

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,970

2  
00:00:02,970 --> 00:00:05,190  
OK, we're speaking  
with Mrs. Elizabeth

3  
00:00:05,190 --> 00:00:07,920  
Lubell of Peekskill, New York.

4  
00:00:07,920 --> 00:00:09,570  
Mrs. Lubell, would  
you like to start

5  
00:00:09,570 --> 00:00:11,620  
by telling us a little  
bit about your childhood?

6  
00:00:11,620 --> 00:00:15,030  
And where were you  
born, the date of birth?

7  
00:00:15,030 --> 00:00:16,200  
What was your life like?

8  
00:00:16,200 --> 00:00:20,760  
I was born in 1920,  
December the 9th.

9  
00:00:20,760 --> 00:00:24,600  
I lived in Budapest  
with my parents.

10  
00:00:24,600 --> 00:00:30,300  
We had, I would say,  
middle class, I would say.

11  
00:00:30,300 --> 00:00:32,250  
My father was a  
hard-working man.

12

00:00:32,250 --> 00:00:33,960  
He was a traveling salesman.

13  
00:00:33,960 --> 00:00:38,640  
He went with a  
bicycle from store

14  
00:00:38,640 --> 00:00:40,620  
to store, from town to town.

15  
00:00:40,620 --> 00:00:43,770  
Sometimes he took me with us.

16  
00:00:43,770 --> 00:00:51,330  
I would say I had a happy  
childhood and carefree, happy

17  
00:00:51,330 --> 00:00:52,080  
life.

18  
00:00:52,080 --> 00:00:55,690  
Schools were very good.

19  
00:00:55,690 --> 00:00:59,970  
I went to elementary school and  
then went to regular gymnasium.

20  
00:00:59,970 --> 00:01:01,980  
And then I went to a [GERMAN].

21  
00:01:01,980 --> 00:01:03,240  
How do you say it?

22  
00:01:03,240 --> 00:01:05,190  
Commerce school.

23  
00:01:05,190 --> 00:01:09,720  
And everything went well  
until Hitler came to power.

24  
00:01:09,720 --> 00:01:10,455  
Then we--

25  
00:01:10,455 --> 00:01:12,410  
Can we jump back a little?

26  
00:01:12,410 --> 00:01:13,740  
Is that all right?

27  
00:01:13,740 --> 00:01:14,340  
Jump back.

28  
00:01:14,340 --> 00:01:15,010  
Jump back any time.

29  
00:01:15,010 --> 00:01:16,260  
What were you like as a child?

30  
00:01:16,260 --> 00:01:18,510  
And did you have some interests?

31  
00:01:18,510 --> 00:01:19,570  
As a child?

32  
00:01:19,570 --> 00:01:20,070  
Yes.

33  
00:01:20,070 --> 00:01:21,900  
[LAUGHS] Movie stars.

34  
00:01:21,900 --> 00:01:23,370  
[LAUGHTER]

35  
00:01:23,370 --> 00:01:26,590  
I had interest as a  
little as a little child,

36  
00:01:26,590 --> 00:01:30,420  
I was always  
theatrically interested.

37  
00:01:30,420 --> 00:01:34,770  
All the school plays in

school, I was always present.

38

00:01:34,770 --> 00:01:38,820

And my parents were proudly  
sitting there listening to me.

39

00:01:38,820 --> 00:01:44,040

And as I grew bigger and  
more serious on that line,

40

00:01:44,040 --> 00:01:49,650

I went more into the theatrical  
aspect of school plays

41

00:01:49,650 --> 00:01:52,750

and stuff like that.

42

00:01:52,750 --> 00:01:56,790

And it was very uneventful.

43

00:01:56,790 --> 00:02:04,290

But it changed so  
abruptly that--

44

00:02:04,290 --> 00:02:07,230

I had a diary, for  
instance, which

45

00:02:07,230 --> 00:02:09,600

I, by coincidence, found it.

46

00:02:09,600 --> 00:02:13,020

Because not so many documents  
I found from my life.

47

00:02:13,020 --> 00:02:18,900

And as I was reading  
the diary, today I

48

00:02:18,900 --> 00:02:20,140

was in love with this boy.

49

00:02:20,140 --> 00:02:21,300  
Tomorrow, with that boy.

50  
00:02:21,300 --> 00:02:26,280  
So I lived really  
like any teenagers.

51  
00:02:26,280 --> 00:02:29,250  
And all suddenly when  
Hitler came to power

52  
00:02:29,250 --> 00:02:32,820  
and started to come  
the news, I personally

53  
00:02:32,820 --> 00:02:38,160  
immediately took it to my head.

54  
00:02:38,160 --> 00:02:40,030  
And it always went--

55  
00:02:40,030 --> 00:02:42,810  
to the thought  
always was in my head

56  
00:02:42,810 --> 00:02:47,770  
what will be if something  
happens to my parents?

57  
00:02:47,770 --> 00:02:50,100  
I was very much  
attached to them.

58  
00:02:50,100 --> 00:02:54,973  
And I was very much my papa's  
girl, papa's little girl.

59  
00:02:54,973 --> 00:02:56,390  
Did you have  
brothers and sisters?

60  
00:02:56,390 --> 00:03:00,990  
I had my brother, who

lives in America right now.

61  
00:03:00,990 --> 00:03:02,730  
[INAUDIBLE]

62  
00:03:02,730 --> 00:03:07,380  
And when Hitler came  
to power, it abruptly

63  
00:03:07,380 --> 00:03:09,560  
changed my whole lifestyle.

64  
00:03:09,560 --> 00:03:13,320  
When I was reading in my  
diaries from that little girl,

65  
00:03:13,320 --> 00:03:17,580  
you can see that  
there was no [GERMAN]..

66  
00:03:17,580 --> 00:03:18,570  
How do you say that?

67  
00:03:18,570 --> 00:03:21,660  
It went from one  
year to another--

68  
00:03:21,660 --> 00:03:22,500  
Continuity?

69  
00:03:22,500 --> 00:03:25,140  
It immediately became serious.

70  
00:03:25,140 --> 00:03:27,450  
There, it was a childish  
little girl telling

71  
00:03:27,450 --> 00:03:28,920  
all kinds of little stories.

72  
00:03:28,920 --> 00:03:32,020  
And all suddenly, "I heard

this one on the radio.

73

00:03:32,020 --> 00:03:33,600

I hear that one on the radio.

74

00:03:33,600 --> 00:03:34,710

What will happen?"

75

00:03:34,710 --> 00:03:38,850

Because in 1938, it  
started the whole problem.

76

00:03:38,850 --> 00:03:43,800

And then of course when my  
brother left for America, that

77

00:03:43,800 --> 00:03:47,140

changed a lot in our  
lives and our life

78

00:03:47,140 --> 00:03:48,140

became more [INAUDIBLE].

79

00:03:48,140 --> 00:03:48,520

Why did he leave?

80

00:03:48,520 --> 00:03:49,020

Did he know?

81

00:03:49,020 --> 00:03:53,280

Because in 1938, it was  
the first political change

82

00:03:53,280 --> 00:03:54,630

in Austria with Schuschnigg.

83

00:03:54,630 --> 00:03:58,170

You know, there was the--

84

00:03:58,170 --> 00:04:00,120

what was it in  
Austria, what happened?

85  
00:04:00,120 --> 00:04:01,230  
How do you call that?

86  
00:04:01,230 --> 00:04:02,214  
The--

87  
00:04:02,214 --> 00:04:03,200  
The Anschluss.

88  
00:04:03,200 --> 00:04:05,460  
The Anschluss, thank you.

89  
00:04:05,460 --> 00:04:08,910  
So with the Anschluss,  
it was already--

90  
00:04:08,910 --> 00:04:10,860  
everybody knew that  
things will happen.

91  
00:04:10,860 --> 00:04:12,900  
And my brother I  
had the foresight

92  
00:04:12,900 --> 00:04:15,840  
that he asked our  
relatives-- my mother

93  
00:04:15,840 --> 00:04:19,230  
had a brother in  
America, in Kingston.

94  
00:04:19,230 --> 00:04:20,790  
And he asked for the affidavit.

95  
00:04:20,790 --> 00:04:24,240  
He got married in Poland.

96  
00:04:24,240 --> 00:04:26,490  
They came to Hungary.



97

00:04:26,490 --> 00:04:29,410

And as a matter of fact,  
I remember the last time

98

00:04:29,410 --> 00:04:34,200

when she, my sister-in-law,  
called up her mother

99

00:04:34,200 --> 00:04:38,850

said goodbye because they are  
leaving tomorrow for America.

100

00:04:38,850 --> 00:04:42,120

And that time, we  
didn't-- well, in 1938,

101

00:04:42,120 --> 00:04:45,570

it was the same story  
what was with the Germans.

102

00:04:45,570 --> 00:04:47,490

They said it can  
never happen to us.

103

00:04:47,490 --> 00:04:50,140

It was something  
entirely new in our life.

104

00:04:50,140 --> 00:04:53,070

Who would think, would  
think what would happen?

105

00:04:53,070 --> 00:04:56,160

But when that happened  
in 1938, my brother left.

106

00:04:56,160 --> 00:04:58,930

And with that, with  
was that it started

107

00:04:58,930 --> 00:05:05,940

the decline in every way, how  
we felt. And there was always,

108  
00:05:05,940 --> 00:05:10,000  
even so that we still  
had our normal life,

109  
00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:13,800  
but as the weeks and months  
went by, more and more

110  
00:05:13,800 --> 00:05:16,110  
it came, the news from Germany.

111  
00:05:16,110 --> 00:05:18,630  
And a little bit here,  
a little bit there.

112  
00:05:18,630 --> 00:05:23,040  
And we more and more realized  
that we are looking forward

113  
00:05:23,040 --> 00:05:24,000  
for a sad time.

114  
00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:26,790  
Can we stay in  
the pre-war period

115  
00:05:26,790 --> 00:05:29,610  
for a minute and can I  
ask you about your family,

116  
00:05:29,610 --> 00:05:31,990  
the Jewish aspect  
of your family?

117  
00:05:31,990 --> 00:05:34,300  
How-- were they  
religious or assimilated?

118  
00:05:34,300 --> 00:05:36,480  
We were conservative.

119

00:05:36,480 --> 00:05:41,940  
We kept every holiday, every  
significant and insignificant

120  
00:05:41,940 --> 00:05:42,660  
holiday.

121  
00:05:42,660 --> 00:05:44,910  
We did keep a kosher home.

