

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,330  
--just do the  
introduction and then I'll

2  
00:00:03,330 --> 00:00:05,910  
start asking you  
some questions, OK?

3  
00:00:05,910 --> 00:00:06,420  
Yes.

4  
00:00:06,420 --> 00:00:10,710  
OK, so we're going to start now.

5  
00:00:10,710 --> 00:00:14,130  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

6  
00:00:14,130 --> 00:00:17,040  
interview with Charlotte Schiff.

7  
00:00:17,040 --> 00:00:22,800  
It is being conducted by Gail  
Schwartz on November 9th, 2015

8  
00:00:22,800 --> 00:00:26,010  
and is taking place over the  
telephone at the United States

9  
00:00:26,010 --> 00:00:30,900  
Holocaust Memorial Museum and  
in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

10  
00:00:30,900 --> 00:00:34,890  
This is track number one.

11  
00:00:34,890 --> 00:00:37,930  
What is your full name?

12  
00:00:37,930 --> 00:00:40,980  
My name is Charlotte

Minna Schiff.

13

00:00:40,980 --> 00:00:45,820

My maiden name was Goldschmidt,  
with a D-T at the end.

14

00:00:45,820 --> 00:00:49,800

And what is the name  
that you were born with?

15

00:00:49,800 --> 00:00:52,080

Charlotte Minna Goldschmidt.

16

00:00:52,080 --> 00:00:53,050

OK.

17

00:00:53,050 --> 00:00:56,560

And where were you born  
and when were you born?

18

00:00:56,560 --> 00:01:03,690

I was born on July  
1937 in Fulda, Germany.

19

00:01:03,690 --> 00:01:05,550

July what?

20

00:01:05,550 --> 00:01:06,600

July 1.

21

00:01:06,600 --> 00:01:08,400

July 1, OK.

22

00:01:08,400 --> 00:01:11,230

And let's talk a little  
bit about your family.

23

00:01:11,230 --> 00:01:14,890

Your parents, what  
were their names?

24

00:01:14,890 --> 00:01:22,860

My mom and dad's name were  
Herman and Irma Goldschmidt.

25  
00:01:22,860 --> 00:01:25,470  
And can you give me a little  
bit of their background?

26  
00:01:25,470 --> 00:01:28,870  
Were they in that same town  
themselves for a long time?

27  
00:01:28,870 --> 00:01:33,390  
No, they lived a good  
half hour from Fulda

28  
00:01:33,390 --> 00:01:37,440  
in a town called Faha.

29  
00:01:37,440 --> 00:01:42,690  
And I was just born there  
because the hospital suited

30  
00:01:42,690 --> 00:01:44,460  
my family better.

31  
00:01:44,460 --> 00:01:47,650  
I believe the nuns took  
care of people there.

32  
00:01:47,650 --> 00:01:50,610  
So they preferred that place.

33  
00:01:50,610 --> 00:01:56,280  
And my father was in  
hide and skin wholesale,

34  
00:01:56,280 --> 00:02:00,720  
importing them from Russia  
for fur coats, the furs,

35  
00:02:00,720 --> 00:02:04,620  
and leather for handbags,  
shoes, and gloves.

36  
00:02:04,620 --> 00:02:08,160  
And he had his  
place there, where

37  
00:02:08,160 --> 00:02:12,540  
he had to take care of  
these things and store them.

38  
00:02:12,540 --> 00:02:14,920  
And that was also in Faha.

39  
00:02:14,920 --> 00:02:18,420  
And we had a house and a  
place of business there.

40  
00:02:18,420 --> 00:02:21,120  
You lived-- you  
lived in the same--

41  
00:02:21,120 --> 00:02:23,185  
your house was where  
the business was,

42  
00:02:23,185 --> 00:02:24,310  
is that what you just said?

43  
00:02:24,310 --> 00:02:28,050  
No, the house was  
a 16-room house

44  
00:02:28,050 --> 00:02:32,520  
that my dad had built  
in the early 1920s.

45  
00:02:32,520 --> 00:02:33,240  
Oh, my.

46  
00:02:33,240 --> 00:02:37,070  
And a little bit  
of [INAUDIBLE] was

47

00:02:37,070 --> 00:02:43,110  
the business with some  
acreage and like a warehouse.

48  
00:02:43,110 --> 00:02:45,240  
How much education  
did your father have?

49  
00:02:45,240 --> 00:02:48,070

50  
00:02:48,070 --> 00:02:50,950  
Well, in Germany it was  
called [?'Kaufman's?']..

51  
00:02:50,950 --> 00:02:53,900  
My father had intended  
to become an attorney.

52  
00:02:53,900 --> 00:02:58,990  
He was born in 1886.

53  
00:02:58,990 --> 00:03:03,730  
And at the age of 14,  
unexpected, he lost his dad.

54  
00:03:03,730 --> 00:03:07,150  
So he took over his  
dad's business, which

55  
00:03:07,150 --> 00:03:10,300  
was hide and skin  
imports from Russia

56  
00:03:10,300 --> 00:03:15,430  
and selling them to factories,  
sorting them, preparing them

57  
00:03:15,430 --> 00:03:20,230  
properly, and sorting them, and  
storing them, and selling them

58  
00:03:20,230 --> 00:03:22,270

to the factories in Germany.

