

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,620

2  
00:00:00,620 --> 00:00:04,500  
This is the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum

3  
00:00:04,500 --> 00:00:08,070  
interview with Elie Eilam.

4  
00:00:08,070 --> 00:00:17,040  
It is taking place on February  
25, 2015 at the Museum

5  
00:00:17,040 --> 00:00:19,290  
and in Ra'anana, Israel.

6  
00:00:19,290 --> 00:00:24,180  
And it is being conducted  
by Gail Schwartz.

7  
00:00:24,180 --> 00:00:25,560  
What is your whole name?

8  
00:00:25,560 --> 00:00:28,450

9  
00:00:28,450 --> 00:00:30,080  
Whole name?

10  
00:00:30,080 --> 00:00:31,610  
What is your full name?

11  
00:00:31,610 --> 00:00:32,770  
Your full name?

12  
00:00:32,770 --> 00:00:33,320  
Yeah.

13  
00:00:33,320 --> 00:00:37,940

Eliahu Eilam Kimel.

14  
00:00:37,940 --> 00:00:42,460  
And is that the name  
that you were born with?

15  
00:00:42,460 --> 00:00:49,100  
I was born like Eliahu Kimel.

16  
00:00:49,100 --> 00:00:51,360  
OK.

17  
00:00:51,360 --> 00:00:53,960  
And where were you born?

18  
00:00:53,960 --> 00:00:57,940  
I was born in Krosno, Poland.

19  
00:00:57,940 --> 00:01:00,610  
It is Galicia.

20  
00:01:00,610 --> 00:01:03,260  
And when were you born?

21  
00:01:03,260 --> 00:01:12,820  
On 30 July, 1934.

22  
00:01:12,820 --> 00:01:14,770  
Let's talk about your family.

23  
00:01:14,770 --> 00:01:18,440  
What were your parents' names?

24  
00:01:18,440 --> 00:01:22,930  
My parents' name were--

25  
00:01:22,930 --> 00:01:26,620  
my father was Abraham Kimel.

26  
00:01:26,620 --> 00:01:32,060  
And my mother was

Regina Rivka Kimel.

27

00:01:32,060 --> 00:01:32,560

And--

28

00:01:32,560 --> 00:01:37,640

She was called Regina, but  
in Hebrew she was "Rivka."

29

00:01:37,640 --> 00:01:39,490

And did you have brothers?

30

00:01:39,490 --> 00:01:40,575

Any brothers or sisters?

31

00:01:40,575 --> 00:01:42,400

No, I was the only child.

32

00:01:42,400 --> 00:01:43,030

Yeah.

33

00:01:43,030 --> 00:01:47,310

What kind of work  
did your father do?

34

00:01:47,310 --> 00:01:49,480

He was a photographer.

35

00:01:49,480 --> 00:02:00,020

And he had also a business with,  
well, like toys or something.

36

00:02:00,020 --> 00:02:10,780

And also equipment and  
materials for photography.

37

00:02:10,780 --> 00:02:14,320

And did your mother work?

38

00:02:14,320 --> 00:02:15,700

Yes, she did.

39

00:02:15,700 --> 00:02:19,510

She was actually  
the photographer,

40

00:02:19,510 --> 00:02:25,480

because she started it  
as a student, as a girl.

41

00:02:25,480 --> 00:02:28,900

And she was an expert.

42

00:02:28,900 --> 00:02:37,270

In those times, also the  
negatives and the positives

43

00:02:37,270 --> 00:02:39,340

had to be retouched.

44

00:02:39,340 --> 00:02:45,960

It means it means today  
with the new technology,

45

00:02:45,960 --> 00:02:53,995

it's not needed, but then  
were little spots on both,

46

00:02:53,995 --> 00:02:57,130

on the negatives  
and the positives.

47

00:02:57,130 --> 00:03:00,730

And she was  
correcting it by hand.

48

00:03:00,730 --> 00:03:05,020

And she was expert in this.

49

00:03:05,020 --> 00:03:11,860

And what kind of  
neighborhood did you live in?

50

00:03:11,860 --> 00:03:16,450

Was it a Jewish, a  
non-Jewish neighborhood?

51  
00:03:16,450 --> 00:03:21,600  
I don't think it was a Jewish  
neighborhood, I can't say.

52  
00:03:21,600 --> 00:03:25,040  
I don't remember.

53  
00:03:25,040 --> 00:03:27,130  
None of my neighbors.

54  
00:03:27,130 --> 00:03:34,210  
Yes, one neighbor was Polish  
in the same floor of our house.

55  
00:03:34,210 --> 00:03:39,650  
I remember them because then  
they had a girl in my age,

56  
00:03:39,650 --> 00:03:46,810  
and we were invited  
to each other's homes.

57  
00:03:46,810 --> 00:03:49,750  
Was your family a  
very religious family?

58  
00:03:49,750 --> 00:03:50,710  
No.

59  
00:03:50,710 --> 00:03:51,470  
No?

60  
00:03:51,470 --> 00:03:51,970  
OK.

61  
00:03:51,970 --> 00:03:55,480  
Did you observe any  
of the holidays?

62

00:03:55,480 --> 00:03:57,160  
Yes, we did, of course.

63  
00:03:57,160 --> 00:04:03,320  
But in those times,  
I think even today,

64  
00:04:03,320 --> 00:04:08,500  
also not religious people  
also here in Israel,

65  
00:04:08,500 --> 00:04:15,100  
we celebrate all holidays  
not being religious.

66  
00:04:15,100 --> 00:04:22,089  
We as seculars, we  
don't think that it has

67  
00:04:22,089 --> 00:04:25,630  
to be connected with religion.

68  
00:04:25,630 --> 00:04:30,970  
Because it is part  
of our lifestyle.

69  
00:04:30,970 --> 00:04:36,510  
Were your parents Zionists  
then, in the 1930s?

70  
00:04:36,510 --> 00:04:38,310  
I didn't understand  
the question.

71  
00:04:38,310 --> 00:04:42,600  
Were your parents  
Zionists in the 1930s?

72  
00:04:42,600 --> 00:04:45,350  
Yes, my father was.

73  
00:04:45,350 --> 00:04:51,390  
And wanted to make

aliyah after I was born.

74

00:04:51,390 --> 00:04:59,370

And my mother said, if I have  
two or three Jewish clients

75

00:04:59,370 --> 00:05:04,440

in a week, so I have  
two or three complaints.

76

00:05:04,440 --> 00:05:09,780

And imagine if all my  
clients will be Jews, Jewish?

77

00:05:09,780 --> 00:05:11,570

What shall I do?

78

00:05:11,570 --> 00:05:14,070

I don't want to go there.

79

00:05:14,070 --> 00:05:16,200

So we stayed.

80

00:05:16,200 --> 00:05:20,860

They stayed-- that's  
saying, we stayed in Poland.

81

00:05:20,860 --> 00:05:22,050

OK.

82

00:05:22,050 --> 00:05:24,540

did you have a large  
extended family?

83

00:05:24,540 --> 00:05:27,690

Did you have aunts and  
uncles and grandparents?

84

00:05:27,690 --> 00:05:28,740

Yes.

85

00:05:28,740 --> 00:05:33,420

A few years, maybe  
a decade or more

86  
00:05:33,420 --> 00:05:37,470  
ago, we made a family  
meeting, and we

87  
00:05:37,470 --> 00:05:42,450  
prepared like a family book.

88  
00:05:42,450 --> 00:05:49,370  
And then I saw that our extended  
family was nearly 100 persons.

89  
00:05:49,370 --> 00:05:50,710  
Oh, my.

90  
00:05:50,710 --> 00:05:58,964  
And after the Holocaust,  
my generation, we were six.

91  
00:05:58,964 --> 00:06:00,020  
Oh, my.

92  
00:06:00,020 --> 00:06:01,480  
Six.

93  
00:06:01,480 --> 00:06:03,900  
Yeah.

94  
00:06:03,900 --> 00:06:06,270  
Let's talk about-- I know  
you were quite young.

95  
00:06:06,270 --> 00:06:09,780  
Did you start school  
before the war started?

96  
00:06:09,780 --> 00:06:10,410  
Did you begin--

97  
00:06:10,410 --> 00:06:10,980



No.

98  
00:06:10,980 --> 00:06:12,080  
You did not.

99  
00:06:12,080 --> 00:06:12,660  
No.

100  
00:06:12,660 --> 00:06:13,910  
I was five years old.

101  
00:06:13,910 --> 00:06:14,730  
Right.

102  
00:06:14,730 --> 00:06:16,110  
And you hadn't started.

103  
00:06:16,110 --> 00:06:19,490  
What language did  
you speak at home?

104  
00:06:19,490 --> 00:06:20,910  
Polish.

105  
00:06:20,910 --> 00:06:22,470  
Polish.

106  
00:06:22,470 --> 00:06:28,650  
My parents spoke also Yiddish,  
but not between themselves.

107  
00:06:28,650 --> 00:06:31,650  
Only with other Jews.

108  
00:06:31,650 --> 00:06:36,280  
My father studied  
in Vienna, so he

109  
00:06:36,280 --> 00:06:39,090  
was speaking very good German.

110

00:06:39,090 --> 00:06:44,730  
And my mother also knew  
German, because in Galicia

111  
00:06:44,730 --> 00:06:47,791  
was the Habsburg--

112  
00:06:47,791 --> 00:06:52,980

113  
00:06:52,980 --> 00:06:59,850  
the kaiser, and they were  
speaking a lot of German there.

114  
00:06:59,850 --> 00:07:04,640  
How much education  
did your father have?

115  
00:07:04,640 --> 00:07:05,510  
How much what?

116  
00:07:05,510 --> 00:07:06,670  
Education.

117  
00:07:06,670 --> 00:07:08,840  
Education.

118  
00:07:08,840 --> 00:07:16,160  
He had like secondary  
school in Vienna.

119  
00:07:16,160 --> 00:07:18,290  
Is that where he was born?

120  
00:07:18,290 --> 00:07:25,640  
No, he was born in Sanok,  
in Galicia in Poland.

121  
00:07:25,640 --> 00:07:28,610  
And where was your mother born?

122  
00:07:28,610 --> 00:07:32,550

In the same town, Sanok.

123  
00:07:32,550 --> 00:07:36,800  
And how much education  
did she have?

124  
00:07:36,800 --> 00:07:43,710  
She studied elementary school.

125  
00:07:43,710 --> 00:07:50,864  
And then she studied how do  
you say [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

126  
00:07:50,864 --> 00:07:52,070  
Occupational high school.

127  
00:07:52,070 --> 00:07:54,180  
Occupation high school.

128  
00:07:54,180 --> 00:07:56,100  
She studied photography.

129  
00:07:56,100 --> 00:07:57,940  
Yeah, OK.

130  
00:07:57,940 --> 00:07:58,720  
OK.

131  
00:07:58,720 --> 00:08:04,580  
Now, do you have any memories  
before the war started?

132  
00:08:04,580 --> 00:08:06,110  
I know you were very young.

133  
00:08:06,110 --> 00:08:08,530  
You were only five, but--

134  
00:08:08,530 --> 00:08:10,250  
Well, not really memories.

135

00:08:10,250 --> 00:08:18,020  
I had only once there  
was a flood in our town,

136  
00:08:18,020 --> 00:08:20,430  
and this I remember.

137  
00:08:20,430 --> 00:08:24,500  
And even my father doubt  
that, because once I

138  
00:08:24,500 --> 00:08:30,050  
spoke about this with  
him, so he said well,

139  
00:08:30,050 --> 00:08:32,890  
you were too young  
to remember this.

140  
00:08:32,890 --> 00:08:37,950  
But then still I think maybe  
somebody told you about,

141  
00:08:37,950 --> 00:08:40,990  
but I think I do remember it.

142  
00:08:40,990 --> 00:08:41,490  
OK.

143  
00:08:41,490 --> 00:08:45,020

144  
00:08:45,020 --> 00:08:47,940  
OK, well, let's talk about  
your first memories, then.

145  
00:08:47,940 --> 00:08:52,360  
What are your first memories?

146  
00:08:52,360 --> 00:08:55,160  
Oh.

147

00:08:55,160 --> 00:08:58,750  
Anything in 1939,  
when you were five.

148  
00:08:58,750 --> 00:09:02,200  
I have memories, but  
not important, I think.

149  
00:09:02,200 --> 00:09:06,450  
Like once I was  
left alone at home,

150  
00:09:06,450 --> 00:09:11,660  
and I remember that I was  
very upset and I cried.

151  
00:09:11,660 --> 00:09:14,630

152  
00:09:14,630 --> 00:09:21,380  
I think it was just the  
time when the war broke out.

153  
00:09:21,380 --> 00:09:24,180  
I can't say exactly when it was.

154  
00:09:24,180 --> 00:09:26,700  
OK, well, now the war--

155  
00:09:26,700 --> 00:09:31,040  
now the war has broken  
out, so what's the first?

156  
00:09:31,040 --> 00:09:36,070  
What was-- I can't tell  
you if I remember it

157  
00:09:36,070 --> 00:09:41,390  
or mot of it was told  
to me is that my father

158  
00:09:41,390 --> 00:09:48,890  
went from the photo shop

home, and the Germans

159  
00:09:48,890 --> 00:09:52,220  
occupied our town.

160  
00:09:52,220 --> 00:09:54,770  
Well, I remembered  
before this, when

161  
00:09:54,770 --> 00:09:58,430  
I was standing on that  
balcony and I could

162  
00:09:58,430 --> 00:10:04,410  
see the airfield in our city.

163  
00:10:04,410 --> 00:10:07,370  
This was also a pilot school.

164  
00:10:07,370 --> 00:10:14,070  
So German planes were  
diving and shooting.

165  
00:10:14,070 --> 00:10:19,460  
And it was such a  
beautiful vision to see it.

166  
00:10:19,460 --> 00:10:22,540  
And I remember my  
mother was crying,

167  
00:10:22,540 --> 00:10:25,470  
"come, we go to the basement.

168  
00:10:25,470 --> 00:10:26,360  
Come, come.

169  
00:10:26,360 --> 00:10:27,290  
They will kill you."

170  
00:10:27,290 --> 00:10:29,710  
And I said, "no, I

want to look at it."

171  
00:10:29,710 --> 00:10:30,590  
Oh, my.

172  
00:10:30,590 --> 00:10:31,420  
This I remember.

173  
00:10:31,420 --> 00:10:32,390  
Yeah.

174  
00:10:32,390 --> 00:10:37,400  
Maybe this was one of the  
first things that I remember.

175  
00:10:37,400 --> 00:10:40,190  
And then when the  
German occupied,

176  
00:10:40,190 --> 00:10:42,700  
it was a few weeks  
later, maybe two.

177  
00:10:42,700 --> 00:10:49,690  
And they made a barrier, and  
did they stopped by father,

178  
00:10:49,690 --> 00:10:53,660  
and my father was  
a tall man, and he

179  
00:10:53,660 --> 00:10:56,690  
felt himself very  
confident because he

180  
00:10:56,690 --> 00:10:59,300  
had very good German.

181  
00:10:59,300 --> 00:11:04,368  
So he started to  
argue with them,

182

00:11:04,368 --> 00:11:05,660  
what, you are making a barrier.

183  
00:11:05,660 --> 00:11:07,530  
Go away and that.

184  
00:11:07,530 --> 00:11:09,150  
And they beat him.

185  
00:11:09,150 --> 00:11:11,570  
And he got a shock.

186  
00:11:11,570 --> 00:11:16,610  
He came home, and he told  
my mother, we are going.

187  
00:11:16,610 --> 00:11:23,750  
And we fled somewhere to the  
east, near the River San.

188  
00:11:23,750 --> 00:11:32,355  
In a ranch of my  
cousin's grandfather--

189  
00:11:32,355 --> 00:11:38,210  
it was not my grandfather.

190  
00:11:38,210 --> 00:11:43,490  
It was the grandfather  
of my cousin.

191  
00:11:43,490 --> 00:11:45,382  
And we--

192  
00:11:45,382 --> 00:11:47,740  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

193  
00:11:47,740 --> 00:11:51,080  
And we were there.

194  
00:11:51,080 --> 00:11:56,470  
My father was not



with us in this ranch.

195  
00:11:56,470 --> 00:12:03,070  
But I was with my mother and  
with my aunt and this cousin

196  
00:12:03,070 --> 00:12:08,050  
at their grandfather.

197  
00:12:08,050 --> 00:12:10,590

198  
00:12:10,590 --> 00:12:12,760  
Where was your father?

199  
00:12:12,760 --> 00:12:13,650  
I don't know.

200  
00:12:13,650 --> 00:12:14,150  
OK.

201  
00:12:14,150 --> 00:12:16,060  
I don't remember it.

202  
00:12:16,060 --> 00:12:17,440  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

203  
00:12:17,440 --> 00:12:20,170  
I didn't ask.

204  
00:12:20,170 --> 00:12:21,720  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

205  
00:12:21,720 --> 00:12:24,626  
So you--

206  
00:12:24,626 --> 00:12:29,740  
And we were running.

207  
00:12:29,740 --> 00:12:36,640  
There was a place to hide,

such a cave in the ranch.

208

00:12:36,640 --> 00:12:42,450

And we had always to run if they  
were saying Germans are coming

209

00:12:42,450 --> 00:12:45,550

or Ukrainians are coming.

210

00:12:45,550 --> 00:12:50,170

So we were running and  
hiding in this cave.

211

00:12:50,170 --> 00:12:54,820

And I remember very good that  
once I was sitting in the cave,

212

00:12:54,820 --> 00:12:58,780

and it was quite  
long hiding there.

213

00:12:58,780 --> 00:13:02,700

So I slipped out from there.

214

00:13:02,700 --> 00:13:03,790

I escaped.

