

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,440

2
00:00:02,440 --> 00:00:02,980
Oh.

3
00:00:02,980 --> 00:00:06,640
We were a family of six people.

4
00:00:06,640 --> 00:00:10,720
We had four children--
two boys and two girls.

5
00:00:10,720 --> 00:00:13,300
And, of course, my
mother and father.

6
00:00:13,300 --> 00:00:14,450
Mm-hmm.

7
00:00:14,450 --> 00:00:18,580
We were middle income people.

8
00:00:18,580 --> 00:00:23,680
And we had a fairly
nice living quarters.

9
00:00:23,680 --> 00:00:29,500
My father was an architect, and
we had a furniture store also.

10
00:00:29,500 --> 00:00:32,549

11
00:00:32,549 --> 00:00:39,300
And my father was very much
for education for the children.

12
00:00:39,300 --> 00:00:43,230
As a matter of fact,
my brother Leon

13
00:00:43,230 --> 00:00:48,960
was going to go to college.

14
00:00:48,960 --> 00:00:52,260
My father planned for
him to go to college.

15
00:00:52,260 --> 00:00:55,200
There were colleges in Lodz.

16
00:00:55,200 --> 00:00:59,310
It was a beautiful,
cosmopolitan city

17
00:00:59,310 --> 00:01:05,250
with parks, museums,
opera, theaters,

18
00:01:05,250 --> 00:01:09,540
and a very, very modern city.

19
00:01:09,540 --> 00:01:17,490
And we had lots of
relatives in the city.

20
00:01:17,490 --> 00:01:22,740
We visited with relatives,
aunts and uncles and cousins,

21
00:01:22,740 --> 00:01:24,660
Saturday afternoon.

22
00:01:24,660 --> 00:01:25,770
We didn't ride.

23
00:01:25,770 --> 00:01:28,800
We just walked five, six miles.

24
00:01:28,800 --> 00:01:33,210
There were no telephones,
but we were very comfortable

25
00:01:33,210 --> 00:01:34,260
without them.

26
00:01:34,260 --> 00:01:39,180
We just walked to an aunt
and knocked on the door,

27
00:01:39,180 --> 00:01:42,450
and there we were
with all the children.

28
00:01:42,450 --> 00:01:46,470
And it was a nice,
warm atmosphere.

29
00:01:46,470 --> 00:01:51,750
It was a nice relationship
between relatives.

30
00:01:51,750 --> 00:01:57,210
And we lived in a very,
very nice neighborhood.

31
00:01:57,210 --> 00:02:00,360
Can we back up for a second,
and can you tell me your name,

32
00:02:00,360 --> 00:02:05,920
and your name during the
war, and your date of birth?

33
00:02:05,920 --> 00:02:08,900
My name during the war
was Paula Garfinkle.

34
00:02:08,900 --> 00:02:10,820
Mm-hmm.

35
00:02:10,820 --> 00:02:13,100
And I was born in 1920.

36

00:02:13,100 --> 00:02:15,942
Mm-hmm.

37
00:02:15,942 --> 00:02:16,650
So your birthday?

38
00:02:16,650 --> 00:02:17,640
December.

39
00:02:17,640 --> 00:02:18,430
Right.

40
00:02:18,430 --> 00:02:19,350
December 3rd, right?

41
00:02:19,350 --> 00:02:22,010
Yes.

42
00:02:22,010 --> 00:02:24,200
And--

43
00:02:24,200 --> 00:02:26,360
Was your family orthodox?

44
00:02:26,360 --> 00:02:27,820
Very religious.

45
00:02:27,820 --> 00:02:28,320
Mm-hmm.

46
00:02:28,320 --> 00:02:29,250
Very religious.

47
00:02:29,250 --> 00:02:36,560
My father was a Kohen, and he
observed Shabbat and Friday

48
00:02:36,560 --> 00:02:37,340
night.

49
00:02:37,340 --> 00:02:39,800

On Friday night,
everybody had to be

50
00:02:39,800 --> 00:02:42,710
at the table with the dinner.

51
00:02:42,710 --> 00:02:44,840
My mother was orthodox.

52
00:02:44,840 --> 00:02:47,420
She came from an
orthodox family.

53
00:02:47,420 --> 00:02:54,555
Rabbis, and-- she came from
a little town next to Lodz.

54
00:02:54,555 --> 00:02:55,055
Mm-hmm.

55
00:02:55,055 --> 00:02:56,240
What was it called?

56
00:02:56,240 --> 00:02:57,740
Constantine.

57
00:02:57,740 --> 00:02:58,400
Constantine.

58
00:02:58,400 --> 00:02:59,870
OK.

59
00:02:59,870 --> 00:03:02,430
And, of course, I
was born in Lodz.

60
00:03:02,430 --> 00:03:04,580
All our children
were born in Lodz.

61
00:03:04,580 --> 00:03:05,990
Mm-hmm.

62
00:03:05,990 --> 00:03:13,320
And we led a very
nice, interesting life.

63
00:03:13,320 --> 00:03:20,360
My father was very much
interested in his children

64
00:03:20,360 --> 00:03:21,740
with homework.

65
00:03:21,740 --> 00:03:28,250
And he-- we had the special
table to do our homeworks.

66
00:03:28,250 --> 00:03:35,980
And he was he was very
much with each child

67
00:03:35,980 --> 00:03:40,300
interested in their
schooling, and so on.

68
00:03:40,300 --> 00:03:43,860
And well, it didn't take long.

69
00:03:43,860 --> 00:03:53,110
And I remember in the 30s, we
started hearing about Hitler

70
00:03:53,110 --> 00:03:58,780
on the radios in the newspapers
and what he is trying to do,

71
00:03:58,780 --> 00:04:03,370
and the atmosphere
changed into sadness.

72
00:04:03,370 --> 00:04:04,960
Can you-- where did
you go to school?

73

00:04:04,960 --> 00:04:06,440

Did you go to public school?

74

00:04:06,440 --> 00:04:07,810

I went to-- no.

75

00:04:07,810 --> 00:04:09,640

I went to a gymnasium.

76

00:04:09,640 --> 00:04:10,180

Oh, you did?

77

00:04:10,180 --> 00:04:10,750

Yes.

78

00:04:10,750 --> 00:04:11,250

Uh-huh.

79

00:04:11,250 --> 00:04:12,790

And did you attend
a Hebrew school

80

00:04:12,790 --> 00:04:13,957

or have any type of Jewish--

81

00:04:13,957 --> 00:04:14,860

Yes, yes.

82

00:04:14,860 --> 00:04:15,700

Yes.

83

00:04:15,700 --> 00:04:21,070

I had a tutor that
came three times a week

84

00:04:21,070 --> 00:04:28,060

and taught me how to
read and write Yiddish.

85

00:04:28,060 --> 00:04:30,040

I read Yiddish very well.

86
00:04:30,040 --> 00:04:31,060
Mm-hmm.

87
00:04:31,060 --> 00:04:33,100
Did you speak Yiddish
at your home, or--

88
00:04:33,100 --> 00:04:33,760
Yes.

89
00:04:33,760 --> 00:04:35,080
We spoke Yiddish.

90
00:04:35,080 --> 00:04:35,620
You did.

91
00:04:35,620 --> 00:04:36,120
Yes.

92
00:04:36,120 --> 00:04:38,550

93
00:04:38,550 --> 00:04:47,590
And so the sadness came and
just like a damper on everybody.

94
00:04:47,590 --> 00:04:54,420
But then we still proceeded
our lives with the shabbat,

95
00:04:54,420 --> 00:04:57,030
going to the synagogue.

96
00:04:57,030 --> 00:05:02,840
And my father was
very interested

97
00:05:02,840 --> 00:05:06,300
in politics and
in current events.

98

00:05:06,300 --> 00:05:12,630

And he knew what
it's going to be--

99

00:05:12,630 --> 00:05:17,100

that Hitler is coming to power.

100

00:05:17,100 --> 00:05:20,230

He came to power.

101

00:05:20,230 --> 00:05:25,360

And there was a
great fear that we

102

00:05:25,360 --> 00:05:28,900

are going to be caught in it.

103

00:05:28,900 --> 00:05:31,900

104

00:05:31,900 --> 00:05:35,290

And then came 1938
and, of course,

105

00:05:35,290 --> 00:05:39,730

1939 when Poland was invaded.

106

00:05:39,730 --> 00:05:42,890

And then the trouble started.

107

00:05:42,890 --> 00:05:43,390

Mm-hmm.

108

00:05:43,390 --> 00:05:44,930

Can we still back up just again?

109

00:05:44,930 --> 00:05:45,430

Yeah.

110

00:05:45,430 --> 00:05:48,880

Did you have specific interests

and hobbies or anything

111
00:05:48,880 --> 00:05:50,920
that you enjoyed doing
when you were young?

112
00:05:50,920 --> 00:05:51,420
Yes.

113
00:05:51,420 --> 00:05:56,020
I was enjoying and doing
knitting and crocheting

114
00:05:56,020 --> 00:05:57,040
and sewing.

115
00:05:57,040 --> 00:05:58,313
Mm-hmm.

116
00:05:58,313 --> 00:05:59,980
Did you take lessons,
or you just knew--

117
00:05:59,980 --> 00:06:02,740
No, I just-- myself.

118
00:06:02,740 --> 00:06:04,140
And I still sew.

119
00:06:04,140 --> 00:06:04,660
Oh, wow.

120
00:06:04,660 --> 00:06:10,140
And I still knit and
crochet in my spare time.

121
00:06:10,140 --> 00:06:10,640
Mm-hmm.

122
00:06:10,640 --> 00:06:11,182
That's great.

123
00:06:11,182 --> 00:06:17,440
And everybody-- my brothers
were very talented.

124
00:06:17,440 --> 00:06:19,855
My youngest brother did--

125
00:06:19,855 --> 00:06:25,600

126
00:06:25,600 --> 00:06:27,420
oh.

127
00:06:27,420 --> 00:06:29,440
He made pictures.

128
00:06:29,440 --> 00:06:30,700
What do you call it?

129
00:06:30,700 --> 00:06:33,310
He--

130
00:06:33,310 --> 00:06:34,370
He drew them?

131
00:06:34,370 --> 00:06:35,890
Yeah, he drew.

132
00:06:35,890 --> 00:06:37,690
Painted and drew.

133
00:06:37,690 --> 00:06:42,250
And all my sisters and
brothers, my sister, they

134
00:06:42,250 --> 00:06:44,170
were very talented.

135
00:06:44,170 --> 00:06:46,870
And we got along very nicely.

136

00:06:46,870 --> 00:06:47,710

Mm-hmm.

137

00:06:47,710 --> 00:06:51,200

Did you play any
musical instruments?

138

00:06:51,200 --> 00:06:51,700

No.

139

00:06:51,700 --> 00:06:52,550

Mm-hmm.

140

00:06:52,550 --> 00:06:53,240

No.

141

00:06:53,240 --> 00:06:54,500

Have any pets?

142

00:06:54,500 --> 00:06:55,100

No.

143

00:06:55,100 --> 00:06:56,570

No pets.

144

00:06:56,570 --> 00:06:57,500

No.

145

00:06:57,500 --> 00:06:59,440

Were you involved in
any Zionist groups?

146

00:06:59,440 --> 00:07:00,020

Oh, yes.

147

00:07:00,020 --> 00:07:02,000

All of us where.

148

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:10,340

Lodz was-- Poland is,
all the-- even the little

149

00:07:10,340 --> 00:07:16,790
towns, the youth was involved
in Zionist activities.

150

00:07:16,790 --> 00:07:20,780
My brother Henry used to belong
to an organization, Gordonia.

151

00:07:20,780 --> 00:07:22,220
Mm-hmm.

152

00:07:22,220 --> 00:07:25,730
And my sister used
to belong there.

153

00:07:25,730 --> 00:07:29,780
My older brother Leon
also belonged there.

154

00:07:29,780 --> 00:07:33,130
I belong to-- all of
us belong to Gordonia.

155

00:07:33,130 --> 00:07:33,630
Mm-hmm.

156

00:07:33,630 --> 00:07:35,630
Wasn't Gordonia a socialist--

157

00:07:35,630 --> 00:07:36,770
No, it was a Zionist.

158

00:07:36,770 --> 00:07:39,040
[INAUDIBLE] Gordon?

159

00:07:39,040 --> 00:07:40,730
A Zionist organization.

160

00:07:40,730 --> 00:07:41,840
Uh-huh.

161
00:07:41,840 --> 00:07:43,010
Yes.

162
00:07:43,010 --> 00:07:44,600
But it wasn't a religious One.

163
00:07:44,600 --> 00:07:45,110
No.

164
00:07:45,110 --> 00:07:45,610
Right.

165
00:07:45,610 --> 00:07:48,200
No.

166
00:07:48,200 --> 00:07:50,870
It was just a
Zionist organization

167
00:07:50,870 --> 00:07:55,760
where we came together and
then we had discussions.

168
00:07:55,760 --> 00:07:58,670
And it was a very
interesting life.

169
00:07:58,670 --> 00:08:00,920
Very interesting.

170
00:08:00,920 --> 00:08:06,290
You did have to
worry where you're

171
00:08:06,290 --> 00:08:11,030
going to go tomorrow, what
the plans are tomorrow,

172
00:08:11,030 --> 00:08:12,140
the next day.

173

00:08:12,140 --> 00:08:14,180
You just went to
the organization.

174
00:08:14,180 --> 00:08:19,460
There were always people
there and always discussions.

175
00:08:19,460 --> 00:08:22,940
And then you went
to aunts and uncles.

176
00:08:22,940 --> 00:08:26,570
I, of course, did not
have any grandparents

177
00:08:26,570 --> 00:08:31,340
because they had died before
I ever got to know them.

178
00:08:31,340 --> 00:08:33,590
Mm-hmm.

179
00:08:33,590 --> 00:08:35,900
So a close, tight-knit family.

180
00:08:35,900 --> 00:08:37,669
Yes, yes.

181
00:08:37,669 --> 00:08:38,630
That's nice.

182
00:08:38,630 --> 00:08:43,760
Everybody had a close tight
knit family in Poland.

183
00:08:43,760 --> 00:08:44,750
Really.

184
00:08:44,750 --> 00:08:47,060
Had large families.

185

00:08:47,060 --> 00:08:54,140
My mother had five sisters, and
each one of them had families.

186
00:08:54,140 --> 00:08:58,670
And we were very
friendly with them.

187
00:08:58,670 --> 00:09:00,320
We went to visit.

188
00:09:00,320 --> 00:09:01,920
They came to us.

189
00:09:01,920 --> 00:09:04,560
And it was a very
interesting life.

190
00:09:04,560 --> 00:09:08,085
A very nice, easy thinking life.

191
00:09:08,085 --> 00:09:08,585
Mm-hmm.

192
00:09:08,585 --> 00:09:11,120

193
00:09:11,120 --> 00:09:14,270
To make a living,
it was very hard.