59

00:03:22,270 --> 00:03:26,155

And how far back can your  
father's family go in Faha?

60

00:03:26,155 --> 00:03:29,200

61

00:03:29,200 --> 00:03:35,470

I believe he was the first  
one to build in Faha.

62

00:03:35,470 --> 00:03:41,770

He was born in Wehrda, which  
is a really, really small town.

63

00:03:41,770 --> 00:03:46,870

And that's where  
his family resided.

64

00:03:46,870 --> 00:03:54,010

And then he then built his  
house and the business in Faha.

65

00:03:54,010 --> 00:03:56,770

How do you spell the  
town that he came from?

66

00:03:56,770 --> 00:04:01,930

It's spelled W-E-H-R-D-A.

67

00:04:01,930 --> 00:04:03,250

OK, thank you.

68

00:04:03,250 --> 00:04:06,190

And did you know  
your grandparents

69

00:04:06,190 --> 00:04:09,220

on your father's side?

70

00:04:09,220 --> 00:04:14,860  
My grandmother on both  
sides, they lived with us,

71  
00:04:14,860 --> 00:04:19,899  
but they were on in years  
and they were in wheelchairs.

72  
00:04:19,899 --> 00:04:23,170  
And we were supposedly  
a little better off

73  
00:04:23,170 --> 00:04:28,000  
and had a bit more heart  
than the rest of the family.

74  
00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:34,780  
And also, they went early  
to the United States.

75  
00:04:34,780 --> 00:04:38,440  
So they both made  
their home with us.

76  
00:04:38,440 --> 00:04:44,350  
My dad's grandma passed shortly  
before I was born, is '37.

77  
00:04:44,350 --> 00:04:47,290  
And my mom's  
grandmother went with us

78  
00:04:47,290 --> 00:04:49,780  
to the concentration camp.

79  
00:04:49,780 --> 00:04:54,400  
Lived for seven years  
there, not too awfully long.

80  
00:04:54,400 --> 00:04:57,100  
And I remember visiting her.

81  
00:04:57,100 --> 00:05:01,480

And she was on, instead of  
a matt, was a straw sack,

82  
00:05:01,480 --> 00:05:04,660  
and being an old lady,  
and not having any care,

83  
00:05:04,660 --> 00:05:10,060  
and she finally succumbed  
to the little care

84  
00:05:10,060 --> 00:05:12,370  
that she received there.

85  
00:05:12,370 --> 00:05:17,140  
Tell me about, now,  
your mother's family.

86  
00:05:17,140 --> 00:05:19,790  
Did your mother  
work, first of all?

87  
00:05:19,790 --> 00:05:22,330  
No, my mother was a homemaker.

88  
00:05:22,330 --> 00:05:26,470  
Yeah, and how much  
education did she have?

89  
00:05:26,470 --> 00:05:32,140  
She had just the  
regular education that

90  
00:05:32,140 --> 00:05:35,200  
was customary at that time.

91  
00:05:35,200 --> 00:05:37,110  
And my father had--

92  
00:05:37,110 --> 00:05:41,530  
I don't know exactly the  
amount, but had a little more.



93

00:05:41,530 --> 00:05:45,730

My dad came from a  
very religious family.

94

00:05:45,730 --> 00:05:50,350

His mom wore a sheitel and  
my grandpa had a beard.

95

00:05:50,350 --> 00:05:51,010

Yeah.

96

00:05:51,010 --> 00:05:58,570

And my mom's family  
were not that religious.

97

00:05:58,570 --> 00:06:02,210

But my dad was married  
for seven years,

98

00:06:02,210 --> 00:06:04,720

first to my mom's sister.

99

00:06:04,720 --> 00:06:06,640

They had no children.

100

00:06:06,640 --> 00:06:09,680

And she was diagnosed--

101

00:06:09,680 --> 00:06:12,820

I'm not sure if she  
was born, but it was

102

00:06:12,820 --> 00:06:14,890

discovered she was a diabetic.

103

00:06:14,890 --> 00:06:21,160

And in them days, that couldn't  
be taken care of, [INAUDIBLE]..

104

00:06:21,160 --> 00:06:25,730

So after seven years of marriage  
to my dad and no children,

105  
00:06:25,730 --> 00:06:27,130  
she passed.

106  
00:06:27,130 --> 00:06:31,240  
And then after one year,  
my dad married my mom.

107  
00:06:31,240 --> 00:06:32,440  
Oh.

108  
00:06:32,440 --> 00:06:33,980  
Are you an only child?

109  
00:06:33,980 --> 00:06:35,710  
I am an only child.

110  
00:06:35,710 --> 00:06:36,550  
Yeah.

111  
00:06:36,550 --> 00:06:41,710  
And I know you were quite  
young, do you have any memories

112  
00:06:41,710 --> 00:06:45,310  
that you can talk about before  
things started to change--

113  
00:06:45,310 --> 00:06:47,630  
before things started to change?