215

00:13:03,790 --> 00:13:09,880

My parents-- my mother and the  
aunt, they didn't take care

216

00:13:09,880 --> 00:13:13,870

I was speaking with  
my cousin my age.

217

00:13:13,870 --> 00:13:19,570

And she didn't say a  
word that I went out.

218

00:13:19,570 --> 00:13:26,050

And I went out, and  
there were pear trees.

219

00:13:26,050 --> 00:13:30,100

It was a [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

220

00:13:30,100 --> 00:13:31,540

How we say?

221

00:13:31,540 --> 00:13:41,920

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] It was a  
plant, a plantation of pears.

222

00:13:41,920 --> 00:13:47,620

And I was climbing on that tree  
to pick the pears, which were

223

00:13:47,620 --> 00:13:50,230

little pears and very ripe.

224

00:13:50,230 --> 00:13:54,100

Because I think they  
couldn't pick them up

225

00:13:54,100 --> 00:13:55,280

because of the war.

226

00:13:55,280 --> 00:13:58,660

And it was left on the tree.

227

00:13:58,660 --> 00:14:07,210

And I was on the tree when I  
saw three people coming in.

228

00:14:07,210 --> 00:14:12,610

They were dressed-- now  
I know were Ukrainians.

229

00:14:12,610 --> 00:14:15,550

And they spoke Ukrainian.

230

00:14:15,550 --> 00:14:20,140

It's very similar to Polish,  
but it's not the same language.

231

00:14:20,140 --> 00:14:25,780

And I tried to hide,  
and I jumped down,

232

00:14:25,780 --> 00:14:27,670

down from the tree.

233

00:14:27,670 --> 00:14:31,870

And I didn't run to the cave.

234

00:14:31,870 --> 00:14:35,040

235

00:14:35,040 --> 00:14:39,130

I was standing on the place.

236

00:14:39,130 --> 00:14:45,340

And the chief of  
them, he had a pistol.

237

00:14:45,340 --> 00:14:48,010

And the others had guns.

238

00:14:48,010 --> 00:14:51,820

And he asked me, where are you?

239

00:14:51,820 --> 00:14:53,950

Where is your mother?

240

00:14:53,950 --> 00:14:59,800

And I was so excited,  
and my nose was full.

241

00:14:59,800 --> 00:15:05,020

And I wanted to take out a  
handkerchief from my pocket,

242

00:15:05,020 --> 00:15:08,710

but what I took was a pear.

243

00:15:08,710 --> 00:15:11,770

And I gave him the pear.

244  
00:15:11,770 --> 00:15:14,110  
So all of them started to laugh.

245  
00:15:14,110 --> 00:15:18,610  
It was a very funny situation.

246  
00:15:18,610 --> 00:15:23,000  
And I don't remember  
exactly, but they left me.

247  
00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:25,870  
They went away.

248  
00:15:25,870 --> 00:15:32,230  
So when I came to the cave,  
so my mother and my aunt,

249  
00:15:32,230 --> 00:15:34,900  
they started to--

250  
00:15:34,900 --> 00:15:38,200  
they hugged me and  
said, Oh, you are

251  
00:15:38,200 --> 00:15:42,090  
so clever that you  
didn't run and show them

252  
00:15:42,090 --> 00:15:43,880  
where we are hiding.

253  
00:15:43,880 --> 00:15:45,010  
Oh, yes.

254  
00:15:45,010 --> 00:15:51,100  
So I became a hero because  
instead I didn't do anything.

255  
00:15:51,100 --> 00:15:55,030  
I was so frightened

I couldn't even run.

256

00:15:55,030 --> 00:15:59,590

So this I remember  
also, memories.

257

00:15:59,590 --> 00:16:01,300

So then you stay there?

258

00:16:01,300 --> 00:16:02,650

You stay for how long?

259

00:16:02,650 --> 00:16:05,900

260

00:16:05,900 --> 00:16:14,840

All these periods of time, what  
I remember I have no quantity.

261

00:16:14,840 --> 00:16:16,630

I don't know how long it was.

262

00:16:16,630 --> 00:16:18,550

I don't remember.

263

00:16:18,550 --> 00:16:20,770

It was some time.

264

00:16:20,770 --> 00:16:23,800

I assume it was a short time.

265

00:16:23,800 --> 00:16:30,670

And then we crossed  
the river, River San.

266

00:16:30,670 --> 00:16:35,410

River San was the border  
between the German occupation

267

00:16:35,410 --> 00:16:36,890

and the Russian.

268

00:16:36,890 --> 00:16:38,560

They had an agreement.

269

00:16:38,560 --> 00:16:42,370

And the Russians entered from  
East and the Germans from West.

270

00:16:42,370 --> 00:16:45,850

And we crossed the  
river at night.

271

00:16:45,850 --> 00:16:52,120

And I think I was most of  
this time either asleep

272

00:16:52,120 --> 00:16:54,580

or I don't remember.

273

00:16:54,580 --> 00:16:58,820

I don't remember how  
we crossed the river.

274

00:16:58,820 --> 00:16:59,650

And--

275

00:16:59,650 --> 00:17:02,980

This is you-- is this  
you and your mother?

276

00:17:02,980 --> 00:17:04,280

And father, also.

277

00:17:04,280 --> 00:17:05,470

OK.

278

00:17:05,470 --> 00:17:06,290

All right.

279

00:17:06,290 --> 00:17:13,450

And we reached the city of Lw<sup>3</sup>w.

280

00:17:13,450 --> 00:17:15,349  
Lemberg in German.

281  
00:17:15,349 --> 00:17:18,099  
Right.

282  
00:17:18,099 --> 00:17:25,780  
There my grandfather,  
he was already

283  
00:17:25,780 --> 00:17:27,550  
secular, this grandfather.

284  
00:17:27,550 --> 00:17:31,240  
Not the other one, but  
this one was secular.

285  
00:17:31,240 --> 00:17:34,450  
And he had a--

286  
00:17:34,450 --> 00:17:35,990  
he was a lawyer.

287  
00:17:35,990 --> 00:17:45,490  
And he was a secretary  
of the court in Lw<sup>3</sup>w.

288  
00:17:45,490 --> 00:17:48,020  
Is this your mother's father  
or your father's father?

289  
00:17:48,020 --> 00:17:49,150  
My father's father.

290  
00:17:49,150 --> 00:17:51,220  
OK.

291  
00:17:51,220 --> 00:17:59,770  
And we settled in Lw<sup>3</sup>w, and  
I went to the kindergarten

292  
00:17:59,770 --> 00:18:02,260



for the first time.

293

00:18:02,260 --> 00:18:09,060

And it was not long,  
maybe two months.

294

00:18:09,060 --> 00:18:12,880

In this time what I  
remember that my father,

295

00:18:12,880 --> 00:18:17,840

he had good connections  
with a vendor

296

00:18:17,840 --> 00:18:23,980

of photographic supplies.

297

00:18:23,980 --> 00:18:28,570

And he went to  
him, and told him,

298

00:18:28,570 --> 00:18:33,170

I was buying all time from you.

299

00:18:33,170 --> 00:18:42,440

Now I want you to sell  
me all your stock.

300

00:18:42,440 --> 00:18:44,990

And this was an old man.

301

00:18:44,990 --> 00:18:46,900

And he said OK.

302

00:18:46,900 --> 00:18:51,280

And he gave him also a  
credit for all the stock.

303

00:18:51,280 --> 00:18:57,200

And my father was going around  
in LwÅ³w and the surrounding

304

00:18:57,200 --> 00:19:00,730  
to all photographic shops.

305  
00:19:00,730 --> 00:19:01,810  
Why?

306  
00:19:01,810 --> 00:19:06,040  
Because the Russians  
demanded that everybody

307  
00:19:06,040 --> 00:19:12,552  
will get a new ID  
with a picture.

308  
00:19:12,552 --> 00:19:17,710  
So there was a great need  
of the photographic supply.

309  
00:19:17,710 --> 00:19:19,220  
Oh, my.

310  
00:19:19,220 --> 00:19:21,430  
And I remember my  
father was coming

311  
00:19:21,430 --> 00:19:25,530  
in the evening with a  
suitcase full of money.

312  
00:19:25,530 --> 00:19:30,130  
And he and my mother  
were counting the money.

313  
00:19:30,130 --> 00:19:35,380  
My mother was also  
working as a photographer.

314  
00:19:35,380 --> 00:19:42,580  
They made a cooperative--

315  
00:19:42,580 --> 00:19:43,715  
cooperative.

316  
00:19:43,715 --> 00:19:44,590  
How you pronounce it?

317  
00:19:44,590 --> 00:19:45,310  
Cooperative.

318  
00:19:45,310 --> 00:19:52,090  
Cooperative for photography.

319  
00:19:52,090 --> 00:19:59,410  
And in this time, my parents  
made big money, which I think--

320  
00:19:59,410 --> 00:20:01,150  
this I can't tell you exactly--

321  
00:20:01,150 --> 00:20:05,740  
but this helped  
us in the future.

322  
00:20:05,740 --> 00:20:10,920  
Because of course the money was  
not the same value as before,

323  
00:20:10,920 --> 00:20:13,370  
because it was inflation, also.

324  
00:20:13,370 --> 00:20:22,100  
But when we were taken to  
Siberia, which was one night,

325  
00:20:22,100 --> 00:20:25,450  
they took us in a train--

326  
00:20:25,450 --> 00:20:28,155

327  
00:20:28,155 --> 00:20:29,620  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

328  
00:20:29,620 --> 00:20:34,810

The people, the Russian  
called us, and they told us.

329  
00:20:34,810 --> 00:20:40,330  
And this I also know  
from what they told me.

330  
00:20:40,330 --> 00:20:45,680  
They said we can either go  
back to the German part,

331  
00:20:45,680 --> 00:20:54,160  
where we ran out, or we are  
not allowed to stay in LwÅ³w.

332  
00:20:54,160 --> 00:20:59,320  
They will transport us  
somewhere to the East.

333  
00:20:59,320 --> 00:21:06,730  
And they pushed us in  
the midnight in such--

334  
00:21:06,730 --> 00:21:10,240  
in a train, that the cars were--

335  
00:21:10,240 --> 00:21:10,850  
Cattle train.

336  
00:21:10,850 --> 00:21:12,124  
Sorry?

337  
00:21:12,124 --> 00:21:13,560  
A cattle train.

338  
00:21:13,560 --> 00:21:17,110  
A cattle train.

339  
00:21:17,110 --> 00:21:20,770  
How long were you in LwÅ³w?

340  
00:21:20,770 --> 00:21:22,240

Do you know?

341  
00:21:22,240 --> 00:21:23,890  
Maybe two months.

342  
00:21:23,890 --> 00:21:24,710  
Two months.

343  
00:21:24,710 --> 00:21:27,950  
So this is-- so what are we  
talking about when you left,

344  
00:21:27,950 --> 00:21:28,450  
about?

345  
00:21:28,450 --> 00:21:30,700  
We are talking now about--

346  
00:21:30,700 --> 00:21:32,632  
December?

347  
00:21:32,632 --> 00:21:34,070  
About December?

348  
00:21:34,070 --> 00:21:35,350  
No, no, September.

349  
00:21:35,350 --> 00:21:36,790  
Maybe October.

350  
00:21:36,790 --> 00:21:38,920  
But this was a very hot October.

351  
00:21:38,920 --> 00:21:40,780  
I remember it exactly.

352  
00:21:40,780 --> 00:21:45,770  
Because when we were  
in the train and they

353  
00:21:45,770 --> 00:21:48,760

the people were like two floors.

354

00:21:48,760 --> 00:21:54,310

They divided the  
car in two floors.

355

00:21:54,310 --> 00:21:57,180

And we were pushed inside.

356

00:21:57,180 --> 00:21:59,770

The adults couldn't stand up.

357

00:21:59,770 --> 00:22:01,880

They had to bend.

358

00:22:01,880 --> 00:22:06,790

And we went one way.

359

00:22:06,790 --> 00:22:08,020

Do you remember this?

360

00:22:08,020 --> 00:22:09,310

Do you remember the train?

361

00:22:09,310 --> 00:22:15,100

Yes, I remember it very  
good, because also I got--

362

00:22:15,100 --> 00:22:16,360

how you say in English?

363

00:22:16,360 --> 00:22:18,940

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

364

00:22:18,940 --> 00:22:19,850

Whooping cough.

365

00:22:19,850 --> 00:22:21,340

How?

366

00:22:21,340 --> 00:22:22,420

Whooping cough.

367  
00:22:22,420 --> 00:22:23,880  
Oh, my.

368  
00:22:23,880 --> 00:22:24,410  
OK.

369  
00:22:24,410 --> 00:22:28,540  
And the people from  
the second floor

370  
00:22:28,540 --> 00:22:32,680  
let me sit near the  
little opening, which

371  
00:22:32,680 --> 00:22:34,410  
was like a window--

372  
00:22:34,410 --> 00:22:38,200  
I don't know-- of the  
car to get some air.

373  
00:22:38,200 --> 00:22:39,830  
It was very hot inside.

374  
00:22:39,830 --> 00:22:48,160  
And they gave us little  
white water to drink.

375  
00:22:48,160 --> 00:23:02,390  
And this was very, very  
difficult and traumatic ride.

376  
00:23:02,390 --> 00:23:02,890  
Yes.

377  
00:23:02,890 --> 00:23:06,400  
We went three weeks one way.

378  
00:23:06,400 --> 00:23:08,950  
You were in that

car for three weeks?

379

00:23:08,950 --> 00:23:11,020

Yes, three weeks.

380

00:23:11,020 --> 00:23:16,000

The car was going and standing  
and going and standing

381

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:18,520

in stations.

382

00:23:18,520 --> 00:23:21,050

Did they let you get  
off the car at all?

383

00:23:21,050 --> 00:23:22,240

No, not at all.

384

00:23:22,240 --> 00:23:23,380

They did not.

385

00:23:23,380 --> 00:23:25,150

And I don't know where--

386

00:23:25,150 --> 00:23:34,470

I can remember how they threw  
out the pile of what people do.

387

00:23:34,470 --> 00:23:36,660

Right, the waste, the waste.

388

00:23:36,660 --> 00:23:37,600

The [INAUDIBLE].

389

00:23:37,600 --> 00:23:38,100

Yeah.

390

00:23:38,100 --> 00:23:40,780

391



00:23:40,780 --> 00:23:41,890  
What about food?

392  
00:23:41,890 --> 00:23:44,230  
How did you get food?

393  
00:23:44,230 --> 00:23:47,470  
In the stations, they  
was supplying us.

394  
00:23:47,470 --> 00:23:50,210

395  
00:23:50,210 --> 00:23:57,300  
Guards were-- all stations  
where we arrived were guards.

396  
00:23:57,300 --> 00:24:01,090  
I don't know if the  
guards were going also

397  
00:24:01,090 --> 00:24:05,260  
on the train on another car  
or they were waiting for us

398  
00:24:05,260 --> 00:24:06,610  
in the stations.

399  
00:24:06,610 --> 00:24:10,690  
But in every  
stations we stopped.

400  
00:24:10,690 --> 00:24:16,565  
They opened the doors  
to let air get in,

401  
00:24:16,565 --> 00:24:18,430  
but nobody could get out.

402  
00:24:18,430 --> 00:24:19,180  
Oh, my.

403

00:24:19,180 --> 00:24:25,030  
And sometimes I remember  
once they wanted to close--

404  
00:24:25,030 --> 00:24:27,700  
to shut the door before we went.

405  
00:24:27,700 --> 00:24:31,500  
And one man put his  
leg, and he didn't

406  
00:24:31,500 --> 00:24:36,490  
let the guards to close it.

407  
00:24:36,490 --> 00:24:41,950  
And one of them said,  
let's leave him.

408  
00:24:41,950 --> 00:24:47,050  
The officers had other  
hats as the soldiers.

409  
00:24:47,050 --> 00:24:51,310  
And I was saying, these were  
the heads of the officers.

410  
00:24:51,310 --> 00:24:52,540  
They are bad.

411  
00:24:52,540 --> 00:24:55,270  
They are closing  
the doors firmly.

412  
00:24:55,270 --> 00:24:58,600  
But the others, they  
don't care about much

413  
00:24:58,600 --> 00:25:02,230  
to shut the door completely.

414  
00:25:02,230 --> 00:25:06,910  
Because it was very  
important to get air.

415  
00:25:06,910 --> 00:25:07,630  
Yes.

416  
00:25:07,630 --> 00:25:14,370  
Well, this ride was one of the  
traumatic rides I remember.

417  
00:25:14,370 --> 00:25:16,670  
There was another even worse.

418  
00:25:16,670 --> 00:25:18,820  
Well, what did you  
do all day long

419  
00:25:18,820 --> 00:25:20,290  
with your mother and father?

420  
00:25:20,290 --> 00:25:21,620  
Did they--

421  
00:25:21,620 --> 00:25:22,120  
Well--

422  
00:25:22,120 --> 00:25:23,380  
You just sat there?

423  
00:25:23,380 --> 00:25:26,020

424  
00:25:26,020 --> 00:25:28,270  
We were sitting there inside.

425  
00:25:28,270 --> 00:25:33,400  
I don't think that  
we did something.

426  
00:25:33,400 --> 00:25:35,650  
I don't remember  
we did something.

427

00:25:35,650 --> 00:25:38,022  
It was like--

428  
00:25:38,022 --> 00:25:39,710  
Cattle.

429  
00:25:39,710 --> 00:25:42,220  
We were like cattle, yes.

430  
00:25:42,220 --> 00:25:44,890  
Did your mother do  
anything to comfort you?

431  
00:25:44,890 --> 00:25:46,500  
Did she--

432  
00:25:46,500 --> 00:25:47,620  
Yes, they were.