122  
00:05:44,910 --> 00:05:47,100  
We were very much  
Jewish oriented.

123  
00:05:47,100 --> 00:05:48,450  
I had mostly--

124  
00:05:48,450 --> 00:05:51,150  
I would say 90% Jewish friends.

125  
00:05:51,150 --> 00:05:54,810  
And not, no gentile boyfriend.

126  
00:05:54,810 --> 00:05:59,010  
And we kept the holidays.

127  
00:05:59,010 --> 00:06:00,250  
We went to shul.

128  
00:06:00,250 --> 00:06:01,410  
So I would say--

129  
00:06:01,410 --> 00:06:04,170  
I had my confirmation  
in Budapest,

130  
00:06:04,170 --> 00:06:06,990  
which I had very  
nice memories from.

131  
00:06:06,990 --> 00:06:10,620  
And I would say we kept

a nice Jewish home.

132  
00:06:10,620 --> 00:06:13,570  
We were not Orthodox, but  
we were rather conservative.

133  
00:06:13,570 --> 00:06:16,160

134  
00:06:16,160 --> 00:06:19,200  
What else do you want to  
know about that aspect?

135  
00:06:19,200 --> 00:06:20,410  
In that aspect, we--

136  
00:06:20,410 --> 00:06:21,180  
I went to--

137  
00:06:21,180 --> 00:06:24,060  
I mean, it's not Hebrew school  
because that time in Hungary

138  
00:06:24,060 --> 00:06:26,430  
it was not like here.

139  
00:06:26,430 --> 00:06:31,710  
You had to take separate Jewish  
lessons if you went to school.

140  
00:06:31,710 --> 00:06:33,150  
And that's what I did.

141  
00:06:33,150 --> 00:06:35,100  
And we had our own group.

142  
00:06:35,100 --> 00:06:37,770  
And we had our own  
hall where we went.

143  
00:06:37,770 --> 00:06:44,400  
We kept-- you know, socially

and in the artistic field,

144  
00:06:44,400 --> 00:06:46,290  
we kept up with  
the Jewish place.

145  
00:06:46,290 --> 00:06:48,240  
And as the years went by--

146  
00:06:48,240 --> 00:06:55,080  
1938, 1939 --more and more  
we had our own little Zionist

147  
00:06:55,080 --> 00:06:59,220  
groups and talked a  
lot about Palestine.

148  
00:06:59,220 --> 00:07:00,990  
And young people got together.

149  
00:07:00,990 --> 00:07:05,760  
But we didn't realize  
the real tragedy what

150  
00:07:05,760 --> 00:07:09,580  
was facing us at that time.

151  
00:07:09,580 --> 00:07:15,060  
So in that case, do you care--  
where were you at this point?

152  
00:07:15,060 --> 00:07:17,960  
You were in business, studying  
at the business school?

153  
00:07:17,960 --> 00:07:19,710  
I guess.

154  
00:07:19,710 --> 00:07:22,080  
After I finished  
my business school,

155

00:07:22,080 --> 00:07:23,610  
I got a job as a lawyer.

156  
00:07:23,610 --> 00:07:26,520  
And the whole years,  
all the way on--

157  
00:07:26,520 --> 00:07:31,500  
as a matter of fact, all the  
way until the Germans came

158  
00:07:31,500 --> 00:07:38,335  
to Budapest, I was a  
secretary with a lawyer.

159  
00:07:38,335 --> 00:07:39,580  
A gentile lawyer?

160  
00:07:39,580 --> 00:07:41,460  
They were all gentiles.

161  
00:07:41,460 --> 00:07:43,350  
But the interesting  
part of it was

162  
00:07:43,350 --> 00:07:46,440  
that toward the end  
in Budapest, we had--

163  
00:07:46,440 --> 00:07:49,800  
before they made the ghetto,  
we had to wear the Jewish star.

164  
00:07:49,800 --> 00:07:55,680  
And the lawyer that I worked  
was not in the Jewish section.

165  
00:07:55,680 --> 00:07:58,230  
And when I went there  
I took my star off

166  
00:07:58,230 --> 00:08:01,410  
so I could cross that

part to go to work.

167

00:08:01,410 --> 00:08:07,290

And that lawyer where I worked  
was a very, very well-known

168

00:08:07,290 --> 00:08:07,890

lawyer.

169

00:08:07,890 --> 00:08:12,630

Not only because he had  
higher connections, but also

170

00:08:12,630 --> 00:08:16,620

he was in the religious  
field with nuns and priests.

171

00:08:16,620 --> 00:08:19,500

He was a very religious man.

172

00:08:19,500 --> 00:08:23,280

And one day as I was  
working there and somebody

173

00:08:23,280 --> 00:08:24,330

rang the bell.

174

00:08:24,330 --> 00:08:26,620

And I opened the  
bell, and I saw two

175

00:08:26,620 --> 00:08:29,490

of these so-called Hungarian  
Nazis, who were worse

176

00:08:29,490 --> 00:08:31,620

sometimes than the German ones.

177

00:08:31,620 --> 00:08:33,240

And I thought, well, that's it.

178

00:08:33,240 --> 00:08:34,140

They will take me.

179

00:08:34,140 --> 00:08:37,049

But they came and  
they took my boss.

180

00:08:37,049 --> 00:08:39,480

Because he was in  
the religious--

181

00:08:39,480 --> 00:08:42,240

you know, they didn't like  
very religious people either.

182

00:08:42,240 --> 00:08:45,160

And they took him to  
a concentration camp.

183

00:08:45,160 --> 00:08:47,565

And I, as a secretary,  
Jewish secretary whom

184

00:08:47,565 --> 00:08:49,290

they didn't know, stayed there.

185

00:08:49,290 --> 00:08:55,150

So that was a rather almost  
humorous aspect of that case.

186

00:08:55,150 --> 00:08:59,190

So I stayed there for a  
couple of months without him.

187

00:08:59,190 --> 00:09:03,210

And then things got  
to be very dangerous.

188

00:09:03,210 --> 00:09:07,380

Then, I knew the safe  
number of that lawyer.

189

00:09:07,380 --> 00:09:13,170

That was right before



things got very serious.

190  
00:09:13,170 --> 00:09:16,890  
Then I opened up the  
safe and took out

191  
00:09:16,890 --> 00:09:21,690  
the lawyer's daughter's papers,  
knowing if I have to run away,

192  
00:09:21,690 --> 00:09:25,780  
I will run away with  
these papers, which I did.

193  
00:09:25,780 --> 00:09:29,660  
Which I used, but that  
happened later on.

194  
00:09:29,660 --> 00:09:31,200  
You want to tell me how?

195  
00:09:31,200 --> 00:09:36,750  
Well, first of all, I have  
to tell you that we were--

196  
00:09:36,750 --> 00:09:40,020  
my father and mother  
was Polish origin.

197  
00:09:40,020 --> 00:09:45,750  
And in 1941 when the Germans  
were not occupying Hungary yet,

198  
00:09:45,750 --> 00:09:50,130  
they came out, they gave  
the order to the Hungarians

199  
00:09:50,130 --> 00:09:55,320  
to deport all the  
non-Hungarian citizens.

200  
00:09:55,320 --> 00:09:58,380  
And my father, in

spite of that, that he

201  
00:09:58,380 --> 00:10:01,790  
was as a Hungarian officer  
in the Hungarian and he

202  
00:10:01,790 --> 00:10:07,040  
had the Iron Cross  
and all that things.

203  
00:10:07,040 --> 00:10:09,470  
When the order came  
out to deport--

204  
00:10:09,470 --> 00:10:11,960  
you know there was  
a time in 1941 when

205  
00:10:11,960 --> 00:10:14,960  
all the non-Hungarian  
citizens were deported

206  
00:10:14,960 --> 00:10:18,140  
from Hungary and from Budapest.

207  
00:10:18,140 --> 00:10:20,420  
Unfortunately, we  
were among them.

208  
00:10:20,420 --> 00:10:22,910  
And unfortunately, we  
were among them the

209  
00:10:22,910 --> 00:10:26,160  
very first day when the  
deportation started.

210  
00:10:26,160 --> 00:10:28,700  
When we didn't know  
yet what's going on.

211  
00:10:28,700 --> 00:10:30,860  
Then they came to our house.

212  
00:10:30,860 --> 00:10:33,740  
And they said, pack your bag.

213  
00:10:33,740 --> 00:10:36,860  
We will take you to  
your own country.

214  
00:10:36,860 --> 00:10:40,610  
And you will work there and  
you'll survive after the war.

215  
00:10:40,610 --> 00:10:44,690  
And that was in June 1941.

216  
00:10:44,690 --> 00:10:46,670  
And they came to our house.

217  
00:10:46,670 --> 00:10:48,980  
And they said, well,  
pack your back and go.

218  
00:10:48,980 --> 00:10:51,320  
And how do you  
pack your bag when

219  
00:10:51,320 --> 00:10:53,520  
you lived there a lifetime?

220  
00:10:53,520 --> 00:10:54,770  
So we cried.

221  
00:10:54,770 --> 00:10:56,510  
And my mother cried and I cried.

222  
00:10:56,510 --> 00:10:57,950  
And my fiancée was there.

223  
00:10:57,950 --> 00:11:01,850  
So the guy who-- he was  
new on the job and he

224

00:11:01,850 --> 00:11:06,827

had a certain human  
caring and sympathy to us.

225

00:11:06,827 --> 00:11:07,910

So he said, you know what?

226

00:11:07,910 --> 00:11:10,100

I will take your father.

227

00:11:10,100 --> 00:11:11,990

So I'm sure you  
stay here and you'll

228

00:11:11,990 --> 00:11:14,840

have one day to pack your  
bag and do whatever you want.

229

00:11:14,840 --> 00:11:16,430

And that's what he did.

230

00:11:16,430 --> 00:11:19,730

And in that one day,  
I had the choice.

231

00:11:19,730 --> 00:11:25,760

And some people, some relatives  
told me, well, you are young.

232

00:11:25,760 --> 00:11:28,880

Go and hide before  
they take you.

233

00:11:28,880 --> 00:11:31,400

But my father wrote a  
letter that the family

234

00:11:31,400 --> 00:11:32,960

have to stay together.

235

00:11:32,960 --> 00:11:34,160

And please come.

236  
00:11:34,160 --> 00:11:37,250  
And whatever will be, we  
will survive it together.

237  
00:11:37,250 --> 00:11:41,640  
So we packed our bag  
and we went outside.