114  
00:06:47,630 --> 00:06:50,440  
Do you have any  
early, early memories?

115  
00:06:50,440 --> 00:06:54,290  
Well, we lived in  
Faha for two years.

116  
00:06:54,290 --> 00:06:54,940  
Oh, OK.

117  
00:06:54,940 --> 00:06:57,140  
In that house my dad had built.

118  
00:06:57,140 --> 00:06:57,640  
Right.

119  
00:06:57,640 --> 00:07:02,950  
And in-- I was born in '37.

120  
00:07:02,950 --> 00:07:08,470  
In '38, my dad, shortly after--

121  
00:07:08,470 --> 00:07:11,560  
it was in the fall, I  
believe in November--

122  
00:07:11,560 --> 00:07:15,970  
he was taken for seven  
months to Buchenwald.

123  
00:07:15,970 --> 00:07:18,290  
This is after Kristallnacht?

124  
00:07:18,290 --> 00:07:18,790  
Yes.

125  
00:07:18,790 --> 00:07:20,890  
Yeah, OK.

126  
00:07:20,890 --> 00:07:22,780  
Shortly thereafter.

127  
00:07:22,780 --> 00:07:28,415  
And he was beaten [INAUDIBLE]  
getting off the bus there

128  
00:07:28,415 --> 00:07:30,160  
with iron bars.

129  
00:07:30,160 --> 00:07:33,860  
It injured his back and that

was never taken care of.

130  
00:07:33,860 --> 00:07:38,260  
And as the years passed  
by, it got worse and worse.

131  
00:07:38,260 --> 00:07:43,510  
And a nerve got  
into the vertebrae,

132  
00:07:43,510 --> 00:07:45,580  
between, and caused--

133  
00:07:45,580 --> 00:07:49,010  
made it really painful for him.

134  
00:07:49,010 --> 00:07:54,120  
And as the years passed, and no  
medical, and proper nourishment

135  
00:07:54,120 --> 00:08:00,950  
care, he eventually had  
to die from the effects

136  
00:08:00,950 --> 00:08:02,210  
of that treatment.

137  
00:08:02,210 --> 00:08:03,200  
Oh, my.

138  
00:08:03,200 --> 00:08:09,020  
And after he came out,  
it was very difficult

139  
00:08:09,020 --> 00:08:12,650  
in a small town like  
Faha to buy groceries

140  
00:08:12,650 --> 00:08:17,120  
because the store had signs  
the Jews are not welcome here.

141

00:08:17,120 --> 00:08:21,360  
And it was a town of 5,000-6,000  
people and everybody knew

142  
00:08:21,360 --> 00:08:21,860  
that--

143  
00:08:21,860 --> 00:08:23,770  
Now, what year are  
you talking about now?

144  
00:08:23,770 --> 00:08:27,200

145  
00:08:27,200 --> 00:08:32,240  
In '38, he was for I  
believe three months or so,

146  
00:08:32,240 --> 00:08:33,350  
went to Buchenwald.

147  
00:08:33,350 --> 00:08:34,429  
When he came out--

148  
00:08:34,429 --> 00:08:36,919  
I'm talking now about '39--

149  
00:08:36,919 --> 00:08:37,820  
OK.

150  
00:08:37,820 --> 00:08:42,210  
--we moved to, like many  
people from a small town,

151  
00:08:42,210 --> 00:08:45,170  
and documented in the  
paper you have there,

152  
00:08:45,170 --> 00:08:46,370  
they moved to the city.

153  
00:08:46,370 --> 00:08:47,870

We move to Frankfort.

154  
00:08:47,870 --> 00:08:52,040  
We left our home, our  
furniture, everything.

155  
00:08:52,040 --> 00:08:56,120  
And we moved with my  
grandma, my mother's mom,

156  
00:08:56,120 --> 00:08:59,420  
we moved to Frankfurt.

157  
00:08:59,420 --> 00:09:00,860  
And you're still a baby.

158  
00:09:00,860 --> 00:09:01,760  
You're just a--

159  
00:09:01,760 --> 00:09:03,920  
I was two years old then.

160  
00:09:03,920 --> 00:09:05,870  
Yeah, OK.

161  
00:09:05,870 --> 00:09:12,530  
And we stayed there  
for three years.

162  
00:09:12,530 --> 00:09:13,640  
In Frankfurt.

163  
00:09:13,640 --> 00:09:15,350  
In Frankfurt.

164  
00:09:15,350 --> 00:09:21,050  
In [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]----  
27 that means.

165  
00:09:21,050 --> 00:09:24,500  
An upstairs apartment,  
of course no elevators.

166  
00:09:24,500 --> 00:09:35,450  
And til in 1942, we went to the  
concentration camp, Terezin.

167  
00:09:35,450 --> 00:09:37,400  
Yeah, let's stop right here.

168  
00:09:37,400 --> 00:09:40,700  
Do you have any other  
memories-- you were very young,

169  
00:09:40,700 --> 00:09:43,790  
I know, and you were  
only five at the time,

170  
00:09:43,790 --> 00:09:49,930  
but do you have any memories of  
the life in Frankfurt yourself?

