK.

819

00:45:51,600 --> 00:45:57,730

I do remember being separated
with some American soldiers

820

00:45:57,730 --> 00:46:03,220

at first, getting some sweets--

821

00:46:03,220 --> 00:46:06,865

maybe a waffle or
something of that sort.

822

00:46:06,865 --> 00:46:09,840

823

00:46:09,840 --> 00:46:15,700

And then there's no memory
for a couple of days.

824

00:46:15,700 --> 00:46:19,690

And, again, my mother
getting me out of a place.

825

00:46:19,690 --> 00:46:24,220

I don't even remember
what place it was.

826

00:46:24,220 --> 00:46:26,290

So you're back now
with both your parents?

827

00:46:26,290 --> 00:46:28,540

Now I am back with
both of my parents.

828

00:46:28,540 --> 00:46:30,190

We are all together.

829

00:46:30,190 --> 00:46:37,180

And the next memory of mine
is not even the trip itself.

830

00:46:37,180 --> 00:46:43,000

But the next memory
is being in France.

831

00:46:43,000 --> 00:46:47,110

So, obviously, we
traveled to France,

832
00:46:47,110 --> 00:46:50,530
and we ended up in Paris.

833
00:46:50,530 --> 00:46:51,790
And we had--

834
00:46:51,790 --> 00:46:54,950

835
00:46:54,950 --> 00:47:02,230
I should say both of my
parents had friends in Paris.

836
00:47:02,230 --> 00:47:06,010
And they were not thinking
at that point of getting

837
00:47:06,010 --> 00:47:09,670
to Palestine, but
they wanted-- or I

838
00:47:09,670 --> 00:47:12,760
should say my mother,
more so, wanted

839
00:47:12,760 --> 00:47:20,740
to end up in France because
she had some family in France,

840
00:47:20,740 --> 00:47:27,280
family in Belgium, and
she was French educated.

841
00:47:27,280 --> 00:47:31,700
So her preference
was to be in France.

842
00:47:31,700 --> 00:47:34,060
And we ended up in Paris.

843
00:47:34,060 --> 00:47:40,090

And the place that I
remember is Hotel Lutetia.

844
00:47:40,090 --> 00:47:42,160
Is this after D-day, after June?

845
00:47:42,160 --> 00:47:42,810
Oh, no.

846
00:47:42,810 --> 00:47:43,310
Excuse me.

847
00:47:43,310 --> 00:47:46,490
That was a year
before I apologize.

848
00:47:46,490 --> 00:47:47,240
I'm sorry.

849
00:47:47,240 --> 00:47:48,590
This is [INAUDIBLE].

850
00:47:48,590 --> 00:47:50,450
Is this June '45?

851
00:47:50,450 --> 00:47:52,895
This is in June, I presume--

852
00:47:52,895 --> 00:47:53,465
June '45.

853
00:47:53,465 --> 00:47:58,790
--of '45, that we are in France.

854
00:47:58,790 --> 00:48:03,740
And I don't remember
too much of this hotel,

855
00:48:03,740 --> 00:48:07,910
with the exception
of its grandeur.

856

00:48:07,910 --> 00:48:10,340

As a little boy, I
looked around and I

857

00:48:10,340 --> 00:48:14,840

saw these beautiful,
beautiful decorated walls.

858

00:48:14,840 --> 00:48:17,720

And that's all I remember.

859

00:48:17,720 --> 00:48:20,660

And the next thing I remember--

860

00:48:20,660 --> 00:48:24,310

861

00:48:24,310 --> 00:48:31,570

being in Pales-- being on
a boat moving to Palestine.

862

00:48:31,570 --> 00:48:34,330

You went from
France to Palestine.

863

00:48:34,330 --> 00:48:35,170

To Palestine.

864

00:48:35,170 --> 00:48:41,680

I remember being-- we went from
Paris to Marseille, which I do

865

00:48:41,680 --> 00:48:44,120

not remember how we got there.

