

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,760

2
00:00:01,760 --> 00:00:04,880
The following is the United
States Holocaust Memorial

3
00:00:04,880 --> 00:00:08,630
Museum interview
with Gerald Averback.

4
00:00:08,630 --> 00:00:15,560
It is being conducted on October
28, 2016 by Gail Schwartz

5
00:00:15,560 --> 00:00:19,610
and is taking place over
the telephone at the museum

6
00:00:19,610 --> 00:00:22,940
and in Saskatoon, Canada.

7
00:00:22,940 --> 00:00:26,600
This is track number one.

8
00:00:26,600 --> 00:00:29,310
What is your full name?

9
00:00:29,310 --> 00:00:34,420
My full name is Gerald
Isidore Averback.

10
00:00:34,420 --> 00:00:40,230
Averback is spelled
A-V-E-R-B-A-C-K.

11
00:00:40,230 --> 00:00:43,220
And what is the name
that you were born with?

12
00:00:43,220 --> 00:00:55,550

I was born Averbuch, and
it's spelled A-V-E-R-B-U-C-H.

13
00:00:55,550 --> 00:00:58,410
And where were you born?

14
00:00:58,410 --> 00:01:04,730
I was born in the province of
Bessarabia, that's Romania,

15
00:01:04,730 --> 00:01:06,860
at my grandparent's place.

16
00:01:06,860 --> 00:01:10,690
And they were living in the
village or town of Soroca.

17
00:01:10,690 --> 00:01:13,320

18
00:01:13,320 --> 00:01:15,300
And that's where you were born?

19
00:01:15,300 --> 00:01:18,110
That's where I was
born, but we lived

20
00:01:18,110 --> 00:01:19,980
in the other side of Romania.

21
00:01:19,980 --> 00:01:24,380
And they called it Transylvania
in the city of Oradea Mare--

22
00:01:24,380 --> 00:01:26,510
that's in Romania, Oradea Mare.

23
00:01:26,510 --> 00:01:30,100
And the Hungarians
called it Nagyvárad--

24
00:01:30,100 --> 00:01:33,130

nag meaning big-- Nagyvãrad.

25

00:01:33,130 --> 00:01:35,295

And let's talk a little
bit about your parents

26

00:01:35,295 --> 00:01:36,170

and their background.

27

00:01:36,170 --> 00:01:39,180

What was your father's name?

28

00:01:39,180 --> 00:01:44,470

His name was
Samuel, S-A-M-U-E-L.

29

00:01:44,470 --> 00:01:51,870

And my father was
born in Ukraine,

30

00:01:51,870 --> 00:01:54,440

that was before World War One.

31

00:01:54,440 --> 00:01:58,670

And they moved, I
don't know when,

32

00:01:58,670 --> 00:02:01,650

his family moved to Romania.

33

00:02:01,650 --> 00:02:05,870

And I was told the reason
they moved because they really

34

00:02:05,870 --> 00:02:08,340

wanted to go to America.

35

00:02:08,340 --> 00:02:14,770

And from Romania,
Constanta is the port

36

00:02:14,770 --> 00:02:17,330

especially after World
War One, they could--

37
00:02:17,330 --> 00:02:21,140
many people moved to the USA.

38
00:02:21,140 --> 00:02:22,710
So that's where they were.

39
00:02:22,710 --> 00:02:26,990
And then his brother
moved on to Canada,

40
00:02:26,990 --> 00:02:29,390
and two brothers--
there were two brothers,

41
00:02:29,390 --> 00:02:31,130
they stayed in Romania.

42
00:02:31,130 --> 00:02:33,860
And then they married
girls in Romania

43
00:02:33,860 --> 00:02:36,320
and they stayed in Romania.

44
00:02:36,320 --> 00:02:38,790
What kind of work
did your father do?

45
00:02:38,790 --> 00:02:44,510
My father and his brother
had a clothing store.

46
00:02:44,510 --> 00:02:49,010
And they also--
this had happened

47
00:02:49,010 --> 00:02:53,030
during the war,
World War Two, people

48

00:02:53,030 --> 00:02:57,260

had approached them
from Italy to set up

49

00:02:57,260 --> 00:03:02,180

a plant to have men's shirts.

50

00:03:02,180 --> 00:03:04,850

Because in those days
if you needed a shirt

51

00:03:04,850 --> 00:03:07,100

you went to a
tailor, and he did.

52

00:03:07,100 --> 00:03:10,970

But this was, for the first
time, it's ready-made shirts.

53

00:03:10,970 --> 00:03:15,290

So they actually when the
war broke out the money

54

00:03:15,290 --> 00:03:16,610

came from Italy.

55

00:03:16,610 --> 00:03:19,550

They set that up and apparently
they were extremely successful,

56

00:03:19,550 --> 00:03:21,810

because it was very
reasonably priced.

57

00:03:21,810 --> 00:03:25,630

But the material came from
Italy and the Italians

58

00:03:25,630 --> 00:03:29,580

owned 80% of the factory.

59

00:03:29,580 --> 00:03:32,780

But the Germans stopped
that because Jews were not

60
00:03:32,780 --> 00:03:36,500
supposed to own
anything, whatever it is.

61
00:03:36,500 --> 00:03:40,310
So they were approximately
three-and-a-half years

62
00:03:40,310 --> 00:03:41,870
in operation.

63
00:03:41,870 --> 00:03:46,100
But very successful because
the demand was great.

64
00:03:46,100 --> 00:03:49,460
And your mother's name?

65
00:03:49,460 --> 00:03:50,860
Is Esther.

66
00:03:50,860 --> 00:03:57,980
And her maiden name was
Elgurt, E-L-G-U-R-T.

67
00:03:57,980 --> 00:04:05,120
And she was born it was
pronounced [PLACE NAME],,

68
00:04:05,120 --> 00:04:10,100
but that's a village in
Bessarabia right close

69
00:04:10,100 --> 00:04:12,545
to the river Dniester.

70
00:04:12,545 --> 00:04:15,710
In fact, just a mile
from the river Dniester.

71

00:04:15,710 --> 00:04:23,090

And the river Dniester divided
this Bessarabia from Ukraine.

72

00:04:23,090 --> 00:04:29,840

And so let's talk a little
bit about extended family.

73

00:04:29,840 --> 00:04:31,010

You said your--

74

00:04:31,010 --> 00:04:33,240

I know the relative
who went to Canada.

75

00:04:33,240 --> 00:04:36,540

Did you have any other
extended family in the area?

76

00:04:36,540 --> 00:04:40,100

77

00:04:40,100 --> 00:04:43,790

Well, not on my father's side.

78

00:04:43,790 --> 00:04:49,340

My mother's side were all
residing in Romania, not

79

00:04:49,340 --> 00:04:50,910

outside Romania.

80

00:04:50,910 --> 00:04:51,410

Yeah.

81

00:04:51,410 --> 00:04:59,752

OK, so let's go back to
your earliest memories.

82

00:04:59,752 --> 00:05:01,460

For instance, where
did you go to school?

83
00:05:01,460 --> 00:05:03,020
What kind of school was it?

84
00:05:03,020 --> 00:05:07,730
Yeah, well, I just
went to [INAUDIBLE]

85
00:05:07,730 --> 00:05:11,360
kindergarten and school.

86
00:05:11,360 --> 00:05:14,690
And that was of course
Romania, then became Hungary.

87
00:05:14,690 --> 00:05:15,800
Yeah.

88
00:05:15,800 --> 00:05:23,915
So I went to school all the
way until I was about 13

89
00:05:23,915 --> 00:05:25,560
with no interruptions at all.

90
00:05:25,560 --> 00:05:26,375
Until 1943?

91
00:05:26,375 --> 00:05:27,600
Correct.

92
00:05:27,600 --> 00:05:30,170
OK, let's talk a little
bit, though, about your life

93
00:05:30,170 --> 00:05:31,820
before 1943.

94
00:05:31,820 --> 00:05:33,535
First of all, do you
have any siblings,

95

00:05:33,535 --> 00:05:34,715
or were you an only child?

96

00:05:34,715 --> 00:05:35,840
No, never had any siblings.

97

00:05:35,840 --> 00:05:37,620
OK, so you were an only child.

98

00:05:37,620 --> 00:05:39,660
And what kind of
neighborhood did you live in?

99

00:05:39,660 --> 00:05:41,900
Was it a mixed neighborhood?

100

00:05:41,900 --> 00:05:43,310
It was a mixed neighborhood.

101

00:05:43,310 --> 00:05:45,950
It wasn't a Jewish neighborhood.

102

00:05:45,950 --> 00:05:50,340
It was a mixed, and nothing--

103

00:05:50,340 --> 00:05:55,310
well many people
there were originally

104

00:05:55,310 --> 00:05:58,070
of course Hungarians.

105

00:05:58,070 --> 00:06:02,380
And during the Austrian
Hungarian World War

106

00:06:02,380 --> 00:06:05,420
One, many of them--

107

00:06:05,420 --> 00:06:08,000
talking about the

elderly gentleman,

108
00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,950
they were part of the war.

109
00:06:10,950 --> 00:06:14,300
So some were captains,
and although there

110
00:06:14,300 --> 00:06:20,090
was no distinction during
the Austrian Hungarian period

111
00:06:20,090 --> 00:06:21,830
of time, World War One.

112
00:06:21,830 --> 00:06:25,450
And so my friends
were their kids.

113
00:06:25,450 --> 00:06:29,840
And so nothing eventful--

114
00:06:29,840 --> 00:06:33,290
Was your family very
religious or secular?

115
00:06:33,290 --> 00:06:36,350

116
00:06:36,350 --> 00:06:38,480
That's a good question.

117
00:06:38,480 --> 00:06:41,150
Originally, I would say no.

118
00:06:41,150 --> 00:06:45,140
But during the war more so yes.

119
00:06:45,140 --> 00:06:49,890
And so we did go to synagogue
on Saturday and holidays

120
00:06:49,890 --> 00:06:50,710
and whatever it is.

121
00:06:50,710 --> 00:06:51,110
Oh, so you did--

122
00:06:51,110 --> 00:06:51,770
I had my--

123
00:06:51,770 --> 00:06:53,780
You did observe holidays?

124
00:06:53,780 --> 00:06:54,690
Yes, we did.

125
00:06:54,690 --> 00:06:56,330
And I had my bar
mitzvah when I was 13.

126
00:06:56,330 --> 00:06:59,510
Tell me about your bar mitzvah.

127
00:06:59,510 --> 00:07:04,950
Well, the war was already on.

128
00:07:04,950 --> 00:07:11,310
But my relatives
who were in Romania,

129
00:07:11,310 --> 00:07:14,580
we were talking by
telephone at that time.

130
00:07:14,580 --> 00:07:19,500
And we had quite a few people
in the synagogue for my bar

131
00:07:19,500 --> 00:07:24,100
mitzvah, and then we
had at home a reception.

132

00:07:24,100 --> 00:07:28,610

And being the only child,
and a boy of course,

133

00:07:28,610 --> 00:07:32,670

they made a big deal my
parents about my bar mitzvah.

134

00:07:32,670 --> 00:07:36,490

I had to deliver speeches
that day and whatever.

135

00:07:36,490 --> 00:07:39,950

Did you have non-Jewish friends
when you were growing up?

136

00:07:39,950 --> 00:07:40,800

Yes, yes.

137

00:07:40,800 --> 00:07:41,330

We did.

138

00:07:41,330 --> 00:07:43,370

And you played at their house?

139

00:07:43,370 --> 00:07:44,380

Correct.

140

00:07:44,380 --> 00:07:44,900

Correct.

141

00:07:44,900 --> 00:07:49,190

Yeah, did you experience
any antisemitism

142

00:07:49,190 --> 00:07:52,770

before the war
started-- before '43?

143

00:07:52,770 --> 00:07:54,030

Well--

144

00:07:54,030 --> 00:07:55,610

Do you remember
any antisemitism?

145

00:07:55,610 --> 00:07:58,240

Let me tell you this,
under the Hungarians,

146

00:07:58,240 --> 00:08:01,880

when they took things over,
being Jewish they wanted

147

00:08:01,880 --> 00:08:04,680

the Jewish boys--
and I was over 13--

148

00:08:04,680 --> 00:08:09,380

to show up once a
week to do free work.

149

00:08:09,380 --> 00:08:10,610

And I went to a--

150

00:08:10,610 --> 00:08:11,480

I had to be--

151

00:08:11,480 --> 00:08:13,940

I went to a cemetery
with a group of people

152

00:08:13,940 --> 00:08:16,010

just to clean up here
and clean up there.

153

00:08:16,010 --> 00:08:17,830

This is in '43
you're talking about?

154

00:08:17,830 --> 00:08:19,565

That is in '43, correct.

155

00:08:19,565 --> 00:08:20,420

Yeah, OK.

156

00:08:20,420 --> 00:08:26,480

So at that time the laws for
antisemitic under the Romanians

157

00:08:26,480 --> 00:08:31,430

it wasn't, because the war
didn't start until '39, '40.

158

00:08:31,430 --> 00:08:33,260

Right.

159

00:08:33,260 --> 00:08:37,799

But up to '43, what
kind of our childhood--

160

00:08:37,799 --> 00:08:38,299

After '43--

161

00:08:38,299 --> 00:08:40,642

--was it for you?

162

00:08:40,642 --> 00:08:41,850

Did you have any unpleasant--

163

00:08:41,850 --> 00:08:42,850

I would say very normal.

164

00:08:42,850 --> 00:08:43,409

Very normal.

165

00:08:43,409 --> 00:08:44,570

I was not discriminated.

166

00:08:44,570 --> 00:08:46,940

OK.

167

00:08:46,940 --> 00:08:48,080

Did you--

168

00:08:48,080 --> 00:08:50,360
We were under the Romanians
at that time, of course.

169
00:08:50,360 --> 00:08:53,390
Did you feel very Jewish
as a Jewish child?

170
00:08:53,390 --> 00:08:54,800
Oh, yes, very much so.

171
00:08:54,800 --> 00:08:57,090
I would say 80% of my
friends were Jewish.

172
00:08:57,090 --> 00:08:58,520
Oh, OK.

173
00:08:58,520 --> 00:09:01,070
OK, were you
interested in sports?

174
00:09:01,070 --> 00:09:04,670

175
00:09:04,670 --> 00:09:07,370
I used to-- the only sport
that I was interested in

176
00:09:07,370 --> 00:09:10,200
and I was good at is running.

177
00:09:10,200 --> 00:09:18,830
And yeah, because even when I
got to Canada at high school

178
00:09:18,830 --> 00:09:22,430
I was winning awards,
winning in running.

179
00:09:22,430 --> 00:09:23,300
OK.

180
00:09:23,300 --> 00:09:25,370
So running apparently was--

181
00:09:25,370 --> 00:09:26,900
Good.

182
00:09:26,900 --> 00:09:27,950
And what about hobbies?

183
00:09:27,950 --> 00:09:29,240
Did you have any hobbies?

184
00:09:29,240 --> 00:09:32,280

185
00:09:32,280 --> 00:09:34,770
I can't think of any.

186
00:09:34,770 --> 00:09:36,750
I play the violin.

187
00:09:36,750 --> 00:09:38,220
As far as-- yeah.

188
00:09:38,220 --> 00:09:40,305
I was pretty good at it.

189
00:09:40,305 --> 00:09:40,805
And--

190
00:09:40,805 --> 00:09:43,980

191
00:09:43,980 --> 00:09:48,690
So life went on as a relatively
normal childhood up to '43?

192
00:09:48,690 --> 00:09:50,300
Yes, very much so.

193

00:09:50,300 --> 00:09:51,540
OK, and the first change--

194
00:09:51,540 --> 00:09:57,180
what was the first
change that you remember?

195
00:09:57,180 --> 00:10:01,740
The first change really came
in after the Hungarians.

196
00:10:01,740 --> 00:10:07,120
And also-- well, now we're
talking about the war was on.

197
00:10:07,120 --> 00:10:10,770
Do you know a name Jabotinsky?

198
00:10:10,770 --> 00:10:12,330
Yes.

199
00:10:12,330 --> 00:10:18,520
My dad was a great mover and
shaker of the Zionist movement.

200
00:10:18,520 --> 00:10:21,420
In fact, he arranged
for Jabotinsky

201
00:10:21,420 --> 00:10:24,120
to come to our
town, Oradea Mare,

202
00:10:24,120 --> 00:10:26,070
to deliver a speech,
which was unheard of.

203
00:10:26,070 --> 00:10:28,710
Oh my, when was that?

204
00:10:28,710 --> 00:10:33,760
That was-- I can't remember.

205

00:10:33,760 --> 00:10:35,220

But it was in the '40s.

206

00:10:35,220 --> 00:10:37,490

The war was on.

207

00:10:37,490 --> 00:10:40,620

And not only that,
because of that I

208

00:10:40,620 --> 00:10:46,370

remember when he came I was one
of the Betar, Betar is Hebrew.

209

00:10:46,370 --> 00:10:47,250

Yes.

210

00:10:47,250 --> 00:10:53,300

And I was a young kid, but I had
a uniform on collecting money,

211

00:10:53,300 --> 00:10:56,160

and I would say
everybody was saying

212

00:10:56,160 --> 00:11:00,160

that 60% of the people
attending were not Jewish.

213

00:11:00,160 --> 00:11:01,200

Oh, my.

214

00:11:01,200 --> 00:11:08,130

And so it was new in that area,
the Zionist movement and so on.

215

00:11:08,130 --> 00:11:11,230

And I remember that
Jabotinsky delivered a speech,

216

00:11:11,230 --> 00:11:14,250

and so on and so forth,

I didn't pay attention.

217
00:11:14,250 --> 00:11:19,440
But he was telling whoever
there what the Holocaust that's

218
00:11:19,440 --> 00:11:22,680
coming, and what's
going on already

219
00:11:22,680 --> 00:11:25,530
in Poland and other countries.

220
00:11:25,530 --> 00:11:28,490
And just a matter of
time it's coming our way,

221
00:11:28,490 --> 00:11:29,620
and so on and so forth.

222
00:11:29,620 --> 00:11:31,240
That's what they
were talking about.

223
00:11:31,240 --> 00:11:35,430
So that was 1943, '44--

224
00:11:35,430 --> 00:11:37,660
'43 definitely.

225
00:11:37,660 --> 00:11:42,220
Maybe even '42, I can't
remember that, but '42, '43.

226
00:11:42,220 --> 00:11:46,170
So the Zionist movement
was catching more and more,

227
00:11:46,170 --> 00:11:49,860
but getting to
Palestine was not easy.

228

00:11:49,860 --> 00:11:52,140
But you had countries
in the Balkans,

229
00:11:52,140 --> 00:11:54,690
like Yugoslavia
and so on, that it

230
00:11:54,690 --> 00:11:56,920
was very difficult
apparently to go through,

231
00:11:56,920 --> 00:12:01,200
regardless how much
money you had, and so on.

232
00:12:01,200 --> 00:12:05,640
But we knew that
problems are coming.

233
00:12:05,640 --> 00:12:07,320
How did you know?

234
00:12:07,320 --> 00:12:08,240
You had a radio?

235
00:12:08,240 --> 00:12:09,320
Well, because--

236
00:12:09,320 --> 00:12:09,820
Newspapers?

237
00:12:09,820 --> 00:12:12,990
Because we had people
coming from that area,

238
00:12:12,990 --> 00:12:14,160
from Poland and so on.

239
00:12:14,160 --> 00:12:17,950
They were officially--
they had IDs--

240

00:12:17,950 --> 00:12:24,940
non-Jewish IDs, and they came
through to tell us that what

241

00:12:24,940 --> 00:12:25,440
happened--

242

00:12:25,440 --> 00:12:28,200
You mean, they were Jewish
but they had non-Jewish IDs?

243

00:12:28,200 --> 00:12:29,595
Is that what you're saying?

244

00:12:29,595 --> 00:12:30,660
Correct, correct.

245

00:12:30,660 --> 00:12:31,470
OK.

246

00:12:31,470 --> 00:12:34,860
And that was a way
for them to travel.

247

00:12:34,860 --> 00:12:38,130
Mostly younger people
in their 20s and 30s.

248

00:12:38,130 --> 00:12:43,050
They were hopefully
going towards Palestine.

249

00:12:43,050 --> 00:12:47,730
It's a long way and there were
many obstacles to get there.

250

00:12:47,730 --> 00:12:51,160
Did your life change
in any way in 1939

251

00:12:51,160 --> 00:12:52,770
when the war started in Poland?

252
00:12:52,770 --> 00:12:55,220
No, it changed in about '43--

253
00:12:55,220 --> 00:12:56,000
'42, '43.

254
00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:56,500
OK.

255
00:12:56,500 --> 00:12:59,610

256
00:12:59,610 --> 00:13:02,130
All right, well
let's move on then.

257
00:13:02,130 --> 00:13:07,720
Let's get to '43, and you have
said some thing about that.

258
00:13:07,720 --> 00:13:13,077
So what are your
memories of '43?

259
00:13:13,077 --> 00:13:13,910
Your first memories?

260
00:13:13,910 --> 00:13:16,690
My memories of '43 is
that the war was going on.

261
00:13:16,690 --> 00:13:18,520
We were hoping that
the Russians-- that

262
00:13:18,520 --> 00:13:23,440
was Stalingrad times-- had a
break through, and therefore,

263
00:13:23,440 --> 00:13:27,790
any concentration camps that

other countries nearby had

264

00:13:27,790 --> 00:13:30,196
that it would not come our way.

265

00:13:30,196 --> 00:13:31,020
So your parents--

266

00:13:31,020 --> 00:13:37,840
The Hungarians were anti-Jewish,
but not as active in the war

267

00:13:37,840 --> 00:13:43,000
until late '43
and of course '44,

268

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:48,070
because the Russians were
very close to Hungary, namely

269

00:13:48,070 --> 00:13:49,920
the Carpathian mountains.

270

00:13:49,920 --> 00:13:52,790
They had to cross that
to get into Hungary.

271

00:13:52,790 --> 00:13:57,160
And so we were just hoping
that because of the war

272

00:13:57,160 --> 00:13:58,900
that would miss
concentration camps.