194
00:09:14,270 --> 00:09:18,080
But still, the
week went through,

195
00:09:18,080 --> 00:09:25,115
and we came through and made
a fairly hard but good living.

196
00:09:25,115 --> 00:09:25,790
Mm-hmm.

197

00:09:25,790 --> 00:09:28,850
And did all the children in
your family attend gymnasium?

198
00:09:28,850 --> 00:09:30,200

199
00:09:30,200 --> 00:09:35,570
Just Leon and I. The other
ones would have, too,

200
00:09:35,570 --> 00:09:38,030
but they were two young kids.

201
00:09:38,030 --> 00:09:40,040
And a gymnasium was a private.

202
00:09:40,040 --> 00:09:40,700
Yes.

203
00:09:40,700 --> 00:09:43,370
So that have had to cost
quite a bit of money.

204
00:09:43,370 --> 00:09:45,840
Yes Yes.

205
00:09:45,840 --> 00:09:46,340
OK.

206
00:09:46,340 --> 00:09:48,740
So did you graduate gymnasium?

207
00:09:48,740 --> 00:09:50,460
No, I couldn't graduate.

208
00:09:50,460 --> 00:09:50,960
Uh-huh.

209
00:09:50,960 --> 00:09:52,070
No.

210

00:09:52,070 --> 00:09:55,445

The war broke out,
and it was chaos.

211

00:09:55,445 --> 00:09:59,480

212

00:09:59,480 --> 00:10:02,790

What year were you in
when this was happening?

213

00:10:02,790 --> 00:10:04,230

Were you about to finish?

214

00:10:04,230 --> 00:10:05,910

Yes, about to finish.

215

00:10:05,910 --> 00:10:06,750

Mm-hmm.

216

00:10:06,750 --> 00:10:07,650

About to finish.

217

00:10:07,650 --> 00:10:09,750

18.

218

00:10:09,750 --> 00:10:12,490

About to finish, but
nobody thought of it.

219

00:10:12,490 --> 00:10:15,450

We just thought what to do.

220

00:10:15,450 --> 00:10:19,440

All of a sudden,
we heard bombing.

221

00:10:19,440 --> 00:10:27,360

And we concentrated in
cellars and basements.

222

00:10:27,360 --> 00:10:30,090
And people were going--

223
00:10:30,090 --> 00:10:31,870
people didn't know what to do.

224
00:10:31,870 --> 00:10:37,590
They were going to children,
and children went to parents,

225
00:10:37,590 --> 00:10:41,160
and there was a great chaos.

226
00:10:41,160 --> 00:10:42,840
Mm-hmm.

227
00:10:42,840 --> 00:10:49,590
And then because the Nazis
came in just a few days

228
00:10:49,590 --> 00:10:51,540
after they invaded Poland.

229
00:10:51,540 --> 00:10:56,040
They invaded Poland in
1939, the 1st of September.

230
00:10:56,040 --> 00:11:00,240
And to us, they came in the
7th or the 8th of September.

231
00:11:00,240 --> 00:11:02,700
And right away
when they came in,

232
00:11:02,700 --> 00:11:08,430
we knew that they were there,
and they rounded up Jews

233
00:11:08,430 --> 00:11:15,000
right away, and they did their
job right away as they came in.

234

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:17,800

It was a Friday and a Saturday.

235

00:11:17,800 --> 00:11:25,380

They went to the synagogues,
and as the Jews came out

236

00:11:25,380 --> 00:11:29,640

from the synagogues, they made
them take out their tallithim

237

00:11:29,640 --> 00:11:33,420

and clean their vehicles.

238

00:11:33,420 --> 00:11:39,690

And they were beaten
and kicked, and--

239

00:11:39,690 --> 00:11:40,380

Where were you?

240

00:11:40,380 --> 00:11:42,270

Were you hiding at this time?

241

00:11:42,270 --> 00:11:45,150

We were at home.

242

00:11:45,150 --> 00:11:46,440

Mm-hmm.

243

00:11:46,440 --> 00:11:48,420

We didn't know what to do.

244

00:11:48,420 --> 00:11:54,780

And the Polish officers that
were still there, some of them.

245

00:11:54,780 --> 00:11:58,410

And we asked them, what should
we do out there on the street?

246

00:11:58,410 --> 00:12:01,680
And they said, sit at home.

247
00:12:01,680 --> 00:12:03,450
Sit at home.

248
00:12:03,450 --> 00:12:05,340
But they escaped.

249
00:12:05,340 --> 00:12:07,380
And then we went home.

250
00:12:07,380 --> 00:12:15,280
And then in a few
days, they caught--

251
00:12:15,280 --> 00:12:16,800
we couldn't go out.

252
00:12:16,800 --> 00:12:18,480
We were afraid to go out.

253
00:12:18,480 --> 00:12:23,520
Everybody was caught on the
street and sent away for work.

254
00:12:23,520 --> 00:12:26,710
Some of them never
returned home.

255
00:12:26,710 --> 00:12:30,030
Some of them were beaten,
and when they came home,

256
00:12:30,030 --> 00:12:36,070
they were beyond recognition,
bleeding from the nose, eyes.

257
00:12:36,070 --> 00:12:39,080
And we knew there is--

258
00:12:39,080 --> 00:12:42,510

259

00:12:42,510 --> 00:12:46,680
that Hitler came in
to carry out what he

260

00:12:46,680 --> 00:12:48,465
was preaching all these years.

261

00:12:48,465 --> 00:12:51,230

262

00:12:51,230 --> 00:12:56,030
And we were in our
homes for a few months.

263

00:12:56,030 --> 00:13:01,920
It was from September till
about December or January.

264

00:13:01,920 --> 00:13:10,760
And we had laws every day on
the walls, posters on the walls.

265

00:13:10,760 --> 00:13:16,730
We couldn't ride the
street cars anymore.

266

00:13:16,730 --> 00:13:20,330
And the Jews shouldn't
walk on the sidewalks.

267

00:13:20,330 --> 00:13:31,400
Should walk in the center
where the buses are running.

268

00:13:31,400 --> 00:13:33,500
We couldn't walk
on the sideways.

269

00:13:33,500 --> 00:13:35,600
And another law we had--

270

00:13:35,600 --> 00:13:40,520

Jews had to tip their hats if
they saw a Nazi passing by.

271

00:13:40,520 --> 00:13:44,330

And there were shootings
in the streets,

272

00:13:44,330 --> 00:13:48,560

the Nazis were they are and
they saw a Jew passing by.

273

00:13:48,560 --> 00:13:50,240

They could shoot him.

274

00:13:50,240 --> 00:13:53,720

And it was a big chaos.

275

00:13:53,720 --> 00:13:55,600

Did you ever witness
any of these shootings?

276

00:13:55,600 --> 00:13:56,390

Yes.

277

00:13:56,390 --> 00:13:57,770

Everybody did.

278

00:13:57,770 --> 00:14:00,500

Everybody did.

279

00:14:00,500 --> 00:14:04,940

We hardly could go
out to buy any food.

280

00:14:04,940 --> 00:14:07,490

There was no food for us.

281

00:14:07,490 --> 00:14:13,070

The Jewish stores were closed
because they were afraid,

282

00:14:13,070 --> 00:14:16,340

and they couldn't
get any merchandise.

283

00:14:16,340 --> 00:14:20,660

So there was already a hunger.

284

00:14:20,660 --> 00:14:24,050

We couldn't go and buy food.

285

00:14:24,050 --> 00:14:28,410

And then there was,
in a few weeks,

286

00:14:28,410 --> 00:14:32,900

they put posters that we
will have to go to a ghetto.

287

00:14:32,900 --> 00:14:35,710

Leave our homes.

288

00:14:35,710 --> 00:14:44,540

And also, we had to wear
the Jewish star in the front

289

00:14:44,540 --> 00:14:48,200

and in the back, and whoever
will go on the street

290

00:14:48,200 --> 00:14:51,620

without it will be
punished by death.

291

00:14:51,620 --> 00:14:56,120

Everything was
punished by death.

292

00:14:56,120 --> 00:15:02,190

And then in, maybe in January,
we went to the ghetto.

293

00:15:02,190 --> 00:15:07,450

But in street by street,
section by section,

294
00:15:07,450 --> 00:15:08,990
we went to the ghetto.

295
00:15:08,990 --> 00:15:13,660
We could only take
just what you saw.

296
00:15:13,660 --> 00:15:20,140
Just a few blankets, a few
pots, a few pans/ and we were

297
00:15:20,140 --> 00:15:21,390
assigned to a ghetto.

298
00:15:21,390 --> 00:15:26,840
But it was about five or six
kilometers away from the city.

299
00:15:26,840 --> 00:15:29,870
It was very slummy there.

300
00:15:29,870 --> 00:15:31,670
Shacks.

301
00:15:31,670 --> 00:15:33,980
None of us ever got there.

302
00:15:33,980 --> 00:15:36,830
None of us ever was there.

303
00:15:36,830 --> 00:15:43,580
It was a section that none
of the Jews ever went there.

304
00:15:43,580 --> 00:15:47,600
And there were broken
windows and broken doors.

305
00:15:47,600 --> 00:15:51,620

And we were assigned
for our six people

306
00:15:51,620 --> 00:15:53,450
a very small, little room.

307
00:15:53,450 --> 00:15:55,710
Maybe 12 by 16.

308
00:15:55,710 --> 00:15:58,370
We had to push ourselves in.

309
00:15:58,370 --> 00:16:02,930
We went several times to bring
a bed to bring everything.

310
00:16:02,930 --> 00:16:09,110
And then, all of a sudden,
there was a law in a poster

311
00:16:09,110 --> 00:16:11,330
that the ghetto will be closed.

312
00:16:11,330 --> 00:16:15,560
Anybody will be met
outside of the ghetto.

313
00:16:15,560 --> 00:16:16,880
And not anybody.

314
00:16:16,880 --> 00:16:20,370
Any Jew will be shot to death.

315
00:16:20,370 --> 00:16:23,870
And so it happened to a lot
of people, a lot of Jews

316
00:16:23,870 --> 00:16:27,260
were shot because they wanted
to go back to their homes

317
00:16:27,260 --> 00:16:30,950

to bring some more
things, and they never

318
00:16:30,950 --> 00:16:32,670
came back to the ghetto.

319
00:16:32,670 --> 00:16:35,780
So they put around
a fence, the ghetto.

320
00:16:35,780 --> 00:16:41,270
And there were guards outside
the ghetto every 50 meters

321
00:16:41,270 --> 00:16:44,180
with weapons, with guns.

322
00:16:44,180 --> 00:16:47,660
And the ghetto was in progress.

323
00:16:47,660 --> 00:16:51,140
The ghetto was there.

324
00:16:51,140 --> 00:16:54,470
And there, we did not get food.

325
00:16:54,470 --> 00:16:58,790
Every 10 days, we got a ration.

326
00:16:58,790 --> 00:17:03,020
And, you know, coupons.

327
00:17:03,020 --> 00:17:09,380
You got a piece,
a wedge of bread.

328
00:17:09,380 --> 00:17:11,510
We got two, three potatoes.

329
00:17:11,510 --> 00:17:13,010
Go a little sugar.

330

00:17:13,010 --> 00:17:16,190

A little oil, black oil.

331

00:17:16,190 --> 00:17:20,599

And a little salt, and
maybe a little vegetables.

332

00:17:20,599 --> 00:17:25,550

But this was to be
for m for 10 days.

333

00:17:25,550 --> 00:17:28,550

And people ate
the piece of bread

334

00:17:28,550 --> 00:17:31,280

up right when they got it.

335

00:17:31,280 --> 00:17:36,380

And naturally, a great
percentage of starvation.

336

00:17:36,380 --> 00:17:38,240

People were dying.

337

00:17:38,240 --> 00:17:40,250

Dying from hunger.

338

00:17:40,250 --> 00:17:46,450

People were swelling
up to their ankles.

339

00:17:46,450 --> 00:17:51,040

And overnight, the
swelling went off.

340

00:17:51,040 --> 00:17:53,890

But then the next
day, it was again,

341

00:17:53,890 --> 00:17:56,320

the swelling came up again.

342
00:17:56,320 --> 00:18:01,990
And the swelling went to the
knees, and then to the heart,

343
00:18:01,990 --> 00:18:03,430
and people died.

344
00:18:03,430 --> 00:18:05,950
My father was sick of this.

345
00:18:05,950 --> 00:18:09,460
This, you called
the ghetto sickness.

346
00:18:09,460 --> 00:18:13,580
And people naturally
had to go to bed.

347
00:18:13,580 --> 00:18:15,970
So because they
couldn't walk, they

348
00:18:15,970 --> 00:18:21,370
had swollen feet and
water bags under the eyes.

349
00:18:21,370 --> 00:18:25,000
And my father was in
bed and couldn't get up.

350
00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:28,970
And my father was
about 6-foot 2".

351
00:18:28,970 --> 00:18:33,040
A healthy man of 52 years old.

352
00:18:33,040 --> 00:18:36,670
And he was never sick
a day in his life.

353

00:18:36,670 --> 00:18:41,500
He laid in bed until this
sickness advanced to his heart,

354
00:18:41,500 --> 00:18:43,270
and he died.

355
00:18:43,270 --> 00:18:47,380
How long-- after how much time
in the ghetto did this happen?

356
00:18:47,380 --> 00:18:49,100
This was in 1942.

357
00:18:49,100 --> 00:18:50,000
Mm-hmm.

358
00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:52,090
So you had been for three years.

359
00:18:52,090 --> 00:18:53,530
Yes.

360
00:18:53,530 --> 00:18:57,120
He died at the age of 52.

361
00:18:57,120 --> 00:19:01,110
What did you do in the
ghetto all day long?

362
00:19:01,110 --> 00:19:02,040
We worked.

363
00:19:02,040 --> 00:19:09,090
The established
factories, and we worked

364
00:19:09,090 --> 00:19:13,820
for the German government.

365
00:19:13,820 --> 00:19:23,460
This was the biggest

centrum of factories.

366

00:19:23,460 --> 00:19:26,340

There were shoe factories.

367

00:19:26,340 --> 00:19:27,330

Clothing.

368

00:19:27,330 --> 00:19:28,950

A lot of clothing factories.

369

00:19:28,950 --> 00:19:32,850

I was working in a
clothing factory.

370

00:19:32,850 --> 00:19:34,620

Women's apparel.

371

00:19:34,620 --> 00:19:35,760

What was your exact job?

372

00:19:35,760 --> 00:19:37,240

Do you remember?

373

00:19:37,240 --> 00:19:38,130

Yes.

374

00:19:38,130 --> 00:19:42,300

I was sewing at the
machine, on a machine.

375

00:19:42,300 --> 00:19:43,110

Sewing.

376

00:19:43,110 --> 00:19:45,870

There were cutters,
and there were--

377

00:19:45,870 --> 00:19:49,380

it was like just like in
a regular, big factory.

378
00:19:49,380 --> 00:19:51,910
Mm-hmm.