238  
00:11:41,640 --> 00:11:45,230  
We lived in a  
house, four floors.

239  
00:11:45,230 --> 00:11:49,220  
And all the tenants were looking  
and saying goodbye to us.

240  
00:11:49,220 --> 00:11:50,420  
Some of them cheering.

241  
00:11:50,420 --> 00:11:51,325  
Some of them jeering.

242  
00:11:51,325 --> 00:11:54,380

243  
00:11:54,380 --> 00:11:58,280  
And that's how we were  
deported to Poland that time.

244  
00:11:58,280 --> 00:12:02,750  
I say deported to Poland,  
which is, again, easy to say.

245  
00:12:02,750 --> 00:12:06,320  
But how we were and what  
happened and how we went there

246  
00:12:06,320 --> 00:12:10,100  
and how we walked or  
whatever happened in between,

247

00:12:10,100 --> 00:12:15,980  
a lot of Hungarian, so-called  
Polish Hungarian origin

248  
00:12:15,980 --> 00:12:18,050  
got killed in  
Kamianets-Podilskyi.

249  
00:12:18,050 --> 00:12:19,940  
That was a famous town where--

250  
00:12:19,940 --> 00:12:22,220  
you heard about  
Kamianets-Podilskyi.

251  
00:12:22,220 --> 00:12:25,580  
So most of them who got  
killed there, 40,000, they

252  
00:12:25,580 --> 00:12:26,705  
were all Hungarian origins.

253  
00:12:26,705 --> 00:12:29,720

254  
00:12:29,720 --> 00:12:32,660  
But knowing my  
parents knew Polish,

255  
00:12:32,660 --> 00:12:35,840  
they also hired a private buggy.

256  
00:12:35,840 --> 00:12:39,020  
And we had relatives  
in Kolomyia.

257  
00:12:39,020 --> 00:12:42,530  
And we stayed-- we hid the  
back from the transport.

258  
00:12:42,530 --> 00:12:44,570  
Because we knew that  
the transport is

259  
00:12:44,570 --> 00:12:46,490  
going to Kamianets-Podilskyi.

260  
00:12:46,490 --> 00:12:48,350  
And a lot of other  
people escaped too.

261  
00:12:48,350 --> 00:12:52,100  
But we went with that  
buggy to Kolomyia

262  
00:12:52,100 --> 00:12:54,730  
and that's where we stayed.

263  
00:12:54,730 --> 00:12:57,410  
In Kolomyia, that  
was that time yet

264  
00:12:57,410 --> 00:13:03,080  
more-or-less normal life because  
the ghetto was not [INAUDIBLE]..

265  
00:13:03,080 --> 00:13:07,250  
But of course, after a year of  
being in the ghetto and losing

266  
00:13:07,250 --> 00:13:07,880  
people--

267  
00:13:07,880 --> 00:13:10,040  
it was over 20,000  
people in Kolomyia.

268  
00:13:10,040 --> 00:13:13,340  
And by the time I  
escaped with a smuggler,

269  
00:13:13,340 --> 00:13:16,700  
there was only a  
couple of hundred left.

270

00:13:16,700 --> 00:13:20,540  
So that's when it was that I  
said goodbye to my parents.

271  
00:13:20,540 --> 00:13:23,190  
And of course, I  
never saw them again.

272  
00:13:23,190 --> 00:13:26,420  
And I started on  
the road going back

273  
00:13:26,420 --> 00:13:34,160  
to Hungary, which was a  
road to talk about a lot.

274  
00:13:34,160 --> 00:13:37,070  
Do you want to talk any more  
about the ghetto though before?

275  
00:13:37,070 --> 00:13:38,660  
The ghetto, we lived--

276  
00:13:38,660 --> 00:13:40,010  
it was a whole year.

277  
00:13:40,010 --> 00:13:42,530  
Before the ghetto, we  
lived in Kolomyia yet.

278  
00:13:42,530 --> 00:13:45,200  
And when the ghetto came, of  
course, like everybody else

279  
00:13:45,200 --> 00:13:46,710  
we had to move in the ghetto.

280  
00:13:46,710 --> 00:13:49,370  
And we also had--  
they said on the tape

281  
00:13:49,370 --> 00:13:51,550  
that three or four families



lived in the ghetto.

282  
00:13:51,550 --> 00:13:53,960  
Well, where we  
went it was rather

283  
00:13:53,960 --> 00:13:56,105  
five, six families  
living in the ghetto.

284  
00:13:56,105 --> 00:13:57,590  
In a one room place?

285  
00:13:57,590 --> 00:13:59,480  
In a one room place, right.

286  
00:13:59,480 --> 00:14:01,490  
And then, of  
course, some of them

287  
00:14:01,490 --> 00:14:05,600  
got killed during the time,  
so it got less and less.

288  
00:14:05,600 --> 00:14:10,160  
And that's when I decided,  
after a year of being

289  
00:14:10,160 --> 00:14:13,040  
in Kolomyia and about  
half a year in the ghetto,

290  
00:14:13,040 --> 00:14:15,410  
that it's time to go.

291  
00:14:15,410 --> 00:14:16,790  
Was there anything  
while you were

292  
00:14:16,790 --> 00:14:21,131  
there that struck you and  
stands out in your mind?

293

00:14:21,131 --> 00:14:23,420

Well, it was every day  
was what struck me.

294

00:14:23,420 --> 00:14:28,550

Because I was a young person  
with a rather careless, careful

295

00:14:28,550 --> 00:14:31,820

living and all of a sudden  
you're thrust into a situation.

296

00:14:31,820 --> 00:14:35,120

We went to work in the  
morning because my father,

297

00:14:35,120 --> 00:14:38,870

being a military person,  
and the Germans also

298

00:14:38,870 --> 00:14:41,270

gave him a job as a supervisor.

299

00:14:41,270 --> 00:14:43,370

And the other Jews  
didn't like him

300

00:14:43,370 --> 00:14:45,020

because he was a supervisor.

301

00:14:45,020 --> 00:14:48,980

And they didn't like nobody  
who supervised over other Jews.

302

00:14:48,980 --> 00:14:52,200

And so we worked  
there for a time.

303

00:14:52,200 --> 00:14:55,670

As a matter of fact, I  
worked in a kitchen preparing

304

00:14:55,670 --> 00:14:58,100  
dinner for German officers.

305  
00:14:58,100 --> 00:15:04,260  
And my job was, with three  
other girls, peeling potatoes.

306  
00:15:04,260 --> 00:15:09,150  
And at that time, hunger was  
already a big, big aspect

307  
00:15:09,150 --> 00:15:11,880  
of ghetto life because  
you know that people just

308  
00:15:11,880 --> 00:15:13,570  
died of hunger.

309  
00:15:13,570 --> 00:15:19,500  
So what we did, we got  
permission for the peels

310  
00:15:19,500 --> 00:15:21,150  
to take home.

311  
00:15:21,150 --> 00:15:25,040  
And we had the peels with  
whatever meal they made.

312  
00:15:25,040 --> 00:15:26,040  
You cooked them?

313  
00:15:26,040 --> 00:15:27,990  
We cooked the peels, right.

314  
00:15:27,990 --> 00:15:31,260  
But in order to have  
something on the peels,

315  
00:15:31,260 --> 00:15:36,390  
we peeled the potatoes  
in the kitchen take.

316  
00:15:36,390 --> 00:15:39,580  
And then we went home  
and we peeled the piece.

317  
00:15:39,580 --> 00:15:40,500  
Oh, I see.

318  
00:15:40,500 --> 00:15:43,440  
That we made it so that  
the peels would take.

319  
00:15:43,440 --> 00:15:45,600  
But then the Germans  
came to eat and they

320  
00:15:45,600 --> 00:15:49,050  
said that whatever will  
be like that take will

321  
00:15:49,050 --> 00:15:50,110  
have a punishment.

322  
00:15:50,110 --> 00:15:51,730  
So we couldn't do that.

323  
00:15:51,730 --> 00:15:54,570  
So from then on, we  
had to eat the peels

324  
00:15:54,570 --> 00:15:57,540  
and not peel the peels.

325  
00:15:57,540 --> 00:16:02,760  
The other one, what I  
remember from the ghetto

326  
00:16:02,760 --> 00:16:08,530  
when we went out to  
work and through work,

327  
00:16:08,530 --> 00:16:10,290  
we got to know

some other workers.

328

00:16:10,290 --> 00:16:14,290

Because this was German families  
who moved into Jewish houses.

329

00:16:14,290 --> 00:16:17,050

And they renovated  
it and decorated it.

330

00:16:17,050 --> 00:16:20,230

And we worked on it to keep  
it clean until their wife

331

00:16:20,230 --> 00:16:21,220

and children came.

332

00:16:21,220 --> 00:16:25,630

And we saw the  
mementos of a life--

333

00:16:25,630 --> 00:16:27,230

you know, Jewish life.

334

00:16:27,230 --> 00:16:32,350

Sometimes we came into a house  
where we saw the pots and pans

335

00:16:32,350 --> 00:16:34,330

yet as they carried them out.

336

00:16:34,330 --> 00:16:36,100

And we just had  
to close our eyes

337

00:16:36,100 --> 00:16:38,120

and see what happened there.

338

00:16:38,120 --> 00:16:40,060

And we had to clean  
up and make it

339

00:16:40,060 --> 00:16:42,460  
ready for the German officers.

340  
00:16:42,460 --> 00:16:48,550  
And I was working there  
once washing the floors

341  
00:16:48,550 --> 00:16:51,550  
with a pail-- you know,  
a big pail of water.

342  
00:16:51,550 --> 00:16:53,240  
Because you were  
asking me to tell you

343  
00:16:53,240 --> 00:16:55,050  
some mementos from the ghetto.

344  
00:16:55,050 --> 00:16:56,080  
Yes, yes.

345  
00:16:56,080 --> 00:16:58,610  
So the German-- and  
until that time,

346  
00:16:58,610 --> 00:17:01,210  
you know, I knew that I was  
in danger and everything.

347  
00:17:01,210 --> 00:17:04,089  
But I didn't have  
any personal contact

348  
00:17:04,089 --> 00:17:06,647  
with any physical punishment.

349  
00:17:06,647 --> 00:17:09,190  
[COUGHS] Excuse me a second.

350  
00:17:09,190 --> 00:17:13,480  
--cleaning the floor  
and almost finished it.

351

00:17:13,480 --> 00:17:15,640  
He came in and he took the pail.