433  
00:25:47,620 --> 00:25:53,980  
When I was coughing  
and I was throwing up,

434  
00:25:53,980 --> 00:25:55,660  
she was holding me.

435  
00:25:55,660 --> 00:25:57,940  
Yeah.

436  
00:25:57,940 --> 00:25:59,980  
And so then when did that end?

437  
00:25:59,980 --> 00:26:02,620  
When did that train ride end?

438  
00:26:02,620 --> 00:26:07,840  
We arrived somewhere in Siberia.

439  
00:26:07,840 --> 00:26:14,050  
And I tried this time--

440

00:26:14,050 --> 00:26:16,480  
when I was in Israel  
in [INAUDIBLE]

441  
00:26:16,480 --> 00:26:23,050  
I was looking in the map,  
trying to find where it was.

442  
00:26:23,050 --> 00:26:26,500  
And I couldn't find,  
because the place

443  
00:26:26,500 --> 00:26:32,770  
that we arrived at the end  
was not marked on the map.

444  
00:26:32,770 --> 00:26:35,620  
First, we arrived  
to a train station.

445  
00:26:35,620 --> 00:26:39,270  
And then they took  
us in such a--

446  
00:26:39,270 --> 00:26:43,390

447  
00:26:43,390 --> 00:26:50,400  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

448  
00:26:50,400 --> 00:26:51,090  
Truck.

449  
00:26:51,090 --> 00:26:51,980  
Truck, yes.

450  
00:26:51,980 --> 00:26:57,650  
They took us in trucks,  
and we drive two days

451  
00:26:57,650 --> 00:27:02,150  
in the forest somewhere.

452

00:27:02,150 --> 00:27:10,970

And at last we arrived to a  
place that was called Ozero.

453

00:27:10,970 --> 00:27:13,610

Ozero is in Russian a lake.

454

00:27:13,610 --> 00:27:19,130

And there was a lake and  
a swamp around this lake.

455

00:27:19,130 --> 00:27:23,120

And this place is not  
placed on the map,

456

00:27:23,120 --> 00:27:27,260

because there are  
a lot of Ozeros,

457

00:27:27,260 --> 00:27:30,770

a lot of lakes in Siberia.

458

00:27:30,770 --> 00:27:31,340

So--

459

00:27:31,340 --> 00:27:32,870

Do you know how to spell?

460

00:27:32,870 --> 00:27:35,090

Do you know how to  
spell that word?

461

00:27:35,090 --> 00:27:37,150

Do you know how to spell it?

462

00:27:37,150 --> 00:27:37,980

Ozero.

463

00:27:37,980 --> 00:27:38,480

O-Z--

464

00:27:38,480 --> 00:27:41,360

465

00:27:41,360 --> 00:27:42,250

Yes.

466

00:27:42,250 --> 00:27:44,130

--E-R-O.

467

00:27:44,130 --> 00:27:44,630

OK.

468

00:27:44,630 --> 00:27:47,070

Thank you.

469

00:27:47,070 --> 00:27:50,930

OK, so now you're there,  
and what's happening there?

470

00:27:50,930 --> 00:27:55,970

When we entered there,  
it was a like glade

471

00:27:55,970 --> 00:28:03,890

in the forest and a slope down  
to the lake, which was a swamp.

472

00:28:03,890 --> 00:28:11,600

And there was one barrack,  
a very big barrack.

473

00:28:11,600 --> 00:28:16,040

Once I think it was a prison or  
something like this, I assume.

474

00:28:16,040 --> 00:28:17,030

And we entered.

475

00:28:17,030 --> 00:28:23,021

We got [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

476

00:28:23,021 --> 00:28:26,320

477

00:28:26,320 --> 00:28:28,860

What happened to your English?

478

00:28:28,860 --> 00:28:31,310

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

479

00:28:31,310 --> 00:28:33,126

[LAUGHTER]

480

00:28:33,126 --> 00:28:35,490

Some stretchers to lie on.

481

00:28:35,490 --> 00:28:37,420

Stretchers to lie on.

482

00:28:37,420 --> 00:28:38,140

Yes.

483

00:28:38,140 --> 00:28:44,770

And there were, I think,  
three, one over the other.

484

00:28:44,770 --> 00:28:48,540

And I was lying with  
my older cousin.

485

00:28:48,540 --> 00:28:50,400

Like in the concentration camps.

486

00:28:50,400 --> 00:28:51,133

Yeah.

487

00:28:51,133 --> 00:28:52,800

She said like in the  
concentration camp.

488

00:28:52,800 --> 00:28:53,680

Yes, yes.

489



00:28:53,680 --> 00:28:55,450  
It was not a concentration camp.

490  
00:28:55,450 --> 00:28:55,990  
It was--

491  
00:28:55,990 --> 00:28:56,840  
A work camp.

492  
00:28:56,840 --> 00:28:58,000  
It was a work camp.

493  
00:28:58,000 --> 00:28:59,500  
Yes.

494  
00:28:59,500 --> 00:29:03,220  
And so the first  
night I remember I

495  
00:29:03,220 --> 00:29:08,200  
was lying with my older cousin.

496  
00:29:08,200 --> 00:29:15,430  
And he was-- he had  
matches, and he made a fire

497  
00:29:15,430 --> 00:29:23,410  
with a piece of  
paper of a newspaper.

498  
00:29:23,410 --> 00:29:29,050  
And he was burning  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

499  
00:29:29,050 --> 00:29:30,870  
Oh.

500  
00:29:30,870 --> 00:29:33,070  
Bugs.

501  
00:29:33,070 --> 00:29:33,940  
Fleas.

502  
00:29:33,940 --> 00:29:34,560  
Fleas.

503  
00:29:34,560 --> 00:29:35,600  
Fleas?

504  
00:29:35,600 --> 00:29:38,140  
Oh, the bugs, the fleas?

505  
00:29:38,140 --> 00:29:38,670  
Yeah.

506  
00:29:38,670 --> 00:29:39,170  
Yeah.

507  
00:29:39,170 --> 00:29:40,900  
Yes.

508  
00:29:40,900 --> 00:29:46,240  
It was-- it was very nice.

509  
00:29:46,240 --> 00:29:47,540  
I remember it.

510  
00:29:47,540 --> 00:29:51,830  
I was so happy that  
he was burning them.

511  
00:29:51,830 --> 00:29:53,920  
There were so much--

512  
00:29:53,920 --> 00:29:56,455  
so many that you can--

513  
00:29:56,455 --> 00:29:57,970  
Yeah.

514  
00:29:57,970 --> 00:30:01,570  
Are we still talking-- are  
we talking about 1939 still?

515  
00:30:01,570 --> 00:30:03,040  
Is it still '39?

516  
00:30:03,040 --> 00:30:03,710  
Yes, yes.

517  
00:30:03,710 --> 00:30:04,450  
OK.

518  
00:30:04,450 --> 00:30:11,440  
And we stayed there till  
after Molotov-Ribbentrop.

519  
00:30:11,440 --> 00:30:16,120  
After the Germans started  
war with the Soviet Union.

520  
00:30:16,120 --> 00:30:17,890  
And I think it was '41.

521  
00:30:17,890 --> 00:30:18,780  
Yes, June.

522  
00:30:18,780 --> 00:30:20,750  
That was June of '41.

523  
00:30:20,750 --> 00:30:21,250  
Yes.

524  
00:30:21,250 --> 00:30:22,660  
So we stayed--

525  
00:30:22,660 --> 00:30:23,830  
What did you do?

526  
00:30:23,830 --> 00:30:24,860  
Wait a minute.

527  
00:30:24,860 --> 00:30:26,530  
What did you do there?

528  
00:30:26,530 --> 00:30:28,540  
Did you do anything?

529  
00:30:28,540 --> 00:30:31,220  
I am just going to tell you.

530  
00:30:31,220 --> 00:30:35,290  
The men were working  
in the forest.

531  
00:30:35,290 --> 00:30:41,620  
They were cutting  
trees and putting them

532  
00:30:41,620 --> 00:30:44,288  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

533  
00:30:44,288 --> 00:30:46,720  
The trunk.

534  
00:30:46,720 --> 00:30:48,250  
The trunk?

535  
00:30:48,250 --> 00:30:52,210  
They were putting the  
trunks into a river.

536  
00:30:52,210 --> 00:30:53,200  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

537  
00:30:53,200 --> 00:30:57,340  
The trunks of the  
trees into a river.

538  
00:30:57,340 --> 00:30:59,830  
And it was flowed southward.

539  
00:30:59,830 --> 00:31:01,910  
Yes, yes.

540

00:31:01,910 --> 00:31:05,590  
And they were cutting it.

541  
00:31:05,590 --> 00:31:09,700  
I remember that one  
of the family friends

542  
00:31:09,700 --> 00:31:12,490  
was killed by a  
tree, and this I was

543  
00:31:12,490 --> 00:31:17,230  
very shocked I won't  
see him anymore.

544  
00:31:17,230 --> 00:31:22,000  
And we stayed there.

545  
00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:23,890  
Did you have enough clothes?

546  
00:31:23,890 --> 00:31:26,170  
Did you have enough  
warm clothes?

547  
00:31:26,170 --> 00:31:30,520  
What I remember  
is that we had one

548  
00:31:30,520 --> 00:31:35,380  
we got one house that  
the parents built.

549  
00:31:35,380 --> 00:31:39,070  
The prisoners, the  
families, the adults,

550  
00:31:39,070 --> 00:31:42,280  
they had not only  
to cut the trees,

551  
00:31:42,280 --> 00:31:45,970  
also to build the

housing for us.

552  
00:31:45,970 --> 00:31:52,450  
And we got a house  
built of the trunks of--

553  
00:31:52,450 --> 00:31:53,910  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

554  
00:31:53,910 --> 00:31:57,580  
No, the whole left  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

555  
00:31:57,580 --> 00:32:00,950

556  
00:32:00,950 --> 00:32:01,450  
Trunk.

557  
00:32:01,450 --> 00:32:04,130

558  
00:32:04,130 --> 00:32:05,320  
Out of trunks.

559  
00:32:05,320 --> 00:32:05,820  
Yes.

560  
00:32:05,820 --> 00:32:07,960  
And this was built in--

561  
00:32:07,960 --> 00:32:14,080  
the house was one big--

562  
00:32:14,080 --> 00:32:16,380  
for me, it was big.

563  
00:32:16,380 --> 00:32:17,780  
Was it just one family?

564  
00:32:17,780 --> 00:32:19,620

You were just by--  
was it just your--

565  
00:32:19,620 --> 00:32:21,020  
There were a few families.

566  
00:32:21,020 --> 00:32:21,520  
Oh.

567  
00:32:21,520 --> 00:32:26,320  
And it was also my  
cousin, and my aunt,

568  
00:32:26,320 --> 00:32:29,920  
and my-- they were  
adults, the cousins.

569  
00:32:29,920 --> 00:32:30,870  
What about food?

570  
00:32:30,870 --> 00:32:31,780  
Did you--

571  
00:32:31,780 --> 00:32:36,190  
They were 20 and 19  
years older than me.

572  
00:32:36,190 --> 00:32:38,200  
So they were already adults.

573  
00:32:38,200 --> 00:32:40,870  
Did you have enough food?

574  
00:32:40,870 --> 00:32:42,670  
Well, this was also a question.

575  
00:32:42,670 --> 00:32:47,710  
I don't remember hunger in this.

576  
00:32:47,710 --> 00:32:52,510  
We got-- as prisoners  
we got food.

577

00:32:52,510 --> 00:32:54,910

And my aunt was also the cook.

578

00:32:54,910 --> 00:33:01,960

She was-- like my mother, my mother studied photography.

579

00:33:01,960 --> 00:33:10,540

And her sister, which was older than she, she started cooking.

580

00:33:10,540 --> 00:33:14,600

And she was a cook in this camp.

581

00:33:14,600 --> 00:33:23,110

So I assume that because of this we had enough food then.

582

00:33:23,110 --> 00:33:25,590

Because I guess that it was like this.

583

00:33:25,590 --> 00:33:30,460

Because then I didn't ask and I didn't care.

584

00:33:30,460 --> 00:33:37,690

It was not luxury food, but we didn't starve.

585

00:33:37,690 --> 00:33:41,170

We didn't feel hunger.

586

00:33:41,170 --> 00:33:44,290

Or I didn't feel hunger then.

587

00:33:44,290 --> 00:33:47,110

What I feel-- what was the worse is

588

00:33:47,110 --> 00:33:52,960



that I was closed in  
winter time in one room

589  
00:33:52,960 --> 00:33:55,005  
that I couldn't get out.

590  
00:33:55,005 --> 00:33:57,800  
It was 40 degrees minus.

591  
00:33:57,800 --> 00:34:00,240  
Oh, my.

592  
00:34:00,240 --> 00:34:02,500  
And I couldn't play.

593  
00:34:02,500 --> 00:34:06,250  
It was a very, very hard  
time for me as a child.

594  
00:34:06,250 --> 00:34:08,230  
I'm sure.

595  
00:34:08,230 --> 00:34:09,280  
What else?

596  
00:34:09,280 --> 00:34:14,380  
That I had no toys,  
and I had no sweets.

597  
00:34:14,380 --> 00:34:15,250  
Yeah.

598  
00:34:15,250 --> 00:34:17,920  
And this I remember very good.

599  
00:34:17,920 --> 00:34:18,850  
Were there a lot--

600  
00:34:18,850 --> 00:34:20,949  
were there any other children?

601

00:34:20,949 --> 00:34:23,230  
Any other children  
from other families?

602  
00:34:23,230 --> 00:34:25,389  
Yes, but not in my room.

603  
00:34:25,389 --> 00:34:27,310  
There were children in the camp.

604  
00:34:27,310 --> 00:34:28,260  
Yes.

605  
00:34:28,260 --> 00:34:30,610  
But not-- I could--

606  
00:34:30,610 --> 00:34:41,989  
only when the snow melted I  
could play with other children.

607  
00:34:41,989 --> 00:34:42,489  
Right.

608  
00:34:42,489 --> 00:34:44,610  
And then we went in the forest.

609  
00:34:44,610 --> 00:34:49,000  
We were picking all  
kinds of berries.

610  
00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:51,100  
Did you go to school there?

611  
00:34:51,100 --> 00:34:51,760  
No.

612  
00:34:51,760 --> 00:34:53,920  
No school.

613  
00:34:53,920 --> 00:34:55,300  
There was no school.

614  
00:34:55,300 --> 00:34:56,080  
OK.

615  
00:34:56,080 --> 00:34:59,560  
What was built  
first was a prison.

616  
00:34:59,560 --> 00:35:00,550  
Oh.

617  
00:35:00,550 --> 00:35:08,124  
And the second was a  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

618  
00:35:08,124 --> 00:35:09,600  
Infirmary.

619  
00:35:09,600 --> 00:35:10,180  
How?

620  
00:35:10,180 --> 00:35:11,690  
Infirmary.

621  
00:35:11,690 --> 00:35:12,190  
Infirmary.

622  
00:35:12,190 --> 00:35:13,990  
Oh, OK.

623  
00:35:13,990 --> 00:35:16,430  
These were two public buildings.

624  
00:35:16,430 --> 00:35:18,020  
Uh-huh.

625  
00:35:18,020 --> 00:35:29,305  
And before the  
war with Germany--

626  
00:35:29,305 --> 00:35:33,520  
the Soviet Union and

Germany started the war,

627

00:35:33,520 --> 00:35:37,240  
before the invasion  
of their Germans,

628

00:35:37,240 --> 00:35:47,720  
once my father said there was  
from the Soviet like a manager.

629

00:35:47,720 --> 00:35:51,230  
And he quarreled  
with him, and he

630

00:35:51,230 --> 00:35:56,330  
said that Hitler is  
a son of a bitch.

631

00:35:56,330 --> 00:35:59,420  
So he said, this  
is politically--

632

00:35:59,420 --> 00:36:02,690  
you speak politically,  
and he put him in prison.

633

00:36:02,690 --> 00:36:03,590  
Oh, my.

634

00:36:03,590 --> 00:36:09,880  
And just the next  
morning, he opened--

635

00:36:09,880 --> 00:36:15,770  
it was announced that the  
Germans attacked Soviet Union.

636

00:36:15,770 --> 00:36:17,320  
Yes, yeah.

637

00:36:17,320 --> 00:36:21,300  
So this manager came,  
entered my father's cell,

638

00:36:21,300 --> 00:36:25,040

and he opened the  
door of the prison,

639

00:36:25,040 --> 00:36:29,780

and he bowed, and he said  
to my father, "you know,

640

00:36:29,780 --> 00:36:30,770

you are right."

641

00:36:30,770 --> 00:36:31,300

Oh, my.

642

00:36:31,300 --> 00:36:32,390

"He is a son of a bitch."

643

00:36:32,390 --> 00:36:34,910

Oh, my.

644

00:36:34,910 --> 00:36:37,410

This I remember, also.

645

00:36:37,410 --> 00:36:41,150

Some days my father was  
telling it very proudly.

646

00:36:41,150 --> 00:36:43,520

Yes, yes.

647

00:36:43,520 --> 00:36:45,080

So what else?

648

00:36:45,080 --> 00:36:48,510

Any other memories of  
that time until June '41?

649

00:36:48,510 --> 00:36:51,050

Any other memories?

650

00:36:51,050 --> 00:37:00,620  
Well, the memories of a child,  
that I was picking mushrooms.

651  
00:37:00,620 --> 00:37:02,250  
Not important things.

652  
00:37:02,250 --> 00:37:02,750  
Yeah.

653  
00:37:02,750 --> 00:37:07,110  
Because there was something  
special traumatic then.

654  
00:37:07,110 --> 00:37:07,610  
OK.