866

00:48:44,120 --> 00:48:47,470

But in Marseille we
were put on the boat--

867

00:48:47,470 --> 00:48:49,130

on a ship.

868

00:48:49,130 --> 00:48:54,610

And we were on the way to
Palestine totally legally.

869

00:48:54,610 --> 00:49:01,020

Because my father-- or we
all had Palestinian papers.

870

00:49:01,020 --> 00:49:07,380

And I remember vaguely
the trip on the boat,

871

00:49:07,380 --> 00:49:11,490

arriving in Palestine.

872

00:49:11,490 --> 00:49:13,050

Is your name still the same--

873

00:49:13,050 --> 00:49:15,210

Lazar Ophir?

874

00:49:15,210 --> 00:49:18,060

My name is still Feingold.

875

00:49:18,060 --> 00:49:19,590

Oh, Feingold.

876

00:49:19,590 --> 00:49:21,810

Jacob Lazar Feingold.

877

00:49:21,810 --> 00:49:23,490

Feingold.

878

00:49:23,490 --> 00:49:27,150

The name Jurek dropped
from the picture

879

00:49:27,150 --> 00:49:29,340

because it was my Polish name.

880

00:49:29,340 --> 00:49:31,560

And nobody referred
to me anymore,

881
00:49:31,560 --> 00:49:36,990
with the exception of my
mother, by the name of Jurek.

882
00:49:36,990 --> 00:49:42,780
And I remember that
we were taken--

883
00:49:42,780 --> 00:49:45,320

884
00:49:45,320 --> 00:49:49,400
I remember getting out of
the boat-- of the ship.

885
00:49:49,400 --> 00:49:57,730
And we were taken to a place
in Palestine called Atlit.

886
00:49:57,730 --> 00:49:59,690
Oh, yes.

887
00:49:59,690 --> 00:50:09,620
It was a camp that all
the comers to Palestine

888
00:50:09,620 --> 00:50:11,000
were kept there.

889
00:50:11,000 --> 00:50:18,845
Now, there were two different
groups of people in that camp.

890
00:50:18,845 --> 00:50:23,000
Of course, we were
intercepted by the British.

891
00:50:23,000 --> 00:50:29,840
And there was one side that had
people that came in illegally

892
00:50:29,840 --> 00:50:31,370
to Palestine.

893
00:50:31,370 --> 00:50:35,030
They just had the desire
to come up to Palestine,

894
00:50:35,030 --> 00:50:38,660
and they did all kinds
of different ways--

895
00:50:38,660 --> 00:50:42,590
not necessarily on our
ship, on different ships.

896
00:50:42,590 --> 00:50:44,760
And they were kept separately.

897
00:50:44,760 --> 00:50:49,670
We were kept in a
camp of people that

898
00:50:49,670 --> 00:50:55,790
legally arrived in Palestine
because we had the papers.

899
00:50:55,790 --> 00:51:07,170
And I remember after maybe a few
days, a few weeks, my father's

900
00:51:07,170 --> 00:51:13,120
sister came to
visit us in Atlit.

901
00:51:13,120 --> 00:51:15,660

902
00:51:15,660 --> 00:51:18,450
I don't remember the meeting.

903
00:51:18,450 --> 00:51:21,640

I don't remember how they met.

904

00:51:21,640 --> 00:51:26,520

But I do remember that very
shortly thereafter, they

905

00:51:26,520 --> 00:51:33,220

let us go from Atlit,
and we ended in Tel Aviv.

906

00:51:33,220 --> 00:51:33,720

OK.

907

00:51:33,720 --> 00:51:35,110

Let's back up a little bit.

908

00:51:35,110 --> 00:51:38,700

I wanted to go back on
the voyage from France

909

00:51:38,700 --> 00:51:39,840

to Palestine.

910

00:51:39,840 --> 00:51:41,240

What was the name of the boat?

911

00:51:41,240 --> 00:51:42,000

Do you know?

912

00:51:42,000 --> 00:51:46,960

Do you know the name of your
boat and who it belonged to?