352

00:17:15,640 --> 00:17:17,290  
And he kicked the pail.

353

00:17:17,290 --> 00:17:21,010  
And he said this is not clean  
enough, to clean it again.

354

00:17:21,010 --> 00:17:25,450  
So that was my first encounter  
with a German officer.

355

00:17:25,450 --> 00:17:29,990  
And as it happened to be,  
the German officer's wife

356

00:17:29,990 --> 00:17:37,240  
who came back, she acted rather  
humanely to the Jewish girls.

357

00:17:37,240 --> 00:17:40,600  
It happens to be that--

358

00:17:40,600 --> 00:17:43,360  
I don't know whether  
I should mention it.

359

00:17:43,360 --> 00:17:48,280  
But she had some  
tendencies, liking girls.

360

00:17:48,280 --> 00:17:54,520  
And the question was whether  
to use this situation

361

00:17:54,520 --> 00:17:58,510  
to your advantage or not to  
use it to your advantage.

362

00:17:58,510 --> 00:18:02,260

But sometimes it  
came to a point--

363  
00:18:02,260 --> 00:18:05,020  
you told me an incident  
before about bread.

364  
00:18:05,020 --> 00:18:07,180  
Sometimes you came  
to a point when

365  
00:18:07,180 --> 00:18:11,110  
the only thing in your mind  
was you are 20 years old,

366  
00:18:11,110 --> 00:18:14,620  
and somewhere along in the  
sky when you looked up,

367  
00:18:14,620 --> 00:18:16,730  
there is a life yet for people.

368  
00:18:16,730 --> 00:18:21,790  
Let's do whatever is  
possible, but let's survive.

369  
00:18:21,790 --> 00:18:27,550  
And it happens to be that  
woman helped me a lot to get

370  
00:18:27,550 --> 00:18:29,530  
easier job, to get more food.

371  
00:18:29,530 --> 00:18:35,560  
Until her husband came to the  
picture and then I lost my job.

372  
00:18:35,560 --> 00:18:38,860  
And then we had to go to  
a factory where he worked.

373  
00:18:38,860 --> 00:18:41,560  
Some kind of-- if I remember



correctly, I don't know.

374

00:18:41,560 --> 00:18:44,410

I think something was an  
iron work or something.

375

00:18:44,410 --> 00:18:47,530

And the first day  
when I went there,

376

00:18:47,530 --> 00:18:50,170

we were rather abused  
that time there.

377

00:18:50,170 --> 00:18:53,440

And then, but I  
decided that this

378

00:18:53,440 --> 00:18:56,230

is a good place maybe  
to run away or something

379

00:18:56,230 --> 00:18:57,770

or make connections.

380

00:18:57,770 --> 00:18:59,560

And that's what I  
heard the first time,

381

00:18:59,560 --> 00:19:01,720

that there is some where  
a smuggler [? ring. ?]

382

00:19:01,720 --> 00:19:03,590

That it is possible.

383

00:19:03,590 --> 00:19:06,880

So I stayed in that  
factory and I worked there.

384

00:19:06,880 --> 00:19:09,100

We went out to ghetto,  
back to the ghetto.

385  
00:19:09,100 --> 00:19:11,980  
And the ghetto was always  
less and less and less.

386  
00:19:11,980 --> 00:19:18,910  
And my parents were always  
less and less independent

387  
00:19:18,910 --> 00:19:21,760  
and more and more relied on me.

388  
00:19:21,760 --> 00:19:27,260  
So the roles reversed  
between parents and children.

389  
00:19:27,260 --> 00:19:30,070  
Not children, because  
it was only me.

390  
00:19:30,070 --> 00:19:33,190  
That it was me who  
directed them what to do

391  
00:19:33,190 --> 00:19:34,840  
and how I'd like--  
for instance, when I

392  
00:19:34,840 --> 00:19:37,150  
had to go to work with mother.

393  
00:19:37,150 --> 00:19:40,630  
The Germans looked up and  
mother got old very suddenly

394  
00:19:40,630 --> 00:19:42,190  
in the ghetto.

395  
00:19:42,190 --> 00:19:45,640  
Where, as it happened, it  
coincided with her menopause

396

00:19:45,640 --> 00:19:46,540  
too.

397  
00:19:46,540 --> 00:19:49,680  
So that was really a  
hard thing because she

398  
00:19:49,680 --> 00:19:54,160  
acted sometimes very strange  
and I was very much afraid.

399  
00:19:54,160 --> 00:19:57,220  
Everything fell on  
her and she just

400  
00:19:57,220 --> 00:20:00,610  
couldn't digest the tragedy  
which fell upon her.

401  
00:20:00,610 --> 00:20:05,980  
And I sometimes was the  
one who had to lead her

402  
00:20:05,980 --> 00:20:07,390  
and say it will be good.

403  
00:20:07,390 --> 00:20:09,785  
And I remember I pinched  
her cheeks sometimes

404  
00:20:09,785 --> 00:20:12,760  
so she could survive,  
because maybe I

405  
00:20:12,760 --> 00:20:15,850  
made a little bit her hair  
so that the Germans won't

406  
00:20:15,850 --> 00:20:18,950  
say you are too old to work.

407  
00:20:18,950 --> 00:20:21,790  
So this was a couple of

memories from the ghetto.

408

00:20:21,790 --> 00:20:23,500

And then of course  
there was also

409

00:20:23,500 --> 00:20:31,780

memories where I met a young man  
who worked in a soup kitchen.

410

00:20:31,780 --> 00:20:35,110

And you know, when  
you are 20 years old

411

00:20:35,110 --> 00:20:38,560

you no matter what situation  
you have thrust into,

412

00:20:38,560 --> 00:20:42,220

you always have a little  
bit romantic space in you

413

00:20:42,220 --> 00:20:44,410

because that keeps you alive.

414

00:20:44,410 --> 00:20:47,050

And I met a young man  
who was very kind to me.

415

00:20:47,050 --> 00:20:51,810

And he gave me always thick  
soups and things like that.

416

00:20:51,810 --> 00:20:55,060

So I sometimes met him.

417

00:20:55,060 --> 00:20:58,060

But he had somebody else,  
I had somebody else.

418

00:20:58,060 --> 00:21:02,230

But there developed some  
kind of rapport between us.

419  
00:21:02,230 --> 00:21:04,420  
And I remembered  
him long after that.

420  
00:21:04,420 --> 00:21:07,490  
That was, of course,  
my present husband.

421  
00:21:07,490 --> 00:21:10,280  
But I didn't know  
at that time yet.

422  
00:21:10,280 --> 00:21:14,030  
But when it came the  
time that the ghetto got

423  
00:21:14,030 --> 00:21:18,200  
from 20,000 to a couple of  
hundred I said, that's it.

424  
00:21:18,200 --> 00:21:21,920  
And I discussed it with  
my mother the last day.

425  
00:21:21,920 --> 00:21:27,175  
And the last night  
when I knew that I'm

426  
00:21:27,175 --> 00:21:28,175  
leaving in the morning--

427  
00:21:28,175 --> 00:21:34,548

428  
00:21:34,548 --> 00:21:41,510  
you know, we rather stayed  
away from kissing or touching

429  
00:21:41,510 --> 00:21:45,340  
or something because you change.

430

00:21:45,340 --> 00:21:50,170  
In order to survive,  
you have to lose your--

431  
00:21:50,170 --> 00:21:52,360  
certain feelings  
disappear from you.

432  
00:21:52,360 --> 00:21:53,950  
But that was the last night.

433  
00:21:53,950 --> 00:21:58,360  
And mother just  
touched me, because she

434  
00:21:58,360 --> 00:22:00,800  
had her own thoughts and  
I had my own thoughts.

435  
00:22:00,800 --> 00:22:04,420  
And the only thing what  
I remember that I just

436  
00:22:04,420 --> 00:22:07,120  
wanted to just nobody  
should touch me

437  
00:22:07,120 --> 00:22:09,250  
and nobody should kiss me.

438  
00:22:09,250 --> 00:22:12,700  
Just to push it away because one  
more touch and one more kiss,

439  
00:22:12,700 --> 00:22:14,950  
I'm not going to leave.

440  
00:22:14,950 --> 00:22:16,750  
And that was the reason.

441  
00:22:16,750 --> 00:22:19,030  
I didn't-- I never  
explained it to her.

442  
00:22:19,030 --> 00:22:21,010  
I hope she understood it.

443  
00:22:21,010 --> 00:22:25,120  
Because then she wanted  
to touch me, I just like--

444  
00:22:25,120 --> 00:22:27,430  
I pushed it away.

445  
00:22:27,430 --> 00:22:31,600  
And I did it in order that  
I should be able to leave.

446  
00:22:31,600 --> 00:22:35,260  
And the next, before  
I left, my father

447  
00:22:35,260 --> 00:22:39,760  
gave me that talisman  
which I carried with me.

448  
00:22:39,760 --> 00:22:41,470  
And I never, never leave it.

449  
00:22:41,470 --> 00:22:44,200  
Wherever I go, that  
talisman goes with me.

450  
00:22:44,200 --> 00:22:45,490  
And somehow, I don't--

451  
00:22:45,490 --> 00:22:47,590  
I'm not superstitious otherwise.

452  
00:22:47,590 --> 00:22:52,630  
But I truly believe that  
that talisman has saved me

453  
00:22:52,630 --> 00:22:54,100  
from a lot of situations.

454

00:22:54,100 --> 00:22:57,710

And when the time will  
be that I have to go,

455

00:22:57,710 --> 00:23:03,820

then I have to decide which  
of my children will have it.

456

00:23:03,820 --> 00:23:07,970

And that was the ghetto.

457

00:23:07,970 --> 00:23:08,890

And I went away.

458

00:23:08,890 --> 00:23:11,875

And I went back to Budapest,  
where at that time,

459

00:23:11,875 --> 00:23:16,790

even so that Hitler hurrying,  
advancing and all over.

460

00:23:16,790 --> 00:23:18,640

But it was still not--

461

00:23:18,640 --> 00:23:20,360

it was still not the ghetto.

462

00:23:20,360 --> 00:23:22,510

Only a couple of months later--

463

00:23:22,510 --> 00:23:24,400

What year was this?

464

00:23:24,400 --> 00:23:29,170

I was there a whole year in  
the ghetto, from 1941 to 1942.

465

00:23:29,170 --> 00:23:32,710

And I have to tell you  
one incident there.