379
00:19:51,910 --> 00:19:57,580
And we got the soup at lunch.

380
00:19:57,580 --> 00:20:00,290
We got the soup in the factory.

381
00:20:00,290 --> 00:20:04,360
It was water with two
little pieces of potato.

382
00:20:04,360 --> 00:20:06,740
It was almost nothing.

383
00:20:06,740 --> 00:20:12,070
We were sitting there working
with our empty stomachs,

384
00:20:12,070 --> 00:20:13,480
hungry.

385
00:20:13,480 --> 00:20:17,380
And then when we came home,
we were just sitting at home.

386
00:20:17,380 --> 00:20:22,270
We didn't have-- we couldn't
go out because there was--

387
00:20:22,270 --> 00:20:26,170
after 5 o'clock, you couldn't
go out in the ghetto.

388
00:20:26,170 --> 00:20:29,080
You had to be in the houses.

389
00:20:29,080 --> 00:20:33,060

390

00:20:33,060 --> 00:20:35,250

It was a very, very, very--

391

00:20:35,250 --> 00:20:40,140

we were in this
ghetto for four years.

392

00:20:40,140 --> 00:20:44,160

And after five,
people in the houses,

393

00:20:44,160 --> 00:20:47,430

they gathered and they
talked about politics.

394

00:20:47,430 --> 00:20:52,920

Everybody was upset.

395

00:20:52,920 --> 00:20:54,000

And they knew.

396

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:58,080

And everybody said, oh, we
are not going to survive it.

397

00:20:58,080 --> 00:21:02,390

They are going to
kill us all out.

398

00:21:02,390 --> 00:21:12,748

And then they had the
Judenrat with Rumkowski.

399

00:21:12,748 --> 00:21:13,915

Have you heard of Rumkowski?

400

00:21:13,915 --> 00:21:18,370

Yes, I was going to ask you
about the level of organization

401

00:21:18,370 --> 00:21:21,085

that went on there and if
you ever saw him or had any--

402
00:21:21,085 --> 00:21:22,540
I saw him many times.

403
00:21:22,540 --> 00:21:23,440
Uh-huh.

404
00:21:23,440 --> 00:21:27,430
I sat with him like
I'm sitting with you.

405
00:21:27,430 --> 00:21:32,170
And he was a very,
very nasty man.

406
00:21:32,170 --> 00:21:37,150
He beat people just for nothing.

407
00:21:37,150 --> 00:21:45,590
He rode around in a couch
with horses with one horse.

408
00:21:45,590 --> 00:21:47,350
Yes, one horse.

409
00:21:47,350 --> 00:21:50,260
And in the ghetto when
you walked in the street

410
00:21:50,260 --> 00:21:54,730
and you heard the
horses, the horse,

411
00:21:54,730 --> 00:21:57,760
you knew that he is in the
neighborhood somewhere,

412
00:21:57,760 --> 00:22:03,490
and everybody was hiding
because he could call anybody

413
00:22:03,490 --> 00:22:08,830

that he laid eyes on and beat
them up for just for nothing

414
00:22:08,830 --> 00:22:11,830
just because he wanted so.

415
00:22:11,830 --> 00:22:20,010
And he was like the
king in the ghetto.

416
00:22:20,010 --> 00:22:21,290
Yeah, he called himself king.

417
00:22:21,290 --> 00:22:21,790
Yes.

418
00:22:21,790 --> 00:22:23,635
Chaim Rumkowski, yeah.

419
00:22:23,635 --> 00:22:25,810
Chaim Rumkowski.

420
00:22:25,810 --> 00:22:27,970
He was assigned on the money.

421
00:22:27,970 --> 00:22:33,190
I still have a five
mark ghetto money.

422
00:22:33,190 --> 00:22:33,890
Oh, really?

423
00:22:33,890 --> 00:22:35,110
Yeah.

424
00:22:35,110 --> 00:22:41,060
I could donate it
maybe to the museum.

425
00:22:41,060 --> 00:22:42,820
I think they'd be
very interested.

426
00:22:42,820 --> 00:22:43,480
Really?

427
00:22:43,480 --> 00:22:44,140
Yes.

428
00:22:44,140 --> 00:22:46,420
I have to look for it.

429
00:22:46,420 --> 00:22:49,240

430
00:22:49,240 --> 00:22:55,240
And the families
kept on decreasing.

431
00:22:55,240 --> 00:22:58,420
He got orders every
day, or twice a week,

432
00:22:58,420 --> 00:23:05,200
or three times a week, to
surrender 5,000, 10,000 Jews.

433
00:23:05,200 --> 00:23:06,820
And he did it.

434
00:23:06,820 --> 00:23:07,790
He did it.

435
00:23:07,790 --> 00:23:14,290
He sent out notices to people
that they have to gather,

436
00:23:14,290 --> 00:23:19,510
come this and this
day to so and so.

437
00:23:19,510 --> 00:23:23,140
And people went, and
they were sent away.

438
00:23:23,140 --> 00:23:26,140
They were sent away to death.

439
00:23:26,140 --> 00:23:28,690
We knew that they went
to send away to death.

440
00:23:28,690 --> 00:23:30,040
Mm-hmm.

441
00:23:30,040 --> 00:23:31,120
Then--

442
00:23:31,120 --> 00:23:34,210
What news did you have at this
time of the camps and things?

443
00:23:34,210 --> 00:23:35,320
Did you know about?

444
00:23:35,320 --> 00:23:37,700
No, we were cut off the world.

445
00:23:37,700 --> 00:23:42,700
We did not know what's going
on, what's doing outside.

446
00:23:42,700 --> 00:23:45,070
We could not go.

447
00:23:45,070 --> 00:23:50,830
They had guards on the
outside of the ghetto,

448
00:23:50,830 --> 00:23:52,810
the outside the fence.

449
00:23:52,810 --> 00:23:55,960
And on the inside, there
were Jewish policemen.

450

00:23:55,960 --> 00:23:58,000

But the Jewish
policeman could not

451

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:01,390

go near the fence 10 meters.

452

00:24:01,390 --> 00:24:04,360

The Nazis on the other
side could do it.

453

00:24:04,360 --> 00:24:05,920

Could go near.

454

00:24:05,920 --> 00:24:11,140

And very, very often, a person
who went a little closer

455

00:24:11,140 --> 00:24:14,290

was shot to death.

456

00:24:14,290 --> 00:24:20,390

And in the ghetto, there
were, they divided--

457

00:24:20,390 --> 00:24:21,880

it was divided.

458

00:24:21,880 --> 00:24:25,960

The ghetto was divided into two
parts because in the middle,

459

00:24:25,960 --> 00:24:29,830

there was a thoroughfare
that led from the big city,

460

00:24:29,830 --> 00:24:32,380

from Lodz, to little cities.

461

00:24:32,380 --> 00:24:38,290

So they built a bridge
over this street.

462
00:24:38,290 --> 00:24:42,730
It was the same ghetto, but
they needed the thoroughfare.

463
00:24:42,730 --> 00:24:45,970
And people were walking
over the bridge.

464
00:24:45,970 --> 00:24:50,050
And sometimes,
the guard, he just

465
00:24:50,050 --> 00:24:52,420
felt like to shoot somebody.

466
00:24:52,420 --> 00:24:54,380
And plenty people fell down.

467
00:24:54,380 --> 00:24:57,190
They just picked them up and
threw them over the fence

468
00:24:57,190 --> 00:24:58,015
into the ghetto.

469
00:24:58,015 --> 00:25:01,190

470
00:25:01,190 --> 00:25:05,650
So those were non-Jews
walking over the bridge.

471
00:25:05,650 --> 00:25:06,540
Jews.

472
00:25:06,540 --> 00:25:07,210
They were Jews.

473
00:25:07,210 --> 00:25:08,085
They were inside.

474

00:25:08,085 --> 00:25:08,710

They were Jews.

475

00:25:08,710 --> 00:25:09,880

Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

476

00:25:09,880 --> 00:25:11,030

Ghetto inhabitants.

477

00:25:11,030 --> 00:25:11,530

Right.

478

00:25:11,530 --> 00:25:12,170

Yes.

479

00:25:12,170 --> 00:25:15,040

Now, there was a street car that went through the ghetto, right?

480

00:25:15,040 --> 00:25:15,920

Is that correct?

481

00:25:15,920 --> 00:25:20,700

It was through this thoroughfare that I'm telling you about it.

482

00:25:20,700 --> 00:25:21,200

Right.

483

00:25:21,200 --> 00:25:22,630

But they couldn't get off.

484

00:25:22,630 --> 00:25:23,520

Oh, no.

485

00:25:23,520 --> 00:25:24,580

No, no, no.

486

00:25:24,580 --> 00:25:26,080

Were the windows blocked up, or--

487
00:25:26,080 --> 00:25:26,770
Yes.

488
00:25:26,770 --> 00:25:27,270
Yes.

489
00:25:27,270 --> 00:25:29,950

490
00:25:29,950 --> 00:25:31,960
And how about news
of other ghettos?

491
00:25:31,960 --> 00:25:34,580
Did you know about Warsaw
and things like that?

492
00:25:34,580 --> 00:25:35,980
Little rumors.

493
00:25:35,980 --> 00:25:41,170
There were people
who had radios.

494
00:25:41,170 --> 00:25:44,620
People, special people
who built radios.

495
00:25:44,620 --> 00:25:50,080
But this was-- the
government should know.

496
00:25:50,080 --> 00:25:51,470
It was hidden.

497
00:25:51,470 --> 00:25:51,970
Right.

498
00:25:51,970 --> 00:25:56,740
But then they caught them,
and they shot them to death.

499

00:25:56,740 --> 00:25:59,920

We did not have
any communication

500

00:25:59,920 --> 00:26:03,400

with the outside
world whatsoever.

501

00:26:03,400 --> 00:26:10,960

And then they wanted to
liquidate the ghetto,

502

00:26:10,960 --> 00:26:14,040

and they stopped
giving the rations.

503

00:26:14,040 --> 00:26:16,110

There was chaos.

504

00:26:16,110 --> 00:26:19,090

We didn't get any
coupons for food anymore.

505

00:26:19,090 --> 00:26:21,750

There was no food at all.

506

00:26:21,750 --> 00:26:23,380

This was in '42 or '43?

507

00:26:23,380 --> 00:26:24,120

'44.

508

00:26:24,120 --> 00:26:25,470

Oh, already in '44.

509

00:26:25,470 --> 00:26:25,980

Yes.

510

00:26:25,980 --> 00:26:27,870

I see.

511

00:26:27,870 --> 00:26:30,360

Because they wanted--

512

00:26:30,360 --> 00:26:38,760

Himmler was calling-- they knew
that they are losing the war,

513

00:26:38,760 --> 00:26:42,690

so they wanted to get
rid of the Jews before.

514

00:26:42,690 --> 00:26:45,660

And Himmler was calling
to get rid of the Jews,

515

00:26:45,660 --> 00:26:47,010

get rid of the Jews.

516

00:26:47,010 --> 00:26:50,610

So they went on their own,
the Nazis in the ghetto.

517

00:26:50,610 --> 00:26:54,570

They just did what they
wanted to get rid of the Jews.

518

00:26:54,570 --> 00:27:02,670

And there wasn't one family
that people were not missing.

519

00:27:02,670 --> 00:27:05,040

They were missing, and
there were dead people

520

00:27:05,040 --> 00:27:08,580

lying all over the ghetto.

521

00:27:08,580 --> 00:27:11,280

And just people had to--

522

00:27:11,280 --> 00:27:13,440

and there was Biewbow.

523
00:27:13,440 --> 00:27:14,580
Have you heard of Biebow?

524
00:27:14,580 --> 00:27:21,430
He was the leader, the
Nazi leader of the ghetto.

525
00:27:21,430 --> 00:27:25,410
He was hanged after the war.

526
00:27:25,410 --> 00:27:32,880
He said, if we would go
to the train station,

527
00:27:32,880 --> 00:27:34,860
because people were hiding.

528
00:27:34,860 --> 00:27:38,820
People by hiding on the attics.

529
00:27:38,820 --> 00:27:41,370
People were hiding in basements.

530
00:27:41,370 --> 00:27:47,070
And they were going around
with hatchets and opening doors

531
00:27:47,070 --> 00:27:52,620
and hacking open doors
and taking people out.

532
00:27:52,620 --> 00:27:53,860
We were hiding, too.

533
00:27:53,860 --> 00:27:57,690
We lived in the Little
shack where there was

534
00:27:57,690 --> 00:28:00,930
an attic on top with a ladder.

535

00:28:00,930 --> 00:28:03,960

We went up the ladder
and pulled the ladder up

536

00:28:03,960 --> 00:28:08,130

and put the trap door
down and were there

537

00:28:08,130 --> 00:28:11,940

all day long without
food, without drinking,

538

00:28:11,940 --> 00:28:13,590

without anything.

539

00:28:13,590 --> 00:28:15,540

And there were cracks.

540

00:28:15,540 --> 00:28:16,920

It was an old shack.

541

00:28:16,920 --> 00:28:21,960

And we saw the Nazis going
outside with hatchets

542

00:28:21,960 --> 00:28:27,330

and looking for
people, for Jews.

543

00:28:27,330 --> 00:28:30,910

And at night, 5 o'clock--

544

00:28:30,910 --> 00:28:34,330

I keep looking just to see
if the tape is running.

545

00:28:34,330 --> 00:28:35,580

I'm sorry, you can keep going.

546

00:28:35,580 --> 00:28:38,520

5 o'clock, we could go down.

547

00:28:38,520 --> 00:28:44,290

They went home, so we
were free to go into--

548

00:28:44,290 --> 00:28:48,340

one time, there
was this woman who

549

00:28:48,340 --> 00:28:52,900

went up with us in the attic.

550

00:28:52,900 --> 00:28:58,420

And it was maybe five minutes
to five she went down.

551

00:28:58,420 --> 00:29:00,100

It was a little early.

552

00:29:00,100 --> 00:29:02,560

And she was caught on
the street because it

553

00:29:02,560 --> 00:29:04,150

wasn't five o'clock yet.

554

00:29:04,150 --> 00:29:05,680

And she was running.

555

00:29:05,680 --> 00:29:08,920

And the Nazi was chasing her.

556

00:29:08,920 --> 00:29:10,450

And where did she go?

557

00:29:10,450 --> 00:29:13,300

To the place where
the ladder was.

558

00:29:13,300 --> 00:29:17,560

And he saw a ladder that was--

559

00:29:17,560 --> 00:29:19,990
he knew that there
are people up there.

560
00:29:19,990 --> 00:29:27,770
And all of a sudden, we saw
a head of a Nazi soldier.

561
00:29:27,770 --> 00:29:30,620
And there were elderly people.

562
00:29:30,620 --> 00:29:35,240
And my brother, my youngest
brother, my older brother

563
00:29:35,240 --> 00:29:37,310
Leon, and Sarah--

564
00:29:37,310 --> 00:29:39,720
they weren't there anymore.