913

00:51:46,960 --> 00:51:47,960

You don't know.

914

00:51:47,960 --> 00:51:48,630

OK.

915

00:51:48,630 --> 00:51:49,410

And what month--

916

00:51:49,410 --> 00:51:50,910

I have no memory of the name.

917

00:51:50,910 --> 00:51:51,420

That's OK.

918

00:51:51,420 --> 00:51:52,470

Right.

919

00:51:52,470 --> 00:51:55,860

And what month was this in '45?

920

00:51:55,860 --> 00:52:01,300

921

00:52:01,300 --> 00:52:03,130

It was--

922

00:52:03,130 --> 00:52:03,630

In the fall.

923

00:52:03,630 --> 00:52:07,110

--probably in the fall of the--
fall of the year, for sure.

924

00:52:07,110 --> 00:52:08,050

Fall of '40-- for '45.

925

00:52:08,050 --> 00:52:08,550

Yes.

926

00:52:08,550 --> 00:52:09,210

Yeah, OK.

927

00:52:09,210 --> 00:52:11,790

And with there many
children on the boat

928

00:52:11,790 --> 00:52:12,930

or were you one of the few?

929

00:52:12,930 --> 00:52:13,430

Yes.

930

00:52:13,430 --> 00:52:20,250

There were all the children that
was with me in Bergen-Belsen,

931

00:52:20,250 --> 00:52:21,930

in our camp.

932

00:52:21,930 --> 00:52:24,345

I don't remember if all,
but most of them are on--

933

00:52:24,345 --> 00:52:26,220

Many of them were the
Bergen-Belsen children?

934

00:52:26,220 --> 00:52:27,210

Yes.

935

00:52:27,210 --> 00:52:29,350

Most of them were on the ship.

936

00:52:29,350 --> 00:52:30,437

Oh, my.

937

00:52:30,437 --> 00:52:32,250

A few, I remember.

938

00:52:32,250 --> 00:52:34,810

I remember their names
until this very day.

939

00:52:34,810 --> 00:52:40,920

Such as-- [PERSONAL NAME]
is one of them, or Richard.

940

00:52:40,920 --> 00:52:46,410

There was [PERSONAL NAME] or
Esther, was just about my age.

941

00:52:46,410 --> 00:52:49,650

942

00:52:49,650 --> 00:52:53,400

They were from the
[? Flakovic ?] family.

943

00:52:53,400 --> 00:52:57,930

Then there was a girl by
the name of [? Irina ?] from

944

00:52:57,930 --> 00:53:01,620

the [? Ingle ?] family.

945

00:53:01,620 --> 00:53:06,180

There was Hanna or
[PERSONAL NAME],,

946

00:53:06,180 --> 00:53:08,100

the way we used to call her.

947

00:53:08,100 --> 00:53:11,610

And I don't remember
her last name.

948

00:53:11,610 --> 00:53:13,950

What did you all talk
about as children?

949

00:53:13,950 --> 00:53:15,750

Did you play games on the boat?

950

00:53:15,750 --> 00:53:16,440

What did you do?

951

00:53:16,440 --> 00:53:18,150

We played games on the boat.

952

00:53:18,150 --> 00:53:20,130

What type of games,
I do not remember.

953

00:53:20,130 --> 00:53:21,000

OK.

954

00:53:21,000 --> 00:53:25,410

But we were running around
when we were playing.

955

00:53:25,410 --> 00:53:28,080

And you had enough
food, obviously--

956

00:53:28,080 --> 00:53:29,310

And we had enough food.

957

00:53:29,310 --> 00:53:30,185

--for the first time.

958

00:53:30,185 --> 00:53:33,310

There's another family with
two boys by the name of

959

00:53:33,310 --> 00:53:40,080

[? Shladov. ?] And both of the
boys were approximately my age.

960

00:53:40,080 --> 00:53:41,010

No, I'm sorry.

961

00:53:41,010 --> 00:53:45,540

One was Adam [? Shladov, ?]
who was my age.

