

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,390

2
00:00:02,390 --> 00:00:05,240
Today is April 8, 1992.

3
00:00:05,240 --> 00:00:08,820
I am Anthony DiIorio, and I'm
in Flemington, New Jersey.

4
00:00:08,820 --> 00:00:12,050
I'm here on behalf of the
United States Holocaust Memorial

5
00:00:12,050 --> 00:00:15,270
Museum in Washington
to interview

6
00:00:15,270 --> 00:00:18,890
Mr. Solomon Urbach
about his experiences

7
00:00:18,890 --> 00:00:20,420
during the Holocaust.

8
00:00:20,420 --> 00:00:21,350
Good morning.

9
00:00:21,350 --> 00:00:23,050
Good morning.

10
00:00:23,050 --> 00:00:26,650
I am facing a difficult
task, because I

11
00:00:26,650 --> 00:00:33,550
have to organize my
thoughts and go back

12
00:00:33,550 --> 00:00:40,490
into a difficult period
bringing me back to prewar--

13

00:00:40,490 --> 00:00:45,290
pre World War II,
and the World War II

14
00:00:45,290 --> 00:00:48,260
experiences in different
concentration camps.

15
00:00:48,260 --> 00:00:50,760
I'll do my best.

16
00:00:50,760 --> 00:00:52,030
Where were you born?

17
00:00:52,030 --> 00:00:59,500
I was born in Kalwaria
Zebrzydowska in Poland

18
00:00:59,500 --> 00:01:06,670
on October 25, 1926.

19
00:01:06,670 --> 00:01:09,610
How many brothers and
sisters did you have?

20
00:01:09,610 --> 00:01:16,120
We were-- our family was four
brothers, two sisters, father

21
00:01:16,120 --> 00:01:17,870
and mother.

22
00:01:17,870 --> 00:01:21,440
My oldest brother's
name was Samuel.

23
00:01:21,440 --> 00:01:25,940
My-- next to him
was [? Rivka. ?]

24
00:01:25,940 --> 00:01:31,310
Then I would be the next
in line, Sol Urbach.

25
00:01:31,310 --> 00:01:34,580

After that there were
[? Hannah, ?] the sister

26
00:01:34,580 --> 00:01:39,690
younger than I am, and my
younger next brother was

27
00:01:39,690 --> 00:01:44,590
[? Haskill. ?] And the youngest
brother was [? Shiman. ?]

28
00:01:44,590 --> 00:01:48,550
What was it like
growing up in Kalwaria?

29
00:01:48,550 --> 00:01:56,350
The time of Kalwaria
as a very young person,

30
00:01:56,350 --> 00:02:01,090
I don't remember, other than
later on returning on visits.

31
00:02:01,090 --> 00:02:05,440
But I remember my youth
when I spent some time

32
00:02:05,440 --> 00:02:12,610
in Romania, five years, where
I was attending Talmud Torah

33
00:02:12,610 --> 00:02:17,810
and attending first
grade, a public school.

34
00:02:17,810 --> 00:02:22,160
And then I remember traveling
back with my family to Kraków,

35
00:02:22,160 --> 00:02:27,410
Poland where we grew
up outside of Kraków,

36
00:02:27,410 --> 00:02:29,930
an area known as Borek Fałęcki.

37

00:02:29,930 --> 00:02:33,220

38

00:02:33,220 --> 00:02:36,280

And those were the
years in Borek Fałęcki,

39

00:02:36,280 --> 00:02:49,950

I spent the years
of 1933 to '39.

40

00:02:49,950 --> 00:02:54,720

And after 1939, when the
Germans already marched in, we

41

00:02:54,720 --> 00:02:58,050

continued living
in Borek Fałęcki,

42

00:02:58,050 --> 00:03:04,920

and even went on living in
Borek Fałęcki past the time when

43

00:03:04,920 --> 00:03:11,430

the Germans ordered us to
report to a ghetto in Kraków,

44

00:03:11,430 --> 00:03:17,880

which we managed to stay away
from for one full year until

45

00:03:17,880 --> 00:03:23,370

the situation got very difficult
where the Polish neighbors

46

00:03:23,370 --> 00:03:26,430

would tell us that they no
longer would be able to keep

47

00:03:26,430 --> 00:03:29,830

quiet about us being
outside of the ghetto,

48

00:03:29,830 --> 00:03:33,230

and we better leave the town

and report to the ghetto.