565
00:29:39,720 --> 00:29:41,930
We didn't know where they went.

566
00:29:41,930 --> 00:29:46,750
I mean, we didn't know--

567
00:29:46,750 --> 00:29:49,740
they were in the camps, but
we didn't know what happened.

568
00:29:49,740 --> 00:29:53,950
We found out after the war.

569
00:29:53,950 --> 00:29:55,700
Would they had been
picked off the street?

570
00:29:55,700 --> 00:29:58,220
Yes, yes.

571
00:29:58,220 --> 00:30:01,610

So my brother Henry,
when this Nazi came up,

572
00:30:01,610 --> 00:30:05,660
my brother Henry went to the--

573
00:30:05,660 --> 00:30:13,010
he knocked out the wall, because
there were wooden boards.

574
00:30:13,010 --> 00:30:19,100
He knocked it out and jumped
to the neighboring house.

575
00:30:19,100 --> 00:30:21,800
Me, they had me
on here like this.

576
00:30:21,800 --> 00:30:24,710
And I was pulling myself out.

577
00:30:24,710 --> 00:30:28,070
He had a piece of my
dress in his hand.

578
00:30:28,070 --> 00:30:29,240
And I was running.

579
00:30:29,240 --> 00:30:30,600
I was bleeding.

580
00:30:30,600 --> 00:30:34,460
I was scratching myself
bleeding from here and all over.

581
00:30:34,460 --> 00:30:36,050
And they were chasing me.

582
00:30:36,050 --> 00:30:40,070
And somehow, I escaped them.

583
00:30:40,070 --> 00:30:42,860

584

00:30:42,860 --> 00:30:45,590

Because they were
sending people away.

585

00:30:45,590 --> 00:30:48,530

They were sending
them to Chelmno.

586

00:30:48,530 --> 00:30:49,940

Have you heard of Chelmno?

587

00:30:49,940 --> 00:30:50,000

Mm-hmm.

588

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:50,720

The death camp.

589

00:30:50,720 --> 00:30:51,980

Yes.

590

00:30:51,980 --> 00:30:54,200

There, the people
were shot to death.

591

00:30:54,200 --> 00:30:57,920

592

00:30:57,920 --> 00:31:05,540

So this was a few days before
the liquidation of the ghetto.

593

00:31:05,540 --> 00:31:11,170

And then in about
a week or so, they

594

00:31:11,170 --> 00:31:19,370

went around and were shooting
in the air to scare the people.

595

00:31:19,370 --> 00:31:24,580

So the next day, we went
to the train station.

596
00:31:24,580 --> 00:31:28,960
My brother Henry, my
mother, and I. And we

597
00:31:28,960 --> 00:31:32,510
were put into a cattle wagon.

598
00:31:32,510 --> 00:31:38,360
And when we heard the heavy
hardware closing outside,

599
00:31:38,360 --> 00:31:43,080
we were pushed in
full, full to capacity.

600
00:31:43,080 --> 00:31:49,840
And we were driving
about a day and a night.

601
00:31:49,840 --> 00:31:54,120
We came to Auschwitz at night.

602
00:31:54,120 --> 00:31:57,560
And the doors opened.

603
00:31:57,560 --> 00:32:00,920
In the wagons, there were cries.

604
00:32:00,920 --> 00:32:02,450
We had no water.

605
00:32:02,450 --> 00:32:03,650
No food.

606
00:32:03,650 --> 00:32:04,920
Nothing.

607
00:32:04,920 --> 00:32:08,600
We came to Auschwitz,

and the doors opened,

608

00:32:08,600 --> 00:32:12,590

and there were the
Nazis waiting for us.

609

00:32:12,590 --> 00:32:15,500

And they were screaming,
everybody out.

610

00:32:15,500 --> 00:32:17,840

Alle raus!

611

00:32:17,840 --> 00:32:20,780

My mother was very weak.

612

00:32:20,780 --> 00:32:23,690

My brother Henry was a young--

613

00:32:23,690 --> 00:32:26,000

like a child.

614

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:27,990

He was sick in the ghetto.

615

00:32:27,990 --> 00:32:31,370

He was hemorrhaging
in the ghetto

616

00:32:31,370 --> 00:32:34,170

because he didn't have food.

617

00:32:34,170 --> 00:32:36,740

So we were separated,
women from men.

618

00:32:36,740 --> 00:32:39,020

And they separated
him right away.

619

00:32:39,020 --> 00:32:42,290

So I was with my mother.

620
00:32:42,290 --> 00:32:44,960
And we were standing there.

621
00:32:44,960 --> 00:32:47,060
There were lines and lines.

622
00:32:47,060 --> 00:32:51,800
We proceeded very slowly
to the gate, to Auschwitz.

623
00:32:51,800 --> 00:32:54,830
And my mother was linked--

624
00:32:54,830 --> 00:32:56,060
hold me here.

625
00:32:56,060 --> 00:32:58,280
She held me here on my arm.

626
00:32:58,280 --> 00:33:01,610
And we came through the gate.

627
00:33:01,610 --> 00:33:05,840
There was a bunch of
Nazis standing there.

628
00:33:05,840 --> 00:33:09,230
And they had big
flashlights like this

629
00:33:09,230 --> 00:33:11,540
because it was night time.

630
00:33:11,540 --> 00:33:15,230
They looked us in the
eyes and the faces.

631
00:33:15,230 --> 00:33:17,540
And when I came,
there was Mengele.

632

00:33:17,540 --> 00:33:21,140

I didn't know it was Mengele,
but later on from the pictures,

633

00:33:21,140 --> 00:33:23,810

I knew it was him.

634

00:33:23,810 --> 00:33:27,260

And when my turn came,
they looked me over.

635

00:33:27,260 --> 00:33:29,270

They looked my mother over.

636

00:33:29,270 --> 00:33:32,360

And they talked to
my mother like this.

637

00:33:32,360 --> 00:33:33,680

Go to the left.

638

00:33:33,680 --> 00:33:36,570

I didn't know what this was.

639

00:33:36,570 --> 00:33:41,090

So now, I am only one
left of six people.

640

00:33:41,090 --> 00:33:43,400

And we were--

641

00:33:43,400 --> 00:33:45,450

I was going to the right.

642

00:33:45,450 --> 00:33:49,080

There were thousands
and thousands of girls.

643

00:33:49,080 --> 00:33:54,350

And we were standing
there like this all night.

644

00:33:54,350 --> 00:33:56,060

All night.

645

00:33:56,060 --> 00:34:00,930

And in the morning, we
were taken to showers.

646

00:34:00,930 --> 00:34:02,570

We had to disrobe.

647

00:34:02,570 --> 00:34:06,470

Take off everything
and stand there naked.

648

00:34:06,470 --> 00:34:11,600

Completely naked of hundreds
of Nazis there walking around.

649

00:34:11,600 --> 00:34:14,330

And then we had--

650

00:34:14,330 --> 00:34:16,040

What month with this?

651

00:34:16,040 --> 00:34:19,040

This was in August.

652

00:34:19,040 --> 00:34:22,400

21 of August, I told
you, the ghetto.

653

00:34:22,400 --> 00:34:25,139

We had to leave the ghetto.

654

00:34:25,139 --> 00:34:27,949

And we took showers.

655

00:34:27,949 --> 00:34:31,159

And then they shaved our hair.

656

00:34:31,159 --> 00:34:35,060

We didn't recognize each other.

657

00:34:35,060 --> 00:34:41,780

And then we got, so to
speak, we got clothes.

658

00:34:41,780 --> 00:34:43,400

They gave us a dress.

659

00:34:43,400 --> 00:34:44,719

From dead people.

660

00:34:44,719 --> 00:34:47,719

I got a big dress, a long dress.

661

00:34:47,719 --> 00:34:50,659

I could hardly walk in it.

662

00:34:50,659 --> 00:34:58,040

And then we had to run
to the barracks barefoot

663

00:34:58,040 --> 00:35:00,600

on the gravel.

664

00:35:00,600 --> 00:35:03,670

They put us in the barracks.

665

00:35:03,670 --> 00:35:10,230

There were bunk beds,
three tiers, with all wood.

666

00:35:10,230 --> 00:35:13,890

Plenty of splinters.

667

00:35:13,890 --> 00:35:17,510

14 girls in one bunk bed.

668

00:35:17,510 --> 00:35:20,190

At night, we couldn't
sleep at night.

669

00:35:20,190 --> 00:35:22,610
Some of them were about to die.

670

00:35:22,610 --> 00:35:24,920
Some of them died
in the morning.

671

00:35:24,920 --> 00:35:28,340
They never woke up.

672

00:35:28,340 --> 00:35:30,320
We didn't get food yet.

673

00:35:30,320 --> 00:35:31,520
We didn't get food.

674

00:35:31,520 --> 00:35:32,825
We didn't get anything.

675

00:35:32,825 --> 00:35:35,520

676

00:35:35,520 --> 00:35:38,240
And I was sick.

677

00:35:38,240 --> 00:35:39,800
I came with a fever.

678

00:35:39,800 --> 00:35:42,050
I was sick in the ghetto.

679

00:35:42,050 --> 00:35:44,120
I came sick.

680

00:35:44,120 --> 00:35:46,100
I had temperature.

681

00:35:46,100 --> 00:35:50,510
And then, they called
out, who doesn't feel well

682

00:35:50,510 --> 00:35:53,710
and who is sick, would
go to the Revier?

683

00:35:53,710 --> 00:35:57,260
They called the sick,
the hospital, Revier.

684

00:35:57,260 --> 00:35:58,880
And I wanted to go.

685

00:35:58,880 --> 00:36:01,470
And my-- the girls
didn't let me go.

686

00:36:01,470 --> 00:36:02,990
They wouldn't let me go.

687

00:36:02,990 --> 00:36:08,210

688

00:36:08,210 --> 00:36:14,660
So we were several days in
this atmosphere in Auschwitz.

689

00:36:14,660 --> 00:36:21,280
And then transports came on
coming and coming and coming,

690

00:36:21,280 --> 00:36:25,130
and they didn't have a place
for us in the barracks.

691

00:36:25,130 --> 00:36:30,040
So they put us out one day in
the field, a big, big field,

692

00:36:30,040 --> 00:36:31,030
naked.

693

00:36:31,030 --> 00:36:34,480
We were sitting there

all day and all night

694
00:36:34,480 --> 00:36:38,260
and we were waiting till the
next morning to be gassed.

695
00:36:38,260 --> 00:36:41,530
To go into the crematorium.

696
00:36:41,530 --> 00:36:44,750
And the Nazi women-- there
were Nazi women, too.

697
00:36:44,750 --> 00:36:46,180
They told us, you see?

698
00:36:46,180 --> 00:36:50,470
Tomorrow morning, you'll be
going out with this smoke.

699
00:36:50,470 --> 00:36:52,450
And we saw the smoke coming out.

700
00:36:52,450 --> 00:36:58,240
The ovens were working day and
night, three, four shifts, day

701
00:36:58,240 --> 00:36:59,110
and night.

702
00:36:59,110 --> 00:37:04,940
And we were supposed to go into
the ovens the next morning.

703
00:37:04,940 --> 00:37:11,410
So the next morning,
a miracle happened.

704
00:37:11,410 --> 00:37:15,340
Somebody, a Nazi from Bremen--

705
00:37:15,340 --> 00:37:19,810

there was a hard
labor camp in Bremen.

706
00:37:19,810 --> 00:37:23,180
They had an order
that came from Berlin.

707
00:37:23,180 --> 00:37:26,740
I had the archives that says it.

708
00:37:26,740 --> 00:37:28,870
I will show it to you later.

709
00:37:28,870 --> 00:37:33,040
And came from Berlin that
they needed 300 girls,

710
00:37:33,040 --> 00:37:37,510
and they should go to
Auschwitz to take 300 girls.

711
00:37:37,510 --> 00:37:41,860
So this guy came to Auschwitz
and wanted 300 girls,

712
00:37:41,860 --> 00:37:45,890
and they took 700 to select.

713
00:37:45,890 --> 00:37:49,420
You know, a little scratch,
a little pimple or a little--

714
00:37:49,420 --> 00:37:50,170
they didn't take.

715
00:37:50,170 --> 00:37:51,770
They went to the ovens.

716
00:37:51,770 --> 00:37:56,200
I was between 300,
and we went to Bremen.

717

00:37:56,200 --> 00:38:00,830
Also in a cattle wagon.

718
00:38:00,830 --> 00:38:02,050
And--

719
00:38:02,050 --> 00:38:03,670
They gave you clothes?

720
00:38:03,670 --> 00:38:05,560
Just one layer.

721
00:38:05,560 --> 00:38:06,460
Just one layer.

722
00:38:06,460 --> 00:38:06,960
Barefoot.

723
00:38:06,960 --> 00:38:09,820

724
00:38:09,820 --> 00:38:11,590
And we came to Bremen.

725
00:38:11,590 --> 00:38:15,010
Bremen was a city all in rubble.

726
00:38:15,010 --> 00:38:21,430
And we came there to clean
up the city, to dig ditches,

727
00:38:21,430 --> 00:38:27,640
to being beaten every
day, because the Nazis

728
00:38:27,640 --> 00:38:33,250
wanted us to select the
bricks and the stones to put--

729
00:38:33,250 --> 00:38:37,150
to select it because
they needed this material

730
00:38:37,150 --> 00:38:42,670
to build temporary houses
for the bombed-out Germans.

731
00:38:42,670 --> 00:38:45,070
So we were working at this.

732
00:38:45,070 --> 00:38:50,020
We were working there
for nine months.

733
00:38:50,020 --> 00:38:54,250
Also, without food, a
little water with soup,

734
00:38:54,250 --> 00:38:56,080
and being beaten.

735
00:38:56,080 --> 00:38:59,350
And plenty of our
girls died there.

736
00:38:59,350 --> 00:39:01,350
Where did you
sleep at this time?

737
00:39:01,350 --> 00:39:03,170
We had bunk beds.

738
00:39:03,170 --> 00:39:04,495
Two-in-one bunk bed.

739
00:39:04,495 --> 00:39:07,240

740
00:39:07,240 --> 00:39:10,030
And we were there
about nine months.

741
00:39:10,030 --> 00:39:10,570
And--

742
00:39:10,570 --> 00:39:12,820
Until July '45?

743
00:39:12,820 --> 00:39:13,450
No.

744
00:39:13,450 --> 00:39:15,370
Until, like, April.

745
00:39:15,370 --> 00:39:15,910
OK.

746
00:39:15,910 --> 00:39:17,660
We came in August.

747
00:39:17,660 --> 00:39:18,160
OK.

748
00:39:18,160 --> 00:39:19,450
The last of August.

749
00:39:19,450 --> 00:39:20,080
Mm-hmm.

750
00:39:20,080 --> 00:39:25,730
Like, September, October,
November, December, January,

751
00:39:25,730 --> 00:39:28,390
February, March, April.

