

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,715

2
00:00:01,715 --> 00:00:02,215
Ready?

3
00:00:02,215 --> 00:00:03,307
Relax, Rene.

4
00:00:03,307 --> 00:00:04,140
The tape is rolling.

5
00:00:04,140 --> 00:00:06,960

6
00:00:06,960 --> 00:00:10,140
Your name first?

7
00:00:10,140 --> 00:00:12,450
My name is Rene Slotkin.

8
00:00:12,450 --> 00:00:16,790
This is now April 9, 1992.

9
00:00:16,790 --> 00:00:24,300
I was born Rene Guttman
in 1937 in Teplice-Sanov,

10
00:00:24,300 --> 00:00:26,580
which is in Czechoslovakia.

11
00:00:26,580 --> 00:00:28,680
What's your specific birth date?

12
00:00:28,680 --> 00:00:35,250
December 21, 1937.

13
00:00:35,250 --> 00:00:40,170
And I'm not sure how
long we actually lived,

14
00:00:40,170 --> 00:00:42,450
or how long I stayed
in Teplice-Sanov.

15
00:00:42,450 --> 00:00:46,005
But my first recollection
is living in Prague.

16
00:00:46,005 --> 00:00:51,660

17
00:00:51,660 --> 00:00:53,910
Irene, you have something?

18
00:00:53,910 --> 00:00:54,790
Oh, sure.

19
00:00:54,790 --> 00:01:00,760
My name is Irene Hizme,
and I was Renatta Guttman.

20
00:01:00,760 --> 00:01:05,099
I'm born the same day, but I'm
half an hour older than Rene.

21
00:01:05,099 --> 00:01:10,460

22
00:01:10,460 --> 00:01:14,200
I remember-- I don't remember
Teplice-Sanov either--

23
00:01:14,200 --> 00:01:14,700
Sure.

24
00:01:14,700 --> 00:01:16,550
--whatever.

25
00:01:16,550 --> 00:01:22,700
But I do remember Prague that we
lived upstairs in an apartment.

26
00:01:22,700 --> 00:01:25,340

27
00:01:25,340 --> 00:01:29,975
We had a terrace the
overlooked a yard.

28
00:01:29,975 --> 00:01:34,860

29
00:01:34,860 --> 00:01:37,890
I don't think it was
a very big apartment.

30
00:01:37,890 --> 00:01:41,610
I kind of remember a lot of
things being in one room.

31
00:01:41,610 --> 00:01:44,360

32
00:01:44,360 --> 00:01:50,780
Our crib, we slept in a
crib, and it was in the room

33
00:01:50,780 --> 00:01:53,780
where our parents'
bed was as well.

34
00:01:53,780 --> 00:01:59,300
And some place down
always was a table.

35
00:01:59,300 --> 00:02:04,147
That's all I remember.

36
00:02:04,147 --> 00:02:06,230
But it was a long flight
of steps to get upstairs.

37
00:02:06,230 --> 00:02:07,010

Yeah, the staircase.

38
00:02:07,010 --> 00:02:07,640
I remember that, too.

39
00:02:07,640 --> 00:02:08,579
A very long flight of steps.

40
00:02:08,579 --> 00:02:09,954
The stairs, I
remember, because I

41
00:02:09,954 --> 00:02:14,810
remember falling on the stairs
once and cutting my chin

42
00:02:14,810 --> 00:02:19,880
and having a burning
sensation full of--

43
00:02:19,880 --> 00:02:21,290
when I was treated for it.

44
00:02:21,290 --> 00:02:25,700
And lo and behold, years after--
after the war when I first

45
00:02:25,700 --> 00:02:28,190
remembered this, I looked and
there's a little scar there.

46
00:02:28,190 --> 00:02:31,940

47
00:02:31,940 --> 00:02:36,600
And you recently took a
trip where you recalled

48
00:02:36,600 --> 00:02:39,720
a certain streetcar or trolley?

49
00:02:39,720 --> 00:02:45,240

Well, after the war,
I returned to Prague

50
00:02:45,240 --> 00:02:51,090
because we had some friends who
had some documents and pictures

51
00:02:51,090 --> 00:02:55,350
of us when we were much
younger, before the war,

52
00:02:55,350 --> 00:02:57,240
with our parents.

53
00:02:57,240 --> 00:03:03,570
I do remember then seeing a
trolley car with the number 22.

54
00:03:03,570 --> 00:03:08,760
I didn't know it was 22 at the
time, but the images are 2-2.

55
00:03:08,760 --> 00:03:13,470
And we followed the route of
the tram at that time of 22,

56
00:03:13,470 --> 00:03:16,440
and I was somehow able to
locate this particular apartment

57
00:03:16,440 --> 00:03:18,510
building.

58
00:03:18,510 --> 00:03:21,570
It turned out to be the right
one, so that was very exciting.

59
00:03:21,570 --> 00:03:27,390
But even more exciting was being
able to, at that time, to get--

60
00:03:27,390 --> 00:03:31,320
this must have been in

1948 just before I started

61
00:03:31,320 --> 00:03:34,890
my trek to the United States--

62
00:03:34,890 --> 00:03:38,190
to be able to get actual
pictures of myself

63
00:03:38,190 --> 00:03:41,850
and Irene and my
parents together.

64
00:03:41,850 --> 00:03:46,590
It really gave me some roots
for the first time ever,

65
00:03:46,590 --> 00:03:49,620
something tangible to be
able to look at and know

66
00:03:49,620 --> 00:03:53,710
that I had a beginning and
parents like everybody else.

67
00:03:53,710 --> 00:03:55,650
Right.

68
00:03:55,650 --> 00:04:00,850
I have very sporadic
memories of our childhood,

69
00:04:00,850 --> 00:04:04,260
but I do remember that we
were beautifully clothed.

70
00:04:04,260 --> 00:04:07,260
We had beautiful
clothing, matching.

71
00:04:07,260 --> 00:04:08,520
It was always--

72

00:04:08,520 --> 00:04:10,590

I remember, particularly,
we had these--

73

00:04:10,590 --> 00:04:14,130

74

00:04:14,130 --> 00:04:16,680

not [INAUDIBLE],,
with bells on them

75

00:04:16,680 --> 00:04:21,720

so our mom could
hold us with a leash?

76

00:04:21,720 --> 00:04:22,470

Not a leash.

77

00:04:22,470 --> 00:04:23,480

Do you know what I'm--

78

00:04:23,480 --> 00:04:25,517

I don't know how you--
how do you call those?

79

00:04:25,517 --> 00:04:26,017

Harness.

80

00:04:26,017 --> 00:04:26,145

Harness.

81

00:04:26,145 --> 00:04:26,645

Harness.

82

00:04:26,645 --> 00:04:27,990

A harness.

83

00:04:27,990 --> 00:04:31,190

And they had these
little bells on them.

84

00:04:31,190 --> 00:04:32,910
I remember that very clearly.

85
00:04:32,910 --> 00:04:36,960
I remember also very often going
to a park which must have been

86
00:04:36,960 --> 00:04:40,410
near our home with our parents.

87
00:04:40,410 --> 00:04:45,900
And most vividly I remember one
time there was a huge storm,

88
00:04:45,900 --> 00:04:47,640
and we went to the
park afterwards.

89
00:04:47,640 --> 00:04:49,800
And all these trees
had fallen down,

90
00:04:49,800 --> 00:04:53,910
and we were climbing, you know,
like kids do on them, walking

91
00:04:53,910 --> 00:04:54,990
along the trees.

92
00:04:54,990 --> 00:04:58,800
And it was really a lot of fun.

93
00:04:58,800 --> 00:05:02,417
The pictures are of us, our
parents, and ourselves--

94
00:05:02,417 --> 00:05:03,375
We even have pictures--

95
00:05:03,375 --> 00:05:04,500
--in the the park.

96

00:05:04,500 --> 00:05:05,280
--in the park.

97
00:05:05,280 --> 00:05:06,030
Yeah.

98
00:05:06,030 --> 00:05:10,740
And I remember-- this is just
something that came to my head.

99
00:05:10,740 --> 00:05:13,240
There was a candy
that we used to get.

100
00:05:13,240 --> 00:05:16,860
It was like a marmalade--

101
00:05:16,860 --> 00:05:19,440
it was like the Passover
candy they make.

102
00:05:19,440 --> 00:05:22,230
You know, those jelly--

103
00:05:22,230 --> 00:05:22,830
Jelly.

104
00:05:22,830 --> 00:05:25,590
--jelly kind of candies.

105
00:05:25,590 --> 00:05:29,010
I remember that for
some strange reason.

106
00:05:29,010 --> 00:05:32,190
Do you remember what
they tasted like?

107
00:05:32,190 --> 00:05:34,090
Yeah, kind of orangey.

108
00:05:34,090 --> 00:05:36,910

Mm-hmm.

109
00:05:36,910 --> 00:05:37,610
It's so weird.

110
00:05:37,610 --> 00:05:38,500
I just--

111
00:05:38,500 --> 00:05:40,270
Now, from that time--

112
00:05:40,270 --> 00:05:44,980
We also had-- we had a
certain number of toys

113
00:05:44,980 --> 00:05:48,010
that we used to play
upstairs in the apartment.

114
00:05:48,010 --> 00:05:50,200
And one specifically
I remember, we

115
00:05:50,200 --> 00:05:55,530
had punchers like
conductors on a train,

116
00:05:55,530 --> 00:05:57,450
and we would play train a lot.

117
00:05:57,450 --> 00:05:59,130
We'd punch tickets.

118
00:05:59,130 --> 00:06:02,550
And I also remember
having a doll which

119
00:06:02,550 --> 00:06:06,850
Rene very nicely threw
down from the balcony

120
00:06:06,850 --> 00:06:08,490

and smashed to smithereens.

121
00:06:08,490 --> 00:06:11,610

122
00:06:11,610 --> 00:06:12,330
Yes.

123
00:06:12,330 --> 00:06:15,000
Is that one of those celluloid
dolls from the time, or--

124
00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:15,900
Yeah.

125
00:06:15,900 --> 00:06:17,490
It was big.

126
00:06:17,490 --> 00:06:18,365
It was a big doll.

127
00:06:18,365 --> 00:06:20,220
It 's a big doll.

128
00:06:20,220 --> 00:06:24,150
From that period, what I
remember is being in the yard

129
00:06:24,150 --> 00:06:26,417
of this building and
being-- stepping on bee--

130
00:06:26,417 --> 00:06:27,250
Yeah, he was bitten.

131
00:06:27,250 --> 00:06:29,924
And I was bitten by a bee.

132
00:06:29,924 --> 00:06:34,363
And even now when I think about
it, my foot starts itching.

133

00:06:34,363 --> 00:06:36,030

It was right on the
bottom of your foot.

134

00:06:36,030 --> 00:06:36,822

One of those, yeah.

135

00:06:36,822 --> 00:06:38,570

I remember that so clearly.

136

00:06:38,570 --> 00:06:39,930

That's funny.

137

00:06:39,930 --> 00:06:43,180

Were you taken to a hospital
or just taken care of at home,

138

00:06:43,180 --> 00:06:44,040

do you remember?

139

00:06:44,040 --> 00:06:46,440

I think it was just taken
care of the way you would

140

00:06:46,440 --> 00:06:47,895

take care of a bite today.

141

00:06:47,895 --> 00:06:49,600

Right.

142

00:06:49,600 --> 00:06:53,400

And the other thing that
I remember so clearly

143

00:06:53,400 --> 00:06:59,300

is when our mom used to put
us to bed, we played a game.

144

00:06:59,300 --> 00:07:01,530

She would put our hands
in a certain order,

145

00:07:01,530 --> 00:07:05,545
and we'd see if we could
wake up in the same position.

146

00:07:05,545 --> 00:07:06,420
Do you remember that?

147

00:07:06,420 --> 00:07:06,940
No.

148

00:07:06,940 --> 00:07:07,440
Yeah.

149

00:07:07,440 --> 00:07:09,240
I remember that.

150

00:07:09,240 --> 00:07:11,250
So you shared a crib?

151

00:07:11,250 --> 00:07:11,880
Yes.

152

00:07:11,880 --> 00:07:12,588
We shared a crib.

153

00:07:12,588 --> 00:07:14,770
You were on-- right.

154

00:07:14,770 --> 00:07:17,400

155

00:07:17,400 --> 00:07:20,370
What have you learned
now about your parents,

156

00:07:20,370 --> 00:07:23,220
in terms of what your father
did, what his occupation was?

157

00:07:23,220 --> 00:07:25,920

158
00:07:25,920 --> 00:07:28,470
My father was in the
export import business.

159
00:07:28,470 --> 00:07:32,270

160
00:07:32,270 --> 00:07:37,810
And I think this somehow led to
his accusation of being a spy,

161
00:07:37,810 --> 00:07:39,400
because I imagine
he had dealings

162
00:07:39,400 --> 00:07:42,280
with foreign countries.

163
00:07:42,280 --> 00:07:43,792
He was originally from Germany.

164
00:07:43,792 --> 00:07:45,125
The whole family's from Germany.

165
00:07:45,125 --> 00:07:48,420

166
00:07:48,420 --> 00:07:51,100
So this is what
he was accused of,

167
00:07:51,100 --> 00:07:55,093
and I think on the basis of
that he was jailed and sent

168
00:07:55,093 --> 00:07:55,635
to the camps.

169
00:07:55,635 --> 00:07:59,340

170

00:07:59,340 --> 00:08:00,970

My mother, I don't know.

171

00:08:00,970 --> 00:08:03,570

Our mom, she also worked.

172

00:08:03,570 --> 00:08:06,360

She was very good
in math, and so I

173

00:08:06,360 --> 00:08:08,850

think she had something
equivalent to possibly

174

00:08:08,850 --> 00:08:11,550

an accounting job.

175

00:08:11,550 --> 00:08:17,310

Which, of course, once the laws
that you couldn't hire Jews

176

00:08:17,310 --> 00:08:19,160

came about, she was laid off.

177

00:08:19,160 --> 00:08:23,238

But she did have a good job.

178

00:08:23,238 --> 00:08:27,210

Do you know if you were a
fairly well-off family or middle

179

00:08:27,210 --> 00:08:31,290

class, typical
middle class, or--

180

00:08:31,290 --> 00:08:33,539

I can only judge by
the clothing that we

181

00:08:33,539 --> 00:08:35,350

wore from the
photographs that we have.

182
00:08:35,350 --> 00:08:37,480
We could show you.

183
00:08:37,480 --> 00:08:38,610
We seemed very well-dressed

184
00:08:38,610 --> 00:08:41,789
We seemed well dressed,
and our parents also-

185
00:08:41,789 --> 00:08:45,990
By that time, well, our
parents had fled from Dresden

186
00:08:45,990 --> 00:08:49,650
to Czechoslovakia
where we were born.

187
00:08:49,650 --> 00:08:54,780
But I think our aunt in Dresden
kept sending us clothes.

188
00:08:54,780 --> 00:08:56,800
It was our aunt who sent us--

189
00:08:56,800 --> 00:08:57,300
Really?

190
00:08:57,300 --> 00:08:58,830
Yeah.

191
00:08:58,830 --> 00:09:03,250
Because our parents
could not buy anything,

192
00:09:03,250 --> 00:09:07,270
because by then our father was
out of work and so was our mom.

193
00:09:07,270 --> 00:09:10,000
Or in other words, after

when we left Germany--

194
00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:12,650
when they left Germany,
that was the whole down--

195
00:09:12,650 --> 00:09:13,450
They no-- right.

196
00:09:13,450 --> 00:09:16,300
They no longer had
any source of support

197
00:09:16,300 --> 00:09:17,740
and it was our aunt who sent.

198
00:09:17,740 --> 00:09:20,440

199
00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:22,880
When did they leave Germany?

200
00:09:22,880 --> 00:09:27,880
Well, we were born '37, so it
must have been around then.

201
00:09:27,880 --> 00:09:30,216
I see.

202
00:09:30,216 --> 00:09:33,090
Hmm.

203
00:09:33,090 --> 00:09:36,930
There's a series of letters
between their father

204
00:09:36,930 --> 00:09:39,960
and the aunt in Germany,
about 10 letters

205
00:09:39,960 --> 00:09:43,380
that we have, describing the

children's behavior and how

206
00:09:43,380 --> 00:09:44,640
they--

207
00:09:44,640 --> 00:09:46,590
Yeah, that's terrific to have.

208
00:09:46,590 --> 00:09:47,850
Their worries for the future

209
00:09:47,850 --> 00:09:49,770
That's terrific to have.

210
00:09:49,770 --> 00:09:50,490
I bet.

211
00:09:50,490 --> 00:09:50,990
Yeah.

212
00:09:50,990 --> 00:09:51,740
They're wonderful.

213
00:09:51,740 --> 00:09:52,530
They're in German.

214
00:09:52,530 --> 00:09:56,990

215
00:09:56,990 --> 00:09:59,510
You don't know specifically
what your father imported

216
00:09:59,510 --> 00:10:00,800
and exported?

217
00:10:00,800 --> 00:10:03,440
No?

218
00:10:03,440 --> 00:10:05,520
But he was arrested

in Czechoslovakia?

219
00:10:05,520 --> 00:10:06,020
Mm-hmm.

220
00:10:06,020 --> 00:10:08,690
I see.

221
00:10:08,690 --> 00:10:12,335
Do you have any recollection
of his being taken, or--

222
00:10:12,335 --> 00:10:12,980
I do

223
00:10:12,980 --> 00:10:14,760
You do?

224
00:10:14,760 --> 00:10:17,360
I definitely-- there was--

225
00:10:17,360 --> 00:10:23,090
again, not clearly,
but one night

226
00:10:23,090 --> 00:10:25,850
there was a knock on the
door, very loud knock.

227
00:10:25,850 --> 00:10:27,740
And there were
soldiers who had come,

228
00:10:27,740 --> 00:10:31,010
and they came to
take our father away.

229
00:10:31,010 --> 00:10:32,780
I remember our mom was crying.

230
00:10:32,780 --> 00:10:34,200
We didn't know what happened.

231
00:10:34,200 --> 00:10:36,080
It was late at night.

232
00:10:36,080 --> 00:10:40,230
And we never saw
him again after.

233
00:10:40,230 --> 00:10:41,350
At least, I don't--

234
00:10:41,350 --> 00:10:41,850
that was--

235
00:10:41,850 --> 00:10:45,750

236
00:10:45,750 --> 00:10:47,770
I just remember what
she's saying now

237
00:10:47,770 --> 00:10:54,510
is a disturbing event that did
happen, but that's about it.

238
00:10:54,510 --> 00:10:57,860
About how old were
you at that time?

239
00:10:57,860 --> 00:10:58,910
I would say four.

240
00:10:58,910 --> 00:11:04,970

241
00:11:04,970 --> 00:11:08,137
And you're the only
children of your parents?

242
00:11:08,137 --> 00:11:09,095
No brothers or sisters?

243

00:11:09,095 --> 00:11:25,680

244

00:11:25,680 --> 00:11:31,460

Any other memories that
you'd like to talk about?

245

00:11:31,460 --> 00:11:34,510

246

00:11:34,510 --> 00:11:38,190

Something in the letters maybe?

247

00:11:38,190 --> 00:11:40,710

I can't recall the letters.

248

00:11:40,710 --> 00:11:46,900

I do remember at some
point that we used

249

00:11:46,900 --> 00:11:50,970

to stand on line to get food.

250

00:11:50,970 --> 00:11:52,680

I sort of remember that.

251

00:11:52,680 --> 00:12:05,130

252

00:12:05,130 --> 00:12:07,582

In Prague or was that later on?

253

00:12:07,582 --> 00:12:09,770

No, in Prague.

254

00:12:09,770 --> 00:12:11,600

The people stood on line.

255

00:12:11,600 --> 00:12:16,122

256

00:12:16,122 --> 00:12:17,830

Do you know if your
family was religious?

257

00:12:17,830 --> 00:12:22,430

258

00:12:22,430 --> 00:12:23,630

I have no recollection.

259

00:12:23,630 --> 00:12:24,470

None at all.