273

00:13:58,900 --> 00:14:01,060
We knew what was
going on in Europe.

274

00:14:01,060 --> 00:14:02,060
You did know?

275

00:14:02,060 --> 00:14:02,560
Yeah.

276
00:14:02,560 --> 00:14:03,730
Oh yes.

277
00:14:03,730 --> 00:14:05,200
And how did-- is this--

278
00:14:05,200 --> 00:14:09,070
Well, you never know the
whole thing, the whole truth.

279
00:14:09,070 --> 00:14:13,190
But you know that being
Jewish is not safe.

280
00:14:13,190 --> 00:14:14,440
And--

281
00:14:14,440 --> 00:14:16,880
How did your family
handle this with you?

282
00:14:16,880 --> 00:14:20,080
You were only 13, you were
just a young teenager.

283
00:14:20,080 --> 00:14:22,720
Is this something your
folks talked about with you?

284
00:14:22,720 --> 00:14:23,950
Or your friends or?

285
00:14:23,950 --> 00:14:27,970
Well, they talked
about it in the sense

286
00:14:27,970 --> 00:14:29,800
that I overheard,
because that's what

287

00:14:29,800 --> 00:14:33,930
they talked about with the
other adults constantly.

288

00:14:33,930 --> 00:14:37,030
And even they thought
about that they may

289

00:14:37,030 --> 00:14:40,570
would like to take this chance
to go through the Balkan

290

00:14:40,570 --> 00:14:42,770
countries to reach Palestine.

291

00:14:42,770 --> 00:14:49,810
It was extremely precarious,
and many people who tried it--

292

00:14:49,810 --> 00:14:54,430
if you were single you could
get around and make it.

293

00:14:54,430 --> 00:15:00,520
But for a family and the young
child and so on, that's it.

294

00:15:00,520 --> 00:15:03,730
And it would have
been dangerous.

295

00:15:03,730 --> 00:15:07,420
Did you feel-- [COUGHS]
excuse me-- under threat?

296

00:15:07,420 --> 00:15:11,110
Was it a frightening time
for you as a teenager?

297

00:15:11,110 --> 00:15:15,550
It was only a frightening time
by the time the ghettos were,

298

00:15:15,550 --> 00:15:20,500

because we have then
realized that we may not

299

00:15:20,500 --> 00:15:24,010

be able to avoid all this
that we're hoping and praying

300

00:15:24,010 --> 00:15:25,890

that it wouldn't come our way.

301

00:15:25,890 --> 00:15:28,030

Yeah, OK.

302

00:15:28,030 --> 00:15:31,140

So then the next change
that you remember?

303

00:15:31,140 --> 00:15:33,130

Well, the next change
was the ghetto,

304

00:15:33,130 --> 00:15:34,690

and the ghetto was
in the same city.

305

00:15:34,690 --> 00:15:37,840

In fact, they were
bringing in Jewish people

306

00:15:37,840 --> 00:15:43,930

from smaller centers into our
city because a portion of it

307

00:15:43,930 --> 00:15:45,370

was a ghetto.

308

00:15:45,370 --> 00:15:47,260

A portion of it, and
we had barbed wire--

309

00:15:47,260 --> 00:15:48,190

is in Soroca?

310
00:15:48,190 --> 00:15:51,250
You're talking about the
ghetto in Soroca, right?

311
00:15:51,250 --> 00:15:54,560
No, no, this is a
ghetto in Oradea Mare.

312
00:15:54,560 --> 00:15:56,320
Oh, OK.

313
00:15:56,320 --> 00:15:58,087
Yeah, Soroca is where my--

314
00:15:58,087 --> 00:15:59,920
Oh, that was where you
were born, I'm sorry.

315
00:15:59,920 --> 00:16:02,000
Born, and at the
other end of Romania.

316
00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:03,250
Yeah, I'm sorry, right, right.

317
00:16:03,250 --> 00:16:04,920
But at that time--

318
00:16:04,920 --> 00:16:10,720
by that time the Russians or
Ukrainians took part of Soroca,

319
00:16:10,720 --> 00:16:13,400
so Romania didn't have it.

320
00:16:13,400 --> 00:16:22,090
And also, Hungary took the
other side of the province--

321
00:16:22,090 --> 00:16:24,370

a portion of the
province of Transylvania.

322
00:16:24,370 --> 00:16:26,360
So let's talk now
about the ghetto.

323
00:16:26,360 --> 00:16:29,260
What did that mean to you, and--

324
00:16:29,260 --> 00:16:37,460
Well the ghetto meant that
we were hoarded in this area.

325
00:16:37,460 --> 00:16:38,690
So you had to move out--

326
00:16:38,690 --> 00:16:42,550
had you been living as a child
in a house or an apartment?

327
00:16:42,550 --> 00:16:43,530
In our house.

328
00:16:43,530 --> 00:16:44,530
You were in a house, OK.

329
00:16:44,530 --> 00:16:46,000
So you had to leave your house--

330
00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:46,810
Yes.

331
00:16:46,810 --> 00:16:48,700
--to go into the ghetto?

332
00:16:48,700 --> 00:16:52,720
Actually, our house
was you walked in

333
00:16:52,720 --> 00:16:55,300
and there were

three houses inside,

334
00:16:55,300 --> 00:16:58,060
and they had three owners.

335
00:16:58,060 --> 00:17:01,780
And side by side inside
a yard were three houses.

336
00:17:01,780 --> 00:17:03,870
But you had to
get into the yard.

337
00:17:03,870 --> 00:17:07,839
They were all Jewish, all
the three people-- the three

338
00:17:07,839 --> 00:17:09,579
families.

339
00:17:09,579 --> 00:17:13,150
And we had to leave that.

340
00:17:13,150 --> 00:17:17,410
We had to go into the ghetto,
which was maybe eight, nine

341
00:17:17,410 --> 00:17:21,040
blocks away and stay there.

342
00:17:21,040 --> 00:17:28,480
And they had a fence around the
ghetto, barbed wires and police

343
00:17:28,480 --> 00:17:34,030
that you couldn't get out.

344
00:17:34,030 --> 00:17:38,050
But you had to look
after your own existence.

345
00:17:38,050 --> 00:17:40,000

They didn't feed you there.

346

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:43,690

What did you take with you
from home as a teenage boy?

347

00:17:43,690 --> 00:17:46,570

Did you take anything
special with you?

348

00:17:46,570 --> 00:17:48,980

Not to my knowledge.

349

00:17:48,980 --> 00:17:55,000

We just took so many
suitcases and whatever.

350

00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:00,030

And many things
we had precious we

351

00:18:00,030 --> 00:18:08,200

hid by digging up a hole
in our yard to leave there.

352

00:18:08,200 --> 00:18:11,120

And that's how we were doing.

353

00:18:11,120 --> 00:18:16,690

And I know that after the
war I had an aunt in Iasi--

354

00:18:16,690 --> 00:18:19,510

Iasi is a city in Romania--

355

00:18:19,510 --> 00:18:24,250

who survived everything because
she didn't go to camp at all.

356

00:18:24,250 --> 00:18:29,590

And she was a pharmacist
there, and her husband

357

00:18:29,590 --> 00:18:31,660
was a professor
at the university.

358

00:18:31,660 --> 00:18:35,080
But they had no children,
so I contacted her.

359

00:18:35,080 --> 00:18:40,090
And I contacted her by
the time I got to France.

360

00:18:40,090 --> 00:18:45,370
And she was alive and so on,
didn't go to any camps at all.

361

00:18:45,370 --> 00:18:52,280
And she, many weeks later,
went where we used to live.

362

00:18:52,280 --> 00:18:54,220
And I told her all
the places that I hid.

363

00:18:54,220 --> 00:18:56,410
Oh, my.

364

00:18:56,410 --> 00:18:57,610
And it was still there.

365

00:18:57,610 --> 00:18:58,290
Oh, my.

366

00:18:58,290 --> 00:19:01,090

367

00:19:01,090 --> 00:19:02,770
And so yeah.

368

00:19:02,770 --> 00:19:05,450
Yeah, so now you're
in the ghetto.

369
00:19:05,450 --> 00:19:08,220
What kind of living
conditions was it?

370
00:19:08,220 --> 00:19:09,926
The living condition
is that you had

371
00:19:09,926 --> 00:19:16,420
to share it five, six people
in a room, whatever it is.

372
00:19:16,420 --> 00:19:20,830
That's basically--
they are very tight.

373
00:19:20,830 --> 00:19:25,430
And the--

374
00:19:25,430 --> 00:19:28,900
And how did you get food?

375
00:19:28,900 --> 00:19:34,030
Well, if you had the money,
and everybody had something,

376
00:19:34,030 --> 00:19:36,970
you could go and buy food.

377
00:19:36,970 --> 00:19:38,350
Inside the ghetto?

378
00:19:38,350 --> 00:19:40,570
Inside the ghetto make food.

379
00:19:40,570 --> 00:19:43,450
But we did not stay in
the ghetto that long.

380
00:19:43,450 --> 00:19:47,870

381
00:19:47,870 --> 00:19:53,380
And we knew that because
they were planning

382
00:19:53,380 --> 00:19:57,880
to get the trains going
through the ghetto

383
00:19:57,880 --> 00:20:01,160
to pick up the people.

384
00:20:01,160 --> 00:20:04,050
And so we knew it was
just a matter of time.

385
00:20:04,050 --> 00:20:09,260
In fact, we were the last
or almost the last people

386
00:20:09,260 --> 00:20:14,140
leaving the ghetto by train.

387
00:20:14,140 --> 00:20:15,388
So--

388
00:20:15,388 --> 00:20:17,305
What language did you
speak with your parents?

389
00:20:17,305 --> 00:20:20,080

390
00:20:20,080 --> 00:20:25,270
Mostly Yiddish, but I could
speak Hungarian and Romanian.

391
00:20:25,270 --> 00:20:28,450
And what about to your
friends and in school?

392
00:20:28,450 --> 00:20:32,590

I would say there
mostly Hungarian,

393
00:20:32,590 --> 00:20:35,200
because that was Hungary.

394
00:20:35,200 --> 00:20:42,480
And so in school, when they
were teaching Hungarian,

395
00:20:42,480 --> 00:20:46,160
most of the kids already
spoke Hungarian at home.

396
00:20:46,160 --> 00:20:49,340
Not us, we didn't speak
Hungarian at home.

397
00:20:49,340 --> 00:20:51,410
But we spoke
Yiddish I would say.

398
00:20:51,410 --> 00:20:59,460
Yeah, my dad was fluent in
French, but not my mother.

399
00:20:59,460 --> 00:21:01,580
So what did you do during
the day in the ghetto?

400
00:21:01,580 --> 00:21:04,950

401
00:21:04,950 --> 00:21:08,340
I would say as a
young person nothing.

402
00:21:08,340 --> 00:21:12,650
OK, were there many other
children that you saw your age?

403
00:21:12,650 --> 00:21:13,233
In the ghetto?

404
00:21:13,233 --> 00:21:13,733
Yes.

405
00:21:13,733 --> 00:21:14,410
Yes, of course.

406
00:21:14,410 --> 00:21:17,140
Yes.

407
00:21:17,140 --> 00:21:20,930
And did you talk about with
your friends what was happening?

408
00:21:20,930 --> 00:21:26,760
Was this something that you
spoke about as a young boy?

409
00:21:26,760 --> 00:21:28,960
If I have I cannot remember.

410
00:21:28,960 --> 00:21:32,650
OK, so how long were
you in the ghetto?

411
00:21:32,650 --> 00:21:34,675
Not that much, not that long.

412
00:21:34,675 --> 00:21:36,820
Approximately do you know?

413
00:21:36,820 --> 00:21:37,510
Approximately?

414
00:21:37,510 --> 00:21:39,700
Approximately I thought
maybe two months,

415
00:21:39,700 --> 00:21:41,080
two-and-a-half months.

416

00:21:41,080 --> 00:21:42,670
OK.

417
00:21:42,670 --> 00:21:45,120
Now, you see, that came fast.

418
00:21:45,120 --> 00:21:50,030
It came fast because the
province of Transylvania

419
00:21:50,030 --> 00:21:52,280
is closer to the
mountains, and the Russians

420
00:21:52,280 --> 00:21:55,010
were on the other
side the mountains.

421
00:21:55,010 --> 00:21:57,650
And so we were just
hoping and praying

422
00:21:57,650 --> 00:22:02,900
that they cross the
mountains and attack,

423
00:22:02,900 --> 00:22:09,030
but that did not happen
when we were still there.

424
00:22:09,030 --> 00:22:12,630
Did your family have
a radio in the ghetto?

425
00:22:12,630 --> 00:22:14,960
Were you aware of
what was happening?

426
00:22:14,960 --> 00:22:17,550
Yes, there was a radio.

427
00:22:17,550 --> 00:22:19,740
We were able to

listen listened to it,

428

00:22:19,740 --> 00:22:22,510

but they were
listening to the radio.

429

00:22:22,510 --> 00:22:26,400

Yeah, and what about
newspapers or just to find out

430

00:22:26,400 --> 00:22:28,015

what was happening in the rest--

431

00:22:28,015 --> 00:22:29,640

I can't remember
there were newspapers,

432

00:22:29,640 --> 00:22:30,990

because I would say no.

433

00:22:30,990 --> 00:22:36,610

Yeah, and any classes, any
lectures in the ghetto?

434

00:22:36,610 --> 00:22:37,360

Not in the ghetto.

435

00:22:37,360 --> 00:22:43,040

OK, so now it's '44.

436

00:22:43,040 --> 00:22:43,750

And the next--

437

00:22:43,750 --> 00:22:45,460

It is now '44--

438

00:22:45,460 --> 00:22:48,530

spring of '44, yes.

439

00:22:48,530 --> 00:22:50,450

And what happened next?

440

00:22:50,450 --> 00:22:52,670

Well, we were told
that the trains are

441

00:22:52,670 --> 00:22:55,160

going to come and
take us away, and they

442

00:22:55,160 --> 00:22:58,280

did come whenever they told us.

443

00:22:58,280 --> 00:23:03,040

And within five to six days
they emptied the ghetto.

444

00:23:03,040 --> 00:23:08,990

And we the last or second
last in the train to leave.

445

00:23:08,990 --> 00:23:12,560

When we left, there was nobody
else left in the ghetto.

446

00:23:12,560 --> 00:23:15,420

Do you know why you
were among the last?

447

00:23:15,420 --> 00:23:17,670

I don't know, because they
distributed certain areas.

448

00:23:17,670 --> 00:23:18,170

I see.

449

00:23:18,170 --> 00:23:20,690

You go first, you go
second, you go third, forth,

450

00:23:20,690 --> 00:23:21,650

whatever it is.

451

00:23:21,650 --> 00:23:22,220

Yeah.

452
00:23:22,220 --> 00:23:25,190
And they had the trains
coming in into the ghetto

453
00:23:25,190 --> 00:23:26,720
to put you into the train.

454
00:23:26,720 --> 00:23:28,740
Did you know where
you were going?

455
00:23:28,740 --> 00:23:32,010
Did you know where
you were going?

456
00:23:32,010 --> 00:23:32,510
No.

457
00:23:32,510 --> 00:23:33,010
No.

458
00:23:33,010 --> 00:23:33,800
We were--

459
00:23:33,800 --> 00:23:35,060
How did you know--

460
00:23:35,060 --> 00:23:39,260
how did your family know that
you were supposed to leave?

461
00:23:39,260 --> 00:23:40,740
Oh, they were telling us.

462
00:23:40,740 --> 00:23:42,690
They were telling
us which district.

463
00:23:42,690 --> 00:23:46,920
So the gendarmes came in and

they went from house to house

464

00:23:46,920 --> 00:23:50,690
and we just joined and
to get on the train.

465

00:23:50,690 --> 00:23:53,970
And they were saying, the
gendarmes were actually

466

00:23:53,970 --> 00:23:57,370
saying-- and I heard
that with my own, ears--

467

00:23:57,370 --> 00:23:58,620
you don't need this.

468

00:23:58,620 --> 00:24:01,760
They were asking for money, they
were asking especially jewelry.

469

00:24:01,760 --> 00:24:03,510
Wherever you are going,
without telling us

470

00:24:03,510 --> 00:24:05,330
where, you won't need it.

471

00:24:05,330 --> 00:24:05,830
Yeah.

472

00:24:05,830 --> 00:24:08,920

473

00:24:08,920 --> 00:24:11,020
Were there any
antisemitic incidents

474

00:24:11,020 --> 00:24:15,050
with the guards in the ghetto?

475

00:24:15,050 --> 00:24:19,910

No, there were not that many
guards inside the ghetto.

476
00:24:19,910 --> 00:24:22,920
So you can walk in the ghetto
from one street to another

477
00:24:22,920 --> 00:24:27,030
and you wouldn't
run into anybody.

478
00:24:27,030 --> 00:24:31,240
OK, so now you're told to leave.

479
00:24:31,240 --> 00:24:32,270
We're told to leave.

480
00:24:32,270 --> 00:24:35,510
We get on the trains.

481
00:24:35,510 --> 00:24:39,950
Well, the trains
were cattle cars.

482
00:24:39,950 --> 00:24:44,130
And they had approximately
less than 100,

483
00:24:44,130 --> 00:24:49,580
90, 91, 92, whatever it
is in one of those cars.

484
00:24:49,580 --> 00:24:55,970
And at that time they also
had two gendarmes in the car--

485
00:24:55,970 --> 00:24:58,940

486
00:24:58,940 --> 00:25:02,080
inside to travel.

487

00:25:02,080 --> 00:25:07,160
And they were the worst, because
they really wanted money,

488
00:25:07,160 --> 00:25:10,070
jewelry, and whatever.

489
00:25:10,070 --> 00:25:12,820
And they kept telling
us, and they were right,

490
00:25:12,820 --> 00:25:15,510
that wherever you're going
you wouldn't need it,

491
00:25:15,510 --> 00:25:17,070
and so on and so forth.

492
00:25:17,070 --> 00:25:19,670
So some were gave
them something,

493
00:25:19,670 --> 00:25:21,320
some did not want to.

494
00:25:21,320 --> 00:25:23,150
We didn't believe
a lot of things,

495
00:25:23,150 --> 00:25:25,490
and they said it's just
a bunch of [INAUDIBLE]..

496
00:25:25,490 --> 00:25:27,810
What nationality
were the guards?

497
00:25:27,810 --> 00:25:28,320
Hungarian.

498
00:25:28,320 --> 00:25:30,256
Hungarian, yeah.

499

00:25:30,256 --> 00:25:31,970

Yeah.

500

00:25:31,970 --> 00:25:36,320

So you're on-- and what
was that trip like getting

501

00:25:36,320 --> 00:25:40,020

into the cattle car you said?

502

00:25:40,020 --> 00:25:42,630

Can you describe some of the
conditions, if you remember?

503

00:25:42,630 --> 00:25:45,270

504

00:25:45,270 --> 00:25:48,660

Well, the idea is that
the cattle cars also

505

00:25:48,660 --> 00:25:53,285

had containers used for--

506

00:25:53,285 --> 00:25:54,720

For sanitation you mean?

507

00:25:54,720 --> 00:25:57,240

Sanitation purposes.

508

00:25:57,240 --> 00:25:59,400

It was, mind you,
this was spring,

509

00:25:59,400 --> 00:26:02,400

so it was [INAUDIBLE] of course.

510

00:26:02,400 --> 00:26:08,570

And we did stop at the
border when we left Hungary.

511

00:26:08,570 --> 00:26:12,360
And therefore-- why?

512
00:26:12,360 --> 00:26:18,180
Because the Hungarian troops
or whatever guarding us left us

513
00:26:18,180 --> 00:26:23,930
at the border, and I cannot
remember who replaced them.

514
00:26:23,930 --> 00:26:26,440

515
00:26:26,440 --> 00:26:30,120
I don't think that
it was German troops.

516
00:26:30,120 --> 00:26:32,490
Somebody else replaced
them at the border.

517
00:26:32,490 --> 00:26:34,110
Did you have any food?

518
00:26:34,110 --> 00:26:37,110
Did they give you any food,
or did your mother bring food?

519
00:26:37,110 --> 00:26:39,180
We had to bring our own food.

520
00:26:39,180 --> 00:26:41,400
They weren't feeding
you during that.

521
00:26:41,400 --> 00:26:44,250
I don't know about
water, I can't remember.

522
00:26:44,250 --> 00:26:51,250
But I think that they brought in
or allowed containers of water

523
00:26:51,250 --> 00:26:55,590
for everybody, whatever
it is, but not food.

524
00:26:55,590 --> 00:26:58,470
And everybody had to
bring their own food.

525
00:26:58,470 --> 00:27:04,110
But it was packed, because
people were bringing

526
00:27:04,110 --> 00:27:05,910
whatever they could bring.

527
00:27:05,910 --> 00:27:08,640
Could you lie down to sleep?

528
00:27:08,640 --> 00:27:09,895
It's mostly sitting down.

529
00:27:09,895 --> 00:27:12,650
Sitting, yeah.

530
00:27:12,650 --> 00:27:15,360
And how did your parents
handle this with you?

531
00:27:15,360 --> 00:27:18,860

532
00:27:18,860 --> 00:27:19,370
Well--

533
00:27:19,370 --> 00:27:24,680
Were they comforting,
or were they frightened?

534
00:27:24,680 --> 00:27:35,860
No, no they-- well, my father
was in command, so to speak.

535

00:27:35,860 --> 00:27:39,670
And so I was under his umbrella.

536

00:27:39,670 --> 00:27:42,570
Because we knew that
we would be separated

537

00:27:42,570 --> 00:27:50,070
and they were hoping that I can
go with him, wherever it is.

538

00:27:50,070 --> 00:27:53,640
But we knew that they separated
us when we get to Germany.

539

00:27:53,640 --> 00:27:56,670
We did not know anything
about Auschwitz or Birkenau.

540

00:27:56,670 --> 00:27:59,700
OK, so you did not know where
you were going at that point?

541

00:27:59,700 --> 00:28:00,210
No.

542

00:28:00,210 --> 00:28:02,340
No, no.

543

00:28:02,340 --> 00:28:06,400
In fact, even when we
arrived in Birkenau

544

00:28:06,400 --> 00:28:10,960
there were no signs saying
Birkenau or Auschwitz.