466  
00:23:32,710 --> 00:23:33,970  
Because that is an--

467  
00:23:33,970 --> 00:23:36,880  
I try not to go  
into little details.

468  
00:23:36,880 --> 00:23:38,170  
No, it's OK.

469  
00:23:38,170 --> 00:23:45,640  
But this detail is so remarkable  
that I have to mention it.

470  
00:23:45,640 --> 00:23:50,200  
After about 25 or 26 days--

471  
00:23:50,200 --> 00:23:51,910  
the 20th day they caught us.

472  
00:23:51,910 --> 00:23:53,440  
I think-- did I mention it?

473  
00:23:53,440 --> 00:23:54,830  
Or I didn't mention it.

474  
00:23:54,830 --> 00:23:55,330  
No.

475  
00:23:55,330 --> 00:23:57,260  
Or I told you that before.

476  
00:23:57,260 --> 00:24:02,775  
So we were walking at night  
to reach Hungary from Poland

477  
00:24:02,775 --> 00:24:03,400  
to [INAUDIBLE].

478  
00:24:03,400 --> 00:24:07,090

I mean, it was a long road, but  
I cannot go into every aspect

479  
00:24:07,090 --> 00:24:07,730  
in it.

480  
00:24:07,730 --> 00:24:09,760  
But in any case, we  
were walking at night

481  
00:24:09,760 --> 00:24:12,190  
and sleeping in the daytime.

482  
00:24:12,190 --> 00:24:16,480  
And that was just  
about the last day

483  
00:24:16,480 --> 00:24:20,470  
before we saw already  
the Hungarian border.

484  
00:24:20,470 --> 00:24:25,540  
When we-- somebody  
probably who noticed us

485  
00:24:25,540 --> 00:24:27,130  
talking to the German guards.

486  
00:24:27,130 --> 00:24:28,800  
And they came off this--

487  
00:24:28,800 --> 00:24:32,740  
we were 10 of us who were  
escaping from the ghetto.

488  
00:24:32,740 --> 00:24:34,750  
And they came up,  
the German guard,

489  
00:24:34,750 --> 00:24:36,430  
and they shot  
everybody on sight.

490

00:24:36,430 --> 00:24:37,990

And I ran away that time.

491

00:24:37,990 --> 00:24:44,770

And it was laying there,  
a big tree, you know,

492

00:24:44,770 --> 00:24:48,790

eaten up from the  
moss, hollow inside.

493

00:24:48,790 --> 00:24:53,590

There is a lot of  
fate was in my life

494

00:24:53,590 --> 00:24:57,130

that I have to strongly believe  
that there must be something,

495

00:24:57,130 --> 00:25:01,790

somebody, somewhere who  
prepared that tree for me there

496

00:25:01,790 --> 00:25:04,120

where I went in that tree.

497

00:25:04,120 --> 00:25:07,750

In that hollow tree was  
laying and I was laying.

498

00:25:07,750 --> 00:25:10,150

And I was in the tree.

499

00:25:10,150 --> 00:25:12,700

And I just heard the  
shouting and crying

500

00:25:12,700 --> 00:25:18,130

and said, no, no, no until  
everything got quiet.

501

00:25:18,130 --> 00:25:23,710

And I walked out from  
the tree and what I saw

502  
00:25:23,710 --> 00:25:25,660  
was only dead people.

503  
00:25:25,660 --> 00:25:27,730  
And I started to walk.

504  
00:25:27,730 --> 00:25:31,640  
Because I think that time,  
that from that day on,

505  
00:25:31,640 --> 00:25:33,610  
I was not quite right.

506  
00:25:33,610 --> 00:25:36,080  
And I think I was  
singing or something.

507  
00:25:36,080 --> 00:25:39,790  
And I said, I'm going back to  
mama and how wonderful it is.

508  
00:25:39,790 --> 00:25:43,780  
And I stumbled by  
accident over the smuggler

509  
00:25:43,780 --> 00:25:45,670  
who was also escaping.

510  
00:25:45,670 --> 00:25:49,870  
But not only that,  
he was getting

511  
00:25:49,870 --> 00:25:53,440  
he was getting shot and  
escaping and I found him.

512  
00:25:53,440 --> 00:25:55,270  
But everybody had  
the little knapsack.

513

00:25:55,270 --> 00:25:57,910

You know, a little knapsack  
where we had things.

514

00:25:57,910 --> 00:26:02,125

And he, in a big hurry,  
instead of taking his knapsack,

515

00:26:02,125 --> 00:26:03,580

he took my knapsack.

516

00:26:03,580 --> 00:26:05,570

And I'm the one who survived.

517

00:26:05,570 --> 00:26:07,720

So those little incidents  
what I sometimes

518

00:26:07,720 --> 00:26:11,180

wonder how that worked out.

519

00:26:11,180 --> 00:26:14,170

And so I found him,  
but he was injured.

520

00:26:14,170 --> 00:26:17,110

And he said he  
cannot do nothing.

521

00:26:17,110 --> 00:26:21,100

And he gave me his  
pocket knife in his thigh

522

00:26:21,100 --> 00:26:25,240

He was-- they probably, as  
they shot, they shot at my back

523

00:26:25,240 --> 00:26:29,680

and it went into his thigh  
near the genital areas.

524

00:26:29,680 --> 00:26:31,300

And he gave that little knife.

525

00:26:31,300 --> 00:26:36,070

And he said that I have to take  
that bullet out, which I did.

526

00:26:36,070 --> 00:26:38,530

And he was there for the night.

527

00:26:38,530 --> 00:26:40,900

And then he said  
write me that letter

528

00:26:40,900 --> 00:26:43,030

that you are here so  
I can get my money.

529

00:26:43,030 --> 00:26:45,940

I won't get too much in any  
case because from the 10 of you,

530

00:26:45,940 --> 00:26:48,410

you are the only one survived.

531

00:26:48,410 --> 00:26:51,320

So that's what the paper, what  
I showed you, that I wrote.

532

00:26:51,320 --> 00:26:53,530

And that was from the woods.

533

00:26:53,530 --> 00:26:57,365

This was the Hungarian  
woods in Korosmezo.

534

00:26:57,365 --> 00:26:58,240

Could you spell that?

535

00:26:58,240 --> 00:27:00,646

Korosmezo.

536

00:27:00,646 --> 00:27:02,440

Yeah, you can write it for me.

537

00:27:02,440 --> 00:27:03,970

Where shall-- well,  
how will I know?

538

00:27:03,970 --> 00:27:06,760

Here, I write down here.

539

00:27:06,760 --> 00:27:09,550

This is a border town.

540

00:27:09,550 --> 00:27:10,376

Korosmezo.

541

00:27:10,376 --> 00:27:13,930

542

00:27:13,930 --> 00:27:18,010

This is a border town.

543

00:27:18,010 --> 00:27:21,010

And from there-- when  
I am in Korosmezo,

544

00:27:21,010 --> 00:27:23,890

I am already in Hungary.

545

00:27:23,890 --> 00:27:25,660

So he said that--

546

00:27:25,660 --> 00:27:30,340

he covered me also with leaves  
and he said I don't feel good.

547

00:27:30,340 --> 00:27:32,270

So he left me with my knapsack.

548

00:27:32,270 --> 00:27:33,700

But I had a little sweater on.

549

00:27:33,700 --> 00:27:35,650

And it was cold in  
the woods already.

550

00:27:35,650 --> 00:27:37,240

And he said-- and  
he gave me an onion,

551

00:27:37,240 --> 00:27:40,670

by the way, which was very good.

552

00:27:40,670 --> 00:27:41,890

And he went away.

553

00:27:41,890 --> 00:27:43,510

And he said he will come for me.

554

00:27:43,510 --> 00:27:46,600

He will whistle a  
certain way so I know.

555

00:27:46,600 --> 00:27:49,150

Because that was-- so  
it was in the woods,

556

00:27:49,150 --> 00:27:51,100

but people could still go there.

557

00:27:51,100 --> 00:27:54,090

And he said when you  
hear that whistle, then

558

00:27:54,090 --> 00:27:55,683

tell that this is you.

559

00:27:55,683 --> 00:27:57,460

So and he went away.

560

00:27:57,460 --> 00:28:00,400

And he left me there  
four and half--

561



00:28:00,400 --> 00:28:04,220  
four days and one night I  
was in the woods by myself.

562  
00:28:04,220 --> 00:28:06,880  
So I was really--

563  
00:28:06,880 --> 00:28:09,880  
can you imagine a 20-year-old  
girl in the woods, you know,

564  
00:28:09,880 --> 00:28:11,710  
rain or not rain or anything?

565  
00:28:11,710 --> 00:28:15,640  
And there was one incident  
where something moved.

566  
00:28:15,640 --> 00:28:17,230  
I probably moved.

567  
00:28:17,230 --> 00:28:22,480  
And the peasant came there  
who was taking lambs to eat,

568  
00:28:22,480 --> 00:28:25,000  
to graze or whatever  
you call it.

569  
00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:27,040  
And he heard and  
he come straight,

570  
00:28:27,040 --> 00:28:29,140  
he came straight where I am.

571  
00:28:29,140 --> 00:28:31,750  
And I was just at  
heart length to there,

572  
00:28:31,750 --> 00:28:33,520  
covered with leaves there.

573

00:28:33,520 --> 00:28:36,040

And I heard the steps  
closer and closer.

574

00:28:36,040 --> 00:28:38,860

And the only what  
he did, he peed.

575

00:28:38,860 --> 00:28:40,820

And he peed on me.

576

00:28:40,820 --> 00:28:42,850

And I was just standing there.

577

00:28:42,850 --> 00:28:45,910

And that was one  
of the incidents.

578

00:28:45,910 --> 00:28:50,050

And then people ask me, so  
what did you eat for four days?

579

00:28:50,050 --> 00:28:53,050

I mean, you have to eat  
for four days, which

580

00:28:53,050 --> 00:28:54,940

is not necessarily so.

581

00:28:54,940 --> 00:28:59,380

But I had that one onion and  
then blueberries grew that time

582

00:28:59,380 --> 00:29:01,060

in the--

583

00:29:01,060 --> 00:29:04,990

so then I felt safe enough in  
the night then I went around me

584

00:29:04,990 --> 00:29:07,000

and I ate some blueberries.

585

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:14,210

But the fourth night, I dreamed  
about my fiancee in Hungary

586

00:29:14,210 --> 00:29:15,130

at that time.

587

00:29:15,130 --> 00:29:17,360

And it was a beautiful  
wedding and everything.