962

00:53:45,540 --> 00:53:49,570

And the other one
was not with us.

963

00:53:49,570 --> 00:53:50,190

I'm sorry.

964

00:53:50,190 --> 00:53:52,920

There was one
[? Shladov. ?] The other one

965
00:53:52,920 --> 00:53:59,180
was born in Palestine.

966
00:53:59,180 --> 00:54:01,190
Now, you're going to Palestine.

967
00:54:01,190 --> 00:54:03,500
What did Palestine mean
to you at that time,

968
00:54:03,500 --> 00:54:04,968
at seven years old?

969
00:54:04,968 --> 00:54:06,260
Did it have any meaning to you?

970
00:54:06,260 --> 00:54:09,080
Palestine did not
mean anything to me

971
00:54:09,080 --> 00:54:15,110
with the exception of meeting
my uncles and my aunt,

972
00:54:15,110 --> 00:54:17,840
which, of course, I
was introduced to them.

973
00:54:17,840 --> 00:54:23,130
And I all of a sudden
had uncles and an aunt.

974
00:54:23,130 --> 00:54:28,910
And that was my first
recollection of Palestine.

975
00:54:28,910 --> 00:54:32,440
So then they come and
take you from Atlit?

976
00:54:32,440 --> 00:54:36,770

They take us from
there to Tel Aviv.

977
00:54:36,770 --> 00:54:41,750
And, at the very beginning,
we lived in Tel Aviv

978
00:54:41,750 --> 00:54:50,600
together with my father's
sister, [? Lorca ?] Blumberg

979
00:54:50,600 --> 00:54:53,480
or Leah Blumberg.

980
00:54:53,480 --> 00:54:56,690
We all moved to
their small apartment

981
00:54:56,690 --> 00:55:00,770
that was very close
to Jaffa, and that's

982
00:55:00,770 --> 00:55:06,440
where we lived for the first
few months in Tel Aviv.

983
00:55:06,440 --> 00:55:14,660
And I would say that within
maybe three or four months

984
00:55:14,660 --> 00:55:19,880
my parents had
gotten an apartment

985
00:55:19,880 --> 00:55:26,300
in Tel Aviv, a small apartment,
very close to the Habima

986
00:55:26,300 --> 00:55:33,470
Theater, or to what's called
the Rothschild or "Rocheeld,"

987
00:55:33,470 --> 00:55:41,140

the Rothschild Boulevard
on Berdichevsky Street.

988
00:55:41,140 --> 00:55:46,380
And I remember vividly, at
that point, me living there

989
00:55:46,380 --> 00:55:51,420
or us as a family living there.

990
00:55:51,420 --> 00:55:55,560
You did not know any
Hebrew before you came.

991
00:55:55,560 --> 00:55:58,980
I did not know any
Hebrew, whatsoever,

992
00:55:58,980 --> 00:56:01,770
until I came to Israel.

993
00:56:01,770 --> 00:56:05,700
But what's interesting is that--

994
00:56:05,700 --> 00:56:12,340
I was talking about this with
my wife a couple of days ago.

995
00:56:12,340 --> 00:56:15,000
And I said, you know, I
kind of thought about it.

996
00:56:15,000 --> 00:56:20,130
And I do not remember
when was the day

997
00:56:20,130 --> 00:56:25,290
or when was the time
when all of a sudden I

998
00:56:25,290 --> 00:56:27,840
started speaking Hebrew.

999

00:56:27,840 --> 00:56:33,270

There was like, no time
no time limit to that,

1000

00:56:33,270 --> 00:56:38,150

not early or nor late.

1001

00:56:38,150 --> 00:56:45,110

Nor did I develop, since
I was relatively young,

1002

00:56:45,110 --> 00:56:49,665

any Polish accent
while speaking Hebrew.

1003

00:56:49,665 --> 00:56:50,540

Hebrew.

1004

00:56:50,540 --> 00:56:51,800

My Hebrew was--

1005

00:56:51,800 --> 00:56:52,910

Is really Hebrew.