49

00:03:33,230 --> 00:03:41,040
So in 1942, in early 1942, we--

50

00:03:41,040 --> 00:03:44,700
the whole family as a unit,
that means father, mother,

51

00:03:44,700 --> 00:03:49,440
and six children, went on
and reported to the ghetto,

52

00:03:49,440 --> 00:03:51,480
or smuggled ourselves
into the ghetto

53

00:03:51,480 --> 00:03:53,880
because it was no longer--

54

00:03:53,880 --> 00:03:59,550
we were no longer legally
able to turn ourselves

55

00:03:59,550 --> 00:04:00,360
into the ghetto.

56

00:04:00,360 --> 00:04:03,630

57

00:04:03,630 --> 00:04:07,470
Now, you mentioned that
your family moved to Romania

58

00:04:07,470 --> 00:04:08,520
when you were young.

59

00:04:08,520 --> 00:04:11,460
Was there any
particular reason why?

60

00:04:11,460 --> 00:04:21,589
It was because my mother's
brother lived in Romania

61
00:04:21,589 --> 00:04:25,490
and was doing real well,
was able to support

62
00:04:25,490 --> 00:04:27,860
his family better
than my parents were

63
00:04:27,860 --> 00:04:30,180
able to do in Poland.

64
00:04:30,180 --> 00:04:32,630
So they have
influenced my parents

65
00:04:32,630 --> 00:04:39,020
to move to Romania where things
would be easy, or easier.

66
00:04:39,020 --> 00:04:41,360
Eventually, what
happened, really,

67
00:04:41,360 --> 00:04:49,860
is that we spent there from
1928 to 1933 in Romania.

68
00:04:49,860 --> 00:04:58,810
And the Romanian government
has expelled us as a family.

69
00:04:58,810 --> 00:05:01,230
We were not welcome in Romania.

70
00:05:01,230 --> 00:05:07,570
The Polish citizen would-- not
having a Romanian citizenship,

71
00:05:07,570 --> 00:05:10,540
they eventually got
to us and expelled us.

72
00:05:10,540 --> 00:05:16,810
And I remember vividly where the
Romanian authorities brought us

73
00:05:16,810 --> 00:05:22,060
to the border of
Poland and Romania,

74
00:05:22,060 --> 00:05:25,270
and sent us across the border.

75
00:05:25,270 --> 00:05:32,320
And across the border in
Poland, the Polish authorities

76
00:05:32,320 --> 00:05:35,470
immediately threw us
into jail as a family.

77
00:05:35,470 --> 00:05:43,780
And I remember vividly the
jail on the Polish side where

78
00:05:43,780 --> 00:05:46,360
the family of eight of us--

79
00:05:46,360 --> 00:05:48,400
six young children and parents--

80
00:05:48,400 --> 00:05:52,510
were sitting in a jail
cell with a high window

81
00:05:52,510 --> 00:05:57,010
above, like any criminal.

82
00:05:57,010 --> 00:06:01,350
And actually what happened
is we return to Poland where

83
00:06:01,350 --> 00:06:04,740
we were supposedly citizens.

84
00:06:04,740 --> 00:06:10,830
And it was only through the good
graces of some Polish residents

85

00:06:10,830 --> 00:06:13,890
in the area on the
Polish side that

86
00:06:13,890 --> 00:06:16,980
discovered that there was
a Jewish family in jail

87
00:06:16,980 --> 00:06:23,880
that they were able to influence
and release us from jail.

88
00:06:23,880 --> 00:06:26,070
So your first
experience in prison,

89
00:06:26,070 --> 00:06:27,390
you were only seven years old.

90
00:06:27,390 --> 00:06:27,990
That's right.

91
00:06:27,990 --> 00:06:30,690
And you were imprisoned
by Poles after being

92
00:06:30,690 --> 00:06:32,370
expelled by Romanians.

93
00:06:32,370 --> 00:06:34,620
Right.

94
00:06:34,620 --> 00:06:38,160
So you lived briefly
in Romania, and then

95
00:06:38,160 --> 00:06:39,810
of course, you lived in Poland.

96
00:06:39,810 --> 00:06:44,220
How would you describe
the ways in which Jews

97
00:06:44,220 --> 00:06:46,110
were treated in each country?

98

00:06:46,110 --> 00:06:50,280

Was it worse, or better in
one country versus the other?

99

00:06:50,280 --> 00:06:56,100

I could not make a
great comparison of Jews

100

00:06:56,100 --> 00:06:59,580

and their conditions of
living in different countries.

101

00:06:59,580 --> 00:07:07,220

But in my own country in Poland,
after returning from Romania,

102

00:07:07,220 --> 00:07:12,620

I remember that I had to walk--

103

00:07:12,620 --> 00:07:15,980

I say-- when I say I, it was
together with my other brothers

104

00:07:15,980 --> 00:07:20,150

or sisters who already went
to school at that time,

105

00:07:20,150 --> 00:07:23,720

we went from Borek Fałęcki to--

106

00:07:23,720 --> 00:07:29,030

we walked four kilometers
daily to a school in the center

107

00:07:29,030 --> 00:07:34,190

of Kraków, which
known as [POLISH],,

108

00:07:34,190 --> 00:07:36,980

number 14 public school.

