

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,570

2
00:00:02,570 --> 00:00:05,300
OK, we're on again.

3
00:00:05,300 --> 00:00:05,810
Yeah?

4
00:00:05,810 --> 00:00:06,310
Yeah.

5
00:00:06,310 --> 00:00:09,440

6
00:00:09,440 --> 00:00:13,880
I was not given any
help in the sick bay.

7
00:00:13,880 --> 00:00:18,860
I was merely assigned to
a sort of rest barrack,

8
00:00:18,860 --> 00:00:22,520
where I met also the people that
I hadn't seen several years.

9
00:00:22,520 --> 00:00:26,980
They were all prisoners
from Birkenau.

10
00:00:26,980 --> 00:00:29,800
And within a day
or two, the orders

11
00:00:29,800 --> 00:00:33,550
came for evacuation of that
[? Mildorf ?],, of that camp.

12
00:00:33,550 --> 00:00:38,800
And that was the last

transport that we were on.

13
00:00:38,800 --> 00:00:42,110
We traveled several days.

14
00:00:42,110 --> 00:00:43,240
No food, of course.

15
00:00:43,240 --> 00:00:45,640
It was the first time
in all my travails

16
00:00:45,640 --> 00:00:51,170
that I have decided
that I'm going

17
00:00:51,170 --> 00:00:52,940
to risk and eat a raw potato.

18
00:00:52,940 --> 00:00:57,220

19
00:00:57,220 --> 00:01:00,040
I had it cut, or
dissembled, or whatever.

20
00:01:00,040 --> 00:01:03,220
And then I've heard
a commotion outside.

21
00:01:03,220 --> 00:01:08,650
We were sitting in
the cattle cars.

22
00:01:08,650 --> 00:01:12,430
And we opened-- someone
opened the door.

23
00:01:12,430 --> 00:01:15,880
And we were stopped at the
station, upper Bavaria,

24

00:01:15,880 --> 00:01:18,910
called Poing.

25
00:01:18,910 --> 00:01:23,110
And you hear people
going crazy, they're

26
00:01:23,110 --> 00:01:26,833
dancing on the platform.

27
00:01:26,833 --> 00:01:28,750
And some of them are so
overjoyed that they've

28
00:01:28,750 --> 00:01:31,030
embraced the guards.

29
00:01:31,030 --> 00:01:32,620
There were some
guards that were,

30
00:01:32,620 --> 00:01:34,870
in that particular
transport, they weren't SS,

31
00:01:34,870 --> 00:01:39,640
they were remnants of
beat-up Wehrmacht divisions

32
00:01:39,640 --> 00:01:42,940
that they have conscripted and
put into work of some sort.

33
00:01:42,940 --> 00:01:46,040

34
00:01:46,040 --> 00:01:47,630
What's going on?

35
00:01:47,630 --> 00:01:49,880
I never ate the potato.

36

00:01:49,880 --> 00:01:51,793
There war is over.

37
00:01:51,793 --> 00:01:52,460
The war is over.

38
00:01:52,460 --> 00:01:58,848
It was the leader of
the transport, a captain

39
00:01:58,848 --> 00:02:01,140
or whatever, some German
officer, Wehrmacht, obviously.

40
00:02:01,140 --> 00:02:02,990
He wasn't an SS man.

41
00:02:02,990 --> 00:02:08,539
Went inside the station
master's office on the platform.

42
00:02:08,539 --> 00:02:10,580
He stopped the train
there on the station

43
00:02:10,580 --> 00:02:12,800
because he realized he
doesn't have enough provisions

44
00:02:12,800 --> 00:02:14,630
for several thousand people.

45
00:02:14,630 --> 00:02:16,670
Being a military,
he was not-- he

46
00:02:16,670 --> 00:02:20,660
had no idea of the
way the SS operates

47
00:02:20,660 --> 00:02:22,670
camps and the transports.

48

00:02:22,670 --> 00:02:26,260

Being a military, he
detached the locomotive,

49

00:02:26,260 --> 00:02:31,900

sent the guards with
a car back to Munich,

50

00:02:31,900 --> 00:02:35,920

to Dachau, in order to get
provisions for this transport.

51

00:02:35,920 --> 00:02:41,830

I mean, he couldn't get a loaf
of bread in Dachau most likely.

52

00:02:41,830 --> 00:02:45,590

But he thought that
he's going to send

53

00:02:45,590 --> 00:02:51,560

a locomotive and enough
cars to bring provisions.

54

00:02:51,560 --> 00:02:52,205

He came in.

55

00:02:52,205 --> 00:02:53,330

He came out of the station.

56

00:02:53,330 --> 00:02:58,010

He said, he heard the radio
announcement the war was over.

57

00:02:58,010 --> 00:02:59,990

It was a false alarm.

58

00:02:59,990 --> 00:03:02,060

What happened is,
on that day, there

59

00:03:02,060 --> 00:03:03,350

was an uprising in Munich.

60

00:03:03,350 --> 00:03:08,280

61

00:03:08,280 --> 00:03:09,750

It really took place.

62

00:03:09,750 --> 00:03:12,840

Was an uprising by German--

63

00:03:12,840 --> 00:03:17,370

some military, and some
civilians, and some military

64

00:03:17,370 --> 00:03:21,600

then participated, they've
sympathized with them.

65

00:03:21,600 --> 00:03:23,570

They declared the city open.

66

00:03:23,570 --> 00:03:27,240

And they didn't want to
have Munich destroyed.

67

00:03:27,240 --> 00:03:30,300

So they wanted to
surrender to the Allies.

68

00:03:30,300 --> 00:03:34,440

But the next day, there
was-- it's a whole story.

69

00:03:34,440 --> 00:03:37,620

In fact, I read the details
of the story only a couple

70

00:03:37,620 --> 00:03:41,550

of weeks ago in a book called
100 Days by John Toland.

71

00:03:41,550 --> 00:03:44,550
He was an American journalist
following the Allied troops

72
00:03:44,550 --> 00:03:46,685
into Germany in 1945.

73
00:03:46,685 --> 00:03:48,060
If you ever seen
it in a library,

74
00:03:48,060 --> 00:03:52,690
it's a very interesting
book, called 100 Days.

75
00:03:52,690 --> 00:03:56,730
And he describes this
particular uprising.

76
00:03:56,730 --> 00:04:00,870
And I remember it because
that was the 27th--

77
00:04:00,870 --> 00:04:04,050
it took place on 27th.

78
00:04:04,050 --> 00:04:07,320
We were stopped there
on 28th of April.

79
00:04:07,320 --> 00:04:10,710

80
00:04:10,710 --> 00:04:14,460
And he says, you're free, the
guard, the German commander

81
00:04:14,460 --> 00:04:16,589
of the transport.

82
00:04:16,589 --> 00:04:20,190
What happened is the Ukrainian
guards ran away, of course.

83
00:04:20,190 --> 00:04:21,839
They were afraid.

84
00:04:21,839 --> 00:04:23,040
Some SS men ran away.

85
00:04:23,040 --> 00:04:28,210
Only the few Wehrmacht
guards were still with us.

86
00:04:28,210 --> 00:04:31,860
And hundreds and hundreds
of people took off.

87
00:04:31,860 --> 00:04:33,300
They just ran, helter-skelter.

88
00:04:33,300 --> 00:04:37,350
They ran to the nearest
village or town.

89
00:04:37,350 --> 00:04:44,370
And I said to my friend,
Isaac, who was with me--

90
00:04:44,370 --> 00:04:46,470
we were together
the whole time--

91
00:04:46,470 --> 00:04:49,470
I says, if the war is over,
it's over here as well as there.

92
00:04:49,470 --> 00:04:53,050
So we don't have to run.

93
00:04:53,050 --> 00:04:55,390
First thing, let's
go and find where

94
00:04:55,390 --> 00:04:58,690

the cupboard with
the provisions are.

95
00:04:58,690 --> 00:04:59,470
And we got up.

96
00:04:59,470 --> 00:05:03,020
It was difficult
to climb up for us.

97
00:05:03,020 --> 00:05:06,920
And I took a loaf of bread.

98
00:05:06,920 --> 00:05:08,060
There was still enough.

99
00:05:08,060 --> 00:05:09,935
But it wasn't enough
for thousands of people.

100
00:05:09,935 --> 00:05:13,370
It was enough for a
few souls like me,

101
00:05:13,370 --> 00:05:17,520
who didn't rush to freedom.

102
00:05:17,520 --> 00:05:19,860
Because I realized
there's no point.

103
00:05:19,860 --> 00:05:23,190
If it's over, what difference
does it make where you are?

104
00:05:23,190 --> 00:05:24,060
Why risk?

105
00:05:24,060 --> 00:05:28,420
Then it turns out, we got
a loaf of bread and some--

106

00:05:28,420 --> 00:05:30,880
whatever it was, margarine,
or some salami, or whatever.

107
00:05:30,880 --> 00:05:35,590
And I ate myself full after
three months of starvation.

108
00:05:35,590 --> 00:05:40,360
And I sat leaning against
the wheels of the rail car.

109
00:05:40,360 --> 00:05:46,890
And soon enough, you hear
rounds of ammunition.

110
00:05:46,890 --> 00:05:52,270
And whole groups of prisoners
coming back to the train,

111
00:05:52,270 --> 00:05:54,160
running for their life.

112
00:05:54,160 --> 00:05:57,520
The Volkssturm in the
village or town, whatever--

113
00:05:57,520 --> 00:06:01,480
I never inquired where it was--

114
00:06:01,480 --> 00:06:03,850
saw prisoners, they rounded
them up and began shooting.

115
00:06:03,850 --> 00:06:08,300
And many, many paid
with their lives.

116
00:06:08,300 --> 00:06:09,590
So we came back.

117
00:06:09,590 --> 00:06:12,730
And obviously, the fiasco

of the news from Munich

118
00:06:12,730 --> 00:06:13,870
was no more than that.

119
00:06:13,870 --> 00:06:18,050
And the transports saw that,
they knew for another day.

120
00:06:18,050 --> 00:06:21,300
And on the way, we already
began to see that--

121
00:06:21,300 --> 00:06:22,730
yeah, I remember.

122
00:06:22,730 --> 00:06:24,530
A train passed us by.

123
00:06:24,530 --> 00:06:28,850
And there were French people
looking out at the cars.

124
00:06:28,850 --> 00:06:31,310
And I understood a
few words of French.

125
00:06:31,310 --> 00:06:35,900
I didn't speak it, but
I asked them in French

126
00:06:35,900 --> 00:06:37,640
whether the war is finished.

127
00:06:37,640 --> 00:06:39,350
Like yes, [FRENCH].

128
00:06:39,350 --> 00:06:41,420
They said, [FRENCH].

129
00:06:41,420 --> 00:06:43,610
They didn't know

anything about it.

130
00:06:43,610 --> 00:06:46,610
I said, they are civilians,
they should know.

131
00:06:46,610 --> 00:06:51,230
Well, the next day, we
stopped in many places.

132
00:06:51,230 --> 00:06:55,790
And German women came out, and
brought food and drink, coffee,

133
00:06:55,790 --> 00:06:58,010
and so on.

134
00:06:58,010 --> 00:07:00,690
We knew with the end is near.

135
00:07:00,690 --> 00:07:03,920
And at night, we stopped
at some sighting.

136
00:07:03,920 --> 00:07:10,670
It was in a German village
in the Alps, Tutzing,

137
00:07:10,670 --> 00:07:13,968
and I went to
sleep on the floor.

138
00:07:13,968 --> 00:07:16,010
In the middle of the night,
you hear a commotion.

139
00:07:16,010 --> 00:07:19,880
And the doors of
the cars opened up.

140
00:07:19,880 --> 00:07:22,340
All freight cars.

141

00:07:22,340 --> 00:07:24,847

And there were some
people, civilian, military,

142

00:07:24,847 --> 00:07:25,430

I didn't know.

143

00:07:25,430 --> 00:07:27,680

I was so tired.

144

00:07:27,680 --> 00:07:29,660

And they told us, you're free.

145

00:07:29,660 --> 00:07:33,335

We are from the
International Red Cross.

146

00:07:33,335 --> 00:07:34,960

Pretty soon, there
will be someone here

147

00:07:34,960 --> 00:07:36,850

who will take care of you.

148

00:07:36,850 --> 00:07:38,230

And I fell asleep.

149

00:07:38,230 --> 00:07:41,592

I didn't even penetrate
my consciousness.

150

00:07:41,592 --> 00:07:43,050

I just couldn't
believe it anymore.

151

00:07:43,050 --> 00:07:46,510

And I got up in the
morning, was about 8:00,

152

00:07:46,510 --> 00:07:48,450

and it was April 30th.

153

00:07:48,450 --> 00:07:50,910

And we looked out.

154

00:07:50,910 --> 00:07:55,190

And all the remaining

SS have gone.

155

00:07:55,190 --> 00:07:58,640

No one except the Wehrmacht
soldiers, the few,

156

00:07:58,640 --> 00:07:59,720

remained there with us.

157

00:07:59,720 --> 00:08:01,170

And nothing happened to them.

158

00:08:01,170 --> 00:08:03,780

In fact, the prisoners
talked to them,

159

00:08:03,780 --> 00:08:05,660

they gave them cigarettes.

160

00:08:05,660 --> 00:08:08,630

And we looked down
the embankment.

161

00:08:08,630 --> 00:08:13,200

And we saw troops
and vehicles moving.

162

00:08:13,200 --> 00:08:14,540

I didn't know it, I saw stars.

163

00:08:14,540 --> 00:08:16,040

I thought, there's
a Russian, so how

164

00:08:16,040 --> 00:08:17,582

did I know whether
they're Americans.

165
00:08:17,582 --> 00:08:19,770
I didn't realize the
American military

166
00:08:19,770 --> 00:08:24,066
have all stars as the emblem.

167
00:08:24,066 --> 00:08:27,140
It was the units of
the 100th Division

168
00:08:27,140 --> 00:08:31,147
of the Third Army coming there.

169
00:08:31,147 --> 00:08:32,480
They didn't come to liberate us.

170
00:08:32,480 --> 00:08:34,190
They just passed by the road.

171
00:08:34,190 --> 00:08:39,260
And they saw emaciated
people coming down

172
00:08:39,260 --> 00:08:41,510
the embankment close to them.

173
00:08:41,510 --> 00:08:45,740
And they threw various things--
cigarettes and chocolate.