1006

00:56:52,910 --> 00:56:57,620

--totally fluent
in the real Hebrew.

1007

00:56:57,620 --> 00:57:03,920

And, must I say, my father spoke
the fluent Hebrew, as well,

1008

00:57:03,920 --> 00:57:09,350

because he was educated in
Hebrew from at his home.

1009

00:57:09,350 --> 00:57:13,688

And he did not have any
accent in Israel, either.

1010

00:57:13,688 --> 00:57:14,480

That's interesting.

1011
00:57:14,480 --> 00:57:20,750
My mother, in contrast,
had a very heavy accent,

1012
00:57:20,750 --> 00:57:27,080
and didn't speak Hebrew very
well until the day she passed.

1013
00:57:27,080 --> 00:57:30,980
Because she spoke
other languages--

1014
00:57:30,980 --> 00:57:32,725
Polish, German, French--

1015
00:57:32,725 --> 00:57:33,510
French.

1016
00:57:33,510 --> 00:57:35,960
--and never found it--

1017
00:57:35,960 --> 00:57:41,240
and never found the necessity
to speak fluent Hebrew.

1018
00:57:41,240 --> 00:57:44,160
So you started
school right away?

1019
00:57:44,160 --> 00:57:47,880
I started school right away.

1020
00:57:47,880 --> 00:57:53,820
I do not remember where
did I start school.

1021
00:57:53,820 --> 00:58:01,970
However, I do remember
that to the second grade

1022
00:58:01,970 --> 00:58:11,960

I went into a religious
school in Tel Aviv.

1023
00:58:11,960 --> 00:58:13,760
When I say religious--

1024
00:58:13,760 --> 00:58:19,040
it wasn't ultra religious,
but it was a religious school

1025
00:58:19,040 --> 00:58:25,480
in Tel Aviv by the
name of [NON-ENGLISH]..

1026
00:58:25,480 --> 00:58:27,280
That was the name
of the school--

1027
00:58:27,280 --> 00:58:29,080
of the elementary school.

1028
00:58:29,080 --> 00:58:31,390
And were most of the other
children refugee children,

1029
00:58:31,390 --> 00:58:31,990
like you?

1030
00:58:31,990 --> 00:58:34,960
Are where they sabras?

1031
00:58:34,960 --> 00:58:41,310
Most of them ended up in
Tel Aviv, of the children.

1032
00:58:41,310 --> 00:58:44,600
And they were all part
of the [INAUDIBLE]..

1033
00:58:44,600 --> 00:58:48,920
And from time to time later
on we have met socially.

1034

00:58:48,920 --> 00:58:54,820
But we all parted company and
everybody went his own way.

1035

00:58:54,820 --> 00:58:58,025
As I know, the parents
were working people.

1036

00:58:58,025 --> 00:59:01,460
They were seeking
jobs and had jobs.

1037

00:59:01,460 --> 00:59:04,450
Some of them went
into businesses

1038

00:59:04,450 --> 00:59:05,580
and that sort of thing.

1039

00:59:05,580 --> 00:59:10,380
What did your father do
when he got to Palestine?

1040

00:59:10,380 --> 00:59:19,740
My father had actually
two professions in Israel.

1041

00:59:19,740 --> 00:59:26,190
My father was a merchant
and my father was a writer.

1042

00:59:26,190 --> 00:59:34,320
For many, many years, he wrote
in the Palestinian newspapers,

1043

00:59:34,320 --> 00:59:37,020
I would say, which
was what was later

1044

00:59:37,020 --> 00:59:39,390
on the Israeli newspapers.

1045

00:59:39,390 --> 00:59:47,430
And he heavily wrote to the
American [? Morgan ?] Journal

1046
00:59:47,430 --> 00:59:50,830
in Yiddish for many, many years.

1047
00:59:50,830 --> 00:59:53,700

1048
00:59:53,700 --> 00:59:58,160
So his occupation was
a dual occupation.

1049
00:59:58,160 --> 00:59:59,540
He was a writer.