171  
00:09:49,930 --> 00:09:50,960  
Not really, no.

172  
00:09:50,960 --> 00:09:52,370  
Right, because  
you were so young.

173  
00:09:52,370 --> 00:09:53,120  
You were so young.

174  
00:09:53,120 --> 00:09:53,750  
I was so young.

175  
00:09:53,750 --> 00:09:56,670  
I remember my grandma  
in a wheelchair.

176  
00:09:56,670 --> 00:09:59,210

177  
00:09:59,210 --> 00:10:03,080  
But really, nothing.

178  
00:10:03,080 --> 00:10:06,170  
Was your father able  
to work in Frankfurt?

179  
00:10:06,170 --> 00:10:09,720  
No, he was not able  
to work anymore.

180  
00:10:09,720 --> 00:10:12,620  
So how did you-- do you know  
how the family support--

181  
00:10:12,620 --> 00:10:14,360  
your folks supported themselves?

182  
00:10:14,360 --> 00:10:18,680  
Well, my family was  
well off and probably

183  
00:10:18,680 --> 00:10:20,310  
through saving that we had.

184  
00:10:20,310 --> 00:10:21,800  
I see, OK.

185  
00:10:21,800 --> 00:10:25,190  
But we could, again,  
not go to stores there.

186  
00:10:25,190 --> 00:10:28,745  
But we met non-Jewish people.

187  
00:10:28,745 --> 00:10:34,040  
Without their help, life would  
be very difficult to get food.

188  
00:10:34,040 --> 00:10:39,380  
And they would-- under danger of  
their own life, would bring us

189  
00:10:39,380 --> 00:10:43,040



food, which was not allowed.

190  
00:10:43,040 --> 00:10:47,060  
And that helped sustain us.

191  
00:10:47,060 --> 00:10:50,040  
And til we went to the  
concentration camp.

192  
00:10:50,040 --> 00:10:53,840  
Then I do remember  
being transported there

193  
00:10:53,840 --> 00:10:56,480  
in cattle carts.

194  
00:10:56,480 --> 00:10:58,970  
Do you remember leaving  
your apartment in Frankfurt?

195  
00:10:58,970 --> 00:11:00,720  
Do you have any memory of that?

196  
00:11:00,720 --> 00:11:02,520  
I know the outlay.

197  
00:11:02,520 --> 00:11:06,020  
The living room and  
kitchen I remember.

198  
00:11:06,020 --> 00:11:09,980  
But otherwise, not really.

199  
00:11:09,980 --> 00:11:13,190  
And do you remember  
the actual leaving,

200  
00:11:13,190 --> 00:11:14,810  
walking out of the apartment?

201  
00:11:14,810 --> 00:11:17,190  
No, like nights,

when the sirens,

202

00:11:17,190 --> 00:11:19,670

we had to go down  
to the basement.

203

00:11:19,670 --> 00:11:23,000

I remember some of these trips  
in the middle of the night.

204

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:25,850

We had to go down there.

205

00:11:25,850 --> 00:11:28,430

Was that very frightening  
for a little child?

206

00:11:28,430 --> 00:11:29,630

Absolutely.

207

00:11:29,630 --> 00:11:33,170

And when other  
children would go--

208

00:11:33,170 --> 00:11:36,830

if my mom would go in the  
park or on the street with me

209

00:11:36,830 --> 00:11:40,410

and other children could  
buy an ice cream cone,

210

00:11:40,410 --> 00:11:42,770

she had to tell me--

211

00:11:42,770 --> 00:11:47,870

I don't know exactly what she  
said, but she had to say--

212

00:11:47,870 --> 00:11:52,010

probably because I'm not a good  
girl she cannot buy me an ice

213

00:11:52,010 --> 00:11:55,620  
cream cone, because we were  
not allowed in the store to buy

214

00:11:55,620 --> 00:11:59,630  
that, while other children  
could lick on their cones.

215

00:11:59,630 --> 00:12:03,170  
Now that was, I'm sure, very  
difficult for my mom and for me

216

00:12:03,170 --> 00:12:05,000  
to understand why they could.

217

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:07,310  
And here I was a  
good little girl.

218

00:12:07,310 --> 00:12:08,810  
That was not allowed.

219

00:12:08,810 --> 00:12:11,330  
Did your mother have  
to wear a yellow star?

220

00:12:11,330 --> 00:12:13,490  
Yes, my parents all did.

221

00:12:13,490 --> 00:12:16,040  
I don't believe I did,  
but my parents did.

222

00:12:16,040 --> 00:12:19,040  
And they are in your position.

223

00:12:19,040 --> 00:12:24,350  
I gave them quite a few years  
ago, along with a little money

224

00:12:24,350 --> 00:12:32,210  
from the concentration camp, a

picture and my identification

225

00:12:32,210 --> 00:12:34,370

card from the  
concentration camp.

226

00:12:34,370 --> 00:12:36,365

I gave that to the  
Holocaust Museum.

227

00:12:36,365 --> 00:12:38,150

Wonderful, thank you, yes.