545

00:28:10,960 --> 00:28:12,480
And in the car--

546

00:28:12,480 --> 00:28:14,430

we'll get to that in a minute.

547

00:28:14,430 --> 00:28:16,950

On the train, on those
few days of the trip

548

00:28:16,950 --> 00:28:20,910

I think did you say
four days or something?

549

00:28:20,910 --> 00:28:23,430

What was the atmosphere
in the car like?

550

00:28:23,430 --> 00:28:27,255

Were people quiet or
were they very upset?

551

00:28:27,255 --> 00:28:28,380

Well, everybody was upset--

552

00:28:28,380 --> 00:28:29,755

Do you have any
memories of that?

553

00:28:29,755 --> 00:28:31,495

--and everybody was quiet.

554

00:28:31,495 --> 00:28:35,350

555

00:28:35,350 --> 00:28:38,370

Were people
comforting each other?

556

00:28:38,370 --> 00:28:40,680

Do you remember?

557

00:28:40,680 --> 00:28:43,260

The answer is probably no.

558

00:28:43,260 --> 00:28:48,210

Because I've been on similar
trains while in camps and so

559
00:28:48,210 --> 00:28:53,180
on where people there
during the night and so on,

560
00:28:53,180 --> 00:28:57,570
they became mental patients.

561
00:28:57,570 --> 00:29:00,360
They were ranting and raving
and so on and so forth.

562
00:29:00,360 --> 00:29:04,470
But not on this
trip to Auschwitz.

563
00:29:04,470 --> 00:29:07,082
So now you arrive at Auschwitz,
and what was that like?

564
00:29:07,082 --> 00:29:09,165
Can you describe when
you're train came to a stop?

565
00:29:09,165 --> 00:29:12,380
Well, early in the morning-- we
arrived early in the morning.

566
00:29:12,380 --> 00:29:15,600
And actually, we must have
arrived during the night,

567
00:29:15,600 --> 00:29:19,740
because early in the
morning like 6:00

568
00:29:19,740 --> 00:29:21,530
the train was someplace
else, and that's

569
00:29:21,530 --> 00:29:27,270

when they start going into the
camp, which is a slow motion

570
00:29:27,270 --> 00:29:31,230
way to wherever
they had to stop.

571
00:29:31,230 --> 00:29:39,510
And then we looked out the
cattle car we saw troops there.

572
00:29:39,510 --> 00:29:41,010
And I can't see
remember to this day

573
00:29:41,010 --> 00:29:44,070
whether they were German
troops or Polish troops,

574
00:29:44,070 --> 00:29:45,330
or whatever it is.

575
00:29:45,330 --> 00:29:49,260
But we definitely saw
them standing side

576
00:29:49,260 --> 00:29:56,220
by side with bayonets
and holding onto bayonets

577
00:29:56,220 --> 00:29:58,270
on both sides of the train.

578
00:29:58,270 --> 00:30:02,010
Because you could open
the car on each side.

579
00:30:02,010 --> 00:30:09,360
And then there were
actually even prisoners

580
00:30:09,360 --> 00:30:13,050
who were working to help us

to get out of those cars--

581

00:30:13,050 --> 00:30:18,470

prisoners who were in Auschwitz
helping us getting out

582

00:30:18,470 --> 00:30:19,710

of the cars.

583

00:30:19,710 --> 00:30:22,088

And telling us, of course,
no you don't need that,

584

00:30:22,088 --> 00:30:23,130

just leave it in the car.

585

00:30:23,130 --> 00:30:26,850

Because the orders were leave
everything, all baggage,

586

00:30:26,850 --> 00:30:29,940

in the car.

587

00:30:29,940 --> 00:30:34,450

And so they insisted and
people didn't listen.

588

00:30:34,450 --> 00:30:37,170

They still wanted to take
this bag or that bag,

589

00:30:37,170 --> 00:30:37,980

whatever it is.

590

00:30:37,980 --> 00:30:39,720

And they said no, no, no.

591

00:30:39,720 --> 00:30:44,490

So and that was people who were
actually working in the camps.

592

00:30:44,490 --> 00:30:46,980

So they were prisoners
who said no, no, don't.

593
00:30:46,980 --> 00:30:50,910
They didn't say
anything except that.

594
00:30:50,910 --> 00:30:55,410
That was their job, and
to line up and so on.

595
00:30:55,410 --> 00:31:00,660
And looking back, the tragedy
was that everybody was shocked.

596
00:31:00,660 --> 00:31:05,710
Whatever the guys seen
they were in shock.

597
00:31:05,710 --> 00:31:08,280
And families being
separated right

598
00:31:08,280 --> 00:31:12,980
in front of their eyes,
the shock and so on.

599
00:31:12,980 --> 00:31:15,310
And I can understand now,
but not at that time.

600
00:31:15,310 --> 00:31:15,810
Of course.

601
00:31:15,810 --> 00:31:19,080
Because the only thing my mother
wanted that stick to your dad,

602
00:31:19,080 --> 00:31:21,790
go where your dad is,
and so on and so forth.

603
00:31:21,790 --> 00:31:25,350

Well, that's a wish
that didn't happen.

604
00:31:25,350 --> 00:31:29,940
Because she could see, I
am guessing, that even when

605
00:31:29,940 --> 00:31:35,130
we went to the area
where for men and boys

606
00:31:35,130 --> 00:31:37,140
that they were separating
us right there.

607
00:31:37,140 --> 00:31:39,060
You could see it.

608
00:31:39,060 --> 00:31:42,360
They were only half
a block away or less.

609
00:31:42,360 --> 00:31:47,970
So my mother definitely could
see that they took me away

610
00:31:47,970 --> 00:31:48,990
from my dad.

611
00:31:48,990 --> 00:31:53,010
But I went with my
dad to where I was

612
00:31:53,010 --> 00:31:57,930
told to go and so on, so forth.

613
00:31:57,930 --> 00:32:02,820
And I would say now,
thinking back, looking back

614
00:32:02,820 --> 00:32:05,130
that most people were in shock.

615

00:32:05,130 --> 00:32:11,730

Because whatever they
expected was worse.

616

00:32:11,730 --> 00:32:16,860

And so but the mothers
were clinging to the kids.

617

00:32:16,860 --> 00:32:20,940

The kids were crying, and so on
and so forth, so it was chaos.

618

00:32:20,940 --> 00:32:22,400

Yeah.

619

00:32:22,400 --> 00:32:29,710

Yeah, so then did your parents
say anything to you especially?

620

00:32:29,710 --> 00:32:34,540

Yes, I think I wrote that
down, because I can't remember

621

00:32:34,540 --> 00:32:36,130

the word that they said.

622

00:32:36,130 --> 00:32:38,050

I know they were talking to me.

623

00:32:38,050 --> 00:32:41,380

I know that my
mother was crying.

624

00:32:41,380 --> 00:32:45,630

But my mind was blank,
because I honestly--

625

00:32:45,630 --> 00:32:48,760

and I thought about it many,
many times what my mother said.

626

00:32:48,760 --> 00:32:52,030

And I cannot remember a word.

627

00:32:52,030 --> 00:32:55,690

And I know that she
was talking to me.

628

00:32:55,690 --> 00:33:01,080

So you were then taken to
a group of young people?

629

00:33:01,080 --> 00:33:04,140

Yeah, but first of
all, they separated

630

00:33:04,140 --> 00:33:11,370

my mother and my
father and I. My father

631

00:33:11,370 --> 00:33:16,590

and I went to the
right, but not very far,

632

00:33:16,590 --> 00:33:26,260

because I would say 20 or
30 feet we were separated.

633

00:33:26,260 --> 00:33:28,890

We were separated,
and I can't remember

634

00:33:28,890 --> 00:33:32,220

whether we were separated
after somebody asked my age

635

00:33:32,220 --> 00:33:33,120

or whatever it is.

636

00:33:33,120 --> 00:33:37,080

But they said no, you go
here and you go over there.

637

00:33:37,080 --> 00:33:39,540

Yeah, and you're 14 years old?

638
00:33:39,540 --> 00:33:40,910
You're 14 years old?

639
00:33:40,910 --> 00:33:42,390
Yeah, that's right.

640
00:33:42,390 --> 00:33:44,910
So you went to this
group of young people?

641
00:33:44,910 --> 00:33:45,410
Yes.

642
00:33:45,410 --> 00:33:46,380
Was it young boys?

643
00:33:46,380 --> 00:33:47,850
Young--

644
00:33:47,850 --> 00:33:55,890
Yeah, I would say between 13 and
maybe up to 17, 18 thereabouts.

645
00:33:55,890 --> 00:33:56,560
And they said--

646
00:33:56,560 --> 00:33:57,980
But it was boys only?

647
00:33:57,980 --> 00:33:58,480
It wasn't--

648
00:33:58,480 --> 00:33:59,850
That's right.

649
00:33:59,850 --> 00:34:01,610
I ended up with the boys only.

650
00:34:01,610 --> 00:34:04,860
But first I ended up

with my dad and myself.

651
00:34:04,860 --> 00:34:07,890
Yes, yes.

652
00:34:07,890 --> 00:34:10,380
And then where did
they take your group?

653
00:34:10,380 --> 00:34:11,050
Where did you--

654
00:34:11,050 --> 00:34:15,900
Well, they took us into a camp.

655
00:34:15,900 --> 00:34:21,190
You see, these camps are camps
within a camp within a camp.

656
00:34:21,190 --> 00:34:23,940
So we marched at, I can't
remember, maybe five,

657
00:34:23,940 --> 00:34:27,280
10 blocks or more
into this other camp.

658
00:34:27,280 --> 00:34:30,179
They opened the
gate and we could

659
00:34:30,179 --> 00:34:34,520
see that there were
young people there.

660
00:34:34,520 --> 00:34:41,989
And there was somebody in
the camp, a Jewish person who

661
00:34:41,989 --> 00:34:47,190
looked out of the camp,
and he took over the group

662

00:34:47,190 --> 00:34:50,250
and found spots to--

663

00:34:50,250 --> 00:34:54,409
here, you stay here, you stay
there, and whatever it is.

664

00:34:54,409 --> 00:34:57,410
So and then the rest,
of course, were talking

665

00:34:57,410 --> 00:35:02,210
to the young people there.

666

00:35:02,210 --> 00:35:04,100
And--

667

00:35:04,100 --> 00:35:05,420
So how did you sleep?

668

00:35:05,420 --> 00:35:07,490
What was the conditions
like in this camp?

669

00:35:07,490 --> 00:35:10,600
Well, they had
these wooden bunks.

670

00:35:10,600 --> 00:35:11,310
Bunks, yeah.

671

00:35:11,310 --> 00:35:12,430
Two or three up.

672

00:35:12,430 --> 00:35:15,960
And so they all looked
alike, and they said,

673

00:35:15,960 --> 00:35:18,290
well, this is where you--

674

00:35:18,290 --> 00:35:20,960
this is yours.

675
00:35:20,960 --> 00:35:24,770
And that's sort of non-eventful.

676
00:35:24,770 --> 00:35:28,010
Yes, but you didn't
have a cover,

677
00:35:28,010 --> 00:35:29,900
you didn't have a pillow.

678
00:35:29,900 --> 00:35:32,810
Did you have to share
your bunk with anybody

679
00:35:32,810 --> 00:35:35,440
or did you have your own bunk?

680
00:35:35,440 --> 00:35:38,630
Everybody had-- everybody
was given a bunk.

681
00:35:38,630 --> 00:35:40,630
Yeah, well you shared
it because somebody

682
00:35:40,630 --> 00:35:42,340
was next to you, so to speak.

683
00:35:42,340 --> 00:35:43,120
Yeah.

684
00:35:43,120 --> 00:35:46,920
OK, and what about food?

685
00:35:46,920 --> 00:35:50,850
Food in concentration camp-- and
that applied all concentration

686
00:35:50,850 --> 00:35:51,580

camp--

687

00:35:51,580 --> 00:35:57,030

we were fed approximately
early evening.

688

00:35:57,030 --> 00:36:01,300

And that applies everywhere
in the concentration camps

689

00:36:01,300 --> 00:36:02,160

that I've been.

690

00:36:02,160 --> 00:36:04,440

It was soup.

691

00:36:04,440 --> 00:36:08,970

You got soup, and you
got a slice of bread.

692

00:36:08,970 --> 00:36:11,840

Were you still wearing your
clothes that you came with?

693

00:36:11,840 --> 00:36:17,560

694

00:36:17,560 --> 00:36:23,840

That's a good question,
because the answer is no.

695

00:36:23,840 --> 00:36:29,800

So we must have gone to
take a shower or whatever.

696

00:36:29,800 --> 00:36:34,180

Because when I got to the
camp, inside the camp--

697

00:36:34,180 --> 00:36:40,440

the group-- we wore what was
given to us except for shoes.

698

00:36:40,440 --> 00:36:44,440

You could keep your shoes and the rest

699

00:36:44,440 --> 00:36:48,350

you left before you went to a shower.

700

00:36:48,350 --> 00:36:51,210

And you didn't see the clothes again.

701

00:36:51,210 --> 00:36:58,780

Your shoes were on and you were allowed to keep your shoes.

702

00:36:58,780 --> 00:37:01,050

Were you wearing a uniform, a striped uniform?

703

00:37:01,050 --> 00:37:02,050

A striped uniform, yes.

704

00:37:02,050 --> 00:37:02,592

That's right.

705

00:37:02,592 --> 00:37:03,750

Oh, you were?

706

00:37:03,750 --> 00:37:04,640

Yes, yes.

707

00:37:04,640 --> 00:37:05,680

OK.

708

00:37:05,680 --> 00:37:09,490

Were you tall or short physically?

709

00:37:09,490 --> 00:37:12,340

What was your physical condition?

710
00:37:12,340 --> 00:37:13,310
That's a good question.

711
00:37:13,310 --> 00:37:14,560
I can't remember the height.

712
00:37:14,560 --> 00:37:16,720
I wasn't very short,
but I was very tall.

713
00:37:16,720 --> 00:37:17,678
Yeah, you were average?

714
00:37:17,678 --> 00:37:18,962
You mean average.

715
00:37:18,962 --> 00:37:20,810
Average, whatever that means.

716
00:37:20,810 --> 00:37:26,530
OK, and the other boys,
did you talk with them?

717
00:37:26,530 --> 00:37:28,720
Yeah, well we talked
with the boys.

718
00:37:28,720 --> 00:37:35,600
But there again--
actually, we were

719
00:37:35,600 --> 00:37:38,190
trying to find out
from the other boys

720
00:37:38,190 --> 00:37:41,890
how long have you been
here and whatever it is.

721
00:37:41,890 --> 00:37:45,530
So whatever information

we got was non-eventful

722

00:37:45,530 --> 00:37:48,000

or they didn't want to tell
us, or they did not know.

723

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:51,150

724

00:37:51,150 --> 00:37:53,100

So what did you
do during the day?

725

00:37:53,100 --> 00:37:54,160

Nothing.

726

00:37:54,160 --> 00:37:54,660

You just--

727

00:37:54,660 --> 00:37:57,030

Absolutely nothing.

728

00:37:57,030 --> 00:38:03,100

I know that some boys were
cleaning this and that, house

729

00:38:03,100 --> 00:38:05,700

cleaning and whatever it is.

730

00:38:05,700 --> 00:38:07,790

But I didn't get to
that stage I suppose

731

00:38:07,790 --> 00:38:12,330

where they said this is what
I want you to do and so on.

732

00:38:12,330 --> 00:38:13,530

Were there roll calls?

733

00:38:13,530 --> 00:38:14,640

Did they--

734
00:38:14,640 --> 00:38:15,600
Yes, oh, yes.

735
00:38:15,600 --> 00:38:16,140
Oh, yes.

736
00:38:16,140 --> 00:38:20,230
What was that like
for a 14-year-old?

737
00:38:20,230 --> 00:38:25,540
Well, it's an eye opener
that the roll call

738
00:38:25,540 --> 00:38:27,500
was extremely important.

739
00:38:27,500 --> 00:38:31,070
They talked to you
over and over again.

740
00:38:31,070 --> 00:38:35,180
Originally twice a day
and it was important.

741
00:38:35,180 --> 00:38:39,070
And if you were lectured
about something or something

742
00:38:39,070 --> 00:38:41,250
that's when they
announced it while you

743
00:38:41,250 --> 00:38:44,400
were standing in roll calls.

744
00:38:44,400 --> 00:38:49,640
We're going to do this and
that, or whatever, whatever.

745
00:38:49,640 --> 00:38:55,720

So roll calls that's when
somebody, a uniformed German,

746
00:38:55,720 --> 00:39:03,540
came into your camp, and
he accompanied whoever

747
00:39:03,540 --> 00:39:06,460
to look you over,
just walk by you,

748
00:39:06,460 --> 00:39:08,530
look you over, whatever it is.

749
00:39:08,530 --> 00:39:14,560
And also telling whoever
looked after the prisoner

750
00:39:14,560 --> 00:39:16,710
to tell the people
about this and that,

751
00:39:16,710 --> 00:39:18,615
and that announcement.

752
00:39:18,615 --> 00:39:21,100
But roll call was very
important to them.

753
00:39:21,100 --> 00:39:26,360
And definitely you have to be
up there and so on and so forth,

754
00:39:26,360 --> 00:39:27,710
and they counted you--

755
00:39:27,710 --> 00:39:30,850
everybody twice a day.

756
00:39:30,850 --> 00:39:34,650
Did you know-- you knew you
were in Auschwitz, right?

757

00:39:34,650 --> 00:39:35,150

Oh, yeah.

758

00:39:35,150 --> 00:39:35,650

I--

759

00:39:35,650 --> 00:39:37,070

What did Auschwitz mean to you?

760

00:39:37,070 --> 00:39:39,630

OK, to be honest with you, I didn't know the word Auschwitz.

761

00:39:39,630 --> 00:39:41,770

What it meant, yeah.

762

00:39:41,770 --> 00:39:43,830

Yeah, I knew that I was in a concentration camp.

763

00:39:43,830 --> 00:39:45,330

Concentration camp called Auschwitz,

764

00:39:45,330 --> 00:39:49,230

but you didn't understand what it meant.

765

00:39:49,230 --> 00:39:49,750

Yeah.

766

00:39:49,750 --> 00:39:52,390

I knew nothing about Auschwitz before I got there.

767

00:39:52,390 --> 00:39:55,480

Before you got there, OK.

768

00:39:55,480 --> 00:40:01,900

So you're in this camp, and one day is like the next you said?

769

00:40:01,900 --> 00:40:02,858

With roll calls--

770

00:40:02,858 --> 00:40:03,400

That's right.

771

00:40:03,400 --> 00:40:04,510

And you ate once a day.

772

00:40:04,510 --> 00:40:07,510

Did they give you
any bread at least?

773

00:40:07,510 --> 00:40:10,240

Yeah, when they gave you the
soup you line up for bread.

774

00:40:10,240 --> 00:40:12,790

But I remember other camps--

775

00:40:12,790 --> 00:40:14,590

I can't remember where--

776

00:40:14,590 --> 00:40:18,050

where because of my
condition and so on,

777

00:40:18,050 --> 00:40:21,570

that's almost at the end
of the war and so on,

778

00:40:21,570 --> 00:40:27,130

where by the time I was
standing next to get the soup

779

00:40:27,130 --> 00:40:29,660

and there was no more soup.

780

00:40:29,660 --> 00:40:32,770

And so they gave me nothing.

781

00:40:32,770 --> 00:40:40,960
And so it was very important for
survival that you line up you

782
00:40:40,960 --> 00:40:44,380
half an hour or an hour before.

783
00:40:44,380 --> 00:40:48,250
But I know that nobody
gave a damn the fact

784
00:40:48,250 --> 00:40:50,890
that the soup ran out.

785
00:40:50,890 --> 00:40:51,820
Yeah.

786
00:40:51,820 --> 00:40:56,830
So you just spent the
days with the other boys.

787
00:40:56,830 --> 00:40:58,247
And then what was
the next event--

788
00:40:58,247 --> 00:40:59,038
I spent the-- yes--

789
00:40:59,038 --> 00:41:00,040
And then what happened?

790
00:41:00,040 --> 00:41:05,050
And that's why I wrote that,
because I did nothing unusual

791
00:41:05,050 --> 00:41:06,370
being a boy like that.

792
00:41:06,370 --> 00:41:09,970
I was closer to the main
entrance, just curiosity

793

00:41:09,970 --> 00:41:12,680
wanting to know what's going on.

794
00:41:12,680 --> 00:41:14,380
But I wasn't the only one.

795
00:41:14,380 --> 00:41:17,690
And there was always, especially
when you saw people coming in,

796
00:41:17,690 --> 00:41:19,540
especially you
wanted to make sure

797
00:41:19,540 --> 00:41:23,210
that the soup is
coming for the day.

798
00:41:23,210 --> 00:41:26,810
And so on, so you wanted to know
whether we're going to get it.

799
00:41:26,810 --> 00:41:28,660
And so I sort of congregated.

800
00:41:28,660 --> 00:41:30,760
But we must have been--

801
00:41:30,760 --> 00:41:37,810
I'm guessing now 20, 25 people
just loitering in there,

802
00:41:37,810 --> 00:41:39,870
and just watching, really.

803
00:41:39,870 --> 00:41:47,590
And so that's why my story,
one of my escapades as what

804
00:41:47,590 --> 00:41:49,780
has happened.

805

00:41:49,780 --> 00:41:54,160
And I always thought about it,
and I thought maybe the hand

806
00:41:54,160 --> 00:41:55,540
of god or something.

807
00:41:55,540 --> 00:42:02,740
That somebody will ask me to
grab a hold of the empty can.

808
00:42:02,740 --> 00:42:06,790
And the person who asked me,
never seen him in my life

809
00:42:06,790 --> 00:42:12,330
before or after, and
walk out this camp.

810
00:42:12,330 --> 00:42:15,060
You are still in camp when
you walk out from this camp.

811
00:42:15,060 --> 00:42:16,870
It's a camp within a camp.

812
00:42:16,870 --> 00:42:19,090
Did your barracks
have a number at all?