109

00:07:36,980 --> 00:07:40,310

And this was-- I did that for
six years walking the four

110
00:07:40,310 --> 00:07:40,850
mile--

111
00:07:40,850 --> 00:07:44,760
four kilometers
daily to that school.

112
00:07:44,760 --> 00:07:48,200
And the reason for that was
while there was a school

113
00:07:48,200 --> 00:07:55,100
directly across from my
home in Borek Fałęcki,

114
00:07:55,100 --> 00:08:01,190
this was a non-Jewish school,
and I would have suffered

115
00:08:01,190 --> 00:08:06,070
greatly, because at that time,
I didn't speak the language.

116
00:08:06,070 --> 00:08:13,390
And generally, there was
an antisemitic feeling.

117
00:08:13,390 --> 00:08:16,570
So we couldn't attend that
school so we walked four

118
00:08:16,570 --> 00:08:19,870
kilometers to a school
in the middle of Kraków,

119
00:08:19,870 --> 00:08:25,960
which had a total student body--
a total Jewish student body.

120
00:08:25,960 --> 00:08:27,570
So this was--

121
00:08:27,570 --> 00:08:28,830
So it was a Jewish school.

122

00:08:28,830 --> 00:08:31,080

It was a Jewish--
non-Jewish teachers

123

00:08:31,080 --> 00:08:32,760

and it was a regular
public school,

124

00:08:32,760 --> 00:08:36,630

but it was composed of
only Jewish students,

125

00:08:36,630 --> 00:08:37,515

as far as I remember.

126

00:08:37,515 --> 00:08:40,700

127

00:08:40,700 --> 00:08:50,367

The walking to that school
had to be done rain--

128

00:08:50,367 --> 00:08:50,950

Rain or shine.

129

00:08:50,950 --> 00:08:53,500

--in good-- rain or shine,
good weather, bad weather,

130

00:08:53,500 --> 00:08:54,940

winter, summer.

131

00:08:54,940 --> 00:09:03,460

And it also-- we would also have
a encounter on a daily basis--

132

00:09:03,460 --> 00:09:09,380

rock throwing at us by
Polish Christian kids,

133

00:09:09,380 --> 00:09:13,850

who somehow knew that there
were the Jewish kids walking.

134

00:09:13,850 --> 00:09:16,370

Or even if I was alone,
they still would know it.

135

00:09:16,370 --> 00:09:21,380

And we had to go through at
times a hail of rock throwers

136

00:09:21,380 --> 00:09:22,520

to get to our school.

137

00:09:22,520 --> 00:09:26,990

But we did that for six
years, as far as I remember.

138

00:09:26,990 --> 00:09:29,738

Well, were you the only
one in your family that

139

00:09:29,738 --> 00:09:32,030

went to the school, or were
your brothers and sisters--

140

00:09:32,030 --> 00:09:33,800

No.

141

00:09:33,800 --> 00:09:37,170

One brother and one sister went
to the same school with me.

142

00:09:37,170 --> 00:09:40,130

The others probably were too
young to attend any school

143

00:09:40,130 --> 00:09:41,330

at that time.

144

00:09:41,330 --> 00:09:43,250

And this would be
Rivka and Samuel.

145

00:09:43,250 --> 00:09:43,750

Right.

146

00:09:43,750 --> 00:09:49,900

147

00:09:49,900 --> 00:09:53,240

And you also attended one
year of school in Romania?

148

00:09:53,240 --> 00:09:57,340

I attended the first
grade in Romania.

149

00:09:57,340 --> 00:10:03,340

After arriving in Poland,
the Polish authorities--

150

00:10:03,340 --> 00:10:06,700

school authorities
have told us that I

151

00:10:06,700 --> 00:10:09,260

would have to repeat the
first grade in Poland.

152

00:10:09,260 --> 00:10:11,770

So as a result of that, I
repeated the first grade

153

00:10:11,770 --> 00:10:14,260

in Kraków, Poland.

154

00:10:14,260 --> 00:10:16,810

Did you have similar
experiences when

155

00:10:16,810 --> 00:10:18,670

you went to school
in Romania, that is,

156

00:10:18,670 --> 00:10:23,500

rock throwing or were
restrictions on Jewish--

157

00:10:23,500 --> 00:10:28,030

I-- but the Romanian experience
as far as being Jewish,

158

00:10:28,030 --> 00:10:29,530

I could not say much.