588

00:29:17,360 --> 00:29:23,260

And when I got up and I was  
in the situation in whatever I

589

00:29:23,260 --> 00:29:26,260

was in there, and I  
looked up I said this is--

590

00:29:26,260 --> 00:29:27,460

I can't.

591

00:29:27,460 --> 00:29:31,060

There was a limit  
what I could endure.

592

00:29:31,060 --> 00:29:33,620

And I said, well, I just  
don't care anymore, nothing,

593

00:29:33,620 --> 00:29:35,770

when I heard the whistle.

594

00:29:35,770 --> 00:29:37,300

So little coincidences.

595

00:29:37,300 --> 00:29:38,050

And he did come.

596

00:29:38,050 --> 00:29:39,520

And I told him, where were you?

597

00:29:39,520 --> 00:29:41,320

I couldn't talk so  
good to him because he

598

00:29:41,320 --> 00:29:44,500

didn't talk Hungarian,  
I didn't so good Polish.

599

00:29:44,500 --> 00:29:46,450

But he said he was sick.

600

00:29:46,450 --> 00:29:47,330

I mean, I believe it.

601

00:29:47,330 --> 00:29:48,940

I'm not such a good surgeon.

602

00:29:48,940 --> 00:29:51,130

So he came for me the fifth day.

603

00:29:51,130 --> 00:29:57,640

And he took me to a place that  
I had to walk up on the top

604

00:29:57,640 --> 00:29:58,720

because I was ill.

605

00:29:58,720 --> 00:30:00,370

So I was in Hungary.

606

00:30:00,370 --> 00:30:04,120

I think my husband explained  
it, when they catch you there,

607

00:30:04,120 --> 00:30:07,550

then they immediately  
send you back to Germany.

608

00:30:07,550 --> 00:30:10,246

So everybody was  
afraid to give--

609  
00:30:10,246 --> 00:30:13,540

610  
00:30:13,540 --> 00:30:14,650  
well, to hide you.

611  
00:30:14,650 --> 00:30:15,190  
Right.

612  
00:30:15,190 --> 00:30:19,840  
So I was up there in  
some kind of an attic

613  
00:30:19,840 --> 00:30:23,320  
waiting for further instructions  
to go deeper into Hungary.

614  
00:30:23,320 --> 00:30:25,960  
The deeper you got  
into Hungary, the safer

615  
00:30:25,960 --> 00:30:29,410  
you were that the Germans,  
that they won't give you over

616  
00:30:29,410 --> 00:30:30,160  
to the Germans.

617  
00:30:30,160 --> 00:30:33,220  
This was in 1942.

618  
00:30:33,220 --> 00:30:37,540  
And as I was walking  
down the steps because he

619  
00:30:37,540 --> 00:30:39,550  
told me to come down now.

620  
00:30:39,550 --> 00:30:40,240  
We are ready.

621

00:30:40,240 --> 00:30:44,890

We have a car and we will  
go to the next town, which

622

00:30:44,890 --> 00:30:46,720

is [INAUDIBLE].

623

00:30:46,720 --> 00:30:49,120

And as I walk down,  
I saw a figure

624

00:30:49,120 --> 00:30:52,210

on the bottom of the steps.

625

00:30:52,210 --> 00:30:56,590

And I didn't recognize  
quite and he probably

626

00:30:56,590 --> 00:30:57,820

didn't recognize me.

627

00:30:57,820 --> 00:30:59,380

But when I wrote that letter--

628

00:30:59,380 --> 00:31:01,540

you know what I gave?

629

00:31:01,540 --> 00:31:05,530

My fiancée, he himself came  
all the way to the border town

630

00:31:05,530 --> 00:31:06,430

to bring that town.

631

00:31:06,430 --> 00:31:10,810

And that was him  
standing downstairs.

632

00:31:10,810 --> 00:31:13,450

Well, I don't go into the  
feelings and sentimental

633  
00:31:13,450 --> 00:31:14,740  
aspects of it.

634  
00:31:14,740 --> 00:31:16,750  
I leave that to  
your imagination.

635  
00:31:16,750 --> 00:31:17,410  
[LAUGHS]

636  
00:31:17,410 --> 00:31:23,560  
But it was something to behold.

637  
00:31:23,560 --> 00:31:26,200  
And his life was, of  
course, that time in danger.

638  
00:31:26,200 --> 00:31:28,900  
Because if they would  
catch him, he would also--

639  
00:31:28,900 --> 00:31:31,710  
even though he was  
a Hungarian citizen.

640  
00:31:31,710 --> 00:31:34,530  
But what I wanted  
to tell you, what I

641  
00:31:34,530 --> 00:31:36,180  
don't want to leave out--

642  
00:31:36,180 --> 00:31:40,350  
as we wanted to go to  
[INAUDIBLE] get [INAUDIBLE]..

643  
00:31:40,350 --> 00:31:43,200  
And from [INAUDIBLE],, you  
already are in Hungary.

644  
00:31:43,200 --> 00:31:45,240  
You can go with the

trains, cars, buses,

645

00:31:45,240 --> 00:31:46,230

whatever you want to.

646

00:31:46,230 --> 00:31:49,800

But until that time,  
you were in danger.

647

00:31:49,800 --> 00:31:53,340

And there was a long row  
of cars before the bridge.

648

00:31:53,340 --> 00:31:59,340

When you passed the bridge, you  
were already on my destination.

649

00:31:59,340 --> 00:32:01,680

There was a long line of cars.

650

00:32:01,680 --> 00:32:04,530

And on the beginning of  
the car, the chauffeur

651

00:32:04,530 --> 00:32:07,500

looked out, the  
one that was paid.

652

00:32:07,500 --> 00:32:09,870

And he said, we are in  
trouble because they're

653

00:32:09,870 --> 00:32:12,660

checking the cars.

654

00:32:12,660 --> 00:32:15,090

And when I heard that  
they're checking the cars,

655

00:32:15,090 --> 00:32:17,100

my first instinct  
was to jump out.



656

00:32:17,100 --> 00:32:20,070

Because if they see me the  
way I looked, full with lice.

657

00:32:20,070 --> 00:32:22,530

I was full with  
lice, by the way.

658

00:32:22,530 --> 00:32:23,910

My head was full with lice.

659

00:32:23,910 --> 00:32:24,660

I was dirty.

660

00:32:24,660 --> 00:32:26,070

I was bleeding.

661

00:32:26,070 --> 00:32:26,880

I had wounds.

662

00:32:26,880 --> 00:32:29,880

I had all kinds of  
things from the woods.

663

00:32:29,880 --> 00:32:33,870

And if they catch  
him, they will-- he

664

00:32:33,870 --> 00:32:35,260

will pay with his life for it.

665

00:32:35,260 --> 00:32:37,140

So I wanted to jump  
out from the car.

666

00:32:37,140 --> 00:32:42,780

And if that's the way it has to  
be and he was holding me back.

667

00:32:42,780 --> 00:32:48,810

And suddenly a soldier  
comes to our car.

668  
00:32:48,810 --> 00:32:51,010  
Mind you, there was  
a long line of cars

669  
00:32:51,010 --> 00:32:54,190  
there before us  
crossing the bridge.

670  
00:32:54,190 --> 00:32:57,870  
And he doesn't even  
look in the back.

671  
00:32:57,870 --> 00:33:00,960  
And this was such a  
remarkable incident

672  
00:33:00,960 --> 00:33:02,800  
that I will never forget it.

673  
00:33:02,800 --> 00:33:04,330  
And he doesn't look in the back.

674  
00:33:04,330 --> 00:33:07,170  
He just goes to the chauffeur  
and he says, you know,

675  
00:33:07,170 --> 00:33:08,910  
I lost my key.

676  
00:33:08,910 --> 00:33:11,070  
I can't even remember  
what he said--

677  
00:33:11,070 --> 00:33:14,010  
license or my key or if he said  
something to the chauffeur.

678  
00:33:14,010 --> 00:33:16,710  
Would you please  
drive me to Korosmezo?

679

00:33:16,710 --> 00:33:18,310  
And the chauffeur  
said, of course.

680  
00:33:18,310 --> 00:33:21,390  
He was an officer of  
the Hungarian army.

681  
00:33:21,390 --> 00:33:23,730  
And the chauffeur  
said of course.

682  
00:33:23,730 --> 00:33:27,150  
And he came in and sat  
next to the chauffeur.

683  
00:33:27,150 --> 00:33:33,990  
And as we walked by the cars,  
and as we reached the point

684  
00:33:33,990 --> 00:33:37,080  
where the guy checked  
everybody's car,

685  
00:33:37,080 --> 00:33:40,110  
they just looked in and  
saw a Hungarian officer.

686  
00:33:40,110 --> 00:33:43,410  
And they just saluted  
and we went by.

687  
00:33:43,410 --> 00:33:47,130  
So to this day, to  
this day, number one,

688  
00:33:47,130 --> 00:33:49,050  
I don't forget the incident.

689  
00:33:49,050 --> 00:33:54,000  
And number two, I don't  
believe in supernatural.

690

00:33:54,000 --> 00:33:56,430  
I cannot quite believe it.

691  
00:33:56,430 --> 00:33:59,160  
But there is a tiny  
little doubt in me

692  
00:33:59,160 --> 00:34:03,510  
whether this was not some  
kind of an angel sent down.

693  
00:34:03,510 --> 00:34:06,900  
Because why would-- I  
mean, it is a coincidence

694  
00:34:06,900 --> 00:34:07,770  
to be mentioned.

695  
00:34:07,770 --> 00:34:08,429  
Oh, yes.

696  
00:34:08,429 --> 00:34:09,179  
Indeed.

697  
00:34:09,179 --> 00:34:11,010  
You know you had  
mentioned earlier

698  
00:34:11,010 --> 00:34:13,469  
when we were talking that you  
had some type of an encounter

699  
00:34:13,469 --> 00:34:15,330  
with Wallenberg.

700  
00:34:15,330 --> 00:34:16,065  
Yeah.

701  
00:34:16,065 --> 00:34:18,300  
Well, that came later.

702  
00:34:18,300 --> 00:34:21,179

Yes, because when I came--

703

00:34:21,179 --> 00:34:23,590

then I came back to Hungary.

704

00:34:23,590 --> 00:34:25,969

And in Hungary, as I

said, that time was--

705

00:34:25,969 --> 00:34:29,340

I was from 1941 from

1942 in the ghetto.