813
00:42:19,090 --> 00:42:19,950
Or a label?

814
00:42:19,950 --> 00:42:22,155
If there were, I do not know.

815
00:42:22,155 --> 00:42:24,990
If there were, I'm sure
there must have been.

816
00:42:24,990 --> 00:42:26,170
But I can't remember.

817
00:42:26,170 --> 00:42:28,870
And did you ever have
a number on your arm,

818
00:42:28,870 --> 00:42:30,160
or they didn't do that?

819
00:42:30,160 --> 00:42:32,800
No, by the time we were--

820
00:42:32,800 --> 00:42:40,150
before if you were taken
to Auschwitz, not Birkenau,

821
00:42:40,150 --> 00:42:43,070
they were doing these things.

822
00:42:43,070 --> 00:42:46,420
So many coming in,
prisoners per day,

823
00:42:46,420 --> 00:42:49,240
that they discontinued
that and definitely not

824
00:42:49,240 --> 00:42:51,310
so much in Birkenau.

825
00:42:51,310 --> 00:42:55,450
If anything, if
you arrived and you

826
00:42:55,450 --> 00:42:59,350
were in the Auschwitz part,
which is the older part time,

827
00:42:59,350 --> 00:43:01,000
they used to.

828
00:43:01,000 --> 00:43:02,925
And that's how they
kept track of you.

829
00:43:02,925 --> 00:43:07,722
But when they start bringing
prisoners into Birkenau

830
00:43:07,722 --> 00:43:08,680
they discontinued that.

831
00:43:08,680 --> 00:43:11,680
They couldn't keep up.

832
00:43:11,680 --> 00:43:12,760
So you said--

833
00:43:12,760 --> 00:43:14,440
I don't have a number.

834
00:43:14,440 --> 00:43:16,870
You said that some
man came over?

835
00:43:16,870 --> 00:43:18,940
Can you tell me
about what happened?

836
00:43:18,940 --> 00:43:21,670
Some man asked you to take
hold of the soup cans?

837
00:43:21,670 --> 00:43:26,240
Yeah, I was there
and he says, boy,

838
00:43:26,240 --> 00:43:28,140
grab a hold of the container.

839
00:43:28,140 --> 00:43:29,750
Well, it's an empty container.

840
00:43:29,750 --> 00:43:34,210
And so I did, and follow me.

841

00:43:34,210 --> 00:43:37,520

And by the time I realized
it took two or three minutes.

842

00:43:37,520 --> 00:43:40,540

I realized I was
out of that barrack.

843

00:43:40,540 --> 00:43:45,160

At first I thought he wants me
to help them to take it out,

844

00:43:45,160 --> 00:43:47,450

and then he'll
tell me to go back.

845

00:43:47,450 --> 00:43:51,080

But nobody told me to go
back, we kept on going.

846

00:43:51,080 --> 00:43:56,830

And the funny part is that I saw
the soldiers right at the door,

847

00:43:56,830 --> 00:44:01,100

and they just followed
the 10 people.

848

00:44:01,100 --> 00:44:07,065

And so it just dawned on me
once I was in the other camp,

849

00:44:07,065 --> 00:44:10,830

in the senior camp, when
somebody told me when I started

850

00:44:10,830 --> 00:44:12,360

to put two and two together.

851

00:44:12,360 --> 00:44:14,790

That's when I
became very panicky.

852

00:44:14,790 --> 00:44:21,760

I said, they can shoot me
or this and that and so on.

853

00:44:21,760 --> 00:44:23,430

And I was told not
to say anything,

854

00:44:23,430 --> 00:44:25,180

and of course I said nothing.

855

00:44:25,180 --> 00:44:30,360

So here you have a
14-year-old one who is--

856

00:44:30,360 --> 00:44:33,190

I never face these things.

857

00:44:33,190 --> 00:44:35,070

And I was wondering
here and there

858

00:44:35,070 --> 00:44:39,240

why these people have done
that, I haven't got a clue.

859

00:44:39,240 --> 00:44:44,380

Because whoever talked to me, no
relation of mine, and in fact,

860

00:44:44,380 --> 00:44:45,810

they said very little.

861

00:44:45,810 --> 00:44:49,430

Whatever they said it was
just one sentence things.

862

00:44:49,430 --> 00:44:54,510

And definitely they didn't want
me to recognize their face.

863

00:44:54,510 --> 00:44:59,520

In other words, because
if I get into trouble

864
00:44:59,520 --> 00:45:01,530
I will identify them,
and that's the last thing

865
00:45:01,530 --> 00:45:04,990
they wanted to do
for their own safety.

866
00:45:04,990 --> 00:45:06,410
So who--

867
00:45:06,410 --> 00:45:10,140
And this is an adult
camp in Birkenau, right?

868
00:45:10,140 --> 00:45:10,640
Correct.

869
00:45:10,640 --> 00:45:13,550

870
00:45:13,550 --> 00:45:15,880
So therefore, I
would be sticking out

871
00:45:15,880 --> 00:45:17,870
as the very young person.

872
00:45:17,870 --> 00:45:21,740
Not only that, in my voice.

873
00:45:21,740 --> 00:45:25,340
Because when once [INAUDIBLE]
was asking somebody--

874
00:45:25,340 --> 00:45:26,810
shut up.

875
00:45:26,810 --> 00:45:30,600

Because people would
hear a young boy.

876
00:45:30,600 --> 00:45:34,000
You've seen them and turn
around, and so on and so forth.

877
00:45:34,000 --> 00:45:36,530
But at that time I
just I was totally

878
00:45:36,530 --> 00:45:40,480
in panic, shock, and whatever.

879
00:45:40,480 --> 00:45:46,835
And but many, many months while
I was sitting in the camp I

880
00:45:46,835 --> 00:45:50,420
was trying to put these things
together part of my life

881
00:45:50,420 --> 00:45:53,240
as to why this happened
and that happened.

882
00:45:53,240 --> 00:45:57,570
And that's why I said
in my mind, it just--

883
00:45:57,570 --> 00:46:02,510
and especially I remember, and
this was my first eye opener,

884
00:46:02,510 --> 00:46:04,620
when it started
to rain terribly.

885
00:46:04,620 --> 00:46:08,660
So everybody-- not
everybody, maybe 90%,

886
00:46:08,660 --> 00:46:14,960

were running out putting
their coats above their head.

887
00:46:14,960 --> 00:46:16,760
And these adults--

888
00:46:16,760 --> 00:46:19,640
I knew, but not knew.

889
00:46:19,640 --> 00:46:22,320
I saw them before, two or
three on each side of me,

890
00:46:22,320 --> 00:46:25,810
running with me, doing
exactly the same thing.

891
00:46:25,810 --> 00:46:29,870
And I remember still this
is a German soldier who

892
00:46:29,870 --> 00:46:33,170
was carrying a machine gun or
whatever it is standing next

893
00:46:33,170 --> 00:46:36,650
to the truck, and everybody
was running into the truck.

894
00:46:36,650 --> 00:46:39,050
We had to go up
three or four steps.

895
00:46:39,050 --> 00:46:45,440
And I was told also, go right
to the very back in the truck.

896
00:46:45,440 --> 00:46:50,420
It's sort of a truck
had a canvas on it.

897
00:46:50,420 --> 00:46:51,500
So they--

898
00:46:51,500 --> 00:46:54,950
How did they know what
language to speak to you,

899
00:46:54,950 --> 00:46:56,300
the other prisoners?

900
00:46:56,300 --> 00:46:59,450

901
00:46:59,450 --> 00:47:01,250
Well, this was Yiddish.

902
00:47:01,250 --> 00:47:02,360
Oh, it was all Yiddish.

903
00:47:02,360 --> 00:47:04,230
OK.

904
00:47:04,230 --> 00:47:05,150
Yeah.

905
00:47:05,150 --> 00:47:10,870
And because some
people, not withstanding

906
00:47:10,870 --> 00:47:13,640
that Yiddish and
German is very similar,

907
00:47:13,640 --> 00:47:16,470
but some people didn't
speak German at all.

908
00:47:16,470 --> 00:47:23,200
Just Yiddish, We understood more
or less the German language.

909
00:47:23,200 --> 00:47:26,040
So you said it was
raining and you ran?

910
00:47:26,040 --> 00:47:32,500
Oh it was-- well, it was a
rainy week or whatever it is.

911
00:47:32,500 --> 00:47:35,710
So it was not unusual,
but they were telling me

912
00:47:35,710 --> 00:47:39,880
ahead of time in
case it rains, we

913
00:47:39,880 --> 00:47:42,610
will run beside
you on each side.

914
00:47:42,610 --> 00:47:47,170
These are adults, and have
our coats above our heads.

915
00:47:47,170 --> 00:47:48,250
Up high, yeah.

916
00:47:48,250 --> 00:47:51,770
And you run in between us.

917
00:47:51,770 --> 00:47:56,570
You run in between us, so
therefore they knew that,

918
00:47:56,570 --> 00:47:58,000
and they expected--

919
00:47:58,000 --> 00:47:59,710
I don't know what
they expected--

920
00:47:59,710 --> 00:48:02,830
and hoped that it would rain.

921
00:48:02,830 --> 00:48:07,400

But it didn't only rain, it was
just coming down in buckets.

922
00:48:07,400 --> 00:48:10,510
So everybody-- everybody
meaning the other ones

923
00:48:10,510 --> 00:48:15,820
done the same thing who
had nothing to do with me.

924
00:48:15,820 --> 00:48:24,280
So running to the trucks, to get
into the trucks with your arms

925
00:48:24,280 --> 00:48:28,100
up over your head,
everybody was doing that.

926
00:48:28,100 --> 00:48:31,750
So in other words,
nobody paid attention.

927
00:48:31,750 --> 00:48:33,835
So you got into the trucks?

928
00:48:33,835 --> 00:48:34,680
And were you--

929
00:48:34,680 --> 00:48:37,070
Yes, we get into the
truck with the rest.

930
00:48:37,070 --> 00:48:39,460
And of course,
when they had the--

931
00:48:39,460 --> 00:48:45,820
I don't know how many per
truck, we left the camp.

932
00:48:45,820 --> 00:48:47,700
I'm sorry, you say

you left the camp?

933

00:48:47,700 --> 00:48:48,360

Yeah, we left.

934

00:48:48,360 --> 00:48:49,610

Well, the truck left the camp.

935

00:48:49,610 --> 00:48:51,040

Oh, so how long were you there?

936

00:48:51,040 --> 00:48:53,170

Do you know, in Auschwitz?

937

00:48:53,170 --> 00:48:54,010

All in all?

938

00:48:54,010 --> 00:48:56,380

Yeah, total.

939

00:48:56,380 --> 00:49:03,077

I would say from seven to nine--

940

00:49:03,077 --> 00:49:03,910

11 days or whatever.

941

00:49:03,910 --> 00:49:05,440

11 days you said?

942

00:49:05,440 --> 00:49:06,830

Maybe, maximum.

943

00:49:06,830 --> 00:49:08,070

I don't even think--

944

00:49:08,070 --> 00:49:11,110

if you put all those things
that I wrote together,

945

00:49:11,110 --> 00:49:13,855

maybe 10, maybe 10

and a half, whatever.

946

00:49:13,855 --> 00:49:16,030

And this is summer of '44?

947

00:49:16,030 --> 00:49:16,630

Correct.

948

00:49:16,630 --> 00:49:18,450

OK, so now you're in the truck.

949

00:49:18,450 --> 00:49:19,330

And what's the next--

950

00:49:19,330 --> 00:49:21,280

Now we're in the truck

and we're going to--

951

00:49:21,280 --> 00:49:23,380

I did not know

where, but Breslau,

952

00:49:23,380 --> 00:49:26,410

and I haven't got a clue

where Breslau is anyway.

953

00:49:26,410 --> 00:49:31,590

And we know that it is in

Poland, and it's north--

954

00:49:31,590 --> 00:49:35,110

north of wherever Auschwitz is.

955

00:49:35,110 --> 00:49:37,300

I don't-- what

about your parents?

956

00:49:37,300 --> 00:49:38,430

Did you--

957

00:49:38,430 --> 00:49:41,560

No, I never seen them

again after we arrived.

958

00:49:41,560 --> 00:49:42,435

OK, and did you try--

959

00:49:42,435 --> 00:49:43,893

I mean, you didn't

know, of course.

960

00:49:43,893 --> 00:49:45,520

Did you try to get

in touch with them?

961

00:49:45,520 --> 00:49:47,530

Was there any way that

you thought you could?

962

00:49:47,530 --> 00:49:48,490

I know you couldn't--

963

00:49:48,490 --> 00:49:49,380

I know you couldn't.

964

00:49:49,380 --> 00:49:52,810

But did you try?

965

00:49:52,810 --> 00:49:57,490

Well, I didn't have a clue.

966

00:49:57,490 --> 00:50:00,670

So obviously, they did not

go through the gas chambers,

967

00:50:00,670 --> 00:50:03,390

because my father--

968

00:50:03,390 --> 00:50:07,210

and that's what I

put in my thing.

969

00:50:07,210 --> 00:50:12,220

I heard that he was in

Flossenburg, which I was too.

970
00:50:12,220 --> 00:50:13,070
But he was--

971
00:50:13,070 --> 00:50:13,740
Yeah.

972
00:50:13,740 --> 00:50:18,680
Yeah, and then my mother
I heard later on--

973
00:50:18,680 --> 00:50:20,920
later run after I was--

974
00:50:20,920 --> 00:50:23,467
So I just wanted to make sure,
you had no contact with them

975
00:50:23,467 --> 00:50:24,050
in Auschwitz--

976
00:50:24,050 --> 00:50:24,320
No I had no contact.

977
00:50:24,320 --> 00:50:26,998
-- when you were there and they
were there in different parts--

978
00:50:26,998 --> 00:50:27,790
in different parts?

979
00:50:27,790 --> 00:50:27,940
That's right.

980
00:50:27,940 --> 00:50:28,090
That's correct.

981
00:50:28,090 --> 00:50:28,360
OK.

982

00:50:28,360 --> 00:50:29,080
That's correct.

983
00:50:29,080 --> 00:50:30,890
OK, so now you're on the truck.

984
00:50:30,890 --> 00:50:33,880
You said you're going
to near Breslau?

985
00:50:33,880 --> 00:50:37,030
Yeah, we're going
towards Breslau.

986
00:50:37,030 --> 00:50:39,250
And when we got there--

987
00:50:39,250 --> 00:50:41,020
we didn't make the city.

988
00:50:41,020 --> 00:50:43,800
I don't know, it may
have been 30, 40, 50

989
00:50:43,800 --> 00:50:45,160
kilometers from Breslau.

990
00:50:45,160 --> 00:50:48,970
But you could see the
city in the distance.

991
00:50:48,970 --> 00:50:53,200
We were in a castle that was
built prior to World War One,

992
00:50:53,200 --> 00:50:56,780
or during or whatever
it is-- a huge castle.

993
00:50:56,780 --> 00:50:58,810
And they were fortifying it.

994

00:50:58,810 --> 00:51:01,870
They were fortifying
it before we got there,

995
00:51:01,870 --> 00:51:08,440
and to do that they cut this
wall out and that wall out,

996
00:51:08,440 --> 00:51:10,520
and built other
walls, and so on.

997
00:51:10,520 --> 00:51:11,950
And they had lots of prisoners.

998
00:51:11,950 --> 00:51:16,090
Not all Jewish, not all
from concentration camps.

999
00:51:16,090 --> 00:51:21,070
And what I remember is women--

1000
00:51:21,070 --> 00:51:22,930
Ukrainian women,
and apparently they

1001
00:51:22,930 --> 00:51:25,640
had a camp not too
far from there.

1002
00:51:25,640 --> 00:51:28,260
And they were working
in the same place.

1003
00:51:28,260 --> 00:51:35,050
So they had a hodgepodge of
nationalities building this--

1004
00:51:35,050 --> 00:51:39,350
well, the castle was
built, just enforcing it.

1005
00:51:39,350 --> 00:51:44,680

And there were lots of Air Force
guys, German Air Force guys.

1006
00:51:44,680 --> 00:51:46,920
Because obviously,
it was something

1007
00:51:46,920 --> 00:51:48,490
the Air Force was involved--

1008
00:51:48,490 --> 00:51:49,360
German Air Force.

1009
00:51:49,360 --> 00:51:52,990
But they were building
for this fortress

1010
00:51:52,990 --> 00:51:57,840
that they were hoping to use,
this castle and whatever.

1011
00:51:57,840 --> 00:52:00,400
But they had been working
on it at least a year,

1012
00:52:00,400 --> 00:52:02,540
year and a half
before we got there.

1013
00:52:02,540 --> 00:52:05,890
You see, and that's
where we were sent to.

1014
00:52:05,890 --> 00:52:11,850
But of course, the
place was closer

1015
00:52:11,850 --> 00:52:15,510
to wherever the front
Russian German front was

1016
00:52:15,510 --> 00:52:17,220
than Auschwitz was.

1017
00:52:17,220 --> 00:52:20,670
But it was north of there.

1018
00:52:20,670 --> 00:52:22,640
I never was in the
city of Breslau,

1019
00:52:22,640 --> 00:52:25,260
but we could see the city.

1020
00:52:25,260 --> 00:52:31,290
So anyhow, and again, we did
not stay that long there.

1021
00:52:31,290 --> 00:52:33,090
Did you have to
work there at all?

1022
00:52:33,090 --> 00:52:34,350
Yes, oh yes.

1023
00:52:34,350 --> 00:52:35,880
What did you do?

1024
00:52:35,880 --> 00:52:42,030
What I did is they
had-- hard to explain.

1025
00:52:42,030 --> 00:52:48,090
They had wooden little
platforms that on each side

1026
00:52:48,090 --> 00:52:49,560
they had handles on.

1027
00:52:49,560 --> 00:52:56,590
So you put stones or
garbage on it, or whatever,

1028
00:52:56,590 --> 00:52:58,620
and you carried it--

1029
00:52:58,620 --> 00:53:02,310
two people-- and you
carried it uphill, downhill,

1030
00:53:02,310 --> 00:53:05,430
wherever you had
to dispose of it.

1031
00:53:05,430 --> 00:53:09,450
So there is a name for it.

1032
00:53:09,450 --> 00:53:14,280
So that's what I was doing all
day, taking things from here,

1033
00:53:14,280 --> 00:53:18,450
taking it half a mile
away or more, up or down

1034
00:53:18,450 --> 00:53:27,030
the steps inside to the people
who were actually putting it

1035
00:53:27,030 --> 00:53:29,130
together.

1036
00:53:29,130 --> 00:53:31,210
Were there any air raids at all?

1037
00:53:31,210 --> 00:53:31,890
Pardon?

1038
00:53:31,890 --> 00:53:33,270
Were there any air raids?

1039
00:53:33,270 --> 00:53:34,380
Was there any bombings?

1040
00:53:34,380 --> 00:53:37,440
Lots of air raids,
but not air raids

1041
00:53:37,440 --> 00:53:38,790
that you could actually tell.

1042
00:53:38,790 --> 00:53:42,580
Especially in the evening
you could see in the distance

1043
00:53:42,580 --> 00:53:45,340
where they were
bombing, but not us.

1044
00:53:45,340 --> 00:53:46,570
Good, yeah.

1045
00:53:46,570 --> 00:53:47,700
Yeah.

1046
00:53:47,700 --> 00:53:54,960
And so we had a small camp,
not a concentration camp,

1047
00:53:54,960 --> 00:53:59,160
small camp not too
far away, like maybe

1048
00:53:59,160 --> 00:54:02,940
four kilometers, 10
kilometers of barbed wire.

1049
00:54:02,940 --> 00:54:05,260
And it was a work
camp they called it.

1050
00:54:05,260 --> 00:54:10,200
And early morning, we
went there, and 5:00, 6:00

1051
00:54:10,200 --> 00:54:13,470
in the evening we went home.

1052
00:54:13,470 --> 00:54:16,020

And every day, and
so on so forth.

1053
00:54:16,020 --> 00:54:18,430
Enough food, did they
give you enough food?

1054
00:54:18,430 --> 00:54:21,810
Yes, the conditions
were very good actually,

1055
00:54:21,810 --> 00:54:23,970
compared to the
concentration camp.

1056
00:54:23,970 --> 00:54:27,080
We got two meals a day.

1057
00:54:27,080 --> 00:54:30,810
And you're still wearing
your striped uniform?

1058
00:54:30,810 --> 00:54:33,840
Oh, yes, oh, yes.

1059
00:54:33,840 --> 00:54:36,180
And so--

1060
00:54:36,180 --> 00:54:40,180
Was there any badge or any
marking on your uniform?

1061
00:54:40,180 --> 00:54:41,390
No.

1062
00:54:41,390 --> 00:54:47,980
No the-- but, like I said,
it wasn't all Jewish.

1063
00:54:47,980 --> 00:54:52,940
We have stripes, the other
ones were also in camp,

1064

00:54:52,940 --> 00:54:54,660

but I don't know why.

1065

00:54:54,660 --> 00:54:56,800

And Ukrainians, and
so on and so forth,

1066

00:54:56,800 --> 00:55:00,730

and I remember women doing the
same thing that us young people

1067

00:55:00,730 --> 00:55:02,400

were doing.

1068

00:55:02,400 --> 00:55:06,310

And so the conditions--

1069

00:55:06,310 --> 00:55:09,500

the security you knew
that nobody would harm you

1070

00:55:09,500 --> 00:55:11,800

if you do your job.

1071

00:55:11,800 --> 00:55:14,350

And I do remember
things, lots of things,

1072

00:55:14,350 --> 00:55:19,610

because some people
just tried to get lost.

1073

00:55:19,610 --> 00:55:21,760

And they were hung later on.

1074

00:55:21,760 --> 00:55:26,530

And we had the roll call, and
we had to watch the hanging,

1075

00:55:26,530 --> 00:55:29,590

and so on and so
forth, because they

1076
00:55:29,590 --> 00:55:32,680
wanted to make sure that
nobody leaves the area

1077
00:55:32,680 --> 00:55:34,340
or just walks away.

1078
00:55:34,340 --> 00:55:36,860
The opportunities were
there to just walk away.