228

00:12:38,150 --> 00:12:44,570

OK, so now, you  
said you're leaving.

229

00:12:44,570 --> 00:12:45,906

In cattle carts.

230

00:12:45,906 --> 00:12:50,330

Yeah, do you have any  
memories of that journey?

231

00:12:50,330 --> 00:12:55,720

Standing in these cattle  
carts, yes, I have vaguely.

232

00:12:55,720 --> 00:12:58,720

You just stand there  
like sardines packed.

233

00:12:58,720 --> 00:13:00,400

You're now five  
years old, right?

234

00:13:00,400 --> 00:13:02,770

I was five years old, yes.

235

00:13:02,770 --> 00:13:05,110

And you're with your parents  
and your grandmother.

236  
00:13:05,110 --> 00:13:07,000  
Yes.

237  
00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:09,160  
And do you remember  
what your mother said

238  
00:13:09,160 --> 00:13:11,110  
about where you were going?

239  
00:13:11,110 --> 00:13:12,850  
No, that I did not.

240  
00:13:12,850 --> 00:13:18,010  
But when we arrived there,  
my mom frequently would say--

241  
00:13:18,010 --> 00:13:26,510  
we took some Italian  
bread and some--

242  
00:13:26,510 --> 00:13:32,090  
they call it a raw  
sausage that you can keep.

243  
00:13:32,090 --> 00:13:33,950  
And I used to like that.

244  
00:13:33,950 --> 00:13:37,000  
I was not a good eater,  
but that I enjoyed.

245  
00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:39,340  
And when we arrived  
there and we were

246  
00:13:39,340 --> 00:13:48,220  
put in an attic with 120 people  
on the floor, men and women,

247  
00:13:48,220 --> 00:13:52,630  
one next to the other, I

would tell my mom, at five,

248

00:13:52,630 --> 00:13:55,030

that I didn't like  
the apartment,

249

00:13:55,030 --> 00:13:57,400

but I liked the  
food because I still

250

00:13:57,400 --> 00:14:00,250

had Italian bread and that--

251

00:14:00,250 --> 00:14:05,950

that-- like a raw  
bologna, something.

252

00:14:05,950 --> 00:14:08,500

I do not know exactly how--

253

00:14:08,500 --> 00:14:11,980

in English, it  
really doesn't exist.

254

00:14:11,980 --> 00:14:14,075

And you spoke in  
German, I assume.

255

00:14:14,075 --> 00:14:14,575

Yes.

256

00:14:14,575 --> 00:14:17,160

Did you speak Yiddish also?

257

00:14:17,160 --> 00:14:18,070

No.

258

00:14:18,070 --> 00:14:19,040

Just German, yeah.

259

00:14:19,040 --> 00:14:19,540

No.

260  
00:14:19,540 --> 00:14:20,230  
OK.

261  
00:14:20,230 --> 00:14:24,490  
And shortly thereafter,  
my dad was--

262  
00:14:24,490 --> 00:14:26,770  
and my mom-- we  
were all separated.

263  
00:14:26,770 --> 00:14:28,640  
Oh, you were separated.

264  
00:14:28,640 --> 00:14:32,210  
We were separated, as was  
everybody in the concentration

265  
00:14:32,210 --> 00:14:32,710  
camp.

266  
00:14:32,710 --> 00:14:38,170  
For a while I stayed with  
my mom there on the attic.

267  
00:14:38,170 --> 00:14:41,590  
And dead people and live  
people, one laying there next

268  
00:14:41,590 --> 00:14:43,250  
to each other.

269  
00:14:43,250 --> 00:14:47,020  
But after a little while,  
we got all separated.

270  
00:14:47,020 --> 00:14:48,970  
I was in a children's home.

271  
00:14:48,970 --> 00:14:53,680  
My mom took care of children

in a different children's home.

272

00:14:53,680 --> 00:14:58,790

And my dad was living in a  
what's called a [INAUDIBLE]..

273

00:14:58,790 --> 00:14:59,290

Yes.

274

00:14:59,290 --> 00:15:04,840

It was a military  
garrison place, Terezin.

275

00:15:04,840 --> 00:15:06,700

Yes.

276

00:15:06,700 --> 00:15:10,270

And yes, I would find  
my way around there,

277

00:15:10,270 --> 00:15:12,500

even so it's been a while.

278

00:15:12,500 --> 00:15:14,960

But as the years passed.

279

00:15:14,960 --> 00:15:16,960

We were not allowed--

280

00:15:16,960 --> 00:15:20,920

So what did you  
do during the day?

281

00:15:20,920 --> 00:15:22,010

Not very much.

282

00:15:22,010 --> 00:15:23,140

We were not--

283

00:15:23,140 --> 00:15:27,940

I was there from five to  
eight, for three years.



284  
00:15:27,940 --> 00:15:30,760  
Do you know what month  
you arrived in '42?

285  
00:15:30,760 --> 00:15:34,150  
Do you know what  
month you came there?

286  
00:15:34,150 --> 00:15:36,040  
What month I arrived--

287  
00:15:36,040 --> 00:15:37,570  
Or the season?