174
00:08:45,740 --> 00:08:50,360
And pretty soon, someone
began to organize.

175
00:08:50,360 --> 00:08:54,420
Lieutenant Smith, I remember his
name, from the 100th Division,

176
00:08:54,420 --> 00:08:54,920
came.

177
00:08:54,920 --> 00:08:58,230
He got the function of
organizing the first DP

178
00:08:58,230 --> 00:09:01,580
center in Feldafing, which was
four kilometers from there.

179
00:09:01,580 --> 00:09:04,290
We stayed there two nights.

180
00:09:04,290 --> 00:09:11,220
And in the cars, before they
had involve the town's folk,

181
00:09:11,220 --> 00:09:15,630
the townspeople to come and
clean out, and put bedding,

182
00:09:15,630 --> 00:09:18,540
mattresses, and
linen, and whatnot,

183
00:09:18,540 --> 00:09:20,790
and the former
Hitler Youth school,

184
00:09:20,790 --> 00:09:24,550
which became the DP
center, Feldafing.

185
00:09:24,550 --> 00:09:27,750
And we were put in there.

186
00:09:27,750 --> 00:09:30,560
Two days later, the
train brought us

187
00:09:30,560 --> 00:09:32,210
in there the four kilometers.

188

00:09:32,210 --> 00:09:36,200
Before we entered, we had to
take off all of our clothes,

189
00:09:36,200 --> 00:09:38,570
burn it, everything.

190
00:09:38,570 --> 00:09:45,970
And for the next six weeks or
so, I was in a pair of pajamas.

191
00:09:45,970 --> 00:09:47,920
That's all I had.

192
00:09:47,920 --> 00:09:48,730
A pair of pajamas.

193
00:09:48,730 --> 00:09:50,950
And I traveled to
Garmisch-Partenkirchen

194
00:09:50,950 --> 00:09:53,260
in a pair of hospital pajamas.

195
00:09:53,260 --> 00:09:54,430
That's all we had.

196
00:09:54,430 --> 00:09:57,670
The Greek fellows
that were with us

197
00:09:57,670 --> 00:10:02,890
broke out the clothing stores
of the Hitler Youth school.

198
00:10:02,890 --> 00:10:05,570
And they got out
Hitler Youth uniforms.

199
00:10:05,570 --> 00:10:07,720
And that's what we wore.

200

00:10:07,720 --> 00:10:08,650
T-shirts.

201
00:10:08,650 --> 00:10:12,250
And it looked like a circus.

202
00:10:12,250 --> 00:10:15,220
And we were on our own how
to organize the clothes.

203
00:10:15,220 --> 00:10:18,910
I finally found a pair
of shorts that must have

204
00:10:18,910 --> 00:10:21,610
come from a very young kid.

205
00:10:21,610 --> 00:10:23,950
They were very short
and very tight on me.

206
00:10:23,950 --> 00:10:28,453
I found one pair of
moccasins, slippers.

207
00:10:28,453 --> 00:10:29,870
With luck, a couple
of days later,

208
00:10:29,870 --> 00:10:32,620
I found the other one, the
matching, in some other room.

209
00:10:32,620 --> 00:10:36,393
So that was my first for
the next two months or so.

210
00:10:36,393 --> 00:10:38,810
That's all I had-- a pair of
pajamas and a pair of shorts.

211
00:10:38,810 --> 00:10:44,260
And from there on, for

one more year, I had.

212
00:10:44,260 --> 00:10:47,140
Yeah, I expected my
brother to be somewhere

213
00:10:47,140 --> 00:10:48,460
because he was evacuated.

214
00:10:48,460 --> 00:10:54,520
And one day, I was
in the DP center

215
00:10:54,520 --> 00:10:57,240
in Landsberg playing ping pong.

216
00:10:57,240 --> 00:11:02,130
And a young fellow comes
over to me, says hello.

217
00:11:02,130 --> 00:11:05,220
And I didn't know him.

218
00:11:05,220 --> 00:11:07,710
He seemed to have acted
as if he knows me.

219
00:11:07,710 --> 00:11:09,510
And I says, where from?

220
00:11:09,510 --> 00:11:13,530
Usually at that time, where
from meant where have you been?

221
00:11:13,530 --> 00:11:17,290
In Auschwitz, have you been
in here, have you been there?

222
00:11:17,290 --> 00:11:17,977
Have you?

223
00:11:17,977 --> 00:11:19,185

Do you know me from Birkenau?

224

00:11:19,185 --> 00:11:22,210

He says, no.

225

00:11:22,210 --> 00:11:23,830

Flossenburg.

226

00:11:23,830 --> 00:11:26,590

I said, I was in Flossenburg,

I left in such and such time.

227

00:11:26,590 --> 00:11:27,250

He says, no.

228

00:11:27,250 --> 00:11:30,190

229

00:11:30,190 --> 00:11:31,510

He meant my brother.

230

00:11:31,510 --> 00:11:34,390

I looked very much like

him, my oldest brother.

231

00:11:34,390 --> 00:11:37,830

He was 10 years older, but

I look very much like him.

232

00:11:37,830 --> 00:11:40,890

And he was with him.

233

00:11:40,890 --> 00:11:46,820

And it was the 23rd of April.

234

00:11:46,820 --> 00:11:51,530

They arrived from some commander

from Buchenwald, some satellite

235

00:11:51,530 --> 00:11:54,500

camp, to Flossenburg,

and they were evacuated.

236
00:11:54,500 --> 00:11:56,750
And obviously,
that was the time,

237
00:11:56,750 --> 00:11:59,330
when during the
evacuation of Flossenburg,

238
00:11:59,330 --> 00:12:02,270
in the last week of the war,
where he perished somewhere.

239
00:12:02,270 --> 00:12:08,270
Either killed in the death
marches or died of starvation.

240
00:12:08,270 --> 00:12:10,280
Even some of our transports--

241
00:12:10,280 --> 00:12:13,790
my own transport was bombed by--

242
00:12:13,790 --> 00:12:19,070
we were in closed cars with
SS guarding heavy machine guns

243
00:12:19,070 --> 00:12:21,290
on top against us.

244
00:12:21,290 --> 00:12:28,170
But they used-- the bastards
used it against the aircraft.

245
00:12:28,170 --> 00:12:38,280
When an air raid
sound became audible,

246
00:12:38,280 --> 00:12:40,770
they closed our cars
from the outside.

247

00:12:40,770 --> 00:12:42,390
They locked our cars.

248
00:12:42,390 --> 00:12:45,870
And they themselves
ran into the woods.

249
00:12:45,870 --> 00:12:48,900
And now, the airmen didn't
know who was in those cars.

250
00:12:48,900 --> 00:12:51,450
It could have been them
or troops being moved.

251
00:12:51,450 --> 00:12:53,490
Anything that moved was bombed.

252
00:12:53,490 --> 00:12:57,120
Though our luck was that
they didn't throw a bomb.

253
00:12:57,120 --> 00:13:01,650
Because many, many people were
killed from Allied air raids.

254
00:13:01,650 --> 00:13:05,590
Prisoners on the move in closed
cars, they machine gunned.

255
00:13:05,590 --> 00:13:09,550
There were people
wounded in my car.

256
00:13:09,550 --> 00:13:10,520
That was the last.

257
00:13:10,520 --> 00:13:13,480
It could well be that
my brother fell victim

258
00:13:13,480 --> 00:13:14,708
to that sort of thing.

259
00:13:14,708 --> 00:13:15,250
I don't know.

260
00:13:15,250 --> 00:13:17,200
But there's no way.

261
00:13:17,200 --> 00:13:21,580
He was together with my cousin
in the same camp, the doctor.

262
00:13:21,580 --> 00:13:24,250
So he took him into his
sick bay in the place

263
00:13:24,250 --> 00:13:28,360
where he was after
evacuating from Birkenau.

264
00:13:28,360 --> 00:13:32,860
But during the evacuation,
my cousin and my brother

265
00:13:32,860 --> 00:13:34,660
came to Buchenwald together.

266
00:13:34,660 --> 00:13:37,240
But my cousin was
able to submerge

267
00:13:37,240 --> 00:13:40,840
into the French community,
the French prisoners.

268
00:13:40,840 --> 00:13:45,250
But my brother couldn't do
that into the Polish community.

269
00:13:45,250 --> 00:13:47,230
There was just no way.

270
00:13:47,230 --> 00:13:50,860

So he had to go on transport.

271
00:13:50,860 --> 00:13:56,070
And that was his end.

272
00:13:56,070 --> 00:14:02,230
And here I was, 23 years old.

273
00:14:02,230 --> 00:14:07,630
The day I realized I was free,
I walked along the rail track

274
00:14:07,630 --> 00:14:09,130
for a couple hundred yards.

275
00:14:09,130 --> 00:14:10,360
And I couldn't believe it.

276
00:14:10,360 --> 00:14:14,130
I looked behind me to see
whether someone's following me.

277
00:14:14,130 --> 00:14:17,870
And only then did it
dawn on me, what then?

278
00:14:17,870 --> 00:14:18,880
I mean, what happened?

279
00:14:18,880 --> 00:14:21,270
I mean, you're
alone in the world.

280
00:14:21,270 --> 00:14:24,900
I mean, the chances of
my brother surviving

281
00:14:24,900 --> 00:14:29,460
in the Arctic, as well as
us, as my own survival,

282
00:14:29,460 --> 00:14:30,960

were almost nil.

283
00:14:30,960 --> 00:14:32,200
Either one of us could.

284
00:14:32,200 --> 00:14:34,190
But I didn't know
what happened to him.

285
00:14:34,190 --> 00:14:39,970

286
00:14:39,970 --> 00:14:43,360
But then about a couple of
months later, in the fall,

287
00:14:43,360 --> 00:14:46,570
he moved to Stuttgart, when I--

288
00:14:46,570 --> 00:14:48,450
we lived in an apartment there.

289
00:14:48,450 --> 00:14:53,380
And the DP sent the
apartment buildings.

290
00:14:53,380 --> 00:14:55,390
We occupied one
room, several of us,

291
00:14:55,390 --> 00:14:57,490
and our former
neighbors from back home

292
00:14:57,490 --> 00:15:00,790
occupied-- the four sisters
occupied the two other rooms.

293
00:15:00,790 --> 00:15:03,130
One of them was married.

294
00:15:03,130 --> 00:15:07,110

The youngest of them came,
just came back from Poland.

295
00:15:07,110 --> 00:15:10,420
She has been in Poland
and came to West Germany.

296
00:15:10,420 --> 00:15:14,530
And she said she met my cousin.

297
00:15:14,530 --> 00:15:17,470
My first cousin, one of
those three who survived,

298
00:15:17,470 --> 00:15:18,400
who came to Radom.

299
00:15:18,400 --> 00:15:21,590
And she has heard that
I am alive somewhere.

300
00:15:21,590 --> 00:15:27,700
So she asked to give the message
that she received a letter

301
00:15:27,700 --> 00:15:29,470
from my brother in
the Soviet Union that

302
00:15:29,470 --> 00:15:31,270
came to the Jewish
community in Radom.

303
00:15:31,270 --> 00:15:32,700
There was an office there.

304
00:15:32,700 --> 00:15:37,060
A few survivors established
some kind of office.

305
00:15:37,060 --> 00:15:38,060
The letter.

306

00:15:38,060 --> 00:15:42,130

And she answered that she knows
that I am alive, that my older

307

00:15:42,130 --> 00:15:45,290

brother most likely is alive.

308

00:15:45,290 --> 00:15:50,720

So that was the first that I've
heard that my brother is alive.

309

00:15:50,720 --> 00:15:53,690

But I didn't expect that
they'll let him out.

310

00:15:53,690 --> 00:15:55,520

Because I knew it
from experience,

311

00:15:55,520 --> 00:16:00,860

my own father's brother in
the First World War came.

312

00:16:00,860 --> 00:16:03,313

In order to help my
father get back to Poland,

313

00:16:03,313 --> 00:16:05,480

he came there, and got
stuck, and could never leave.

314

00:16:05,480 --> 00:16:09,130

And he perished in the Ukraine.

315

00:16:09,130 --> 00:16:12,220

So I left for the United States.

316

00:16:12,220 --> 00:16:16,330

My mother's only
brother lived here.

317

00:16:16,330 --> 00:16:21,190

And shortly after
my arrival here--

318
00:16:21,190 --> 00:16:22,725
I went with my
uncle to the country

319
00:16:22,725 --> 00:16:24,100
for a couple of
weeks' vacation--

320
00:16:24,100 --> 00:16:25,210
I came back.

321
00:16:25,210 --> 00:16:28,970
There was a letter from
one of the girls who lived

322
00:16:28,970 --> 00:16:30,220
with us in the same apartment.

323
00:16:30,220 --> 00:16:34,630
And she said someone
came from Stettin--

324
00:16:34,630 --> 00:16:38,080
that's the German city
occupied by Poland now--

325
00:16:38,080 --> 00:16:41,260
and who told her that
my brother is there.

326
00:16:41,260 --> 00:16:43,960
He had just gotten
out in 1946 when

327
00:16:43,960 --> 00:16:45,760
the first transports
from the Soviet Union

328
00:16:45,760 --> 00:16:48,520
were exchanged and

allowed to get back.

329

00:16:48,520 --> 00:16:49,900

And he settled in Stettin.

330

00:16:49,900 --> 00:16:51,498

And that was the
beginning, that's

331

00:16:51,498 --> 00:16:52,540

how I hooked up with him.

332

00:16:52,540 --> 00:16:54,910

I sent him a parcel immediately.

333

00:16:54,910 --> 00:16:58,195

He never got it because by
the time the parcel got there,

334

00:16:58,195 --> 00:17:01,140

the pogrom in Kielce interfered.

335

00:17:01,140 --> 00:17:03,070

And all those who
were in Stettin

336

00:17:03,070 --> 00:17:06,369

and other areas
in Western Poland

337

00:17:06,369 --> 00:17:07,730

got out to Western Germany.

338

00:17:07,730 --> 00:17:10,780

And he came to Berlin
from there on a truck.

339

00:17:10,780 --> 00:17:14,079

His wife was pregnant
with the first son.

340

00:17:14,079 --> 00:17:17,753

What compelled him
to settle in Germany?

341
00:17:17,753 --> 00:17:18,670
Nothing compelled him.

342
00:17:18,670 --> 00:17:22,839
He was there, he got a
place, he opened pretty soon

343
00:17:22,839 --> 00:17:25,450
a little business, and his
children were born there.