655  
00:37:07,610 --> 00:37:15,740  
Relatively, this working camp  
for me as a child was not--

656  
00:37:15,740 --> 00:37:17,540  
this was an open prison.

657  
00:37:17,540 --> 00:37:19,400  
Why I say open?

658  
00:37:19,400 --> 00:37:23,990  
Because all around was forest.

659  
00:37:23,990 --> 00:37:28,140  
Nobody could escape, and there  
was nothing for to escape,

660  
00:37:28,140 --> 00:37:31,790  
because there was food.

661  
00:37:31,790 --> 00:37:33,640  
We were supplied by food.

662  
00:37:33,640 --> 00:37:37,790  
And there was nowhere to

go, only forest and forest.

663  
00:37:37,790 --> 00:37:40,830  
And there were wolves  
over in the forest.

664  
00:37:40,830 --> 00:37:41,330  
Oh, my.

665  
00:37:41,330 --> 00:37:48,920  
I remember that the next  
house to us was a female dog.

666  
00:37:48,920 --> 00:37:56,990  
And at night, she was barking  
at the wolves and at her.

667  
00:37:56,990 --> 00:38:02,270  
And the next morning  
we found in the snow,

668  
00:38:02,270 --> 00:38:07,460  
they left her womb with  
little puppies inside.

669  
00:38:07,460 --> 00:38:11,030  
And we as children  
we had the sticks,

670  
00:38:11,030 --> 00:38:15,380  
and we pressed the womb, and  
we took out-- we put out-- we

671  
00:38:15,380 --> 00:38:21,560  
pushed out very little  
puppies from her womb.

672  
00:38:21,560 --> 00:38:24,760  
But they were dead,  
of course, and frozen.

673  
00:38:24,760 --> 00:38:27,650  
So this also I remember.

674  
00:38:27,650 --> 00:38:30,660  
This was a very nice view.

675  
00:38:30,660 --> 00:38:37,030  
OK, now it's June '41, and the  
Germans have invaded Russia.

676  
00:38:37,030 --> 00:38:39,210  
Now what happens?

677  
00:38:39,210 --> 00:38:46,460  
Now we are going to get at  
my hardest time in my life.

678  
00:38:46,460 --> 00:38:52,190  
We were liberated.

679  
00:38:52,190 --> 00:38:55,530  
They said now you are free.

680  
00:38:55,530 --> 00:39:00,580  
You can go wherever you  
like, so I understand.

681  
00:39:00,580 --> 00:39:06,640  
But in Soviet Union, nobody  
can go out of Soviet Union.

682  
00:39:06,640 --> 00:39:13,460  
It now happened that all  
my family that was there,

683  
00:39:13,460 --> 00:39:17,060  
and not only my family  
but most of the people--

684  
00:39:17,060 --> 00:39:19,670

685  
00:39:19,670 --> 00:39:24,650  
not only Jews, also the Polish



people that were refugees

686

00:39:24,650 --> 00:39:29,300

there, went to Uzbekistan.

687

00:39:29,300 --> 00:39:30,360

Many people.

688

00:39:30,360 --> 00:39:31,650

I don't know how many.

689

00:39:31,650 --> 00:39:40,270

Many, many, many million or  
close to it went to Uzbekistan.

690

00:39:40,270 --> 00:39:45,270

Also many went to Kazakhstan,  
but was Uzbekistan was--

691

00:39:45,270 --> 00:39:48,090

maybe the Russians did it.

692

00:39:48,090 --> 00:39:50,078

They wanted us to go there.

693

00:39:50,078 --> 00:39:53,080

694

00:39:53,080 --> 00:39:57,220

Or there was a rumor  
that it's nice and good

695

00:39:57,220 --> 00:39:58,760

and there is food.

696

00:39:58,760 --> 00:40:02,600

Of course this was  
the main question--

697

00:40:02,600 --> 00:40:04,110

food.

698

00:40:04,110 --> 00:40:08,460

So we went to Uzbekistan.

699

00:40:08,460 --> 00:40:09,560

And--

700

00:40:09,560 --> 00:40:10,940

How did you get there?

701

00:40:10,940 --> 00:40:13,040

How did you get there?

702

00:40:13,040 --> 00:40:13,850

By train.

703

00:40:13,850 --> 00:40:17,780

This was a train not  
like cattle train.

704

00:40:17,780 --> 00:40:20,180

It was a train that we went.

705

00:40:20,180 --> 00:40:23,150

Also not one day.

706

00:40:23,150 --> 00:40:27,840

Many days we traveled  
in the train.

707

00:40:27,840 --> 00:40:30,250

You're with your  
mother and your--

708

00:40:30,250 --> 00:40:30,750

Sorry?

709

00:40:30,750 --> 00:40:33,090

You're with your  
mother and your father.

710

00:40:33,090 --> 00:40:33,830

Yes.

711

00:40:33,830 --> 00:40:40,980

And we met there in Uzbekistan  
one aunt and another.

712

00:40:40,980 --> 00:40:45,140

So it was very--

713

00:40:45,140 --> 00:40:48,750

for me, all my  
life I didn't know

714

00:40:48,750 --> 00:40:52,440

and we didn't ask  
when we could ask

715

00:40:52,440 --> 00:40:56,820

how they contacted  
with each other

716

00:40:56,820 --> 00:41:00,150

in order to meet somewhere.

717

00:41:00,150 --> 00:41:02,120

I have no idea.

718

00:41:02,120 --> 00:41:04,860

Maybe my mail.

719

00:41:04,860 --> 00:41:08,230

Because mail still  
was working there.

720

00:41:08,230 --> 00:41:10,960

And we arrived.

721

00:41:10,960 --> 00:41:16,170

First we met in Tashkent,  
which was a big city.

722

00:41:16,170 --> 00:41:20,490

And then we to the east.

723  
00:41:20,490 --> 00:41:24,480  
It was called Fergana.

724  
00:41:24,480 --> 00:41:30,360  
It is on the east of Uzbekistan.

725  
00:41:30,360 --> 00:41:35,040  
We saw mountains, and they  
said, this is China already.

726  
00:41:35,040 --> 00:41:38,220  
Mountains that you  
see are in China.

727  
00:41:38,220 --> 00:41:39,480  
Oh, my.

728  
00:41:39,480 --> 00:41:44,640  
So this was a big valley.

729  
00:41:44,640 --> 00:41:48,960  
It is called-- now I know  
because I looked at the maps,

730  
00:41:48,960 --> 00:41:53,970  
it discovered the  
Fergana Valley.

731  
00:41:53,970 --> 00:41:57,120  
And we were in this  
town of Fergana.

732  
00:41:57,120 --> 00:42:00,100  
Do you know how to spell that?

733  
00:42:00,100 --> 00:42:00,630  
Sorry?

734  
00:42:00,630 --> 00:42:03,520  
Do you know how to spell that?

735  
00:42:03,520 --> 00:42:04,800  
Fergana.

736  
00:42:04,800 --> 00:42:11,710  
I think F-E-R-G-N-A.

737  
00:42:11,710 --> 00:42:12,840  
OK.

738  
00:42:12,840 --> 00:42:13,980  
No, Fergana.

739  
00:42:13,980 --> 00:42:14,560  
Fergana.

740  
00:42:14,560 --> 00:42:17,220  
A. A-N-A.

741  
00:42:17,220 --> 00:42:18,180  
Yeah, that's right.

742  
00:42:18,180 --> 00:42:19,120  
OK.

743  
00:42:19,120 --> 00:42:21,240  
F-E-R-G-A-N-A.

744  
00:42:21,240 --> 00:42:23,040  
Yes, OK.

745  
00:42:23,040 --> 00:42:24,960  
And then how long  
did you stay there?

746  
00:42:24,960 --> 00:42:33,870

747  
00:42:33,870 --> 00:42:35,630  
I think more than a year.

748  
00:42:35,630 --> 00:42:36,905  
Oh, all right.

749  
00:42:36,905 --> 00:42:42,060  
This was-- this was terrible.

750  
00:42:42,060 --> 00:42:46,580  
It was such a hunger  
that people were--

751  
00:42:46,580 --> 00:42:52,858  
all the fields were cotton.

752  
00:42:52,858 --> 00:42:56,160  
Because they had the--

753  
00:42:56,160 --> 00:42:59,350  
this was a military  
need, cotton.

754  
00:42:59,350 --> 00:43:04,780  
They made of the cotton  
the uniforms and tents.

755  
00:43:04,780 --> 00:43:07,670  
And so they needed cotton.

756  
00:43:07,670 --> 00:43:11,940  
And from the grains  
they made oil.

757  
00:43:11,940 --> 00:43:14,360  
And they made soap  
and oil of it.

758  
00:43:14,360 --> 00:43:21,360  
So this was very important  
for the war, for the military.

759  
00:43:21,360 --> 00:43:25,340  
So that's why they had  
to grow only cotton.

760  
00:43:25,340 --> 00:43:28,870  
And there were some  
gardens of the Uzbeks

761  
00:43:28,870 --> 00:43:32,030  
that they had also  
fruit, but not for us.

762  
00:43:32,030 --> 00:43:36,260  
They needed it for themselves.

763  
00:43:36,260 --> 00:43:43,580  
And after some  
time, maybe a year

764  
00:43:43,580 --> 00:43:47,580  
of terrible, terrible hunger,  
which people died, I remember

765  
00:43:47,580 --> 00:43:51,890  
we, myself and my  
cousin that lives

766  
00:43:51,890 --> 00:43:58,820  
in Jerusalem, a female  
cousin, and the male cousin,

767  
00:43:58,820 --> 00:44:04,470  
they both are a bit older than  
me, but let's say the same age,

768  
00:44:04,470 --> 00:44:13,760  
we were going around looking for  
something to eat in the winter.

769  
00:44:13,760 --> 00:44:21,950  
We had to collect it, what  
the camels or donkeys did

770  
00:44:21,950 --> 00:44:24,030  
with the--

771  
00:44:24,030 --> 00:44:24,840  
I don't know.

772  
00:44:24,840 --> 00:44:26,430  
I don't know English enough.

773  
00:44:26,430 --> 00:44:28,700  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

774  
00:44:28,700 --> 00:44:41,170

775  
00:44:41,170 --> 00:44:42,290  
It's OK.

776  
00:44:42,290 --> 00:44:43,850  
Just you can keep talking.

777  
00:44:43,850 --> 00:44:45,940  
She will remind me.

778  
00:44:45,940 --> 00:44:49,160  
We are collecting it.

779  
00:44:49,160 --> 00:44:51,360  
Human waste.

780  
00:44:51,360 --> 00:44:53,140  
The waste of the--

781  
00:44:53,140 --> 00:44:53,810  
not human.

782  
00:44:53,810 --> 00:44:54,310  
Of the--

783  
00:44:54,310 --> 00:44:55,540  
Of the animals.

784  
00:44:55,540 --> 00:44:56,230



Of the animals.

785  
00:44:56,230 --> 00:44:56,980  
Cattle waste.

786  
00:44:56,980 --> 00:44:57,700  
Yes.

787  
00:44:57,700 --> 00:44:59,800  
We were collecting it.

788  
00:44:59,800 --> 00:45:02,500

789  
00:45:02,500 --> 00:45:08,230  
And by this we found  
many children dead.

790  
00:45:08,230 --> 00:45:09,120  
Oh, my.

791  
00:45:09,120 --> 00:45:13,760  
Swollen bellies from hunger.

792  
00:45:13,760 --> 00:45:15,050  
And--

793  
00:45:15,050 --> 00:45:16,380  
What did you have to eat?

794  
00:45:16,380 --> 00:45:19,500

795  
00:45:19,500 --> 00:45:21,180  
Nothing.

796  
00:45:21,180 --> 00:45:24,150  
My father was going  
to the factory that

797  
00:45:24,150 --> 00:45:28,890

was pressing the cotton grains.

798

00:45:28,890 --> 00:45:42,450

So after it was pressed, the  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] that was

799

00:45:42,450 --> 00:45:48,660

taken out of the press,  
it looked like a roof--

800

00:45:48,660 --> 00:45:53,730

like the roof, what  
you put on the roof.

801

00:45:53,730 --> 00:45:58,290

And this, he was taking  
this, and my mother

802

00:45:58,290 --> 00:46:00,060

was boiling it with--

803

00:46:00,060 --> 00:46:04,600

804

00:46:04,600 --> 00:46:09,310

Yaeli, how you say  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]??

805

00:46:09,310 --> 00:46:10,390

Radish.

806

00:46:10,390 --> 00:46:11,400

Radish.

807

00:46:11,400 --> 00:46:15,180

She was cooking it with  
radish that somehow they got.

808

00:46:15,180 --> 00:46:18,370

And this it what we were eating.

809

00:46:18,370 --> 00:46:19,700

Yeah.

810  
00:46:19,700 --> 00:46:23,880  
And so we were eating.

811  
00:46:23,880 --> 00:46:25,230  
Did you go to school there?

812  
00:46:25,230 --> 00:46:27,370  
Did you go to school there?

813  
00:46:27,370 --> 00:46:27,870  
No.

814  
00:46:27,870 --> 00:46:28,780  
No.

815  
00:46:28,780 --> 00:46:29,280  
OK.

816  
00:46:29,280 --> 00:46:34,830  
No, I had another cousin  
there that she was also

817  
00:46:34,830 --> 00:46:37,180  
older than me, 19 years older.

818  
00:46:37,180 --> 00:46:40,950  
And she was in Poland a teacher.

819  
00:46:40,950 --> 00:46:47,740  
So she taught us, all  
three of us cousins,

820  
00:46:47,740 --> 00:46:51,540  
the same, nearly the  
same age, to write.

821  
00:46:51,540 --> 00:46:52,080  
Oh, OK.

822

00:46:52,080 --> 00:46:54,580  
So she took the newspapers.

823  
00:46:54,580 --> 00:46:56,040  
What was there?

824  
00:46:56,040 --> 00:46:57,290  
It was newspaper.

825  
00:46:57,290 --> 00:47:03,390  
It was always  
because the Soviets,

826  
00:47:03,390 --> 00:47:10,590  
they had to write and  
to put their ideas,

827  
00:47:10,590 --> 00:47:14,750  
to say how great is  
Stalin and so on.

828  
00:47:14,750 --> 00:47:15,340  
Right, right.

829  
00:47:15,340 --> 00:47:18,300  
So there were a lot of--

830  
00:47:18,300 --> 00:47:21,060  
we could get newspapers.

831  
00:47:21,060 --> 00:47:27,420  
So on the side of the newspaper,  
on the white, not printed side,

832  
00:47:27,420 --> 00:47:28,760  
she'd lines.

833  
00:47:28,760 --> 00:47:33,380

834  
00:47:33,380 --> 00:47:43,320  
And we started to

write the letters.

835  
00:47:43,320 --> 00:47:48,390  
This was like a school, but  
this was the education I got.

836  
00:47:48,390 --> 00:47:49,200  
Yeah.

837  
00:47:49,200 --> 00:47:52,830  
And I told you  
that I had no toys.

838  
00:47:52,830 --> 00:47:54,065  
Right.

839  
00:47:54,065 --> 00:48:00,240  
So maybe this is why I became  
an engineer, because I was

840  
00:48:00,240 --> 00:48:04,300  
planning and building my toys.

841  
00:48:04,300 --> 00:48:05,310  
Oh.

842  
00:48:05,310 --> 00:48:07,000  
I started then.

843  
00:48:07,000 --> 00:48:11,520  
I was creative.

844  
00:48:11,520 --> 00:48:16,260  
And I made many, many  
things of nothing.

845  
00:48:16,260 --> 00:48:29,090  
And one day, the Polish  
military organized to--

846  
00:48:29,090 --> 00:48:37,590  
you know that there was the

Polish government-in-exile

847  
00:48:37,590 --> 00:48:39,030  
in London.

848  
00:48:39,030 --> 00:48:39,530  
Yes, yes.

849  
00:48:39,530 --> 00:48:44,820  
And this government was against  
the communistic government

850  
00:48:44,820 --> 00:48:46,110  
in Poland.

851  
00:48:46,110 --> 00:48:52,170  
And they mobilized the  
refugees in the Soviet Union.

852  
00:48:52,170 --> 00:48:52,670  
Yes.

853  
00:48:52,670 --> 00:48:55,890  
It was agreed with Stalin.

854  
00:48:55,890 --> 00:49:02,880  
And they were trained and  
financed by the British.

855  
00:49:02,880 --> 00:49:06,810  
And this army,  
after they trained,

856  
00:49:06,810 --> 00:49:11,040  
they went to Persia,  
and from Persia

857  
00:49:11,040 --> 00:49:16,770  
to Iraq, from Iraq to Palestine,  
from Palestine to Egypt.

858  
00:49:16,770 --> 00:49:21,660

From Egypt they went to Italy,  
and they made a great fight

859  
00:49:21,660 --> 00:49:28,742  
in Italy, which made  
them very famous.

860  
00:49:28,742 --> 00:49:33,070  
And till today the  
Polish are so proud.

861  
00:49:33,070 --> 00:49:38,580  
This is the only place where  
the Polish army did something,

862  
00:49:38,580 --> 00:49:44,070  
not that the communistic army,  
but this Polish Anders army,

863  
00:49:44,070 --> 00:49:47,460  
they conquered  
Monte Cassino, which

864  
00:49:47,460 --> 00:49:52,740  
was a very important  
place in the war in Italy.

865  
00:49:52,740 --> 00:49:57,790  
After conquering Monte  
Cassino, the Germans retreated,

866  
00:49:57,790 --> 00:50:03,600  
and they actually  
went all over Italy.

867  
00:50:03,600 --> 00:50:09,090  
And this was-- this  
battle was so important

868  
00:50:09,090 --> 00:50:13,530  
that today in Poland,  
in every city,

869

00:50:13,530 --> 00:50:17,250  
there is a street  
named Monte Cassino.