288  
00:15:37,570 --> 00:15:40,210  
No, I could only take a--

289  
00:15:40,210 --> 00:15:41,820  
I really do not know.

290  
00:15:41,820 --> 00:15:42,400  
OK.

291  
00:15:42,400 --> 00:15:46,100  
Was it warm weather  
or cold weather?

292  
00:15:46,100 --> 00:15:49,550  
That-- I think it was cool.

293  
00:15:49,550 --> 00:15:50,260  
OK.

294  
00:15:50,260 --> 00:15:51,250  
I don't believe it--

295  
00:15:51,250 --> 00:15:52,510  
That's OK.

296  
00:15:52,510 --> 00:15:54,100

So you've been  
separated and you're

297  
00:15:54,100 --> 00:15:56,990  
living in the children's home.

298  
00:15:56,990 --> 00:15:58,070  
In a children's home.

299  
00:15:58,070 --> 00:15:59,620  
Who were some of  
the other children?

300  
00:15:59,620 --> 00:16:02,650  
Were they your age  
or were they older?

301  
00:16:02,650 --> 00:16:05,380  
They were different ages.

302  
00:16:05,380 --> 00:16:09,670  
And the bathroom facility  
was not a regular bathroom.

303  
00:16:09,670 --> 00:16:14,370  
You had to go outside on  
a balcony in a latrine

304  
00:16:14,370 --> 00:16:17,710  
like, you called  
it, not a bathroom.

305  
00:16:17,710 --> 00:16:22,300  
And it was not allowed to  
teach children anything.

306  
00:16:22,300 --> 00:16:24,700  
When I was eight  
years old, I could not

307  
00:16:24,700 --> 00:16:26,680  
write my name or anything.

308

00:16:26,680 --> 00:16:28,360

I was pretty--

309

00:16:28,360 --> 00:16:33,670

Who were the adults with  
you watching the children?

310

00:16:33,670 --> 00:16:37,690

I do not-- whatever watched.

311

00:16:37,690 --> 00:16:39,580

You can talk about that.

312

00:16:39,580 --> 00:16:42,220

I do not know who--

313

00:16:42,220 --> 00:16:45,100

they were just regular  
people, whoever was there.

314

00:16:45,100 --> 00:16:48,410

Like my mom wasn't trained  
to take care of the children

315

00:16:48,410 --> 00:16:49,430

she took care of.

316

00:16:49,430 --> 00:16:50,770

Yeah.

317

00:16:50,770 --> 00:16:53,005

How often did you see your  
mother, and your father,

318

00:16:53,005 --> 00:16:53,890

and your grandmother?

319

00:16:53,890 --> 00:17:00,970

Not too often, maybe every  
several months or so.

320

00:17:00,970 --> 00:17:02,270  
Every several months?

321  
00:17:02,270 --> 00:17:02,770  
Yeah.

322  
00:17:02,770 --> 00:17:06,609  
Not very-- not very often.

323  
00:17:06,609 --> 00:17:08,380  
I don't know who gave them--

324  
00:17:08,380 --> 00:17:10,000  
I couldn't just go to them.

325  
00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:12,579  
They had to come  
to me and see me.

326  
00:17:12,579 --> 00:17:16,450  
And I do remember my dad  
saving the little food

327  
00:17:16,450 --> 00:17:18,569  
he got so I should eat it.

328  
00:17:18,569 --> 00:17:23,140  
But still, I wouldn't eat  
it because that was not

329  
00:17:23,140 --> 00:17:27,910  
my favorite thing to do, to eat.

330  
00:17:27,910 --> 00:17:30,680  
But he saved it up for  
me and he gave it to me.

331  
00:17:30,680 --> 00:17:33,400  
And we seen each  
other now and then,

332  
00:17:33,400 --> 00:17:36,670

not together, and  
not very frequent.

333  
00:17:36,670 --> 00:17:37,540  
Yeah.

334  
00:17:37,540 --> 00:17:39,550  
And the food we got there--

335  
00:17:39,550 --> 00:17:46,930  
well, since I did not  
care to eat much, it was--

336  
00:17:46,930 --> 00:17:48,040  
not [INAUDIBLE].

337  
00:17:48,040 --> 00:17:52,360  
This was not healthy  
food, or good food,

338  
00:17:52,360 --> 00:17:53,770  
or anything like that.

339  
00:17:53,770 --> 00:17:54,530  
Right.

340  
00:17:54,530 --> 00:17:56,990  
It was kind of  
what we would refer

341  
00:17:56,990 --> 00:18:00,730  
to as boring, nothing  
interesting and nothing they

342  
00:18:00,730 --> 00:18:01,555  
did was us.

343  
00:18:01,555 --> 00:18:05,890  
We were just hanging around,  
passing the day with nothing.

344  
00:18:05,890 --> 00:18:06,820

Yeah.

345

00:18:06,820 --> 00:18:10,150

Did you make friends  
with the other children?

346

00:18:10,150 --> 00:18:12,400

Well, yeah, as  
much as you could.

347

00:18:12,400 --> 00:18:17,020

As I said, they weren't  
exactly the same age or so.