260

00:12:24,470 --> 00:12:35,930

261

00:12:35,930 --> 00:12:39,870

Did relatives ever come to
visit you in Czechoslovakia

262

00:12:39,870 --> 00:12:41,906

that you recall?

263

00:12:41,906 --> 00:12:42,800

Not that I know of.

264

00:12:42,800 --> 00:12:43,300

No.

265

00:12:43,300 --> 00:12:47,410

I do remember once, though,
we went in the summer--

266

00:12:47,410 --> 00:12:48,790

must have been summer time.

267

00:12:48,790 --> 00:12:51,390

268

00:12:51,390 --> 00:12:54,570

I don't know when.

269

00:12:54,570 --> 00:12:59,235
We went someplace where there
was water, like a beach.

270

00:12:59,235 --> 00:13:02,420

271

00:13:02,420 --> 00:13:03,100
That's all I--

272

00:13:03,100 --> 00:13:04,910
It'd have to be
lake, most probably.

273

00:13:04,910 --> 00:13:06,390
Maybe a lake, I don't know.

274

00:13:06,390 --> 00:13:12,700
But I remember-- yes.

275

00:13:12,700 --> 00:13:15,863
I remember being at--

276

00:13:15,863 --> 00:13:16,780
I don't remember that.

277

00:13:16,780 --> 00:13:18,280
See what 30 minutes makes?

278

00:13:18,280 --> 00:13:19,240
Big difference.

279

00:13:19,240 --> 00:13:20,290
Yeah, right.

280

00:13:20,290 --> 00:13:22,212
One of those
memories [LAUGHING]..

281

00:13:22,212 --> 00:13:25,305

282

00:13:25,305 --> 00:13:27,430

Well, you have good
recollections of being injured.

283

00:13:27,430 --> 00:13:32,000

284

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:35,660

What do you recall
about changes in Prague

285

00:13:35,660 --> 00:13:41,600

or changes in your life
once the Germans occupied?

286

00:13:41,600 --> 00:13:45,735

What is the first
significant memory you have

287

00:13:45,735 --> 00:13:49,730

of a real change
in your lifestyle?

288

00:13:49,730 --> 00:13:52,670

Well, my first
significant memory

289

00:13:52,670 --> 00:13:57,950

is waiting to get on this
train to go someplace.

290

00:13:57,950 --> 00:13:59,330

It was a nice train, though.

291

00:13:59,330 --> 00:14:02,930

I mean, it was like a
sleeper or some-- it was a--

292

00:14:02,930 --> 00:14:04,070

with windows.

293

00:14:04,070 --> 00:14:06,860

I think that was Theresienstadt
that we were going to.

294

00:14:06,860 --> 00:14:08,840

That's what I remember, too.

295

00:14:08,840 --> 00:14:11,090

Chronologically speaking,
that's the next--

296

00:14:11,090 --> 00:14:11,970

That was the thing.

297

00:14:11,970 --> 00:14:13,684

--memory after.

298

00:14:13,684 --> 00:14:20,840

Because the previous memories,
we all-- we lived in sort of--

299

00:14:20,840 --> 00:14:25,910

it wasn't good
existence, I don't think.

300

00:14:25,910 --> 00:14:28,430

301

00:14:28,430 --> 00:14:32,000

It was-- I think I sensed--

302

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:34,050

as a child, I sensed
something was not right.

303

00:14:34,050 --> 00:14:34,550

Right.

304

00:14:34,550 --> 00:14:34,910

But I--

305

00:14:34,910 --> 00:14:35,450
Yeah.

306
00:14:35,450 --> 00:14:36,830
Right, that's what I'm saying.

307
00:14:36,830 --> 00:14:38,550
--that our mother
was rather sad.

308
00:14:38,550 --> 00:14:39,050
Right.

309
00:14:39,050 --> 00:14:41,690
Because we I don't
remember my father, but I--

310
00:14:41,690 --> 00:14:45,820
obviously, my mother, she
would have to have been sad.

311
00:14:45,820 --> 00:14:47,600
I remember certain sadness.

312
00:14:47,600 --> 00:14:50,870
But the next thing, as I said,
is really this train ride

313
00:14:50,870 --> 00:14:52,790
to someplace else to live.

314
00:14:52,790 --> 00:14:53,840
That was Theresienstadt.

315
00:14:53,840 --> 00:14:55,240
That was Theresienstadt.

316
00:14:55,240 --> 00:14:59,750
Do you remember taking anything
with you in particular?

317
00:14:59,750 --> 00:15:01,350

Well, we did have some stuff.

318
00:15:01,350 --> 00:15:05,720

319
00:15:05,720 --> 00:15:07,550
I-- this is--

320
00:15:07,550 --> 00:15:11,100
I don't-- the only thing
I recall, I had a locket.

321
00:15:11,100 --> 00:15:13,670

322
00:15:13,670 --> 00:15:15,800
I had a locket that I--

323
00:15:15,800 --> 00:15:17,720
a heart.

324
00:15:17,720 --> 00:15:22,370
And I remember having that
for a long time, even when I

325
00:15:22,370 --> 00:15:24,050
arrived in Auschwitz.

326
00:15:24,050 --> 00:15:27,770
And I was very
brazen, because we

327
00:15:27,770 --> 00:15:29,450
would stand on line
for the showers

328
00:15:29,450 --> 00:15:31,310
and you had to strip naked.

329
00:15:31,310 --> 00:15:34,250
And I had enough
presence of mind

330
00:15:34,250 --> 00:15:36,050
to know that I had to
take this thing off,

331
00:15:36,050 --> 00:15:38,310
and I would hold on to it.

332
00:15:38,310 --> 00:15:41,450
And I don't know how I
did that, but I did it.

333
00:15:41,450 --> 00:15:43,940
I lost the locket,
however, at some point.

334
00:15:43,940 --> 00:15:47,560
What did the locket look like?

335
00:15:47,560 --> 00:15:49,030
It was a heart-shaped locket.

336
00:15:49,030 --> 00:15:53,230

337
00:15:53,230 --> 00:15:55,430
Did it have pictures
inside of anyone?

338
00:15:55,430 --> 00:15:56,110
I don't recall.

339
00:15:56,110 --> 00:15:59,780

340
00:15:59,780 --> 00:16:01,820
It was a gift from
your mother or-- yeah.

341
00:16:01,820 --> 00:16:02,320
probably.

342

00:16:02,320 --> 00:16:02,660

Must have been.

343

00:16:02,660 --> 00:16:03,160

Probably.

344

00:16:03,160 --> 00:16:09,840

345

00:16:09,840 --> 00:16:13,200

You don't recall taking
a toy with you, or--

346

00:16:13,200 --> 00:16:19,714

347

00:16:19,714 --> 00:16:24,050

The only thing I remember
is my mother's shoulder

348

00:16:24,050 --> 00:16:26,690

and the texture of the
dress that she wore--

349

00:16:26,690 --> 00:16:27,320

On that day?

350

00:16:27,320 --> 00:16:32,100

--on-- not on that day,
but from Theresienstadt,

351

00:16:32,100 --> 00:16:33,570

that's one of the things--

352

00:16:33,570 --> 00:16:35,420

since you asked for
something tangible,

353

00:16:35,420 --> 00:16:38,510

this is what I do remember.

354

00:16:38,510 --> 00:16:41,015

And I think we were--
there was a picture taken.

355

00:16:41,015 --> 00:16:43,140

You remember that because
a picture was taken of us

356

00:16:43,140 --> 00:16:45,780

A picture was taken of
us at that point in time.

357

00:16:45,780 --> 00:16:46,955

And--

358

00:16:46,955 --> 00:16:47,790

We have the picture.

359

00:16:47,790 --> 00:16:48,290

Yeah.

360

00:16:48,290 --> 00:16:52,162

We got the picture [INAUDIBLE],,
and it confirms this shoulder

361

00:16:52,162 --> 00:16:53,120

which I was leaning on.

362

00:16:53,120 --> 00:16:55,070

We have it right here.

363

00:16:55,070 --> 00:16:59,630

And-- but I don't remember
taking anything with me,

364

00:16:59,630 --> 00:17:02,250

like a personal toy
or anything like that.

365

00:17:02,250 --> 00:17:03,260

No, I don't.

366

00:17:03,260 --> 00:17:05,640
Do you remember how
her dress felt or--

367
00:17:05,640 --> 00:17:06,140
Yeah.

368
00:17:06,140 --> 00:17:07,039
It was coarse.

369
00:17:07,039 --> 00:17:07,640
It was--

370
00:17:07,640 --> 00:17:11,119
But I do remember that
our mom did have--

371
00:17:11,119 --> 00:17:14,690
did carry a bag with
something, that I remember.

372
00:17:14,690 --> 00:17:17,420
But I don't know what
was in it really.

373
00:17:17,420 --> 00:17:19,220
Do you remember
anything about the train

374
00:17:19,220 --> 00:17:21,532
journey itself and
getting to the station

375
00:17:21,532 --> 00:17:22,490
outside Theresienstadt?

376
00:17:22,490 --> 00:17:26,240
Actually, the train
ride was kind of--

377
00:17:26,240 --> 00:17:26,810
I don't know.

378

00:17:26,810 --> 00:17:27,530

I enjoyed it.

379

00:17:27,530 --> 00:17:29,950

I think it was maybe
our first train ride.

380

00:17:29,950 --> 00:17:32,060

We were like, it's a
pretty nice train ride.

381

00:17:32,060 --> 00:17:36,260

382

00:17:36,260 --> 00:17:41,210

Wasn't bad, as I recall,
to Theresienstadt.

383

00:17:41,210 --> 00:17:42,560

I'm a blank on that.

384

00:17:42,560 --> 00:17:43,160

You do?

385

00:17:43,160 --> 00:17:47,480

You don't remember the march
to Theresienstadt or no?

386

00:17:47,480 --> 00:17:50,320

387

00:17:50,320 --> 00:17:55,610

What are your first
memories of Theresienstadt?

388

00:17:55,610 --> 00:17:59,510

Unfortunately, I think I
have very minimal memories

389

00:17:59,510 --> 00:18:01,940

of Theresienstadt.

390

00:18:01,940 --> 00:18:08,930

Again, only-- I remember
cobblestone roads, pavements,

391

00:18:08,930 --> 00:18:09,830

brick buildings.

392

00:18:09,830 --> 00:18:10,790

Brick buildings.

393

00:18:10,790 --> 00:18:14,270

394

00:18:14,270 --> 00:18:17,940

I always see these
bridges over water.

395

00:18:17,940 --> 00:18:22,760

I don't know if it's from
there, but I don't know.

396

00:18:22,760 --> 00:18:25,430

But that comes to mind.

397

00:18:25,430 --> 00:18:27,670

Were you staying with
your mother there?

398

00:18:27,670 --> 00:18:28,670

Were you still with her?

399

00:18:28,670 --> 00:18:29,610

Yes.

400

00:18:29,610 --> 00:18:32,150

Yes.

401

00:18:32,150 --> 00:18:35,580

I remember you being sick there.

402

00:18:35,580 --> 00:18:36,320

It's possible.

403

00:18:36,320 --> 00:18:37,880

I was sick a lot.

404

00:18:37,880 --> 00:18:38,610

Over there.

405

00:18:38,610 --> 00:18:41,544

I do remember you being ill.

406

00:18:41,544 --> 00:18:45,240

Was she taken away to
the hospital in camp?

407

00:18:45,240 --> 00:18:48,300

To some infirmary,
but she didn't

408

00:18:48,300 --> 00:18:49,590

stay overnight or anything.

409

00:18:49,590 --> 00:18:53,010

She would just go there
for, I guess, medication

410

00:18:53,010 --> 00:18:54,300

and come back.

411

00:18:54,300 --> 00:18:58,215

And then Theresienstadt, I
also remember standing on line.

412

00:18:58,215 --> 00:19:00,990

413

00:19:00,990 --> 00:19:05,460

And I remember carts
with dead bodies.

414

00:19:05,460 --> 00:19:06,100

Yeah.

415
00:19:06,100 --> 00:19:06,990
On the cobblestone

416
00:19:06,990 --> 00:19:08,310
On the cobblestones.

417
00:19:08,310 --> 00:19:08,900
Yeah

418
00:19:08,900 --> 00:19:11,850
It just-- yeah.

419
00:19:11,850 --> 00:19:12,980
Hard pushing.

420
00:19:12,980 --> 00:19:15,480
The wheels would get
stuck between these rocks

421
00:19:15,480 --> 00:19:16,980
and everything would
come to a halt,

422
00:19:16,980 --> 00:19:19,200
and they'd have to get
everybody on the side

423
00:19:19,200 --> 00:19:22,390
to get this thing
started again rolling.

424
00:19:22,390 --> 00:19:27,490
And they lost a few bodies
every once in a while, slid off.

425
00:19:27,490 --> 00:19:27,990
Yeah.

426
00:19:27,990 --> 00:19:31,040

427

00:19:31,040 --> 00:19:35,310

What was-- do you recall your
day to day life was like there?

428

00:19:35,310 --> 00:19:39,540

Did you-- there was
an underground school.

429

00:19:39,540 --> 00:19:40,840

Do you recall ever--

430

00:19:40,840 --> 00:19:42,330

I can't recall it.

431

00:19:42,330 --> 00:19:44,650

I think we were too
young for the school.

432

00:19:44,650 --> 00:19:47,770

I'm not sure we attended,
but I don't know.

433

00:19:47,770 --> 00:19:48,540

I don't recall.

434

00:19:48,540 --> 00:19:50,080

I don't recall it at all.

435

00:19:50,080 --> 00:19:54,000

Well, recently there was a
film made about Theresienstadt,

436

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:57,840

and in the film footage,
which we saw in the village

437

00:19:57,840 --> 00:20:00,765

just this year, there
was a kindergarten.

438

00:20:00,765 --> 00:20:05,280

And on the bottom steps, I

spotted Rene in the film.

439

00:20:05,280 --> 00:20:07,053

So they were part of
a kindergarten group.

440

00:20:07,053 --> 00:20:08,970

Whether they were active
or not, I don't know.

441

00:20:08,970 --> 00:20:11,910

It was part of the Nazi
propaganda film footage.

442

00:20:11,910 --> 00:20:12,680

Oh, I see.

443

00:20:12,680 --> 00:20:15,800

444

00:20:15,800 --> 00:20:16,533

I don't recall.

445

00:20:16,533 --> 00:20:17,450

I don't recall either.

446

00:20:17,450 --> 00:20:20,780

447

00:20:20,780 --> 00:20:21,530

It's possible.

448

00:20:21,530 --> 00:20:22,460

It's possible.

449

00:20:22,460 --> 00:20:24,320

And I don't know
if you recall this,

450

00:20:24,320 --> 00:20:27,890

and I don't know if it's
mixed up in time for me.

451
00:20:27,890 --> 00:20:30,350
But at one point,
do you remember

452
00:20:30,350 --> 00:20:35,620
standing in a field
just for hours and hours

453
00:20:35,620 --> 00:20:37,870
and hours on end for--

454
00:20:37,870 --> 00:20:41,070
I don't know for what.

455
00:20:41,070 --> 00:20:41,580
No?

456
00:20:41,580 --> 00:20:42,180
I don't know.

457
00:20:42,180 --> 00:20:44,490
That's just something
that kind of flitting

458
00:20:44,490 --> 00:20:48,630
in and out of my head
lately, but I can't exactly

459
00:20:48,630 --> 00:20:49,210
recall where.

460
00:20:49,210 --> 00:20:50,260
I remember something.

461
00:20:50,260 --> 00:20:51,930
I'm not sure it was fields.

462
00:20:51,930 --> 00:20:53,265
It was dark.

463

00:20:53,265 --> 00:20:54,420
it was dark.

464
00:20:54,420 --> 00:20:57,510
I think it was-- we were
waiting for the train

465
00:20:57,510 --> 00:20:58,790
to take us to Auschwitz.

466
00:20:58,790 --> 00:20:59,790
No, that's a different--

467
00:20:59,790 --> 00:21:01,530
That's a different?

468
00:21:01,530 --> 00:21:05,650
Because I remember taking quite
a walk towards that train.

469
00:21:05,650 --> 00:21:06,150
Oh, yeah.

470
00:21:06,150 --> 00:21:07,970
I remember that, too, but no.

471
00:21:07,970 --> 00:21:11,010
This was just a lot
of people were there

472
00:21:11,010 --> 00:21:14,625
and we're just kind of
standing around, waiting.

473
00:21:14,625 --> 00:21:17,590

474
00:21:17,590 --> 00:21:19,120
That did happen.

475
00:21:19,120 --> 00:21:21,880
There was an occurrence like

that where many people were

476

00:21:21,880 --> 00:21:26,920
taken out of the camp and
held in a field in a forest

477

00:21:26,920 --> 00:21:28,640
outside of Theresienstadt.

478

00:21:28,640 --> 00:21:29,250
Really?

479

00:21:29,250 --> 00:21:30,340
Yeah.

480

00:21:30,340 --> 00:21:31,050
Oh, my god.

481

00:21:31,050 --> 00:21:32,800
This is what I've
read and what I've

482

00:21:32,800 --> 00:21:34,100
heard from other survivors.

483

00:21:34,100 --> 00:21:34,600
Really?

484

00:21:34,600 --> 00:21:35,100
Yeah.

485

00:21:35,100 --> 00:21:37,000
And what was the
purpose of that?

486

00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:39,580
Well, actually last
night, Inge Auerbacher

487

00:21:39,580 --> 00:21:41,145
talked about it, too.

488

00:21:41,145 --> 00:21:43,520

From what she remembers, she
was she was an older child--

489

00:21:43,520 --> 00:21:44,230

Yes.

490

00:21:44,230 --> 00:21:48,940

--that it looked as though they
had plans to kill everybody.

491

00:21:48,940 --> 00:21:53,650

She put Babi Yar style,
shoot people in mass graves.

492

00:21:53,650 --> 00:21:57,910

But that it didn't materialize
for some reason luckily,

493

00:21:57,910 --> 00:22:00,590

and everyone went
back to the camp,

494

00:22:00,590 --> 00:22:03,820

go back into Theresienstadt.

495

00:22:03,820 --> 00:22:05,810

So that might have been--

496

00:22:05,810 --> 00:22:07,060

might be that that you recall.

497

00:22:07,060 --> 00:22:09,580

498

00:22:09,580 --> 00:22:11,860

Well, on occasion that's
how they handled epidemics.

499

00:22:11,860 --> 00:22:14,035

If there was some kind
of disease running

500
00:22:14,035 --> 00:22:15,910
through the camp and
they couldn't handle it,

501
00:22:15,910 --> 00:22:18,040
well, that would be
their medical solution.

502
00:22:18,040 --> 00:22:19,240
Right.

503
00:22:19,240 --> 00:22:21,490
And actually before
the film they

504
00:22:21,490 --> 00:22:24,100
did deport many people
also before they

505
00:22:24,100 --> 00:22:26,410
filmed that-- the
propaganda movie,

506
00:22:26,410 --> 00:22:28,310
because they knew
it was too crowded.

507
00:22:28,310 --> 00:22:33,430
So do you remember if your
mother was with you all day,

508
00:22:33,430 --> 00:22:36,850
or did she leave
you during the days

509
00:22:36,850 --> 00:22:41,950
as if to go to some kind
of labor detail or--

510
00:22:41,950 --> 00:22:43,980
I don't think she
was with us all day.

511
00:22:43,980 --> 00:22:48,480

512
00:22:48,480 --> 00:22:51,252
But I--

513
00:22:51,252 --> 00:22:54,180
I do remember running
wild in the place.

514
00:22:54,180 --> 00:22:55,800
I do.

515
00:22:55,800 --> 00:23:00,600
And throwing things into
windows and from windows down.

516
00:23:00,600 --> 00:23:05,970
And I'm sure that that happened
while I was unsupervised.

517
00:23:05,970 --> 00:23:07,860
Do you remember if you
were with other kids?

518
00:23:07,860 --> 00:23:08,360
Yeah.

519
00:23:08,360 --> 00:23:08,860
Yeah?

520
00:23:08,860 --> 00:23:10,770
Yes.