752
00:39:28,390 --> 00:39:30,490
About eight, nine
months we were there

753
00:39:30,490 --> 00:39:33,800
under those circumstances.

754
00:39:33,800 --> 00:39:40,870
And then there was

an order from Himmler

755
00:39:40,870 --> 00:39:46,570
that the camp has
to be evacuated.

756
00:39:46,570 --> 00:39:48,430
And they evacuated us.

757
00:39:48,430 --> 00:39:53,680
We went to the east
because the Allied forces

758
00:39:53,680 --> 00:39:56,710
were coming from the west.

759
00:39:56,710 --> 00:39:59,270
And we didn't know
what was happening.

760
00:39:59,270 --> 00:40:01,340
We did not know anything.

761
00:40:01,340 --> 00:40:05,380
So they took us into the east.

762
00:40:05,380 --> 00:40:07,870
We went there under--

763
00:40:07,870 --> 00:40:10,300
Germany was bombed terribly.

764
00:40:10,300 --> 00:40:13,420
We went there under
heavy bombardment.

765
00:40:13,420 --> 00:40:15,290
We went there day and night.

766
00:40:15,290 --> 00:40:21,760
The trip lasted about
two weeks on the way

767
00:40:21,760 --> 00:40:23,170
under heavy bombardment.

768
00:40:23,170 --> 00:40:26,890
We were laying in
the woods at night.

769
00:40:26,890 --> 00:40:35,350
And we saw the sky lit up
red from the bombardment.

770
00:40:35,350 --> 00:40:37,690
But under those
circumstances, we

771
00:40:37,690 --> 00:40:41,200
came to a place
named Bergen-Belsen.

772
00:40:41,200 --> 00:40:43,990
They chased us
into Bergen-Belsen.

773
00:40:43,990 --> 00:40:50,660
And when we came in there,
as the gates opened,

774
00:40:50,660 --> 00:40:55,230
the Nazis came and
pushed us into a barrack.

775
00:40:55,230 --> 00:40:57,740
It was-- we couldn't
see anything.

776
00:40:57,740 --> 00:41:01,100
We couldn't ask.

777
00:41:01,100 --> 00:41:04,790
And they were whispering
because later on, we

778
00:41:04,790 --> 00:41:08,210
found out that they were
reconnaissance planes cruising

779
00:41:08,210 --> 00:41:08,990
above.

780
00:41:08,990 --> 00:41:11,360
So they didn't want
to have any noise.

781
00:41:11,360 --> 00:41:14,840
They pushed us into a
barrack in the dark.

782
00:41:14,840 --> 00:41:16,370
It was pitch dark.

783
00:41:16,370 --> 00:41:20,270
Pushed us into the barrack
already filled with people.

784
00:41:20,270 --> 00:41:22,600
And we didn't see
there are people.

785
00:41:22,600 --> 00:41:27,730
And people were on the
floors and standing.

786
00:41:27,730 --> 00:41:32,640
When you stood up like this,
you had to stand up like this.

787
00:41:32,640 --> 00:41:35,600
There was no place to
put down the other foot.

788
00:41:35,600 --> 00:41:40,820
And there was a chaos, and
there were screams and yells,

789

00:41:40,820 --> 00:41:43,130
and they wanted us to be quiet.

790
00:41:43,130 --> 00:41:45,710
So they opened the
doors and spilled

791
00:41:45,710 --> 00:41:49,460
in several boiling water on us.

792
00:41:49,460 --> 00:41:50,240
Oh, my god.

793
00:41:50,240 --> 00:41:51,530
Boiling water.

794
00:41:51,530 --> 00:41:55,940
And we quieted down
because lots of girls

795
00:41:55,940 --> 00:41:59,510
died immediately, instantly.

796
00:41:59,510 --> 00:42:03,320
And this went on all night.

797
00:42:03,320 --> 00:42:06,140
And in the morning,
when we came out,

798
00:42:06,140 --> 00:42:12,060
outside, we saw mountains
and mountains and mountains

799
00:42:12,060 --> 00:42:15,600
and all over dead people.

800
00:42:15,600 --> 00:42:20,970
Mountains, like-- people,
young people without eyes

801
00:42:20,970 --> 00:42:25,740

already deteriorated, with pus.

802
00:42:25,740 --> 00:42:31,020
And we met some
girls there that we

803
00:42:31,020 --> 00:42:34,580
recognize from our
neighborhood that were there.

804
00:42:34,580 --> 00:42:38,250
And they told us they
were there longer than we.

805
00:42:38,250 --> 00:42:39,570
We just came.

806
00:42:39,570 --> 00:42:44,070
And they were also
sent from other camps.

807
00:42:44,070 --> 00:42:48,360
And they said, here,
this is Bergen-Belsen.

808
00:42:48,360 --> 00:42:51,840
Here, you die from the
stench of the dead people.

809
00:42:51,840 --> 00:43:01,250
Over 50,000 people laying
around in mountains.

810
00:43:01,250 --> 00:43:05,610
And we did not get any
food there, either.

811
00:43:05,610 --> 00:43:10,480
We picked up a piece of
grass and the dirty water.

812
00:43:10,480 --> 00:43:15,360
We went down on our knees

and drank like animals.

813
00:43:15,360 --> 00:43:17,250
Just like animals.

814
00:43:17,250 --> 00:43:22,540
We were taken away our dignity,
and we were just like animals.

815
00:43:22,540 --> 00:43:23,070
Can we stop?

816
00:43:23,070 --> 00:43:24,260
And I'm going to
flip the tape over.

817
00:43:24,260 --> 00:43:24,760
Yes.

818
00:43:24,760 --> 00:43:33,060

819
00:43:33,060 --> 00:43:33,560
OK.

820
00:43:33,560 --> 00:43:36,200

821
00:43:36,200 --> 00:43:40,730
We were-- we didn't
have a place to sleep.

822
00:43:40,730 --> 00:43:45,800
We didn't have a place
to be during the day.

823
00:43:45,800 --> 00:43:48,800
Then we were besieged by lice.

824
00:43:48,800 --> 00:43:50,930
We had lice from top to bottom.

825

00:43:50,930 --> 00:43:53,590

826

00:43:53,590 --> 00:43:58,840

And then in a few days, we
saw the Nazis, the women

827

00:43:58,840 --> 00:44:00,010

and the men--

828

00:44:00,010 --> 00:44:03,453

there was Kramer
was the Nazi leader.

829

00:44:03,453 --> 00:44:04,495

Have you heard of Kramer?

830

00:44:04,495 --> 00:44:05,060

Mm-hmm.

831

00:44:05,060 --> 00:44:06,760

I thought he was in Auschwitz.

832

00:44:06,760 --> 00:44:11,530

No, he was in Bergen-Belsen.

833

00:44:11,530 --> 00:44:14,020

And Irma Grese.

834

00:44:14,020 --> 00:44:16,960

She was the Nazi woman.

835

00:44:16,960 --> 00:44:27,820

And lice beseeched
us, and we couldn't--

836

00:44:27,820 --> 00:44:30,160

we knew that we were dying out.

837

00:44:30,160 --> 00:44:30,940

We knew.

838
00:44:30,940 --> 00:44:36,370
Every-- people were
walking and falling dead.

839
00:44:36,370 --> 00:44:41,890
And then one day, we saw
all the Nazis there wearing

840
00:44:41,890 --> 00:44:44,230
white bands.

841
00:44:44,230 --> 00:44:45,580
White.

842
00:44:45,580 --> 00:44:47,350
We didn't know what that means.

843
00:44:47,350 --> 00:44:52,030
But now, then, we
knew it was the white

844
00:44:52,030 --> 00:44:56,590
that they are surrendering
because the Allied forces were

845
00:44:56,590 --> 00:44:57,190
near.

846
00:44:57,190 --> 00:44:59,240
We didn't know that either.

847
00:44:59,240 --> 00:45:03,190
When we saw them
with white armbands,

848
00:45:03,190 --> 00:45:05,200
we thought that
was something else.

849
00:45:05,200 --> 00:45:08,710
They are going to dispose of us.

850
00:45:08,710 --> 00:45:10,210
They're going to shoot us.

851
00:45:10,210 --> 00:45:15,640
They're going to put mines,
and we're going to be--

852
00:45:15,640 --> 00:45:20,630
we knew that something
bad is waiting for us.

853
00:45:20,630 --> 00:45:31,190
But then they dug big
holes, big ditches

854
00:45:31,190 --> 00:45:37,250
to bury all the corpses
that were laying around.

855
00:45:37,250 --> 00:45:42,950
For this, they gave
everybody-- they brought men

856
00:45:42,950 --> 00:45:44,330
from other sections.

857
00:45:44,330 --> 00:45:46,430
We didn't know that
there were men.

858
00:45:46,430 --> 00:45:52,700
They brought men, and they gave
them pieces of rags or belts

859
00:45:52,700 --> 00:45:58,820
to go to a corpse and
tie it around and drag it

860
00:45:58,820 --> 00:46:03,820
to the ditch, to the
pit, and throw it down.

861
00:46:03,820 --> 00:46:07,460
Untie, and go for another
one, for another one.

862
00:46:07,460 --> 00:46:11,970
And as this was going
on, I became very ill.

863
00:46:11,970 --> 00:46:13,550
I was fainting.

864
00:46:13,550 --> 00:46:17,270
And I went away in
another section.

865
00:46:17,270 --> 00:46:20,060
Put myself into a ditch.

866
00:46:20,060 --> 00:46:22,520
The Germans, the
Nazis were still

867
00:46:22,520 --> 00:46:26,450
building new barracks
for the oncoming people.

868
00:46:26,450 --> 00:46:28,700
They were still building.

869
00:46:28,700 --> 00:46:35,210
And then my four girls noticed,
my four-- when we marched,

870
00:46:35,210 --> 00:46:38,030
we always marched five abreast.

871
00:46:38,030 --> 00:46:42,330
And the five girls were
very close with each other.

872
00:46:42,330 --> 00:46:45,080
And when the four noticed

that one is missing,

873

00:46:45,080 --> 00:46:47,370

they went around
to look for her.

874

00:46:47,370 --> 00:46:48,590

And I was missing.

875

00:46:48,590 --> 00:46:52,190

I put myself into a ditch,
and I wanted to die.

876

00:46:52,190 --> 00:46:56,030

I didn't want to live
anymore because I

877

00:46:56,030 --> 00:46:59,420

knew that it's no use.

878

00:46:59,420 --> 00:47:02,000

But the four girls noticed me.

879

00:47:02,000 --> 00:47:02,990

They found me.

880

00:47:02,990 --> 00:47:06,500

They pulled me out by force.

881

00:47:06,500 --> 00:47:09,470

And I run a high
temperature, too.

882

00:47:09,470 --> 00:47:12,140

That was April the 14th.

883

00:47:12,140 --> 00:47:15,170

And April the 15th,
the following day, we

884

00:47:15,170 --> 00:47:19,220

were liberated by the

British Armed Forces.

885
00:47:19,220 --> 00:47:21,440
And we did not believe it yet.

886
00:47:21,440 --> 00:47:24,890
We thought that the Nazis
are pulling a trick on us.

887
00:47:24,890 --> 00:47:30,080
But then we heard on the
microphone, "ihr seid frei!"

888
00:47:30,080 --> 00:47:32,660
it means, you are free.

889
00:47:32,660 --> 00:47:38,220
And we saw different uniforms
and different soldiers,

890
00:47:38,220 --> 00:47:41,480
and we realized
that we are free.

891
00:47:41,480 --> 00:47:44,480
And then they caught
all these Nazis.

892
00:47:44,480 --> 00:47:47,720
We saw Kramer being driven away.

893
00:47:47,720 --> 00:47:51,590
We saw all the Nazi
women being driven away

894
00:47:51,590 --> 00:47:53,600
and put in a prison.

895
00:47:53,600 --> 00:47:58,610
And we were outside
taunting them.

896

00:47:58,610 --> 00:48:08,690
But there were 13,000 girls
died after because they

897
00:48:08,690 --> 00:48:11,030
couldn't eat the food anymore.

898
00:48:11,030 --> 00:48:14,810
Their stomachs were
shrunk and sick.

899
00:48:14,810 --> 00:48:17,030
I was very ill then, too.

900
00:48:17,030 --> 00:48:18,440
Did you have typhus?

901
00:48:18,440 --> 00:48:20,780
It was the beginning
of typhus, yes.

902
00:48:20,780 --> 00:48:22,640
Mm-hmm.

903
00:48:22,640 --> 00:48:24,780
And did they put
you in a hospital?

904
00:48:24,780 --> 00:48:26,640
Yes.

905
00:48:26,640 --> 00:48:28,140
And British-- this
is all British?

906
00:48:28,140 --> 00:48:29,460
British, yes.

907
00:48:29,460 --> 00:48:30,030
British.

908
00:48:30,030 --> 00:48:30,530

Uh-huh.

909

00:48:30,530 --> 00:48:32,545

But you were able to recover?

910

00:48:32,545 --> 00:48:33,045

Yes.

911

00:48:33,045 --> 00:48:37,018

912

00:48:37,018 --> 00:48:39,060

Before-- I'd like to hear
a little bit about what

913

00:48:39,060 --> 00:48:40,870

happened directly after the war.

914

00:48:40,870 --> 00:48:44,430

But before we get to
that, can I ask you,

915

00:48:44,430 --> 00:48:49,840

are there any other specific
incidents or episodes

916

00:48:49,840 --> 00:48:54,010

that happened during the
ghetto period or your time

917

00:48:54,010 --> 00:48:58,870

in the concentration camps or
in the labor camp that stand out

918

00:48:58,870 --> 00:49:03,010

in your mind that you
didn't mention to me?

919

00:49:03,010 --> 00:49:06,730

Like, my brother,
my youngest brother,

920

00:49:06,730 --> 00:49:10,660
he hemorrhaged very
often in the ghetto

921
00:49:10,660 --> 00:49:13,900
because he didn't
have anything to eat.

922
00:49:13,900 --> 00:49:20,260
And then we heard there
were some vitamins

923
00:49:20,260 --> 00:49:22,240
came into the ghetto.

924
00:49:22,240 --> 00:49:27,200
But the vitamins were
very far, far away.

925
00:49:27,200 --> 00:49:30,950
I mean, the place where you
get them-- you could get them,

926
00:49:30,950 --> 00:49:37,030
but very far away, and you had
to go very early in the morning

927
00:49:37,030 --> 00:49:39,310
to stay in line.

928
00:49:39,310 --> 00:49:42,250
It was, like I told you, the
other part of the ghetto.

929
00:49:42,250 --> 00:49:44,680
I had to go--

930
00:49:44,680 --> 00:49:47,800
there was a bridge.

931
00:49:47,800 --> 00:49:51,670
And then a little further
on, there were gates.

932

00:49:51,670 --> 00:49:56,620

You opened this gate, and then
you were on their territory.

933

00:49:56,620 --> 00:50:00,790

And then another gate to go into
the other part of the ghetto.