1050
00:59:59,540 --> 01:00:04,310
And if you opened up the
telephone book in Tel Aviv,

1051
01:00:04,310 --> 01:00:10,590
his name appeared as Jehuda
Feingold [NON-ENGLISH],,

1052
01:00:10,590 --> 01:00:16,130
which means a writer
or a newspaper writer.

1053
01:00:16,130 --> 01:00:22,700
However, to subsidize
himself, he was a merchant.

1054
01:00:22,700 --> 01:00:31,000
He dealt in piece goods,
and later on in glass.

1055
01:00:31,000 --> 01:00:32,740
Did your mother
work at that time?

1056
01:00:32,740 --> 01:00:35,020
My mother, as well, yes she did.

1057
01:00:35,020 --> 01:00:43,090
She worked, and mainly as a
seamstress for many years.

1058
01:00:43,090 --> 01:00:47,080
But her job, however,
was not a steady work.

1059
01:00:47,080 --> 01:00:52,030
She worked few days
a week, in and out.

1060
01:00:52,030 --> 01:00:55,900
During those years of the
war, your health and I

1061
01:00:55,900 --> 01:00:59,670
assume your parents'
health was OK?

1062
01:00:59,670 --> 01:01:05,140
Both of my parents health,
as I remember, was OK--

1063
01:01:05,140 --> 01:01:05,640
OK.

1064
01:01:05,640 --> 01:01:06,990
Yeah, anyways-- OK.

1065
01:01:06,990 --> 01:01:08,520
Good.

1066
01:01:08,520 --> 01:01:12,360
--as was mine and my
sister's at that time.

1067
01:01:12,360 --> 01:01:14,880
And was your sister with
you now in Tel Aviv?

1068

01:01:14,880 --> 01:01:17,460

My sister was with
me in Tel Aviv,

1069

01:01:17,460 --> 01:01:26,300

as well, for relatively
speaking a short time.

1070

01:01:26,300 --> 01:01:34,820

And then, as children, we
parted company for a short time.

1071

01:01:34,820 --> 01:01:43,160

I ended up in a private
school away from my parents,

1072

01:01:43,160 --> 01:01:47,680

and she ended up
in another school.

1073

01:01:47,680 --> 01:01:49,310

Is this in Tel Aviv?

1074

01:01:49,310 --> 01:01:50,590

In Tel Aviv, yes.

1075

01:01:50,590 --> 01:01:53,080

I was out of Tel Aviv and
she was out of Tel Aviv.

1076

01:01:53,080 --> 01:01:58,060

We were both out of Tel Aviv,
basically because my parents

1077

01:01:58,060 --> 01:02:01,210

were trying to get
themselves together

1078

01:02:01,210 --> 01:02:05,710

as a family on one
side of the spectrum.

1079

01:02:05,710 --> 01:02:08,360

On the other side
of the spectrum,

1080
01:02:08,360 --> 01:02:13,510
we were very difficult
children, and I

1081
01:02:13,510 --> 01:02:15,567
mean very difficult children.

1082
01:02:15,567 --> 01:02:16,150
In what sense?

1083
01:02:16,150 --> 01:02:18,412
In what sense?

1084
01:02:18,412 --> 01:02:21,310
In a sense of getting along.

1085
01:02:21,310 --> 01:02:22,090
With each other.

1086
01:02:22,090 --> 01:02:26,320
Not with each other, with
children on the street.

1087
01:02:26,320 --> 01:02:29,710
With other children.

1088
01:02:29,710 --> 01:02:34,330
I, for one, as I remember
I was very physical.

1089
01:02:34,330 --> 01:02:40,570
And I was very aggressive
towards other children.

1090
01:02:40,570 --> 01:02:43,960
Were you big for
your age or average?

1091
01:02:43,960 --> 01:02:46,690

Were you large for your age
or were you average size?

1092
01:02:46,690 --> 01:02:51,970
Largely my age or maybe
a year or two younger.