521
00:23:10,770 --> 00:23:13,200
War games, I guess
you'd call them.

522
00:23:13,200 --> 00:23:17,370

523

00:23:17,370 --> 00:23:18,495

Don't you remember drawing?

524

00:23:18,495 --> 00:23:21,150

525

00:23:21,150 --> 00:23:23,020

Some inkling of memory
in thinking of what's

526

00:23:23,020 --> 00:23:25,660

mentioned to me.

527

00:23:25,660 --> 00:23:26,612

I don't know .

528

00:23:26,612 --> 00:23:30,480

It doesn't come
to me this moment.

529

00:23:30,480 --> 00:23:33,700

The head of the children's
school was in your transport

530

00:23:33,700 --> 00:23:36,660

from Theresienstadt
to Auschwitz.

531

00:23:36,660 --> 00:23:42,300

And his name, I forgot, but
it'll come to me in a minute.

532

00:23:42,300 --> 00:23:44,490

Very influential
person because he

533

00:23:44,490 --> 00:23:49,480

kept such a wonderful
spirit among children there.

534

00:23:49,480 --> 00:23:52,890

And I think when I

mentioned this to you once,

535

00:23:52,890 --> 00:23:55,894

you remember-- you
did remember drawing.

536

00:23:55,894 --> 00:23:56,394

Maybe.

537

00:23:56,394 --> 00:23:59,880

538

00:23:59,880 --> 00:24:02,670

Do you remember any thoughts
you had about these wagons

539

00:24:02,670 --> 00:24:04,480

with dead bodies?

540

00:24:04,480 --> 00:24:08,730

I mean, did you think it was
interesting, or as a child,

541

00:24:08,730 --> 00:24:12,960

do you recall any
thought you had then?

542

00:24:12,960 --> 00:24:15,730

My thoughts were that
I didn't understand it.

543

00:24:15,730 --> 00:24:18,090

I just didn't
understand what it was.

544

00:24:18,090 --> 00:24:19,680

I looked but I--

545

00:24:19,680 --> 00:24:23,310

I don't think it made the
emotional impact that it

546

00:24:23,310 --> 00:24:27,120
would to somebody a lot older.

547
00:24:27,120 --> 00:24:30,812
Because it was just something--
we were learning new things,

548
00:24:30,812 --> 00:24:31,770
and I think it's just--

549
00:24:31,770 --> 00:24:34,860
another thing for
something for us to learn.

550
00:24:34,860 --> 00:24:36,900
Part of life, whatever it was.

551
00:24:36,900 --> 00:24:40,590
That's what happened
to some people.

552
00:24:40,590 --> 00:24:44,380
Do you have any memory
of wearing a star?

553
00:24:44,380 --> 00:24:45,520
I don't.

554
00:24:45,520 --> 00:24:47,180
I do.

555
00:24:47,180 --> 00:24:48,430
What do you recall about that?

556
00:24:48,430 --> 00:24:55,530

557
00:24:55,530 --> 00:24:57,700
Do you recall getting
it or do you recall just

558
00:24:57,700 --> 00:24:58,550

remembering it--

559

00:24:58,550 --> 00:24:59,050

I just--

560

00:24:59,050 --> 00:24:59,380

--that you were wearing it?

561

00:24:59,380 --> 00:24:59,920

--had it.

562

00:24:59,920 --> 00:25:01,030

I don't know where even.

563

00:25:01,030 --> 00:25:04,008

564

00:25:04,008 --> 00:25:04,550

I don't know.

565

00:25:04,550 --> 00:25:06,710

Where would that have been?

566

00:25:06,710 --> 00:25:08,150

Probably in Prague.

567

00:25:08,150 --> 00:25:09,050

In Prague, yeah.

568

00:25:09,050 --> 00:25:09,550

Yeah.

569

00:25:09,550 --> 00:25:12,470

570

00:25:12,470 --> 00:25:15,530

It was very small,
but it was there.

571

00:25:15,530 --> 00:25:17,690

I-- Juden.

572
00:25:17,690 --> 00:25:23,180
I remember people pointing
to us because of it,

573
00:25:23,180 --> 00:25:28,630
but it's the first time I ever--

574
00:25:28,630 --> 00:25:31,430
You just mentioning Prague,
I just remembered something.

575
00:25:31,430 --> 00:25:33,890
And probably maybe this
didn't even happen,

576
00:25:33,890 --> 00:25:36,270
because Prague was
never bombed, was it?

577
00:25:36,270 --> 00:25:39,140
But I remember sirens.

578
00:25:39,140 --> 00:25:41,420
I remember sirens,
and I remember

579
00:25:41,420 --> 00:25:42,910
we would go downstairs.

580
00:25:42,910 --> 00:25:47,820

581
00:25:47,820 --> 00:25:51,922
Must have been Prague,
because where else would i

582
00:25:51,922 --> 00:25:54,350
have gone downstairs?

583
00:25:54,350 --> 00:25:56,000
Was this a large

building you lived in?

584

00:25:56,000 --> 00:25:58,595

Many apartments, or do you know?

585

00:25:58,595 --> 00:25:59,270

Not terribly.

586

00:25:59,270 --> 00:26:01,400

I would think maybe like seven--

587

00:26:01,400 --> 00:26:03,260

six, seven story.

588

00:26:03,260 --> 00:26:04,120

Right?

589

00:26:04,120 --> 00:26:06,720

Yeah, something like that.

590

00:26:06,720 --> 00:26:08,560

So during these

sirens, you remember--

591

00:26:08,560 --> 00:26:09,180

Going down

592

00:26:09,180 --> 00:26:09,710

--going to the basement--

593

00:26:09,710 --> 00:26:10,140

Yeah.

594

00:26:10,140 --> 00:26:10,640

Yes.

595

00:26:10,640 --> 00:26:11,280

Yeah.

596

00:26:11,280 --> 00:26:11,780

Yes.

597
00:26:11,780 --> 00:26:15,390

598
00:26:15,390 --> 00:26:18,547
Something.

599
00:26:18,547 --> 00:26:20,880
And all the other people in
the building went down, too?

600
00:26:20,880 --> 00:26:22,852
There were other
people there, too.

601
00:26:22,852 --> 00:26:24,816
Yes.

602
00:26:24,816 --> 00:26:27,702
Was there food down
there or any provisions?

603
00:26:27,702 --> 00:26:30,420

604
00:26:30,420 --> 00:26:32,820
Could this fit?

605
00:26:32,820 --> 00:26:34,110
It could, yeah.

606
00:26:34,110 --> 00:26:35,010
I don't know.

607
00:26:35,010 --> 00:26:38,160
I don't know offhand,
but it might.

608
00:26:38,160 --> 00:26:41,440

609

00:26:41,440 --> 00:26:43,510
That's very vague.

610
00:26:43,510 --> 00:26:44,110
Very misty.

611
00:26:44,110 --> 00:26:48,820

612
00:26:48,820 --> 00:26:52,060
In your home, did you speak
German Do you remember?

613
00:26:52,060 --> 00:26:53,410
I think we spoke German.

614
00:26:53,410 --> 00:27:05,410

615
00:27:05,410 --> 00:27:08,390
Because I seem to understand
Yiddish after the war,

616
00:27:08,390 --> 00:27:12,370
and I couldn't figure
out how so had to be.

617
00:27:12,370 --> 00:27:13,060
Right.

618
00:27:13,060 --> 00:27:14,290
An early implant.

619
00:27:14,290 --> 00:27:15,590
An early implant someplace.

620
00:27:15,590 --> 00:27:19,787

621
00:27:19,787 --> 00:27:22,120
See, the grown ups thought I
didn't understand what they

622
00:27:22,120 --> 00:27:25,700
were saying, but I understood.

623
00:27:25,700 --> 00:27:27,872
Yeah, seemingly we
understood, but I

624
00:27:27,872 --> 00:27:29,080
don't remember what language.

625
00:27:29,080 --> 00:27:32,260
But whenever somebody spoke,
especially the Germans, we--

626
00:27:32,260 --> 00:27:34,970
I knew exactly what
they were saying.

627
00:27:34,970 --> 00:27:36,730
So that would have to be.

628
00:27:36,730 --> 00:27:39,820
But I'm sure since we
grew up in Czechoslovakia,

629
00:27:39,820 --> 00:27:44,295
we must have learned that,
too, the first few years.

630
00:27:44,295 --> 00:27:46,420
oh, you don't think that
we were out all that much?

631
00:27:46,420 --> 00:27:47,590
I don't think we were out.

632
00:27:47,590 --> 00:27:50,060
And I think you learned
Czech after the war.

633
00:27:50,060 --> 00:27:50,560

Yeah?

634

00:27:50,560 --> 00:27:54,550

Because I have no recollection
of Czech at all, but German,

635

00:27:54,550 --> 00:27:55,690

yes.

636

00:27:55,690 --> 00:27:57,190

Well, I don't
remember the language.

637

00:27:57,190 --> 00:28:00,880

I just remember
understanding it.

638

00:28:00,880 --> 00:28:04,180

Do you remember you have any
memories about any of the SS

639

00:28:04,180 --> 00:28:11,590

guards or the soldiers, and what
they looked like or treatment

640

00:28:11,590 --> 00:28:13,120

of other people or of Yourself

641

00:28:13,120 --> 00:28:18,970

Well, the first recollection
I have of the SS--

642

00:28:18,970 --> 00:28:23,620

I guess-- or soldiers or
whatever, was when we were--

643

00:28:23,620 --> 00:28:26,200

took this very long
walk in Theresienstadt

644

00:28:26,200 --> 00:28:29,110

to the train that was
to take us to Auschwitz.

645
00:28:29,110 --> 00:28:30,160
There were dogs there.

646
00:28:30,160 --> 00:28:31,580
And they had dogs there.

647
00:28:31,580 --> 00:28:34,550
It was a long column of
people were marching.

648
00:28:34,550 --> 00:28:35,380
It was at night.

649
00:28:35,380 --> 00:28:37,180
There was snow on the ground.

650
00:28:37,180 --> 00:28:38,220
Mm-hmm.

651
00:28:38,220 --> 00:28:40,105
It was very bitterly cold.

652
00:28:40,105 --> 00:28:40,990
Mm-hmm

653
00:28:40,990 --> 00:28:47,230
And if people didn't
walk quickly enough,

654
00:28:47,230 --> 00:28:50,560
they'd just shoot the people.

655
00:28:50,560 --> 00:28:52,570
There were shots that
rang out and then

656
00:28:52,570 --> 00:28:55,460
I just saw bodies falling.

657
00:28:55,460 --> 00:28:56,440

I don't know.

658

00:28:56,440 --> 00:28:59,650

Again, I don't think I really understood that they were dead

659

00:28:59,650 --> 00:29:02,440

or they weren't going to get up again.

660

00:29:02,440 --> 00:29:04,600

And there were dogs.

661

00:29:04,600 --> 00:29:09,880

And I remember I was tired.

662

00:29:09,880 --> 00:29:12,730

I didn't want to go on this trip.

663

00:29:12,730 --> 00:29:14,094

But my mother was--

664

00:29:14,094 --> 00:29:15,728

Our mother held us by our hands.

665

00:29:15,728 --> 00:29:16,520

She was pulling us.

666

00:29:16,520 --> 00:29:16,940

And held us so tightly.

667

00:29:16,940 --> 00:29:17,570

And was pulling us--

668

00:29:17,570 --> 00:29:18,400

I remember that.

669

00:29:18,400 --> 00:29:19,510

--to--

670

00:29:19,510 --> 00:29:21,875
You were being
roused awake, or--

671
00:29:21,875 --> 00:29:22,750
Well it was at night.

672
00:29:22,750 --> 00:29:23,860
No, it was at night.

673
00:29:23,860 --> 00:29:27,760
But it started in the
evening, most probably.

674
00:29:27,760 --> 00:29:30,200
It wasn't an arousal in
the middle of the night.

675
00:29:30,200 --> 00:29:32,470
It was something that was
ongoing in the evening.

676
00:29:32,470 --> 00:29:34,298
And it seemed like a very long--

677
00:29:34,298 --> 00:29:34,840
It was, yeah.

678
00:29:34,840 --> 00:29:35,340
--walk.

679
00:29:35,340 --> 00:29:38,027
But then that might have been
because we were so little,

680
00:29:38,027 --> 00:29:38,941
and--

681
00:29:38,941 --> 00:29:39,820
Little legs.

682
00:29:39,820 --> 00:29:42,550

--little legs.

683
00:29:42,550 --> 00:29:45,160
It seems that the
transport card, which

684
00:29:45,160 --> 00:29:48,460
was posted on the wall and
Theresienstadt and that

685
00:29:48,460 --> 00:29:50,050
was when you knew
your time was--

686
00:29:50,050 --> 00:29:51,940
had come to go.

687
00:29:51,940 --> 00:29:55,390
We've recovered these
transport tickets.

688
00:29:55,390 --> 00:29:58,880
They're in a museum in
Israel, in a kibbutz.

689
00:29:58,880 --> 00:29:59,380
Givat Chaim

690
00:29:59,380 --> 00:30:00,110
Givat Chaim.

691
00:30:00,110 --> 00:30:00,610
Yihud.

692
00:30:00,610 --> 00:30:01,110
Really?

693
00:30:01,110 --> 00:30:02,050
Givat Chaim Yihud.

694
00:30:02,050 --> 00:30:05,920
They had a whole slew

of things about Czech--

695

00:30:05,920 --> 00:30:08,620

all the Czech families who
were in Theresienstadt.

696

00:30:08,620 --> 00:30:11,380

And that's, in fact,
we are, Rene and I,

697

00:30:11,380 --> 00:30:15,820

found an affidavit that
indicated that our mother had

698

00:30:15,820 --> 00:30:17,890

died in Auschwitz.

699

00:30:17,890 --> 00:30:19,890

And our names and our--

700

00:30:19,890 --> 00:30:20,515

And our names--

701

00:30:20,515 --> 00:30:22,943

--our dates of birth are
there, everything is there.

702

00:30:22,943 --> 00:30:25,720

And what transport--
the numbers we

703

00:30:25,720 --> 00:30:28,960

had on the transport to
Theresienstadt and then

704

00:30:28,960 --> 00:30:31,550

from Theresienstadt to
Auschwitz and the dates.

705

00:30:31,550 --> 00:30:32,050

December--

706

00:30:32,050 --> 00:30:32,675
It's all there.

707
00:30:32,675 --> 00:30:33,310
December 15th.

708
00:30:33,310 --> 00:30:36,520
--15th to Auschwitz 1943.

709
00:30:36,520 --> 00:30:38,050
And to Theresienstadt it was--

710
00:30:38,050 --> 00:30:39,390
It's about a year prior to.

711
00:30:39,390 --> 00:30:45,780
August 9, 1942.

712
00:30:45,780 --> 00:30:46,738
Or September 9th.

713
00:30:46,738 --> 00:30:47,280
I'm not sure.

714
00:30:47,280 --> 00:30:49,080
I always get confused.

715
00:30:49,080 --> 00:30:50,550
It was-- August is about right.

716
00:30:50,550 --> 00:30:51,050
Yeah.

717
00:30:51,050 --> 00:30:52,360
I think August.

718
00:30:52,360 --> 00:30:53,900
So it was a little over a year.

719
00:30:53,900 --> 00:30:58,800
There's also another artist

who was on that same transport,

720
00:30:58,800 --> 00:31:02,850
and he's drawn
account after account

721
00:31:02,850 --> 00:31:04,440
of what happened that night.

722
00:31:04,440 --> 00:31:06,630
And you can see in his
black and white drawings

723
00:31:06,630 --> 00:31:09,720
the pitch black of night,
the entrance into Auschwitz,

724
00:31:09,720 --> 00:31:13,110
the spilling out of the
prisoners from the cattle

725
00:31:13,110 --> 00:31:14,610
cars and all.

726
00:31:14,610 --> 00:31:18,060
And it's a very clear
image of what they actually

727
00:31:18,060 --> 00:31:20,270
went through.

728
00:31:20,270 --> 00:31:23,690
Bernard-- I forgot his name.

729
00:31:23,690 --> 00:31:25,190
OK.

730
00:31:25,190 --> 00:31:28,965
This photograph of you
two and your mother,

731
00:31:28,965 --> 00:31:29,840

where was this taken?

732
00:31:29,840 --> 00:31:30,240
Do you remember?

733
00:31:30,240 --> 00:31:30,710
Theresienstadt.

734
00:31:30,710 --> 00:31:31,335
Theresienstadt.

735
00:31:31,335 --> 00:31:33,620
Theresienstadt.

736
00:31:33,620 --> 00:31:36,530
Was there-- do you
remember why it was taken,

737
00:31:36,530 --> 00:31:38,750
or was there just happened
to be a photographer

738
00:31:38,750 --> 00:31:39,590
in Theresienstadt?

739
00:31:39,590 --> 00:31:41,420
They were doing these things.

740
00:31:41,420 --> 00:31:45,170
Doing these things, and I think
they sent it out to family

741
00:31:45,170 --> 00:31:47,700
members to say, we're fine.

742
00:31:47,700 --> 00:31:48,615
Everything's great.

743
00:31:48,615 --> 00:31:52,420

744

00:31:52,420 --> 00:31:55,150
Do you think this was
probably done early?

745
00:31:55,150 --> 00:31:58,630
Do you recall-- did it happen
shortly after you arrived

746
00:31:58,630 --> 00:32:00,490
in the camp, or--

747
00:32:00,490 --> 00:32:01,280
I couldn't say.

748
00:32:01,280 --> 00:32:05,660
We were there over a year,
Empirically knowing this now,

749
00:32:05,660 --> 00:32:06,400
I don't recall.

750
00:32:06,400 --> 00:32:07,150
It's hard to tell.

751
00:32:07,150 --> 00:32:07,650
Right.

752
00:32:07,650 --> 00:32:11,280
But looking at us, I would
say we look pretty good there.

753
00:32:11,280 --> 00:32:15,220
So it might have been early.

754
00:32:15,220 --> 00:32:17,600
Do you have any memories of
the clothes you were wearing?

755
00:32:17,600 --> 00:32:18,100
No.

756
00:32:18,100 --> 00:32:20,086

I remember her-- my
mother's outfit, though.

757
00:32:20,086 --> 00:32:20,780
You remember the way this--

758
00:32:20,780 --> 00:32:20,980
Yeah.

759
00:32:20,980 --> 00:32:21,520
--felt.

760
00:32:21,520 --> 00:32:23,230
But I remember my hair.

761
00:32:23,230 --> 00:32:25,289
Oh, I remember your
dress, that dress.

762
00:32:25,289 --> 00:32:26,206
I remember that dress.

763
00:32:26,206 --> 00:32:27,140
Colors.

764
00:32:27,140 --> 00:32:27,640
Yes.

765
00:32:27,640 --> 00:32:29,030
Sort of a reddish--

766
00:32:29,030 --> 00:32:29,530
Purplish.

767
00:32:29,530 --> 00:32:30,410
--purplish, right.

768
00:32:30,410 --> 00:32:31,100
Right.

769
00:32:31,100 --> 00:32:31,600

Yeah.

770
00:32:31,600 --> 00:32:33,550
Unbelievable.

771
00:32:33,550 --> 00:32:34,270
And I remember--

772
00:32:34,270 --> 00:32:36,010
And those are
yellow lines, right?

773
00:32:36,010 --> 00:32:36,900
Yes.

774
00:32:36,900 --> 00:32:37,540
Yes.

775
00:32:37,540 --> 00:32:39,970
So these squares were purplish?

776
00:32:39,970 --> 00:32:42,430
Yeah, basically a
purplish background,

777
00:32:42,430 --> 00:32:43,930
but they were like squares.

778
00:32:43,930 --> 00:32:45,350
And this is yellow.

779
00:32:45,350 --> 00:32:45,850
Mm-hmm.

780
00:32:45,850 --> 00:32:47,020
See that?

781
00:32:47,020 --> 00:32:49,300
But obviously, this
is just the first time

782

00:32:49,300 --> 00:32:51,040
ever that I'm remembering this.