348

00:18:17,020 --> 00:18:20,560

And it's been such  
a long time ago.

349

00:18:20,560 --> 00:18:22,390

Yes.

350

00:18:22,390 --> 00:18:24,910

Were they from other countries?

351

00:18:24,910 --> 00:18:26,170

That I cannot tell you.

352

00:18:26,170 --> 00:18:27,970

I do not believe so.

353

00:18:27,970 --> 00:18:29,690

They were from Germany?

354

00:18:29,690 --> 00:18:30,430

Yes.

355

00:18:30,430 --> 00:18:35,380

And then very frequently, they  
didn't stay all that long.

356

00:18:35,380 --> 00:18:39,280

As you're probably aware,

the kindertransports--

357

00:18:39,280 --> 00:18:44,860  
at the time we were there they  
did not gas people in Terezin.

358

00:18:44,860 --> 00:18:46,680  
They sent them to Auschwitz.

359

00:18:46,680 --> 00:18:47,660  
Right, right.

360

00:18:47,660 --> 00:18:49,120  
These transports.

361

00:18:49,120 --> 00:18:50,200  
Yes.

362

00:18:50,200 --> 00:18:52,810  
So some of the children  
left on the transports.

363

00:18:52,810 --> 00:18:53,770  
Right.

364

00:18:53,770 --> 00:19:00,430  
And I was already at, I believe  
one point, possibly more

365

00:19:00,430 --> 00:19:02,230  
to be sent too.

366

00:19:02,230 --> 00:19:05,330  
How my dad did it-- but we had--

367

00:19:05,330 --> 00:19:07,660  
as I said, we were well to do.

368

00:19:07,660 --> 00:19:13,780  
And what I was told is they  
had money sewn into shoes.

369

00:19:13,780 --> 00:19:15,400

Oh, my.

370

00:19:15,400 --> 00:19:17,700

And from the shoemaker.

371

00:19:17,700 --> 00:19:22,300

Now, it couldn't be  
too much, but whatever

372

00:19:22,300 --> 00:19:25,390

they were able to do,  
they sewn into old shoes,

373

00:19:25,390 --> 00:19:26,860

not nice looking shoes.

374

00:19:26,860 --> 00:19:27,610

Yeah.

375

00:19:27,610 --> 00:19:34,330

And also a coat my  
mom had, that was old.

376

00:19:34,330 --> 00:19:37,480

And they made it dirty,  
did a bit, and some tears.

377

00:19:37,480 --> 00:19:42,430

And they had cloth  
buttons at the time

378

00:19:42,430 --> 00:19:46,540

in them days, big cloth buttons.

379

00:19:46,540 --> 00:19:51,280

And they had some money put in  
there too from the seamstress.

380

00:19:51,280 --> 00:19:58,230

And also, a diamond  
pendant necklace



381  
00:19:58,230 --> 00:20:05,020  
that my dad had bought in  
Berlin in the '20s for my mom,

382  
00:20:05,020 --> 00:20:06,655  
had it sewn in there.

383  
00:20:06,655 --> 00:20:10,060  
Their wedding bands were  
sold for a little bread

384  
00:20:10,060 --> 00:20:11,670  
in the concentration camp.

385  
00:20:11,670 --> 00:20:13,330  
They came out without  
wedding bands.

386  
00:20:13,330 --> 00:20:19,150  
This diamond survived  
and is in my possession.

387  
00:20:19,150 --> 00:20:23,290  
And I had it made into a  
ring after my mom passed.

388  
00:20:23,290 --> 00:20:26,080  
Well, she had it made into  
a ring and I had it sized.

389  
00:20:26,080 --> 00:20:28,730  
And I have it.

390  
00:20:28,730 --> 00:20:34,630  
It is box with 2 and a  
1/4, 2 and 1/3 karats

391  
00:20:34,630 --> 00:20:38,110  
and of supposedly good quality.

392  
00:20:38,110 --> 00:20:42,740

And I was offered a  
decent amount of money,

393  
00:20:42,740 --> 00:20:44,950  
but, of course I  
would not sell it.

394  
00:20:44,950 --> 00:20:48,940  
And I do not it daily  
because it needs insurance.

395  
00:20:48,940 --> 00:20:52,570  
And being a widow,  
this is not necessary.

396  
00:20:52,570 --> 00:20:59,200  
And it's not a priority of  
mine to walk around like that.

397  
00:20:59,200 --> 00:21:03,820  
So that [INAUDIBLE].

398  
00:21:03,820 --> 00:21:08,020  
You said that there  
were no education.

399  
00:21:08,020 --> 00:21:09,160  
No education.

400  
00:21:09,160 --> 00:21:14,010  
But there were secret  
classes at Terezin.

401  
00:21:14,010 --> 00:21:16,065  
Not to my knowledge.

402  
00:21:16,065 --> 00:21:17,440  
So you didn't go  
to any of those.

403  
00:21:17,440 --> 00:21:19,550  
I was not able to  
attend any of these.

404  
00:21:19,550 --> 00:21:21,160  
Yeah, yeah.