1093
01:02:51,970 --> 01:02:56,080
Because, when I started
elementary school,

1094
01:02:56,080 --> 01:03:00,490
I was a year older
than my contemporaries

1095
01:03:00,490 --> 01:03:05,440
just because of what had
happened during the war.

1096
01:03:05,440 --> 01:03:08,980
And when I came to
have a beginning,

1097
01:03:08,980 --> 01:03:13,630
I was about a year, a
year and a half late.

1098
01:03:13,630 --> 01:03:20,290
So we were kind of separated
for a while in Palestine.

1099
01:03:20,290 --> 01:03:27,670
But, very shortly
thereafter, I came back home

1100
01:03:27,670 --> 01:03:32,410
and lived at home since then.

1101
01:03:32,410 --> 01:03:32,920
OK.

1102
01:03:32,920 --> 01:03:35,680
So now it's '46, '47.

1103
01:03:35,680 --> 01:03:37,340
Yes.

1104
01:03:37,340 --> 01:03:41,950
Palestine came into fruition
as an Israeli state--

1105
01:03:41,950 --> 01:03:45,430
as an Israeli state.

1106
01:03:45,430 --> 01:03:47,680
We were, at that
point, all together.

1107
01:03:47,680 --> 01:03:50,740
My sister was on
the way to the army.

1108
01:03:50,740 --> 01:03:54,280
And I was in a
elementary school.

1109
01:03:54,280 --> 01:03:57,550
Because you're 10 years old now.

1110
01:03:57,550 --> 01:04:01,960
I am, yeah, just
about 10 years old.

1111
01:04:01,960 --> 01:04:02,650
That's right.

1112
01:04:02,650 --> 01:04:07,630
So I went back to
elementary school,

1113
01:04:07,630 --> 01:04:13,870
and my sister was in a different
school, still not at home.

1114
01:04:13,870 --> 01:04:16,850

She was in a separate school.

1115

01:04:16,850 --> 01:04:17,350

I'm sorry.

1116

01:04:17,350 --> 01:04:20,560

She was on the way to
the army at that point.

1117

01:04:20,560 --> 01:04:29,050

And very short after, she
had never finished her army.

1118

01:04:29,050 --> 01:04:35,500

And she was declared or
found to be mentally ill.

1119

01:04:35,500 --> 01:04:37,360

Oh, my.

1120

01:04:37,360 --> 01:04:42,880

And it was a mental illness
that had never left her.

1121

01:04:42,880 --> 01:04:49,690

She was very substantially
schizophrenic, at that point.

1122

01:04:49,690 --> 01:04:55,420

And there was no
solution to the situation

1123

01:04:55,420 --> 01:05:01,330

or there was no therapy to
the situation, at that point.

1124

01:05:01,330 --> 01:05:03,010

And she was institutionalized.

1125

01:05:03,010 --> 01:05:03,970

Aw.

1126

01:05:03,970 --> 01:05:07,720

So we parted company
from her as a family.

1127

01:05:07,720 --> 01:05:08,530

Yeah.

1128

01:05:08,530 --> 01:05:14,410

I stayed with my parents, and
I continued my pre-high school

1129

01:05:14,410 --> 01:05:15,745

education.

1130

01:05:15,745 --> 01:05:16,810

And very shortly--

1131

01:05:16,810 --> 01:05:18,550

Did you celebrate
with the establishment

1132

01:05:18,550 --> 01:05:19,450

of the State of Is--

1133

01:05:19,450 --> 01:05:20,180

We certainly did.

1134

01:05:20,180 --> 01:05:20,470

We celebrated.

1135

01:05:20,470 --> 01:05:21,520

What was it like for you?

1136

01:05:21,520 --> 01:05:26,130

We celebrated the
establishment of Israel.

1137

01:05:26,130 --> 01:05:28,828

And, again, what did it mean
to you as a 10-year-old?

1138

01:05:28,828 --> 01:05:32,960

1139
01:05:32,960 --> 01:05:37,860
Anything special or just
a time to celebrate?