783
00:32:51,040 --> 00:32:55,000

784
00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:58,210
But I remember my mom always
made me a thing on top of my-

785
00:32:58,210 --> 00:32:59,200
Yeah, right.

786
00:32:59,200 --> 00:33:00,370
The long--

787
00:33:00,370 --> 00:33:01,310
And long hair.

788
00:33:01,310 --> 00:33:01,810
Yeah.

789
00:33:01,810 --> 00:33:03,490
And she always had-- and--

790
00:33:03,490 --> 00:33:06,163
right.

791
00:33:06,163 --> 00:33:07,330
What was your mother's name?

792
00:33:07,330 --> 00:33:07,839
Ita.

793
00:33:07,839 --> 00:33:08,339
Ita.

794
00:33:08,339 --> 00:33:12,830

795
00:33:12,830 --> 00:33:17,180

And so you recall walking to
the transport, to Auschwitz,

796
00:33:17,180 --> 00:33:20,390
and the dogs and the
guards shooting people

797
00:33:20,390 --> 00:33:22,640
who were straggling, I guess--

798
00:33:22,640 --> 00:33:26,000
Or beating them or yelling,
and the dogs barking.

799
00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:27,915
We just had to get
the trains loaded.

800
00:33:27,915 --> 00:33:28,180
It was horrible--

801
00:33:28,180 --> 00:33:28,680
Yeah.

802
00:33:28,680 --> 00:33:31,550
It was the first real--

803
00:33:31,550 --> 00:33:37,250
display of real force
against the people

804
00:33:37,250 --> 00:33:39,890
there that I remember.

805
00:33:39,890 --> 00:33:41,720
It was horrible.

806
00:33:41,720 --> 00:33:43,532
And your mother was
pulling you along?

807
00:33:43,532 --> 00:33:44,240

Pulling us, yeah.

808
00:33:44,240 --> 00:33:44,750
Yeah.

809
00:33:44,750 --> 00:33:45,667
Had you by the hands--

810
00:33:45,667 --> 00:33:47,150
Yeah.

811
00:33:47,150 --> 00:33:49,190
Which means she
had two of us, she

812
00:33:49,190 --> 00:33:51,740
couldn't carry much of
anything else, right?

813
00:33:51,740 --> 00:33:53,150
But she also did--

814
00:33:53,150 --> 00:33:58,430
she still had something
that had to be carried, yes.

815
00:33:58,430 --> 00:34:04,160
A small parcel of some sort.

816
00:34:04,160 --> 00:34:07,822
What do you recall about
the transport itself?

817
00:34:07,822 --> 00:34:09,130
That was horrible.

818
00:34:09,130 --> 00:34:10,410
That I remember.

819
00:34:10,410 --> 00:34:11,160
You had the floor.

820

00:34:11,160 --> 00:34:11,945

That I remember.

821

00:34:11,945 --> 00:34:15,020

822

00:34:15,020 --> 00:34:18,980

We were absolutely
jammed into this car.

823

00:34:18,980 --> 00:34:23,690

I can smell the stench
of what went on in there.

824

00:34:23,690 --> 00:34:26,250

Everything went on in there.

825

00:34:26,250 --> 00:34:30,530

We were there for a
very, very long time.

826

00:34:30,530 --> 00:34:34,250

People were trying to faint
and fall down, but they almost

827

00:34:34,250 --> 00:34:35,679

couldn't because they were--

828

00:34:35,679 --> 00:34:36,380

there was--

829

00:34:36,380 --> 00:34:37,400

It was so crowded--

830

00:34:37,400 --> 00:34:37,769

The cars were so crowded.

831

00:34:37,769 --> 00:34:39,440

--you couldn't turn
around or anything.

832

00:34:39,440 --> 00:34:41,918
It seemed like an
endless journey, just

833
00:34:41,918 --> 00:34:42,710
an endless journey.

834
00:34:42,710 --> 00:34:44,739
You were all together in a car?

835
00:34:44,739 --> 00:34:47,510
Right, with lots and
lots of other people.

836
00:34:47,510 --> 00:34:49,730
There was nothing to eat.

837
00:34:49,730 --> 00:34:51,260
I remember being very thirsty.

838
00:34:51,260 --> 00:34:53,120
I remember biting my hand.

839
00:34:53,120 --> 00:34:55,830

840
00:34:55,830 --> 00:34:57,848
What did biting your hand do?

841
00:34:57,848 --> 00:34:58,390
I don't know.

842
00:34:58,390 --> 00:35:00,880
I wanted to cry,
but I knew that--

843
00:35:00,880 --> 00:35:02,880
I didn't dare cry.

844
00:35:02,880 --> 00:35:05,470
And I think I--

845

00:35:05,470 --> 00:35:07,960

There was really a
strange environment.

846

00:35:07,960 --> 00:35:10,103

We really didn't know
what was going on.

847

00:35:10,103 --> 00:35:11,020

This was so unnatural.

848

00:35:11,020 --> 00:35:14,410

I totally didn't understand
what was happening.

849

00:35:14,410 --> 00:35:17,430

Heard the clickety click
of the train rolling just

850

00:35:17,430 --> 00:35:19,275

on and on and on.

851

00:35:19,275 --> 00:35:22,510

852

00:35:22,510 --> 00:35:24,260

Do you remember anything
about your mother

853

00:35:24,260 --> 00:35:28,750

during the transport, anything
she was doing or saying to you?

854

00:35:28,750 --> 00:35:31,730

855

00:35:31,730 --> 00:35:33,090

She was up there.

856

00:35:33,090 --> 00:35:33,830

I was down.

857

00:35:33,830 --> 00:35:38,400

She was up there somewhere,
and she was holding us close.

858

00:35:38,400 --> 00:35:40,898

That's all I remember.

859

00:35:40,898 --> 00:35:41,690

Wasn't any contact.

860

00:35:41,690 --> 00:35:43,357

I kind of remember
hanging onto her leg.

861

00:35:43,357 --> 00:35:46,130

Yeah She was-- yeah, right.

862

00:35:46,130 --> 00:35:48,360

I remember I wanted to sit down.

863

00:35:48,360 --> 00:35:52,270

i wanted to sit, but
there's no space.

864

00:35:52,270 --> 00:35:54,710

I couldn't turn around.

865

00:35:54,710 --> 00:35:57,140

Do you remember other
children on the transport?

866

00:35:57,140 --> 00:35:57,740

No.

867

00:35:57,740 --> 00:35:58,240

No.

868

00:35:58,240 --> 00:36:01,170

869

00:36:01,170 --> 00:36:03,180

Did your mother have
any food with her?

870
00:36:03,180 --> 00:36:10,640
Do you recall her passing any
bread to you or potato or--

871
00:36:10,640 --> 00:36:14,582
I would think she must
have had something, but I--

872
00:36:14,582 --> 00:36:15,290
I don't remember.

873
00:36:15,290 --> 00:36:18,100
--don't remember.

874
00:36:18,100 --> 00:36:22,470
So this journey took quite
a while, several days.

875
00:36:22,470 --> 00:36:24,300
At least a day, I would think.

876
00:36:24,300 --> 00:36:26,070
You arrived December 18th.

877
00:36:26,070 --> 00:36:27,970
Oh, so it took several days.

878
00:36:27,970 --> 00:36:28,470
Three days.

879
00:36:28,470 --> 00:36:29,640
This is our historian.

880
00:36:29,640 --> 00:36:37,440

881
00:36:37,440 --> 00:36:41,010
I think there were people
who died on that ride.

882
00:36:41,010 --> 00:36:42,990
Oh, there were.

883
00:36:42,990 --> 00:36:46,470
Because they were lying
when they opened the doors,

884
00:36:46,470 --> 00:36:47,390
they were lying there.

885
00:36:47,390 --> 00:36:50,170
there was no movement there.

886
00:36:50,170 --> 00:36:51,280
You remember that?

887
00:36:51,280 --> 00:36:52,810
Yeah.

888
00:36:52,810 --> 00:36:56,700
There was-- the stench
was unbelievable.

889
00:36:56,700 --> 00:36:58,980
That I can smell every
once in a while, actually.

890
00:36:58,980 --> 00:37:03,510

891
00:37:03,510 --> 00:37:04,010
Raus.

892
00:37:04,010 --> 00:37:06,870

893
00:37:06,870 --> 00:37:13,454
Again, there was German, again,
and the dogs and schnell.

894

00:37:13,454 --> 00:37:14,440
Mach schnell.

895
00:37:14,440 --> 00:37:16,060
Mach schnell, right.

896
00:37:16,060 --> 00:37:17,900
And again, your mother had you.

897
00:37:17,900 --> 00:37:20,790
You were thrown
out of the train.

898
00:37:20,790 --> 00:37:25,520

899
00:37:25,520 --> 00:37:29,810
And miraculously, in Auschwitz
we stayed with our mother.

900
00:37:29,810 --> 00:37:34,880
There was a whole Czech
Lager, special family Lager

901
00:37:34,880 --> 00:37:38,120
for the Czech families that
everybody stayed together,

902
00:37:38,120 --> 00:37:39,845
men, women, and children.

903
00:37:39,845 --> 00:37:42,480
There was a special--

904
00:37:42,480 --> 00:37:47,680
From December to March,
they stayed together.

905
00:37:47,680 --> 00:37:50,250
So other twins have recounted
hearing them yelling

906

00:37:50,250 --> 00:37:52,010
for twins, Zwilling, Zwilling.

907
00:37:52,010 --> 00:37:52,510
Yeah.

908
00:37:52,510 --> 00:37:52,840
Yeah.

909
00:37:52,840 --> 00:37:53,250
Do you recall that?

910
00:37:53,250 --> 00:37:53,875
Oh, yes.

911
00:37:53,875 --> 00:37:54,375
You do?

912
00:37:54,375 --> 00:37:59,970
We heard that also, but it
didn't mean anything-- well,

913
00:37:59,970 --> 00:38:00,780
maybe it did.

914
00:38:00,780 --> 00:38:06,210
But I don't-- because I remember
that we went with our mother

915
00:38:06,210 --> 00:38:11,850
to the hospital to be,
whatever, to be checked out.

916
00:38:11,850 --> 00:38:14,080
And the reason I remember this--

917
00:38:14,080 --> 00:38:16,880
Rene, I love to tell this story.

918
00:38:16,880 --> 00:38:20,670
The reason I remember this is
because he was such a crybaby

919
00:38:20,670 --> 00:38:23,250
when it came to
doctors, and I was

920
00:38:23,250 --> 00:38:26,460
scared that he was going to
cry and that they were going

921
00:38:26,460 --> 00:38:30,280
to beat him up or hit him.

922
00:38:30,280 --> 00:38:33,440
Because I was such a stoic.

923
00:38:33,440 --> 00:38:37,820
So they-- so somebody examined
you two and your mother?

924
00:38:37,820 --> 00:38:40,370
I remember she was
with us one time.

925
00:38:40,370 --> 00:38:42,020
She was there with us.

926
00:38:42,020 --> 00:38:46,460
So that might have been when
they knew that we were twins.

927
00:38:46,460 --> 00:38:48,500
Did you two-- did you
know you were twins?

928
00:38:48,500 --> 00:38:50,910
Did-- it might sound
like a silly question,

929
00:38:50,910 --> 00:38:51,692
but I was just--

930
00:38:51,692 --> 00:38:52,400

I don't think so.

931
00:38:52,400 --> 00:38:53,130
No.

932
00:38:53,130 --> 00:38:53,690
We just--

933
00:38:53,690 --> 00:38:55,490
No.

934
00:38:55,490 --> 00:38:57,050
Yeah.

935
00:38:57,050 --> 00:39:00,310
It had no meaning.

936
00:39:00,310 --> 00:39:03,110
That took on meeting later, I
think, when we were separated,

937
00:39:03,110 --> 00:39:09,490
when I first got into the
group of the male twins

938
00:39:09,490 --> 00:39:11,710
that I realized I was a twin.

939
00:39:11,710 --> 00:39:13,930
Even then, I wasn't
sure that I knew--

940
00:39:13,930 --> 00:39:18,070
it was different than being just
a normal kid, what it really

941
00:39:18,070 --> 00:39:22,450
meant

942
00:39:22,450 --> 00:39:26,200
So after it was "raus,
out of the cars,"

943
00:39:26,200 --> 00:39:28,660
you were taken
directly to this Lager?

944
00:39:28,660 --> 00:39:29,350
This barrack.

945
00:39:29,350 --> 00:39:33,370
Yeah, this Lager where all
the other Czech families were.

946
00:39:33,370 --> 00:39:37,930
And my recollections
of them are really--

947
00:39:37,930 --> 00:39:40,570
again, we were with our mother.

948
00:39:40,570 --> 00:39:42,370
There was very little food.

949
00:39:42,370 --> 00:39:48,370
I remember we used to get a
piece of dark, black bread

950
00:39:48,370 --> 00:39:52,720
and some kind of slop to drink.

951
00:39:52,720 --> 00:39:53,380
I don't know.

952
00:39:53,380 --> 00:39:54,930
Something that tasted awful.

953
00:39:54,930 --> 00:39:58,190

954
00:39:58,190 --> 00:40:06,090
But I recall seeing people
beaten in that in that Lager.

955

00:40:06,090 --> 00:40:09,750

I don't know why, but--

956

00:40:09,750 --> 00:40:12,050

Were there just women and
children in that Lager,

957

00:40:12,050 --> 00:40:14,210

or did they seem like whole
families were together?

958

00:40:14,210 --> 00:40:17,035

I think it seemed like whole
families were together.

959

00:40:17,035 --> 00:40:19,680

960

00:40:19,680 --> 00:40:21,585

But I'm not--

961

00:40:21,585 --> 00:40:22,970

I think, yeah.

962

00:40:22,970 --> 00:40:23,795

What do you recall?

963

00:40:23,795 --> 00:40:25,760

I don't have any
recollection of any

964

00:40:25,760 --> 00:40:27,950

of this til we were separated.

965

00:40:27,950 --> 00:40:29,533

Then I start to
pick up memories,

966

00:40:29,533 --> 00:40:31,200

because I was totally
on my own by then.

967

00:40:31,200 --> 00:40:32,400

I really had to--

968

00:40:32,400 --> 00:40:36,240

see, it's like we

were really guarded,

969

00:40:36,240 --> 00:40:39,180

or I just don't remember any

of the outside things that

970

00:40:39,180 --> 00:40:40,560

happened.

971

00:40:40,560 --> 00:40:45,120

I remember sometimes we had to

stand outside in the mornings

972

00:40:45,120 --> 00:40:46,240

or something or other.

973

00:40:46,240 --> 00:40:49,030

I don't know where

our mother was there.

974

00:40:49,030 --> 00:40:51,536

I don't know what-- roll call.

975

00:40:51,536 --> 00:40:52,890

The Appell?

976

00:40:52,890 --> 00:40:55,200

I don't know.

977

00:40:55,200 --> 00:40:55,740

Don't know.

978

00:40:55,740 --> 00:40:59,920

Any other recollections

of your day in this Lager?

979

00:40:59,920 --> 00:41:02,760
Do you think it was just-- you
were in there the whole day,

980
00:41:02,760 --> 00:41:08,230
or until these-- possibly
these Appells came about?

981
00:41:08,230 --> 00:41:09,310
I have no--

982
00:41:09,310 --> 00:41:09,880
I don't--

983
00:41:09,880 --> 00:41:10,930
Not in that period.

984
00:41:10,930 --> 00:41:13,660
I only-- I start remembering
after we were separated.

985
00:41:13,660 --> 00:41:16,330
Then I have day activities.

986
00:41:16,330 --> 00:41:20,950
Then I start remembering
our morning roll calls.

987
00:41:20,950 --> 00:41:25,465
I remember the bigger and the
older were taken off to work.

988
00:41:25,465 --> 00:41:28,165

989
00:41:28,165 --> 00:41:29,290
Where were you taken, then?

990
00:41:29,290 --> 00:41:31,270
You were removed-- you were--

991
00:41:31,270 --> 00:41:36,380

at some point, I think it was
in March of that year or April

992
00:41:36,380 --> 00:41:37,140
or whatever--

993
00:41:37,140 --> 00:41:37,640
'44.

994
00:41:37,640 --> 00:41:42,400
Maybe in June-- no, it was '43.

995
00:41:42,400 --> 00:41:44,000
No '44.

996
00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:44,500
We got--

997
00:41:44,500 --> 00:41:45,160
Oh, right.

998
00:41:45,160 --> 00:41:47,230
December '43, and
it was-- right.

999
00:41:47,230 --> 00:41:55,750
So sometime in 1944, I recall
one particularly terrible day

1000
00:41:55,750 --> 00:42:00,130
when I just recall that
we were like ripped away

1001
00:42:00,130 --> 00:42:01,000
from our mother.

1002
00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:06,010
And I recall a loud scream.

1003
00:42:06,010 --> 00:42:12,980
And I knew something
had happened,

1004
00:42:12,980 --> 00:42:16,970
something was happening
that was terrible.

1005
00:42:16,970 --> 00:42:18,650
Was it your scream
that you heard, or--

1006
00:42:18,650 --> 00:42:19,780
I think it was my mother's.

1007
00:42:19,780 --> 00:42:22,700
I think it was my mother's, too.

1008
00:42:22,700 --> 00:42:26,210
She was trying to hold on
to us, and we were just--

1009
00:42:26,210 --> 00:42:27,140
Pulled away from her.

1010
00:42:27,140 --> 00:42:29,270
Pulled away from her.

1011
00:42:29,270 --> 00:42:31,160
And--

1012
00:42:31,160 --> 00:42:32,640
This was within the Lager?

1013
00:42:32,640 --> 00:42:33,460
Yeah it was inside.

1014
00:42:33,460 --> 00:42:36,080

1015
00:42:36,080 --> 00:42:40,730
And then the next thing I knew
was that I was in some place

1016

00:42:40,730 --> 00:42:46,250
different with just
other women and girls,

1017
00:42:46,250 --> 00:42:50,560
and Rene wasn't there anymore
and my mom wasn't there

1018
00:42:50,560 --> 00:42:51,620
anymore.

1019
00:42:51,620 --> 00:42:55,310
How were you taken to this
new place, do you remember?

1020
00:42:55,310 --> 00:42:59,972
Were you walked, or did
they put you on a truck or--

1021
00:42:59,972 --> 00:43:01,430
I don't recall.

1022
00:43:01,430 --> 00:43:06,300

1023
00:43:06,300 --> 00:43:08,240
Are your recollections about--

1024
00:43:08,240 --> 00:43:08,950
Same?

1025
00:43:08,950 --> 00:43:09,450
Same.

1026
00:43:09,450 --> 00:43:10,480
Very same.

1027
00:43:10,480 --> 00:43:14,490
And then I was just there
in this new surrounding.

1028
00:43:14,490 --> 00:43:22,220

It was very close to one of
the ovens, the crematoria.

1029
00:43:22,220 --> 00:43:25,250

Because I saw people
walking in constantly.

1030
00:43:25,250 --> 00:43:28,210

1031
00:43:28,210 --> 00:43:30,640
One way.

1032
00:43:30,640 --> 00:43:36,430
And that's where I started
remembering how my days were,

1033
00:43:36,430 --> 00:43:39,970
hunting through
garbage for potatoes

1034
00:43:39,970 --> 00:43:46,450
and seeing these daily
beatings on the roll call

1035
00:43:46,450 --> 00:43:48,490
line in the mornings.

1036
00:43:48,490 --> 00:43:53,650
Also, very vividly I
remember prisoners.

1037
00:43:53,650 --> 00:43:56,815
The Russian soldiers
and the Polish soldiers,

1038
00:43:56,815 --> 00:43:59,200
they were shot.

1039
00:43:59,200 --> 00:44:03,910
They were lined up against the
ditch and they were just shot.

1040

00:44:03,910 --> 00:44:07,660

And then as children, I
was just six years old,

1041

00:44:07,660 --> 00:44:10,330

we would look over
the pit and see

1042

00:44:10,330 --> 00:44:12,520

some of them still twitching.