344
00:17:25,450 --> 00:17:31,240
It was difficult first to
come, and eventually it was--

345
00:17:31,240 --> 00:17:32,230
he made his life there.

346
00:17:32,230 --> 00:17:34,150
And that's it.

347
00:17:34,150 --> 00:17:36,440
He had no regrets.

348
00:17:36,440 --> 00:17:39,940
I have been there many times,
almost every second year, I

349
00:17:39,940 --> 00:17:44,140
used to go there,
about 20 times now.

350
00:17:44,140 --> 00:17:44,870
Yeah.

351
00:17:44,870 --> 00:17:50,920
His son went to the
University of Jerusalem,

352

00:17:50,920 --> 00:17:52,810
and graduated there,
and then studied

353
00:17:52,810 --> 00:17:54,313
in Amsterdam and Belgium.

354
00:17:54,313 --> 00:17:56,230
And he works for the
Common Market Commission.

355
00:17:56,230 --> 00:17:59,740
He has a very good job
and leads a very good life

356
00:17:59,740 --> 00:18:00,820
in Belgium and Brussels.

357
00:18:00,820 --> 00:18:02,440
I was just there.

358
00:18:02,440 --> 00:18:05,240
His daughter finished
law school in Berlin.

359
00:18:05,240 --> 00:18:07,630
And she lives in Luxembourg.

360
00:18:07,630 --> 00:18:10,450
Her husband works for the
European Parliament, also

361
00:18:10,450 --> 00:18:11,920
a lawyer.

362
00:18:11,920 --> 00:18:16,610
And there were 6,000
Jews in Berlin.

363
00:18:16,610 --> 00:18:20,360
And they had a viable community.

364

00:18:20,360 --> 00:18:22,378
It's a nice place to live.

365
00:18:22,378 --> 00:18:23,420
It's an interesting city.

366
00:18:23,420 --> 00:18:28,070

367
00:18:28,070 --> 00:18:29,150
He is now shocked.

368
00:18:29,150 --> 00:18:31,880
His wife died three years ago.

369
00:18:31,880 --> 00:18:33,850
They were married
in the Soviet Union.

370
00:18:33,850 --> 00:18:36,410

371
00:18:36,410 --> 00:18:40,570
And when I got
there, I went to work

372
00:18:40,570 --> 00:18:43,910
for my uncle who was working
in the garment industry.

373
00:18:43,910 --> 00:18:47,480
And his boss gave him
a chance to train me,

374
00:18:47,480 --> 00:18:49,400
a machine across from him.

375
00:18:49,400 --> 00:18:52,670
So he trained me
as a dressmaker.

376
00:18:52,670 --> 00:18:55,400

And it's a skill
that I acquired.

377
00:18:55,400 --> 00:18:57,060
I worked.

378
00:18:57,060 --> 00:19:00,630
But I've never cared for
to remain there for life,

379
00:19:00,630 --> 00:19:02,210
for a lifetime.

380
00:19:02,210 --> 00:19:03,410
I had different plans.

381
00:19:03,410 --> 00:19:06,110
And I started to go, too.

382
00:19:06,110 --> 00:19:08,240
I didn't speak English
when I arrived here.

383
00:19:08,240 --> 00:19:11,870
But I went to
school for one year

384
00:19:11,870 --> 00:19:13,250
just to learn English at night.

385
00:19:13,250 --> 00:19:15,380
And then I graduated.

386
00:19:15,380 --> 00:19:18,260
They gave me a diploma
from elementary school.

387
00:19:18,260 --> 00:19:19,670
I came down to a high school.

388
00:19:19,670 --> 00:19:22,513
New York City had

high schools at night.

389
00:19:22,513 --> 00:19:23,680
There were two high schools.

390
00:19:23,680 --> 00:19:24,530
One was downtown.

391
00:19:24,530 --> 00:19:27,560
It was a very good one,
excellent teachers.

392
00:19:27,560 --> 00:19:31,190
I started just to take
English and history.

393
00:19:31,190 --> 00:19:33,410
But after a year
or so, I realized

394
00:19:33,410 --> 00:19:35,690
that if I want to get
a high school diploma,

395
00:19:35,690 --> 00:19:37,970
I better buckle down.

396
00:19:37,970 --> 00:19:41,940
And I began to go five nights
a week, four hours a night.

397
00:19:41,940 --> 00:19:46,070
And it was hard, every night
traveling home for an hour

398
00:19:46,070 --> 00:19:48,200
and then doing some homework,
reading a newspaper,

399
00:19:48,200 --> 00:19:50,960
and then getting up in the
morning, going to work.

400

00:19:50,960 --> 00:19:53,240

Weekends doing homework.

401

00:19:53,240 --> 00:19:59,400

When I graduated after a couple of years from high school,

402

00:19:59,400 --> 00:20:00,940

I took the test at City College.

403

00:20:00,940 --> 00:20:01,565

I was accepted.

404

00:20:01,565 --> 00:20:04,730

405

00:20:04,730 --> 00:20:08,640

And I entered as a full-time student.

406

00:20:08,640 --> 00:20:13,320

I didn't want any more work and study.

407

00:20:13,320 --> 00:20:16,560

That was not possible at the time.

408

00:20:16,560 --> 00:20:19,830

And I graduated in 3 and 1/2 years in City College

409

00:20:19,830 --> 00:20:23,910

and applied to graduate school at Columbia and London

410

00:20:23,910 --> 00:20:25,630

School of Economics.

411

00:20:25,630 --> 00:20:30,770

I was accepted to both and I decided to go to Columbia.

412
00:20:30,770 --> 00:20:33,390
And after I finished
at Columbia,

413
00:20:33,390 --> 00:20:37,920
I took an entrance test
for the federal service.

414
00:20:37,920 --> 00:20:38,840
They had just done.

415
00:20:38,840 --> 00:20:43,670

416
00:20:43,670 --> 00:20:44,890
I don't know why I did it.

417
00:20:44,890 --> 00:20:46,420
But I did it.

418
00:20:46,420 --> 00:20:47,680
And I was called.

419
00:20:47,680 --> 00:20:50,380
A few weeks later, I was
called by the Department

420
00:20:50,380 --> 00:20:52,780
of Labor office whether
I'll be interested in a job

421
00:20:52,780 --> 00:20:54,550
in the Bureau of
Labor Statistics.

422
00:20:54,550 --> 00:20:58,150
And that was my beginning
with the Department of Labor.

423
00:20:58,150 --> 00:21:01,020
I had an interesting job

for the first few years.

424
00:21:01,020 --> 00:21:02,860
I traveled a lot
throughout the country.

425
00:21:02,860 --> 00:21:09,265
And then I married two
years after I worked.

426
00:21:09,265 --> 00:21:11,880

427
00:21:11,880 --> 00:21:18,290
And I met my wife through
some friends of mine.

428
00:21:18,290 --> 00:21:22,870
And she was a
brilliant young girl.

429
00:21:22,870 --> 00:21:25,060
Born here.

430
00:21:25,060 --> 00:21:28,100
Father was Russian-born, her
mother was Czechoslovakian,

431
00:21:28,100 --> 00:21:29,800
I believe.

432
00:21:29,800 --> 00:21:32,860
She graduated from
Hunter College at 20

433
00:21:32,860 --> 00:21:39,850
and got a PhD at
23 and died at 25.

434
00:21:39,850 --> 00:21:44,770
Aw, goodness.

435

00:21:44,770 --> 00:21:52,290
So after 3 and 1/2 years
of marriage, she was dead.

436
00:21:52,290 --> 00:21:53,130
Kidney failure.

437
00:21:53,130 --> 00:21:55,440
At that time, there
was not much you

438
00:21:55,440 --> 00:22:00,130
could do with kidney dialysis
and that sort of thing.

439
00:22:00,130 --> 00:22:05,450
A very accomplished,
brilliant girl.

440
00:22:05,450 --> 00:22:06,890
She had a PhD in economics, too.

441
00:22:06,890 --> 00:22:09,195

442
00:22:09,195 --> 00:22:11,070
So you married her,
though, after you started

443
00:22:11,070 --> 00:22:12,180
working for the government?

444
00:22:12,180 --> 00:22:12,680
Yeah.

445
00:22:12,680 --> 00:22:15,810
And she died at the end of 1961.

446
00:22:15,810 --> 00:22:21,660
And in '62, I took a leave
of absence for six months.

447

00:22:21,660 --> 00:22:24,580
And I traveled in Europe,
and went to Israel.

448
00:22:24,580 --> 00:22:27,360
And they were very good to me.

449
00:22:27,360 --> 00:22:28,830
I could do what I wanted there.

450
00:22:28,830 --> 00:22:31,650
And they realized
that I need time away.

451
00:22:31,650 --> 00:22:35,640
So they didn't mind
giving me half a year off.

452
00:22:35,640 --> 00:22:40,870
And I got back, I got
assigned to Cleveland

453
00:22:40,870 --> 00:22:44,050
to help a friend of mine setting
up an office in Cleveland

454
00:22:44,050 --> 00:22:44,950
from the Department.

455
00:22:44,950 --> 00:22:48,010
And it was about a three
months' assignment or so.

456
00:22:48,010 --> 00:22:52,570
And I went overnight to
stay with friends of mine.

457
00:22:52,570 --> 00:22:55,630
We went to school
together in college.

458
00:22:55,630 --> 00:22:58,870

459
00:22:58,870 --> 00:23:05,500
She introduced me to Jeanne,
who is my current wife,

460
00:23:05,500 --> 00:23:06,150
in the school.

461
00:23:06,150 --> 00:23:07,790
And we knew each
other for many years.

462
00:23:07,790 --> 00:23:12,070
But I married someone
else, and she eventually

463
00:23:12,070 --> 00:23:13,570
went down the
University of Michigan

464
00:23:13,570 --> 00:23:17,420
to get a PhD in psychology.

465
00:23:17,420 --> 00:23:20,510
At the time, she was
finishing her dissertation.

466
00:23:20,510 --> 00:23:23,355
So she lived in Chicago
and worked in a hospital

467
00:23:23,355 --> 00:23:25,410
as a psychologist.

468
00:23:25,410 --> 00:23:28,220
So I got in touch with her
when I was in Cleveland.

469
00:23:28,220 --> 00:23:34,340
And for a holiday weekend, my
buddy, who came to Cleveland,

470

00:23:34,340 --> 00:23:35,960
really was stationed in Chicago.

471
00:23:35,960 --> 00:23:39,470
So we went to Chicago
and we met with Jeanne.

472
00:23:39,470 --> 00:23:42,180
And that was the beginning
of our involvement

473
00:23:42,180 --> 00:23:45,690
and 1 and 1/2 years
later, we married.

474
00:23:45,690 --> 00:23:47,015
And we married in '64.

475
00:23:47,015 --> 00:23:50,050

476
00:23:50,050 --> 00:23:54,710
But I had known her for
10 years before that.

477
00:23:54,710 --> 00:23:56,125
And then we had two sons.

478
00:23:56,125 --> 00:23:58,760

479
00:23:58,760 --> 00:24:02,540
After 1967, I had
enough of travel,

480
00:24:02,540 --> 00:24:05,520
and said I wanted to go to
Washington to settle instead

481
00:24:05,520 --> 00:24:06,020
of--

482

00:24:06,020 --> 00:24:08,276
in the region, you travel a lot.

483
00:24:08,276 --> 00:24:09,780
And that's how we came here.

484
00:24:09,780 --> 00:24:12,236
And we've been here since 19--

485
00:24:12,236 --> 00:24:13,150
it's now.

486
00:24:13,150 --> 00:24:18,685
In May was 25 years,
we arrived here.

487
00:24:18,685 --> 00:24:20,530
That's the story.

488
00:24:20,530 --> 00:24:24,370
That's a very involved story.

489
00:24:24,370 --> 00:24:26,860
Would you like to talk a little
bit about your parents now?

490
00:24:26,860 --> 00:24:29,320
Or would you like to stop?

491
00:24:29,320 --> 00:24:31,880
That would be up to you.

492
00:24:31,880 --> 00:24:40,120
Well, my father was,
as I said before,

493
00:24:40,120 --> 00:24:44,050
was one of six in his family.

494
00:24:44,050 --> 00:24:46,440
Can you tell me his name, and
do you know his birth name?

495
00:24:46,440 --> 00:24:46,940
Yeah.

496
00:24:46,940 --> 00:24:48,430
Mendel.

497
00:24:48,430 --> 00:24:57,780
I said before, Mendel Goldstein,
born September 15, 1884.

498
00:24:57,780 --> 00:25:00,270
He married about
age of 25, as far

499
00:25:00,270 --> 00:25:05,220
as I can reconstitute
the marriage.

500
00:25:05,220 --> 00:25:07,730
My mother was 21.

501
00:25:07,730 --> 00:25:13,110
She was one of eight, one of
eight children in their house.

502
00:25:13,110 --> 00:25:15,860
I didn't know my
father's parents.

503
00:25:15,860 --> 00:25:18,590
They were dead long
before I was born.

504
00:25:18,590 --> 00:25:20,990
My mother's father
was dead long before.

505
00:25:20,990 --> 00:25:23,930
I only knew my
maternal grandmother.

506

00:25:23,930 --> 00:25:25,820
She died in 1934.

507
00:25:25,820 --> 00:25:27,370
Were they are from Radom?

508
00:25:27,370 --> 00:25:29,150
All were from Radom there.

509
00:25:29,150 --> 00:25:31,580
I don't know how
far back they go,

510
00:25:31,580 --> 00:25:32,880
but they were all from Radom.

511
00:25:32,880 --> 00:25:36,920

512
00:25:36,920 --> 00:25:40,040
My father had two sisters
and a brother in Radom.

513
00:25:40,040 --> 00:25:44,670
One brother lived in
the Ukraine and he

514
00:25:44,670 --> 00:25:47,910
perished in Dnipropetrovsk
in the Holocaust.

515
00:25:47,910 --> 00:25:51,300
And one youngest brother, a
single man, lived in Paris.

516
00:25:51,300 --> 00:25:54,720
And he came to Birkenau in 1942.

517
00:25:54,720 --> 00:25:55,440
I met him.

518
00:25:55,440 --> 00:25:59,480

He lived about two weeks.

519

00:25:59,480 --> 00:26:02,240

The same name as my
brother, Yechiel.

520

00:26:02,240 --> 00:26:05,990

He was about-- at that
time, he was about 40.