934

00:50:00,790 --> 00:50:06,910

And I went three times a week 2
o'clock in the morning at night

935

00:50:06,910 --> 00:50:09,790

so I could be there 9
o'clock in the morning

936

00:50:09,790 --> 00:50:13,840

to be the second or the
third or the fourth in line,

937

00:50:13,840 --> 00:50:18,440

because then when lines
build up and people

938

00:50:18,440 --> 00:50:24,440

were fighting and pushing,
and I couldn't do that.

939

00:50:24,440 --> 00:50:28,690

So I went 2 o'clock, and I
was the third, or the fourth,

940

00:50:28,690 --> 00:50:29,800

or the second.

941

00:50:29,800 --> 00:50:30,940

Stood in line there.

942

00:50:30,940 --> 00:50:35,260

Opened 10 o'clock, and I
stood there up for hours.

943

00:50:35,260 --> 00:50:38,440

And I got a little
bottle like this

944

00:50:38,440 --> 00:50:41,860

like they gave out samples
here, sample bottles.

945

00:50:41,860 --> 00:50:43,090

Tiny, tiny.

946

00:50:43,090 --> 00:50:44,290

I got a little bottle.

947

00:50:44,290 --> 00:50:46,960

They called it Vigantol.

948

00:50:46,960 --> 00:50:51,800

It could have been some
cod liver oil or something.

949

00:50:51,800 --> 00:50:53,440

And I brought this home.

950

00:50:53,440 --> 00:50:58,550

And the danger was when
I went through the ghetto

951

00:50:58,550 --> 00:51:02,770

through the gate, I asked
the Nazi if I could go--

952

00:51:02,770 --> 00:51:04,930

I speak a good German--

953

00:51:04,930 --> 00:51:06,820

if I could go through.

954

00:51:06,820 --> 00:51:07,660

He said yes.

955

00:51:07,660 --> 00:51:11,600
He could have said yes and
then shoot me to death.

956
00:51:11,600 --> 00:51:13,840
I knew the danger.

957
00:51:13,840 --> 00:51:17,410
And then I went to the other
gate, and I had the same thing.

958
00:51:17,410 --> 00:51:19,540
And coming back, I
had the same thing.

959
00:51:19,540 --> 00:51:21,160
I knew I was in danger.

960
00:51:21,160 --> 00:51:23,380
But I did it for my brother.

961
00:51:23,380 --> 00:51:24,880
And I came back home.

962
00:51:24,880 --> 00:51:29,230
In two days, I had to go
again for the same thing,

963
00:51:29,230 --> 00:51:33,850
and then in two days, go
again for the same thing.

964
00:51:33,850 --> 00:51:36,190
Then-- this was one episode.

965
00:51:36,190 --> 00:51:42,760
Then one day when we
were cut out of rations,

966
00:51:42,760 --> 00:51:48,730
we didn't get any food
anymore, everybody had to do--

967

00:51:48,730 --> 00:51:52,840
it was a chaos in the ghetto.

968

00:51:52,840 --> 00:51:57,130
It was terrible.

969

00:51:57,130 --> 00:51:58,450
Didn't get any food.

970

00:51:58,450 --> 00:52:02,650
And where I worked,
my place of work,

971

00:52:02,650 --> 00:52:06,250
I went to the window one
time and looked down,

972

00:52:06,250 --> 00:52:09,490
and I saw potatoes
growing there.

973

00:52:09,490 --> 00:52:19,450
The potatoes were plant
by the head of the Kripo.

974

00:52:19,450 --> 00:52:21,230
That's criminal police.

975

00:52:21,230 --> 00:52:22,870
They shortened Kripo.

976

00:52:22,870 --> 00:52:25,210
His name was Sutter.

977

00:52:25,210 --> 00:52:29,740
And it was a big
field of potatoes.

978

00:52:29,740 --> 00:52:34,060
And I looked down, and I said to
myself, oh, there are potatoes.

979

00:52:34,060 --> 00:52:42,010

At night, I'm going to come
here and dig out some potatoes.

980

00:52:42,010 --> 00:52:45,850

And they were very,
very dark nights.

981

00:52:45,850 --> 00:52:48,520

It was around July.

982

00:52:48,520 --> 00:52:53,170

And I needed something
to eat for my brother.

983

00:52:53,170 --> 00:52:55,870

And also for my mother.

984

00:52:55,870 --> 00:52:57,820

And I went.

985

00:52:57,820 --> 00:52:59,300

It was very dark.

986

00:52:59,300 --> 00:53:05,140

I took a sack, and I
took a cleaver to dig.

987

00:53:05,140 --> 00:53:07,300

And I went there.

988

00:53:07,300 --> 00:53:11,140

If I would have been
caught, I wouldn't

989

00:53:11,140 --> 00:53:15,100

have been shot because this
was such a beast, this Sutter.

990

00:53:15,100 --> 00:53:18,160

He would cut me up in pieces.

991

00:53:18,160 --> 00:53:24,490

But I risked my life,
and I dug the potatoes,

992

00:53:24,490 --> 00:53:27,460

and I went and put
it in the sack.

993

00:53:27,460 --> 00:53:31,780

And I tore off the
greens, I just--

994

00:53:31,780 --> 00:53:33,220

to get the potatoes.

995

00:53:33,220 --> 00:53:35,950

And I went home about
four or five blocks.

996

00:53:35,950 --> 00:53:38,230

Took it on my shoulder.

997

00:53:38,230 --> 00:53:42,290

And we lived in the first floor.

998

00:53:42,290 --> 00:53:44,830

I opened the window
from the outside

999

00:53:44,830 --> 00:53:47,110

and dumped the potatoes in.

1000

00:53:47,110 --> 00:53:50,530

Then I looked up in the sky
and saw, it's still night.

1001

00:53:50,530 --> 00:53:52,240

It is still dark.

1002

00:53:52,240 --> 00:53:56,380

I go and take the
rest of the potatoes.

1003
00:53:56,380 --> 00:53:58,615
So I went back
and took the rest.

1004
00:53:58,615 --> 00:54:01,450

1005
00:54:01,450 --> 00:54:07,590
After the potatoes,
there were some other.

1006
00:54:07,590 --> 00:54:13,780
The green-- I forget
the name of it.

1007
00:54:13,780 --> 00:54:14,710
A root?

1008
00:54:14,710 --> 00:54:16,180
Rutabagas.

1009
00:54:16,180 --> 00:54:16,730
Oh, uh-huh.

1010
00:54:16,730 --> 00:54:17,240
Yes.

1011
00:54:17,240 --> 00:54:22,820
I took this and came
home and dumped it.

1012
00:54:22,820 --> 00:54:26,120
And this was in July.

1013
00:54:26,120 --> 00:54:27,770
The last of July.

1014
00:54:27,770 --> 00:54:29,720
And it lasted us a few days.

1015

00:54:29,720 --> 00:54:32,210
And then we had to go.

1016
00:54:32,210 --> 00:54:33,580
No, this-- yeah.

1017
00:54:33,580 --> 00:54:35,900
And then we had to
go out of the ghetto

1018
00:54:35,900 --> 00:54:40,700
and leave the potatoes
and everything anyway.

1019
00:54:40,700 --> 00:54:42,041
We went to Auschwitz.

1020
00:54:42,041 --> 00:54:42,541
Mm-hmm.

1021
00:54:42,541 --> 00:54:47,620

1022
00:54:47,620 --> 00:54:50,350
You're lucky that you
didn't get caught.

1023
00:54:50,350 --> 00:54:54,370
And then I came to
work the next morning,

1024
00:54:54,370 --> 00:54:56,320
and I looked down
the same window

1025
00:54:56,320 --> 00:54:59,470
that I looked the day
before, and I saw potatoes.

1026
00:54:59,470 --> 00:55:05,920
And I saw there were maybe 25
policemen there and looked.

1027

00:55:05,920 --> 00:55:09,370

And I was standing there
shaking like a leaf.

1028

00:55:09,370 --> 00:55:10,690

And I thought, oh.

1029

00:55:10,690 --> 00:55:14,140

They would only know that
the person that did it

1030

00:55:14,140 --> 00:55:17,410

is looking down, they
would cut me up in pieces.

1031

00:55:17,410 --> 00:55:20,320

But I had to risk my life.

1032

00:55:20,320 --> 00:55:22,405

Otherwise, we would
have died anyway.

1033

00:55:22,405 --> 00:55:24,720

Mm-hmm.

1034

00:55:24,720 --> 00:55:27,160

That's true.

1035

00:55:27,160 --> 00:55:31,110

Is it possible for you to
maybe to contrast for me?

1036

00:55:31,110 --> 00:55:33,780

Can you describe maybe
the physical surroundings

1037

00:55:33,780 --> 00:55:36,910

of your home in Lodz before
you had to move to the ghetto,

1038

00:55:36,910 --> 00:55:38,790

and then what it looked

like in the ghetto?

1039

00:55:38,790 --> 00:55:40,082

What do you mean the physical--

1040

00:55:40,082 --> 00:55:42,287

What was your house
like in Lodz before?

1041

00:55:42,287 --> 00:55:43,620

What kind of house did you have?

1042

00:55:43,620 --> 00:55:49,110

Oh, we lived in an apartment
on the second floor.

1043

00:55:49,110 --> 00:55:51,840

It was, like here, the third.

1044

00:55:51,840 --> 00:55:53,340

Mm-hmm.

1045

00:55:53,340 --> 00:55:58,860

And we had a very nice apartment
with a balcony, a corner

1046

00:55:58,860 --> 00:56:00,040

balcony.

1047

00:56:00,040 --> 00:56:01,620

It was a nice apartment.

1048

00:56:01,620 --> 00:56:04,380

As a matter of fact,
I was there last year.

1049

00:56:04,380 --> 00:56:05,100

Oh, really?

1050

00:56:05,100 --> 00:56:05,790

Yes.

1051

00:56:05,790 --> 00:56:07,320

And you went to
see this apartment?

1052

00:56:07,320 --> 00:56:10,050

Yes, I went to see
this apartment.

1053

00:56:10,050 --> 00:56:13,290

And of course, about
three or four families

1054

00:56:13,290 --> 00:56:16,260

lived there in this apartment.

1055

00:56:16,260 --> 00:56:17,480

Polish people.

1056

00:56:17,480 --> 00:56:18,660

Uh-huh.

1057

00:56:18,660 --> 00:56:24,450

I sent the guard that took
us, I sent him in first

1058

00:56:24,450 --> 00:56:28,140

to ask if we could come
in, if they were not

1059

00:56:28,140 --> 00:56:30,990

going to harm us or
something because they

1060

00:56:30,990 --> 00:56:35,550

might have thought I'd come
back to claim the apartment.

1061

00:56:35,550 --> 00:56:41,170

But they were very nice,
and they let me in.

1062

00:56:41,170 --> 00:56:47,160

And you can imagine it was
a big apartment because two

1063
00:56:47,160 --> 00:56:50,310
or three families lived there.

1064
00:56:50,310 --> 00:56:52,990
I assume it's
dilapidated by now.

1065
00:56:52,990 --> 00:56:53,490
Yeah.

1066
00:56:53,490 --> 00:56:54,150
Oh, yes.

1067
00:56:54,150 --> 00:56:55,182
It's dilapidated.

1068
00:56:55,182 --> 00:56:57,750

1069
00:56:57,750 --> 00:57:00,660
Because it was under
communist regime,

1070
00:57:00,660 --> 00:57:04,380
they didn't do anything
to renovate the building

1071
00:57:04,380 --> 00:57:06,870
or to do anything.

1072
00:57:06,870 --> 00:57:09,150
But the building I recognized.

1073
00:57:09,150 --> 00:57:10,300
It was the same.

1074
00:57:10,300 --> 00:57:17,370
There was a bus, a trolley
was going by there.

1075
00:57:17,370 --> 00:57:19,110
And there was the stop.

1076
00:57:19,110 --> 00:57:20,735
And I saw the stop.

1077
00:57:20,735 --> 00:57:22,620
Mm-hmm.

1078
00:57:22,620 --> 00:57:24,840
That must be an unusual feeling.

1079
00:57:24,840 --> 00:57:27,120
Yes.

1080
00:57:27,120 --> 00:57:29,490
And then when you
move to the ghetto,

1081
00:57:29,490 --> 00:57:31,560
then, you had this one room.

1082
00:57:31,560 --> 00:57:32,280
One room.

1083
00:57:32,280 --> 00:57:34,410
Was there any
kitchen space, or--

1084
00:57:34,410 --> 00:57:36,290
No, everything in one room.

1085
00:57:36,290 --> 00:57:37,290
Every thing in one room.

1086
00:57:37,290 --> 00:57:38,430
Was there a toilet?

1087
00:57:38,430 --> 00:57:39,510
There was no toilet.

1088
00:57:39,510 --> 00:57:41,160
It was outside somewhere.

1089
00:57:41,160 --> 00:57:42,640
Uh-huh.

1090
00:57:42,640 --> 00:57:44,650
For the whole building?

1091
00:57:44,650 --> 00:57:46,720
We just had a little shack.

1092
00:57:46,720 --> 00:57:49,360
Two neighbors lived there.

1093
00:57:49,360 --> 00:57:53,180
We and another family
across the hall there.

1094
00:57:53,180 --> 00:57:56,920
They had the same facilities.

1095
00:57:56,920 --> 00:58:00,070
For water, we had
to go with a bucket

1096
00:58:00,070 --> 00:58:04,540
about four or five blocks away
and take water from a water

1097
00:58:04,540 --> 00:58:05,410
well.

1098
00:58:05,410 --> 00:58:07,420
And there were hundreds
of people there.

1099
00:58:07,420 --> 00:58:09,250
Everybody went for water.

1100

00:58:09,250 --> 00:58:11,980
And until you got
yourself out of the crowd,

1101
00:58:11,980 --> 00:58:16,270
you had a half a
bucket of water.

1102
00:58:16,270 --> 00:58:20,470
This was our life in the ghetto.

1103
00:58:20,470 --> 00:58:24,310
I didn't have too much
of a teenage years,

1104
00:58:24,310 --> 00:58:29,380
of a teenage life,
because there was

1105
00:58:29,380 --> 00:58:37,070
a damper put on all of the
teenagers early in their lives.

1106
00:58:37,070 --> 00:58:37,570
Yeah.

1107
00:58:37,570 --> 00:58:40,210
I mean, I suppose if you
weren't allowed to gather with

1108
00:58:40,210 --> 00:58:41,800
your friends and you weren't--

1109
00:58:41,800 --> 00:58:42,310
Yes.

1110
00:58:42,310 --> 00:58:43,180
Who had time?

1111
00:58:43,180 --> 00:58:46,520
And everybody was sick
and trying to survive.

1112

00:58:46,520 --> 00:58:49,120

Yes.

1113

00:58:49,120 --> 00:58:53,800

Well, if there's not anything,
other specific incidents

1114

00:58:53,800 --> 00:58:55,270

that you'd like
to tell me about,

1115

00:58:55,270 --> 00:58:59,230

maybe you could tell me what
happened just after the war.