1043

00:44:12,520 --> 00:44:15,400

And I remember pulling--

1044

00:44:15,400 --> 00:44:17,500

not me, but some of
the other older boys,

1045

00:44:17,500 --> 00:44:20,680

they pulled one fellow out
who was obviously still alive,

1046

00:44:20,680 --> 00:44:25,360

but he did have a big swelling
in his head, which had

1047

00:44:25,360 --> 00:44:27,730

to be a bullet, most probably.

1048

00:44:27,730 --> 00:44:31,240

And I remember they took
him into the barracks

1049

00:44:31,240 --> 00:44:33,490

and put him on one of the bunks.

1050

00:44:33,490 --> 00:44:34,930

I don't know what
happened to him.

1051

00:44:34,930 --> 00:44:40,300

But these things happened

almost daily, the shootings.

1052

00:44:40,300 --> 00:44:44,710

Somebody was always being shot.

1053

00:44:44,710 --> 00:44:46,690

There, I remember

also, the sirens.

1054

00:44:46,690 --> 00:44:51,050

That was a very-- more frequent
occurrence as the war grew,

1055

00:44:51,050 --> 00:44:53,020

the sirens and the--

1056

00:44:53,020 --> 00:44:53,860

Airplanes.

1057

00:44:53,860 --> 00:44:55,900

--hum of the airplanes above.

1058

00:44:55,900 --> 00:45:00,310

And always an SS trooper
staying in front of the barracks

1059

00:45:00,310 --> 00:45:02,590

at the time outside.

1060

00:45:02,590 --> 00:45:04,150

Let's pause just for one second.

1061

00:45:04,150 --> 00:45:12,110

1062

00:45:12,110 --> 00:45:13,930

So Rene, you were
taken from mother

1063

00:45:13,930 --> 00:45:18,310

and brought this to Lager B2B.

1064

00:45:18,310 --> 00:45:22,940

How were you initiated
into this new Lager?

1065

00:45:22,940 --> 00:45:28,840

What do you remember
first about coming there?

1066

00:45:28,840 --> 00:45:30,490

Did anybody show you--

1067

00:45:30,490 --> 00:45:31,810

Yeah.

1068

00:45:31,810 --> 00:45:35,020

There was concern
by older people

1069

00:45:35,020 --> 00:45:38,040

who were like me in
that they were twins.

1070

00:45:38,040 --> 00:45:39,910

This I know now.

1071

00:45:39,910 --> 00:45:44,770

And one of their big concerns
was getting me a pair of shoes.

1072

00:45:44,770 --> 00:45:46,640

You were barefoot at the time?

1073

00:45:46,640 --> 00:45:49,540

I must have been, or I
needed-- or maybe they

1074

00:45:49,540 --> 00:45:51,040

didn't fit or something.

1075

00:45:51,040 --> 00:45:52,120

I needed shoes.

1076

00:45:52,120 --> 00:45:55,420

And somehow, they managed
through the black market

1077

00:45:55,420 --> 00:45:58,510

to get me shoes for
a loaf of bread.

1078

00:45:58,510 --> 00:45:59,223

I don't know.

1079

00:45:59,223 --> 00:46:00,640

I remember the
color of the shoes.

1080

00:46:00,640 --> 00:46:06,350

They were a yucky
brown up to here.

1081

00:46:06,350 --> 00:46:07,640

They covered the knee--

1082

00:46:07,640 --> 00:46:10,600

not the knee, the ankle.

1083

00:46:10,600 --> 00:46:16,300

And they were like a
caramel color brown,

1084

00:46:16,300 --> 00:46:19,690

but they were like
almost like brand new.

1085

00:46:19,690 --> 00:46:25,450

And so I felt like I
was being taken care of,

1086

00:46:25,450 --> 00:46:28,280

but it was a totally
different existence.

1087

00:46:28,280 --> 00:46:30,560

That was really--
my eyes were opened.

1088
00:46:30,560 --> 00:46:31,690
I questioned a lot.

1089
00:46:31,690 --> 00:46:33,290
What's going on?

1090
00:46:33,290 --> 00:46:36,190
Is this-- who's the master
of this, I remember asking.

1091
00:46:36,190 --> 00:46:38,680
Who's in charge here?

1092
00:46:38,680 --> 00:46:40,990
Like, who can I ask?

1093
00:46:40,990 --> 00:46:42,070
Who can I talk to?

1094
00:46:42,070 --> 00:46:44,895

1095
00:46:44,895 --> 00:46:48,850
And all in the background,
always, the mornings, the call,

1096
00:46:48,850 --> 00:46:54,100
the hunt for the potatoes in the
garbage, and the endless lines

1097
00:46:54,100 --> 00:46:55,960
of people walking into this--

1098
00:46:55,960 --> 00:46:59,150

1099
00:46:59,150 --> 00:46:59,650
in--

1100
00:46:59,650 --> 00:47:02,920

1101
00:47:02,920 --> 00:47:07,330
Would you go around with other
twins or the other people

1102
00:47:07,330 --> 00:47:08,140
in the--

1103
00:47:08,140 --> 00:47:11,090
the other children,
looking for scraps, or--

1104
00:47:11,090 --> 00:47:16,250
I always remember being
alone, totally alone.

1105
00:47:16,250 --> 00:47:20,230
I know they were there,
but it was always--

1106
00:47:20,230 --> 00:47:22,300
the hunt was always alone.

1107
00:47:22,300 --> 00:47:23,800
Do you remember a
time when you were

1108
00:47:23,800 --> 00:47:28,160
especially successful in
finding something to eat?

1109
00:47:28,160 --> 00:47:34,150
A substantial piece of
bread or a whole potato?

1110
00:47:34,150 --> 00:47:35,950
These moments
happened, and I had

1111
00:47:35,950 --> 00:47:39,730

to go inside and have it
cut up so I could warm it

1112
00:47:39,730 --> 00:47:43,120
on that stove inside.

1113
00:47:43,120 --> 00:47:43,990
You'd warm a potato?

1114
00:47:43,990 --> 00:47:45,190
A potato, yeah.

1115
00:47:45,190 --> 00:47:46,563
Yeah.

1116
00:47:46,563 --> 00:47:47,980
There were moments--
I mean, there

1117
00:47:47,980 --> 00:47:49,938
were wonderful moments
when you found something

1118
00:47:49,938 --> 00:47:52,270
that you could really eat.

1119
00:47:52,270 --> 00:47:56,037
But nothing really substantial,
like finding a box of anything

1120
00:47:56,037 --> 00:47:56,620
like that, no.

1121
00:47:56,620 --> 00:48:01,540
It was just maybe a big potato
that wasn't totally rotten.

1122
00:48:01,540 --> 00:48:04,930
That was a find.

1123
00:48:04,930 --> 00:48:08,663
You mentioned that you were

questioning many things.

1124
00:48:08,663 --> 00:48:10,330
What did people tell
you or what did you

1125
00:48:10,330 --> 00:48:14,500
ask about this procession
going into the gas chambers?

1126
00:48:14,500 --> 00:48:15,798
I never asked that.

1127
00:48:15,798 --> 00:48:17,590
That was just something
that was happening.

1128
00:48:17,590 --> 00:48:20,470
But I asked who is
the master of this--

1129
00:48:20,470 --> 00:48:23,260
who's the master of the
world, I think I asked.

1130
00:48:23,260 --> 00:48:24,310
I was told Hitler.

1131
00:48:24,310 --> 00:48:27,480

1132
00:48:27,480 --> 00:48:28,680
OK.

1133
00:48:28,680 --> 00:48:30,420
I mean, that was satisfied.

1134
00:48:30,420 --> 00:48:31,830
It was an answer, and I'm just--

1135
00:48:31,830 --> 00:48:33,843
These were other-- other

prisoners answered you?

1136
00:48:33,843 --> 00:48:34,343
Yeah.

1137
00:48:34,343 --> 00:48:37,920

1138
00:48:37,920 --> 00:48:44,010
And part of, I guess, daily
activity, I have to retell

1139
00:48:44,010 --> 00:48:49,080
is the sleeping thing at
night on these bunk beds.

1140
00:48:49,080 --> 00:48:53,080
And that was so
close to the wood,

1141
00:48:53,080 --> 00:48:58,530
smelling it, and
also getting pushed.

1142
00:48:58,530 --> 00:49:02,490
And many times just being
able to squeeze in some place

1143
00:49:02,490 --> 00:49:04,800
to have a space.

1144
00:49:04,800 --> 00:49:06,120
But alone.

1145
00:49:06,120 --> 00:49:07,110
Alone.

1146
00:49:07,110 --> 00:49:11,300
Did you always sleep in the
same approximate spot, or--

1147
00:49:11,300 --> 00:49:13,550

I was just asking myself
the same question.

1148
00:49:13,550 --> 00:49:17,448
I don't remember if I did.

1149
00:49:17,448 --> 00:49:19,030
I don't recall.

1150
00:49:19,030 --> 00:49:20,780
You remember anything
about that in your--

1151
00:49:20,780 --> 00:49:24,910

1152
00:49:24,910 --> 00:49:30,124
Well, again, my memories are
a little different than his.

1153
00:49:30,124 --> 00:49:34,200
But we did have
bunkbeds as well,

1154
00:49:34,200 --> 00:49:39,260
and there was this long
oven down the center.

1155
00:49:39,260 --> 00:49:42,100
And I think we were
somewhat assigned to beds,

1156
00:49:42,100 --> 00:49:47,980
but I'm not sure that everybody
always went to these same beds.

1157
00:49:47,980 --> 00:49:52,090
I particularly remember
one night having to get out

1158
00:49:52,090 --> 00:49:54,660
and having to go to the--

1159

00:49:54,660 --> 00:49:55,930
well, bathroom.

1160

00:49:55,930 --> 00:50:02,020
Not that they had bathrooms,
but outside in the back.

1161

00:50:02,020 --> 00:50:05,950
And then coming back and
getting totally confused

1162

00:50:05,950 --> 00:50:10,450
on which side of the
barrack my bed was on.

1163

00:50:10,450 --> 00:50:14,955
And I really got into
a state of panic,

1164

00:50:14,955 --> 00:50:16,940
but I knew I had
to get into a bed.

1165

00:50:16,940 --> 00:50:20,680
And I kept going over--

1166

00:50:20,680 --> 00:50:24,370
I would go over and ask
somebody if I could just

1167

00:50:24,370 --> 00:50:25,330
come in next to them.

1168

00:50:25,330 --> 00:50:27,910
And I remember being
pushed away, saying,

1169

00:50:27,910 --> 00:50:30,430
this is not your bed.

1170

00:50:30,430 --> 00:50:32,950
And the more this happened,

I just was panicking.

1171
00:50:32,950 --> 00:50:36,080
So then I remember
climbing over the oven

1172
00:50:36,080 --> 00:50:37,375
and saying, well, maybe I--

1173
00:50:37,375 --> 00:50:39,530
I was so confused.

1174
00:50:39,530 --> 00:50:42,610
And finally somebody
had pity on me

1175
00:50:42,610 --> 00:50:45,100
and let me come in with them.

1176
00:50:45,100 --> 00:50:46,420
But--

1177
00:50:46,420 --> 00:50:49,240
Was anybody-- take-- did
anybody adopt you or--

1178
00:50:49,240 --> 00:50:49,960
No.

1179
00:50:49,960 --> 00:50:58,360
There was just no of
organization of any sort.

1180
00:50:58,360 --> 00:51:02,590
It seemed to me that most
of the girls were older.

1181
00:51:02,590 --> 00:51:04,600
I didn't really see too many--

1182
00:51:04,600 --> 00:51:08,200
certainly not younger

than me, I don't recall.

1183
00:51:08,200 --> 00:51:14,140
And no one seemed
to be in charge.

1184
00:51:14,140 --> 00:51:20,890
And I remember particularly
being extremely, extremely

1185
00:51:20,890 --> 00:51:21,520
lonely.

1186
00:51:21,520 --> 00:51:26,400
That was the worst thing.

1187
00:51:26,400 --> 00:51:29,970
There was no one.

1188
00:51:29,970 --> 00:51:37,350
And I remember we would
receive bread and some soup,

1189
00:51:37,350 --> 00:51:42,860
and I tried to save
my piece of bread.

1190
00:51:42,860 --> 00:51:47,130
Because I figured if I
held on to it longer then

1191
00:51:47,130 --> 00:51:48,600
I'd have it for the whole day.

1192
00:51:48,600 --> 00:51:52,220
But then I-- somebody always
stole it from me at night.

1193
00:51:52,220 --> 00:51:54,060
Now I don't know if
it was somebody else

1194

00:51:54,060 --> 00:51:56,370
or if it was rats
who ate it, or--

1195
00:51:56,370 --> 00:51:59,730
but I never had
it in the morning.

1196
00:51:59,730 --> 00:52:01,770
And did I learn?

1197
00:52:01,770 --> 00:52:04,260
No, I did this--

1198
00:52:04,260 --> 00:52:04,860
did I learn?

1199
00:52:04,860 --> 00:52:05,940
No.

1200
00:52:05,940 --> 00:52:14,850
I remember there were
two girls there with me,

1201
00:52:14,850 --> 00:52:17,070
and they had little pouches.

1202
00:52:17,070 --> 00:52:21,005
And they used to hid their
bread in the little pouches.

1203
00:52:21,005 --> 00:52:23,070
It was a separate pouch?

1204
00:52:23,070 --> 00:52:25,350
Yeah, a little thing--

1205
00:52:25,350 --> 00:52:28,700
and I said, oh, I wish I had
one of those, but I didn't.

1206
00:52:28,700 --> 00:52:31,860

1207
00:52:31,860 --> 00:52:37,200
I vividly also remember
going to the hospital.

1208
00:52:37,200 --> 00:52:40,380
I was one of them being sick.

1209
00:52:40,380 --> 00:52:44,290

1210
00:52:44,290 --> 00:52:45,730
And I remember saying--

1211
00:52:45,730 --> 00:52:48,190
that's when I remember
standing for roll call.

1212
00:52:48,190 --> 00:52:51,477
That was in Auschwitz in the
mornings, almost every morning.

1213
00:52:51,477 --> 00:52:53,602
Once you were in that Lager,
you remember standing?

1214
00:52:53,602 --> 00:52:54,640
Yes.

1215
00:52:54,640 --> 00:52:55,660
Definitely.

1216
00:52:55,660 --> 00:52:58,870
And I remember it
distinctly, because I always

1217
00:52:58,870 --> 00:53:00,760
tried to hide
behind somebody big

1218
00:53:00,760 --> 00:53:02,620

so that I wouldn't
be seen so I wouldn't

1219
00:53:02,620 --> 00:53:05,540
be chosen for anything.

1220
00:53:05,540 --> 00:53:07,600
I was beginning to--

1221
00:53:07,600 --> 00:53:08,680
I didn't question.

1222
00:53:08,680 --> 00:53:10,870
I hardly spoke to
anyone, but I was

1223
00:53:10,870 --> 00:53:12,970
beginning to
comprehend from what

1224
00:53:12,970 --> 00:53:16,720
I was hearing that terrible
things were going on.

1225
00:53:16,720 --> 00:53:19,390
Or that whatever was
happening was terrible.

1226
00:53:19,390 --> 00:53:22,480
Although, to me at this
time it was still--

1227
00:53:22,480 --> 00:53:24,670
this was life.

1228
00:53:24,670 --> 00:53:27,340
I didn't know any-- i don't--
didn't remember anything else,

1229
00:53:27,340 --> 00:53:30,760
didn't think this was
wrong, right, or otherwise.

1230

00:53:30,760 --> 00:53:33,250

I just knew that if
I wasn't spotted,

1231

00:53:33,250 --> 00:53:36,800

I wouldn't maybe get
chosen for something.

1232

00:53:36,800 --> 00:53:40,420

And I remember that I could--

1233

00:53:40,420 --> 00:53:42,970

out of the door
from my barrack, I--

1234

00:53:42,970 --> 00:53:45,070

at some point I learned--

1235

00:53:45,070 --> 00:53:48,520

I remembered that
I had a brother.

1236

00:53:48,520 --> 00:53:53,335

And I remember that he was
to the right, this way.

1237

00:53:53,335 --> 00:53:57,160

If I looked at this way,
then his barrack was there.

1238

00:53:57,160 --> 00:53:59,770

And I remembered this
on a night in particular

1239

00:53:59,770 --> 00:54:06,420

when there was some
kind of an explosion

1240

00:54:06,420 --> 00:54:08,190

and there was a big fire.

1241

00:54:08,190 --> 00:54:11,190

And I was terrified
that his barrack

1242
00:54:11,190 --> 00:54:13,730
was the one that was on fire.

1243
00:54:13,730 --> 00:54:17,270

1244
00:54:17,270 --> 00:54:23,380
I remember often seeing
people run into the fence

1245
00:54:23,380 --> 00:54:28,150
and get electrocuted.

1246
00:54:28,150 --> 00:54:30,820
And I remember on
one particular--

1247
00:54:30,820 --> 00:54:33,240
and there were dead bodies
on the ground there.

1248
00:54:33,240 --> 00:54:37,000
I remember one time trying to
hide among these dead bodies.

1249
00:54:37,000 --> 00:54:38,460
I don't know exactly why.

1250
00:54:38,460 --> 00:54:40,440
I don't know what
I was scared of.

1251
00:54:40,440 --> 00:54:42,870
I think I just
wanted to disappear,

1252
00:54:42,870 --> 00:54:47,560
and I thought, well, maybe
this was a good convenient way

1253

00:54:47,560 --> 00:54:48,270
to do it.

1254

00:54:48,270 --> 00:54:51,548

1255

00:54:51,548 --> 00:54:53,590
These are bodies outside
the barracks stacked up?

1256

00:54:53,590 --> 00:54:55,120
Yeah, yeah.

1257

00:54:55,120 --> 00:54:57,280
Just-- right.

1258

00:54:57,280 --> 00:55:00,400
And I thought that this
way I could hide somehow

1259

00:55:00,400 --> 00:55:02,830
and it would all be over.

1260

00:55:02,830 --> 00:55:05,920
And I don't really know
what went through my mind.

1261

00:55:05,920 --> 00:55:09,070
It was a child's idea.

1262

00:55:09,070 --> 00:55:11,110
Be still like everybody else.

1263

00:55:11,110 --> 00:55:12,340
They'll never notice me.

1264

00:55:12,340 --> 00:55:15,260

1265

00:55:15,260 --> 00:55:18,730
What about other children

in that particular Lager?

1266

00:55:18,730 --> 00:55:23,210

There were some older
children, but I-- again, it

1267

00:55:23,210 --> 00:55:28,460

seemed like they hung
around with each other.

1268

00:55:28,460 --> 00:55:30,310

And so now, I mean,
later on I knew

1269

00:55:30,310 --> 00:55:31,930

that they were
either twin girls,

1270

00:55:31,930 --> 00:55:34,570

so I guess they hung
around with each other.

1271

00:55:34,570 --> 00:55:37,330

I didn't have my
twin because he was--

1272

00:55:37,330 --> 00:55:41,850

we were not of the same sex
so it was a little harder.

1273

00:55:41,850 --> 00:55:46,800

But throughout all the
time in the hospital

1274

00:55:46,800 --> 00:55:53,130

and through experiments
and through horrible times,

1275

00:55:53,130 --> 00:55:56,430

I always felt that
Rene was alive.

1276

00:55:56,430 --> 00:56:00,300

And I said, I have to stay
alive to take care of him.

1277
00:56:00,300 --> 00:56:03,240
This was like my
mission in life.

1278
00:56:03,240 --> 00:56:11,480
And I very clearly remember
standing on line always--

1279
00:56:11,480 --> 00:56:14,140
it was always cold,
of course, and we

1280
00:56:14,140 --> 00:56:16,520
were going into the
shower, standing naked.

1281
00:56:16,520 --> 00:56:18,320
And, again, I bring
up the locket.

1282
00:56:18,320 --> 00:56:22,640
For a long time I was
able to miraculously hang

1283
00:56:22,640 --> 00:56:25,640
on-- hide the fact
that I had this locket

1284
00:56:25,640 --> 00:56:30,650
and always put it back on after
I came out of the showers.

1285
00:56:30,650 --> 00:56:35,630
But I also remember that
somehow I also knew already

1286
00:56:35,630 --> 00:56:38,210
that not everybody
came out of the shower.