521

00:26:05,990 --> 00:26:08,570

41, perhaps.

522

00:26:08,570 --> 00:26:15,475

My mother had two sisters
and five brothers.

523

00:26:15,475 --> 00:26:18,250

524

00:26:18,250 --> 00:26:21,250

Only one of them lived abroad.

525

00:26:21,250 --> 00:26:23,300

One of her younger
brothers lived in New York.

526

00:26:23,300 --> 00:26:28,210

And he is the uncle to
whom I came in 1946.

527

00:26:28,210 --> 00:26:29,470

He sent me the affidavit.

528

00:26:29,470 --> 00:26:32,600

And he was exceedingly
helpful to me.

529

00:26:32,600 --> 00:26:36,670

He treated me like
a father, helped me.

530

00:26:36,670 --> 00:26:40,490
Without him, I would not have
been able to get an education,

531
00:26:40,490 --> 00:26:43,420
or support myself, and so on.

532
00:26:43,420 --> 00:26:48,430
So he was exceedingly
well-disposed towards me.

533
00:26:48,430 --> 00:26:51,250
I was the only one
of his entire family

534
00:26:51,250 --> 00:26:54,790
that was alive except
for my brother.

535
00:26:54,790 --> 00:26:56,260
And so he was--

536
00:26:56,260 --> 00:27:00,730
he had an affinity, a very
close relationship with me.

537
00:27:00,730 --> 00:27:05,400

538
00:27:05,400 --> 00:27:09,660
Do you know about your
parents' education.

539
00:27:09,660 --> 00:27:17,460
No, this much I can not go
back, except that in those days,

540
00:27:17,460 --> 00:27:19,320
there was no Polish education.

541
00:27:19,320 --> 00:27:26,940
You studied Russian, or you
studied Hebrew, or Yiddish.

542

00:27:26,940 --> 00:27:30,780

I don't know how far to the
parochial school, my father--

543

00:27:30,780 --> 00:27:32,640

how far he went in
a parochial school.

544

00:27:32,640 --> 00:27:38,390

But he was literate in Yiddish,
and Russian, and some Polish.

545

00:27:38,390 --> 00:27:41,240

546

00:27:41,240 --> 00:27:45,920

The Russian-- his
ability to speak or have

547

00:27:45,920 --> 00:27:48,530

a command of Russian
was helped by the fact

548

00:27:48,530 --> 00:27:52,250

that he, in 1913, at the
beginning of 1913, he

549

00:27:52,250 --> 00:27:55,340

and the family
left Radom and went

550

00:27:55,340 --> 00:28:01,190

to settle in Yekaterinoslav,
this was in the Ukraine.

551

00:28:01,190 --> 00:28:10,360

He was sitting on his suitcases,
waiting for a passage card

552

00:28:10,360 --> 00:28:13,120

from my mother's aunt
who lived in New York.

553

00:28:13,120 --> 00:28:16,790

But this never arrived, and the times were difficult in Poland.

554

00:28:16,790 --> 00:28:21,460

There was an economic boycott against Jews at the time.

555

00:28:21,460 --> 00:28:24,250

Jewish was tradesmen, and crafts, and so on.

556

00:28:24,250 --> 00:28:26,650

And his brother had just finished

557

00:28:26,650 --> 00:28:28,000

serving the Tsar's Army.

558

00:28:28,000 --> 00:28:29,710

And he settled in Yekaterinoslav, he

559

00:28:29,710 --> 00:28:31,720

wrote him, come here, it's a much better life

560

00:28:31,720 --> 00:28:32,840

than in Poland.

561

00:28:32,840 --> 00:28:34,520

So he went there.

562

00:28:34,520 --> 00:28:37,510

And I believe it was the best years of their life

563

00:28:37,510 --> 00:28:39,610

that they have spent there.

564

00:28:39,610 --> 00:28:44,470

Unfortunately, the war
intervened, and later,

565
00:28:44,470 --> 00:28:46,660
the revolution, and the
Civil War, and pogroms.

566
00:28:46,660 --> 00:28:52,150
And by 1921, they were
able to exchange, come back

567
00:28:52,150 --> 00:28:55,090
with the Nansen exchange.

568
00:28:55,090 --> 00:28:59,710
Which was Nansen was a Norwegian
humanitarian diplomat, who

569
00:28:59,710 --> 00:29:05,200
arranged the Nansen passports
for stateless people.

570
00:29:05,200 --> 00:29:10,330
And so they came
back as war refugees,

571
00:29:10,330 --> 00:29:14,320
who were driven out to Russia
and came back after the war.

572
00:29:14,320 --> 00:29:19,870
And the end of 1921, they
came back with no place to--

573
00:29:19,870 --> 00:29:23,500
it was very difficult
to get apartments.

574
00:29:23,500 --> 00:29:25,370
And moved in with
my grandmother,

575
00:29:25,370 --> 00:29:27,195

a family of four children.

576

00:29:27,195 --> 00:29:29,860

And my grandmother
has several of her own

577

00:29:29,860 --> 00:29:32,420

still living there,
all living in one room.

578

00:29:32,420 --> 00:29:34,620

That was unbelievable.

579

00:29:34,620 --> 00:29:36,340

And then I was born.

580

00:29:36,340 --> 00:29:38,980

A couple of months
later, I was born.

581

00:29:38,980 --> 00:29:40,240

And we moved into--

582

00:29:40,240 --> 00:29:43,910

finally got a place
in which I grew up.

583

00:29:43,910 --> 00:29:45,220

And we lived there for--

584

00:29:45,220 --> 00:29:46,240

This is an apartment?

585

00:29:46,240 --> 00:29:49,060

Yeah, yeah, most people
lived in apartments there.

586

00:29:49,060 --> 00:29:50,320

Was it large?

587

00:29:50,320 --> 00:29:53,650

No, it was a two-room apartment.

588
00:29:53,650 --> 00:29:56,770
Large apartments were very
few and far in between.

589
00:29:56,770 --> 00:30:00,820
Only wealthy people or
upper-middle class people.

590
00:30:00,820 --> 00:30:02,050
You couldn't.

591
00:30:02,050 --> 00:30:05,530
There was a very strict
rent control in the country,

592
00:30:05,530 --> 00:30:07,930
hence there was very
little construction,

593
00:30:07,930 --> 00:30:08,920
housing construction.

594
00:30:08,920 --> 00:30:11,830
And those who lived in
a house will never move.

595
00:30:11,830 --> 00:30:16,060
Generations would
pass on the apartment.

596
00:30:16,060 --> 00:30:20,560
People lived there 20, 30,
40 years in one apartment.

597
00:30:20,560 --> 00:30:22,630
It was much, much--

598
00:30:22,630 --> 00:30:24,680
there wasn't much to go around.

599
00:30:24,680 --> 00:30:29,050

And just a little bit before the war, some construction started.

600
00:30:29,050 --> 00:30:31,800
But it was expensive
and people usually

601
00:30:31,800 --> 00:30:36,460
lived in less than
desirable housing conditions

602
00:30:36,460 --> 00:30:38,620
by our standards.

603
00:30:38,620 --> 00:30:42,250
By existing standards
there, it wasn't bad at all.

604
00:30:42,250 --> 00:30:42,970
Right.

605
00:30:42,970 --> 00:30:45,473
We weren't-- by
existing standards,

606
00:30:45,473 --> 00:30:47,140
I would consider
ourselves middle class.

607
00:30:47,140 --> 00:30:51,070
By our standards, we should
have been considered deprived.

608
00:30:51,070 --> 00:30:53,800
But I never thought
of myself deprived.

609
00:30:53,800 --> 00:30:55,030
And that's it all.

610
00:30:55,030 --> 00:30:57,155
You said you and your
siblings were involved

611
00:30:57,155 --> 00:30:58,270
in the Zionist movement.

612
00:30:58,270 --> 00:31:01,315
Were your parents also
inclined Zionistically?

613
00:31:01,315 --> 00:31:02,440
Or did they have any other?

614
00:31:02,440 --> 00:31:03,760
No, no, both.

615
00:31:03,760 --> 00:31:06,670
But they were inclined to.

616
00:31:06,670 --> 00:31:08,260
I can't recall, really.

617
00:31:08,260 --> 00:31:12,550
But the Zionist
movement was usually

618
00:31:12,550 --> 00:31:13,870
a movement for the young.

619
00:31:13,870 --> 00:31:17,680
And the elderly, I mean,
middle-aged people, some

620
00:31:17,680 --> 00:31:19,960
were, who started there young.

621
00:31:19,960 --> 00:31:23,590
But my father was very young.

622
00:31:23,590 --> 00:31:25,150
There was hardly
anything going on,

623

00:31:25,150 --> 00:31:28,490
certainly not in a
provincial city, like Radom.

624
00:31:28,490 --> 00:31:28,990
Right.

625
00:31:28,990 --> 00:31:30,970
So would he have
been just sent off

626
00:31:30,970 --> 00:31:34,520
to apprentice with a
tailor at a young age?

627
00:31:34,520 --> 00:31:37,450
I'm sure he must have
started very young.

628
00:31:37,450 --> 00:31:39,100
12, maybe even younger.

629
00:31:39,100 --> 00:31:41,810
I know that's the
age of that time.

630
00:31:41,810 --> 00:31:44,380
People started to get
apprentice at an early age.

631
00:31:44,380 --> 00:31:46,660
You had a few
years of schooling.

632
00:31:46,660 --> 00:31:50,770
But still, my father
was very literate

633
00:31:50,770 --> 00:31:54,310
in Jewish and cognate learning.

634
00:31:54,310 --> 00:32:00,010
He was able to take the

role of the one leading

635

00:32:00,010 --> 00:32:02,750

the congregation in
prayer, for instance,

636

00:32:02,750 --> 00:32:09,670

during the Shabbat morning, for
Shacharit or sometimes Mussaf.

637

00:32:09,670 --> 00:32:14,170

But he was not a Hasid, he
wasn't dressed like a Hasid.

638

00:32:14,170 --> 00:32:17,650

There were very few
Hasidim in our town.

639

00:32:17,650 --> 00:32:21,430

Our life was utterly secular.

640

00:32:21,430 --> 00:32:25,160

Your mother, then, was
she educated as well?

641

00:32:25,160 --> 00:32:27,855

She had to be because she
was able to read and write.

642

00:32:27,855 --> 00:32:28,480

And so she had.

643

00:32:28,480 --> 00:32:30,690

I don't know whether
she went to school

644

00:32:30,690 --> 00:32:32,960

or she had private education.

645

00:32:32,960 --> 00:32:33,780

I don't know.

646

00:32:33,780 --> 00:32:39,670
Her grandfather, after whom I'm
named, was a Hebrew teacher.

647
00:32:39,670 --> 00:32:43,000
Another Melamed, meaning a--

648
00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:44,820
Instructor of Hebrew,
[BOTH TALKING]..

649
00:32:44,820 --> 00:32:47,050
[? Cheder ?], yeah.

650
00:32:47,050 --> 00:32:51,830
I'm named after him because
my mother dreamed that--

651
00:32:51,830 --> 00:32:54,910
when she was pregnant
with me, still in Russia--

652
00:32:54,910 --> 00:32:58,730
that she saw him in her dreams.

653
00:32:58,730 --> 00:32:59,240
She didn't.

654
00:32:59,240 --> 00:33:01,310
Of course, he was
alive in Radom,

655
00:33:01,310 --> 00:33:06,200
but she always used
it as a story to tell.

656
00:33:06,200 --> 00:33:07,760
That was a time
when he really died.

657
00:33:07,760 --> 00:33:08,760
He died in Radom.

658

00:33:08,760 --> 00:33:09,260

Oh, my.

659

00:33:09,260 --> 00:33:12,230

Just before we came back.

660

00:33:12,230 --> 00:33:15,900

That's why I was
named after him.

661

00:33:15,900 --> 00:33:18,650

He was called Fischel Melamed.

662

00:33:18,650 --> 00:33:22,930

That was his sobriquet.

663

00:33:22,930 --> 00:33:25,690

Because all the other
grandfathers had already

664

00:33:25,690 --> 00:33:26,590

namesakes.

665

00:33:26,590 --> 00:33:28,870

And they had to
fill in the gaps.

666

00:33:28,870 --> 00:33:32,140

667

00:33:32,140 --> 00:33:35,650

But you said, then, your mother
married by about age 21 or so?

668

00:33:35,650 --> 00:33:36,820

Yeah.

669

00:33:36,820 --> 00:33:38,500

From other people
that I've talked to,

670

00:33:38,500 --> 00:33:40,330
I understand that if a girl--

671
00:33:40,330 --> 00:33:43,300
she must have done
something in that time.

672
00:33:43,300 --> 00:33:43,930
Would you know?

673
00:33:43,930 --> 00:33:46,570
Yeah, in fact, that
may be the reason

674
00:33:46,570 --> 00:33:48,040
why she didn't marry at 18.

675
00:33:48,040 --> 00:33:49,660
That's a good point.

676
00:33:49,660 --> 00:33:52,750
Her father died a few
years before she married.

677
00:33:52,750 --> 00:33:56,920
And she, her father,
my grandfather

678
00:33:56,920 --> 00:34:03,790
was dealing in produce
and game, nuts and eggs.

679
00:34:03,790 --> 00:34:06,440
And she would-- I remember
stories as a child,

680
00:34:06,440 --> 00:34:10,360
she would always tell about
her going to various fairs

681
00:34:10,360 --> 00:34:13,179
and marketplaces to buy.

682

00:34:13,179 --> 00:34:19,690

And she had contacts with recipients, or the wholesalers,

683

00:34:19,690 --> 00:34:21,610

or whatever in bigger cities.

684

00:34:21,610 --> 00:34:24,010

So she was involved in maintaining.

685

00:34:24,010 --> 00:34:25,420

She was the oldest in the house.

686

00:34:25,420 --> 00:34:30,000

There was a brood of seven to feed.

687

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:32,550

And so she and my grandmother were

688

00:34:32,550 --> 00:34:37,540

involved in that sort of business until she married.

689

00:34:37,540 --> 00:34:41,219

But once she got married, I don't

690

00:34:41,219 --> 00:34:44,820

believe she was involved in any occupation.

691

00:34:44,820 --> 00:34:47,100

What about your father's parents?

692

00:34:47,100 --> 00:34:48,960

Do you know what--

693

00:34:48,960 --> 00:34:53,500

No, my father's
father was a furrier.