870  
00:50:17,250 --> 00:50:23,880  
And General Anders  
is very important,

871  
00:50:23,880 --> 00:50:26,080  
and they have statues  
of him in Poland today.

872  
00:50:26,080 --> 00:50:28,370  
Right, right.

873  
00:50:28,370 --> 00:50:42,170  
When I go back now to where  
they were training, so we went--

874  
00:50:42,170 --> 00:50:46,340  
we moved to a  
little, little town.

875  
00:50:46,340 --> 00:50:49,860  
It was near the  
base of the Polish.

876  
00:50:49,860 --> 00:50:55,410  
And my mother and  
aunt were cooking.

877  
00:50:55,410 --> 00:50:59,630  
They were buying somewhere  
on the market apples.

878  
00:50:59,630 --> 00:51:04,400  
They were cooking like  
a compote of the apple

879  
00:51:04,400 --> 00:51:06,410  
with a lot of water.

880  
00:51:06,410 --> 00:51:11,420



And we were carrying-- also we  
children were carrying the--

881  
00:51:11,420 --> 00:51:16,880

882  
00:51:16,880 --> 00:51:19,980  
it was very heavy for us.

883  
00:51:19,980 --> 00:51:24,290  
We were carrying it to  
the gate of the base.

884  
00:51:24,290 --> 00:51:30,420  
And the soldiers, they were  
coming out and buying this,

885  
00:51:30,420 --> 00:51:37,505  
drinking this, buying from  
our mothers this thing.

886  
00:51:37,505 --> 00:51:39,590  
And this we did.

887  
00:51:39,590 --> 00:51:49,610  
We were walking six kilometers  
one way in the very, very hot

888  
00:51:49,610 --> 00:51:51,410  
days.

889  
00:51:51,410 --> 00:51:52,780  
I remember it.

890  
00:51:52,780 --> 00:51:55,680  
We were going--

891  
00:51:55,680 --> 00:52:00,050  
Are we still talking  
about 1941 or?

892  
00:52:00,050 --> 00:52:00,950

Yes, '41.

893  
00:52:00,950 --> 00:52:03,650  
OK.

894  
00:52:03,650 --> 00:52:07,640  
But then when my  
father was mobilized,

895  
00:52:07,640 --> 00:52:12,010  
and also he tried to--

896  
00:52:12,010 --> 00:52:16,350  
also my uncle-- so they--

897  
00:52:16,350 --> 00:52:19,250  
They were mobilized  
into the Anders army?

898  
00:52:19,250 --> 00:52:19,860  
Yes.

899  
00:52:19,860 --> 00:52:20,360  
OK.

900  
00:52:20,360 --> 00:52:24,500  
And then they got food.

901  
00:52:24,500 --> 00:52:30,980  
I don't know-- our  
hunger was not so bad

902  
00:52:30,980 --> 00:52:33,290  
after they were mobilized.

903  
00:52:33,290 --> 00:52:37,370  
I remember the first  
time I saw chocolate.

904  
00:52:37,370 --> 00:52:38,990  
Oh, my.

905

00:52:38,990 --> 00:52:51,350

This was that my cousin, my age,  
he got the portions before us.

906

00:52:51,350 --> 00:52:55,490

So he came and brought me.

907

00:52:55,490 --> 00:53:00,680

He had in his hand a  
piece of chocolate.

908

00:53:00,680 --> 00:53:01,640

Oh, my.

909

00:53:01,640 --> 00:53:06,050

So he said, "guess what  
I have in my hand."

910

00:53:06,050 --> 00:53:06,920

I couldn't guess.

911

00:53:06,920 --> 00:53:09,150

I said, "maybe you have a bug."

912

00:53:09,150 --> 00:53:11,840

"No, who eats bugs?"

913

00:53:11,840 --> 00:53:20,740

So I said, "Oh, maybe--" we  
were drying the seeds of melons,

914

00:53:20,740 --> 00:53:25,010

and this we were also eating.

915

00:53:25,010 --> 00:53:26,630

"Ah, melon seeds."

916

00:53:26,630 --> 00:53:27,980

"No."

917

00:53:27,980 --> 00:53:33,580

And he was so anxious to tell  
me about, so he opened his hand

918  
00:53:33,580 --> 00:53:35,840  
and "look, it's chocolate!"

919  
00:53:35,840 --> 00:53:39,050  
And the chocolate  
melted in his hand.

920  
00:53:39,050 --> 00:53:42,600  
So I licked the  
chocolate from his hand.

921  
00:53:42,600 --> 00:53:43,940  
Yes.

922  
00:53:43,940 --> 00:53:48,890  
This was the first  
time I had chocolate.

923  
00:53:48,890 --> 00:53:49,920  
Yeah, yeah.

924  
00:53:49,920 --> 00:53:52,550  
This I remember I also.

925  
00:53:52,550 --> 00:53:59,720  
And then one day I told  
you about the hunger.

926  
00:53:59,720 --> 00:54:00,440  
Yes.

927  
00:54:00,440 --> 00:54:04,040  
There was also--  
people were sick,

928  
00:54:04,040 --> 00:54:10,220  
because there were so  
many lice that everybody--

929

00:54:10,220 --> 00:54:12,830  
many people got typhus.

930  
00:54:12,830 --> 00:54:15,140  
Yes.

931  
00:54:15,140 --> 00:54:19,910  
And people died from  
hunger and from typhus.

932  
00:54:19,910 --> 00:54:24,710  
And my mother became also ill.

933  
00:54:24,710 --> 00:54:27,650  
And they took her  
to a hospital there.

934  
00:54:27,650 --> 00:54:29,810  
It was still in  
Fergana, before we

935  
00:54:29,810 --> 00:54:33,900  
went to the base of  
that Polish army.

936  
00:54:33,900 --> 00:54:37,820  
And there was a hospital.

937  
00:54:37,820 --> 00:54:41,100  
And my father was  
visiting her every day.

938  
00:54:41,100 --> 00:54:42,770  
And one day came.

939  
00:54:42,770 --> 00:54:44,690  
He said, let's go.

940  
00:54:44,690 --> 00:54:48,080  
Tomorrow we shall  
go to visit Mother,

941

00:54:48,080 --> 00:54:54,020  
because she is missing you,  
and she doesn't feel well.

942  
00:54:54,020 --> 00:54:57,440  
OK, so we went the next day.

943  
00:54:57,440 --> 00:55:01,430  
And he took me out.

944  
00:55:01,430 --> 00:55:06,350  
I think it was the first  
floor in the building.

945  
00:55:06,350 --> 00:55:11,120  
And we entered to the  
room, entered the room.

946  
00:55:11,120 --> 00:55:15,170  
And my father saw  
another woman in her bed.

947  
00:55:15,170 --> 00:55:17,330  
So he said, "where is she?"

948  
00:55:17,330 --> 00:55:23,340  
"She died this night, and  
she's down in the cellar."

949  
00:55:23,340 --> 00:55:23,920  
Yeah.

950  
00:55:23,920 --> 00:55:24,500  
Oh, my.

951  
00:55:24,500 --> 00:55:26,110  
We went to the cellar.

952  
00:55:26,110 --> 00:55:27,070  
Oh, my.

953  
00:55:27,070 --> 00:55:35,650

And there was like a car  
with a sled, sled, carriage.

954  
00:55:35,650 --> 00:55:36,640  
Yes.

955  
00:55:36,640 --> 00:55:44,300  
And full of bodies  
laid, piled on it.

956  
00:55:44,300 --> 00:55:50,150  
And we were looking  
around the bed--

957  
00:55:50,150 --> 00:55:51,560  
the dead.

958  
00:55:51,560 --> 00:55:53,710  
And my father find her--

959  
00:55:53,710 --> 00:55:55,150  
found her.

960  
00:55:55,150 --> 00:55:57,880  
And he said, she  
has still pulse.

961  
00:55:57,880 --> 00:55:59,580  
And we tried to push--

962  
00:55:59,580 --> 00:56:00,780  
to pull her out.

963  
00:56:00,780 --> 00:56:07,900  
Oh and I had to help him to  
hold the other corpses down.

964  
00:56:07,900 --> 00:56:09,385  
So she--

965  
00:56:09,385 --> 00:56:12,310

966

00:56:12,310 --> 00:56:24,970

And he said now to me, go and  
call a doctor to make her well.

967

00:56:24,970 --> 00:56:25,750

To save her.

968

00:56:25,750 --> 00:56:27,550

To save her?

969

00:56:27,550 --> 00:56:28,510

Yes.

970

00:56:28,510 --> 00:56:31,090

So I ran.

971

00:56:31,090 --> 00:56:35,280

I was first time in my life  
there, and I didn't know where.

972

00:56:35,280 --> 00:56:43,070

So I ran out all the four  
floors up where we were before.

973

00:56:43,070 --> 00:56:45,340

And I saw a person.

974

00:56:45,340 --> 00:56:53,650

It was a physician with a  
stethoscope on his neck.

975

00:56:53,650 --> 00:57:04,030

So I pushed his apron, and I  
tried to tell him something,

976

00:57:04,030 --> 00:57:10,430

but I had no air to breathe,  
because I was choked.

977

00:57:10,430 --> 00:57:11,230

Right.



978  
00:57:11,230 --> 00:57:14,160  
And he understood, maybe.

979  
00:57:14,160 --> 00:57:16,180  
And he went after me.

980  
00:57:16,180 --> 00:57:24,730  
So I ran down, and he and  
my father married her--

981  
00:57:24,730 --> 00:57:26,380  
they put her to life.

982  
00:57:26,380 --> 00:57:27,700  
Oh, my.

983  
00:57:27,700 --> 00:57:29,530  
Oh, my.

984  
00:57:29,530 --> 00:57:31,750  
This was a memory.

985  
00:57:31,750 --> 00:57:39,920  
And then I go back  
to the way to Tehran.

986  
00:57:39,920 --> 00:57:49,720  
We were-- we were  
allowed to get out

987  
00:57:49,720 --> 00:57:52,900  
as a family because  
of the military

988  
00:57:52,900 --> 00:57:58,770  
to follow the army to Tehran.

989  
00:57:58,770 --> 00:58:01,080  
OK, well, just one minute.

990

00:58:01,080 --> 00:58:03,580

So they revived your  
mother, and then did

991

00:58:03,580 --> 00:58:06,790

she come back with you?

992

00:58:06,790 --> 00:58:08,110

She revived.

993

00:58:08,110 --> 00:58:13,300

She was-- since then  
she was ill person.

994

00:58:13,300 --> 00:58:13,880

Yeah.

995

00:58:13,880 --> 00:58:14,500

She didn't--

996

00:58:14,500 --> 00:58:15,740

But she came back home?

997

00:58:15,740 --> 00:58:17,000

She she came back to you?

998

00:58:17,000 --> 00:58:24,720

She came back home, and  
she went with us to Persia.

999

00:58:24,720 --> 00:58:26,650

OK, OK.

1000

00:58:26,650 --> 00:58:31,865

So until you left then  
life went on the same way

1001

00:58:31,865 --> 00:58:35,170

is what you're saying?

1002

00:58:35,170 --> 00:58:35,840

Right?

1003  
00:58:35,840 --> 00:58:36,740  
Sorry?

1004  
00:58:36,740 --> 00:58:41,410  
OK, before you left again  
and your mother came back--

1005  
00:58:41,410 --> 00:58:42,430  
Yes.

1006  
00:58:42,430 --> 00:58:44,650  
It was short time  
before we went--

1007  
00:58:44,650 --> 00:58:49,180  
we were allowed to  
go out of Russia.

1008  
00:58:49,180 --> 00:58:49,850  
OK.

1009  
00:58:49,850 --> 00:58:50,350  
OK.

1010  
00:58:50,350 --> 00:58:51,580  
Now you're about to leave.

1011  
00:58:51,580 --> 00:58:52,570  
OK.

1012  
00:58:52,570 --> 00:58:53,860  
Yes.

1013  
00:58:53,860 --> 00:58:55,840  
I need a short break.

1014  
00:58:55,840 --> 00:58:57,520  
I give you Yaeli  
in the meantime.

1015

00:58:57,520 --> 00:58:58,430  
Excuse me, please.

1016  
00:58:58,430 --> 00:58:58,930  
OK.

1017  
00:58:58,930 --> 00:59:01,720

1018  
00:59:01,720 --> 00:59:02,450  
Hello, hello.

1019  
00:59:02,450 --> 00:59:03,010  
Hello.

1020  
00:59:03,010 --> 00:59:05,230  
Is there anything  
you wanted to add?

1021  
00:59:05,230 --> 00:59:10,490  
Well, you know, I  
am just a bystander.

1022  
00:59:10,490 --> 00:59:18,870  
I heard some of these stories  
before, but I clearly--

1023  
00:59:18,870 --> 00:59:25,545  
all I can say is that the  
time in Uzbekistan is really--

1024  
00:59:25,545 --> 00:59:28,150

1025  
00:59:28,150 --> 00:59:30,160  
and what happened to  
him was his mother

1026  
00:59:30,160 --> 00:59:33,850  
was really the biggest trauma.

1027  
00:59:33,850 --> 00:59:36,370

Not that the rest of  
it wasn't traumatic,

1028  
00:59:36,370 --> 00:59:42,670  
but that was the hunger and his  
mother's so-called death was

1029  
00:59:42,670 --> 00:59:50,916  
really what made the biggest--

1030  
00:59:50,916 --> 00:59:51,900  
Effect?

1031  
00:59:51,900 --> 00:59:56,116  
--stamp on his psyche.

1032  
00:59:56,116 --> 00:59:56,616  
Yes.

1033  
00:59:56,616 --> 00:59:59,948

1034  
00:59:59,948 --> 01:00:08,110  
Did he tell you about when  
they had to leave Uzbekistan,

1035  
01:00:08,110 --> 01:00:10,136  
how they were trampled?

1036  
01:00:10,136 --> 01:00:10,840  
No.

1037  
01:00:10,840 --> 01:00:13,400  
Uzbekistan and how they  
trampled over each other?

1038  
01:00:13,400 --> 01:00:13,900  
No.

1039  
01:00:13,900 --> 01:00:15,330  
No, we were just--

1040

01:00:15,330 --> 01:00:17,480

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

1041

01:00:17,480 --> 01:00:20,860

1042

01:00:20,860 --> 01:00:21,360

OK.

1043

01:00:21,360 --> 01:00:22,193

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

1044

01:00:22,193 --> 01:00:23,880

OK, it's coming.

1045

01:00:23,880 --> 01:00:24,850

OK, hold on.

1046

01:00:24,850 --> 01:00:27,970

Thank you.

1047

01:00:27,970 --> 01:00:32,540

Now we are allowed

to go, so we--

1048

01:00:32,540 --> 01:00:34,840

Are we talking about what, 1943?

1049

01:00:34,840 --> 01:00:36,720

Or what are you?

1050

01:00:36,720 --> 01:00:39,010

no, for '42 maybe.

1051

01:00:39,010 --> 01:00:39,940

'42?

1052

01:00:39,940 --> 01:00:40,820

OK.

1053

01:00:40,820 --> 01:00:49,030  
It was after that the  
Japanese made the attack

1054  
01:00:49,030 --> 01:00:50,018  
to Pearl Harbor.

1055  
01:00:50,018 --> 01:00:50,560  
Pearl Harbor.

1056  
01:00:50,560 --> 01:00:53,100  
OK, so it's 1942.

1057  
01:00:53,100 --> 01:00:53,680  
OK.

1058  
01:00:53,680 --> 01:00:55,330  
And they let you?

1059  
01:00:55,330 --> 01:00:57,270  
They let us out.

1060  
01:00:57,270 --> 01:00:58,210  
OK.

1061  
01:00:58,210 --> 01:01:10,630  
So we went to a town on this  
coast of the Caspian Sea

1062  
01:01:10,630 --> 01:01:13,210  
in the Soviet Union.

1063  
01:01:13,210 --> 01:01:25,570  
And there we had to cross the  
Caspian Sea to the southwest.

1064  
01:01:25,570 --> 01:01:27,870  
It was not as south--

1065  
01:01:27,870 --> 01:01:32,200  
it was quite a long journey.

1066

01:01:32,200 --> 01:01:37,960

And everybody was afraid that  
he won't get place on the ship.

1067

01:01:37,960 --> 01:01:38,610

Oh.

1068

01:01:38,610 --> 01:01:41,520

Because it was not so organized.

1069

01:01:41,520 --> 01:01:42,720

No tickets.

1070

01:01:42,720 --> 01:01:43,960

No nothing.

1071

01:01:43,960 --> 01:01:46,400

Everybody was pushing in.

1072

01:01:46,400 --> 01:01:47,340

And we entered.

1073

01:01:47,340 --> 01:01:53,613

And I remember this,  
they gave me water.

1074

01:01:53,613 --> 01:01:54,280

Bucket of water.

1075

01:01:54,280 --> 01:01:56,830

Bucket of water.

1076

01:01:56,830 --> 01:02:00,910

And told me, you know, this  
is so important, the water.

1077

01:02:00,910 --> 01:02:04,500

So you have to  
keep it very good.

1078

01:02:04,500 --> 01:02:08,310



And it was with a rope.

1079

01:02:08,310 --> 01:02:08,970

It was--

1080

01:02:08,970 --> 01:02:10,430

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

1081

01:02:10,430 --> 01:02:13,550

1082

01:02:13,550 --> 01:02:14,920

Held together with a rope.

1083

01:02:14,920 --> 01:02:16,990

Held together with a rope.

1084

01:02:16,990 --> 01:02:22,270

And I holding this, and  
everybody was pushing

1085

01:02:22,270 --> 01:02:27,520

into the entrance to the pier.