1287

00:56:38,210 --> 00:56:42,700
So every time we were
lined up like this,

1288
00:56:42,700 --> 00:56:45,580
I remember that fear
like, oh my God.

1289
00:56:45,580 --> 00:56:49,240
Is this the last time?

1290
00:56:49,240 --> 00:56:51,990
After the shower,
you'd be lined up?

1291
00:56:51,990 --> 00:56:52,560
No, before.

1292
00:56:52,560 --> 00:56:53,450
Before the shower.

1293
00:56:53,450 --> 00:56:53,950
I see.

1294
00:56:53,950 --> 00:56:58,610

1295
00:56:58,610 --> 00:57:01,010
What happened when you got sick?

1296
00:57:01,010 --> 00:57:03,780
I was in the hospital.

1297
00:57:03,780 --> 00:57:06,090
Did you get yourself to
the hospital, or did--

1298
00:57:06,090 --> 00:57:09,270
No, I think somebody must have.

1299
00:57:09,270 --> 00:57:12,270
Periodically, I was

taken to the hospital

1300
00:57:12,270 --> 00:57:17,620
because I had certain
medical procedures, I guess,

1301
00:57:17,620 --> 00:57:19,270
done to me.

1302
00:57:19,270 --> 00:57:22,450
Again, I don't remember
exactly why or what

1303
00:57:22,450 --> 00:57:26,200
for and the very
detailed specifics.

1304
00:57:26,200 --> 00:57:33,925
But I can remember
that at one point, they

1305
00:57:33,925 --> 00:57:37,780
I had blood taken
out from my neck.

1306
00:57:37,780 --> 00:57:43,540
I don't-- but it's vivid because
it was extremely painful.

1307
00:57:43,540 --> 00:57:50,610
And another time, I was strapped
to a table of some sort,

1308
00:57:50,610 --> 00:57:53,250
and there was a doctor.

1309
00:57:53,250 --> 00:57:55,310
He was in white and
he had a scalpel.

1310
00:57:55,310 --> 00:57:57,110
Well, I didn't know
it was a scalpel then.

1311
00:57:57,110 --> 00:58:04,920
I realize now that it
was, and he cut me.

1312
00:58:04,920 --> 00:58:10,420
And I remember
also being X-rayed.

1313
00:58:10,420 --> 00:58:16,260
I remember a lot of X-ray stuff,
and, of course, being measured

1314
00:58:16,260 --> 00:58:18,520
and stuff like that.

1315
00:58:18,520 --> 00:58:23,760
But I also, I remember--

1316
00:58:23,760 --> 00:58:26,310
and I don't know what this
has to do with anything--

1317
00:58:26,310 --> 00:58:35,108
but wires, wires attached to
me and something to the left.

1318
00:58:35,108 --> 00:58:35,650
I don't know.

1319
00:58:35,650 --> 00:58:38,270

1320
00:58:38,270 --> 00:58:48,800
And I remember
seeing in one room--

1321
00:58:48,800 --> 00:58:55,020
in some room, I don't
know, there were eyes.

1322
00:58:55,020 --> 00:58:56,260

Don't ask me.

1323
00:58:56,260 --> 00:58:58,010
Like just independent eyes?

1324
00:58:58,010 --> 00:59:00,390
Eyes.

1325
00:59:00,390 --> 00:59:02,944
In jars?

1326
00:59:02,944 --> 00:59:03,866
Don't know.

1327
00:59:03,866 --> 00:59:06,180
Don't know.

1328
00:59:06,180 --> 00:59:08,550
I also remember
getting injections

1329
00:59:08,550 --> 00:59:12,300
that made me very sick,
because then I was--

1330
00:59:12,300 --> 00:59:17,740
then I found myself in a
hospital bed or something.

1331
00:59:17,740 --> 00:59:24,200
And I remember throwing up
a lot and having diarrhea

1332
00:59:24,200 --> 00:59:26,030
And I was extremely sick.

1333
00:59:26,030 --> 00:59:30,100
And I remember, though, that
there was some nurse there

1334
00:59:30,100 --> 00:59:33,120
who looked after me.

1335
00:59:33,120 --> 00:59:39,360
And I think there was one point
when they were cleaning out

1336
00:59:39,360 --> 00:59:41,888
the hospital.

1337
00:59:41,888 --> 00:59:42,430
I don't know.

1338
00:59:42,430 --> 00:59:46,400
Again, now it was probably
to just kill everybody.

1339
00:59:46,400 --> 00:59:47,500
I'm not sure.

1340
00:59:47,500 --> 00:59:51,680
But there was it was a
very hurried kind of thing.

1341
00:59:51,680 --> 00:59:54,790
There was a big
commotion, and this person

1342
00:59:54,790 --> 00:59:58,660
grabbed me and just
stuck me under her skirt.

1343
00:59:58,660 --> 00:59:59,830
And suddenly it was really--

1344
00:59:59,830 --> 01:00:04,440
it was all dark, and
she just said, be quiet.

1345
01:00:04,440 --> 01:00:06,640
You don't have to tell me twice.

1346
01:00:06,640 --> 01:00:10,060
And I think she saved me.

1347
01:00:10,060 --> 01:00:12,490
I think she saved
me from something.

1348
01:00:12,490 --> 01:00:13,110
I don't know.

1349
01:00:13,110 --> 01:00:18,670

1350
01:00:18,670 --> 01:00:20,838
When the doctor cut
you, do you remember

1351
01:00:20,838 --> 01:00:21,880
anything else about that?

1352
01:00:21,880 --> 01:00:24,430
I just remember I must
have fainted, or--

1353
01:00:24,430 --> 01:00:26,590
I don't remember
anything else after that

1354
01:00:26,590 --> 01:00:29,200
except waking up
in a lot of pain.

1355
01:00:29,200 --> 01:00:29,740
I don't--

1356
01:00:29,740 --> 01:00:38,130

1357
01:00:38,130 --> 01:00:39,730
And during any of
those examinations,

1358
01:00:39,730 --> 01:00:41,270
you were never with Rene?

1359
01:00:41,270 --> 01:00:42,130
No.

1360
01:00:42,130 --> 01:00:43,100
No.

1361
01:00:43,100 --> 01:00:45,940
Just that only time I
remember being with him

1362
01:00:45,940 --> 01:00:50,310
was when we went with
our mom that time.

1363
01:00:50,310 --> 01:00:52,890
I don't ever remember being
there again with Rene,

1364
01:00:52,890 --> 01:00:54,972
because I never saw
you again after that.

1365
01:00:54,972 --> 01:00:56,055
At least I don't remember.

1366
01:00:56,055 --> 01:00:58,780

1367
01:00:58,780 --> 01:01:02,470
I was there a couple of
times, but nothing like--

1368
01:01:02,470 --> 01:01:04,330
at least, I don't
recall anything.

1369
01:01:04,330 --> 01:01:07,360
The only thing I recall
is being measured,

1370
01:01:07,360 --> 01:01:10,780

the touch of the very cold
instruments, and Rontgen,

1371
01:01:10,780 --> 01:01:13,990
the word Rontgen. That's
X-ray, I think, in German.

1372
01:01:13,990 --> 01:01:17,200
I remember that, so there
was a lot of that going on,

1373
01:01:17,200 --> 01:01:18,505
but that's about all.

1374
01:01:18,505 --> 01:01:19,630
What were the measurements?

1375
01:01:19,630 --> 01:01:21,070
Were they--

1376
01:01:21,070 --> 01:01:22,765
Around the head, I remember.

1377
01:01:22,765 --> 01:01:24,160
Everything.

1378
01:01:24,160 --> 01:01:24,660
Body.

1379
01:01:24,660 --> 01:01:26,890
Body, everything.

1380
01:01:26,890 --> 01:01:29,920
Because they were sort of
trying-- they were putting you

1381
01:01:29,920 --> 01:01:33,815
in between something to see
how, I guess, how big that is.

1382
01:01:33,815 --> 01:01:34,690
Caliper of some kind.

1383
01:01:34,690 --> 01:01:34,735
Yeah.

1384
01:01:34,735 --> 01:01:37,027
I mean, it wasn't like they
were taking a tape measure.

1385
01:01:37,027 --> 01:01:39,750
They put against
something cold, steel--

1386
01:01:39,750 --> 01:01:40,340
It was steel.

1387
01:01:40,340 --> 01:01:41,400
It was always cold.

1388
01:01:41,400 --> 01:01:43,450
It was very cold.

1389
01:01:43,450 --> 01:01:47,510
Who was the person
doing the procedure?

1390
01:01:47,510 --> 01:01:49,435
Did they talk to you
or ask you anything?

1391
01:01:49,435 --> 01:01:52,060

1392
01:01:52,060 --> 01:01:54,520
I just remember being
terrified, and I

1393
01:01:54,520 --> 01:01:58,510
knew that I had to
just not cry and just

1394
01:01:58,510 --> 01:02:04,680
do everything I was

told, no matter what.

1395

01:02:04,680 --> 01:02:09,000

When you were-- how
was it that you knew

1396

01:02:09,000 --> 01:02:10,980

or were taken to be examined?

1397

01:02:10,980 --> 01:02:14,130

Did one morning somebody--

1398

01:02:14,130 --> 01:02:17,970

a soldier came in
and took you, or did

1399

01:02:17,970 --> 01:02:20,083

you know on a particular
day you were going to go,

1400

01:02:20,083 --> 01:02:21,000

or anything like that?

1401

01:02:21,000 --> 01:02:24,270

I was walked over by
one of older boys.

1402

01:02:24,270 --> 01:02:27,320

I'm sure i was the
youngest kid there.

1403

01:02:27,320 --> 01:02:32,770

I was walked over by one of
the older boys and that was it.

1404

01:02:32,770 --> 01:02:36,400

Do you have recollection
of the twins' father,

1405

01:02:36,400 --> 01:02:37,540

of the gentleman--

1406

01:02:37,540 --> 01:02:38,815
Spiegel.

1407
01:02:38,815 --> 01:02:40,090
Spiegel?

1408
01:02:40,090 --> 01:02:41,040
He could have been--

1409
01:02:41,040 --> 01:02:42,040
Could have been the one?

1410
01:02:42,040 --> 01:02:45,260
--the one, but I
know of him only--

1411
01:02:45,260 --> 01:02:47,500
1995 I've learned of him.

1412
01:02:47,500 --> 01:02:51,290
And I met him in Israel,
Mr. Spiegel, and--

1413
01:02:51,290 --> 01:02:54,610
Did he remember
you, specifically?

1414
01:02:54,610 --> 01:02:55,240
No.

1415
01:02:55,240 --> 01:03:02,180
I think his mind was sort of
on the blink at that point.

1416
01:03:02,180 --> 01:03:04,360
But there was
somebody else in 1985

1417
01:03:04,360 --> 01:03:07,960
who remembered me which
was very heartwarming.

1418

01:03:07,960 --> 01:03:09,940
And he was part of
Spiegel's group.

1419
01:03:09,940 --> 01:03:13,720
And he was part of that group,
so obviously I was there.

1420
01:03:13,720 --> 01:03:17,450

1421
01:03:17,450 --> 01:03:21,370
Some of the other male twins
have described seeing other--

1422
01:03:21,370 --> 01:03:27,010
seeing the Soviet prisoners in
the next half of the barracks.

1423
01:03:27,010 --> 01:03:29,680
Do you recall any
older men there?

1424
01:03:29,680 --> 01:03:31,780
Yeah they only-- the Soviet--

1425
01:03:31,780 --> 01:03:34,210
soldiers, I remember, they
were periodically shot.

1426
01:03:34,210 --> 01:03:41,122
They were the ones that were
always taken and disposed of,

1427
01:03:41,122 --> 01:03:42,320
the partisans and the--

1428
01:03:42,320 --> 01:03:46,580

1429
01:03:46,580 --> 01:03:47,080
but the--

1430

01:03:47,080 --> 01:03:49,430

Do you remember Otto?

1431

01:03:49,430 --> 01:03:50,810

No.

1432

01:03:50,810 --> 01:03:55,227

The only one I would remember
is that young kid, that one

1433

01:03:55,227 --> 01:03:57,470

other one that I met in Israel.

1434

01:03:57,470 --> 01:03:58,640

Peter Greenfield?

1435

01:03:58,640 --> 01:04:02,160

Yeah, Peter, very vaguely.

1436

01:04:02,160 --> 01:04:04,350

I met this man in Israel.

1437

01:04:04,350 --> 01:04:07,545

And he was the only one that
would have been my size.

1438

01:04:07,545 --> 01:04:10,055

Yeah, he was about
a year younger.

1439

01:04:10,055 --> 01:04:12,360

And that was extremely
young, because I don't think

1440

01:04:12,360 --> 01:04:13,940

the older boys would even--

1441

01:04:13,940 --> 01:04:16,040

socially, they wouldn't
associate with us,

1442

01:04:16,040 --> 01:04:17,900
because I think the
next step was at least

1443
01:04:17,900 --> 01:04:19,220
three or four years older.

1444
01:04:19,220 --> 01:04:21,150
And at that point,
that's a big difference.

1445
01:04:21,150 --> 01:04:24,200
So we were all
alone, except I was

1446
01:04:24,200 --> 01:04:25,730
told that I played with him.

1447
01:04:25,730 --> 01:04:31,460
And looking at him, I sort
of-- it starts some memories,

1448
01:04:31,460 --> 01:04:36,710
but nothing specific,
nothing specific really.

1449
01:04:36,710 --> 01:04:39,980
What I was going to say as
you were asking about who

1450
01:04:39,980 --> 01:04:46,100
did some of the experimentation,
the museum at Auschwitz now

1451
01:04:46,100 --> 01:04:52,760
has documents, which we've got
copies of, of our names and--

1452
01:04:52,760 --> 01:04:55,520
both our names and numbers,
matching, and all that.

1453
01:04:55,520 --> 01:04:59,000

Then Irene has a document where there's

1454
01:04:59,000 --> 01:05:02,780
a signature of blood testing and Mengele's signature

1455
01:05:02,780 --> 01:05:03,620
on the bottom of it.

1456
01:05:03,620 --> 01:05:07,760
So he could have been one of the gentlemen who participated

1457
01:05:07,760 --> 01:05:10,280
in this, I'm pretty sure.

1458
01:05:10,280 --> 01:05:11,990
They took blood from you as well?

1459
01:05:11,990 --> 01:05:14,120
I don't recall them taking blood from me, no.

1460
01:05:14,120 --> 01:05:15,720
But you recall some X-ray procedures?

1461
01:05:15,720 --> 01:05:17,960
All X-rays and measuring, I remember.

1462
01:05:17,960 --> 01:05:19,940
Them, I remember.

1463
01:05:19,940 --> 01:05:23,330
The other things, Irene remembers.

1464
01:05:23,330 --> 01:05:25,620
Would these X-ray procedures take a long time?

1465
01:05:25,620 --> 01:05:26,120
Or--

1466
01:05:26,120 --> 01:05:28,990

1467
01:05:28,990 --> 01:05:32,810
Time didn't have
much meaning to me.

1468
01:05:32,810 --> 01:05:33,700
It just happened.

1469
01:05:33,700 --> 01:05:37,830

1470
01:05:37,830 --> 01:05:39,045
You both have numbers?

1471
01:05:39,045 --> 01:05:39,545
Yes.

1472
01:05:39,545 --> 01:05:40,420
You're both tattooed?

1473
01:05:40,420 --> 01:05:41,490
Yes.

1474
01:05:41,490 --> 01:05:45,840
What do you recall about
receiving those numbers?

1475
01:05:45,840 --> 01:05:48,498
Was that when you first
entered Auschwitz?

1476
01:05:48,498 --> 01:05:50,040
Or was this when
you were transferred

1477

01:05:50,040 --> 01:05:53,370
to the separate lagers?

1478
01:05:53,370 --> 01:05:56,470
Since our numbers
are so different,

1479
01:05:56,470 --> 01:05:59,730
I would imagine it must have
been when we were separated,

1480
01:05:59,730 --> 01:06:00,900
because we're not--

1481
01:06:00,900 --> 01:06:02,850
we have totally
different numbers.

1482
01:06:02,850 --> 01:06:03,900
Yeah.

1483
01:06:03,900 --> 01:06:07,500
My number, I remember
it being put on.

1484
01:06:07,500 --> 01:06:09,360
It hurt.

1485
01:06:09,360 --> 01:06:13,020
There was an awful
stench all around me.

1486
01:06:13,020 --> 01:06:15,350
It was muddy.

1487
01:06:15,350 --> 01:06:19,760
And it was a needle pricking me.

1488
01:06:19,760 --> 01:06:21,980
But in terms of time,
when they put it,

1489

01:06:21,980 --> 01:06:24,890
I just can't put it anywhere.

1490
01:06:24,890 --> 01:06:25,560
So it was muddy.

1491
01:06:25,560 --> 01:06:27,200
It was done outside?

1492
01:06:27,200 --> 01:06:31,700
It was muddy when I
walked up to where-- yeah,

1493
01:06:31,700 --> 01:06:33,080
it was done outside.

1494
01:06:33,080 --> 01:06:34,670
Yeah.

1495
01:06:34,670 --> 01:06:36,075
Yeah.

1496
01:06:36,075 --> 01:06:37,450
Whoever it was,
they were sitting

1497
01:06:37,450 --> 01:06:38,950
at a desk with a cover over it.

1498
01:06:38,950 --> 01:06:41,290
But I stepped through
it from the outside.

1499
01:06:41,290 --> 01:06:46,610

1500
01:06:46,610 --> 01:06:49,310
My number-- want
to see my number?

1501
01:06:49,310 --> 01:06:53,210
I have a very clear number.

1502
01:06:53,210 --> 01:06:57,170
Reads this way, 169061.

1503
01:06:57,170 --> 01:06:59,957
And that's confirmed by--

1504
01:06:59,957 --> 01:07:01,040
Some of the records that--

1505
01:07:01,040 --> 01:07:01,623
--the records.

1506
01:07:01,623 --> 01:07:04,490
When I first saw that number
with my name next to it--

1507
01:07:04,490 --> 01:07:06,830
also only in the
last few years--

1508
01:07:06,830 --> 01:07:13,160
that really gave me the chills,
again confirming dreams,

1509
01:07:13,160 --> 01:07:15,590
memories of long, long ago.

1510
01:07:15,590 --> 01:07:17,660
It still affects you, I guess.

1511
01:07:17,660 --> 01:07:20,605
I'm sure they do.

1512
01:07:20,605 --> 01:07:21,980
Did anybody tell
you that you had

1513
01:07:21,980 --> 01:07:25,730
to be accountable for
this number in some way?

1514

01:07:25,730 --> 01:07:31,100

Well, after the war, which
is really, for children,

1515

01:07:31,100 --> 01:07:34,220

I think, the hardest part of--
this is like another Holocaust

1516

01:07:34,220 --> 01:07:35,210

starting for us.

1517

01:07:35,210 --> 01:07:37,830

That's how I look at it.

1518

01:07:37,830 --> 01:07:40,850

I took an awful lot of beatings
because of this number,

1519

01:07:40,850 --> 01:07:45,440

because it identified me
as a Jew in Czechoslovakia.

1520

01:07:45,440 --> 01:07:49,580

This is after the war when
everything was supposedly

1521

01:07:49,580 --> 01:07:50,900

very nice and good.

1522

01:07:50,900 --> 01:07:53,030

Right.

1523

01:07:53,030 --> 01:07:56,140

There was no relief
to children who--

1524

01:07:56,140 --> 01:08:00,350

here I am, seven
years old, all alone.

1525

01:08:00,350 --> 01:08:04,200

1526
01:08:04,200 --> 01:08:06,400
Parents could appreciate
this sort of thing.

1527
01:08:06,400 --> 01:08:08,420
And when you become a
parent, you'll understand.

1528
01:08:08,420 --> 01:08:08,920
Right.

1529
01:08:08,920 --> 01:08:14,310

1530
01:08:14,310 --> 01:08:17,450
Irene, your recollection
of receiving a number?