694
00:34:53,500 --> 00:34:57,630
In fact, if you spoke about fur
in Radom, it was a Goldstein.

695
00:34:57,630 --> 00:34:59,820
There was so many from
different branches

696
00:34:59,820 --> 00:35:01,620
of the family were furriers.

697
00:35:01,620 --> 00:35:08,760
My two grand uncles
and my grandfather's

698
00:35:08,760 --> 00:35:10,445
one, two, three brothers.

699
00:35:10,445 --> 00:35:11,790
They were all furriers.

700
00:35:11,790 --> 00:35:15,150
And they had children
who were furriers.

701
00:35:15,150 --> 00:35:15,810
Oh, wow.

702
00:35:15,810 --> 00:35:20,170
And one of the three had
no sons, he had daughters.

703
00:35:20,170 --> 00:35:23,460
And they all three of
them lived in Toronto.

704
00:35:23,460 --> 00:35:25,980
They all came here before
the First World War.

705

00:35:25,980 --> 00:35:28,470

And I used to see
them all very often.

706

00:35:28,470 --> 00:35:30,450

These were my father's
first cousins.

707

00:35:30,450 --> 00:35:34,450

708

00:35:34,450 --> 00:35:40,760

My father's older brother
was initially a furrier,

709

00:35:40,760 --> 00:35:44,180

but he, of course, as
long as I remember,

710

00:35:44,180 --> 00:35:48,350

he was a fur merchant,
a very wealthy man.

711

00:35:48,350 --> 00:35:53,120

The one whose son became the
doctor and I met in Auschwitz.

712

00:35:53,120 --> 00:35:54,440

He had eight children.

713

00:35:54,440 --> 00:36:00,050

But he didn't do fur work but
he had the big store of furs,

714

00:36:00,050 --> 00:36:02,970

the biggest in the city.

715

00:36:02,970 --> 00:36:04,540

All gone.

716

00:36:04,540 --> 00:36:07,790

Can I assume that your family

life, like for example,

717

00:36:07,790 --> 00:36:11,745
the Sabbath was a family time,
and you had meals together,

718

00:36:11,745 --> 00:36:12,620
and things like that?

719

00:36:12,620 --> 00:36:16,540
Oh, meals together was--

720

00:36:16,540 --> 00:36:20,455
in the West, if your family
has meals together, it's--

721

00:36:20,455 --> 00:36:21,490
Rare.

722

00:36:21,490 --> 00:36:23,320
--somewhat of a phenomenon.

723

00:36:23,320 --> 00:36:27,730
But all our meals, no matter how
meager, no matter how festive,

724

00:36:27,730 --> 00:36:30,250
they were all together.

725

00:36:30,250 --> 00:36:33,052
Namely the dinner, which
was usually during the--

726

00:36:33,052 --> 00:36:33,760
At midday, right.

727

00:36:33,760 --> 00:36:35,860
--afternoon, now, at midday.

728

00:36:35,860 --> 00:36:38,440
And the evening stuff,
there was usually

729

00:36:38,440 --> 00:36:42,940

some cold cuts or whatever,
depending on the season.

730

00:36:42,940 --> 00:36:44,860

But the main meal
was always together.

731

00:36:44,860 --> 00:36:49,480

And the Sabbath, the Friday
night, and Sabbath noon

732

00:36:49,480 --> 00:36:50,860

was usually big meals.

733

00:36:50,860 --> 00:36:55,330

And they were always together
with all the trimmings.

734

00:36:55,330 --> 00:37:00,280

My mother was an exceptionally
gifted cook and baker.

735

00:37:00,280 --> 00:37:04,060

I mean, she could concoct things
that were out of this world.

736

00:37:04,060 --> 00:37:06,670

She learned a lot in
Russia when she was there.

737

00:37:06,670 --> 00:37:08,890

So her baked-- she
was always in--

738

00:37:08,890 --> 00:37:11,710

You had a separate kitchen
in these two rooms?

739

00:37:11,710 --> 00:37:14,550

Yeah, no, one of the
rooms was a kitchen.

740
00:37:14,550 --> 00:37:15,050
Yeah.

741
00:37:15,050 --> 00:37:17,190
As well as my father's shop.

742
00:37:17,190 --> 00:37:18,330
Oh, my gosh.

743
00:37:18,330 --> 00:37:19,290
Workshop, yeah.

744
00:37:19,290 --> 00:37:20,970
So where did the kids sleep?

745
00:37:20,970 --> 00:37:22,170
In that room also?

746
00:37:22,170 --> 00:37:25,690
At night, that was the
room, was several kids slept

747
00:37:25,690 --> 00:37:27,000
and the other kids slept.

748
00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:27,840
It was crowded.

749
00:37:27,840 --> 00:37:32,260
But it's amazing that
we didn't know about it.

750
00:37:32,260 --> 00:37:35,460
And now, it would
be a formidable task

751
00:37:35,460 --> 00:37:38,520
just to assign places to sleep.

752
00:37:38,520 --> 00:37:43,840

But at the time, relatively,
we were well-off.

753
00:37:43,840 --> 00:37:44,960
Right, right.

754
00:37:44,960 --> 00:37:48,700
Others had larger
families and less space.

755
00:37:48,700 --> 00:37:50,030
And we managed.

756
00:37:50,030 --> 00:37:52,028
We managed to be well-dressed.

757
00:37:52,028 --> 00:37:53,570
Particularly, my
father was a tailor.

758
00:37:53,570 --> 00:37:58,078
So we were all custom then.

759
00:37:58,078 --> 00:38:01,230
We managed to be clean.

760
00:38:01,230 --> 00:38:02,680
And educated, that's--

761
00:38:02,680 --> 00:38:06,310
And you were less rowdy than
American boys are brought up

762
00:38:06,310 --> 00:38:06,810
to be.

763
00:38:06,810 --> 00:38:10,530
And I finished school.

764
00:38:10,530 --> 00:38:15,510
My brothers finished school and
we all had a great inclination

765
00:38:15,510 --> 00:38:16,810
to read.

766
00:38:16,810 --> 00:38:19,350
My brother, the one who
was in Shema Yisrael,

767
00:38:19,350 --> 00:38:21,960
was fluent in Hebrew,
which was rare for us.

768
00:38:21,960 --> 00:38:24,210
We were not.

769
00:38:24,210 --> 00:38:26,160
He left, he led
the correspondence

770
00:38:26,160 --> 00:38:29,070
for the organization with
the central office in Warsaw,

771
00:38:29,070 --> 00:38:30,660
all in Hebrew.

772
00:38:30,660 --> 00:38:34,080
And he also knew the
Russian alphabet.

773
00:38:34,080 --> 00:38:36,990
He was a very gifted fellow.

774
00:38:36,990 --> 00:38:40,980
He was an unusually gifted guy.

775
00:38:40,980 --> 00:38:43,530
He was there a short
period in the army

776
00:38:43,530 --> 00:38:47,730
and he got the private

first class, one bar.

777

00:38:47,730 --> 00:38:50,190

Very few Jews had made
even a private first class.

778

00:38:50,190 --> 00:38:53,880

It was usually a GI.

779

00:38:53,880 --> 00:38:57,150

He became the company writer,
I mean, the company clerk,

780

00:38:57,150 --> 00:38:59,010

I should say.

781

00:38:59,010 --> 00:39:01,460

He was able to fix
electricity if it went bad.

782

00:39:01,460 --> 00:39:06,060

If they needed invitations
for various balls and parties,

783

00:39:06,060 --> 00:39:07,500

they sent him to Radom.

784

00:39:07,500 --> 00:39:10,260

He came to Radom almost every
month on leave for a day

785

00:39:10,260 --> 00:39:12,030

to do the printing.

786

00:39:12,030 --> 00:39:18,390

Since he could set type, he
was a printing apprentice.

787

00:39:18,390 --> 00:39:19,470

So he took time off.

788

00:39:19,470 --> 00:39:21,420

And he did the
printing and went back.

789
00:39:21,420 --> 00:39:23,830
And he did anything.

790
00:39:23,830 --> 00:39:24,990
He didn't go on maneuvers.

791
00:39:24,990 --> 00:39:26,200
He was always excused.

792
00:39:26,200 --> 00:39:29,700
So he had 16 months
of easy service

793
00:39:29,700 --> 00:39:33,400
because he was very
capable of doing things.

794
00:39:33,400 --> 00:39:35,340
What about-- is
there anything else

795
00:39:35,340 --> 00:39:39,488
that you can tell me about your
parents before the war started?

796
00:39:39,488 --> 00:39:40,780
What about their personalities?

797
00:39:40,780 --> 00:39:43,170
What were they like?

798
00:39:43,170 --> 00:39:44,170
That you could remember.

799
00:39:44,170 --> 00:39:48,960

800
00:39:48,960 --> 00:39:57,480
My father was a man who had a

exceedingly high sense of honor

801
00:39:57,480 --> 00:39:58,630
about him.

802
00:39:58,630 --> 00:40:03,083
His word was his--

803
00:40:03,083 --> 00:40:03,750
what do you say?

804
00:40:03,750 --> 00:40:04,590
His word was his--

805
00:40:04,590 --> 00:40:08,685

806
00:40:08,685 --> 00:40:09,685
there's an English term.

807
00:40:09,685 --> 00:40:13,120

808
00:40:13,120 --> 00:40:13,960
I forgot.

809
00:40:13,960 --> 00:40:16,910
Just escaped me.

810
00:40:16,910 --> 00:40:20,660
He had a renown that if he--

811
00:40:20,660 --> 00:40:24,830
for instance, people would
come to him to cosign.

812
00:40:24,830 --> 00:40:29,510
If he had a signature
on someone's loan,

813
00:40:29,510 --> 00:40:30,900

the people would get a loan.

814
00:40:30,900 --> 00:40:33,620
And sometimes he would
be stuck with it.

815
00:40:33,620 --> 00:40:40,130
But I could go to any store
in town to buy there supplies.

816
00:40:40,130 --> 00:40:42,170
And all I had to put it down.

817
00:40:42,170 --> 00:40:47,000
And then wouldn't
have to pay anything.

818
00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:49,760
After months, they'll
come up, and the accounts

819
00:40:49,760 --> 00:40:50,450
will be settled.

820
00:40:50,450 --> 00:40:52,355
And he would give a--

821
00:40:52,355 --> 00:40:56,690
not a check, we had a
system then of [? texel. ?]

822
00:40:56,690 --> 00:41:00,570
When you put an IOU which is due
in three months or two months.

823
00:41:00,570 --> 00:41:03,410
And at that time, it would
be submitted to the bank,

824
00:41:03,410 --> 00:41:05,868
and you get a bank order to pay.

825

00:41:05,868 --> 00:41:07,160
And you had to come in and pay.

826
00:41:07,160 --> 00:41:10,160
And if you didn't, it would
go to bankruptcy proceedings

827
00:41:10,160 --> 00:41:13,310
or something like that.

828
00:41:13,310 --> 00:41:18,440
His signature was like
the Bank of England.

829
00:41:18,440 --> 00:41:22,700
The exceedingly honest
person and subdued, not

830
00:41:22,700 --> 00:41:24,110
very aggressive.

831
00:41:24,110 --> 00:41:26,130
My mother had a very
strong personality.

832
00:41:26,130 --> 00:41:29,450
She was very daring
in the things she

833
00:41:29,450 --> 00:41:36,350
did while she was in Russia.

834
00:41:36,350 --> 00:41:38,720
My father was conscripted
in the Tsarist army

835
00:41:38,720 --> 00:41:42,080
during the war in 1916.

836
00:41:42,080 --> 00:41:46,430
And he served in the regiment
in town, in Yekaterinoslav.

837

00:41:46,430 --> 00:41:50,075

And he would come home at night
with his corporal, a sergeant,

838

00:41:50,075 --> 00:41:53,070

for food and they ate there.

839

00:41:53,070 --> 00:41:55,120

The time came they
will be shipped out

840

00:41:55,120 --> 00:41:57,590

to the front, the
Romanian front.

841

00:41:57,590 --> 00:42:02,300

My mother insisted
that he desert

842

00:42:02,300 --> 00:42:04,122

because the whole
echelon, as they

843

00:42:04,122 --> 00:42:06,080

called it, the whole
transport that went there,

844

00:42:06,080 --> 00:42:06,788

came back frozen.

845

00:42:06,788 --> 00:42:10,490

They were all-- the entire
transport, regiment,

846

00:42:10,490 --> 00:42:13,700

was killed and frozen to death.

847

00:42:13,700 --> 00:42:20,130

He did skip town the last day.

848

00:42:20,130 --> 00:42:23,100

The sergeant-- on the way,

when the regiment was marching

849

00:42:23,100 --> 00:42:28,140
to the rail, to the rail
station, dropped by,

850

00:42:28,140 --> 00:42:32,280
and he left his pack
and his carbine.

851

00:42:32,280 --> 00:42:35,940
He says, if he has submitted,
if he surrender right now,

852

00:42:35,940 --> 00:42:37,050
he still has time.

853

00:42:37,050 --> 00:42:40,350
He wanted him to join so
he doesn't get to trouble.

854

00:42:40,350 --> 00:42:44,670
But my father was already
in Kiev at the time.

855

00:42:44,670 --> 00:42:47,550
My mother claimed that
the regiment lost him.

856

00:42:47,550 --> 00:42:50,460
I mean, my mother
had enough guts

857

00:42:50,460 --> 00:42:53,850
to go up to the Ministry of
War office, whatever was,

858

00:42:53,850 --> 00:43:00,100
in Yekaterinoslav, and
claim that she is a--

859

00:43:00,100 --> 00:43:04,415
if not a widow, she is a woman

with children whose husband

860
00:43:04,415 --> 00:43:05,540
disappeared in the service.

861
00:43:05,540 --> 00:43:08,760
And she got a pension.

862
00:43:08,760 --> 00:43:11,940
While for the couple of months
until the revolution broke out.

863
00:43:11,940 --> 00:43:14,490
It was only about
three or four months.

864
00:43:14,490 --> 00:43:15,392
He was in Kiev.

865
00:43:15,392 --> 00:43:17,100
And then of course,
there was an amnesty,

866
00:43:17,100 --> 00:43:18,690
and he came back
to Yekaterinoslav.

867
00:43:18,690 --> 00:43:20,160
He had to report
to the regiment.

868
00:43:20,160 --> 00:43:23,070
And after a few weeks,
they let him go because he

869
00:43:23,070 --> 00:43:25,890
was already not the youngest.