706

00:34:29,340 --> 00:34:32,790

And that time, Germany

still didn't occupy Hungary.

707

00:34:32,790 --> 00:34:34,230

It was no ghetto yet.

708

00:34:34,230 --> 00:34:35,370

It was my aunt there.

709

00:34:35,370 --> 00:34:36,780

And she asked me what it was.

710

00:34:36,780 --> 00:34:39,570

And she didn't believe

I ate potato peels

711

00:34:39,570 --> 00:34:41,159

and stuff like that.

712

00:34:41,159 --> 00:34:44,909

But as we closed into the

year, more and more Germans

713

00:34:44,909 --> 00:34:45,900

came to Hungary.

714

00:34:45,900 --> 00:34:49,260

Until finally, on the

Main Street of Hungary,

715

00:34:49,260 --> 00:34:50,850  
the Germans marched in.

716

00:34:50,850 --> 00:34:54,330  
And that was the end.

717

00:34:54,330 --> 00:34:56,250  
Hungary was occupied by German.

718

00:34:56,250 --> 00:34:57,300  
And you know Horthy.

719

00:34:57,300 --> 00:35:01,510  
Horthy was the-- so he went away  
with his white horse and stuff

720

00:35:01,510 --> 00:35:02,010  
like that.

721

00:35:02,010 --> 00:35:04,650  
But he tried, as a matter  
of fact, to save the Jews.

722

00:35:04,650 --> 00:35:10,170  
But he was too weak to do  
anything in that respect.

723

00:35:10,170 --> 00:35:11,640  
And then the Germans came in.

724

00:35:11,640 --> 00:35:13,740  
And then, of course,  
German took over

725

00:35:13,740 --> 00:35:15,480  
like they took over  
the other countries.

726

00:35:15,480 --> 00:35:16,740  
And then came the ghetto.

727  
00:35:16,740 --> 00:35:19,320

728  
00:35:19,320 --> 00:35:21,750  
And knowing what the  
ghetto is because I

729  
00:35:21,750 --> 00:35:26,020  
had a little bit of  
experience before, so I said,

730  
00:35:26,020 --> 00:35:30,480  
I am not going to  
go in the ghetto.

731  
00:35:30,480 --> 00:35:32,820  
And as I said, I  
worked with that lawyer

732  
00:35:32,820 --> 00:35:37,410  
and I had these papers from  
this lawyer's daughter,

733  
00:35:37,410 --> 00:35:40,230  
what I stole from the safe.

734  
00:35:40,230 --> 00:35:41,190  
And I said I'm not.

735  
00:35:41,190 --> 00:35:43,860  
And my aunt said, well,  
come with us and everything.

736  
00:35:43,860 --> 00:35:46,440  
She said, by the way,  
that time, she said, now I

737  
00:35:46,440 --> 00:35:49,830  
know what you told me what  
went on in the ghetto.

738

00:35:49,830 --> 00:35:51,420  
I can believe it now more.

739  
00:35:51,420 --> 00:35:53,670  
And as the year went  
by, she believed me,

740  
00:35:53,670 --> 00:35:55,170  
unfortunately, more and more.

741  
00:35:55,170 --> 00:36:00,300  
She was a very lovely lady,  
very nice aunt what I had.

742  
00:36:00,300 --> 00:36:03,810  
So they all went to ghetto and  
I went with the Catholic papers.

743  
00:36:03,810 --> 00:36:06,150  
Do you know where  
the Balaton is?

744  
00:36:06,150 --> 00:36:06,650  
Yes.

745  
00:36:06,650 --> 00:36:07,260  
That's a lake.

746  
00:36:07,260 --> 00:36:10,680  
Balaton Lake, I was  
working with my friend,

747  
00:36:10,680 --> 00:36:15,480  
with a Hungarian friend of  
mine, as a maid and a nurse.

748  
00:36:15,480 --> 00:36:18,240  
One week I was the maid  
and she was the nurse,

749  
00:36:18,240 --> 00:36:21,570  
and one week I was a nurse  
and she was the maid.



750  
00:36:21,570 --> 00:36:25,200  
We work there months with  
my papers that I had.

751  
00:36:25,200 --> 00:36:26,460  
And she had other papers.

752  
00:36:26,460 --> 00:36:27,300  
It was Catholic.

753  
00:36:27,300 --> 00:36:28,290  
We went to church.

754  
00:36:28,290 --> 00:36:32,740  
And I learned to pray and  
all stuff with the children.

755  
00:36:32,740 --> 00:36:37,300  
And one day, a policeman  
comes to our house

756  
00:36:37,300 --> 00:36:39,810  
and checks our papers.

757  
00:36:39,810 --> 00:36:42,580  
Checked her paper  
and checked my paper.

758  
00:36:42,580 --> 00:36:44,500  
And just said, OK.

759  
00:36:44,500 --> 00:36:48,340  
We will check it out and we'll  
come for you in the morning.

760  
00:36:48,340 --> 00:36:52,270  
And I knew that they  
will check out my papers.

761  
00:36:52,270 --> 00:36:54,640  
This was an aristocrat

where I worked.

762  
00:36:54,640 --> 00:36:56,230  
He had a phone, you know?

763  
00:36:56,230 --> 00:36:56,770  
Yeah, sure.

764  
00:36:56,770 --> 00:36:57,460  
That lawyer.

765  
00:36:57,460 --> 00:37:00,940  
So I knew that they  
will know that I am not

766  
00:37:00,940 --> 00:37:03,610  
the daughter from  
that aristocratic man.

767  
00:37:03,610 --> 00:37:06,940  
So I said to my friend,  
Monica, I said, you know what?

768  
00:37:06,940 --> 00:37:09,550  
They will know that  
we have papers.

769  
00:37:09,550 --> 00:37:11,590  
Let's run away.

770  
00:37:11,590 --> 00:37:14,230  
And we went out to the  
railroad in the night.

771  
00:37:14,230 --> 00:37:16,810  
I had four children  
there and the parents

772  
00:37:16,810 --> 00:37:17,800  
were somewhere else.

773  
00:37:17,800 --> 00:37:18,920

So I tucked them in.

774

00:37:18,920 --> 00:37:21,240

And I hope nothing will  
happen to the children.

775

00:37:21,240 --> 00:37:23,740

And we went through the window.

776

00:37:23,740 --> 00:37:26,200

And we went to the  
railroad station.

777

00:37:26,200 --> 00:37:27,940

And at the railroad  
station, we met

778

00:37:27,940 --> 00:37:33,440

the same guy who came that  
day for us for our papers.

779

00:37:33,440 --> 00:37:35,620

That was the end of our freedom.

780

00:37:35,620 --> 00:37:37,270

They caught both of us.

781

00:37:37,270 --> 00:37:40,540

And that's how we went from  
camp to camp to camp to camp.

782

00:37:40,540 --> 00:37:42,460

And I was, that time--

783

00:37:42,460 --> 00:37:44,650

that was in 1943.

784

00:37:44,650 --> 00:37:45,950

So two years.

785

00:37:45,950 --> 00:37:47,450

These were all

Hungarian work camps?

786  
00:37:47,450 --> 00:37:49,390  
These were all  
Hungarian work camps.

787  
00:37:49,390 --> 00:37:51,730  
Only that one,  
[INAUDIBLE],, which

788  
00:37:51,730 --> 00:37:53,500  
was near the Austrian border.

789  
00:37:53,500 --> 00:37:55,900  
And I ran away from most  
of them, by the way.

790  
00:37:55,900 --> 00:37:57,790  
Because I had the  
experience already.

791  
00:37:57,790 --> 00:38:01,270  
This, I cannot go to  
every aspect of camp life.

792  
00:38:01,270 --> 00:38:03,170  
It would take too long.

793  
00:38:03,170 --> 00:38:05,920  
But if you want something  
to know, I can tell you.

794  
00:38:05,920 --> 00:38:09,400  
I had many, many incidents.

795  
00:38:09,400 --> 00:38:10,670  
Which one or two stands out?

796  
00:38:10,670 --> 00:38:12,150  
The one with Wallenberg.

797  
00:38:12,150 --> 00:38:16,050

The one that stands out.

798

00:38:16,050 --> 00:38:19,830

Were we in-- that was, I  
think it was [INAUDIBLE]..

799

00:38:19,830 --> 00:38:22,690

You see, my memory  
is failing me too.

800

00:38:22,690 --> 00:38:28,150

What Wallenberg  
did, he had a truck

801

00:38:28,150 --> 00:38:31,420

and he had a list of names.

802

00:38:31,420 --> 00:38:34,390

And he went to these camps.

803

00:38:34,390 --> 00:38:36,160

Because from these  
camps-- you know, like

804

00:38:36,160 --> 00:38:38,350

for instance [INAUDIBLE],,  
where we were,

805

00:38:38,350 --> 00:38:41,020

there was a camp when the  
war was [? full ?] written

806

00:38:41,020 --> 00:38:42,220

"goodbye, goodbye."

807

00:38:42,220 --> 00:38:43,810

Because from  
[INAUDIBLE],, they went

808

00:38:43,810 --> 00:38:46,010

to the German  
concentration camps.

809

00:38:46,010 --> 00:38:49,510

This was a collective camp  
where they collected people

810

00:38:49,510 --> 00:38:50,470

when they had enough.

811

00:38:50,470 --> 00:38:50,970

You know?

812

00:38:50,970 --> 00:38:53,650

Because they didn't take just a  
hundred people that they would

813

00:38:53,650 --> 00:38:56,210

[? pay. ?] When there were  
more, then they took them away.

814

00:38:56,210 --> 00:38:59,380

So this was a camp where  
from there on there

815

00:38:59,380 --> 00:39:00,580

was only one way.

816

00:39:00,580 --> 00:39:03,460

So Wallenberg, with  
his truck and his men,

817

00:39:03,460 --> 00:39:06,070

went to these camps with a list.

818

00:39:06,070 --> 00:39:08,920

At that time, they  
still acknowledged

819

00:39:08,920 --> 00:39:11,420

Wallenberg's authority.

820

00:39:11,420 --> 00:39:14,590

So he came to the camp and  
we were all standing there.

821  
00:39:14,590 --> 00:39:17,290  
And the German-- not the  
German, the Hungarian guard

822  
00:39:17,290 --> 00:39:18,470  
came with him.

823  
00:39:18,470 --> 00:39:23,500  
And he said, this list, what I  
am reading, all stand forward.

824  
00:39:23,500 --> 00:39:31,510  
Because this is under the Swiss,  
Swiss [? Schutz ?] protection.