1086

01:02:27,520 --> 01:02:29,440

It was like a gate.

1087

01:02:29,440 --> 01:02:30,430

Yes.

1088

01:02:30,430 --> 01:02:34,180

And the people  
were so pushing in

1089

01:02:34,180 --> 01:02:43,870

that I was so pressed that I  
lost breath, and I fainted.

1090

01:02:43,870 --> 01:02:45,580

Oh, My Oh, my.

1091

01:02:45,580 --> 01:02:52,450  
Before I fainted, I stepped on  
a child that was already dead.

1092  
01:02:52,450 --> 01:02:54,280  
Oh, my.

1093  
01:02:54,280 --> 01:02:57,790  
And after this, I fainted.

1094  
01:02:57,790 --> 01:03:04,900  
And the stream of  
people pushed me out.

1095  
01:03:04,900 --> 01:03:10,990  
And I was on the other  
side, the side of the pier.

1096  
01:03:10,990 --> 01:03:21,130  
And my mother and my  
aunt, they revived me

1097  
01:03:21,130 --> 01:03:24,760  
with the water that I  
had, but not all of it.

1098  
01:03:24,760 --> 01:03:26,350  
Yes.

1099  
01:03:26,350 --> 01:03:30,010  
I didn't lose the water.

1100  
01:03:30,010 --> 01:03:33,710  
Even though my hand  
was cut on the rope,

1101  
01:03:33,710 --> 01:03:40,400  
I was so stubborn not  
to lose the water.

1102  
01:03:40,400 --> 01:03:44,090  
And we went on the ship.

1103

01:03:44,090 --> 01:03:45,890

The ship was--

1104

01:03:45,890 --> 01:03:48,790

You're now 8-years-old  
almost, right?

1105

01:03:48,790 --> 01:03:49,410

Sorry?

1106

01:03:49,410 --> 01:03:53,180

You're almost 8-years-old now?

1107

01:03:53,180 --> 01:03:55,360

No, I am-- yes.

1108

01:03:55,360 --> 01:03:56,150

Almost eight.

1109

01:03:56,150 --> 01:03:57,950

Yes.

1110

01:03:57,950 --> 01:04:06,110

And then we found that  
the ship is a tanker.

1111

01:04:06,110 --> 01:04:09,460

And there is only place above.

1112

01:04:09,460 --> 01:04:12,080

And there were--

1113

01:04:12,080 --> 01:04:13,415

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

1114

01:04:13,415 --> 01:04:14,660

Benches.

1115

01:04:14,660 --> 01:04:22,520

Like benches from  
wood over the tank--

1116  
01:04:22,520 --> 01:04:25,190  
the tanker-- over the tank.

1117  
01:04:25,190 --> 01:04:29,360  
And everybody pushed  
in, sat on his place,

1118  
01:04:29,360 --> 01:04:33,410  
and was afraid to get up because  
the place would be taken.

1119  
01:04:33,410 --> 01:04:34,500  
Right, right.

1120  
01:04:34,500 --> 01:04:37,190  
People were pushing.

1121  
01:04:37,190 --> 01:04:42,860  
You know, people are  
like animals when it is--

1122  
01:04:42,860 --> 01:04:43,960  
Survival.

1123  
01:04:43,960 --> 01:04:44,730  
Survival.

1124  
01:04:44,730 --> 01:04:45,230  
Right.

1125  
01:04:45,230 --> 01:04:51,830  
And we wanted to survive to  
go out of the terrible Soviet

1126  
01:04:51,830 --> 01:04:53,030  
Union then.

1127  
01:04:53,030 --> 01:04:58,710  
It was really-- everybody  
was shocked from the hunger

1128  
01:04:58,710 --> 01:05:01,160  
and wanted out.

1129  
01:05:01,160 --> 01:05:11,510  
So we went 36 hours  
on this tanker.

1130  
01:05:11,510 --> 01:05:18,620  
Not getting up, making all  
our needs where we sat.

1131  
01:05:18,620 --> 01:05:21,380  
It was impossible.

1132  
01:05:21,380 --> 01:05:25,850  
This was very, very  
shocking, this.

1133  
01:05:25,850 --> 01:05:34,310  
And after 36 hours, we arrived  
to a place called Pahlevi.

1134  
01:05:34,310 --> 01:05:39,440  
It was the name of the  
Shah family, Pahlevi.

1135  
01:05:39,440 --> 01:05:42,110  
And this town, Pahlevi--

1136  
01:05:42,110 --> 01:05:45,040  
This is in Persia, in Iran?

1137  
01:05:45,040 --> 01:05:45,540  
Yes.

1138  
01:05:45,540 --> 01:05:46,040  
Yes.

1139  
01:05:46,040 --> 01:05:46,910  
OK.

1140

01:05:46,910 --> 01:05:49,620  
It was not called--

1141  
01:05:49,620 --> 01:05:54,170  
we didn't get to any town.

1142  
01:05:54,170 --> 01:05:59,180  
We just went on the  
shore of the sea.

1143  
01:05:59,180 --> 01:06:12,350  
And there were mats of 14  
foot on the sand and mats

1144  
01:06:12,350 --> 01:06:15,710  
above to make shadow.

1145  
01:06:15,710 --> 01:06:21,320  
And then they laid us then.

1146  
01:06:21,320 --> 01:06:23,390  
This was a few days.

1147  
01:06:23,390 --> 01:06:27,670  
I don't remember how  
many we were there.

1148  
01:06:27,670 --> 01:06:33,330  
We were ill with malaria  
and all kinds of--

1149  
01:06:33,330 --> 01:06:41,600  
And then we got the dates  
from India, pressed dates.

1150  
01:06:41,600 --> 01:06:46,220  
This was our food to eat.

1151  
01:06:46,220 --> 01:06:53,420  
And after a short time,  
they took us with trucks

1152

01:06:53,420 --> 01:07:00,190  
through a very bad road in  
the mountains to Tehran.

1153  
01:07:00,190 --> 01:07:03,380

1154  
01:07:03,380 --> 01:07:06,243  
Near Tehran was a camp.

1155  
01:07:06,243 --> 01:07:07,535  
You're still with your parents?

1156  
01:07:07,535 --> 01:07:10,870

1157  
01:07:10,870 --> 01:07:11,430  
Yes.

1158  
01:07:11,430 --> 01:07:11,930  
OK.

1159  
01:07:11,930 --> 01:07:15,510  
But my mother was  
taken to a hospital.

1160  
01:07:15,510 --> 01:07:19,555  
She didn't function  
anymore like a person.

1161  
01:07:19,555 --> 01:07:21,180  
She was always ill.

1162  
01:07:21,180 --> 01:07:27,060  
But she was taken to  
a hospital in Tehran,

1163  
01:07:27,060 --> 01:07:29,340  
and we were separated.

1164  
01:07:29,340 --> 01:07:34,500  
I was with my aunt

and with my cousin.

1165

01:07:34,500 --> 01:07:37,660

Where was your father?

1166

01:07:37,660 --> 01:07:41,700

My father was in the  
Army he was already

1167

01:07:41,700 --> 01:07:43,770

maybe in Palestine or in Iraq.

1168

01:07:43,770 --> 01:07:46,110

Oh, he left, and he  
went into the army

1169

01:07:46,110 --> 01:07:49,410

right away when they formed it?

1170

01:07:49,410 --> 01:07:52,920

We were allowed to get  
out because he was already

1171

01:07:52,920 --> 01:07:53,790

in the army.

1172

01:07:53,790 --> 01:07:54,440

I see.

1173

01:07:54,440 --> 01:07:56,220

OK.

1174

01:07:56,220 --> 01:07:58,020

OK.

1175

01:07:58,020 --> 01:08:01,150

So he was in the army,  
in the Anders army.

1176

01:08:01,150 --> 01:08:01,650

Yes.



1177  
01:08:01,650 --> 01:08:05,110

1178  
01:08:05,110 --> 01:08:06,420  
OK.

1179  
01:08:06,420 --> 01:08:09,171  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

1180  
01:08:09,171 --> 01:08:12,250  
And we--

1181  
01:08:12,250 --> 01:08:15,260  
So you got to Tehran, you said?

1182  
01:08:15,260 --> 01:08:19,910  
Yes, Tehran, but it was out  
of the town, out of the city.

1183  
01:08:19,910 --> 01:08:21,470  
It was in a camp.

1184  
01:08:21,470 --> 01:08:23,600  
Yes.

1185  
01:08:23,600 --> 01:08:28,310  
Also a refugee camp of  
Polish, Polish camp.

1186  
01:08:28,310 --> 01:08:33,090  
And they put us  
in a like ghetto,

1187  
01:08:33,090 --> 01:08:37,130  
like three or four  
barracks for Jews.

1188  
01:08:37,130 --> 01:08:41,319  
And there was also  
a house that was

1189

01:08:41,319 --> 01:08:47,149  
an orphanage of Jewish children,  
which later became the Tehran

1190  
01:08:47,149 --> 01:08:47,990  
children.

1191  
01:08:47,990 --> 01:08:49,910  
Yes.

1192  
01:08:49,910 --> 01:08:52,790  
And we were together with them.

1193  
01:08:52,790 --> 01:08:54,170  
They were helping us.

1194  
01:08:54,170 --> 01:08:57,979  
Those Tehran children  
were organized.

1195  
01:08:57,979 --> 01:09:01,550  
And there were only Jews  
with Jews, and we were few.

1196  
01:09:01,550 --> 01:09:06,250  
We were few Jewish children  
with the Polish army.

1197  
01:09:06,250 --> 01:09:16,149  
And when the kids were bullying  
us, beating us, or trying

1198  
01:09:16,149 --> 01:09:20,000  
to do any very, very  
bad things to us,

1199  
01:09:20,000 --> 01:09:23,210  
the big children were looking  
after the very little.

1200  
01:09:23,210 --> 01:09:26,750  
So those children were helping  
us, were coming to save us.

1201  
01:09:26,750 --> 01:09:27,830  
Oh, OK.

1202  
01:09:27,830 --> 01:09:36,890  
And one day, there were wanted  
to pushed me into the toilet.

1203  
01:09:36,890 --> 01:09:39,910  
Was like a groove.

1204  
01:09:39,910 --> 01:09:46,790  
And upon were wooden covers.

1205  
01:09:46,790 --> 01:09:50,500  
And the people were--

1206  
01:09:50,500 --> 01:09:56,900  
all the-- it was like  
a canal full of shit.

1207  
01:09:56,900 --> 01:09:58,900  
And they had to--

1208  
01:09:58,900 --> 01:10:02,660  
the big children wanted  
to push me into it.

1209  
01:10:02,660 --> 01:10:03,900  
Yes.

1210  
01:10:03,900 --> 01:10:08,330  
And I was fighting  
so hard with them.

1211  
01:10:08,330 --> 01:10:11,310  
And my cousin saw  
it, and they called

1212  
01:10:11,310 --> 01:10:15,470  
the children, the Jewish  
children from the orphanage.

1213  
01:10:15,470 --> 01:10:18,300  
And they came to save.

1214  
01:10:18,300 --> 01:10:22,100  
Those bullies ran away.

1215  
01:10:22,100 --> 01:10:31,910  
And I didn't-- so I  
didn't dive in the shit.

1216  
01:10:31,910 --> 01:10:33,185  
Right, right.

1217  
01:10:33,185 --> 01:10:36,740

1218  
01:10:36,740 --> 01:10:39,620  
But the time in Tehran  
was for me very bad

1219  
01:10:39,620 --> 01:10:42,880  
also, because I went  
to the school there.

1220  
01:10:42,880 --> 01:10:45,110  
I went first to the school.

1221  
01:10:45,110 --> 01:10:49,190  
The first class I  
was older than--

1222  
01:10:49,190 --> 01:10:51,560  
I should go to the second class.

1223  
01:10:51,560 --> 01:10:55,280  
But as I never studied.

1224  
01:10:55,280 --> 01:10:56,180  
Right.

1225

01:10:56,180 --> 01:11:03,170  
So I went to the first  
class in the school.

1226  
01:11:03,170 --> 01:11:07,610  
I had a teacher that I  
remember until today.

1227  
01:11:07,610 --> 01:11:14,930  
Because in the morning  
when we started

1228  
01:11:14,930 --> 01:11:20,150  
the school day, the children--

1229  
01:11:20,150 --> 01:11:23,540  
the Polish had  
such a song to sing

1230  
01:11:23,540 --> 01:11:29,280  
for like Adon Olam in Jewish--

1231  
01:11:29,280 --> 01:11:32,150  
religious song in the morning.

1232  
01:11:32,150 --> 01:11:32,720  
Yes.

1233  
01:11:32,720 --> 01:11:38,475  
And the teacher was  
holding a big cross

1234  
01:11:38,475 --> 01:11:41,070  
with poor Jesus crossed on it.

1235  
01:11:41,070 --> 01:11:41,570  
Oh.

1236  
01:11:41,570 --> 01:11:48,590  
And she went around the  
desks, forth and back.

1237

01:11:48,590 --> 01:11:54,150  
And she was pushing  
him in my face, Jesus.

1238  
01:11:54,150 --> 01:11:54,920  
Right.

1239  
01:11:54,920 --> 01:11:57,680  
Because I crossed him.

1240  
01:11:57,680 --> 01:11:59,150  
Yes.

1241  
01:11:59,150 --> 01:12:01,350  
She blamed me for  
crossing Jesus.

1242  
01:12:01,350 --> 01:12:02,330  
Right.

1243  
01:12:02,330 --> 01:12:03,470  
So I remember her.

1244  
01:12:03,470 --> 01:12:05,280  
She was a very great  
pedagogish person.

1245  
01:12:05,280 --> 01:12:08,530

1246  
01:12:08,530 --> 01:12:14,310  
And I hated school.

1247  
01:12:14,310 --> 01:12:17,870  
So you were living-- you  
were living with your aunt?

1248  
01:12:17,870 --> 01:12:18,400  
Yes.

1249  
01:12:18,400 --> 01:12:20,030  
OK.

1250

01:12:20,030 --> 01:12:26,090  
These were a few barracks, and  
every family put some blankets

1251

01:12:26,090 --> 01:12:31,280  
like walls in the big barrack.

1252

01:12:31,280 --> 01:12:37,130  
And so there were  
like beds of wood.

1253

01:12:37,130 --> 01:12:43,730  
And in these barracks, I worked  
in the barrack of my aunt.

1254

01:12:43,730 --> 01:12:47,600  
Did the army camp have a name?

1255

01:12:47,600 --> 01:12:49,850  
Was there a name?

1256

01:12:49,850 --> 01:12:51,870  
Do you know?

1257

01:12:51,870 --> 01:12:53,990  
I didn't understand.

1258

01:12:53,990 --> 01:12:57,020  
Did the place have a name?

1259

01:12:57,020 --> 01:12:58,880  
Was there a name?

1260

01:12:58,880 --> 01:13:01,250  
no this was called Tehran.

1261

01:13:01,250 --> 01:13:05,430  
It was a refugee camp,  
Polish refugee camp.

1262

01:13:05,430 --> 01:13:07,840  
I read about it later.

1263  
01:13:07,840 --> 01:13:14,710  
So there were 27,000  
citizens in this camp.

1264  
01:13:14,710 --> 01:13:16,670  
And we had--

1265  
01:13:16,670 --> 01:13:21,640  
I have to go to  
shower once a day.

1266  
01:13:21,640 --> 01:13:27,240  
So this was more  
than a kilometer.

1267  
01:13:27,240 --> 01:13:33,120  
Let's say about a mile  
one way to the shower

1268  
01:13:33,120 --> 01:13:36,570  
and one way back  
from the shower.

1269  
01:13:36,570 --> 01:13:38,860  
Or to the barrack.

1270  
01:13:38,860 --> 01:13:42,600  
And that's--

1271  
01:13:42,600 --> 01:13:45,585  
But there was no name of  
this barracks, of this place?

1272  
01:13:45,585 --> 01:13:46,990  
It didn't have a name?

1273  
01:13:46,990 --> 01:13:48,730  
No, it was called Tehran.

1274



01:13:48,730 --> 01:13:50,250  
That's all it was called?

1275  
01:13:50,250 --> 01:13:53,160  
OK, OK, OK.

1276  
01:13:53,160 --> 01:13:55,110  
Even today it is called Tehran.

1277  
01:13:55,110 --> 01:13:59,540  
Also the children that came to  
Palestine with Aliyat Hano'ar--

1278  
01:13:59,540 --> 01:14:00,257  
Yeah.

1279  
01:14:00,257 --> 01:14:01,590  
You know what is Aliyat Hano'ar?

1280  
01:14:01,590 --> 01:14:04,470

1281  
01:14:04,470 --> 01:14:10,230  
They got-- it was  
called certificates--

1282  
01:14:10,230 --> 01:14:13,370  
permission to go  
to enter Palestine.

1283  
01:14:13,370 --> 01:14:14,970  
Right.

1284  
01:14:14,970 --> 01:14:21,510  
But we didn't use  
certificates on the quota

1285  
01:14:21,510 --> 01:14:27,840  
of their Jewish  
agency, Aliyat Hano'ar,

1286  
01:14:27,840 --> 01:14:32,380

because we had the permission  
of the Polish army to get in.

1287  
01:14:32,380 --> 01:14:33,410  
I see, I see.

1288  
01:14:33,410 --> 01:14:37,410  
So we came separated from  
them, not together with them.

1289  
01:14:37,410 --> 01:14:38,280  
I see.

1290  
01:14:38,280 --> 01:14:39,180  
OK.

1291  
01:14:39,180 --> 01:14:47,190  
So we arrived to Israel, to  
Palestine, on December '43.