870
00:43:25,890 --> 00:43:27,360
But she was that type.

871
00:43:27,360 --> 00:43:29,490

She could.

872

00:43:29,490 --> 00:43:32,950

She was very daring.

873

00:43:32,950 --> 00:43:37,420

It was in contrast to my father,
who would never even dream.

874

00:43:37,420 --> 00:43:41,700

He wouldn't have the chutzpah
to do that sort of thing.

875

00:43:41,700 --> 00:43:44,040

What about in terms of their
relationship with the kids?

876

00:43:44,040 --> 00:43:48,550

877

00:43:48,550 --> 00:43:51,480

My mother was closer
to the children.

878

00:43:51,480 --> 00:43:56,970

My father was a bit
not detached, really,

879

00:43:56,970 --> 00:43:58,920

but not forthcoming.

880

00:43:58,920 --> 00:44:02,030

881

00:44:02,030 --> 00:44:04,460

That's all I can remember.

882

00:44:04,460 --> 00:44:09,200

It's amazing how little kids
observe about their parents

883

00:44:09,200 --> 00:44:10,410

until they grow up.

884
00:44:10,410 --> 00:44:12,330
But I never had a chance.

885
00:44:12,330 --> 00:44:14,720
I never had a chance to
observe them as a grown up.

886
00:44:14,720 --> 00:44:17,945
When I was a kid, the
parents were they.

887
00:44:17,945 --> 00:44:20,810
My life was with my peers.

888
00:44:20,810 --> 00:44:27,380
And since my brothers were
not my peers, the next in line

889
00:44:27,380 --> 00:44:29,070
was 5 and 1/2 years older.

890
00:44:29,070 --> 00:44:32,510
It was a break between
this brother and myself.

891
00:44:32,510 --> 00:44:35,000
The others were very
close to each other.

892
00:44:35,000 --> 00:44:39,755
But the revolution, the
civil war and the fiat,

893
00:44:39,755 --> 00:44:47,430
when I was born, it was a
long distance from 1960.

894
00:44:47,430 --> 00:44:49,230
I'd like to hear
about, then, what

895

00:44:49,230 --> 00:44:51,647
happened, what you know about
what happened to your family

896

00:44:51,647 --> 00:44:53,970
during the war, if that's OK.

897

00:44:53,970 --> 00:44:55,660
Which war?

898

00:44:55,660 --> 00:44:56,610
World War II, sorry.

899

00:44:56,610 --> 00:44:57,330
Oh, World War II.

900

00:44:57,330 --> 00:44:58,997
I'm going to flip the
tape again though.

901

00:44:58,997 --> 00:45:05,586

902

00:45:05,586 --> 00:45:06,570
OK.

903

00:45:06,570 --> 00:45:13,490
We we're able to manage during
the war for several reasons.

904

00:45:13,490 --> 00:45:16,870

905

00:45:16,870 --> 00:45:19,830
My sister had first--

906

00:45:19,830 --> 00:45:23,545
my sister had a
dressmaking establishment.

907

00:45:23,545 --> 00:45:24,910

It was very good.

908

00:45:24,910 --> 00:45:28,530

She designed, and cut, and
did the whole work herself.

909

00:45:28,530 --> 00:45:32,610

It started with one or two
German civilian employees

910

00:45:32,610 --> 00:45:37,970

who were assigned to the
occupation government came up.

911

00:45:37,970 --> 00:45:40,400

And I suppose that they
didn't have a chance

912

00:45:40,400 --> 00:45:44,510

to get custom tailoring,
custom dressmaking back home,

913

00:45:44,510 --> 00:45:46,850

wherever they came
from, industrial cities.

914

00:45:46,850 --> 00:45:49,140

It was to them a
great achievement.

915

00:45:49,140 --> 00:45:53,540

And pretty soon, whole
flocks of German young women

916

00:45:53,540 --> 00:45:57,620

who were in the occupation
government from the offices

917

00:45:57,620 --> 00:46:04,100

came to do their work dresses,
whatever, skirts, blouses.

918

00:46:04,100 --> 00:46:09,330

And the money wasn't
of much value.

919
00:46:09,330 --> 00:46:10,620
Food was.

920
00:46:10,620 --> 00:46:12,180
And food to them was--

921
00:46:12,180 --> 00:46:15,540
they obtained in the PX, or
whatever German equivalents.

922
00:46:15,540 --> 00:46:21,470
And they brought a pack of
sugar, or flour, or butter,

923
00:46:21,470 --> 00:46:25,310
or something else, or
ersatz coffee, or whatnot.

924
00:46:25,310 --> 00:46:26,810
It meant a great deal to us.

925
00:46:26,810 --> 00:46:28,250
It meant very little to them.

926
00:46:28,250 --> 00:46:31,250
They obtained a dress.

927
00:46:31,250 --> 00:46:37,340
They had made a custom dress for
the equivalent of about \$0.50

928
00:46:37,340 --> 00:46:39,080
or something like that.

929
00:46:39,080 --> 00:46:42,030
But it was to our
mutual advantage.

930
00:46:42,030 --> 00:46:46,030

And so we were able
until the ghetto formed.

931
00:46:46,030 --> 00:46:52,370
When the ghetto closed
in March of 1941,

932
00:46:52,370 --> 00:46:54,110
that stopped to some extent.

933
00:46:54,110 --> 00:47:01,520
Although it didn't-- some of
them had permission to come in.

934
00:47:01,520 --> 00:47:05,790
My father couldn't deal
with the German customers,

935
00:47:05,790 --> 00:47:07,700
those civilian workers.

936
00:47:07,700 --> 00:47:10,550
One only came, and he
was very upset about it.

937
00:47:10,550 --> 00:47:11,810
He was almost frightened.

938
00:47:11,810 --> 00:47:15,140
He was a decent sort of guy.

939
00:47:15,140 --> 00:47:18,350
There were many there
who weren't involved

940
00:47:18,350 --> 00:47:21,680
in the persecution process.

941
00:47:21,680 --> 00:47:25,340
But he was shaking
when they came in.

942

00:47:25,340 --> 00:47:28,760
And he didn't.

943
00:47:28,760 --> 00:47:31,850
And this guy, when he
had the work finished,

944
00:47:31,850 --> 00:47:35,870
my brother took the garment
to his place where he lived,

945
00:47:35,870 --> 00:47:40,040
and he was able to come back
with a sled and a whole sack

946
00:47:40,040 --> 00:47:43,175
of potatoes, which
was a lot to us.

947
00:47:43,175 --> 00:47:46,600
But to him it wasn't anything.

948
00:47:46,600 --> 00:47:52,540
And my brother
worked in the stores.

949
00:47:52,540 --> 00:47:55,690
He got permission.

950
00:47:55,690 --> 00:47:58,840
There was a Jewish
welfare committee,

951
00:47:58,840 --> 00:48:01,780
which was a part of the overall
Polish welfare committee.

952
00:48:01,780 --> 00:48:05,470
It operated in the ghetto.

953
00:48:05,470 --> 00:48:12,940
And they supplied the kitchen
for the home of the elderly,

954
00:48:12,940 --> 00:48:20,200
and for the orphanage,
and homeless, and whatnot.

955
00:48:20,200 --> 00:48:25,072
And he was able to go out.

956
00:48:25,072 --> 00:48:27,280
He got an official permission
to be out of the ghetto

957
00:48:27,280 --> 00:48:29,770
and go to smaller towns
to bring provisions.

958
00:48:29,770 --> 00:48:35,200
And as such, he was able to help
himself, and buy up something,

959
00:48:35,200 --> 00:48:36,970
and smuggle in, and bring in.

960
00:48:36,970 --> 00:48:39,520
So we usually got enough.

961
00:48:39,520 --> 00:48:44,485
He brought coal, which was
unobtainable, plain coal

962
00:48:44,485 --> 00:48:46,120
in the ghetto.

963
00:48:46,120 --> 00:48:47,620
We kept it like diamonds.

964
00:48:47,620 --> 00:48:49,000
We kept it under the bed.

965
00:48:49,000 --> 00:48:51,850
There's no place to keep
it because the basement

966
00:48:51,850 --> 00:48:56,830
that we had as part of the
apartment setup was out front.

967
00:48:56,830 --> 00:48:58,360
The entrance was out front.

968
00:48:58,360 --> 00:49:01,690
And the ghetto happened
to be divided right

969
00:49:01,690 --> 00:49:03,340
in the middle of our courtyard.

970
00:49:03,340 --> 00:49:05,710
There was a fence set up.

971
00:49:05,710 --> 00:49:08,065
The front was
outside the ghetto,

972
00:49:08,065 --> 00:49:10,720
the inside within the courtyard
was within the ghetto,

973
00:49:10,720 --> 00:49:12,220
and the basement
entrance was there.

974
00:49:12,220 --> 00:49:15,640
So we had no place
to put coal or wood.

975
00:49:15,640 --> 00:49:19,060
We used to use it in the
winter to put away potatoes

976
00:49:19,060 --> 00:49:22,720
and all kinds of vegetable
that kept, like onions,

977

00:49:22,720 --> 00:49:24,490
and carrots, and
beets, and whatnot.

978
00:49:24,490 --> 00:49:25,870
And keep cold in the summer.

979
00:49:25,870 --> 00:49:27,580
There was no refrigeration.

980
00:49:27,580 --> 00:49:30,250
You kept your butter
there, your milk, and what.

981
00:49:30,250 --> 00:49:33,310
That was out so we kept--

982
00:49:33,310 --> 00:49:35,980
I remember we kept the
coal under the beds.

983
00:49:35,980 --> 00:49:37,900
Because without the
coal, you'll freeze.

984
00:49:37,900 --> 00:49:40,030
And it was a very rare
thing to have coal.

985
00:49:40,030 --> 00:49:43,940

986
00:49:43,940 --> 00:49:46,790
We would have managed to survive
the war unless they would

987
00:49:46,790 --> 00:49:48,440
have tightened the screws.

988
00:49:48,440 --> 00:49:50,910
At the end, shortly
before I was taken

989

00:49:50,910 --> 00:49:55,040
in the early spring of '42,
they cut off the electricity

990

00:49:55,040 --> 00:49:55,830
from the ghetto.

991

00:49:55,830 --> 00:49:58,130
So we were left
without electricity.

992

00:49:58,130 --> 00:50:00,230
We had to use carbide lamps.

993

00:50:00,230 --> 00:50:03,820
It was a stinking outfit.

994

00:50:03,820 --> 00:50:10,910
That equipment that created
an enormous unpleasant smell

995

00:50:10,910 --> 00:50:11,510
in the house.

996

00:50:11,510 --> 00:50:14,230
But that was the
only thing that--

997

00:50:14,230 --> 00:50:15,980
luckily, it was the
spring and the summer,

998

00:50:15,980 --> 00:50:20,840
and in northern Europe,
the days are very long.

999

00:50:20,840 --> 00:50:23,750
You had daylight up
to 10 o'clock almost.

1000

00:50:23,750 --> 00:50:26,300
9:30, 10 o'clock.

1001
00:50:26,300 --> 00:50:34,000
And we couldn't use the
electric hot plate, a quiet one,

1002
00:50:34,000 --> 00:50:35,100
during the war.

1003
00:50:35,100 --> 00:50:40,270
Before the war, electricity
was so expensive,

1004
00:50:40,270 --> 00:50:42,280
you can't even believe.

1005
00:50:42,280 --> 00:50:45,970
Just having a couple
of bulbs in the house,

1006
00:50:45,970 --> 00:50:51,190
you had to pay almost as
much as 50% of your rent.

1007
00:50:51,190 --> 00:50:52,390
Just for a couple of bulbs.

1008
00:50:52,390 --> 00:50:54,520
It was a monopoly, electricity.

1009
00:50:54,520 --> 00:51:01,290
And it was one of the
largest expenses was

1010
00:51:01,290 --> 00:51:04,000
to be able to pay the utility.

1011
00:51:04,000 --> 00:51:07,980
During the war, the
same price prevailed.

1012
00:51:07,980 --> 00:51:09,510
So you were able to use.

1013
00:51:09,510 --> 00:51:11,910
And we got the chance to
get a hot plate, I remember.

1014
00:51:11,910 --> 00:51:15,300
And we were able to use to boil
water, which was quick, instead

1015
00:51:15,300 --> 00:51:20,480
of having coal to stoke a fire.

1016
00:51:20,480 --> 00:51:23,330
But it stopped in
the spring of '42,

1017
00:51:23,330 --> 00:51:24,950
just shortly before I was taken.

1018
00:51:24,950 --> 00:51:28,890
And what happened from
there on, I really

1019
00:51:28,890 --> 00:51:31,513
have no way of knowing.

1020
00:51:31,513 --> 00:51:33,180
You don't know where
they were deported,

1021
00:51:33,180 --> 00:51:34,680
when they were
deported, or where?

1022
00:51:34,680 --> 00:51:38,040
Yeah, together with
the Jews of the town.

1023
00:51:38,040 --> 00:51:41,880
And to [? too serious ?] there.

1024
00:51:41,880 --> 00:51:45,750

My mother and sister when
first, during the first.

1025
00:51:45,750 --> 00:51:49,970
That was in the middle
of, end of July.

1026
00:51:49,970 --> 00:51:52,220
I don't know how my
father got separated.

1027
00:51:52,220 --> 00:51:57,260
But he lived-- my cousin told
me he lived with her family,

1028
00:51:57,260 --> 00:52:01,340
with his older
brother, until the next

1029
00:52:01,340 --> 00:52:04,550
and the final deportation
took place two weeks

1030
00:52:04,550 --> 00:52:09,620
later, in early August of 1942.

1031
00:52:09,620 --> 00:52:10,280
I don't know.

1032
00:52:10,280 --> 00:52:12,260
Do you know where
they were taken?

1033
00:52:12,260 --> 00:52:13,010
Treblinka.

1034
00:52:13,010 --> 00:52:15,050
They were taken to, OK.

1035
00:52:15,050 --> 00:52:19,900
Most of the Polish general
government provinces

1036

00:52:19,900 --> 00:52:26,070

were, also Radom and all
the big cities around,

1037

00:52:26,070 --> 00:52:27,690

went to Treblinka.

1038

00:52:27,690 --> 00:52:30,540

People from the
eastern provinces

1039

00:52:30,540 --> 00:52:37,905

of the general government went
to Majdanek, Sobibor, Belzec.