1116

00:58:59,230 --> 00:59:04,570

Well, after the war, we
lived in these houses.

1117

00:59:04,570 --> 00:59:06,410

It was clean.

1118

00:59:06,410 --> 00:59:08,760

We got our--

1119

00:59:08,760 --> 00:59:10,170

This was at Bergen-Belsen.

1120

00:59:10,170 --> 00:59:11,650

Yes.

1121

00:59:11,650 --> 00:59:14,920

So whose houses were before?

1122

00:59:14,920 --> 00:59:19,210

They were built for
the Nazi soldiers.

1123

00:59:19,210 --> 00:59:22,240

They were fairly new,
like town houses.

1124
00:59:22,240 --> 00:59:26,650
It was three kilometers
away from the place

1125
00:59:26,650 --> 00:59:28,420
that we were incarcerated.

1126
00:59:28,420 --> 00:59:30,460
Mm-hmm.

1127
00:59:30,460 --> 00:59:35,710
That's why they call
Bergen, dash, Belsen.

1128
00:59:35,710 --> 00:59:39,430
We had a free life.

1129
00:59:39,430 --> 00:59:40,420
We could go.

1130
00:59:40,420 --> 00:59:42,430
We could travel.

1131
00:59:42,430 --> 00:59:47,980
We could-- we went
to all around Germany

1132
00:59:47,980 --> 00:59:58,050
to look for relatives because
American organizations came

1133
00:59:58,050 --> 01:00:00,420
to register people.

1134
01:00:00,420 --> 01:00:04,530
They registered and
they put their names

1135
01:00:04,530 --> 01:00:08,640
on the wall on the outside
wherever they were located.

1136

01:00:08,640 --> 01:00:13,620
And people went through and
looked the names up, you know.

1137

01:00:13,620 --> 01:00:16,710
And I was going
there looking, too.

1138

01:00:16,710 --> 01:00:20,250
I didn't expect to
find my brother at all

1139

01:00:20,250 --> 01:00:22,260
because he went to Auschwitz.

1140

01:00:22,260 --> 01:00:28,950
He was young, and he was
very weak from hemorrhaging

1141

01:00:28,950 --> 01:00:30,090
in the ghetto.

1142

01:00:30,090 --> 01:00:32,190
I didn't expect to find him.

1143

01:00:32,190 --> 01:00:35,460
But people came to
me in and that I

1144

01:00:35,460 --> 01:00:38,850
met, that I knew, and
said, oh, your brother.

1145

01:00:38,850 --> 01:00:39,840
He is alive.

1146

01:00:39,840 --> 01:00:40,830
He looks good.

1147

01:00:40,830 --> 01:00:42,030
He's in Munich.

1148

01:00:42,030 --> 01:00:45,360

And I didn't believe it because
there were so many mistakes

1149

01:00:45,360 --> 01:00:46,020

made.

1150

01:00:46,020 --> 01:00:47,160

People went.

1151

01:00:47,160 --> 01:00:50,970

They were sent to see
their daughter and sister,

1152

01:00:50,970 --> 01:00:53,100

and it was a mistake.

1153

01:00:53,100 --> 01:00:55,590

And it was a disappointment.

1154

01:00:55,590 --> 01:01:01,800

And I thought, this will
be a disappointment, too.

1155

01:01:01,800 --> 01:01:05,610

But one day, I was
in my little room--

1156

01:01:05,610 --> 01:01:07,470

we were four girls.

1157

01:01:07,470 --> 01:01:09,340

Four bunk beds.

1158

01:01:09,340 --> 01:01:10,680

We were in our little room.

1159

01:01:10,680 --> 01:01:16,290

And this girl from downstairs
came and said to me,

1160

01:01:16,290 --> 01:01:21,720
you know, some boys
came from Munich,

1161
01:01:21,720 --> 01:01:25,710
and they want to
see some girls here.

1162
01:01:25,710 --> 01:01:28,350
Maybe you will see your brother.

1163
01:01:28,350 --> 01:01:32,910
And I said, my brother, I
know he's not alive anymore.

1164
01:01:32,910 --> 01:01:36,720
I know I don't have
anything to look for.

1165
01:01:36,720 --> 01:01:41,280
She insisted, insisted, and
dragged me into her room,

1166
01:01:41,280 --> 01:01:43,785
and I came into her room,
and there was my brother.

1167
01:01:43,785 --> 01:01:46,840

1168
01:01:46,840 --> 01:01:49,050
Wow.

1169
01:01:49,050 --> 01:01:51,900
So and then you stayed
together from that point on?

1170
01:01:51,900 --> 01:01:52,620
Yes.

1171
01:01:52,620 --> 01:01:54,090
We stayed together.

1172

01:01:54,090 --> 01:01:57,470

We lived in Bergen-Belsen.

1173

01:01:57,470 --> 01:01:59,450

How did you-- were
there reparations?

1174

01:01:59,450 --> 01:02:01,250

How did you have
money at this time?

1175

01:02:01,250 --> 01:02:05,760

We had got everything
from the HIAS.

1176

01:02:05,760 --> 01:02:07,576

The UNRRA.

1177

01:02:07,576 --> 01:02:11,900

And there were Jewish
organizations there.

1178

01:02:11,900 --> 01:02:15,690

They looked out for us.

1179

01:02:15,690 --> 01:02:20,210

And then everybody could
go and do business and be

1180

01:02:20,210 --> 01:02:23,420

free like any other person.

1181

01:02:23,420 --> 01:02:24,290

You know?

1182

01:02:24,290 --> 01:02:28,220

We were displaced persons,
but we had our rights.

1183

01:02:28,220 --> 01:02:31,730

And we could do
whatever we wanted.

1184
01:02:31,730 --> 01:02:32,420
Mm-hmm.

1185
01:02:32,420 --> 01:02:35,150
How did-- did you encounter,
like, did you ever

1186
01:02:35,150 --> 01:02:37,220
approach a German afterwards?

1187
01:02:37,220 --> 01:02:38,880
Oh, yes, plenty.

1188
01:02:38,880 --> 01:02:39,380
Plenty.

1189
01:02:39,380 --> 01:02:41,060
What did they say?

1190
01:02:41,060 --> 01:02:44,810
Oh, everybody said we didn't
know anything about it.

1191
01:02:44,810 --> 01:02:46,790
We didn't know
anything about it.

1192
01:02:46,790 --> 01:02:49,330
Like, Bergen-Belsen was here.

1193
01:02:49,330 --> 01:02:58,040
The camp where they
murdered the people,

1194
01:02:58,040 --> 01:03:02,360
and there was a stench
for miles and miles.

1195
01:03:02,360 --> 01:03:05,660
There was a village,
and there was a village.

1196
01:03:05,660 --> 01:03:09,890
And from here, everybody
went by every day.

1197
01:03:09,890 --> 01:03:12,710
From here, everybody
went by every day.

1198
01:03:12,710 --> 01:03:20,370
And they saw-- they smelled
the stench and everything.

1199
01:03:20,370 --> 01:03:24,230
And from the
neighboring villages,

1200
01:03:24,230 --> 01:03:26,960
there were people
that worked here.

1201
01:03:26,960 --> 01:03:29,450
And nobody knew
what was happening.

1202
01:03:29,450 --> 01:03:31,530
Nobody knew what was happening.

1203
01:03:31,530 --> 01:03:32,250
They didn't know.

1204
01:03:32,250 --> 01:03:33,620
They said they didn't know.

1205
01:03:33,620 --> 01:03:35,900
But everybody knew they knew.

1206
01:03:35,900 --> 01:03:39,560
They just couldn't open
their mouths or something.

1207
01:03:39,560 --> 01:03:41,030

It was a dictatorship.

1208
01:03:41,030 --> 01:03:42,890
You know?

1209
01:03:42,890 --> 01:03:44,160
But no one was a Nazi.

1210
01:03:44,160 --> 01:03:45,120
No one was an ex-Nazi.

1211
01:03:45,120 --> 01:03:46,100
Right.

1212
01:03:46,100 --> 01:03:47,920
No.

1213
01:03:47,920 --> 01:03:48,650
Hmm.

1214
01:03:48,650 --> 01:03:49,500
It's interesting.

1215
01:03:49,500 --> 01:03:50,000
Yes.

1216
01:03:50,000 --> 01:03:53,660
I'm curious personally
to hear what happened.

1217
01:03:53,660 --> 01:03:56,420
I talked to some
other people who--

1218
01:03:56,420 --> 01:03:59,240
they said they confronted them.

1219
01:03:59,240 --> 01:04:00,870
And they would say,
we didn't know.

1220

01:04:00,870 --> 01:04:01,370
No.

1221
01:04:01,370 --> 01:04:03,020
I confronted them, too.

1222
01:04:03,020 --> 01:04:03,620
Uh-huh.

1223
01:04:03,620 --> 01:04:05,390
We confronted them.

1224
01:04:05,390 --> 01:04:10,160
And nobody knew anything.

1225
01:04:10,160 --> 01:04:13,010
Everybody said they didn't know.

1226
01:04:13,010 --> 01:04:16,370
And they were lily white.

1227
01:04:16,370 --> 01:04:18,000
Mm-hmm.

1228
01:04:18,000 --> 01:04:21,120
So you spent this
time until 1951

1229
01:04:21,120 --> 01:04:24,070
at this Bergen-Belsen compound.

1230
01:04:24,070 --> 01:04:24,570
Yes.

1231
01:04:24,570 --> 01:04:27,510
Recuperating from
the war a little bit.

1232
01:04:27,510 --> 01:04:29,010
And then had you--

1233

01:04:29,010 --> 01:04:32,730
We registered to come here.

1234
01:04:32,730 --> 01:04:35,250
And it took time, of course.

1235
01:04:35,250 --> 01:04:37,590
It took time.

1236
01:04:37,590 --> 01:04:40,190
And you came together
with your brother,

1237
01:04:40,190 --> 01:04:41,190
or-- when did you meet--

1238
01:04:41,190 --> 01:04:43,680
My brother came
two years earlier.

1239
01:04:43,680 --> 01:04:44,400
Uh-huh.

1240
01:04:44,400 --> 01:04:46,200
In '49.

1241
01:04:46,200 --> 01:04:48,600
Did you meet your
husband in Europe?

1242
01:04:48,600 --> 01:04:49,290
Yes.

1243
01:04:49,290 --> 01:04:53,530
I met him when we went
around to look for--

1244
01:04:53,530 --> 01:04:55,350
I said it before.

1245
01:04:55,350 --> 01:05:01,920
When we looked around for

our relatives or for friends,

1246
01:05:01,920 --> 01:05:05,205
then I met my
husband in Hanover.

1247
01:05:05,205 --> 01:05:06,090
Mm-hmm.

1248
01:05:06,090 --> 01:05:12,360
And he was with another
couple, also two young people.

1249
01:05:12,360 --> 01:05:15,600
And we went you are from
Lodz, and you are from Lodz,

1250
01:05:15,600 --> 01:05:17,100
and then we went together.

1251
01:05:17,100 --> 01:05:19,470
And that's how we fell in love.

1252
01:05:19,470 --> 01:05:21,960
And then in a few
months, we got married.

1253
01:05:21,960 --> 01:05:23,760
In October, we got married.

1254
01:05:23,760 --> 01:05:25,212
'46?

1255
01:05:25,212 --> 01:05:25,712
'45.

1256
01:05:25,712 --> 01:05:26,643
Oh, '45.

1257
01:05:26,643 --> 01:05:27,810
Oh, so pretty quickly after.

1258
01:05:27,810 --> 01:05:28,350
Yes.

1259
01:05:28,350 --> 01:05:29,730
I see.

1260
01:05:29,730 --> 01:05:30,530
Yes.

1261
01:05:30,530 --> 01:05:31,770
Uh-huh.

1262
01:05:31,770 --> 01:05:36,840
Well, is there anything else
you could add to your story?

1263
01:05:36,840 --> 01:05:41,400
Anything about before the
war or during the war period

1264
01:05:41,400 --> 01:05:42,740
that you'd like to tell me?

1265
01:05:42,740 --> 01:05:45,700

1266
01:05:45,700 --> 01:05:48,420
Just for the sake of the
record of our interview.

1267
01:05:48,420 --> 01:05:51,860

1268
01:05:51,860 --> 01:05:58,250
Well, you know, when my
father died in the ghetto,

1269
01:05:58,250 --> 01:06:03,150
they didn't have time to take
the body away, right away.

1270

01:06:03,150 --> 01:06:06,020
He was-- the body
was laying with us

1271
01:06:06,020 --> 01:06:09,740
in the little, little
room for five days covered

1272
01:06:09,740 --> 01:06:11,840
with his talit.

1273
01:06:11,840 --> 01:06:14,580
In five days, they
came and took him.

1274
01:06:14,580 --> 01:06:17,060
They had a load, a truck.

1275
01:06:17,060 --> 01:06:21,320
Not a truck, but
a horse and buggy.

1276
01:06:21,320 --> 01:06:23,450
Maybe 50.

1277
01:06:23,450 --> 01:06:26,120
They threw the bodies up.

1278
01:06:26,120 --> 01:06:27,650
Yes.

1279
01:06:27,650 --> 01:06:31,370
'42 was the worst, worst year.

1280
01:06:31,370 --> 01:06:33,080
They went crazy.

1281
01:06:33,080 --> 01:06:38,930
And when I was in Poland,
in Lodz last year,

1282
01:06:38,930 --> 01:06:42,005

I went to the Jewish--

1283
01:06:42,005 --> 01:06:45,840

1284
01:06:45,840 --> 01:06:48,850
to the Jewish
community and wanted

1285
01:06:48,850 --> 01:06:51,580
to see if they
have some something

1286
01:06:51,580 --> 01:06:55,670
that I could go to the grave.

1287
01:06:55,670 --> 01:06:57,362
He looked at--

1288
01:06:57,362 --> 01:07:02,440
1942, he said, you couldn't.

1289
01:07:02,440 --> 01:07:05,140
They were just buried.

1290
01:07:05,140 --> 01:07:10,950
Mass burials, and I couldn't
find my father's grave.

1291
01:07:10,950 --> 01:07:14,850

1292
01:07:14,850 --> 01:07:18,240
There's still an organized
Jewish community in Lodz now?

1293
01:07:18,240 --> 01:07:19,590
Yes.

1294
01:07:19,590 --> 01:07:22,950
It's very small, but there is.

1295

01:07:22,950 --> 01:07:25,050

I was glad to get out of there.

1296

01:07:25,050 --> 01:07:27,180

I was glad to get out of there.

1297

01:07:27,180 --> 01:07:30,570

It shook me up.

1298

01:07:30,570 --> 01:07:33,550

The Jewish life,
and the synagogues--

1299

01:07:33,550 --> 01:07:36,470

The synagogues are not there.

1300

01:07:36,470 --> 01:07:40,720

The people are not there.