1079
00:55:36,860 --> 00:55:39,940
How does a 14-year-old
handle something like that?

1080
00:55:39,940 --> 00:55:45,910
Well, not-- it's a shock,
because they catch somebody,

1081
00:55:45,910 --> 00:55:48,220
and you get a lecture
and think it's all over.

1082
00:55:48,220 --> 00:55:52,690
Then about 10 days later
some SS officers arrived,

1083
00:55:52,690 --> 00:55:55,480
and they hang somebody
for the same person.

1084
00:55:55,480 --> 00:55:58,480
Because what he
was accused of he

1085
00:55:58,480 --> 00:56:03,520
has done two weeks ago or three
weeks ago, or whatever it is.

1086
00:56:03,520 --> 00:56:05,668
And you get a speech
to go with it.

1087
00:56:05,668 --> 00:56:07,210
And they made you
watch it, you mean?

1088
00:56:07,210 --> 00:56:08,490
Watch the hanging?

1089
00:56:08,490 --> 00:56:10,180
Yes, that's right.

1090
00:56:10,180 --> 00:56:12,160
Is that don't they
are doing this,

1091
00:56:12,160 --> 00:56:14,050
and don't they are doing that.

1092
00:56:14,050 --> 00:56:19,780
And the funny part is that
I remember the incident, one

1093
00:56:19,780 --> 00:56:26,020
of the many, that they
have hung two people,

1094
00:56:26,020 --> 00:56:29,020
and one was not Jewish at all.

1095
00:56:29,020 --> 00:56:34,570
But he was in the camp because
he married a Jewish lady.

1096
00:56:34,570 --> 00:56:39,690
And therefore-- and they--

1097
00:56:39,690 --> 00:56:42,190
But my question was
how does a 14-year-old

1098
00:56:42,190 --> 00:56:45,580
handle watching a hanging?

1099
00:56:45,580 --> 00:56:46,680
Not very well.

1100
00:56:46,680 --> 00:56:47,790
Not very well.

1101
00:56:47,790 --> 00:56:50,810

1102
00:56:50,810 --> 00:56:52,010
It's a shock.

1103
00:56:52,010 --> 00:56:54,810
Everything is a shock.

1104
00:56:54,810 --> 00:56:55,520
And--

1105
00:56:55,520 --> 00:56:58,550
And do you talk, again,
did you talk it over

1106
00:56:58,550 --> 00:56:59,945
with the other boys your age?

1107
00:56:59,945 --> 00:57:04,460

1108
00:57:04,460 --> 00:57:05,320
I cannot remember.

1109
00:57:05,320 --> 00:57:07,130
Yeah, OK.

1110
00:57:07,130 --> 00:57:09,460
The fact is that--

1111
00:57:09,460 --> 00:57:11,900
I'll answer your question.

1112
00:57:11,900 --> 00:57:17,240
One of the things in my
life that affected my life

1113
00:57:17,240 --> 00:57:19,820
is that I don't trust people.

1114
00:57:19,820 --> 00:57:27,910
So even when I joined large
law firms I decided not to.

1115
00:57:27,910 --> 00:57:31,790
It's in me that
don't trust people,

1116
00:57:31,790 --> 00:57:34,860
and I cannot get rid of it.

1117
00:57:34,860 --> 00:57:40,720
You have that, and it's perhaps
going back all those years.

1118
00:57:40,720 --> 00:57:41,270
Of course.

1119
00:57:41,270 --> 00:57:47,330
That if you want to live
long you don't trust people.

1120
00:57:47,330 --> 00:57:49,790
Just walk your own way.

1121
00:57:49,790 --> 00:57:52,190
It's built in, and I
cannot get rid of that.

1122
00:57:52,190 --> 00:57:55,150
So I don't make a
good partnership,

1123
00:57:55,150 --> 00:57:59,510
whether it's business or

education or whatever it is.

1124
00:57:59,510 --> 00:58:04,010
Because I have this
genuine mistrust,

1125
00:58:04,010 --> 00:58:08,360
and I think it comes from
those days and whatever it is.

1126
00:58:08,360 --> 00:58:08,930
I'm sure.

1127
00:58:08,930 --> 00:58:10,670
Because you had to
fight your own--

1128
00:58:10,670 --> 00:58:14,720
you don't depend on somebody--

1129
00:58:14,720 --> 00:58:19,670
risk your life on what somebody
says they will do for you

1130
00:58:19,670 --> 00:58:21,920
or whatever it is.

1131
00:58:21,920 --> 00:58:24,380
Be independent, make
your own decision

1132
00:58:24,380 --> 00:58:27,140
without having to
rely on somebody else,

1133
00:58:27,140 --> 00:58:28,190
and it's built in.

1134
00:58:28,190 --> 00:58:31,250

1135
00:58:31,250 --> 00:58:34,310

So you're now working
in this work camp.

1136
00:58:34,310 --> 00:58:36,320
And how long were you there for?

1137
00:58:36,320 --> 00:58:38,690
Not that long, because
they were advancing--

1138
00:58:38,690 --> 00:58:44,090
we already been told by the
others there that they were

1139
00:58:44,090 --> 00:58:47,990
told to prepare that they
will have to be evacuated

1140
00:58:47,990 --> 00:58:48,740
depending--

1141
00:58:48,740 --> 00:58:51,400
because the fortress
would not be ready.

1142
00:58:51,400 --> 00:58:54,620
It would not be ready--

1143
00:58:54,620 --> 00:58:58,850
I don't know how many months
they expected whatever it is.

1144
00:58:58,850 --> 00:59:02,540
Even though they had lots
of Air Force soldiers there,

1145
00:59:02,540 --> 00:59:05,270
because well, that was
their department obviously,

1146
00:59:05,270 --> 00:59:06,688
and so on and so forth.

1147

00:59:06,688 --> 00:59:08,480

And we had nothing to
do with the soldiers,

1148

00:59:08,480 --> 00:59:12,530

but they were there because
this is part of their project.

1149

00:59:12,530 --> 00:59:14,870

So the project
was not completed,

1150

00:59:14,870 --> 00:59:23,060

I would say maybe 50% or 60%
completed, whatever it was.

1151

00:59:23,060 --> 00:59:27,620

And not only that, I mean,
it didn't take too much

1152

00:59:27,620 --> 00:59:30,120

to figure out that
the Russians can--

1153

00:59:30,120 --> 00:59:32,720

if it's the Russians,
they can go around it.

1154

00:59:32,720 --> 00:59:35,430

They don't have to attack
that specific thing.

1155

00:59:35,430 --> 00:59:36,350

But anyway--

1156

00:59:36,350 --> 00:59:42,140

So you left that work camp
after how many days did you say?

1157

00:59:42,140 --> 00:59:46,790

I would say almost two months,
but short of two months.

1158
00:59:46,790 --> 00:59:49,460
Two months, oh my, OK.

1159
00:59:49,460 --> 00:59:51,310
And then where did you go?

1160
00:59:51,310 --> 00:59:57,290
And when they told us that
we have to retreat this time

1161
00:59:57,290 --> 00:59:59,810
we had to walk.

1162
00:59:59,810 --> 01:00:01,650
We had to walk.

1163
01:00:01,650 --> 01:00:04,310
We don't know why.

1164
01:00:04,310 --> 01:00:06,470
Well, I can imagine
that the railway

1165
01:00:06,470 --> 01:00:13,550
cars were too busy with
the troops retreating,

1166
01:00:13,550 --> 01:00:16,010
so it was walking.

1167
01:00:16,010 --> 01:00:22,970
So we walked at least
three days on the highway.

1168
01:00:22,970 --> 01:00:24,910
And the highway was packed--

1169
01:00:24,910 --> 01:00:29,480
not quite highway--
packed with civilians

1170

01:00:29,480 --> 01:00:32,630
carrying whatever baggage
they had and whatever it is.

1171
01:00:32,630 --> 01:00:33,830
So they were retreating.

1172
01:00:33,830 --> 01:00:36,320
Don't know why, but they
were retreating as well.

1173
01:00:36,320 --> 01:00:38,180
Nothing to do with the army.

1174
01:00:38,180 --> 01:00:42,850
And one highway retreating we
all went the same direction.

1175
01:00:42,850 --> 01:00:45,800
And I cannot remember whether
it was south or east or west

1176
01:00:45,800 --> 01:00:47,930
or whatever it is.

1177
01:00:47,930 --> 01:00:53,390
And but the soldiers
were around us, bayonets

1178
01:00:53,390 --> 01:00:59,030
and so on, each side
and just marched

1179
01:00:59,030 --> 01:01:02,990
for three days or three
and 1/2 or whatever it is.

1180
01:01:02,990 --> 01:01:09,242
And at night we stopped, and
then we left the highway.

1181
01:01:09,242 --> 01:01:10,700
But we were surrounded

by soldiers,

1182

01:01:10,700 --> 01:01:15,770

so we actually slept wherever
we were right on the ground.

1183

01:01:15,770 --> 01:01:19,250

Did you find the soldiers very
frightening with their uniforms

1184

01:01:19,250 --> 01:01:21,050

and their bayonets?

1185

01:01:21,050 --> 01:01:22,640

To be honest to you, I--

1186

01:01:22,640 --> 01:01:24,230

Or did you just
get used to them?

1187

01:01:24,230 --> 01:01:27,230

1188

01:01:27,230 --> 01:01:29,560

That's a very good question.

1189

01:01:29,560 --> 01:01:32,310

I stayed away from them.

1190

01:01:32,310 --> 01:01:33,650

I was going to say miles away--

1191

01:01:33,650 --> 01:01:38,360

I stayed away, not making
any conversation at all.

1192

01:01:38,360 --> 01:01:43,203

Because especially at
this time, when you're not

1193

01:01:43,203 --> 01:01:44,870

dealing with kids

anymore because you're

1194
01:01:44,870 --> 01:01:50,200
dealing with people of
all ages, I felt again,

1195
01:01:50,200 --> 01:01:52,210
I don't trust people.

1196
01:01:52,210 --> 01:01:54,540
Don't get involved,
don't talk to them.

1197
01:01:54,540 --> 01:01:57,190

1198
01:01:57,190 --> 01:02:03,350
Yeah, so I had zero
conversation with soldiers,

1199
01:02:03,350 --> 01:02:06,590
because you did not know whether
they were genuinely German

1200
01:02:06,590 --> 01:02:10,650
or maybe Polish, maybe what.

1201
01:02:10,650 --> 01:02:11,150
And--

1202
01:02:11,150 --> 01:02:13,850
So then it was three days of
marching I think you said?

1203
01:02:13,850 --> 01:02:14,670
Did you say that?

1204
01:02:14,670 --> 01:02:17,330
Yeah, three days of marching.

1205
01:02:17,330 --> 01:02:19,070
And then where were

you after that?

1206
01:02:19,070 --> 01:02:20,798
I was someplace
in Czechoslovakia.

1207
01:02:20,798 --> 01:02:23,090
Because they were saying--
because you could see signs,

1208
01:02:23,090 --> 01:02:25,670
which were most often in German.

1209
01:02:25,670 --> 01:02:29,820
And so we knew that we
were in Czechoslovakia,

1210
01:02:29,820 --> 01:02:32,030
or maybe somebody was saying.

1211
01:02:32,030 --> 01:02:38,570
And then we walked towards--

1212
01:02:38,570 --> 01:02:41,510
because we ended up at the
railway station, namely Prague.

1213
01:02:41,510 --> 01:02:43,840
It said Prague.

1214
01:02:43,840 --> 01:02:50,840
And there they had a
cattle car waiting for us.

1215
01:02:50,840 --> 01:02:52,610
Because when we
arrived there they

1216
01:02:52,610 --> 01:02:55,670
were saying there is
our car, everybody

1217

01:02:55,670 --> 01:02:59,980
can get into those coaches.

1218
01:02:59,980 --> 01:03:03,020
So somebody arranged it,
and so on and so forth.

1219
01:03:03,020 --> 01:03:05,580
So we were back in a
cattle car and so on,

1220
01:03:05,580 --> 01:03:07,950
and we said we'll continue.

1221
01:03:07,950 --> 01:03:10,640
We were happy because
we don't have to walk.

1222
01:03:10,640 --> 01:03:13,020
We'll continue to
the [INAUDIBLE]..

1223
01:03:13,020 --> 01:03:17,880
But those cars--
and we got something

1224
01:03:17,880 --> 01:03:21,810
to eat there before
we got into the cars.

1225
01:03:21,810 --> 01:03:28,890
But those cars were stuck
there for almost two days.

1226
01:03:28,890 --> 01:03:31,440
And I don't know
why, but I can assume

1227
01:03:31,440 --> 01:03:36,480
because the orders probably they
had to decide where to send us.

1228
01:03:36,480 --> 01:03:37,410

I don't know.

1229
01:03:37,410 --> 01:03:39,010
I did not know.

1230
01:03:39,010 --> 01:03:43,490
And so but we knew
that we were in,

1231
01:03:43,490 --> 01:03:46,390
like I said, friendly
territory in the sense

1232
01:03:46,390 --> 01:03:49,850
that the people who
lived there knew

1233
01:03:49,850 --> 01:03:54,240
who these people are, and they
were trying to help I suppose.

1234
01:03:54,240 --> 01:03:56,490
And the only thing that
they said they can help

1235
01:03:56,490 --> 01:03:57,460
is leave some food.

1236
01:03:57,460 --> 01:03:59,090
Leave food, yeah.

1237
01:03:59,090 --> 01:04:05,130
Yeah, it's not much to
survive, but they did.

1238
01:04:05,130 --> 01:04:08,130
Which means that they are in
solidarity with you, whoever

1239
01:04:08,130 --> 01:04:11,646
they are, so on and so forth.

1240

01:04:11,646 --> 01:04:14,560

Did they let you get
out of the cars at all--

1241

01:04:14,560 --> 01:04:15,060

No.

1242

01:04:15,060 --> 01:04:15,560

No.

1243

01:04:15,560 --> 01:04:16,270

--to walk around?

1244

01:04:16,270 --> 01:04:17,010

They would not.

1245

01:04:17,010 --> 01:04:18,552

That you couldn't
do, and the soldier

1246

01:04:18,552 --> 01:04:20,460

was not allowed to let you out.

1247

01:04:20,460 --> 01:04:25,440

But they said because you
are in a train station

1248

01:04:25,440 --> 01:04:29,250

that you can go to the latrine.

1249

01:04:29,250 --> 01:04:33,500

So if you had to go,
there were always

1250

01:04:33,500 --> 01:04:36,810

groups of maybe seven,
eight, nine people

1251

01:04:36,810 --> 01:04:41,430

going at the same time with
two soldiers to the latrine.

1252

01:04:41,430 --> 01:04:43,110
Because you were
in a train station

1253
01:04:43,110 --> 01:04:48,550
that you had other people
there, and so on and so forth.

1254
01:04:48,550 --> 01:04:52,260
And then you came
back and you went

1255
01:04:52,260 --> 01:04:55,650
by your train and some food.

1256
01:04:55,650 --> 01:04:59,520
They didn't allow you, or looked
the other way, whatever it is,

1257
01:04:59,520 --> 01:05:05,400
when you bent down and picked it
up and brought it into the car,

1258
01:05:05,400 --> 01:05:08,790
and so on and so forth.

1259
01:05:08,790 --> 01:05:11,440
And so some of us
went to the latrine

1260
01:05:11,440 --> 01:05:12,760
more often than we had to.

1261
01:05:12,760 --> 01:05:15,855

1262
01:05:15,855 --> 01:05:17,105
And then how long--

1263
01:05:17,105 --> 01:05:18,980
you were there what,
for two days in the car?

1264

01:05:18,980 --> 01:05:21,240

For almost two
days at the train.

1265

01:05:21,240 --> 01:05:25,660

And I'm just guessing that they
did not know where to take us.

1266

01:05:25,660 --> 01:05:28,910

And that's why,
I'm just guessing.

1267

01:05:28,910 --> 01:05:35,070

And then we left there, and I
can't remember how many days we

1268

01:05:35,070 --> 01:05:37,410

traveled, but we went
to a concentration camp,

1269

01:05:37,410 --> 01:05:40,645

which is I think Flossenburg.

1270

01:05:40,645 --> 01:05:47,520

And apparently that was a
very large concentration camp.

1271

01:05:47,520 --> 01:05:50,870

So we're talking about
close to 1945 now?

1272

01:05:50,870 --> 01:05:53,780

Or the winter months?

1273

01:05:53,780 --> 01:05:54,470

Yes.

1274

01:05:54,470 --> 01:05:56,440

Yes, in the fall--

1275

01:05:56,440 --> 01:05:58,500

late fall.

1276
01:05:58,500 --> 01:06:00,440
Of '44?

1277
01:06:00,440 --> 01:06:03,210
Of '44, correct.

1278
01:06:03,210 --> 01:06:07,260
OK, so you go to Flossenburg,
and what was that like

1279
01:06:07,260 --> 01:06:08,110
and how long--

1280
01:06:08,110 --> 01:06:11,740
Yeah, it was a large-- a very
large concentration camp.

1281
01:06:11,740 --> 01:06:14,080
How long did you
stay in Flossenburg?

1282
01:06:14,080 --> 01:06:19,060
Not that long, because they
were sending out people wherever

1283
01:06:19,060 --> 01:06:21,265
they can to work camps.

1284
01:06:21,265 --> 01:06:24,640
And that's exactly--
and I remember,

1285
01:06:24,640 --> 01:06:26,890
I wanted to go
out to work camps.

1286
01:06:26,890 --> 01:06:30,730
So I stood in line and they
put a number on a forehead.

1287
01:06:30,730 --> 01:06:36,020

And I got three quarters,
and apparently you

1288
01:06:36,020 --> 01:06:38,890
had to have four,
so I got rejected.

1289
01:06:38,890 --> 01:06:41,890
So I stood in line
again next day,

1290
01:06:41,890 --> 01:06:49,960
and so on, until I qualified
to go to work camp.

1291
01:06:49,960 --> 01:06:54,760
You see, and I
remember also that I

1292
01:06:54,760 --> 01:06:59,020
was crying because another
fellow, more or less couple

1293
01:06:59,020 --> 01:07:04,360
years older than I, I kept
saying he's my brother,

1294
01:07:04,360 --> 01:07:05,740
I want to go with him.

1295
01:07:05,740 --> 01:07:07,210
I remember that.

1296
01:07:07,210 --> 01:07:10,225
Could you please explain why
they turned you back first?

1297
01:07:10,225 --> 01:07:11,320
I didn't understand.

1298
01:07:11,320 --> 01:07:13,813
Well, I cannot tell,
except that I was--

1299

01:07:13,813 --> 01:07:15,105
they looked me over, obviously.

1300

01:07:15,105 --> 01:07:19,420
And they said well,
he's not a big fellow,

1301

01:07:19,420 --> 01:07:22,370
or he wouldn't be
able to do whatever.

1302

01:07:22,370 --> 01:07:24,640
Oh he's, I see, yeah,
couldn't do the heavy work.

1303

01:07:24,640 --> 01:07:26,015
They were saying--
but I remember

1304

01:07:26,015 --> 01:07:29,800
they put a number on my
forehead with a crayon.

1305

01:07:29,800 --> 01:07:33,190
And obviously, the
number was 3/4.

1306

01:07:33,190 --> 01:07:36,820

1307

01:07:36,820 --> 01:07:39,710
So obviously, when
I kept on going--

1308

01:07:39,710 --> 01:07:44,290
kept on going meaning
another 50 feet--

1309

01:07:44,290 --> 01:07:46,780
the fellow there,
the officer would

1310

01:07:46,780 --> 01:07:49,330

say no, no, no I was rejected.

1311

01:07:49,330 --> 01:07:50,550

I see.

1312

01:07:50,550 --> 01:07:55,600

But I tried again and again,
meaning a couple of days

1313

01:07:55,600 --> 01:07:57,410

later on another project.

1314

01:07:57,410 --> 01:08:00,010

And then I was telling--

1315

01:08:00,010 --> 01:08:03,890

well, I was telling
the officer, I

1316

01:08:03,890 --> 01:08:09,010

said I want to go with my
brother that you just took.

1317

01:08:09,010 --> 01:08:10,700

And there was no brother.

1318

01:08:10,700 --> 01:08:14,260

And so finally he relented.

1319

01:08:14,260 --> 01:08:17,640

And I wanted to get out
of the concentration camp.

1320

01:08:17,640 --> 01:08:21,540

What were the conditions
in Flossenburg?

1321

01:08:21,540 --> 01:08:25,180

I can't remember,
but nothing unusual.

1322

01:08:25,180 --> 01:08:29,170

And it was a very large camp.

1323

01:08:29,170 --> 01:08:31,340

You slept in bunks and barracks?

1324

01:08:31,340 --> 01:08:31,950

In a--

1325

01:08:31,950 --> 01:08:33,390

Yes, same thing.

1326

01:08:33,390 --> 01:08:38,170

That was very common,
that was almost identical.

1327

01:08:38,170 --> 01:08:43,500

But I learned, obviously,
the best place to be

1328

01:08:43,500 --> 01:08:45,960

is outside of a
concentration camp.

1329

01:08:45,960 --> 01:08:49,630

Work camp, no problem.

1330

01:08:49,630 --> 01:08:52,590

You do what you can
and so on and so forth.

1331

01:08:52,590 --> 01:08:56,460

And I also knew--

1332

01:08:56,460 --> 01:09:00,540

well, not knew, that I remember
when we were still walking,

1333

01:09:00,540 --> 01:09:03,510

and I can't remember from
where to where, walking.

1334

01:09:03,510 --> 01:09:08,460

And German people
were starting to leave

1335

01:09:08,460 --> 01:09:11,189

food which we couldn't get.

1336

01:09:11,189 --> 01:09:15,310

Which was unusual for places,
because normally German people,

1337

01:09:15,310 --> 01:09:21,300

saw people, going by and so
on with soldiers and so on,

1338

01:09:21,300 --> 01:09:23,284

they just turned the other way.

1339

01:09:23,284 --> 01:09:26,640

But this way, this was--

1340

01:09:26,640 --> 01:09:28,550

my interpretation
was at that time

1341

01:09:28,550 --> 01:09:31,330

that the end must
be coming, nearing,

1342

01:09:31,330 --> 01:09:34,859

and people have realized that
things are not working out.