405  
00:21:21,160 --> 00:21:24,130  
And what about the famous  
children's operetta,

406  
00:21:24,130 --> 00:21:26,950  
the Brundibar, were  
you aware of that?

407  
00:21:26,950 --> 00:21:30,580  
No, I was totally  
ignorant coming out.

408  
00:21:30,580 --> 00:21:31,870  
Well, you were very little.

409  
00:21:31,870 --> 00:21:33,220  
You were very young.

410  
00:21:33,220 --> 00:21:36,440  
Yes, from between five  
and eight years old.

411  
00:21:36,440 --> 00:21:36,940  
Right, yeah.

412  
00:21:36,940 --> 00:21:38,650  
I didn't know what a banana was.

413  
00:21:38,650 --> 00:21:40,940  
Never seen anything like that.

414  
00:21:40,940 --> 00:21:44,930  
Or writing my name, I had  
no knowledge, whatsoever.

415  
00:21:44,930 --> 00:21:48,880  
So just every day, you  
just walked around and--

416  
00:21:48,880 --> 00:21:53,920  
Right, whatever I was told to  
be obedient and didn't do it.

417  
00:21:53,920 --> 00:21:56,140  
Just passed time.

418  
00:21:56,140 --> 00:21:59,350  
I remember doing just nothing.

419  
00:21:59,350 --> 00:22:02,680  
Taking a nap in  
the afternoon and--

420  
00:22:02,680 --> 00:22:06,970  
Did you have any crayons  
and paper to color?

421  
00:22:06,970 --> 00:22:08,530  
Not that I remember that.

422  
00:22:08,530 --> 00:22:10,850  
I certainly would do  
something like that.

423  
00:22:10,850 --> 00:22:11,350  
Yeah.

424  
00:22:11,350 --> 00:22:15,140  
No, nothing was done.

425  
00:22:15,140 --> 00:22:18,730  
We were just hanging  
around, useless.

426  
00:22:18,730 --> 00:22:21,020  
Yeah.

427  
00:22:21,020 --> 00:22:24,580  
I don't remember playing  
with any toys or anything.

428

00:22:24,580 --> 00:22:27,562  
Do you remember playing with  
any of the other children?

429

00:22:27,562 --> 00:22:30,310  
Well, whatever playing  
we were allowed to.

430

00:22:30,310 --> 00:22:36,620  
Did you have your own bed or  
did you have to share the bed?

431

00:22:36,620 --> 00:22:42,470  
It was a bed, but pretty  
close by, a bunk bed like.

432

00:22:42,470 --> 00:22:44,260  
Yeah.

433

00:22:44,260 --> 00:22:46,110  
I do remember that.

434

00:22:46,110 --> 00:22:48,910  
And if we didn't want to  
sleep and had to stay there,

435

00:22:48,910 --> 00:22:51,540  
I had to fake it.

436

00:22:51,540 --> 00:22:54,860  
And one day it was  
my turn to be--

437

00:22:54,860 --> 00:23:00,390  
so when I was supposed to go  
to one of these gas camps,

438

00:23:00,390 --> 00:23:02,760  
my dad said later--

439

00:23:02,760 --> 00:23:06,930

first of all, my dad did  
not want, after the war,

440  
00:23:06,930 --> 00:23:10,880  
much to be said  
about the war years,

441  
00:23:10,880 --> 00:23:16,530  
not to make my life any  
sadder than necessary.

442  
00:23:16,530 --> 00:23:17,100  
Yes.

443  
00:23:17,100 --> 00:23:20,460  
So I got things  
from here and there.

444  
00:23:20,460 --> 00:23:24,600  
And supposedly,  
he gave the money

445  
00:23:24,600 --> 00:23:27,940  
that we brought to  
these people that

446  
00:23:27,940 --> 00:23:32,280  
were responsible there to  
send them to the gas chambers.

447  
00:23:32,280 --> 00:23:34,120  
He gave whatever he had.

448  
00:23:34,120 --> 00:23:36,330  
So I didn't have--  
there was, I'm sure,

449  
00:23:36,330 --> 00:23:38,520  
a little luck involved too.

450  
00:23:38,520 --> 00:23:41,730  
But he paid whatever  
he had so I would not

451  
00:23:41,730 --> 00:23:44,490  
be sent to the gas chambers.

452  
00:23:44,490 --> 00:23:49,470  
And another time,  
we-- not my parents--

453  
00:23:49,470 --> 00:23:55,290  
I, along with thousands  
of people on a fall night

454  
00:23:55,290 --> 00:23:58,140  
were gathered on a pasture like.

455  
00:23:58,140 --> 00:24:02,940  
It was dark, no food,  
no bathroom facilities.

456  
00:24:02,940 --> 00:24:05,100  
We were standing there.

457  
00:24:05,100 --> 00:24:08,610  
And we were surrounded  
by machine guns

458  
00:24:08,610 --> 00:24:13,080  
and supposed to be all shot.

459  
00:24:13,080 --> 00:24:16,230  
It's my understanding  
that the world

460  
00:24:16,230 --> 00:24:20,840  
got whiff of that and they