1040

00:52:37,905 --> 00:52:40,560

1041

00:52:40,560 --> 00:52:47,130

People from Krakow, Lemberg,
and Lwow went to these places.

1042

00:52:47,130 --> 00:52:53,518

But the rest-- not many Polish
transports came to Auschwitz.

1043

00:52:53,518 --> 00:52:56,660

1044

00:52:56,660 --> 00:52:59,880

And the 42 people came from
various provinces that were

1045

00:52:59,880 --> 00:53:02,740

incorporated into the Reich.

1046

00:53:02,740 --> 00:53:06,220

But Auschwitz, most
of Polish Jewry

1047

00:53:06,220 --> 00:53:15,010

was annihilated in Treblinka,

Belzec, Sobibor, Majdanek.

1048

00:53:15,010 --> 00:53:19,330
Radom and all the environment
went to Treblinka.

1049

00:53:19,330 --> 00:53:25,535

1050

00:53:25,535 --> 00:53:27,660
Would you like to talk
about your brothers as well?

1051

00:53:27,660 --> 00:53:31,470
The ones that you
have pictures of here?

1052

00:53:31,470 --> 00:53:36,960
Anything about-- you
mentioned the one

1053

00:53:36,960 --> 00:53:38,500
that was in the military.

1054

00:53:38,500 --> 00:53:39,180
Was that Moshe?

1055

00:53:39,180 --> 00:53:39,680
Yeah.

1056

00:53:39,680 --> 00:53:42,410

1057

00:53:42,410 --> 00:53:46,210
Did you have a
similar education?

1058

00:53:46,210 --> 00:53:49,390
I had a similar education
to the two, these two.

1059

00:53:49,390 --> 00:53:52,010

They were close to each other.

1060

00:53:52,010 --> 00:53:54,110

They graduated grade school.

1061

00:53:54,110 --> 00:53:57,410

That was seven years of
compulsory education.

1062

00:53:57,410 --> 00:54:00,380

That was it.

1063

00:54:00,380 --> 00:54:02,330

This is Yechiel.

1064

00:54:02,330 --> 00:54:04,070

And this is Moshe.

1065

00:54:04,070 --> 00:54:08,240

They were about close
to two years apart,

1066

00:54:08,240 --> 00:54:10,540

a year and 10 months or so.

1067

00:54:10,540 --> 00:54:14,643

They were both born in
Russia, Yekaterinoslav.

1068

00:54:14,643 --> 00:54:18,350

1069

00:54:18,350 --> 00:54:20,842

This man here was a
friend of my father

1070

00:54:20,842 --> 00:54:22,800

who served in the Tsarist
army in the Caucasus.

1071

00:54:22,800 --> 00:54:25,400

1072
00:54:25,400 --> 00:54:27,470
Shulman, his name.

1073
00:54:27,470 --> 00:54:29,280
And this lady is his wife.

1074
00:54:29,280 --> 00:54:32,400
She is from Tbilisi, Georgia.

1075
00:54:32,400 --> 00:54:32,900
Oh, really?

1076
00:54:32,900 --> 00:54:33,400
Yeah.

1077
00:54:33,400 --> 00:54:35,120
Interesting.

1078
00:54:35,120 --> 00:54:37,250
She was some woman.

1079
00:54:37,250 --> 00:54:39,750
When she came to Poland,
she didn't know Polish

1080
00:54:39,750 --> 00:54:41,180
because she was Russian.

1081
00:54:41,180 --> 00:54:41,810
She learned.

1082
00:54:41,810 --> 00:54:43,070
She had to learn Polish.

1083
00:54:43,070 --> 00:54:45,050
She spoke Yiddish,
she picked it up,

1084
00:54:45,050 --> 00:54:48,590
but her Russian was perfect.

1085
00:54:48,590 --> 00:54:50,840
But he served in the
Caucasus, and he met her,

1086
00:54:50,840 --> 00:54:52,070
and they married.

1087
00:54:52,070 --> 00:54:56,030
They lived together with my
parents in Yekaterinoslav.

1088
00:54:56,030 --> 00:54:59,690
And they came back about
the same period, in 1921.

1089
00:54:59,690 --> 00:55:01,820
Which one are your parents?

1090
00:55:01,820 --> 00:55:03,050
Your parents.

1091
00:55:03,050 --> 00:55:06,740
This is my father, my mother,
my sister, my brother,

1092
00:55:06,740 --> 00:55:08,840
my oldest brother.

1093
00:55:08,840 --> 00:55:11,390
And these are the
younger brothers.

1094
00:55:11,390 --> 00:55:12,950
I mean, older than me.

1095
00:55:12,950 --> 00:55:13,790
I'm the youngest.

1096
00:55:13,790 --> 00:55:15,610
Right.

1097

00:55:15,610 --> 00:55:20,490

And I have heard that
she wasn't deported.

1098

00:55:20,490 --> 00:55:24,870

She was assigned to work in an
ammunition factory in Pionki

1099

00:55:24,870 --> 00:55:26,160

and escaped.

1100

00:55:26,160 --> 00:55:29,730

And she was shot while escaping.

1101

00:55:29,730 --> 00:55:31,050

Rebecca was her name.

1102

00:55:31,050 --> 00:55:35,370

She must have-- this must
have been in '42, '43.

1103

00:55:35,370 --> 00:55:40,290

She must have been a lady in
her 50s, well into the 50s.

1104

00:55:40,290 --> 00:55:43,620

She had the courage to escape.

1105

00:55:43,620 --> 00:55:50,390

She was a beautiful woman
and she was quite a lady.

1106

00:55:50,390 --> 00:55:53,110

This lady was--
my uncle who lived

1107

00:55:53,110 --> 00:55:55,900

in America, who lived here
in New York, came for a visit

1108

00:55:55,900 --> 00:55:58,130

to Radom in 1935.

1109
00:55:58,130 --> 00:56:00,320
He stayed six months.

1110
00:56:00,320 --> 00:56:04,070
And he got engaged to this lady.

1111
00:56:04,070 --> 00:56:06,270
But something-- somehow,
something happened,

1112
00:56:06,270 --> 00:56:10,820
and she never came
here, and she perished.

1113
00:56:10,820 --> 00:56:12,510
She married someone
else in the war.

1114
00:56:12,510 --> 00:56:15,937

1115
00:56:15,937 --> 00:56:20,420
Is there anything
about Moshe or Yechiel

1116
00:56:20,420 --> 00:56:23,030
in terms of their-- well,
we've heard a lot about Moshe,

1117
00:56:23,030 --> 00:56:24,350
I guess, already.

1118
00:56:24,350 --> 00:56:26,170
But about Yechiel.

1119
00:56:26,170 --> 00:56:28,790
Were you all different
in temperament very much?

1120
00:56:28,790 --> 00:56:32,730

1121
00:56:32,730 --> 00:56:34,590
Very much, very much different.

1122
00:56:34,590 --> 00:56:38,180
The two of us don't
look alike and we

1123
00:56:38,180 --> 00:56:39,360
are completely different.

1124
00:56:39,360 --> 00:56:44,870
He is very excitable,
temperamental.

1125
00:56:44,870 --> 00:56:49,070

1126
00:56:49,070 --> 00:56:50,350
I am more reflective.

1127
00:56:50,350 --> 00:56:54,250

1128
00:56:54,250 --> 00:56:55,735
He is very outgoing.

1129
00:56:55,735 --> 00:56:58,890

1130
00:56:58,890 --> 00:57:06,030
He, no matter where he comes, he
will immediately make contacts.

1131
00:57:06,030 --> 00:57:09,540
And very energetic.

1132
00:57:09,540 --> 00:57:10,890
And you wouldn't believe it.

1133
00:57:10,890 --> 00:57:11,723

I mean, look at him.

1134
00:57:11,723 --> 00:57:13,140
And he is 75 years old.

1135
00:57:13,140 --> 00:57:16,590
And the way he keeps his
house and he runs a business.

1136
00:57:16,590 --> 00:57:21,000
And he worked in the gulag.

1137
00:57:21,000 --> 00:57:22,320
He couldn't swim.

1138
00:57:22,320 --> 00:57:24,390
Very few people
in our town swam.

1139
00:57:24,390 --> 00:57:29,970
We didn't have any rivers, and
there were no swimming pools.

1140
00:57:29,970 --> 00:57:35,880
He was assigned to be a logger
in the forest, in the north,

1141
00:57:35,880 --> 00:57:38,720
in Archangel.

1142
00:57:38,720 --> 00:57:40,100
And you know what a logger does.

1143
00:57:40,100 --> 00:57:44,520
You have to jam, you know
the logs get jammed up.

1144
00:57:44,520 --> 00:57:47,570
You would have to manipulate.

1145
00:57:47,570 --> 00:57:51,050
Walk from one log to another

in order to unjam the--

1146
00:57:51,050 --> 00:57:53,090
and he couldn't swim.

1147
00:57:53,090 --> 00:58:00,480
And they even gave
him special rations

1148
00:58:00,480 --> 00:58:02,130
because he was a Stakhanovite.

1149
00:58:02,130 --> 00:58:04,740
He was a good worker.

1150
00:58:04,740 --> 00:58:07,320
If he is assigned to do
something, he'll work.

1151
00:58:07,320 --> 00:58:13,010
I mean, no matter what it
is, he can't stand still.

1152
00:58:13,010 --> 00:58:13,760
That's him.

1153
00:58:13,760 --> 00:58:17,970
And you can tell in his house.

1154
00:58:17,970 --> 00:58:18,950
It's like a gym.

1155
00:58:18,950 --> 00:58:20,880
And he does everything.

1156
00:58:20,880 --> 00:58:22,870
He's able to.

1157
00:58:22,870 --> 00:58:27,370
He washes, he irons, he cooks,
he cleans, and he decorates.

1158
00:58:27,370 --> 00:58:28,210
He can do anything.

1159
00:58:28,210 --> 00:58:29,293
Send him over to my house.

1160
00:58:29,293 --> 00:58:30,130
Yeah.

1161
00:58:30,130 --> 00:58:33,310
And he was a good
business manager.

1162
00:58:33,310 --> 00:58:36,840
He was able to run a store.

1163
00:58:36,840 --> 00:58:40,580
And how about Azriel?

1164
00:58:40,580 --> 00:58:43,960
Did you want to talk a
little bit about him?

1165
00:58:43,960 --> 00:58:46,450
This was as little I remember.

1166
00:58:46,450 --> 00:58:48,940
He was a very sociable guy.

1167
00:58:48,940 --> 00:58:52,195
He was an excellent
dancer and very graceful.

1168
00:58:52,195 --> 00:58:55,320

1169
00:58:55,320 --> 00:58:56,400
What type of dancing?

1170
00:58:56,400 --> 00:58:58,260
Ballroom dancing?

1171
00:58:58,260 --> 00:58:58,960
Yeah, sure.

1172
00:58:58,960 --> 00:58:59,710
Yeah.

1173
00:58:59,710 --> 00:59:01,992
Waltz, tangos, foxtrot,
all these things.

1174
00:59:01,992 --> 00:59:02,700
Was that popular?

1175
00:59:02,700 --> 00:59:03,200
Oh, yes.

1176
00:59:03,200 --> 00:59:04,150
You would go dancing?

1177
00:59:04,150 --> 00:59:07,500
Not our crowd, no.

1178
00:59:07,500 --> 00:59:09,010
These crowds were popular.

1179
00:59:09,010 --> 00:59:11,100
The hora, the kind you dance.

1180
00:59:11,100 --> 00:59:11,670
The Zionist.

1181
00:59:11,670 --> 00:59:12,210
Yeah.

1182
00:59:12,210 --> 00:59:15,240
But he was-- he had
a different crowd,

1183
00:59:15,240 --> 00:59:16,500
a different group of people.

1184
00:59:16,500 --> 00:59:19,890
I have the pictures of
him with his friends.

1185
00:59:19,890 --> 00:59:20,820
Six of them.

1186
00:59:20,820 --> 00:59:23,220
They were very
devoted to each other.

1187
00:59:23,220 --> 00:59:26,790
And they were always going
dancing, and parties,

1188
00:59:26,790 --> 00:59:27,940
and whatnot.

1189
00:59:27,940 --> 00:59:32,430
So all of your brothers, you
all received a cheder education

1190
00:59:32,430 --> 00:59:35,610
and basically then
a public school?

1191
00:59:35,610 --> 00:59:36,470
Yeah, yeah.

1192
00:59:36,470 --> 00:59:38,040
So not a Gymnasium.

1193
00:59:38,040 --> 00:59:42,836
Because public school, you
begin when you're seven.

1194
00:59:42,836 --> 00:59:44,730
Even now, it's still at seven.

1195
00:59:44,730 --> 00:59:47,370
Cheder, you begin at

any time, three, four.

1196
00:59:47,370 --> 00:59:48,420
Right.

1197
00:59:48,420 --> 00:59:52,620
That's why you were you were
literate in Yiddish or Hebrew

1198
00:59:52,620 --> 00:59:54,360
long before you become literate.

1199
00:59:54,360 --> 00:59:57,560
When I started to
study Polish when

1200
00:59:57,560 --> 01:00:00,330
I was in the private,
Jewish private school.

1201
01:00:00,330 --> 01:00:03,110
I didn't go to public
school until I was 10.

1202
01:00:03,110 --> 01:00:06,620
Just told me, tomorrow, you
bring a pencil and paper.

1203
01:00:06,620 --> 01:00:08,660
We're beginning to study Polish.

1204
01:00:08,660 --> 01:00:10,430
Now, I don't know how old I was.

1205
01:00:10,430 --> 01:00:13,400
Six, maybe seven,
I don't remember.

1206
01:00:13,400 --> 01:00:15,560
I came home, I cried,
I'll never learn it.

1207

01:00:15,560 --> 01:00:16,460
I won't be able.

1208
01:00:16,460 --> 01:00:17,420
How can I learn it?

1209
01:00:17,420 --> 01:00:19,130
It's a complete--
Polish was something

1210
01:00:19,130 --> 01:00:20,510
that was outside our life.

1211
01:00:20,510 --> 01:00:25,230

1212
01:00:25,230 --> 01:00:27,360
The Jewish community,
Jewish life in Poland

1213
01:00:27,360 --> 01:00:32,040
was almost like a
nation within a nation.

1214
01:00:32,040 --> 01:00:35,723
We had our own culture,
our own civilization.

1215
01:00:35,723 --> 01:00:37,515
There was no mingling,
there was no mixing.