1343

01:09:34,859 --> 01:09:36,810

Not working out.

1344

01:09:36,810 --> 01:09:40,170

The population.

1345

01:09:40,170 --> 01:09:45,960

So from Flossenburg then you
were there and for how long

1346
01:09:45,960 --> 01:09:47,250
did you say?

1347
01:09:47,250 --> 01:09:49,950
Well, Flossenburg,
I can't remember,

1348
01:09:49,950 --> 01:09:51,510
but I didn't stay very long.

1349
01:09:51,510 --> 01:09:53,550
OK, and then where did you go?

1350
01:09:53,550 --> 01:09:56,220
Well, they sent
us to a work camp.

1351
01:09:56,220 --> 01:10:00,570
But I don't know the name,
because we never got there.

1352
01:10:00,570 --> 01:10:07,440
Because they put us on train,
and we got to another place,

1353
01:10:07,440 --> 01:10:11,760
which was I think a semi
concentration camp or whatever,

1354
01:10:11,760 --> 01:10:14,050
Freiberg or whatever it is.

1355
01:10:14,050 --> 01:10:17,370
But we only stayed
there for a day or two.

1356
01:10:17,370 --> 01:10:20,760
So from Freiberg, maybe
from Freiberg they

1357
01:10:20,760 --> 01:10:24,690

sent us to this place
that we never made it.

1358
01:10:24,690 --> 01:10:31,680
The last one we left
Freiberg, and it was only

1359
01:10:31,680 --> 01:10:35,640
few days from Freiberg again.

1360
01:10:35,640 --> 01:10:39,360
They were taking us
to a place or places

1361
01:10:39,360 --> 01:10:42,210
where it was already
bombed a lot.

1362
01:10:42,210 --> 01:10:50,940
And so we had to gather this
and gather that, whatever it is.

1363
01:10:50,940 --> 01:10:53,480
And I don't know
to this day why.

1364
01:10:53,480 --> 01:11:03,490
But anyway, so even when we
went there different places,

1365
01:11:03,490 --> 01:11:07,180
we were always interrupted
with air raids.

1366
01:11:07,180 --> 01:11:08,527
So we--

1367
01:11:08,527 --> 01:11:09,360
Were you on a train?

1368
01:11:09,360 --> 01:11:11,200
You were on trains, right?

1369

01:11:11,200 --> 01:11:12,370

We were in trains, yeah.

1370

01:11:12,370 --> 01:11:15,450

Was it a cattle car
or passenger car?

1371

01:11:15,450 --> 01:11:19,670

Yes, we were 90% of the
time in cattle cars.

1372

01:11:19,670 --> 01:11:24,650

The only passenger car we
were in is the last few days.

1373

01:11:24,650 --> 01:11:28,820

There was one that it was a
real train that we were on.

1374

01:11:28,820 --> 01:11:34,400

And I don't know where we were
going, but we were daytime.

1375

01:11:34,400 --> 01:11:39,930

Their planes-- the
train was bombed.

1376

01:11:39,930 --> 01:11:42,250

But didn't hit, the
bombs were falling.

1377

01:11:42,250 --> 01:11:48,430

And I remember that we speeded
up and we got into a tunnel.

1378

01:11:48,430 --> 01:11:50,950

1379

01:11:50,950 --> 01:11:52,485

And we stayed in the tunnel.

1380

01:11:52,485 --> 01:11:56,370

And we stayed in the
tunnel most of the day.

1381
01:11:56,370 --> 01:12:01,690
And so the answer was, you
don't use a train anymore

1382
01:12:01,690 --> 01:12:06,430
because you must be very
close to the fighting area.

1383
01:12:06,430 --> 01:12:15,280
So we left for a train, and
about an hour later air raids

1384
01:12:15,280 --> 01:12:15,870
again.

1385
01:12:15,870 --> 01:12:21,050
So the orders were everybody
down, the train did stop.

1386
01:12:21,050 --> 01:12:28,870
And I remember,
this is a real train

1387
01:12:28,870 --> 01:12:33,090
that I went down the floor.

1388
01:12:33,090 --> 01:12:36,860
And the order was
everybody down,

1389
01:12:36,860 --> 01:12:40,390
so I had to go onto other
fellows, young fellows on top

1390
01:12:40,390 --> 01:12:42,980
of me, but I just didn't mind.

1391
01:12:42,980 --> 01:12:49,450
And I was there almost an hour,
and I could hear bombs falling,

1392
01:12:49,450 --> 01:12:52,650
I heard a machine gun and so on.

1393
01:12:52,650 --> 01:12:55,450
But it was through, and
I remember there was also

1394
01:12:55,450 --> 01:12:57,010
some water close by.

1395
01:12:57,010 --> 01:13:01,030
So there must have been a
river close by to the train.

1396
01:13:01,030 --> 01:13:07,780
And then we heard raus,
everybody to get out,

1397
01:13:07,780 --> 01:13:13,630
and so I got some out, the
people who were on top of me.

1398
01:13:13,630 --> 01:13:19,480
And one fellow, more or less my
age, maybe a year or two older,

1399
01:13:19,480 --> 01:13:20,860
I got him off me.

1400
01:13:20,860 --> 01:13:25,660
And I looked at his face
and both eyes were shot out.

1401
01:13:25,660 --> 01:13:26,400
Oh my.

1402
01:13:26,400 --> 01:13:31,910
So I was, again, lucky
that I was down, down,

1403
01:13:31,910 --> 01:13:35,480

down on the floor and
others were on top of me.

1404

01:13:35,480 --> 01:13:41,380
Yeah, and from there everybody
had to get out of the train

1405

01:13:41,380 --> 01:13:43,790
and we were chased up the hill.

1406

01:13:43,790 --> 01:13:46,670
And we were there for
four or five hours

1407

01:13:46,670 --> 01:13:49,520
and then marched
back into the train,

1408

01:13:49,520 --> 01:13:52,430
because [INAUDIBLE]
so on and so forth.

1409

01:13:52,430 --> 01:13:56,860
And so they started
to use trains then

1410

01:13:56,860 --> 01:13:59,520
for anybody, no
longer cattle cars,

1411

01:13:59,520 --> 01:14:01,350
because I suppose
that meant they

1412

01:14:01,350 --> 01:14:05,210
had to organize if a train is--

1413

01:14:05,210 --> 01:14:09,890
so anyway, but we were still
on our way to this war camp.

1414

01:14:09,890 --> 01:14:13,030
I don't know what it is,

because we never made it.

1415
01:14:13,030 --> 01:14:25,890
So then one morning, and this
is back to the real train,

1416
01:14:25,890 --> 01:14:32,470
we see other prisoners are
opening the doors and so on.

1417
01:14:32,470 --> 01:14:39,050
And they said that everybody's
gone, there's no soldiers here.

1418
01:14:39,050 --> 01:14:42,140
And now this time
the train had--

1419
01:14:42,140 --> 01:14:46,760

1420
01:14:46,760 --> 01:14:49,600
they had the war prisoners.

1421
01:14:49,600 --> 01:14:52,060
In other words, not
the concentration

1422
01:14:52,060 --> 01:14:53,980
camp people, but--

1423
01:14:53,980 --> 01:14:55,550
Prisoners of war?

1424
01:14:55,550 --> 01:15:00,790
Yeah, even Auschwitz had
those and some camps.

1425
01:15:00,790 --> 01:15:04,660
And they were
saying that they had

1426

01:15:04,660 --> 01:15:07,840
whoever is running the
locomotive is gone,

1427
01:15:07,840 --> 01:15:10,340
and that there's no soldiers.

1428
01:15:10,340 --> 01:15:14,590
So I didn't go out, but
others did go out to look

1429
01:15:14,590 --> 01:15:15,890
and they all come back.

1430
01:15:15,890 --> 01:15:18,760
They say there's no soldiers.

1431
01:15:18,760 --> 01:15:22,690
And then somebody was saying
see the village over there?

1432
01:15:22,690 --> 01:15:24,850
Let's go, and of
course these prisoners

1433
01:15:24,850 --> 01:15:31,540
are saying it's terrible to be
here alone, because you never

1434
01:15:31,540 --> 01:15:33,340
know what's going to happen.

1435
01:15:33,340 --> 01:15:36,190
Somebody is going to come
and start shooting at you

1436
01:15:36,190 --> 01:15:38,320
from whatever.

1437
01:15:38,320 --> 01:15:41,890
So anyway, everybody
went out and we

1438

01:15:41,890 --> 01:15:44,830

decided to walk the
three or four kilometers,

1439

01:15:44,830 --> 01:15:48,120

because you can see this
little village there.

1440

01:15:48,120 --> 01:15:52,180

And about a half
a mile before we

1441

01:15:52,180 --> 01:15:54,190

were stopped by German soldiers.

1442

01:15:54,190 --> 01:15:59,410

So said who are you, and
they explained to them.

1443

01:15:59,410 --> 01:16:03,210

So there was two
soldiers around us,

1444

01:16:03,210 --> 01:16:08,000

and they marched us downtown
into a church basement.

1445

01:16:08,000 --> 01:16:09,250

What was the name of the town?

1446

01:16:09,250 --> 01:16:10,010

Do you know?

1447

01:16:10,010 --> 01:16:10,510

Tuttlingen.

1448

01:16:10,510 --> 01:16:11,190

Tuttlingen, OK.

1449

01:16:11,190 --> 01:16:13,870

1450

01:16:13,870 --> 01:16:23,870

It wasn't a camp of any kind,
and they had nobody else there.

1451

01:16:23,870 --> 01:16:28,500

So when we got there
they say well--

1452

01:16:28,500 --> 01:16:33,060

they were obviously expecting
allies coming or somebody,

1453

01:16:33,060 --> 01:16:35,830

soldiers, because there were
soldiers in tanks all over.

1454

01:16:35,830 --> 01:16:40,540

And so they took us
down to a church.

1455

01:16:40,540 --> 01:16:44,800

And remember, just
not half of us,

1456

01:16:44,800 --> 01:16:47,140

but not everybody
was Jewish there.

1457

01:16:47,140 --> 01:16:54,220

They had Russians and mostly
men that were in camp, too.

1458

01:16:54,220 --> 01:16:58,330

So down to the church
basement, so we

1459

01:16:58,330 --> 01:17:04,030

were there until
three, four hours.

1460

01:17:04,030 --> 01:17:11,050

Then somebody-- well, they had
soldiers guarding us up there.

1461
01:17:11,050 --> 01:17:13,510
They ran down and were saying--

1462
01:17:13,510 --> 01:17:17,090
and we knew that bombs are
falling, you could hear it.

1463
01:17:17,090 --> 01:17:21,110
They said everybody out
because the church is on fire.

1464
01:17:21,110 --> 01:17:25,120
So everybody was
running upstairs.

1465
01:17:25,120 --> 01:17:29,680
And you opened the door,
and you see tanks all over.

1466
01:17:29,680 --> 01:17:32,260
And but it was
very hilly, and you

1467
01:17:32,260 --> 01:17:36,950
can see hills, so hills
and lots of trees.

1468
01:17:36,950 --> 01:17:40,750
And so really it was a
village, notwithstanding

1469
01:17:40,750 --> 01:17:43,700
that there's a
downtown and whatever.

1470
01:17:43,700 --> 01:17:46,830
So we started running,
everybody was running out.

1471
01:17:46,830 --> 01:17:49,690
But there were planes above us.

1472

01:17:49,690 --> 01:17:52,090

We saw that, because
they were coming

1473

01:17:52,090 --> 01:17:55,960

down and with machine guns.

1474

01:17:55,960 --> 01:17:59,830

So I was running after
whoever ran in front of me,

1475

01:17:59,830 --> 01:18:02,940

and so on so forth.

1476

01:18:02,940 --> 01:18:05,990

And bombs were falling,
and every time [INAUDIBLE]

1477

01:18:05,990 --> 01:18:10,690

it got us where it was close by
everybody just hit the ground.

1478

01:18:10,690 --> 01:18:14,606

And after a while nobody--

1479

01:18:14,606 --> 01:18:22,840

there was one explosion very
close, and I hit the ground.

1480

01:18:22,840 --> 01:18:27,430

And then I had to
sit up, I couldn't.

1481

01:18:27,430 --> 01:18:31,270

Whoever was in front
of me didn't move.

1482

01:18:31,270 --> 01:18:36,610

The other two people close to
me on each side didn't move.

1483

01:18:36,610 --> 01:18:38,650

And obviously, so
I couldn't tell,

1484
01:18:38,650 --> 01:18:41,930
but I didn't have the
time to investigate.

1485
01:18:41,930 --> 01:18:45,560
So I assume that they must have
been killed, whatever it is.

1486
01:18:45,560 --> 01:18:47,950
But that's when my leg was hit.

1487
01:18:47,950 --> 01:18:51,610
So must be a sharpnel or
something that hit it.

1488
01:18:51,610 --> 01:18:55,600
Because it was
bloody, and I just

1489
01:18:55,600 --> 01:18:57,610
wanted to get out of
there instead of sitting

1490
01:18:57,610 --> 01:18:59,820
down and finding out
what's wrong with me.

1491
01:18:59,820 --> 01:19:05,770
And so it's still going
up the hill, crawled up

1492
01:19:05,770 --> 01:19:08,180
and I noticed some bunkers.

1493
01:19:08,180 --> 01:19:12,340
It was not only hilly, but
there was trees there, a bunker.

1494
01:19:12,340 --> 01:19:15,760
So I was-- it took me

time to get up there.

1495

01:19:15,760 --> 01:19:21,310

And then I was trying to
get in one of the bunkers,

1496

01:19:21,310 --> 01:19:23,720

but these are civilians
down in the bunkers.

1497

01:19:23,720 --> 01:19:30,070

And they weren't happy
at all to allow me in.

1498

01:19:30,070 --> 01:19:32,620

They didn't trust
me or whatever,

1499

01:19:32,620 --> 01:19:37,527

and there were children
there, German men and women,

1500

01:19:37,527 --> 01:19:38,110

young and old.

1501

01:19:38,110 --> 01:19:39,890

And you spoke German?

1502

01:19:39,890 --> 01:19:44,150

Yes, I spoke German, I could
understand German and respond.

1503

01:19:44,150 --> 01:19:53,070

So I asked for to let me in.

1504

01:19:53,070 --> 01:19:54,870

Well, I could understand,
they were talking

1505

01:19:54,870 --> 01:19:56,245

and they were not
happy to let us

1506

01:19:56,245 --> 01:19:58,470

in because they didn't trust us.

1507

01:19:58,470 --> 01:20:02,240

I mean, they knew what was going on because they could see it.

1508

01:20:02,240 --> 01:20:07,230

But they told me that because the bombs were still falling

1509

01:20:07,230 --> 01:20:11,250

below, the village was below.

1510

01:20:11,250 --> 01:20:17,295

And they said all right, let the boy in, but temporarily.

1511

01:20:17,295 --> 01:20:21,720

Well, that was great as long as they--

1512

01:20:21,720 --> 01:20:25,890

but nobody I didn't ask, and nobody would touch my leg.

1513

01:20:25,890 --> 01:20:32,320

And I couldn't stand on it, but I could crawl.

1514

01:20:32,320 --> 01:20:37,980

And so the last thing I wanted to let them know

1515

01:20:37,980 --> 01:20:43,380

that I have medical problems.

1516

01:20:43,380 --> 01:20:45,290

I was happy that the less they know,

1517

01:20:45,290 --> 01:20:50,570

as long as I can just get into
this bunker in the corner at

1518
01:20:50,570 --> 01:20:51,570
sit there.

1519
01:20:51,570 --> 01:20:59,910
So late afternoon somebody
did approach me and say no, we

1520
01:20:59,910 --> 01:21:02,540
don't want you here over night.

1521
01:21:02,540 --> 01:21:08,053
They were afraid
of everybody there.

1522
01:21:08,053 --> 01:21:10,470
And they said, well, the rest
of you are still down there.

1523
01:21:10,470 --> 01:21:13,540
Why don't you go
down to the village?

1524
01:21:13,540 --> 01:21:17,640
You could see the village
because we were high up.

1525
01:21:17,640 --> 01:21:22,060
And so anyway, I was out, so
I was trying to crawl down,

1526
01:21:22,060 --> 01:21:24,090
but I never got down.

1527
01:21:24,090 --> 01:21:27,150
Because the further
down I went I could

1528
01:21:27,150 --> 01:21:28,780
see everything was burning.

1529

01:21:28,780 --> 01:21:31,860

Many tanks there with
people on the tanks.

1530

01:21:31,860 --> 01:21:34,740

In other words, dead
people on the tanks.

1531

01:21:34,740 --> 01:21:36,750

But very, very quiet.

1532

01:21:36,750 --> 01:21:42,660

It was-- you could hear
the burning of wood,

1533

01:21:42,660 --> 01:21:45,540

whatever it is, very quiet--

1534

01:21:45,540 --> 01:21:47,730

extremely quiet.

1535

01:21:47,730 --> 01:21:50,760

So I decided, no,
no, I better not.

1536

01:21:50,760 --> 01:21:53,220

A, I didn't have the
energy, because I

1537

01:21:53,220 --> 01:21:55,440

though if I got back
down I have to start

1538

01:21:55,440 --> 01:22:00,480

climbing up, and climbing up
is twice as hard as going down.

1539

01:22:00,480 --> 01:22:02,700

And so I was--

1540

01:22:02,700 --> 01:22:04,050

I just stayed put.

1541
01:22:04,050 --> 01:22:08,960
And I slept overnight,
stayed the night there.

1542
01:22:08,960 --> 01:22:11,370
And early morning
I heard tanks--

1543
01:22:11,370 --> 01:22:13,950
I didn't see tanks,
but I heard tanks.

1544
01:22:13,950 --> 01:22:18,650
I heard [INAUDIBLE]
and whatever it is.

1545
01:22:18,650 --> 01:22:23,310
But I couldn't see anything,
and so I was there for at least

1546
01:22:23,310 --> 01:22:26,320
actually until
about 11:00 or noon

1547
01:22:26,320 --> 01:22:29,070
before I actually saw tanks.

1548
01:22:29,070 --> 01:22:31,950
And I could see it's
not a German tank.

1549
01:22:31,950 --> 01:22:35,020
So that's why I
decided to crawl down.

1550
01:22:35,020 --> 01:22:36,810
And I finally got down there.

1551
01:22:36,810 --> 01:22:41,640
And these were people that
were soldiers, they had stopped

1552

01:22:41,640 --> 01:22:43,740

and they made their
own meal or whatever

1553

01:22:43,740 --> 01:22:48,430

it is there, and spoke French.

1554

01:22:48,430 --> 01:22:54,030

And then later on I found
out they spoke French,

1555

01:22:54,030 --> 01:22:57,520

and some were actually
speaking even German.

1556

01:22:57,520 --> 01:23:02,250

I found out that they
were the Foreign Legion.

1557

01:23:02,250 --> 01:23:05,070

Oh, OK, the French
Foreign Legion?

1558

01:23:05,070 --> 01:23:06,210

Yes.

1559

01:23:06,210 --> 01:23:10,110

And I heard about the Foreign
Legion before the war started

1560

01:23:10,110 --> 01:23:13,090

and whatever it is,
and so on and so forth.

1561

01:23:13,090 --> 01:23:16,200

But they were not helpful.

1562

01:23:16,200 --> 01:23:18,140

They didn't want to
share any food at all.

1563

01:23:18,140 --> 01:23:19,557

They said, well,
you find yourself

1564
01:23:19,557 --> 01:23:22,280
some money and so on and so
forth, or find our officer,

1565
01:23:22,280 --> 01:23:22,950
or whatever.

1566
01:23:22,950 --> 01:23:25,070
But there was nobody around.

1567
01:23:25,070 --> 01:23:28,260
But they left all of a sudden.

1568
01:23:28,260 --> 01:23:31,090
Obviously, they were only there
for two hours, three hours,

1569
01:23:31,090 --> 01:23:32,220
whatever it is.

1570
01:23:32,220 --> 01:23:36,570
And they just got back in their
tanks and so on, and about

1571
01:23:36,570 --> 01:23:40,100
an hour or two they were gone.

1572
01:23:40,100 --> 01:23:44,940
But they were telling me that
the rest of the army is just--

1573
01:23:44,940 --> 01:23:46,890
it'd be here in no time.

1574
01:23:46,890 --> 01:23:48,570
But nobody did come.

1575
01:23:48,570 --> 01:23:53,000
And nobody did come down the

rest of the day and so on.

1576
01:23:53,000 --> 01:23:56,020
But so I was lingering
on in that area,

1577
01:23:56,020 --> 01:24:01,275
and I saw some other
people from the camp also.

1578
01:24:01,275 --> 01:24:07,890
Some were actually in a
bunker, which was all full.

1579
01:24:07,890 --> 01:24:15,170
But next morning I could see
many of the allied tanks coming

1580
01:24:15,170 --> 01:24:16,900
in and so on and so forth.

1581
01:24:16,900 --> 01:24:18,540
And that's when I went down.

1582
01:24:18,540 --> 01:24:21,240
And I finally found somebody
who looked like an officer.

1583
01:24:21,240 --> 01:24:23,480
And I showed him
my leg and so on,

1584
01:24:23,480 --> 01:24:28,720
so he took me for re-bandaging
and so on and so forth.

1585
01:24:28,720 --> 01:24:32,590
But he says he cannot take
me back to the hospital,

1586
01:24:32,590 --> 01:24:34,860
and so on, there are
too many snipers.

1587
01:24:34,860 --> 01:24:40,230
And he says I may have to wait
a day or later in the day.

1588
01:24:40,230 --> 01:24:43,860
Well, later in the day turned
out to be the following day.

1589
01:24:43,860 --> 01:24:47,000
That he had also
wounded people that he

1590
01:24:47,000 --> 01:24:50,250
had to send back to the base.

1591
01:24:50,250 --> 01:24:54,910
So he put me in the Jeep
and two or five Jeeps,

1592
01:24:54,910 --> 01:24:58,880
and we expected that
when they have snipers,

1593
01:24:58,880 --> 01:25:02,160
but there was no snipers
at all, which is fine.