1292  
01:14:47,190 --> 01:14:49,200  
So you were how long--

1293  
01:14:49,200 --> 01:14:50,370  
how long were you--

1294  
01:14:50,370 --> 01:14:53,550  
Second Hanukkah, second  
Hanukkah light, I remember.

1295  
01:14:53,550 --> 01:14:54,920  
How long were you in Tehran?

1296  
01:14:54,920 --> 01:14:57,870

1297  
01:14:57,870 --> 01:15:02,440  
I started the first grade  
and part of the second.

1298  
01:15:02,440 --> 01:15:03,120  
Oh, OK.

1299  
01:15:03,120 --> 01:15:04,860  
So let's say one  
and a half year.

1300  
01:15:04,860 --> 01:15:06,210  
OK.

1301  
01:15:06,210 --> 01:15:11,190  
And then you were told you  
could leave to go to Palestine?

1302  
01:15:11,190 --> 01:15:20,370  
Yes, we were taken to a port.

1303  
01:15:20,370 --> 01:15:22,180  
I forgot this name.

1304  
01:15:22,180 --> 01:15:23,430  
I knew it.

1305  
01:15:23,430 --> 01:15:28,320  
I found it in the  
map, but in the moment

1306  
01:15:28,320 --> 01:15:31,260  
I don't remember  
how it is called.

1307  
01:15:31,260 --> 01:15:40,130  
The port in the Persian  
Gulf, near the river,

1308  
01:15:40,130 --> 01:15:43,860  
near the two river  
from Iraq that come in.

1309  
01:15:43,860 --> 01:15:48,330  
And we went on a ship.

1310  
01:15:48,330 --> 01:15:50,270  
It's called Ascanius.

1311  
01:15:50,270 --> 01:15:56,970  
This I remember because this  
was the first time that I

1312  
01:15:56,970 --> 01:15:59,760  
enjoyed being with my mother.

1313  
01:15:59,760 --> 01:16:01,770  
She is an ill person.

1314  
01:16:01,770 --> 01:16:05,490  
She got a cabin, a cabin.

1315  
01:16:05,490 --> 01:16:08,280  
I was with my  
mother in the cabin.

1316  
01:16:08,280 --> 01:16:13,410  
And all of us, before I got  
to the cabin of my mother,

1317  
01:16:13,410 --> 01:16:18,430  
we were down in the ship  
with the children together.

1318  
01:16:18,430 --> 01:16:28,590  
So the people were  
together inside the ship.

1319  
01:16:28,590 --> 01:16:32,760  
And I had a cabin  
with my mother.

1320  
01:16:32,760 --> 01:16:36,510  
And this was such  
a nice time for me

1321  
01:16:36,510 --> 01:16:43,170  
that I could enjoy my mother  
for the whole journey to Suez.

1322

01:16:43,170 --> 01:16:47,580  
This ship went to the south.

1323  
01:16:47,580 --> 01:16:52,380  
And far to the south  
in the Indian Ocean,

1324  
01:16:52,380 --> 01:16:59,160  
because there were German  
U-boats, submarines,

1325  
01:16:59,160 --> 01:17:06,160  
that could shoot the ship.

1326  
01:17:06,160 --> 01:17:12,250  
So we went very far to the  
South, and then turned back

1327  
01:17:12,250 --> 01:17:15,390  
and arrived to Aden.

1328  
01:17:15,390 --> 01:17:20,430  
And in Aden we stopped  
for three days.

1329  
01:17:20,430 --> 01:17:24,730  
And we were not allowed  
to get off the ship.

1330  
01:17:24,730 --> 01:17:29,190  
So I saw Aden only  
from far away.

1331  
01:17:29,190 --> 01:17:33,490  
And after this, they  
got Aden also supply.

1332  
01:17:33,490 --> 01:17:40,290  
So one day I see two  
people carrying a bunch.

1333  
01:17:40,290 --> 01:17:42,020  
I don't know how it's

called in English.

1334  
01:17:42,020 --> 01:17:43,890  
Maybe bunch of bananas?

1335  
01:17:43,890 --> 01:17:45,070  
Oh.

1336  
01:17:45,070 --> 01:17:47,010  
How it is called in English?

1337  
01:17:47,010 --> 01:17:49,320  
A bunch of bananas.

1338  
01:17:49,320 --> 01:17:50,310  
Bunch?

1339  
01:17:50,310 --> 01:17:50,970  
A bunch.

1340  
01:17:50,970 --> 01:17:52,380  
A bunch.

1341  
01:17:52,380 --> 01:17:53,200  
Bunch of bananas.

1342  
01:17:53,200 --> 01:17:53,700  
Yeah.

1343  
01:17:53,700 --> 01:17:57,330  
And I looked at this  
with very big eyes.

1344  
01:17:57,330 --> 01:18:01,510  
I assumed I was very--

1345  
01:18:01,510 --> 01:18:03,840  
looking sad big eyes.

1346  
01:18:03,840 --> 01:18:07,680  
So one picked up a

banana and gave me.

1347

01:18:07,680 --> 01:18:08,370

Oh.

1348

01:18:08,370 --> 01:18:12,990

So I ran to my mother  
and I said, "Mama, look

1349

01:18:12,990 --> 01:18:16,740

what a funny cucumber I have."

1350

01:18:16,740 --> 01:18:19,320

1351

01:18:19,320 --> 01:18:20,220

Right.

1352

01:18:20,220 --> 01:18:22,290

Boy, this was--

1353

01:18:22,290 --> 01:18:24,220

I like bananas still today.

1354

01:18:24,220 --> 01:18:27,450

1355

01:18:27,450 --> 01:18:33,450

We arrived to Suez.

1356

01:18:33,450 --> 01:18:35,760

And we didn't cross the canal.

1357

01:18:35,760 --> 01:18:44,570

We got off and we were put on  
a train that took us to Atlit.

1358

01:18:44,570 --> 01:18:45,070

Oh.

1359

01:18:45,070 --> 01:18:46,950

So Atlit is near Haifa.

1360  
01:18:46,950 --> 01:18:48,102  
Right.

1361  
01:18:48,102 --> 01:18:50,310  
So you went through the--  
you went through the desert

1362  
01:18:50,310 --> 01:18:53,700  
the Sinai Desert on the train?

1363  
01:18:53,700 --> 01:18:57,300  
Yes, we crossed  
the Sinai Desert,

1364  
01:18:57,300 --> 01:19:00,840  
and we crossed all Israel along.

1365  
01:19:00,840 --> 01:19:07,830  
And people in the train station  
were coming and looking at us

1366  
01:19:07,830 --> 01:19:12,120  
like they are so--

1367  
01:19:12,120 --> 01:19:17,460  
when we arrived to Israel,  
we were not the first.

1368  
01:19:17,460 --> 01:19:21,830  
Because first were those  
children from the orphanage.

1369  
01:19:21,830 --> 01:19:23,690  
Orphanage, yes.

1370  
01:19:23,690 --> 01:19:30,000  
And this was such an excitement  
here in the Jewish yeshuv,

1371  
01:19:30,000 --> 01:19:34,240



that those people from  
Holocaust, the first children

1372  
01:19:34,240 --> 01:19:34,740  
arrived.

1373  
01:19:34,740 --> 01:19:37,410

1374  
01:19:37,410 --> 01:19:38,520  
So when did you--

1375  
01:19:38,520 --> 01:19:42,900  
It was such an event  
that when we arrived,

1376  
01:19:42,900 --> 01:19:45,690  
it was already Hanukkah.

1377  
01:19:45,690 --> 01:19:49,810  
And the children of--

1378  
01:19:49,810 --> 01:19:51,300  
i don't think it's from Haifa.

1379  
01:19:51,300 --> 01:19:57,640  
I think they were from the  
kibbutz there in Beit Oren,

1380  
01:19:57,640 --> 01:19:59,100  
is a kibbutz.

1381  
01:19:59,100 --> 01:20:04,080  
And they came to make  
with us a Hanukkah party.

1382  
01:20:04,080 --> 01:20:05,700  
So you arrived when?

1383  
01:20:05,700 --> 01:20:08,320  
Was this 1940--

1384  
01:20:08,320 --> 01:20:09,070  
Three.

1385  
01:20:09,070 --> 01:20:10,150  
1943.

1386  
01:20:10,150 --> 01:20:10,650  
December.

1387  
01:20:10,650 --> 01:20:12,360  
December '43?

1388  
01:20:12,360 --> 01:20:13,100  
Yes.

1389  
01:20:13,100 --> 01:20:14,410  
Oh.

1390  
01:20:14,410 --> 01:20:15,090  
Oh.

1391  
01:20:15,090 --> 01:20:16,710  
OK.

1392  
01:20:16,710 --> 01:20:20,830  
And my father is all  
the time in the army,

1393  
01:20:20,830 --> 01:20:25,230  
and he was fighting in  
Monte Cassino, in Italy.

1394  
01:20:25,230 --> 01:20:25,960  
Oh, my.

1395  
01:20:25,960 --> 01:20:34,010  
He got a medals from King George  
for the fight of Monte Cassino.

1396  
01:20:34,010 --> 01:20:36,480  
Oh, my.

1397  
01:20:36,480 --> 01:20:38,370  
And I was with my mother.

1398  
01:20:38,370 --> 01:20:43,680  
And my father  
arrived only at '47.

1399  
01:20:43,680 --> 01:20:46,860  
Oh, you didn't  
see him till 1947?

1400  
01:20:46,860 --> 01:20:47,550  
I didn't.

1401  
01:20:47,550 --> 01:20:49,193  
Because after the war--

1402  
01:20:49,193 --> 01:20:50,610  
Well, we'll get  
there in a minute.

1403  
01:20:50,610 --> 01:20:55,120  
OK, so you've just arrived  
in Atlit, you said.

1404  
01:20:55,120 --> 01:20:55,620  
Yes.

1405  
01:20:55,620 --> 01:20:58,050  
In December 1943.

1406  
01:20:58,050 --> 01:20:58,980  
Yes.

1407  
01:20:58,980 --> 01:20:59,880  
OK.

1408  
01:20:59,880 --> 01:21:03,090  
And so you're 9  
and 1/2 years old.

1409  
01:21:03,090 --> 01:21:03,840  
correct

1410  
01:21:03,840 --> 01:21:04,390  
OK.

1411  
01:21:04,390 --> 01:21:07,910  
And then how long did  
you stay in Atlit?

1412  
01:21:07,910 --> 01:21:09,500  
A short time, a few days.

1413  
01:21:09,500 --> 01:21:10,000  
OK.

1414  
01:21:10,000 --> 01:21:13,530  
Yeah, and then you went  
to a kibbutz, you said?

1415  
01:21:13,530 --> 01:21:15,780  
No, I went to Jerusalem.

1416  
01:21:15,780 --> 01:21:16,590  
Oh.

1417  
01:21:16,590 --> 01:21:23,220  
I had a cousin that was  
19 years older than me.

1418  
01:21:23,220 --> 01:21:29,145  
He was married, and he was  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] Our

1419  
01:21:29,145 --> 01:21:30,020  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

1420  
01:21:30,020 --> 01:21:34,680  
You know what is  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] Do you?

1421

01:21:34,680 --> 01:21:41,640  
The center that-- absorbing  
center we have now for newer--

1422  
01:21:41,640 --> 01:21:42,750  
For immigrants?

1423  
01:21:42,750 --> 01:21:44,700  
For immigrants?

1424  
01:21:44,700 --> 01:21:45,330  
Yes.

1425  
01:21:45,330 --> 01:21:46,200  
Yeah.

1426  
01:21:46,200 --> 01:21:51,240  
So my cousin was the absorbing  
center for our family.

1427  
01:21:51,240 --> 01:21:52,390  
What was his name?

1428  
01:21:52,390 --> 01:21:55,140  
What was your cousin's name?

1429  
01:21:55,140 --> 01:21:56,620  
Shlomo Mai.

1430  
01:21:56,620 --> 01:21:57,120  
OK.

1431  
01:21:57,120 --> 01:22:00,960

1432  
01:22:00,960 --> 01:22:07,460  
His wife accepted  
us in Jerusalem.

1433  
01:22:07,460 --> 01:22:13,320  
Well, and from this time I  
became immediately Israeli.

1434  
01:22:13,320 --> 01:22:19,860  
I didn't want to be  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

1435  
01:22:19,860 --> 01:22:23,370  
I wanted to be a Sabra.

1436  
01:22:23,370 --> 01:22:31,080  
And when I didn't behave  
nicely, in my mother's eyes,

1437  
01:22:31,080 --> 01:22:34,311  
she was calling me,  
"you are a Sabra!"

1438  
01:22:34,311 --> 01:22:36,470  
[LAUGHTER]

1439  
01:22:36,470 --> 01:22:38,760

1440  
01:22:38,760 --> 01:22:41,010  
Yeah, and how was her health?

1441  
01:22:41,010 --> 01:22:43,560

1442  
01:22:43,560 --> 01:22:45,690  
She didn't recover really.

1443  
01:22:45,690 --> 01:22:46,410  
She didn't?

1444  
01:22:46,410 --> 01:22:49,200  
But she died very young.

1445  
01:22:49,200 --> 01:22:50,130  
Oh.

1446  
01:22:50,130 --> 01:22:53,520

She died in Jerusalem.

1447  
01:22:53,520 --> 01:22:58,500  
And I think she was--

1448  
01:22:58,500 --> 01:22:59,850  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

1449  
01:22:59,850 --> 01:23:01,080  
She was 51.

1450  
01:23:01,080 --> 01:23:01,980  
Oh, my.

1451  
01:23:01,980 --> 01:23:04,950  
Oh, my.

1452  
01:23:04,950 --> 01:23:08,140  
So now you're in Jerusalem,  
and what do you do?

1453  
01:23:08,140 --> 01:23:09,120  
Do you go to school?

1454  
01:23:09,120 --> 01:23:10,170  
Or where do you live?

1455  
01:23:10,170 --> 01:23:12,300  
Yes, I went to school.

1456  
01:23:12,300 --> 01:23:16,710  
And then I went to high  
school, high school.

1457  
01:23:16,710 --> 01:23:19,480  
Did you live with your cousin?

1458  
01:23:19,480 --> 01:23:27,730  
No, I lived first with my  
mother, and then I mobilized.

1459

01:23:27,730 --> 01:23:32,860  
After I finished the  
high school, which I did,

1460  
01:23:32,860 --> 01:23:36,670  
I told you that I hate  
school, hated school.

1461  
01:23:36,670 --> 01:23:39,790  
But when I was in Jerusalem  
in the high school,

1462  
01:23:39,790 --> 01:23:41,230  
I loved school.

1463  
01:23:41,230 --> 01:23:44,800  
Did you pick up Hebrew easily?

1464  
01:23:44,800 --> 01:23:50,260  
It took me maybe three  
months to learn Hebrew.

1465  
01:23:50,260 --> 01:23:59,170  
I wanted so much to be absorbed,  
and to be like everybody,

1466  
01:23:59,170 --> 01:24:04,980  
and not to be poor, you know,  
and [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

1467  
01:24:04,980 --> 01:24:07,690  
Right.

1468  
01:24:07,690 --> 01:24:12,380  
Did the other children ask  
you about your experiences?

1469  
01:24:12,380 --> 01:24:13,660  
No.

1470  
01:24:13,660 --> 01:24:15,580  
So did you talk about them?



1471

01:24:15,580 --> 01:24:20,560

Once we met, maybe 50 years  
after school or about,

1472

01:24:20,560 --> 01:24:25,600

and we sat together,  
still friends.

1473

01:24:25,600 --> 01:24:34,420

And one lady said, I didn't  
know nothing about you.

1474

01:24:34,420 --> 01:24:36,010

We didn't ask.

1475

01:24:36,010 --> 01:24:39,670

We were not interested  
about what happened to you.

1476

01:24:39,670 --> 01:24:41,680

We lived another life.

1477

01:24:41,680 --> 01:24:42,370

Yes.

1478

01:24:42,370 --> 01:24:46,900

She complained about herself.

1479

01:24:46,900 --> 01:24:49,540

Yes.

1480

01:24:49,540 --> 01:24:50,530

They didn't ask.

1481

01:24:50,530 --> 01:24:53,960

Nobody asked, and they  
called us nicknames,

1482

01:24:53,960 --> 01:24:56,078

"polanit," or "Polish."

1483

01:24:56,078 --> 01:25:01,070

1484

01:25:01,070 --> 01:25:04,680

Did you see any of the other  
Tehran children at all?

1485

01:25:04,680 --> 01:25:06,270

Did you?

1486

01:25:06,270 --> 01:25:08,930

No, because I didn't  
go to a kibbutz.

1487

01:25:08,930 --> 01:25:18,360

And I went to Jerusalem, which  
I saw with two of my cousins

1488

01:25:18,360 --> 01:25:19,990

that arrived with me.

1489

01:25:19,990 --> 01:25:23,497

But all the other children,  
I had no connection anymore.

1490

01:25:23,497 --> 01:25:24,080

No connection.

1491

01:25:24,080 --> 01:25:26,810

And I don't remember them  
even, because it was not

1492

01:25:26,810 --> 01:25:31,130

a friendship, because I  
was not in the orphanage.

1493

01:25:31,130 --> 01:25:35,382

Right, right, right.

1494

01:25:35,382 --> 01:25:37,160

Yeah.

1495

01:25:37,160 --> 01:25:40,490  
OK, so now you're in Jerusalem,  
and you've gone through school,

1496  
01:25:40,490 --> 01:25:43,850  
and you've learned  
Hebrew, and you've

1497  
01:25:43,850 --> 01:25:47,060  
finished-- when did  
you finish high school?

1498  
01:25:47,060 --> 01:25:49,552  
What year?

1499  
01:25:49,552 --> 01:25:50,340  
In '54.