825  
00:39:31,510 --> 00:39:32,940  
And he had that list.

826  
00:39:32,940 --> 00:39:35,200  
And I was in the Swiss house.

827  
00:39:35,200 --> 00:39:36,430  
That's how he knows my name.

828  
00:39:36,430 --> 00:39:39,500  
I think I mentioned it  
to you that I was there.

829  
00:39:39,500 --> 00:39:42,100  
So he comes and reads the list.

830  
00:39:42,100 --> 00:39:43,480  
And people stand forward.

831  
00:39:43,480 --> 00:39:45,800  
And then he comes near me.

832  
00:39:45,800 --> 00:39:48,310  
And I remember his  
face and everything.

833

00:39:48,310 --> 00:39:50,890

We called him the  
"Angel of the Jews"

834

00:39:50,890 --> 00:39:53,680

because he saved so many Jews.

835

00:39:53,680 --> 00:39:57,580

He stand before me and he  
says, are Margaret so-and-so.

836

00:39:57,580 --> 00:39:59,800

And I was little--

837

00:39:59,800 --> 00:40:03,520

I guess I was stupid because  
I didn't want to say nothing

838

00:40:03,520 --> 00:40:05,210

because I went after the rules.

839

00:40:05,210 --> 00:40:06,850

So I am not that.

840

00:40:06,850 --> 00:40:10,090

And the girl next kicked me.

841

00:40:10,090 --> 00:40:15,280

And said, so why don't you say  
that you are Maraget so-and-so.

842

00:40:15,280 --> 00:40:16,840

I said, yes, yes.

843

00:40:16,840 --> 00:40:18,760

I am Margaret so-and-so.

844

00:40:18,760 --> 00:40:20,170

Well, why don't  
you step forward?

845



00:40:20,170 --> 00:40:21,980  
He tells me, Wallenberg.

846  
00:40:21,980 --> 00:40:25,600  
Why does it take so long  
to recognize your name?

847  
00:40:25,600 --> 00:40:28,870  
And I stood forward and  
they took us in the bus

848  
00:40:28,870 --> 00:40:30,850  
and they took us  
back to Budapest.

849  
00:40:30,850 --> 00:40:33,250  
And that was one  
encounter what I

850  
00:40:33,250 --> 00:40:36,280  
had with Wallenberg in person.

851  
00:40:36,280 --> 00:40:37,900  
And I went back to Budapest.

852  
00:40:37,900 --> 00:40:40,480  
And now I didn't  
have, again, papers.

853  
00:40:40,480 --> 00:40:44,950  
So the other things were  
what I had from my father,

854  
00:40:44,950 --> 00:40:48,320  
they were all  
these gold watches.

855  
00:40:48,320 --> 00:40:49,410  
A pocket watch.

856  
00:40:49,410 --> 00:40:52,840  
There was a chain.

857

00:40:52,840 --> 00:40:55,660

And I had that chain,  
I had that gold chain.

858

00:40:55,660 --> 00:40:57,310

And I sewed it in--

859

00:40:57,310 --> 00:40:58,242

not my girdle.

860

00:40:58,242 --> 00:40:59,200

I didn't wear a girdle.

861

00:40:59,200 --> 00:41:00,850

But what holds the stockings on.

862

00:41:00,850 --> 00:41:03,860

What do you call that?

863

00:41:03,860 --> 00:41:04,510

Garter belt.

864

00:41:04,510 --> 00:41:05,200

Garter belt.

865

00:41:05,200 --> 00:41:05,770

Right.

866

00:41:05,770 --> 00:41:08,830

And I sewed that of the  
garter belt around it.

867

00:41:08,830 --> 00:41:11,440

And for that garter belt  
I bought the papers,

868

00:41:11,440 --> 00:41:13,150

what I still have home.

869

00:41:13,150 --> 00:41:15,380

This is the papers,

what I showed you.

870  
00:41:15,380 --> 00:41:21,160  
And with that papers, I left  
in one of the Christian--

871  
00:41:21,160 --> 00:41:23,290  
I never went to the ghetto.

872  
00:41:23,290 --> 00:41:24,370  
I rented the house.

873  
00:41:24,370 --> 00:41:28,510  
And Budapest was very,  
very hard bombed.

874  
00:41:28,510 --> 00:41:32,330  
And of course, between  
bombing and the Germans coming

875  
00:41:32,330 --> 00:41:36,890  
to where went in the basement.

876  
00:41:36,890 --> 00:41:39,170  
How do you call that?

877  
00:41:39,170 --> 00:41:40,015  
The bomb shelter.

878  
00:41:40,015 --> 00:41:41,098  
The bomb shelters we were.

879  
00:41:41,098 --> 00:41:42,590  
Between that and  
that, I sometimes

880  
00:41:42,590 --> 00:41:43,610  
walked on the streets.

881  
00:41:43,610 --> 00:41:44,720  
The bombs were falling.

882

00:41:44,720 --> 00:41:46,460

The dead people were around me.

883

00:41:46,460 --> 00:41:49,700

But I felt safer there  
than in the bomb shelter.

884

00:41:49,700 --> 00:41:53,540

Because the more it bombed,  
the more and more Germans came.

885

00:41:53,540 --> 00:41:55,940

They had nothing better to do.

886

00:41:55,940 --> 00:41:58,850

And the more and more  
came to the shelter.

887

00:41:58,850 --> 00:42:01,310

And took out people.

888

00:42:01,310 --> 00:42:02,870

And took them out to the Danube.

889

00:42:02,870 --> 00:42:07,320

And the Danube was floating  
with thousands of dead people.

890

00:42:07,320 --> 00:42:10,130

As a matter of fact, I will tell  
you-- remind me if I forget it.

891

00:42:10,130 --> 00:42:12,920

Because I have to tell you  
a very important incident

892

00:42:12,920 --> 00:42:15,200

after the war.

893

00:42:15,200 --> 00:42:16,850

Remind me for that.

894

00:42:16,850 --> 00:42:20,360

So now what did I  
tell you before?

895

00:42:20,360 --> 00:42:21,560

The Danube was--

896

00:42:21,560 --> 00:42:22,310

Oh, yes.

897

00:42:22,310 --> 00:42:27,210

So January 18, we were  
liberated by the Russians.

898

00:42:27,210 --> 00:42:33,170

And January 16, they still came,  
the Germans looking for Jews.

899

00:42:33,170 --> 00:42:37,910

And one of them, when they came  
and I was there in the shelter.

900

00:42:37,910 --> 00:42:41,420

I couldn't walk anymore on  
the street because it was just

901

00:42:41,420 --> 00:42:42,890

really [INAUDIBLE].

902

00:42:42,890 --> 00:42:46,035

Because the bombs were  
falling like anything.

903

00:42:46,035 --> 00:42:47,660

And there I made an  
[? acquaintance. ?]

904

00:42:47,660 --> 00:42:51,680

You see, I must to tell  
you one other aspect here.

905

00:42:51,680 --> 00:42:53,700

What I don't like  
to go into that,

906  
00:42:53,700 --> 00:42:57,570  
but it may be  
sometimes embarrassing.

907  
00:42:57,570 --> 00:43:02,510  
But I said after the  
ghetto that I came

908  
00:43:02,510 --> 00:43:06,770  
back, I said I have to survive.

909  
00:43:06,770 --> 00:43:12,650  
Standing or laying,  
but I will survive.

910  
00:43:12,650 --> 00:43:14,930  
There was no  
morality left in me.

911  
00:43:14,930 --> 00:43:18,500  
Even so, I was brought up in  
a house where if I wasn't home

912  
00:43:18,500 --> 00:43:23,600  
by 8:00, my father was walking  
before the house, you know?

913  
00:43:23,600 --> 00:43:29,540  
And there was one  
guy who said, well--

914  
00:43:29,540 --> 00:43:34,400  
I think, I am almost sure  
that he knew I was Jewish.

915  
00:43:34,400 --> 00:43:36,710  
But he somehow got  
a liking to me.

916  
00:43:36,710 --> 00:43:41,730

And he said that if I am  
nice, he will be nice.

917  
00:43:41,730 --> 00:43:45,290  
And I said I will be as  
nice as you want me to be.

918  
00:43:45,290 --> 00:43:47,510  
And when the guy came to check--

919  
00:43:47,510 --> 00:43:49,520  
because they check the  
papers, who is Jewish,

920  
00:43:49,520 --> 00:43:50,810  
who is not Jewish.

921  
00:43:50,810 --> 00:43:53,045  
And there was  
another family there.

922  
00:43:53,045 --> 00:43:57,080  
A woman, a husband-- a woman  
and her husband and the son.

923  
00:43:57,080 --> 00:44:01,640  
A nice, fat,  
beautiful-looking Jewish boy.

924  
00:44:01,640 --> 00:44:04,850  
And she was with papers  
and I was with papers.

925  
00:44:04,850 --> 00:44:07,580  
And somehow one Jew  
recognized the other one.

926  
00:44:07,580 --> 00:44:12,110  
Somehow by feeling or  
by look or by eyes.

927  
00:44:12,110 --> 00:44:15,170  
There was some kind

of rapport that one

928  
00:44:15,170 --> 00:44:16,340  
knew when the other Jew.

929  
00:44:16,340 --> 00:44:22,670  
But one aspect of  
this, which is--

930  
00:44:22,670 --> 00:44:26,780  
maybe nobody told you  
or maybe they did.

931  
00:44:26,780 --> 00:44:31,040  
There was an aspect to it  
when one Jew was caught,

932  
00:44:31,040 --> 00:44:38,220  
then they had the tendency,  
unfortunately, if I was caught,

933  
00:44:38,220 --> 00:44:40,550  
then you should be caught too.

934  
00:44:40,550 --> 00:44:45,290  
I don't go into  
psychological reasoning.

935  
00:44:45,290 --> 00:44:47,150  
But maybe there is a reasoning.

936  
00:44:47,150 --> 00:44:48,740  
There is an answer to it.

937  
00:44:48,740 --> 00:44:51,800  
And when the German  
guy came, when

938  
00:44:51,800 --> 00:44:54,860  
the Nazi came to  
check the papers,

939



00:44:54,860 --> 00:44:58,840  
they saw the boy was  
standing beside me.

940  
00:44:58,840 --> 00:44:59,510  
It runs out?

941  
00:44:59,510 --> 00:45:01,000  
Can we--

942  
00:45:01,000 --> 00:45:02,000