1594
01:25:02,160 --> 01:25:05,420
And then he took me to it--

1595
01:25:05,420 --> 01:25:08,510
I don't know if it's a town
or just a military base

1596
01:25:08,510 --> 01:25:09,730
or whatever.

1597
01:25:09,730 --> 01:25:14,000
And there they took
me on a stretcher,

1598

01:25:14,000 --> 01:25:17,310
and they took me to
the so-called airstrip.

1599
01:25:17,310 --> 01:25:21,320
It wasn't an
airport, an airstrip.

1600
01:25:21,320 --> 01:25:23,860
And when I got there, there
were many tents there.

1601
01:25:23,860 --> 01:25:27,020
And everybody there in the
tent were on stretchers.

1602
01:25:27,020 --> 01:25:30,140
So these are the wounded
that they were planning

1603
01:25:30,140 --> 01:25:34,040
to ship back home [INAUDIBLE].

1604
01:25:34,040 --> 01:25:35,720
But I don't know how
far back home was,

1605
01:25:35,720 --> 01:25:39,560
because they put me on
a plane on a stretcher

1606
01:25:39,560 --> 01:25:41,870
with the other stretchers.

1607
01:25:41,870 --> 01:25:44,590
And the place that we
arrived was Strasbourg,

1608
01:25:44,590 --> 01:25:48,260
so that was France already.

1609
01:25:48,260 --> 01:25:50,960
But even at the airport,

back in the airport,

1610
01:25:50,960 --> 01:25:53,840
there were soldiers and so on
and they said we cannot get you

1611
01:25:53,840 --> 01:25:57,470
into the hospital downtown.

1612
01:25:57,470 --> 01:26:04,010
But whoever was on
with me and so on,

1613
01:26:04,010 --> 01:26:06,485
they decided to
send into Colmar.

1614
01:26:06,485 --> 01:26:10,165
Colmar is a town
in Alsace-Lorraine.

1615
01:26:10,165 --> 01:26:16,370
If you look at the map it's
south of that province.

1616
01:26:16,370 --> 01:26:17,420
So that's what they did.

1617
01:26:17,420 --> 01:26:19,700
They put in
ambulances, not air--

1618
01:26:19,700 --> 01:26:20,830
ambulances.

1619
01:26:20,830 --> 01:26:25,430
And these ambulances had the
four stretchers per ambulance.

1620
01:26:25,430 --> 01:26:28,790
And I remember the sirens
were on for two or three

1621

01:26:28,790 --> 01:26:34,972
hours while they were traveling
full speed down to Colmar.

1622

01:26:34,972 --> 01:26:38,030
When we arrived there
they knew where to go.

1623

01:26:38,030 --> 01:26:40,550
When we arrived there, they
took us to a so-called hospital,

1624

01:26:40,550 --> 01:26:45,130
but basically that was
a school at one time.

1625

01:26:45,130 --> 01:26:48,740
And obviously, now
it's a hospital.

1626

01:26:48,740 --> 01:26:50,780
So they left me--

1627

01:26:50,780 --> 01:26:55,000
meanwhile, nobody fed you,
because if you are wounded

1628

01:26:55,000 --> 01:26:57,485
they are not
supposed to feed you.

1629

01:26:57,485 --> 01:26:59,360
Because they don't know
what's wrong with you

1630

01:26:59,360 --> 01:27:00,990
and so on and so forth.

1631

01:27:00,990 --> 01:27:06,440
So I begged for food, but
nobody would give me anything.

1632

01:27:06,440 --> 01:27:12,350
But they got me in, and
within about half an hour

1633
01:27:12,350 --> 01:27:15,680
or so on it's a
fellow, obviously

1634
01:27:15,680 --> 01:27:19,450
a doctor, who was in
charge came to see me.

1635
01:27:19,450 --> 01:27:22,160
Because I was a young boy
and I [INAUDIBLE] and I

1636
01:27:22,160 --> 01:27:24,890
was not in the army.

1637
01:27:24,890 --> 01:27:27,990
So he said-- so he
was talking to me when

1638
01:27:27,990 --> 01:27:32,150
we found out that he is-- he
asked me where I was born,

1639
01:27:32,150 --> 01:27:32,870
you see.

1640
01:27:32,870 --> 01:27:35,560

1641
01:27:35,560 --> 01:27:39,050
Because I had problems
speaking, because I wasn't--

1642
01:27:39,050 --> 01:27:42,770
I knew a little bit of
French, but not very much.

1643
01:27:42,770 --> 01:27:46,790
So finally, when I

mentioned Romania,

1644

01:27:46,790 --> 01:27:50,100
he starts speaking
to me in Romanian.

1645

01:27:50,100 --> 01:27:52,940
And so I said--

1646

01:27:52,940 --> 01:27:55,530
so he was telling
me that he's born--

1647

01:27:55,530 --> 01:28:00,960
that his parents were Romanian,
still are, living in France.

1648

01:28:00,960 --> 01:28:03,810
But he was born in France,
and of course, and so on.

1649

01:28:03,810 --> 01:28:06,530
Now he's a captain,
and so on and so forth.

1650

01:28:06,530 --> 01:28:08,020
And he put me in a ward.

1651

01:28:08,020 --> 01:28:12,380
Mind you, there were at least
20, 30 people in that ward.

1652

01:28:12,380 --> 01:28:15,710
And he really looked
after me to the point

1653

01:28:15,710 --> 01:28:18,380
that I was bedridden
all the time.

1654

01:28:18,380 --> 01:28:22,550
But I had people coming
in to give me injections

1655
01:28:22,550 --> 01:28:24,350
about four or five times a day.

1656
01:28:24,350 --> 01:28:26,240
I don't know what
kind of injections.

1657
01:28:26,240 --> 01:28:32,360
And I could hardly sit on my
fanny, because we all-- yeah.

1658
01:28:32,360 --> 01:28:35,300
So he took care, not
only of my own wound.

1659
01:28:35,300 --> 01:28:37,210
My wound was the leg.

1660
01:28:37,210 --> 01:28:42,530
But he did, and I remember
from time to time soldiers

1661
01:28:42,530 --> 01:28:46,310
died in the ward and so on,
and more people came in.

1662
01:28:46,310 --> 01:28:47,440
Do you remember his name?

1663
01:28:47,440 --> 01:28:48,780
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

1664
01:28:48,780 --> 01:28:50,790
Do you know his name?

1665
01:28:50,790 --> 01:28:52,566
No.

1666
01:28:52,566 --> 01:28:56,820
He didn't have a Romanian name.

1667

01:28:56,820 --> 01:29:09,760

And so because when he
told me, oh almost two,

1668

01:29:09,760 --> 01:29:13,050

three weeks before
I left that they

1669

01:29:13,050 --> 01:29:15,870

are going to close the hospital
because the school would start

1670

01:29:15,870 --> 01:29:18,940

in September, and
they had to close up,

1671

01:29:18,940 --> 01:29:21,670

and that he will have
to send me someplace.

1672

01:29:21,670 --> 01:29:23,950

And he didn't tell me where
he's going to send me,

1673

01:29:23,950 --> 01:29:25,900

because he didn't know.

1674

01:29:25,900 --> 01:29:28,600

So the war, obviously,
is over by now?

1675

01:29:28,600 --> 01:29:29,310

The war is over.

1676

01:29:29,310 --> 01:29:31,870

This is summer of '45
we're talking about?

1677

01:29:31,870 --> 01:29:32,600

That is correct.

1678

01:29:32,600 --> 01:29:34,000

OK, so the war is over.

1679

01:29:34,000 --> 01:29:38,530

Did you know that the war
was over when it was over?

1680

01:29:38,530 --> 01:29:41,170

Yes, I-- yes, I did.

1681

01:29:41,170 --> 01:29:42,090

How did you know?

1682

01:29:42,090 --> 01:29:42,790

How did--

1683

01:29:42,790 --> 01:29:46,250

I was just in a--

1684

01:29:46,250 --> 01:29:58,090

I remember-- and I think that it
must've been over before I left

1685

01:29:58,090 --> 01:30:00,915

Tuttlingen. Because I remember--

1686

01:30:00,915 --> 01:30:01,865

Celebrating?

1687

01:30:01,865 --> 01:30:04,270

Did they celebrate or?

1688

01:30:04,270 --> 01:30:08,590

No, because I
remember there sitting

1689

01:30:08,590 --> 01:30:12,270

when somebody from
a house walked out,

1690

01:30:12,270 --> 01:30:15,160

a gentleman-- an old
gentleman, and saying I

1691
01:30:15,160 --> 01:30:16,240
have good news for you.

1692
01:30:16,240 --> 01:30:20,400
The war is over, and
you're going to go home.

1693
01:30:20,400 --> 01:30:23,890
And that's the first and the
last time I saw the fellow,

1694
01:30:23,890 --> 01:30:25,370
and I said nothing.

1695
01:30:25,370 --> 01:30:27,430
So he told me.

1696
01:30:27,430 --> 01:30:29,830
He didn't give me details,
He said the war was over

1697
01:30:29,830 --> 01:30:31,790
last night, or whatever.

1698
01:30:31,790 --> 01:30:36,220
So I was in Tuttlingen
when the war was over.

1699
01:30:36,220 --> 01:30:40,730
And the war was
over May 8th, right?

1700
01:30:40,730 --> 01:30:45,670
May 8th or 9th, so that's when
I was still in Tuttlingen just

1701
01:30:45,670 --> 01:30:48,580
hours before I was shipped.

1702
01:30:48,580 --> 01:30:51,660
Yeah, because I remember

that's what he said.

1703
01:30:51,660 --> 01:30:56,852
And he took the trouble
to get out of his house.

1704
01:30:56,852 --> 01:30:58,310
And I think he
crossed the street--

1705
01:30:58,310 --> 01:31:01,470
he did cross the street,
because I was sitting there,

1706
01:31:01,470 --> 01:31:05,380
to tell me the news.

1707
01:31:05,380 --> 01:31:08,480
In fact, he says now
you're going to go home.

1708
01:31:08,480 --> 01:31:10,090
Of course, I did not.

1709
01:31:10,090 --> 01:31:11,410
But--

1710
01:31:11,410 --> 01:31:14,050
Did you still think your parents
were alive at that point?

1711
01:31:14,050 --> 01:31:14,650
Did you--

1712
01:31:14,650 --> 01:31:15,280
Yes.

1713
01:31:15,280 --> 01:31:16,330
You thought they were?

1714
01:31:16,330 --> 01:31:16,830
OK.

1715
01:31:16,830 --> 01:31:18,190
Oh, yeah.

1716
01:31:18,190 --> 01:31:23,410
You would not know
until after that

1717
01:31:23,410 --> 01:31:25,270
to understand how
many people died

1718
01:31:25,270 --> 01:31:29,290
and whatever took many,
many, many months later.

1719
01:31:29,290 --> 01:31:30,830
Yes.

1720
01:31:30,830 --> 01:31:37,180
And that was actually when
I was in Switzerland where

1721
01:31:37,180 --> 01:31:40,113
you had the newspapers,
and you had radio,

1722
01:31:40,113 --> 01:31:41,530
notwithstanding
your [INAUDIBLE]..

1723
01:31:41,530 --> 01:31:42,947
So you don't know
what's going on.

1724
01:31:42,947 --> 01:31:44,370
Well, we'll get to that.

1725
01:31:44,370 --> 01:31:44,940
Yeah.

1726
01:31:44,940 --> 01:31:51,100

And I can talk to you
for hours about Davos.

1727
01:31:51,100 --> 01:31:53,390
Well, yeah, we'll get to that.

1728
01:31:53,390 --> 01:31:54,590
Let's-- you're back--

1729
01:31:54,590 --> 01:31:58,300
you're still in this--

1730
01:31:58,300 --> 01:31:59,090
I'm still, yeah--

1731
01:31:59,090 --> 01:32:03,190
With the Romanian doctor talking
to you in Romanian in Colmar.

1732
01:32:03,190 --> 01:32:07,710
In Colmar, and he
was sending me back.

1733
01:32:07,710 --> 01:32:11,740
But he sent me back to to--

1734
01:32:11,740 --> 01:32:12,980
Strasbourg?

1735
01:32:12,980 --> 01:32:17,950
Strasbourg, and Strasbourg
kept me in the hospital.

1736
01:32:17,950 --> 01:32:20,390
This time they put
me in the hospital.

1737
01:32:20,390 --> 01:32:27,910
And I remember many people,
mostly military people,

1738
01:32:27,910 --> 01:32:33,460

coming to see me to
photograph me there.

1739
01:32:33,460 --> 01:32:39,550
And even women in the
army, so obviously,

1740
01:32:39,550 --> 01:32:42,520
I must have been talked about.

1741
01:32:42,520 --> 01:32:45,750
Because the boy and so on, and
they took many, many pictures

1742
01:32:45,750 --> 01:32:46,440
constantly.

1743
01:32:46,440 --> 01:32:49,990
I was only there
for two, three days.

1744
01:32:49,990 --> 01:32:52,120
Yeah, and they
didn't want to feed

1745
01:32:52,120 --> 01:32:54,490
me, because they didn't
know what's wrong with me,

1746
01:32:54,490 --> 01:32:56,680
[INAUDIBLE] whatever it is.

1747
01:32:56,680 --> 01:33:01,330
And then they
shipped me to Paris.

1748
01:33:01,330 --> 01:33:03,490
To Paris, OK.

1749
01:33:03,490 --> 01:33:05,740
To the main hospital, yeah.

1750

01:33:05,740 --> 01:33:10,090
So in Paris somebody
[INAUDIBLE] the railway

1751
01:33:10,090 --> 01:33:12,030
station to take me
to the hospital.

1752
01:33:12,030 --> 01:33:16,120
And that hospital,
it's a huge hospital,

1753
01:33:16,120 --> 01:33:19,520
I never seen so many
beds side by side.

1754
01:33:19,520 --> 01:33:21,920
And it was all those wounded.

1755
01:33:21,920 --> 01:33:25,510
It was an eye opened.

1756
01:33:25,510 --> 01:33:27,010
But they looked
after me, but they

1757
01:33:27,010 --> 01:33:31,030
didn't have even room to
take me to an operating

1758
01:33:31,030 --> 01:33:32,310
room or anything.

1759
01:33:32,310 --> 01:33:35,560
They just right there where
the bed is, and to test me

1760
01:33:35,560 --> 01:33:37,100
and so on and so forth.

1761
01:33:37,100 --> 01:33:41,790
And I think I mentioned that
they discovered I had TB.

1762
01:33:41,790 --> 01:33:45,160
And then when they
found that out, I

1763
01:33:45,160 --> 01:33:49,630
was persona non
grata, in other words,

1764
01:33:49,630 --> 01:33:54,063
they wanted me out,
for good reason.

1765
01:33:54,063 --> 01:33:55,480
Because they had
wounded soldiers,

1766
01:33:55,480 --> 01:33:56,900
and so on and so forth.

1767
01:33:56,900 --> 01:34:00,250
So that's when the
Red Cross came in.

1768
01:34:00,250 --> 01:34:02,140
Because they did all
the arrangements,

1769
01:34:02,140 --> 01:34:06,730
the Red Cross, and to get
rid of me via the Red Cross.

1770
01:34:06,730 --> 01:34:11,080
So obviously, because I
didn't really belong there.

1771
01:34:11,080 --> 01:34:12,355
It was an Army hospital.

1772
01:34:12,355 --> 01:34:13,870
This was all the wounded.

1773

01:34:13,870 --> 01:34:16,300
But I suppose this was
an opportunity for them

1774
01:34:16,300 --> 01:34:17,770
to get rid of me.

1775
01:34:17,770 --> 01:34:20,420
But also the Red Cross
was extremely efficient--

1776
01:34:20,420 --> 01:34:24,970
extremely efficient to make
all those arrangements.

1777
01:34:24,970 --> 01:34:27,800
So they took you to a
children's hospital?

1778
01:34:27,800 --> 01:34:29,980
Yes, because it takes time.

1779
01:34:29,980 --> 01:34:31,610
Obviously, it takes time.

1780
01:34:31,610 --> 01:34:33,430
So they took me to a
children's hospital,

1781
01:34:33,430 --> 01:34:37,270
and there they kept me
isolated from everybody.

1782
01:34:37,270 --> 01:34:40,990
In fact, when they
brought me food

1783
01:34:40,990 --> 01:34:42,370
they didn't want to even see me.

1784
01:34:42,370 --> 01:34:45,290
They just left
food on the table.

1785
01:34:45,290 --> 01:34:46,290
Well, they did not know.

1786
01:34:46,290 --> 01:34:47,082
You can understand.

1787
01:34:47,082 --> 01:34:47,680
Sure, sure.

1788
01:34:47,680 --> 01:34:49,120
They did have kids there.

1789
01:34:49,120 --> 01:34:50,560
And I don't know--

1790
01:34:50,560 --> 01:34:53,110
I didn't see how
many and what ages,

1791
01:34:53,110 --> 01:34:55,530
because I was very isolated.

1792
01:34:55,530 --> 01:34:59,560
I had nobody to talk to, because
nobody wanted to talk to me.

1793
01:34:59,560 --> 01:35:04,830
Many of yeah, and so on, so
when you call isolation and that

1794
01:35:04,830 --> 01:35:09,090
was fantastic isolation,
and so on so forth.

1795
01:35:09,090 --> 01:35:12,240
And they kept me because
they had to arrange,

1796
01:35:12,240 --> 01:35:17,010
because I wasn't the only
one going to Switzerland.

1797
01:35:17,010 --> 01:35:20,100
So that takes time
and whatever it is.

1798
01:35:20,100 --> 01:35:23,180
But it didn't take that--

1799
01:35:23,180 --> 01:35:25,590
10, 11 days sounds
like a long time,

1800
01:35:25,590 --> 01:35:30,390
but it isn't when you have to
make international connections

1801
01:35:30,390 --> 01:35:36,720
and find a sanatorium in Davos.

1802
01:35:36,720 --> 01:35:42,103
So the only thing I want to
add when it comes to Davos--

1803
01:35:42,103 --> 01:35:43,270
Well, how did you get there?

1804
01:35:43,270 --> 01:35:44,550
How did you get to Davos?

1805
01:35:44,550 --> 01:35:45,998
Did you go by train?

1806
01:35:45,998 --> 01:35:46,540
Oh, by train.

1807
01:35:46,540 --> 01:35:49,060
You got a train OK, to Davos?

1808
01:35:49,060 --> 01:35:49,560
Yeah.

1809

01:35:49,560 --> 01:35:51,930
OK, with the Red
Cross and other--

1810
01:35:51,930 --> 01:35:53,230
The Red Cross, it was a train--

1811
01:35:53,230 --> 01:35:54,290
--and other young people?

1812
01:35:54,290 --> 01:36:00,420
Yeah, another four I think.

1813
01:36:00,420 --> 01:36:02,340
I wasn't the only one.

1814
01:36:02,340 --> 01:36:07,830
And those four, not
all were in camp.

1815
01:36:07,830 --> 01:36:12,700
I think out of the four at
least two or three were in camp.

1816
01:36:12,700 --> 01:36:15,000
The other two I do not know.

1817
01:36:15,000 --> 01:36:19,860
And so the funny part is that
the lady who took us there,

1818
01:36:19,860 --> 01:36:24,370
working for the Red Cross,
was originally French,

1819
01:36:24,370 --> 01:36:27,590
but raised in Algeria.

1820
01:36:27,590 --> 01:36:31,140
And she also had TB.

1821
01:36:31,140 --> 01:36:33,360

So they found somebody who--

1822

01:36:33,360 --> 01:36:36,900
so she looked after
us, but herself too.

1823

01:36:36,900 --> 01:36:41,090
And she also stayed in
the same sanatorium.

1824

01:36:41,090 --> 01:36:47,110
So but anyway,
that's what it is.

1825

01:36:47,110 --> 01:36:50,820
But I was going to say about
Davos, in case you don't know,

1826

01:36:50,820 --> 01:36:54,060
I didn't realize how many
sanatoriums there were.

1827

01:36:54,060 --> 01:36:57,735
They must have had at
least 60 70 sanatoriums.

1828

01:36:57,735 --> 01:37:00,020
It was very hilly--

1829

01:37:00,020 --> 01:37:01,210
very hilly.

1830

01:37:01,210 --> 01:37:03,540
It was an international
place at that time.

1831

01:37:03,540 --> 01:37:07,020
Now, it's a commercial
international in Davos.

1832

01:37:07,020 --> 01:37:10,850
But at that time, I suppose some
of these hotels or semi-hotels

1833
01:37:10,850 --> 01:37:16,970
or sanatoriums, it was
famous before World War Two,

1834
01:37:16,970 --> 01:37:22,410
obviously, and during because
of being a sanatorium, which

1835
01:37:22,410 --> 01:37:24,332
is up, up, up in the mountains.

1836
01:37:24,332 --> 01:37:25,290
In the mountains, yeah.

1837
01:37:25,290 --> 01:37:27,090
So they took--

1838
01:37:27,090 --> 01:37:29,460
They used different methods.

1839
01:37:29,460 --> 01:37:32,070
But I was going
to say, is when I

1840
01:37:32,070 --> 01:37:37,590
was able to walk around in
Davos, some of my friends

1841
01:37:37,590 --> 01:37:40,250
went to the other sanatoriums
to talk to people who

1842
01:37:40,250 --> 01:37:41,970
were in the concentration camp.

1843
01:37:41,970 --> 01:37:45,934
I did not do that, but so my
information comes from them.

1844
01:37:45,934 --> 01:37:51,030
And they said that the place was

packed in Davos after World War

1845

01:37:51,030 --> 01:37:53,610

Two with people
from concentration

1846

01:37:53,610 --> 01:37:55,920

camps with tuberculosis.

1847

01:37:55,920 --> 01:37:59,120

In fact, many would
not have made it,

1848

01:37:59,120 --> 01:38:04,920

and my roommate there
came and told me,

1849

01:38:04,920 --> 01:38:07,760

you talk to them,
knowing they're extremely

1850

01:38:07,760 --> 01:38:10,590

ill, [INAUDIBLE] and
they have great dreams

1851

01:38:10,590 --> 01:38:13,060

that they're going
to get better,

1852

01:38:13,060 --> 01:38:15,360

and they're going to go
home, and do this and that.