1140
01:05:37,860 --> 01:05:41,460
The only thing that I-- it
didn't mean anything to me,

1141
01:05:41,460 --> 01:05:45,380
with the exception of
being free and joyous.

1142
01:05:45,380 --> 01:05:45,900
Yes.

1143
01:05:45,900 --> 01:05:49,800
But I did not had
the concept of what

1144
01:05:49,800 --> 01:05:52,920
does it mean to have a country.

1145
01:05:52,920 --> 01:05:53,750
At this point.

1146
01:05:53,750 --> 01:05:54,750
I did not understand it.

1147
01:05:54,750 --> 01:05:55,105
Too young.

1148
01:05:55,105 --> 01:05:55,460
Of course.

1149
01:05:55,460 --> 01:05:55,680
Of course.

1150
01:05:55,680 --> 01:05:57,110
I was too young
to understand it.

1151
01:05:57,110 --> 01:05:58,110
Yeah.

1152
01:05:58,110 --> 01:06:01,350
But, of course, very
shortly thereafter

1153
01:06:01,350 --> 01:06:03,550
I started high school.

1154
01:06:03,550 --> 01:06:06,720
And, at that point, I
started to understand

1155
01:06:06,720 --> 01:06:13,620
that I am in a new country,
and I came from Poland where

1156
01:06:13,620 --> 01:06:15,690
I was in a concentration camp.

1157
01:06:15,690 --> 01:06:21,540
Thereafter, the understanding
of these circumstances

1158
01:06:21,540 --> 01:06:25,330
started to be much
more clearer for me.

1159
01:06:25,330 --> 01:06:26,400
Yeah.

1160
01:06:26,400 --> 01:06:29,610
You had no positive feelings,
I assume, for Poland

1161
01:06:29,610 --> 01:06:30,790
at that point.

1162
01:06:30,790 --> 01:06:32,340
I had no feeling for Poland.

1163
01:06:32,340 --> 01:06:33,150
Just no feelings.

1164
01:06:33,150 --> 01:06:35,806
None, whatsoever.

1165
01:06:35,806 --> 01:06:42,690
I had memories, as I stated
before, from Poland, from being

1166
01:06:42,690 --> 01:06:44,360
through the sewer canals.

1167
01:06:44,360 --> 01:06:46,170
Yeah.

1168
01:06:46,170 --> 01:06:47,432
That's about all.

1169
01:06:47,432 --> 01:06:48,390
They were all negative.

1170
01:06:48,390 --> 01:06:51,450
All of your memories
were negative.

1171
01:06:51,450 --> 01:06:54,540
I don't know if there
were negative or positive.

1172
01:06:54,540 --> 01:07:00,450
There were memories
of escape, of travel.

1173
01:07:00,450 --> 01:07:07,710
There were memories of fear when
I had seen the ghetto burning.

1174
01:07:07,710 --> 01:07:11,040
That's all I can
say about Poland.

1175
01:07:11,040 --> 01:07:16,190
But I had no feeling of the
country being good or bad.

1176
01:07:16,190 --> 01:07:18,800
Yeah.

1177
01:07:18,800 --> 01:07:23,180
I had stories, of course,
explaining or telling me

1178
01:07:23,180 --> 01:07:27,290
that my parents came
from a very extremely

1179
01:07:27,290 --> 01:07:28,640
well-to-do background.

1180
01:07:28,640 --> 01:07:31,610
So Poland was good to them.

1181
01:07:31,610 --> 01:07:34,280
But I can attest to that fact.

1182
01:07:34,280 --> 01:07:35,560
Good to them pre-war.

1183
01:07:35,560 --> 01:07:36,780
Pre-war, naturally.

1184
01:07:36,780 --> 01:07:37,280
Pre-war.

1185
01:07:37,280 --> 01:07:37,580
Yes.

1186
01:07:37,580 --> 01:07:38,080
Yes.

1187
01:07:38,080 --> 01:07:39,430

Yeah.

1188

01:07:39,430 --> 01:07:40,000