1531
01:08:17,450 --> 01:08:21,410

1532
01:08:21,410 --> 01:08:23,060
I draw a blank on that.

1533
01:08:23,060 --> 01:08:32,680
I do remember just vaguely
this needle jabbing my arm.

1534
01:08:32,680 --> 01:08:39,160
But I didn't make
anything of it.

1535
01:08:39,160 --> 01:08:41,744
I just figured everybody
had one of those.

1536
01:08:41,744 --> 01:08:45,550
So I wanted one also.

1537
01:08:45,550 --> 01:08:47,130
I wanted to be

like everyone else.

1538
01:08:47,130 --> 01:08:48,520
All right.

1539
01:08:48,520 --> 01:08:50,460
You described an
explosion you heard.

1540
01:08:50,460 --> 01:08:51,580
Yes.

1541
01:08:51,580 --> 01:08:54,375
Do you recall this
explosion of fire?

1542
01:08:54,375 --> 01:08:54,875
No?

1543
01:08:54,875 --> 01:08:55,620
No.

1544
01:08:55,620 --> 01:08:57,340
No.

1545
01:08:57,340 --> 01:09:01,870
But my feelings about Irene
being alive, the way she felt,

1546
01:09:01,870 --> 01:09:03,370
I felt that too.

1547
01:09:03,370 --> 01:09:08,529
And I do remember seeing
her once through the wires.

1548
01:09:08,529 --> 01:09:11,500
And I knew it was her.

1549
01:09:11,500 --> 01:09:14,020
It had to be.

1550

01:09:14,020 --> 01:09:17,380

Some time had elapsed
since we were separated.

1551

01:09:17,380 --> 01:09:20,300

I think it was towards the end.

1552

01:09:20,300 --> 01:09:23,080

But I knew that she was
alive because of that.

1553

01:09:23,080 --> 01:09:24,790

I just knew that she was alive.

1554

01:09:24,790 --> 01:09:28,210

That just confirmed
the whole thing for me.

1555

01:09:28,210 --> 01:09:31,040

She never died in my thinking.

1556

01:09:31,040 --> 01:09:34,779

She was always alive
in my consciousness

1557

01:09:34,779 --> 01:09:38,500

until we met in the States
many, many years later.

1558

01:09:38,500 --> 01:09:42,200

1559

01:09:42,200 --> 01:09:46,100

What are your next
memories about Auschwitz?

1560

01:09:46,100 --> 01:09:51,920

Well, just prior to
liberation, there

1561

01:09:51,920 --> 01:09:56,180

was this incident of us

being taken and almost done

1562
01:09:56,180 --> 01:10:00,650
away with by another
officer, other than Mengele.

1563
01:10:00,650 --> 01:10:04,310
And very clearly do I
remember this incident.

1564
01:10:04,310 --> 01:10:05,522
Another doctor this was?

1565
01:10:05,522 --> 01:10:06,855
I don't know if it was a doctor.

1566
01:10:06,855 --> 01:10:07,150
I see.

1567
01:10:07,150 --> 01:10:07,830
Just some--

1568
01:10:07,830 --> 01:10:08,330
An officer?

1569
01:10:08,330 --> 01:10:09,530
An officer.

1570
01:10:09,530 --> 01:10:13,850
And I remember
Mengele coming in just

1571
01:10:13,850 --> 01:10:16,670
in the nick of time in
his green convertible

1572
01:10:16,670 --> 01:10:18,360
and stopping this
whole procession.

1573
01:10:18,360 --> 01:10:21,050
And I also remember--

1574
01:10:21,050 --> 01:10:23,360
and Irene, I guess, had
that feeling many times--

1575
01:10:23,360 --> 01:10:27,890
I knew that this was
going to be deadly.

1576
01:10:27,890 --> 01:10:30,770
This fear instinct, I guess--

1577
01:10:30,770 --> 01:10:33,320
I had a feeling this
could be the end for me.

1578
01:10:33,320 --> 01:10:35,030
And it's a horrible feeling.

1579
01:10:35,030 --> 01:10:38,140

1580
01:10:38,140 --> 01:10:40,670
So Mengele stopped this.

1581
01:10:40,670 --> 01:10:44,780
And also, towards
the end of the war,

1582
01:10:44,780 --> 01:10:46,840
there was this march
that we all went on.

1583
01:10:46,840 --> 01:10:47,840
They marched us out of--

1584
01:10:47,840 --> 01:10:51,230
I mean, the last
week or so, weeks--

1585
01:10:51,230 --> 01:10:52,680
again, time is meaningless.

1586
01:10:52,680 --> 01:10:55,310
But I do remember
a lot of excitement

1587
01:10:55,310 --> 01:11:03,320
among the German soldiers
and distant artillery fire

1588
01:11:03,320 --> 01:11:05,800
coming, getting
louder and louder,

1589
01:11:05,800 --> 01:11:09,860
and them taking us
out to this march.

1590
01:11:09,860 --> 01:11:12,740
And that was a pretty
gruesome type of affair,

1591
01:11:12,740 --> 01:11:16,010
because they again
shot anybody or just--

1592
01:11:16,010 --> 01:11:19,370
anybody who wouldn't,
couldn't continue, they just--

1593
01:11:19,370 --> 01:11:20,510
This was January '45?

1594
01:11:20,510 --> 01:11:21,620
This was January.

1595
01:11:21,620 --> 01:11:22,220
Right.

1596
01:11:22,220 --> 01:11:26,850
And that was a long,
long haul, if I remember.

1597

01:11:26,850 --> 01:11:28,850
I can't put it in
terms of hours.

1598
01:11:28,850 --> 01:11:32,470
Then, all of a sudden, the
German soldiers were gone.

1599
01:11:32,470 --> 01:11:37,310
And the Russian soldiers were
around us in white uniforms.

1600
01:11:37,310 --> 01:11:41,090
I remember one officer
being on a horse.

1601
01:11:41,090 --> 01:11:42,350
I still remember.

1602
01:11:42,350 --> 01:11:48,200
I think it was a pink horse,
a very big, huge animal.

1603
01:11:48,200 --> 01:11:50,130
But they were all
dressed in white.

1604
01:11:50,130 --> 01:11:52,420
And that was the liberation.

1605
01:11:52,420 --> 01:11:53,593
No, no, I think so.

1606
01:11:53,593 --> 01:11:55,010
So you were en
route on the march.

1607
01:11:55,010 --> 01:11:56,920
You hadn't reached
anywhere in particular.

1608
01:11:56,920 --> 01:11:57,420
No.

1609
01:11:57,420 --> 01:11:57,730
I see.

1610
01:11:57,730 --> 01:11:58,230
No.

1611
01:11:58,230 --> 01:11:59,660
No.

1612
01:11:59,660 --> 01:12:02,510
And you realized that
people were being shot

1613
01:12:02,510 --> 01:12:04,310
if they were straggling behind.

1614
01:12:04,310 --> 01:12:05,060
Yeah.

1615
01:12:05,060 --> 01:12:07,040
Do you remember making
a conscious effort to--

1616
01:12:07,040 --> 01:12:08,450
Oh, yeah, had to keep going.

1617
01:12:08,450 --> 01:12:11,510
And she was my
strength, because I

1618
01:12:11,510 --> 01:12:14,150
knew I had to make
it for her, as was

1619
01:12:14,150 --> 01:12:17,660
the case for many of
my other hardships

1620
01:12:17,660 --> 01:12:21,190
that came about later.

1621

01:12:21,190 --> 01:12:25,250

She gave me the
strength to keep going.

1622

01:12:25,250 --> 01:12:27,155

Did you have a blanket
with you or anything?

1623

01:12:27,155 --> 01:12:30,380

1624

01:12:30,380 --> 01:12:31,340

Don't recall.

1625

01:12:31,340 --> 01:12:35,520

Do you recall getting any
bread rations before the march?

1626

01:12:35,520 --> 01:12:36,020

Nothing.

1627

01:12:36,020 --> 01:12:36,520

Nothing.

1628

01:12:36,520 --> 01:12:39,740

I do remember the
Russians marched us

1629

01:12:39,740 --> 01:12:44,150

into a warehouse of
some kind after this

1630

01:12:44,150 --> 01:12:48,840

happened, and a tremendous
scramble for food.

1631

01:12:48,840 --> 01:12:51,750

And I wanted to get in on this.

1632

01:12:51,750 --> 01:12:56,480

I do remember getting a can
of some kind and rolling it.

1633
01:12:56,480 --> 01:12:58,580
And then I finally got
somebody to open it.

1634
01:12:58,580 --> 01:12:59,975
It was sauerkraut.

1635
01:12:59,975 --> 01:13:01,280
Oh, really?

1636
01:13:01,280 --> 01:13:02,960
That's my memory of this thing--

1637
01:13:02,960 --> 01:13:06,350
a big, yellow, golden can.

1638
01:13:06,350 --> 01:13:07,400
It was huge to me then.

1639
01:13:07,400 --> 01:13:08,858
I don't know how
big it really was.

1640
01:13:08,858 --> 01:13:09,650
But I had to roll.

1641
01:13:09,650 --> 01:13:11,600
I couldn't lift it.

1642
01:13:11,600 --> 01:13:12,980
Surely, you ate it.

1643
01:13:12,980 --> 01:13:15,770
I had something of it.

1644
01:13:15,770 --> 01:13:20,900
A lot of people really didn't do
so well, because they overate,

1645
01:13:20,900 --> 01:13:24,530

I understand.

1646

01:13:24,530 --> 01:13:27,530

That was liberation
from Auschwitz.

1647

01:13:27,530 --> 01:13:29,660

And for you, Irene?

1648

01:13:29,660 --> 01:13:32,145

I went-- I must have
been at a different camp.

1649

01:13:32,145 --> 01:13:38,180

1650

01:13:38,180 --> 01:13:42,230

Towards the end, before
liberation, as I know it now,

1651

01:13:42,230 --> 01:13:44,690

I sensed something had changed.

1652

01:13:44,690 --> 01:13:49,460

1653

01:13:49,460 --> 01:13:54,060

Suddenly, there wasn't this
order in the day anymore.

1654

01:13:54,060 --> 01:13:55,940

We weren't being put outside.

1655

01:13:55,940 --> 01:13:58,580

We weren't standing.

1656

01:13:58,580 --> 01:14:00,710

Somehow, there was
no water anymore.

1657

01:14:00,710 --> 01:14:05,450

And I, at that point, was--

1658
01:14:05,450 --> 01:14:07,790
I must have been quite
sick, because I remember

1659
01:14:07,790 --> 01:14:09,050
just I was on the ground.

1660
01:14:09,050 --> 01:14:10,190
I couldn't get up.

1661
01:14:10,190 --> 01:14:10,940
I couldn't get up.

1662
01:14:10,940 --> 01:14:13,530
And there were other people
also lying on the ground.

1663
01:14:13,530 --> 01:14:17,660
I don't know if it was we
were hungry, or sick, or what.

1664
01:14:17,660 --> 01:14:22,140
But I do remember
something had changed.

1665
01:14:22,140 --> 01:14:24,200
I wasn't quite aware of what.

1666
01:14:24,200 --> 01:14:28,400
But there seemed to be people
who were a little bit saying

1667
01:14:28,400 --> 01:14:29,720
that we're saved, or were--

1668
01:14:29,720 --> 01:14:31,520
I didn't know what that meant.

1669
01:14:31,520 --> 01:14:36,230
And the next thing I
knew was I was picked up

1670
01:14:36,230 --> 01:14:37,820
by some Polish lady.

1671
01:14:37,820 --> 01:14:41,040
And she took me.

1672
01:14:41,040 --> 01:14:41,540
So that--

1673
01:14:41,540 --> 01:14:41,850
Within the camp?

1674
01:14:41,850 --> 01:14:42,860
You were still within the camp?

1675
01:14:42,860 --> 01:14:43,730
I was in the camp.

1676
01:14:43,730 --> 01:14:46,050
But she took me out of the camp.

1677
01:14:46,050 --> 01:14:50,390
So I was not part of
this march or any of--

1678
01:14:50,390 --> 01:14:51,650
that was not me.

1679
01:14:51,650 --> 01:14:54,692
I was already gone.

1680
01:14:54,692 --> 01:15:00,156
And I was with her for awhile.

1681
01:15:00,156 --> 01:15:02,010
Where did she take you?

1682
01:15:02,010 --> 01:15:04,920
It seems she lived in
Auschwitz in the town proper.

1683
01:15:04,920 --> 01:15:06,800
And she took me to her house.

1684
01:15:06,800 --> 01:15:10,560

1685
01:15:10,560 --> 01:15:13,360
And for how long did
you stay with her?

1686
01:15:13,360 --> 01:15:19,415
I was there until Rescue
Children extricated me.

1687
01:15:19,415 --> 01:15:19,915
This is--

1688
01:15:19,915 --> 01:15:20,230
It must have been--

1689
01:15:20,230 --> 01:15:20,980
--an organization?

1690
01:15:20,980 --> 01:15:24,001
Yeah, an organization to
get back Jewish children.

1691
01:15:24,001 --> 01:15:24,501
I see.

1692
01:15:24,501 --> 01:15:27,270

1693
01:15:27,270 --> 01:15:31,414
I remember Christmas
very vividly, so--

1694
01:15:31,414 --> 01:15:32,910
So at least a year.

1695

01:15:32,910 --> 01:15:35,960
--I was there at least a year,
because I remember her telling

1696
01:15:35,960 --> 01:15:40,330
me, Santa Claus is going to
come and bring you presents out

1697
01:15:40,330 --> 01:15:42,310
of the moon, she says to me.

1698
01:15:42,310 --> 01:15:43,480
I believed her.

1699
01:15:43,480 --> 01:15:45,580
Yeah, right.

1700
01:15:45,580 --> 01:15:47,400
Did she have other children?

1701
01:15:47,400 --> 01:15:47,900
No.

1702
01:15:47,900 --> 01:15:49,300
No.

1703
01:15:49,300 --> 01:15:50,870
It was just her?

1704
01:15:50,870 --> 01:15:51,590
Was she married?

1705
01:15:51,590 --> 01:15:52,090
Or--

1706
01:15:52,090 --> 01:15:56,100

1707
01:15:56,100 --> 01:15:59,520
I think she was married.

1708

01:15:59,520 --> 01:16:02,280
But I was the only child.

1709
01:16:02,280 --> 01:16:04,320
I guess I suppose
you learned Polish.

1710
01:16:04,320 --> 01:16:06,276
I learned Polish, yes.

1711
01:16:06,276 --> 01:16:11,070

1712
01:16:11,070 --> 01:16:13,790
And when did this
relief organization

1713
01:16:13,790 --> 01:16:15,690
find you and take you?

1714
01:16:15,690 --> 01:16:17,940
I guess about a year later.

1715
01:16:17,940 --> 01:16:23,680
And I first went to
Prague to an orphanage.

1716
01:16:23,680 --> 01:16:28,930
And then I went to France
to an orphanage, and then

1717
01:16:28,930 --> 01:16:31,330
a different orphanage,
and blah, blah, blah--

1718
01:16:31,330 --> 01:16:34,120
a lot of orphanages.

1719
01:16:34,120 --> 01:16:36,700
I got shuttled around a bit.

1720
01:16:36,700 --> 01:16:46,010

1721

01:16:46,010 --> 01:16:50,840
And Rene, after liberation and
the warehouse, what was your--

1722

01:16:50,840 --> 01:16:53,810
Next recollection I
have, I understand

1723

01:16:53,810 --> 01:17:00,390
I was in a hospital in
Bratislava, so I am told.

1724

01:17:00,390 --> 01:17:01,350
And I had some--

1725

01:17:01,350 --> 01:17:03,890

1726

01:17:03,890 --> 01:17:05,120
TB.

1727

01:17:05,120 --> 01:17:09,500
--TB, tuberculosis,
a touch of it.

1728

01:17:09,500 --> 01:17:14,990
And next memories for me
really began in Czechoslovakia

1729

01:17:14,990 --> 01:17:18,140
in a town called
Kosice, Kaschau,

1730

01:17:18,140 --> 01:17:22,650
in an orphanage, big orphanage
in a hospital complex.

1731

01:17:22,650 --> 01:17:25,160
Is this a specifically
Jewish orphanage?

1732
01:17:25,160 --> 01:17:25,660
No.

1733
01:17:25,660 --> 01:17:26,160
No.

1734
01:17:26,160 --> 01:17:27,300
No.

1735
01:17:27,300 --> 01:17:32,980
There were nuns, mothers
around, taking care.

1736
01:17:32,980 --> 01:17:36,700
And there was an
administrator there,

1737
01:17:36,700 --> 01:17:45,700
a Dr. Kalina who,
after some time,

1738
01:17:45,700 --> 01:17:53,310
took me out with his wife.

1739
01:17:53,310 --> 01:17:54,400
They had no children.

1740
01:17:54,400 --> 01:17:56,260
And I lived with them.

1741
01:17:56,260 --> 01:17:57,715
Subsequently, they had a child.

1742
01:17:57,715 --> 01:18:01,620

1743
01:18:01,620 --> 01:18:03,060
Did they have a child?

1744
01:18:03,060 --> 01:18:05,230
I'm mixing up with

the other one.

1745

01:18:05,230 --> 01:18:06,480

They didn't have any children.

1746

01:18:06,480 --> 01:18:06,980

They didn't.

1747

01:18:06,980 --> 01:18:07,930

No, they did not.

1748

01:18:07,930 --> 01:18:09,810

I'm mixing him up
with his brother.

1749

01:18:09,810 --> 01:18:13,140

So I lived with him for a while.

1750

01:18:13,140 --> 01:18:16,740

And they had to flee, because
somehow the communists--

1751

01:18:16,740 --> 01:18:21,060

somebody made some statements
regarding this man.

1752

01:18:21,060 --> 01:18:23,160

And he just got wind of it.

1753

01:18:23,160 --> 01:18:24,900

And he had to flee.

1754

01:18:24,900 --> 01:18:28,350

So he left me with his sister.

1755

01:18:28,350 --> 01:18:29,610

And that's the family--

1756

01:18:29,610 --> 01:18:30,480

the Mann family.

1757

01:18:30,480 --> 01:18:35,160
And I lived with them for
a good number of years.

1758
01:18:35,160 --> 01:18:39,336
They're the ones that had those
other children, Bebe and Otto.

1759
01:18:39,336 --> 01:18:42,400
And they treated me very well.

1760
01:18:42,400 --> 01:18:44,680
And there, I went to
school in Czechoslovakia.

1761
01:18:44,680 --> 01:18:49,030
But again, I was the
only visible Jew.

1762
01:18:49,030 --> 01:18:51,650
And they were waiting
for me every day

1763
01:18:51,650 --> 01:18:54,760
after school with stones.

1764
01:18:54,760 --> 01:18:56,920
The other Czech children--

1765
01:18:56,920 --> 01:18:58,660
yeah.

1766
01:18:58,660 --> 01:19:02,820
There was one other
Jew, I remember.

1767
01:19:02,820 --> 01:19:07,210
But we both had to run for
our young lives at the time.

1768
01:19:07,210 --> 01:19:10,760
It's a good thing that
we were still young,

1769
01:19:10,760 --> 01:19:13,700
and the people that
were waiting for us

1770
01:19:13,700 --> 01:19:15,150
couldn't do all that much harm.

1771
01:19:15,150 --> 01:19:17,570
They were still youngsters also.

1772
01:19:17,570 --> 01:19:18,800
But they were serious.

1773
01:19:18,800 --> 01:19:20,270
And they were mean.

1774
01:19:20,270 --> 01:19:21,650
So we had to run.

1775
01:19:21,650 --> 01:19:25,630
I mean, after we were let out--

1776
01:19:25,630 --> 01:19:26,270
Sprint home?

1777
01:19:26,270 --> 01:19:28,970
--sprint home very fast,
sprint a long way too,

1778
01:19:28,970 --> 01:19:31,730
because I lived very
close to the school.

1779
01:19:31,730 --> 01:19:34,100
And I almost-- they knew--

1780
01:19:34,100 --> 01:19:35,240
they blocked my way.

1781
01:19:35,240 --> 01:19:37,790

So I had to go somewhere else.