1853

01:38:15,360 --> 01:38:22,401

When 60, 70% are told that their
chances of survival is nil.

1854

01:38:22,401 --> 01:38:26,700

In other words, TB has advanced.

1855

01:38:26,700 --> 01:38:30,950

And many have come from the
concentration camps ended up

1856
01:38:30,950 --> 01:38:35,550
in sanatoriums after the war.

1857
01:38:35,550 --> 01:38:38,080
So and they had big dreams.

1858
01:38:38,080 --> 01:38:42,330
I remember one that
actually came to visit us,

1859
01:38:42,330 --> 01:38:44,960
and he had big dreams.

1860
01:38:44,960 --> 01:38:47,570
He lost a leg, but
he was big dreams

1861
01:38:47,570 --> 01:38:50,700
that he was going to Israel,
and he was going to fight

1862
01:38:50,700 --> 01:38:52,170
and all this.

1863
01:38:52,170 --> 01:38:55,530
I mean, dreaming in
technicolor, because he

1864
01:38:55,530 --> 01:38:58,810
was very ill with TB.

1865
01:38:58,810 --> 01:39:01,380
It was as simple as that.

1866
01:39:01,380 --> 01:39:05,300
But those are
people, young people,

1867
01:39:05,300 --> 01:39:07,620
who came out of the
concentration camp had

1868
01:39:07,620 --> 01:39:10,320
very high hopes and dreams.

1869
01:39:10,320 --> 01:39:13,650
And yeah.

1870
01:39:13,650 --> 01:39:16,200
So you were in Davos for?

1871
01:39:16,200 --> 01:39:18,560
I was in Davos for about
eight and 1/2 months.

1872
01:39:18,560 --> 01:39:21,030
OK, and then where did you go?

1873
01:39:21,030 --> 01:39:23,680
And then they sent me back.

1874
01:39:23,680 --> 01:39:29,130
And the Red Cross
was still involved.

1875
01:39:29,130 --> 01:39:32,350
And then they put me in the OSE.

1876
01:39:32,350 --> 01:39:34,005
OSE stands for--

1877
01:39:34,005 --> 01:39:34,880
The children's, yeah.

1878
01:39:34,880 --> 01:39:36,870
Oeuvre de Secours
aux Enfants, it's

1879
01:39:36,870 --> 01:39:39,690
an organization for children.

1880
01:39:39,690 --> 01:39:42,930

The Red Cross initiated
it initially, apparently,

1881
01:39:42,930 --> 01:39:44,280
before World War Two.

1882
01:39:44,280 --> 01:39:46,950

1883
01:39:46,950 --> 01:39:48,450
So you went back to France?

1884
01:39:48,450 --> 01:39:50,500
You went back to France?

1885
01:39:50,500 --> 01:39:51,000
Pardon?

1886
01:39:51,000 --> 01:39:52,800
You went back to France?

1887
01:39:52,800 --> 01:39:54,420
I went back to France, correct.

1888
01:39:54,420 --> 01:39:56,730
OK, and where did you stay?

1889
01:39:56,730 --> 01:39:58,420
I stayed in Versailles.

1890
01:39:58,420 --> 01:39:59,970
With the OSE.

1891
01:39:59,970 --> 01:40:02,520
OSE is the organization
for children.

1892
01:40:02,520 --> 01:40:03,690
Yes, right.

1893
01:40:03,690 --> 01:40:04,620

Yeah.

1894

01:40:04,620 --> 01:40:11,450

And then so you stay there for?

1895

01:40:11,450 --> 01:40:20,660

Until we were approached by
the Jewish Congress from Canada

1896

01:40:20,660 --> 01:40:21,790

there.

1897

01:40:21,790 --> 01:40:26,960

The Jewish Congress had
a permit from [INAUDIBLE]

1898

01:40:26,960 --> 01:40:34,580

before World War Two started
to bring 1,000 kids, orphans,

1899

01:40:34,580 --> 01:40:35,427

and so on.

1900

01:40:35,427 --> 01:40:37,760

Well, during the war they
couldn't do anything about it.

1901

01:40:37,760 --> 01:40:40,730

Now, did you at this point know
about your parents, or not?

1902

01:40:40,730 --> 01:40:45,330

1903

01:40:45,330 --> 01:40:47,700

I'm thinking now.

1904

01:40:47,700 --> 01:40:50,170

I did know about my parents.

1905

01:40:50,170 --> 01:40:55,090

1906
01:40:55,090 --> 01:40:57,190
Actually, yes, I knew
about the parents

1907
01:40:57,190 --> 01:40:59,200
before I left Switzerland.

1908
01:40:59,200 --> 01:41:00,550
Switzerland, yeah.

1909
01:41:00,550 --> 01:41:07,330
So obviously-- not obviously,
I'm 80% sure the Red Cross--

1910
01:41:07,330 --> 01:41:07,930
Found out?

1911
01:41:07,930 --> 01:41:10,570
--had some records.

1912
01:41:10,570 --> 01:41:13,090
Because they gave
me those records.

1913
01:41:13,090 --> 01:41:16,520
They were the one who
found my uncle in Canada.

1914
01:41:16,520 --> 01:41:17,110
I see.

1915
01:41:17,110 --> 01:41:20,320
When you were in
Versailles, what did you do?

1916
01:41:20,320 --> 01:41:21,880
Were you able--

1917
01:41:21,880 --> 01:41:22,930
Yeah, when, OK--

1918

01:41:22,930 --> 01:41:23,830

Did you go to school?

1919

01:41:23,830 --> 01:41:24,280

Excellent question.

1920

01:41:24,280 --> 01:41:25,155

Did you go to school?

1921

01:41:25,155 --> 01:41:26,080

Excellent question.

1922

01:41:26,080 --> 01:41:30,250

I insisted that I want
to go back to school.

1923

01:41:30,250 --> 01:41:31,720

School, yeah.

1924

01:41:31,720 --> 01:41:36,640

And they sent me to
[PLACE NAME] which is two,

1925

01:41:36,640 --> 01:41:41,150

three blocks from the
Sorbonne in Paris.

1926

01:41:41,150 --> 01:41:42,770

It's a school.

1927

01:41:42,770 --> 01:41:44,650

It's not a university.

1928

01:41:44,650 --> 01:41:48,840

And I went there because to
learn French and to learn--

1929

01:41:48,840 --> 01:41:51,670

to finish my high school
diploma, which I didn't

1930

01:41:51,670 --> 01:41:53,950
finish until I got to Canada.

1931
01:41:53,950 --> 01:41:56,960
So every morning-- I
wasn't the only one.

1932
01:41:56,960 --> 01:42:02,260
About six, seven of us took
the metro, subway, and we went.

1933
01:42:02,260 --> 01:42:03,910
And that's where it was located.

1934
01:42:03,910 --> 01:42:07,210
It's located on the way
to Versailles, actually.

1935
01:42:07,210 --> 01:42:10,350
It's outside of Paris, if
you know where Sorbonne is.

1936
01:42:10,350 --> 01:42:13,600
It is only two-and-a-half
blocks from the Sorbonne.

1937
01:42:13,600 --> 01:42:18,460
And so every morning
the group, we

1938
01:42:18,460 --> 01:42:21,970
went down and went to school.

1939
01:42:21,970 --> 01:42:24,115
Where did you live
in Versailles?

1940
01:42:24,115 --> 01:42:25,990
In a home.

1941
01:42:25,990 --> 01:42:27,090
A children's home?

1942

01:42:27,090 --> 01:42:28,720

In a children's home?

1943

01:42:28,720 --> 01:42:30,950

Yes.

1944

01:42:30,950 --> 01:42:34,270

It was something, more
than a children's home.

1945

01:42:34,270 --> 01:42:37,390

But it was something built
by somebody before the war.

1946

01:42:37,390 --> 01:42:41,170

And I don't know how
they got it to use,

1947

01:42:41,170 --> 01:42:42,800

or the government
gave it to them.

1948

01:42:42,800 --> 01:42:49,230

It was-- we had approximately
there 60, 70 kids.

1949

01:42:49,230 --> 01:42:52,450

So it was a large place.

1950

01:42:52,450 --> 01:42:54,250

And boys and girls.

1951

01:42:54,250 --> 01:42:58,130

And your health
was good by then?

1952

01:42:58,130 --> 01:43:03,230

Well, when I was there
my lungs were OK.

1953

01:43:03,230 --> 01:43:05,090

I still had the wound.

1954
01:43:05,090 --> 01:43:08,150
That didn't heal exactly.

1955
01:43:08,150 --> 01:43:11,600
It's still not healed
all these years.

1956
01:43:11,600 --> 01:43:14,300
I still have wounds
that don't heal,

1957
01:43:14,300 --> 01:43:17,660
and they're saying it's
circulation problem because

1958
01:43:17,660 --> 01:43:18,260
of that.

1959
01:43:18,260 --> 01:43:20,380
And so I have more
problems now than I

1960
01:43:20,380 --> 01:43:23,870
did five or 10 years ago.

1961
01:43:23,870 --> 01:43:29,540
And so when I came to
Canada I wanted to go back

1962
01:43:29,540 --> 01:43:31,525
to school, which I did.

1963
01:43:31,525 --> 01:43:35,240
Now, you knew that your
uncle was in Canada?

1964
01:43:35,240 --> 01:43:35,930
Yes.

1965
01:43:35,930 --> 01:43:36,860
Oh, OK.

1966

01:43:36,860 --> 01:43:40,310

Well, I knew when I
was in Switzerland,

1967

01:43:40,310 --> 01:43:41,690

because they found him.

1968

01:43:41,690 --> 01:43:45,650

I knew that he was
in Canada from home.

1969

01:43:45,650 --> 01:43:47,840

And I think I mentioned
someplace there

1970

01:43:47,840 --> 01:43:51,320

that my dad, before we got
to the concentration camps

1971

01:43:51,320 --> 01:43:53,180

and whatever, made us--

1972

01:43:53,180 --> 01:43:56,990

made me remember his address,
and so on and so forth.

1973

01:43:56,990 --> 01:43:58,670

Well, I only
remembered the city.

1974

01:43:58,670 --> 01:44:01,020

I forgot the details.

1975

01:44:01,020 --> 01:44:05,600

So when I was in Switzerland I
said to Red Cross what I know.

1976

01:44:05,600 --> 01:44:07,400

That you have an
uncle in Canada?

1977

01:44:07,400 --> 01:44:08,310
That's right.

1978
01:44:08,310 --> 01:44:13,460
And while I was there, they
told me that they found him.

1979
01:44:13,460 --> 01:44:18,310
They gave me the address,
and he wrote to me also

1980
01:44:18,310 --> 01:44:20,870
while I was in Switzerland.

1981
01:44:20,870 --> 01:44:23,630
So when I left
Switzerland to France,

1982
01:44:23,630 --> 01:44:26,570
I knew that
[PERSONAL NAME] is there,

1983
01:44:26,570 --> 01:44:29,220
and he's is trying to
take me out to Canada.

1984
01:44:29,220 --> 01:44:30,460
Wonderful.

1985
01:44:30,460 --> 01:44:34,370
Yeah, well he didn't
have to do that,

1986
01:44:34,370 --> 01:44:37,070
because the Jewish
Congress, meanwhile,

1987
01:44:37,070 --> 01:44:40,410
got a permit to bring in 1,000
kids, and I was a part of that.

1988
01:44:40,410 --> 01:44:44,270
And I was in the first group

who made it into Canada.

1989

01:44:44,270 --> 01:44:46,520

Oh, OK, so when did you--

1990

01:44:46,520 --> 01:44:49,070

1991

01:44:49,070 --> 01:44:56,480

I end up in the fall of

'47, in September sometimes.

1992

01:44:56,480 --> 01:44:59,120

And I was the

first of the group.

1993

01:44:59,120 --> 01:45:02,770

I think 22 of us

arrived here to Canada,

1994

01:45:02,770 --> 01:45:07,740

and I was the first of

that group to arrive.

1995

01:45:07,740 --> 01:45:11,560

And that's how I

end up in Edmonton--

1996

01:45:11,560 --> 01:45:14,900

Montreal first, Edmonton second.

1997

01:45:14,900 --> 01:45:21,770

And I went to the Alberta

College to get my English.

1998

01:45:21,770 --> 01:45:25,580

And after one year

I wrote the exam,

1999

01:45:25,580 --> 01:45:28,380

and I was admitted

to university.

2000

01:45:28,380 --> 01:45:30,940

I wrote the exams
for high school,

2001

01:45:30,940 --> 01:45:34,730

and that entitled me
to go to university.

2002

01:45:34,730 --> 01:45:38,600

So you went from Versailles,
and then you took,

2003

01:45:38,600 --> 01:45:40,760

what, a boat from
England to Canada?

2004

01:45:40,760 --> 01:45:41,840

Yes.

2005

01:45:41,840 --> 01:45:45,070

I did say that in my report.

2006

01:45:45,070 --> 01:45:46,880

In Versailles, it
took me a while

2007

01:45:46,880 --> 01:45:49,330

to get the OK by the French--

2008

01:45:49,330 --> 01:45:52,890

no, I'm sorry, from
the Canadian Embassy.

2009

01:45:52,890 --> 01:45:56,800

But then they sent us to
London, because that was

2010

01:45:56,800 --> 01:45:59,790

the gathering point of so on.

2011

01:45:59,790 --> 01:46:03,410

So I arrived to London, I only

stayed four or five days ago.

2012

01:46:03,410 --> 01:46:07,930

There were only six other
kids that came in from camps

2013

01:46:07,930 --> 01:46:10,040

from Germany.

2014

01:46:10,040 --> 01:46:11,380

So we had about 22.

2015

01:46:11,380 --> 01:46:19,750

So 22 of us took the train
to [PLACE NAME] to deport.

2016

01:46:19,750 --> 01:46:24,980

And the Aquitania was a boat
that took us over the ocean.

2017

01:46:24,980 --> 01:46:31,520

And when we arrived
in Halifax they

2018

01:46:31,520 --> 01:46:34,130

were telling us that now
you're going to take the train

2019

01:46:34,130 --> 01:46:35,320

to go to Montreal.

2020

01:46:35,320 --> 01:46:40,340

And Montreal is a big city,
and that's a gathering point.

2021

01:46:40,340 --> 01:46:44,300

Before the day was over somebody
from the Jewish Congress

2022

01:46:44,300 --> 01:46:47,930

there says no, there
was a change in plan.

2023

01:46:47,930 --> 01:46:50,240

He said, there
are so many people

2024

01:46:50,240 --> 01:46:54,060

waiting for you
fellows in Montreal,

2025

01:46:54,060 --> 01:46:57,650

and we decided to
fly you to Montreal.

2026

01:46:57,650 --> 01:46:59,720

[INAUDIBLE] on the train.

2027

01:46:59,720 --> 01:47:02,700

So we didn't realize how
many people were there.

2028

01:47:02,700 --> 01:47:04,340

So finally, they
put us on a plane.

2029

01:47:04,340 --> 01:47:07,530

The same day we
arrived in Halifax

2030

01:47:07,530 --> 01:47:13,920

and we arrived there at 2:30
in the morning in Montreal.

2031

01:47:13,920 --> 01:47:20,080

And they took us to a place,
it wasn't a synagogue,

2032

01:47:20,080 --> 01:47:21,000

it was someplace else.

2033

01:47:21,000 --> 01:47:26,395

And the amount of people there
are unbelievable-- unbelievable

2034

01:47:26,395 --> 01:47:28,550
who waited for us.

2035
01:47:28,550 --> 01:47:34,120
And I think I said
in my report that--

2036
01:47:34,120 --> 01:47:40,490
I'm trying to-- that
when they saw us

2037
01:47:40,490 --> 01:47:42,470
extreme emotions by everyone.

2038
01:47:42,470 --> 01:47:43,560
I can imagine, yeah.

2039
01:47:43,560 --> 01:47:46,604

2040
01:47:46,604 --> 01:47:52,430
And I put something down
here, which even today

2041
01:47:52,430 --> 01:47:56,088
I just give me a second.

2042
01:47:56,088 --> 01:48:09,260

2043
01:48:09,260 --> 01:48:12,560
Yeah, and I said
this, which is true,

2044
01:48:12,560 --> 01:48:17,170
the amount of people waiting
and embracing us was fantastic.

2045
01:48:17,170 --> 01:48:19,370
They kept saying,
and I will never

2046

01:48:19,370 --> 01:48:21,950
forget that, these
are the surviving

2047
01:48:21,950 --> 01:48:23,672
children from the Holocaust.

2048
01:48:23,672 --> 01:48:26,510

2049
01:48:26,510 --> 01:48:32,510
And basically, they were
there hoping that one of us

2050
01:48:32,510 --> 01:48:35,120
there would give them some
information on the relatives

2051
01:48:35,120 --> 01:48:40,520
that we-- that's right, and
that was very emotional.

2052
01:48:40,520 --> 01:48:41,720
Yeah.

2053
01:48:41,720 --> 01:48:46,280
So then and then how did
you get to your uncle?

2054
01:48:46,280 --> 01:48:49,070

2055
01:48:49,070 --> 01:48:56,630
I didn't need his help, because
the Jewish Congress said,

2056
01:48:56,630 --> 01:48:58,430
we'll put you on a train.

2057
01:48:58,430 --> 01:49:02,945
It's a long journey, and
you'll get to Edmonton.

2058

01:49:02,945 --> 01:49:04,320

So you got out
there by yourself.

2059

01:49:04,320 --> 01:49:05,840

And I did that.

2060

01:49:05,840 --> 01:49:08,670

They advised him, and he met me.

2061

01:49:08,670 --> 01:49:11,930

I never met him
in my life before.

2062

01:49:11,930 --> 01:49:16,640

So he went up to the
train station and met me.

2063

01:49:16,640 --> 01:49:20,930

My uncle, at that
time, was a widower,

2064

01:49:20,930 --> 01:49:24,030

because his wife
died during the war.

2065

01:49:24,030 --> 01:49:29,310

And so he lived in a
small place and whatever,

2066

01:49:29,310 --> 01:49:33,200

and I was with him for a while.

2067

01:49:33,200 --> 01:49:37,460

And I asked the local
Jewish community

2068

01:49:37,460 --> 01:49:40,410

that I want to go to
school, and whatever it is.

2069

01:49:40,410 --> 01:49:45,090

So they helped me out,
and they found me a home.

2070

01:49:45,090 --> 01:49:51,950
A home of a couple that had kids
more or less my age, and they

2071

01:49:51,950 --> 01:49:53,880
wanted to help me out.

2072

01:49:53,880 --> 01:49:59,160
But they were paid by I
think by the local community.

2073

01:49:59,160 --> 01:50:03,800
So I stayed with them
for about four years,

2074

01:50:03,800 --> 01:50:08,000
and I went to university.

2075

01:50:08,000 --> 01:50:08,825
Did you know any--

2076

01:50:08,825 --> 01:50:09,325
[INAUDIBLE]

2077

01:50:09,325 --> 01:50:12,980
Did you know any English
before you got to Canada?

2078

01:50:12,980 --> 01:50:13,490
No.

2079

01:50:13,490 --> 01:50:15,840
No, so you learned it
when you got there?

2080

01:50:15,840 --> 01:50:19,880
I learned it, and that's
why I took one year out,

2081

01:50:19,880 --> 01:50:23,380
because I needed to
know the language.

2082
01:50:23,380 --> 01:50:25,380
So that's why I went and
put a call, [INAUDIBLE]

2083
01:50:25,380 --> 01:50:28,400
go to college in Edmonton.

2084
01:50:28,400 --> 01:50:34,700
And the many things that
I wrote exams I actually

2085
01:50:34,700 --> 01:50:37,188
learned also in France.

2086
01:50:37,188 --> 01:50:38,855
But language something
that I was trying

2087
01:50:38,855 --> 01:50:41,720
to pick up, which I've done.

2088
01:50:41,720 --> 01:50:48,950
And I then admitted to the
university, got my arts degree.

2089
01:50:48,950 --> 01:50:52,820
But I always wanted to be
a doctor, because that's

2090
01:50:52,820 --> 01:50:55,420
what my parents
wanted me to do, and I

2091
01:50:55,420 --> 01:50:58,880
many of my family
going back, back, back,

2092
01:50:58,880 --> 01:51:02,400
are all professors or doctors.

2093

01:51:02,400 --> 01:51:08,390

So the truth is, that it
takes a lot a lot of money,

2094

01:51:08,390 --> 01:51:10,170

and I just didn't have it.

2095

01:51:10,170 --> 01:51:10,670

Did you--

2096

01:51:10,670 --> 01:51:14,930

And not only that, I used
to work in the summertime.

2097

01:51:14,930 --> 01:51:17,360

Well, you don't
have enough months,

2098

01:51:17,360 --> 01:51:20,663

because the medical school
only gets two months off.

2099

01:51:20,663 --> 01:51:24,500

And you cannot earn enough
in two months for tuition.

2100

01:51:24,500 --> 01:51:30,170

I was also lucky
that [INAUDIBLE]

2101

01:51:30,170 --> 01:51:32,780

that the Germans sent.

2102

01:51:32,780 --> 01:51:41,540

So by that time, and this was
in the '50s, they paid me.

2103

01:51:41,540 --> 01:51:46,312

Well, I tell you what I got,
I got 6,000 something twice,

2104

01:51:46,312 --> 01:51:48,020
but I don't know what
they paid because I

2105
01:51:48,020 --> 01:51:50,850
had a lawyer in
Montreal handling it.

2106
01:51:50,850 --> 01:51:53,230
So I don't know how
much he got commission.

2107
01:51:53,230 --> 01:51:59,390
I got 6,000 something
twice, and that helped me--

2108
01:51:59,390 --> 01:52:01,978
This is reparations you're
talking about, right?

2109
01:52:01,978 --> 01:52:02,520
That's right.

2110
01:52:02,520 --> 01:52:06,800
It helped me, which plus
the fact that I worked too.

2111
01:52:06,800 --> 01:52:13,930
So I decided to go for a
law degree hoping that.