1216
01:00:37,515 --> 01:00:40,020

1217
01:00:40,020 --> 01:00:43,470
Socially, very little.

1218
01:00:43,470 --> 01:00:47,400
We had our own daily
press, our periodicals,

1219

01:00:47,400 --> 01:00:53,430
a very rich literature, theater,
films, libraries, concerts.

1220
01:00:53,430 --> 01:00:56,640
We had more Yiddish-language
newspapers in the country

1221
01:00:56,640 --> 01:00:58,200
than Polish.

1222
01:00:58,200 --> 01:01:01,620
Did your parents go in any
of the directions of the--

1223
01:01:01,620 --> 01:01:03,970
I know they all had
an ideological bent.

1224
01:01:03,970 --> 01:01:04,520
No, no.

1225
01:01:04,520 --> 01:01:08,160
My father was
middle of the road.

1226
01:01:08,160 --> 01:01:09,540
Middle class.

1227
01:01:09,540 --> 01:01:12,030
He wasn't
politically-oriented at all.

1228
01:01:12,030 --> 01:01:13,410
Nor was my older brother.

1229
01:01:13,410 --> 01:01:18,318
Just the youngest, the younger
three had definite ideas.

1230
01:01:18,318 --> 01:01:19,860
So your older brother
wasn't involved

1231
01:01:19,860 --> 01:01:20,860
in the Hashomer Hatzair?

1232
01:01:20,860 --> 01:01:23,330
No, no, no.

1233
01:01:23,330 --> 01:01:24,330
Do you know what he did?

1234
01:01:24,330 --> 01:01:27,870
He went to work early
because there was a problem.

1235
01:01:27,870 --> 01:01:30,840
When he came back
from Russia, he

1236
01:01:30,840 --> 01:01:35,330
was already nine
going on 10, and it

1237
01:01:35,330 --> 01:01:37,220
was a conversion
from one language

1238
01:01:37,220 --> 01:01:38,300
to another in schooling.

1239
01:01:38,300 --> 01:01:40,250
And there was no
schooling in Russia

1240
01:01:40,250 --> 01:01:43,890
during the revolution, and
civil war, and all that.

1241
01:01:43,890 --> 01:01:45,460
So there was a problem.

1242
01:01:45,460 --> 01:01:46,505
I have to take a break.

1243
01:01:46,505 --> 01:01:47,797
I have to go to the men's room.

1244
01:01:47,797 --> 01:01:48,710
At a very early age--

1245
01:01:48,710 --> 01:01:49,320
you on?

1246
01:01:49,320 --> 01:01:51,590
Yeah.

1247
01:01:51,590 --> 01:01:54,920
She became skilled
as a dressmaker.

1248
01:01:54,920 --> 01:01:57,590
And very early on,
started out herself

1249
01:01:57,590 --> 01:02:00,890
with a group of
girlfriends as partners.

1250
01:02:00,890 --> 01:02:01,910
And then by herself.

1251
01:02:01,910 --> 01:02:04,250
And she had a good
clientele and was

1252
01:02:04,250 --> 01:02:09,240
able to help herself, as
well as to, in some way,

1253
01:02:09,240 --> 01:02:10,622
also help the family.

1254
01:02:10,622 --> 01:02:11,580
But she lived in there?

1255

01:02:11,580 --> 01:02:12,230

She was like what--

1256

01:02:12,230 --> 01:02:12,730

Yeah.

1257

01:02:12,730 --> 01:02:14,180

--10 years older than you or 12?

1258

01:02:14,180 --> 01:02:15,180

12 years older than you?

1259

01:02:15,180 --> 01:02:17,700

She is 11 years older than I am.

1260

01:02:17,700 --> 01:02:18,200

Yeah.

1261

01:02:18,200 --> 01:02:20,210

So how is your
relationship with her?

1262

01:02:20,210 --> 01:02:23,090

She was in some way--

1263

01:02:23,090 --> 01:02:26,450

I don't remember that, but
I was of course informed,

1264

01:02:26,450 --> 01:02:29,930

I was told, anecdotally
as well as properly,

1265

01:02:29,930 --> 01:02:32,390

that she took care
of me when I was

1266

01:02:32,390 --> 01:02:35,270

very young since my
mother had her hands

1267

01:02:35,270 --> 01:02:38,780
full with the other three boys.

1268
01:02:38,780 --> 01:02:40,370
But she was the oldest.

1269
01:02:40,370 --> 01:02:44,360
And she liked me.

1270
01:02:44,360 --> 01:02:48,460
And I suppose she
carried me around.

1271
01:02:48,460 --> 01:02:50,350
I also liked it
when we sometimes

1272
01:02:50,350 --> 01:02:53,125
went out in the summer to--

1273
01:02:53,125 --> 01:02:59,910
we had a cottage in a
nearby resort place.

1274
01:02:59,910 --> 01:03:01,530
You would normally share that.

1275
01:03:01,530 --> 01:03:03,300
Go for a couple of
weeks and then go home,

1276
01:03:03,300 --> 01:03:05,760
and the others would come out.

1277
01:03:05,760 --> 01:03:07,360
Excuse me.

1278
01:03:07,360 --> 01:03:11,530
I always liked to be with her
because she would spoil me.

1279
01:03:11,530 --> 01:03:12,200

She would.

1280

01:03:12,200 --> 01:03:20,710

She cooked well and she wouldn't be stingy with ingredients.

1281

01:03:20,710 --> 01:03:23,850

She was really nice to be with.

1282

01:03:23,850 --> 01:03:25,100

Did she have a lot of friends?

1283

01:03:25,100 --> 01:03:26,680

Did she a group of friends that she would hang around with?

1284

01:03:26,680 --> 01:03:27,180

Yeah, sure.

1285

01:03:27,180 --> 01:03:29,110

Yeah, yeah.

1286

01:03:29,110 --> 01:03:31,950

One of her friends is in one of those pictures.

1287

01:03:31,950 --> 01:03:34,310

They're all gone.

1288

01:03:34,310 --> 01:03:38,780

1289

01:03:38,780 --> 01:03:39,530

We had a houseful.

1290

01:03:39,530 --> 01:03:41,363

There was a small house, but there was all--

1291

01:03:41,363 --> 01:03:44,660

we were always with her friends and my brother's friends,

1292
01:03:44,660 --> 01:03:46,610
and the house was always--

1293
01:03:46,610 --> 01:03:50,280
and my father's and mother's
relatives and friends there.

1294
01:03:50,280 --> 01:03:52,500
We lived in the
very center of town.

1295
01:03:52,500 --> 01:03:54,540
And it was always full
of people dropping in.

1296
01:03:54,540 --> 01:03:55,832
I mean, there was no telephone.

1297
01:03:55,832 --> 01:03:57,873
You didn't make appointments,
you just walked in.

1298
01:03:57,873 --> 01:03:58,920
The door was always open.

1299
01:03:58,920 --> 01:04:01,430
There were always
people in the house.

1300
01:04:01,430 --> 01:04:03,950
Your sister, I assume, I
assume, had also a public school

1301
01:04:03,950 --> 01:04:04,690
education?

1302
01:04:04,690 --> 01:04:06,500
The same as the older brother.

1303
01:04:06,500 --> 01:04:10,370
I don't know exactly when she

finished because she came back

1304

01:04:10,370 --> 01:04:13,040
from this from Russia.

1305

01:04:13,040 --> 01:04:16,110
She was 11 years old
and that was a problem

1306

01:04:16,110 --> 01:04:18,020
that interrupted education.

1307

01:04:18,020 --> 01:04:23,700

1308

01:04:23,700 --> 01:04:26,190
Compulsory education
ended at 14.

1309

01:04:26,190 --> 01:04:30,370
Very few people could
afford to go to Gymnasium

1310

01:04:30,370 --> 01:04:34,380
because Jewish children were
not accepted to the state

1311

01:04:34,380 --> 01:04:39,150
Gymnasiums, except for very few.

1312

01:04:39,150 --> 01:04:40,440
You had to be the best.

1313

01:04:40,440 --> 01:04:46,170
You had to be someone with the
highest grades available to be

1314

01:04:46,170 --> 01:04:47,910
admitted and to get a place.

1315

01:04:47,910 --> 01:04:51,660
And the academic or

even academic gymnasium,

1316
01:04:51,660 --> 01:04:54,480
or the technical gymnasium,
or the commercial gym.

1317
01:04:54,480 --> 01:05:00,010
There were three in our town,
with a separate middle school.

1318
01:05:00,010 --> 01:05:02,700
Not middle school,
but what is it called?

1319
01:05:02,700 --> 01:05:06,180
Secondary schooling
for technical--

1320
01:05:06,180 --> 01:05:08,850
people who from there on
would go to the polytechnical

1321
01:05:08,850 --> 01:05:10,440
and become engineers.

1322
01:05:10,440 --> 01:05:13,500
The academic one with
very high standards.

1323
01:05:13,500 --> 01:05:16,147
And the commercial one,
where you become accountants,

1324
01:05:16,147 --> 01:05:16,980
auditors, and so on.

1325
01:05:16,980 --> 01:05:19,900

1326
01:05:19,900 --> 01:05:22,150
Very few Jews there.

1327

01:05:22,150 --> 01:05:23,920
It was inexpensive.

1328
01:05:23,920 --> 01:05:27,010
But very few Jews.

1329
01:05:27,010 --> 01:05:30,560
There was one Jewish
Gymnasium in town.

1330
01:05:30,560 --> 01:05:34,920
The pay was 75 zloty a month.

1331
01:05:34,920 --> 01:05:38,400
To give you an idea
what I meant is

1332
01:05:38,400 --> 01:05:40,380
that there were
millions of families

1333
01:05:40,380 --> 01:05:44,070
who didn't earn that much
to support themselves.

1334
01:05:44,070 --> 01:05:50,100
To pay 75 a month for a
child or for more than one,

1335
01:05:50,100 --> 01:05:52,787
is something that only the
very wealthy could afford.

1336
01:05:52,787 --> 01:05:57,880
And besides, the idea of
secondary higher education

1337
01:05:57,880 --> 01:06:01,510
wasn't as prevailing concept
of life and expectations

1338
01:06:01,510 --> 01:06:03,860
of life as here.

1339
01:06:03,860 --> 01:06:07,340
How many Americans
went to, let's say,

1340
01:06:07,340 --> 01:06:09,458
just about to expect how many--

1341
01:06:09,458 --> 01:06:10,250
they go to college.

1342
01:06:10,250 --> 01:06:12,650
Even when I went to
college, you were always

1343
01:06:12,650 --> 01:06:17,630
told by our betters, you are you
are one only of about 4% or 5%

1344
01:06:17,630 --> 01:06:19,330
of the population
that goes to college.

1345
01:06:19,330 --> 01:06:21,620
That was in 1951.

1346
01:06:21,620 --> 01:06:24,080
How many did go to
college before the war?

1347
01:06:24,080 --> 01:06:26,590
Very few.

1348
01:06:26,590 --> 01:06:32,390
Even I wouldn't be surprised
that not more than half

1349
01:06:32,390 --> 01:06:34,870
ever finished high
school before the war.

1350
01:06:34,870 --> 01:06:37,750

They had to go to work before.

1351
01:06:37,750 --> 01:06:46,330
And as far as that country
was, and at that time, at 14

1352
01:06:46,330 --> 01:06:49,060
was the time to start
an apprenticeship

1353
01:06:49,060 --> 01:06:52,420
or to do something or other.

1354
01:06:52,420 --> 01:06:56,590
You couldn't well
hang around the house.

1355
01:06:56,590 --> 01:06:57,790
Life wasn't that easy.

1356
01:06:57,790 --> 01:06:59,248
Oh, hi.

1357
01:06:59,248 --> 01:07:03,630

1358
01:07:03,630 --> 01:07:05,890
That's it.

1359
01:07:05,890 --> 01:07:10,930
As young people in pre-war
Poland, we never associated,

1360
01:07:10,930 --> 01:07:14,380
at least within our environment,
we never associated our future

1361
01:07:14,380 --> 01:07:16,100
with Poland.

1362
01:07:16,100 --> 01:07:20,560
Either you had enough gumption

to get up, and smuggle your way

1363

01:07:20,560 --> 01:07:25,090
across, and go to France, which
had a very heavy population

1364

01:07:25,090 --> 01:07:30,400
of young Polish Jews who
came through to France

1365

01:07:30,400 --> 01:07:32,160
and worked there.

1366

01:07:32,160 --> 01:07:37,340
Or you hedged your future
to the Zionist wagon,

1367

01:07:37,340 --> 01:07:41,780
as my brother would have,
and gone to Palestine

1368

01:07:41,780 --> 01:07:45,170
as a kibbutznik.

1369

01:07:45,170 --> 01:07:46,010
OK.

1370

01:07:46,010 --> 01:07:49,160
The fate, then, of your older
brother and your sister--

1371

01:07:49,160 --> 01:07:51,810
were they deported with your
parents, to your knowledge?

1372

01:07:51,810 --> 01:07:52,740
My sister was.

1373

01:07:52,740 --> 01:07:53,240
Yes.

1374

01:07:53,240 --> 01:07:55,460

My older brother,
I told you, was

1375
01:07:55,460 --> 01:07:58,220
killed in the last week
of the war somewhere,

1376
01:07:58,220 --> 01:07:59,540
I don't know where.

1377
01:07:59,540 --> 01:08:04,540
I saw him for a couple, for
about two months in Birkenau.

1378
01:08:04,540 --> 01:08:08,980
I was communicating with him
but I only saw him twice.

1379
01:08:08,980 --> 01:08:12,286
And then when he left.

1380
01:08:12,286 --> 01:08:14,860
That is my greatest
disappointment,

1381
01:08:14,860 --> 01:08:16,670
that he didn't survive.

1382
01:08:16,670 --> 01:08:20,041
He made it so far to the
end and didn't survive.

1383
01:08:20,041 --> 01:08:21,439
Goodness.

1384
01:08:21,439 --> 01:08:24,920
Now, if these are the pictures
that-- this represents

1385
01:08:24,920 --> 01:08:26,779
my family, my entire family.

1386

01:08:26,779 --> 01:08:29,870

Just you would like to
become a part of it.

1387

01:08:29,870 --> 01:08:33,560

I don't know whether you would
like to go with the rest of it.

1388

01:08:33,560 --> 01:08:38,429

And would you like to
have that as the way I--

1389

01:08:38,429 --> 01:08:39,000