1782

01:19:37,790 --> 01:19:39,680

It was always a big circle.

1783

01:19:39,680 --> 01:19:42,581

Sometimes it led
into the fields.

1784

01:19:42,581 --> 01:19:45,960

It was a small town, one
main street at the time.

1785

01:19:45,960 --> 01:19:47,210

What was the name of the town?

1786

01:19:47,210 --> 01:19:47,850

Kosice.

1787

01:19:47,850 --> 01:19:49,220

Kosice.

1788

01:19:49,220 --> 01:19:50,360

And the family's name?

1789

01:19:50,360 --> 01:19:51,100

Mann.

1790

01:19:51,100 --> 01:19:51,630

M-A-N-N?

1791

01:19:51,630 --> 01:20:01,770

M-A-N-N yes, Joseph Mann
and-- what's her name?

1792

01:20:01,770 --> 01:20:02,550

Edith.

1793

01:20:02,550 --> 01:20:04,020

Edith, yes.

1794

01:20:04,020 --> 01:20:05,775

This was the--

1795

01:20:05,775 --> 01:20:06,390

The sister.

1796

01:20:06,390 --> 01:20:06,660

--sister.

1797

01:20:06,660 --> 01:20:06,960

Sister.

1798

01:20:06,960 --> 01:20:07,330

OK.

1799

01:20:07,330 --> 01:20:07,830

Sister.

1800

01:20:07,830 --> 01:20:08,890

Of Dr. Kalina.

1801

01:20:08,890 --> 01:20:09,765

Dr. Kalina.

1802

01:20:09,765 --> 01:20:17,190

1803

01:20:17,190 --> 01:20:19,440

This is an interesting
point that, later on, we

1804

01:20:19,440 --> 01:20:21,570

found out from people
in New York City

1805

01:20:21,570 --> 01:20:25,200

here, that the search for
the Jewish children that

1806

01:20:25,200 --> 01:20:29,100

had been taken for a million
reasons into Polish homes,

1807
01:20:29,100 --> 01:20:30,540
Christian homes--

1808
01:20:30,540 --> 01:20:33,930
the way they discovered
who was Jew in these homes

1809
01:20:33,930 --> 01:20:37,200
was that the rescuers would
go to the town bishop,

1810
01:20:37,200 --> 01:20:40,650
or whoever was the religious
cleric in the town.

1811
01:20:40,650 --> 01:20:42,900
And they'd ask for the
baptismal certificates

1812
01:20:42,900 --> 01:20:43,920
of all the children.

1813
01:20:43,920 --> 01:20:46,320
And if there were four
children in one home and only

1814
01:20:46,320 --> 01:20:50,100
three baptismal certificates,
the fourth one was a Jew.

1815
01:20:50,100 --> 01:20:53,890
And they exchanged moneys,
or whatever the town needed.

1816
01:20:53,890 --> 01:20:56,610
And the bishop, I'm
sure, was paid also.

1817
01:20:56,610 --> 01:20:58,830
And these children were rescued.

1818

01:20:58,830 --> 01:21:02,310
So because of that, the
American Jewish organizations

1819
01:21:02,310 --> 01:21:05,280
were trying to raise
funds to have monies

1820
01:21:05,280 --> 01:21:07,050
to pay for these children.

1821
01:21:07,050 --> 01:21:09,510
And through one of
these organizations,

1822
01:21:09,510 --> 01:21:13,000
called Rescue Child, they were
having dinners after dinners.

1823
01:21:13,000 --> 01:21:14,250
It was called Rescue Children.

1824
01:21:14,250 --> 01:21:14,980
Rescue Children--

1825
01:21:14,980 --> 01:21:15,480
Children.

1826
01:21:15,480 --> 01:21:17,310
--right, Incorporated.

1827
01:21:17,310 --> 01:21:20,990
One of the prime
movers of this was

1828
01:21:20,990 --> 01:21:23,250
a gentleman from Long Island.

1829
01:21:23,250 --> 01:21:28,440
And he went into Europe
to one of his orphanages

1830

01:21:28,440 --> 01:21:32,430
that had been set up from
all these rescued orphans.

1831
01:21:32,430 --> 01:21:34,620
And he found Irene
in one of them.

1832
01:21:34,620 --> 01:21:38,280
And he said, oh, you would be
perfect to come back to America

1833
01:21:38,280 --> 01:21:40,020
and just help us raise funds.

1834
01:21:40,020 --> 01:21:43,920
This is your picture perfect
orphan with beautiful banana

1835
01:21:43,920 --> 01:21:46,260
curls and a sweet face.

1836
01:21:46,260 --> 01:21:48,420
And somehow, he convinced
her that she should

1837
01:21:48,420 --> 01:21:50,310
come to America with him.

1838
01:21:50,310 --> 01:21:53,340
And subsequently,
she was made part

1839
01:21:53,340 --> 01:21:58,200
of this Life Magazine
article, November 17, 1948,

1840
01:21:58,200 --> 01:22:00,990
all about these--

1841
01:22:00,990 --> 01:22:02,020
1947?

1842
01:22:02,020 --> 01:22:07,460
1947, right.

1843
01:22:07,460 --> 01:22:10,040
That's how Irene was taken
out of the Polish home,

1844
01:22:10,040 --> 01:22:14,951
by the way, one of these
emissaries of Rescue

1845
01:22:14,951 --> 01:22:16,058
Children, Incorporated.

1846
01:22:16,058 --> 01:22:16,850
Well, I'm not sure.

1847
01:22:16,850 --> 01:22:19,880
There were other organizations
that worked in Poland.

1848
01:22:19,880 --> 01:22:22,700
I think Rescue Children
came in to the forefront

1849
01:22:22,700 --> 01:22:26,510
later on when many of these
children were in France

1850
01:22:26,510 --> 01:22:30,930
and they were trying to find
their parents here in America,

1851
01:22:30,930 --> 01:22:33,650
find relatives for them, or
else ship them to Israel,

1852
01:22:33,650 --> 01:22:34,560
or whatever.

1853
01:22:34,560 --> 01:22:36,230
And I think that's what--

1854
01:22:36,230 --> 01:22:39,770
But when I was in Poland--

1855
01:22:39,770 --> 01:22:42,020
Renee, talking about school.

1856
01:22:42,020 --> 01:22:45,860
I was in-- she was
obviously a Catholic lady.

1857
01:22:45,860 --> 01:22:49,500
And of course, I was
enrolled in Catholic school.

1858
01:22:49,500 --> 01:22:50,570
And I went to church.

1859
01:22:50,570 --> 01:22:53,000
So did I. I went to church.

1860
01:22:53,000 --> 01:22:54,800
I had to go.

1861
01:22:54,800 --> 01:22:56,130
Did you know you were Jewish?

1862
01:22:56,130 --> 01:22:56,480
Yes.

1863
01:22:56,480 --> 01:22:57,170
But I knew I was--

1864
01:22:57,170 --> 01:22:57,670
I knew.

1865
01:22:57,670 --> 01:23:00,122
I went to the end of the line.

1866
01:23:00,122 --> 01:23:00,830
I knew I was too.

1867
01:23:00,830 --> 01:23:04,670
Many times, I snuck away
when they went to church.

1868
01:23:04,670 --> 01:23:08,720
But many times, I did go,
and went through the whole--

1869
01:23:08,720 --> 01:23:11,960
whatever they went through.

1870
01:23:11,960 --> 01:23:14,582
I went to church.

1871
01:23:14,582 --> 01:23:17,330
And I knew I was Jewish, because
I had this number on my arm.

1872
01:23:17,330 --> 01:23:20,240
I also was-- as Rene
said, I was also

1873
01:23:20,240 --> 01:23:23,840
in the beginning very sick,
because I think I lay in bed.

1874
01:23:23,840 --> 01:23:29,330
I remember doctors coming
and vague flitting in and out

1875
01:23:29,330 --> 01:23:31,400
of fever, or whatever.

1876
01:23:31,400 --> 01:23:36,090
And she was a very strict lady.

1877
01:23:36,090 --> 01:23:38,682

1878
01:23:38,682 --> 01:23:40,680
I had to feed her bunny rabbits.

1879
01:23:40,680 --> 01:23:45,440
She had rabbits that
she would then cook.

1880
01:23:45,440 --> 01:23:50,350
I couldn't eat them, because
I was taking care of them,

1881
01:23:50,350 --> 01:23:52,730
so they were gross.

1882
01:23:52,730 --> 01:24:01,220
And in the summer, she had
family that lived on a farm.

1883
01:24:01,220 --> 01:24:02,600
And I remember she would--

1884
01:24:02,600 --> 01:24:05,040
it was a very long walk.

1885
01:24:05,040 --> 01:24:07,950
It took almost half
a day to get there.

1886
01:24:07,950 --> 01:24:09,640
And there were other
children there.

1887
01:24:09,640 --> 01:24:12,990
And I hated going there,
because they made fun of me,

1888
01:24:12,990 --> 01:24:14,670
because I had this number.

1889
01:24:14,670 --> 01:24:16,320
And nobody defended me.

1890
01:24:16,320 --> 01:24:18,770
And I had to--

1891
01:24:18,770 --> 01:24:19,440
I cried.

1892
01:24:19,440 --> 01:24:20,890
I cried a lot.

1893
01:24:20,890 --> 01:24:22,395
What would they say to you?

1894
01:24:22,395 --> 01:24:25,550
They made fun of me,
because I had this number.

1895
01:24:25,550 --> 01:24:30,050
That I'm a prisoner of some
sort, they kept saying.

1896
01:24:30,050 --> 01:24:34,170

1897
01:24:34,170 --> 01:24:34,960
I cried a lot.

1898
01:24:34,960 --> 01:24:38,490

1899
01:24:38,490 --> 01:24:42,600
But with everything, when the
Jewish organization, which

1900
01:24:42,600 --> 01:24:44,490
might have been the
Joint Distribution--

1901
01:24:44,490 --> 01:24:47,400
I don't know,
Distribution, whatever--

1902
01:24:47,400 --> 01:24:50,040
came to pull me
out of that home,

1903
01:24:50,040 --> 01:24:53,130
I had really come to
like being Catholic.

1904
01:24:53,130 --> 01:24:55,710
I thought it was nifty.

1905
01:24:55,710 --> 01:25:01,060
It was pretty, the church,
the whole bit, rosary beads.

1906
01:25:01,060 --> 01:25:02,370
And I didn't want to leave.

1907
01:25:02,370 --> 01:25:03,300
I really did not.

1908
01:25:03,300 --> 01:25:04,440
I was very upset.

1909
01:25:04,440 --> 01:25:08,790
And I remember, the first
orphanage where I came to,

1910
01:25:08,790 --> 01:25:12,390
I met somebody who I'm still
friends with to this day.

1911
01:25:12,390 --> 01:25:13,360
Her name is Miriam.

1912
01:25:13,360 --> 01:25:14,430
She lives in Israel.

1913
01:25:14,430 --> 01:25:16,800
And she was about seven
years older than me.

1914
01:25:16,800 --> 01:25:20,340
And she became my mother figure.

1915

01:25:20,340 --> 01:25:23,160

But she also was from Poland.

1916

01:25:23,160 --> 01:25:26,520

And we were both sitting
there with the rosary beads,

1917

01:25:26,520 --> 01:25:31,200

plotting our escape from
this orphanage, because we

1918

01:25:31,200 --> 01:25:33,231

wanted to go back.

1919

01:25:33,231 --> 01:25:34,320

Back to Poland.

1920

01:25:34,320 --> 01:25:35,430

Right.

1921

01:25:35,430 --> 01:25:36,910

This is when you were in Prague?

1922

01:25:36,910 --> 01:25:38,140

Yeah.

1923

01:25:38,140 --> 01:25:38,640

Yeah.

1924

01:25:38,640 --> 01:25:39,900

So they removed you to Prague.

1925

01:25:39,900 --> 01:25:41,410

And then, from Prague,
you were taken to--

1926

01:25:41,410 --> 01:25:41,910

To France.

1927

01:25:41,910 --> 01:25:42,610

In Paris?

1928
01:25:42,610 --> 01:25:43,110
Or--

1929
01:25:43,110 --> 01:25:43,610
Yeah.

1930
01:25:43,610 --> 01:25:44,625
I was outside of Paris.

1931
01:25:44,625 --> 01:25:47,070
It's close to Blain.

1932
01:25:47,070 --> 01:25:51,240
And that's where I was selected,
actually, by Herbert Tenzer.

1933
01:25:51,240 --> 01:25:53,910
He used to be a
congressman from here.

1934
01:25:53,910 --> 01:25:56,420
And he chose me to come.

1935
01:25:56,420 --> 01:25:58,580
And he promised me
he'd send me back--

1936
01:25:58,580 --> 01:25:59,855
promised.

1937
01:25:59,855 --> 01:26:01,030
He didn't keep this promise.

1938
01:26:01,030 --> 01:26:03,940

1939
01:26:03,940 --> 01:26:05,660
So you came to New
York at that time?

1940

01:26:05,660 --> 01:26:05,870
Yeah.

1941
01:26:05,870 --> 01:26:06,370
Yeah.

1942
01:26:06,370 --> 01:26:09,700

1943
01:26:09,700 --> 01:26:11,620
And Rene, your exodus--

1944
01:26:11,620 --> 01:26:14,420
you had an exodus
out of Europe also?

1945
01:26:14,420 --> 01:26:16,378
Well, my exodus is
really tied to--

1946
01:26:16,378 --> 01:26:17,170
It's related to me.

1947
01:26:17,170 --> 01:26:21,130
--related to her being taken in
by somebody who lived out here

1948
01:26:21,130 --> 01:26:23,440
on Long Island, a friend
of Herbert Tenzer,

1949
01:26:23,440 --> 01:26:27,940
was widely active
in the organization.

1950
01:26:27,940 --> 01:26:30,520
Mayer and Dina Slotkin--

1951
01:26:30,520 --> 01:26:34,360
which is my name
now, Rene Slotkin--

1952

01:26:34,360 --> 01:26:36,739
they took Irene in.

1953
01:26:36,739 --> 01:26:40,860
And that had to be, maybe, '48.

1954
01:26:40,860 --> 01:26:41,430
Yeah.

1955
01:26:41,430 --> 01:26:44,040
It was at one point,
before I came to them.

1956
01:26:44,040 --> 01:26:46,020
I was with the Novicks.

1957
01:26:46,020 --> 01:26:48,570
And at one point,
they dragged out of me

1958
01:26:48,570 --> 01:26:54,170
that I had a brother, because
I'd never spoken about it.

1959
01:26:54,170 --> 01:26:55,000
And--

1960
01:26:55,000 --> 01:26:58,210
So they took Irene
in to their homes,

1961
01:26:58,210 --> 01:27:00,760
right here in the Five Towns.

1962
01:27:00,760 --> 01:27:06,900
And then they start to
search for missing Rene.

1963
01:27:06,900 --> 01:27:13,395
And it's a long and fascinating
story, but take hours.

1964

01:27:13,395 --> 01:27:14,270
It takes a long time.

1965
01:27:14,270 --> 01:27:16,630
But anyway, Life Magazine was--

1966
01:27:16,630 --> 01:27:21,820
Life Magazine was somehow
instrumental in locating me,

1967
01:27:21,820 --> 01:27:28,730
because this Dr. Kalina that
I mentioned, that had escaped,

1968
01:27:28,730 --> 01:27:30,950
he had gone to Israel.

1969
01:27:30,950 --> 01:27:32,257
And somehow, he--

1970
01:27:32,257 --> 01:27:32,840
Was he Jewish?

1971
01:27:32,840 --> 01:27:33,530
Yes.

1972
01:27:33,530 --> 01:27:34,340
Yes.

1973
01:27:34,340 --> 01:27:37,910
And he had gotten hold
of this Life Magazine.

1974
01:27:37,910 --> 01:27:39,140
That Life Magazine.

1975
01:27:39,140 --> 01:27:42,173
And in it, he saw Irene as--

1976
01:27:42,173 --> 01:27:43,340
He put two and two together.

1977

01:27:43,340 --> 01:27:44,870

--Irene Guttman.

1978

01:27:44,870 --> 01:27:47,090

The names clicked.

1979

01:27:47,090 --> 01:27:48,320

And he put it together.

1980

01:27:48,320 --> 01:27:53,420

So he got in touch somehow
with somebody here in New York

1981

01:27:53,420 --> 01:27:57,440

and told them that I was
living in Czechoslovakia

1982

01:27:57,440 --> 01:28:00,290

with his sister.

1983

01:28:00,290 --> 01:28:04,460

And they, the Slotkins, sent
somebody over into Europe

1984

01:28:04,460 --> 01:28:05,647

to get me out.

1985

01:28:05,647 --> 01:28:06,980

And there was a lot of red tape.

1986

01:28:06,980 --> 01:28:10,220

I had to go through
Germany and documentation.

1987

01:28:10,220 --> 01:28:10,910

And--

1988

01:28:10,910 --> 01:28:12,535

And you were in
Switzerland for awhile.

1989

01:28:12,535 --> 01:28:13,610
Switzerland for a while.

1990
01:28:13,610 --> 01:28:16,370
I had to take a--

1991
01:28:16,370 --> 01:28:17,780
not a direct route.

1992
01:28:17,780 --> 01:28:19,670
Circuitous route.

1993
01:28:19,670 --> 01:28:20,210
What?

1994
01:28:20,210 --> 01:28:21,090
Circuitous route.

1995
01:28:21,090 --> 01:28:22,670
Circuitous route.

1996
01:28:22,670 --> 01:28:29,090
And I finally ended up, in--

1997
01:28:29,090 --> 01:28:30,110
1950.

1998
01:28:30,110 --> 01:28:34,640
--1950, March 29 in Idlewild
Airport, rainy night.

1999
01:28:34,640 --> 01:28:37,840
I'll never forget that.

2000
01:28:37,840 --> 01:28:40,870
Then we were reunited
on that evening.

2001
01:28:40,870 --> 01:28:44,720

2002

01:28:44,720 --> 01:28:46,373
So you remembered
your last name.

2003
01:28:46,373 --> 01:28:47,790
There was no reason
why you should

2004
01:28:47,790 --> 01:28:49,290
remember your last
name was Guttman,

2005
01:28:49,290 --> 01:28:50,340
but I suppose you did--

2006
01:28:50,340 --> 01:28:50,730
Well, why?

2007
01:28:50,730 --> 01:28:51,688
--or somebody told you.

2008
01:28:51,688 --> 01:28:53,270
He remembered it, I guess.

2009
01:28:53,270 --> 01:28:55,610
That was my name all
the way through until--

2010
01:28:55,610 --> 01:28:56,000
I guess he remembered.

2011
01:28:56,000 --> 01:28:57,167
Yeah, it was always my name.

2012
01:28:57,167 --> 01:29:00,680
I knew my name.

2013
01:29:00,680 --> 01:29:04,730
The Polish lady changed my
name from Renatta to Ivanka.

2014
01:29:04,730 --> 01:29:05,230

Ivanka.

2015

01:29:05,230 --> 01:29:07,130

This is-- yeah.

2016

01:29:07,130 --> 01:29:08,530

So that's how Irene came.

2017

01:29:08,530 --> 01:29:12,170

That's how Irene came to be.

2018

01:29:12,170 --> 01:29:15,720

Zvi Spiegel also reinforced
everybody's identities

2019

01:29:15,720 --> 01:29:18,240

in the camp for the boys.

2020

01:29:18,240 --> 01:29:19,740

He would have the boys--

2021

01:29:19,740 --> 01:29:21,270

a newcomer come in right away.

2022

01:29:21,270 --> 01:29:23,130

And they'd be
greeted in a circle.

2023

01:29:23,130 --> 01:29:25,160

And everybody would
introduce themselves.

2024

01:29:25,160 --> 01:29:27,510

So their names were
constantly being reinforced,

2025

01:29:27,510 --> 01:29:28,350

and who they were.

2026

01:29:28,350 --> 01:29:31,062

2027

01:29:31,062 --> 01:29:33,670

It's the end of the tape.

2028

01:29:33,670 --> 01:29:37,000