1500  
01:25:50,340 --> 01:25:53,030

1501  
01:25:53,030 --> 01:25:53,810  
No.

1502  
01:25:53,810 --> 01:25:55,230  
I was 20.

1503  
01:25:55,230 --> 01:25:55,730  
Oh.

1504  
01:25:55,730 --> 01:25:56,540  
Why?

1505  
01:25:56,540 --> 01:25:57,660  
Because when I--

1506  
01:25:57,660 --> 01:25:58,490  
You mean '40--

1507  
01:25:58,490 --> 01:26:01,460  
--came to Israel,  
so my cousin said,

1508  
01:26:01,460 --> 01:26:04,470  
well, he doesn't know Hebrew.

1509  
01:26:04,470 --> 01:26:08,685  
I could go to the fifth grade.

1510  
01:26:08,685 --> 01:26:11,110  
So he put me in the third.

1511  
01:26:11,110 --> 01:26:12,110  
Why?

1512  
01:26:12,110 --> 01:26:16,160  
Because he said he  
doesn't know Hebrew,

1513  
01:26:16,160 --> 01:26:18,980  
and I was also in  
his eyes childish,

1514  
01:26:18,980 --> 01:26:21,140  
because I was very creative.

1515  
01:26:21,140 --> 01:26:24,110  
I was always playing  
and building things.

1516  
01:26:24,110 --> 01:26:26,320  
So he said he's--

1517  
01:26:26,320 --> 01:26:28,216  
you know Yiddish?

1518  
01:26:28,216 --> 01:26:29,680  
He called me a  
"verspieltes kind."

1519  
01:26:29,680 --> 01:26:32,310

1520

01:26:32,310 --> 01:26:35,250  
Verspielt is playing--

1521  
01:26:35,250 --> 01:26:36,170  
Playing around.

1522  
01:26:36,170 --> 01:26:37,700  
Playing around?

1523  
01:26:37,700 --> 01:26:39,240  
Playing around child.

1524  
01:26:39,240 --> 01:26:40,250  
Yes.

1525  
01:26:40,250 --> 01:26:43,910  
So he put me in the third grade.

1526  
01:26:43,910 --> 01:26:47,450  
And these two years I lost.

1527  
01:26:47,450 --> 01:26:48,920  
Yeah.

1528  
01:26:48,920 --> 01:26:53,390  
So you were in school when  
the war ended in 1945.

1529  
01:26:53,390 --> 01:26:55,850  
You were still young, of course.

1530  
01:26:55,850 --> 01:26:57,770  
You were only 11.

1531  
01:26:57,770 --> 01:26:59,650  
So you were still in school.

1532  
01:26:59,650 --> 01:27:00,270  
Yes.

1533  
01:27:00,270 --> 01:27:01,820

The end of the war,  
do you remember

1534  
01:27:01,820 --> 01:27:05,780  
the end of World War II at all?

1535  
01:27:05,780 --> 01:27:07,360  
Yes, I remember.

1536  
01:27:07,360 --> 01:27:10,050  
But yes, of course.

1537  
01:27:10,050 --> 01:27:13,480  
Any experience, anything  
you can talk about?

1538  
01:27:13,480 --> 01:27:15,110  
I remember the victory.

1539  
01:27:15,110 --> 01:27:18,380  
There was some-- in  
Jerusalem there was--

1540  
01:27:18,380 --> 01:27:19,740  
Celebration?

1541  
01:27:19,740 --> 01:27:21,800  
Yes, the people were.

1542  
01:27:21,800 --> 01:27:24,680  
But I didn't take part of any.

1543  
01:27:24,680 --> 01:27:26,030  
Well, you were only 11.

1544  
01:27:26,030 --> 01:27:26,750  
Yeah.

1545  
01:27:26,750 --> 01:27:31,040  
And then what about in 1948  
when the state of Israel--

1546

01:27:31,040 --> 01:27:32,480

This I remember very good.

1547

01:27:32,480 --> 01:27:34,640

What do you remember about that?

1548

01:27:34,640 --> 01:27:38,990

I was in the closure  
of Jerusalem.

1549

01:27:38,990 --> 01:27:45,440

It was again hunger, but no  
comparison with the hunger

1550

01:27:45,440 --> 01:27:47,891

that we had.

1551

01:27:47,891 --> 01:27:54,230

We got I don't remember how many  
gram, maybe two slices of bread

1552

01:27:54,230 --> 01:27:56,940

per day and very little water.

1553

01:27:56,940 --> 01:27:58,510

That was also.

1554

01:27:58,510 --> 01:28:05,500

And we used water a few times,  
first to drink, and then

1555

01:28:05,500 --> 01:28:10,710

to wash, and then  
to wash the toilet.

1556

01:28:10,710 --> 01:28:14,720

And the same water  
we used a few times.

1557

01:28:14,720 --> 01:28:20,740

And well, this was--

1558

01:28:20,740 --> 01:28:29,000  
but the closure of Jerusalem,  
I had always a hope.

1559

01:28:29,000 --> 01:28:30,950  
I was very optimistic.

1560

01:28:30,950 --> 01:28:35,020  
I always hoped that we will win.

1561

01:28:35,020 --> 01:28:38,390  
And really it happened.

1562

01:28:38,390 --> 01:28:39,890  
We won.

1563

01:28:39,890 --> 01:28:40,600  
Yeah.

1564

01:28:40,600 --> 01:28:44,100  
OK, so but it's 1948, and  
the state has been formed,

1565

01:28:44,100 --> 01:28:46,100  
and you're 14-years-old.

1566

01:28:46,100 --> 01:28:46,850  
Almost 14.

1567

01:28:46,850 --> 01:28:53,360  
Almost 14 when the state  
of Israel was formed.

1568

01:28:53,360 --> 01:28:56,060  
Do you remember the  
celebration at all?

1569

01:28:56,060 --> 01:28:59,180  
Oh, this I remember excellent.

1570

01:28:59,180 --> 01:29:04,460



This was a night that we went  
out to the streets dancing.

1571  
01:29:04,460 --> 01:29:16,190  
And this was very, very  
unforgettable night.

1572  
01:29:16,190 --> 01:29:19,440

1573  
01:29:19,440 --> 01:29:20,610  
Yeah.

1574  
01:29:20,610 --> 01:29:22,830  
And your mother, was she still--

1575  
01:29:22,830 --> 01:29:24,120  
she was still with you?

1576  
01:29:24,120 --> 01:29:26,000  
Mother died--

1577  
01:29:26,000 --> 01:29:28,230  
What year did she die?

1578  
01:29:28,230 --> 01:29:29,140  
'50.

1579  
01:29:29,140 --> 01:29:31,910  
1950, Oh.

1580  
01:29:31,910 --> 01:29:33,510  
OK.

1581  
01:29:33,510 --> 01:29:35,430  
So then you stayed on.

1582  
01:29:35,430 --> 01:29:38,500  
And then you were  
still in school.

1583

01:29:38,500 --> 01:29:41,850

And you said you  
graduated from--

1584

01:29:41,850 --> 01:29:45,240

your father had  
come back, right?

1585

01:29:45,240 --> 01:29:46,140

'47.

1586

01:29:46,140 --> 01:29:47,320

1947.

1587

01:29:47,320 --> 01:29:49,220

So you lived with him, also?

1588

01:29:49,220 --> 01:29:50,100

Yes, yes.

1589

01:29:50,100 --> 01:29:51,780

In Jerusalem.

1590

01:29:51,780 --> 01:29:52,290

Yes.

1591

01:29:52,290 --> 01:29:54,150

Yeah, OK.

1592

01:29:54,150 --> 01:29:59,670

And then you said you graduated  
from high school in '54.

1593

01:29:59,670 --> 01:30:00,450

Yes.

1594

01:30:00,450 --> 01:30:03,090

And then what did you do?

1595

01:30:03,090 --> 01:30:04,260

I mobilized.

1596

01:30:04,260 --> 01:30:06,120

OK.

1597

01:30:06,120 --> 01:30:07,110

I went to the army.

1598

01:30:07,110 --> 01:30:07,610

Yeah.

1599

01:30:07,610 --> 01:30:13,630

I became an officer.

1600

01:30:13,630 --> 01:30:20,280

And after many years, when I was 56, because I volunteered,

1601

01:30:20,280 --> 01:30:26,730

I finished the reserve at 56.

1602

01:30:26,730 --> 01:30:27,660

Yeah.

1603

01:30:27,660 --> 01:30:30,150

But then what happened when you finished,

1604

01:30:30,150 --> 01:30:33,810

what, the three years you were in the army?

1605

01:30:33,810 --> 01:30:35,160

I was three years.

1606

01:30:35,160 --> 01:30:36,760

On active duty.

1607

01:30:36,760 --> 01:30:40,500

And then I was in the  
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

1608

01:30:40,500 --> 01:30:41,710

on reserve.

1609  
01:30:41,710 --> 01:30:42,570  
Yes, yes.

1610  
01:30:42,570 --> 01:30:44,670  
And then I mobilized again.

1611  
01:30:44,670 --> 01:30:54,360  
After I became engineer,  
I mobilized to the army

1612  
01:30:54,360 --> 01:30:56,280  
as an engineer.

1613  
01:30:56,280 --> 01:31:01,770  
And one of my inventions  
then as a very young officer

1614  
01:31:01,770 --> 01:31:10,290  
and a very young engineer  
still today works.

1615  
01:31:10,290 --> 01:31:18,030  
And all the armies took it  
from Israel, from the IDF.

1616  
01:31:18,030 --> 01:31:21,860  
I don't know if they got  
permission or they stole it.

1617  
01:31:21,860 --> 01:31:26,640  
But it was not a patent,  
but it is a development

1618  
01:31:26,640 --> 01:31:31,090  
that I found out.

1619  
01:31:31,090 --> 01:31:32,010  
Can you talk about it?

1620  
01:31:32,010 --> 01:31:34,210

Or you can't talk about it?

1621

01:31:34,210 --> 01:31:36,100

No, it was not very--

1622

01:31:36,100 --> 01:31:37,110

What was it?

1623

01:31:37,110 --> 01:31:38,490

What did you--

1624

01:31:38,490 --> 01:31:46,590

It was something to  
security-- no, safety.

1625

01:31:46,590 --> 01:31:50,070

Safety of all kinds of  
grenades, of hand grenades.

1626

01:31:50,070 --> 01:31:51,750

Oh, OK.

1627

01:31:51,750 --> 01:31:53,895

So when did you get  
your engineer training?

1628

01:31:53,895 --> 01:31:59,235

1629

01:31:59,235 --> 01:32:00,420

'57.

1630

01:32:00,420 --> 01:32:02,040

So you went back to school.

1631

01:32:02,040 --> 01:32:04,330

You came back from the army.

1632

01:32:04,330 --> 01:32:06,060

In Haifa.

1633

01:32:06,060 --> 01:32:08,610  
I left Jerusalem.

1634  
01:32:08,610 --> 01:32:09,120  
Yeah.

1635  
01:32:09,120 --> 01:32:12,900  
I went to Haifa to the Technion.

1636  
01:32:12,900 --> 01:32:14,130  
Oh, you went to the Technion.

1637  
01:32:14,130 --> 01:32:14,940  
OK.

1638  
01:32:14,940 --> 01:32:18,910  
And I stayed in  
Haifa for 40 years.

1639  
01:32:18,910 --> 01:32:19,860  
Oh, my.

1640  
01:32:19,860 --> 01:32:20,730  
Oh, my.

1641  
01:32:20,730 --> 01:32:21,390  
OK.

1642  
01:32:21,390 --> 01:32:26,940  
Because I married there  
and I had three sons all

1643  
01:32:26,940 --> 01:32:27,870  
born in Haifa.

1644  
01:32:27,870 --> 01:32:30,930

1645  
01:32:30,930 --> 01:32:33,150  
And that's it.

1646

01:32:33,150 --> 01:32:36,490  
Yeah, and you stayed  
in the reserves.

1647  
01:32:36,490 --> 01:32:36,990  
Yeah.

1648  
01:32:36,990 --> 01:32:39,990

1649  
01:32:39,990 --> 01:32:45,540  
Can I ask you just some  
special questions now?

1650  
01:32:45,540 --> 01:32:49,170  
Do you think about  
your experience

1651  
01:32:49,170 --> 01:32:53,400  
when you were a small child,  
when you were going through?

1652  
01:32:53,400 --> 01:32:56,632  
Do you think about  
that a lot now?

1653  
01:32:56,632 --> 01:32:57,840  
About what your experiences--

1654  
01:32:57,840 --> 01:33:00,480  
From time to time.

1655  
01:33:00,480 --> 01:33:04,530  
Because you had a very  
difficult childhood, of course.

1656  
01:33:04,530 --> 01:33:05,400  
Yes.

1657  
01:33:05,400 --> 01:33:15,030  
One is that I had some traumas  
that I still suffer from them.

1658

01:33:15,030 --> 01:33:20,700

A few times I fell down from  
bed because I'm fighting against

1659

01:33:20,700 --> 01:33:25,920

bullies that want to  
do some harm to me,

1660

01:33:25,920 --> 01:33:30,305

and I find myself on the floor.

1661

01:33:30,305 --> 01:33:32,130

It happened many times.

1662

01:33:32,130 --> 01:33:33,270

Yeah.

1663

01:33:33,270 --> 01:33:41,080

But except this, relatively  
I think I am normal.

1664

01:33:41,080 --> 01:33:43,680

I function.

1665

01:33:43,680 --> 01:33:52,070

I made relative good life,  
and also economically I

1666

01:33:52,070 --> 01:33:53,994

built myself.

1667

01:33:53,994 --> 01:33:56,310

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

1668

01:33:56,310 --> 01:33:59,510

Who did you work for once you  
finished with the Technion?

1669

01:33:59,510 --> 01:34:03,310

Did you work for  
a private company?



1670

01:34:03,310 --> 01:34:09,290

I worked-- I worked in  
two places as an engineer,

1671

01:34:09,290 --> 01:34:10,580

but lately--

1672

01:34:10,580 --> 01:34:15,110

but then I started to be--

1673

01:34:15,110 --> 01:34:19,210

I started to be more a manager.

1674

01:34:19,210 --> 01:34:25,500

First, I worked for  
a foundry, Urdan.

1675

01:34:25,500 --> 01:34:30,170

This was a very good  
experience for me.

1676

01:34:30,170 --> 01:34:35,670

After the military I went to--

1677

01:34:35,670 --> 01:34:36,975

it was a foundry in Natanya.

1678

01:34:36,975 --> 01:34:40,540

1679

01:34:40,540 --> 01:34:41,470

Did you--

1680

01:34:41,470 --> 01:34:45,220

Then I went-- after  
this I found--

1681

01:34:45,220 --> 01:34:55,360

I got a good job in the  
fields of [NON-ENGLISH],,

1682

01:34:55,360 --> 01:34:56,690  
the oil fields.

1683  
01:34:56,690 --> 01:34:57,490  
Oh.

1684  
01:34:57,490 --> 01:35:02,620  
And I experienced this piping.

1685  
01:35:02,620 --> 01:35:11,110  
And after that I started to--

1686  
01:35:11,110 --> 01:35:13,870  
I made a course in marketing.

1687  
01:35:13,870 --> 01:35:24,370  
And I was-- and at the  
end, I had a company

1688  
01:35:24,370 --> 01:35:26,260  
of actually marketing.

1689  
01:35:26,260 --> 01:35:29,180

1690  
01:35:29,180 --> 01:35:32,430  
What happened with your father?

1691  
01:35:32,430 --> 01:35:33,870  
Did he work in Israel?

1692  
01:35:33,870 --> 01:35:35,610  
My father--

1693  
01:35:35,610 --> 01:35:37,590  
He came back from the  
army, and what did he--

1694  
01:35:37,590 --> 01:35:42,820  
My father, he-- my  
mother died very early.

1695

01:35:42,820 --> 01:35:43,320

Right.

1696

01:35:43,320 --> 01:35:47,790

And my father, he married again.

1697

01:35:47,790 --> 01:35:49,170

He remarried.

1698

01:35:49,170 --> 01:35:54,300

He lived with his new  
wife the same time

1699

01:35:54,300 --> 01:35:57,210

as he lived with my mother.

1700

01:35:57,210 --> 01:35:59,360

And then he died.

1701

01:35:59,360 --> 01:36:03,330

Yeah, yeah.

1702

01:36:03,330 --> 01:36:05,460

Said you have three sons?

1703

01:36:05,460 --> 01:36:06,180

Yes.

1704

01:36:06,180 --> 01:36:10,260

When they were younger, did  
you talk about your experiences

1705

01:36:10,260 --> 01:36:11,760

when you were a child?

1706

01:36:11,760 --> 01:36:13,770

Did you tell them?

1707

01:36:13,770 --> 01:36:15,420

Actually, no.

1708

01:36:15,420 --> 01:36:17,190

What I did, it was--

1709

01:36:17,190 --> 01:36:23,520

since I mentioned

before there was once

1710

01:36:23,520 --> 01:36:28,620

a meeting of the family,

and we spoke about the past,

1711

01:36:28,620 --> 01:36:36,460

and we made [AUDIO DROPS]

1712

01:36:36,460 --> 01:36:44,380

So then I read what I

wrote, and I read for them

1713

01:36:44,380 --> 01:36:47,290

some of my experiences.

1714

01:36:47,290 --> 01:36:58,840

And-- [AUDIO DROPS] --lately,

because everybody is busy with

1715

01:36:58,840 --> 01:37:00,506

his own--

1716

01:37:00,506 --> 01:37:02,996

[AUDIO DROPS]

1717

01:37:02,996 --> 01:40:19,270

1718

01:40:19,270 --> 01:40:20,920

Maybe because I was so childish.

1719

01:40:20,920 --> 01:40:22,470

I don't--