1301

01:07:40,720 --> 01:07:45,720

All the old-- there were
beautiful, beautiful buildings

1302

01:07:45,720 --> 01:07:47,490

before the war.

1303

01:07:47,490 --> 01:07:50,580

But nobody took care
of them for 40 years.

1304

01:07:50,580 --> 01:07:54,370

The cement, everything fell off.

1305

01:07:54,370 --> 01:07:57,540

And they were ornate.

1306

01:07:57,540 --> 01:08:03,600

Such nice, nice-- when
they built a house in Lodz,

1307

01:08:03,600 --> 01:08:07,470

it took almost a
year to build it.

1308
01:08:07,470 --> 01:08:09,720
And they built it
so nice and strong.

1309
01:08:09,720 --> 01:08:13,200
But everything is
dilapidated now.

1310
01:08:13,200 --> 01:08:19,299
And I didn't see the people, and
I didn't see the Jewish taste

1311
01:08:19,299 --> 01:08:20,939
there.

1312
01:08:20,939 --> 01:08:24,460
So it drove me out.

1313
01:08:24,460 --> 01:08:25,390
I can imagine.

1314
01:08:25,390 --> 01:08:26,380
Yes.

1315
01:08:26,380 --> 01:08:29,380
Well, I want to
thank you very much.

1316
01:08:29,380 --> 01:08:34,180
This has been very difficult,
I think, to tell the story.

1317
01:08:34,180 --> 01:08:35,170
Yes.

1318
01:08:35,170 --> 01:08:37,899
But we appreciate it,
and we will make sure

1319

01:08:37,899 --> 01:08:40,109
that your story is told.

1320
01:08:40,109 --> 01:08:42,670
So I thank you.

1321
01:08:42,670 --> 01:08:43,899
Tomorrow--

1322
01:08:43,899 --> 01:08:44,460
OK.

1323
01:08:44,460 --> 01:08:46,620
Before we end our
interview, though, we just

1324
01:08:46,620 --> 01:08:50,520
wanted to talk about a
couple of things regarding

1325
01:08:50,520 --> 01:08:53,680
the prison in the
Lodz ghetto and some

1326
01:08:53,680 --> 01:08:56,310
encounters that you have
had with Chaim Rumkowski.

1327
01:08:56,310 --> 01:09:00,130
What can you tell me
about your knowledge,

1328
01:09:00,130 --> 01:09:04,590
your further knowledge of Chaim
Rumkowski and about the prison?

1329
01:09:04,590 --> 01:09:08,729
There was a prison
in the ghetto.

1330
01:09:08,729 --> 01:09:12,630
The prison-- the name
was Czarnieckiego

1331
01:09:12,630 --> 01:09:16,020
because it was on the
street Czarnieckiego.

1332
01:09:16,020 --> 01:09:17,100
Mm-hmm.

1333
01:09:17,100 --> 01:09:22,830
And the prison both
run by Jewish policemen

1334
01:09:22,830 --> 01:09:28,140
and a Jewish warden,
the head warden.

1335
01:09:28,140 --> 01:09:32,720
He threw in people
there for just

1336
01:09:32,720 --> 01:09:35,370
stealing a potato indefinitely.

1337
01:09:35,370 --> 01:09:38,160

1338
01:09:38,160 --> 01:09:44,189
He sent them in for a
showing a crack in the window

1339
01:09:44,189 --> 01:09:47,069
because the windows--

1340
01:09:47,069 --> 01:09:50,220
the windows were
supposed to be blocked

1341
01:09:50,220 --> 01:09:54,330
at night not to show any light.

1342
01:09:54,330 --> 01:09:57,750
This was a leniency.

1343
01:09:57,750 --> 01:10:01,680
This was next to
sending them away

1344
01:10:01,680 --> 01:10:04,140
to Chelmno, which
was a death camp.

1345
01:10:04,140 --> 01:10:05,130
Mm-hmm.

1346
01:10:05,130 --> 01:10:15,600
In this prison, there were
about 200 or more people.

1347
01:10:15,600 --> 01:10:21,510
They were working
there, hard labor work.

1348
01:10:21,510 --> 01:10:26,790
I had an encounter
with Rumkowski.

1349
01:10:26,790 --> 01:10:34,050
He just sent police and said,
arrest this and this person

1350
01:10:34,050 --> 01:10:42,650
for stealing a potato, or for
stealing a piece of bread.

1351
01:10:42,650 --> 01:10:44,510
Arrest this and this person.

1352
01:10:44,510 --> 01:10:50,450
And they came to the place
of work, arrested me,

1353
01:10:50,450 --> 01:10:54,590
and threw me into the
prison for indefinite time.

1354

01:10:54,590 --> 01:10:57,290

Do you want to tell why,
or you'd rather not?

1355

01:10:57,290 --> 01:10:57,810

No.

1356

01:10:57,810 --> 01:11:00,390

OK.

1357

01:11:00,390 --> 01:11:01,640

Then what was it like for you?

1358

01:11:01,640 --> 01:11:03,590

You were there four months?

1359

01:11:03,590 --> 01:11:05,090

For months, yes.

1360

01:11:05,090 --> 01:11:06,680

I was there for months.

1361

01:11:06,680 --> 01:11:12,620

And nobody could ask, is
there going to be a court

1362

01:11:12,620 --> 01:11:18,615

or is there going to be a
term when I can go out, or--

1363

01:11:18,615 --> 01:11:19,950

No.

1364

01:11:19,950 --> 01:11:22,820

Rumkowski just
threw the people in.

1365

01:11:22,820 --> 01:11:27,980

And whenever he wanted,
whenever somebody

1366

01:11:27,980 --> 01:11:31,955
wanted to intervene for
you and talk about you,

1367
01:11:31,955 --> 01:11:35,390
maybe you can get out
from the prison into--

1368
01:11:35,390 --> 01:11:37,550
from the little prison
into the big prison,

1369
01:11:37,550 --> 01:11:39,710
which is the ghetto.

1370
01:11:39,710 --> 01:11:43,650
Do you know when, what
year was it that you were--

1371
01:11:43,650 --> 01:11:45,830
It was maybe 1943.

1372
01:11:45,830 --> 01:11:47,030
Uh-huh.

1373
01:11:47,030 --> 01:11:49,760
And you said your
mother and your brother

1374
01:11:49,760 --> 01:11:51,080
were able to come see you?

1375
01:11:51,080 --> 01:11:52,310
Yes.

1376
01:11:52,310 --> 01:11:54,320
Did you live in a
cell by yourself, or--

1377
01:11:54,320 --> 01:11:57,560
No, I lived with them.

1378

01:11:57,560 --> 01:12:00,730
With my mother and my brother.

1379
01:12:00,730 --> 01:12:01,503
Oh, no.

1380
01:12:01,503 --> 01:12:03,170
But I mean while you
were in the prison.

1381
01:12:03,170 --> 01:12:03,890
In the prison?

1382
01:12:03,890 --> 01:12:04,708
By myself.

1383
01:12:04,708 --> 01:12:05,750
You were all by yourself.

1384
01:12:05,750 --> 01:12:06,620
Yes.

1385
01:12:06,620 --> 01:12:07,580
Yes.

1386
01:12:07,580 --> 01:12:09,170
I was with another woman.

1387
01:12:09,170 --> 01:12:10,430
Uh-huh.

1388
01:12:10,430 --> 01:12:10,970
Yes.

1389
01:12:10,970 --> 01:12:13,070
And they gave you--
and you worked?

1390
01:12:13,070 --> 01:12:14,420
And you sewed there also?

1391

01:12:14,420 --> 01:12:17,030
Yes, worked there very hard.

1392
01:12:17,030 --> 01:12:20,030
And then at night, I worked.

1393
01:12:20,030 --> 01:12:21,170
I was sewing.

1394
01:12:21,170 --> 01:12:24,420
They had the sewing facilities.

1395
01:12:24,420 --> 01:12:27,740

1396
01:12:27,740 --> 01:12:32,270
And ironing, and
sewing, and whatever.

1397
01:12:32,270 --> 01:12:36,020
Not to let us go
around and do nothing.

1398
01:12:36,020 --> 01:12:37,710
Mm-hmm.

1399
01:12:37,710 --> 01:12:39,870
He just wanted to
harm the people.

1400
01:12:39,870 --> 01:12:41,400
That's what he wanted.

1401
01:12:41,400 --> 01:12:45,085
So you had no idea how
you finally got released,

1402
01:12:45,085 --> 01:12:46,460
or you just finally
got released?

1403
01:12:46,460 --> 01:12:47,720

Finally got released.

1404
01:12:47,720 --> 01:12:51,860
I didn't know why he
threw me into the prison

1405
01:12:51,860 --> 01:12:56,150
and why I got out of the prison.

1406
01:12:56,150 --> 01:12:57,050
People were there.

1407
01:12:57,050 --> 01:13:00,440

1408
01:13:00,440 --> 01:13:04,970
Two men were there, young men.

1409
01:13:04,970 --> 01:13:06,050
They stole a chicken.

1410
01:13:06,050 --> 01:13:09,300

1411
01:13:09,300 --> 01:13:11,480
And things like this.

1412
01:13:11,480 --> 01:13:13,260
There were no criminals.

1413
01:13:13,260 --> 01:13:15,210
No criminals.

1414
01:13:15,210 --> 01:13:22,750
It's just Rumkowski wanted
them to be punished.

1415
01:13:22,750 --> 01:13:26,520
He thought, it's not enough to
be punished to be in the ghetto

1416

01:13:26,520 --> 01:13:30,390
and have starvation.

1417
01:13:30,390 --> 01:13:39,510
And this is how terrible,
cruel, and mean he was.

1418
01:13:39,510 --> 01:13:42,240
He turned into a beast.

1419
01:13:42,240 --> 01:13:45,900
You told me a story about in
your factory when he came.

1420
01:13:45,900 --> 01:13:48,840
Do you want to tell me
about that on the tape?

1421
01:13:48,840 --> 01:13:51,581
About the vacation and all that?

1422
01:13:51,581 --> 01:13:52,300
Oh.

1423
01:13:52,300 --> 01:13:52,935
Oh, yes.

1424
01:13:52,935 --> 01:13:55,500

1425
01:13:55,500 --> 01:14:00,180
There was-- some
people were sent away

1426
01:14:00,180 --> 01:14:02,460
for vacation, eight days.

1427
01:14:02,460 --> 01:14:11,130
It was like a place where
you got a little better food

1428
01:14:11,130 --> 01:14:14,370

and you could relax.

1429

01:14:14,370 --> 01:14:20,210

This was somewhere
within the ghetto where

1430

01:14:20,210 --> 01:14:25,680

the nice air and
trees, and the gardens.

1431

01:14:25,680 --> 01:14:31,440

And as I was in the factory,
I was very talented.

1432

01:14:31,440 --> 01:14:37,290

And I was advancing from a
lower job to a bigger job

1433

01:14:37,290 --> 01:14:39,000

to a bigger job.

1434

01:14:39,000 --> 01:14:48,840

And the foreman of this factory
wanted to send me away, too.

1435

01:14:48,840 --> 01:14:51,060

There were many,
many other candidates

1436

01:14:51,060 --> 01:14:53,890

to be sent away for
these eight days.

1437

01:14:53,890 --> 01:14:57,090

But Rumkowski had to OK it.

1438

01:14:57,090 --> 01:15:02,010

And he had to personally
view these people.

1439

01:15:02,010 --> 01:15:07,440

If they look like they're going
to die tomorrow or something

1440
01:15:07,440 --> 01:15:11,970
like this, he would OK it.

1441
01:15:11,970 --> 01:15:17,580
So he came and sat at the table,
and there was a line of people.

1442
01:15:17,580 --> 01:15:20,550
Everybody came and
stood in front of him,

1443
01:15:20,550 --> 01:15:30,000
and he observed this particular
person how she looked, and--

1444
01:15:30,000 --> 01:15:31,050
she or he.

1445
01:15:31,050 --> 01:15:37,230
And the foreman introduced
everyone to him.

1446
01:15:37,230 --> 01:15:43,590
And he said he was addressed
Mr. [PERSONAL NAME]..

1447
01:15:43,590 --> 01:15:45,420
Herr [PERSONAL NAME].

1448
01:15:45,420 --> 01:15:51,180
This is so and so, and she
was advancing from job to job

1449
01:15:51,180 --> 01:15:54,240
to job, and she's very talented.

1450
01:15:54,240 --> 01:15:59,310
And I would like you to
OK her that she should

1451
01:15:59,310 --> 01:16:04,830

go to this place for
relaxation for eight days

1452
01:16:04,830 --> 01:16:07,080
to have a little
better food and so.

1453
01:16:07,080 --> 01:16:09,150
And he looked at me.

1454
01:16:09,150 --> 01:16:13,140
Obviously, I looked
too well in his eyes.

1455
01:16:13,140 --> 01:16:15,960
And he said to me, go.

1456
01:16:15,960 --> 01:16:19,710
We will wait until
she'll advance more.

1457
01:16:19,710 --> 01:16:22,680
And that was it, and he did
not give me the permission

1458
01:16:22,680 --> 01:16:25,920
to go to this place.

1459
01:16:25,920 --> 01:16:30,960
So I know him very, very well.

1460
01:16:30,960 --> 01:16:35,855
Several times during the ghetto
I had eye contact with him.

1461
01:16:35,855 --> 01:16:36,355
Mm-hmm.

1462
01:16:36,355 --> 01:16:39,560

1463
01:16:39,560 --> 01:16:42,170

Is there anything else now
that we're talking again

1464
01:16:42,170 --> 01:16:44,480
that comes to mind?

1465
01:16:44,480 --> 01:16:46,700
Not necessarily about
Rumkowski, but things

1466
01:16:46,700 --> 01:16:49,280
that happen to you
in your time there?

1467
01:16:49,280 --> 01:16:51,825

1468
01:16:51,825 --> 01:16:55,100
I can't think of anything.

1469
01:16:55,100 --> 01:16:55,610
OK.

1470
01:16:55,610 --> 01:16:57,170
So, you know--

1471
01:16:57,170 --> 01:16:58,440
OK.

1472
01:16:58,440 --> 01:16:59,180
Well, thank you.

1473
01:16:59,180 --> 01:17:01,100
I'm glad we turned
the tape on again.

1474
01:17:01,100 --> 01:17:01,920
It was important.

1475
01:17:01,920 --> 01:17:02,300
Yes.

1476

01:17:02,300 --> 01:17:02,800

OK.

1477

01:17:02,800 --> 01:17:03,980

Well, thank you again.

1478

01:17:03,980 --> 01:17:08,240

And I'm going to
present this money.

1479

01:17:08,240 --> 01:17:10,220

It's a paper money.

1480

01:17:10,220 --> 01:17:11,330

OK.

1481

01:17:11,330 --> 01:17:12,920

Who should I come to?

1482

01:17:12,920 --> 01:17:14,600

I'll contact you?

1483

01:17:14,600 --> 01:17:16,410

Yeah, you--

1484

01:17:16,410 --> 01:17:18,000