159

00:10:29,530 --> 00:10:32,740

I don't remember what
happened there with the rock

160

00:10:32,740 --> 00:10:33,640

throwers or not.

161

00:10:33,640 --> 00:10:39,190

But chances are that there were
not near as bad in Romania.

162

00:10:39,190 --> 00:10:41,650

Otherwise, I would have
been left with some memories

163

00:10:41,650 --> 00:10:44,050

of that time.

164

00:10:44,050 --> 00:10:46,930

How would you describe your
family's religious life?

165

00:10:46,930 --> 00:10:50,640

166

00:10:50,640 --> 00:10:57,520

We were an observant family,
religiously speaking.

167

00:10:57,520 --> 00:11:04,020

My father was at times a Cantor
conducting services for others.

168

00:11:04,020 --> 00:11:06,105

I would at times be his helper.

169

00:11:06,105 --> 00:11:09,260

170

00:11:09,260 --> 00:11:12,860

But we were obviously

not religious enough

171
00:11:12,860 --> 00:11:17,720
for our grandfather to be
comfortable in our home

172
00:11:17,720 --> 00:11:26,430
and approve of our grade
of religious behavior.

173
00:11:26,430 --> 00:11:28,890
Was this grandfather Urbach?

174
00:11:28,890 --> 00:11:30,900
This was grandfather
[? Boldinger. ?]

175
00:11:30,900 --> 00:11:31,910
[? Boldinger. ?]

176
00:11:31,910 --> 00:11:32,670
Right.

177
00:11:32,670 --> 00:11:36,870
Did you live with your
grandparents' in the same

178
00:11:36,870 --> 00:11:37,890
house?

179
00:11:37,890 --> 00:11:41,340
At the earliest
stage of our life,

180
00:11:41,340 --> 00:11:44,010
my mother came from
Kalwaria and, therefore, we

181
00:11:44,010 --> 00:11:48,750
would live with-- we lived at
that time with my grandfather

182
00:11:48,750 --> 00:11:50,400
in Kalwaria.

183

00:11:50,400 --> 00:11:54,000
But after you moved to Romania,
you no longer lived with them.

184

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:54,600
No.

185

00:11:54,600 --> 00:11:58,200
In Romania, we were not living
with any other family member

186

00:11:58,200 --> 00:12:00,600
other than the eight of us.

187

00:12:00,600 --> 00:12:04,140
And the same when we
came back to Poland.

188

00:12:04,140 --> 00:12:09,498
What kind of home did you live
in when you lived in Borek?

189

00:12:09,498 --> 00:12:20,210
In Borek Fałęcki, we
lived in a rundown--

190

00:12:20,210 --> 00:12:25,940
home, actually, where the eight
of us in the family of eight

191

00:12:25,940 --> 00:12:28,205
of us lived in two rooms.

192

00:12:28,205 --> 00:12:30,850

193

00:12:30,850 --> 00:12:40,540
And we lived there for the
duration of 1933 to 1942

194

00:12:40,540 --> 00:12:45,670
under these living
conditions with two rooms.

195

00:12:45,670 --> 00:12:50,620
My father was a tailor
and hardly made a living.

196
00:12:50,620 --> 00:12:56,320
And food was certainly greatly
appreciated when it was there.

197
00:12:56,320 --> 00:12:58,450
Holidays were observed.

198
00:12:58,450 --> 00:13:00,670
We managed to go to
public school, as well

199
00:13:00,670 --> 00:13:02,440
as the religious schools.

200
00:13:02,440 --> 00:13:06,370
But we all appreciated
food all the time.

201
00:13:06,370 --> 00:13:09,700
It was not plentiful at all.

202
00:13:09,700 --> 00:13:12,070
So times were
tough economically.

203
00:13:12,070 --> 00:13:15,910
Economically, times were tough
as far back as I remember.

204
00:13:15,910 --> 00:13:19,450
We never had it very good
where we could move out

205
00:13:19,450 --> 00:13:22,870
into different living quarters.

206
00:13:22,870 --> 00:13:24,020
We had to stay there.

207
00:13:24,020 --> 00:13:28,040
This is-- this was

our life up to 1942.

208

00:13:28,040 --> 00:13:30,370

Did your father work
for someone else?

209

00:13:30,370 --> 00:13:34,120

No, he was a tailor and
he worked for himself.

210

00:13:34,120 --> 00:13:34,820

At home.

211

00:13:34,820 --> 00:13:35,800

At home.

212

00:13:35,800 --> 00:13:37,690

But so the shop--

213

00:13:37,690 --> 00:13:38,920

He had a shop in the house?

214

00:13:38,920 --> 00:13:40,120

Right in the house.

215

00:13:40,120 --> 00:13:44,230

The shop consisted of a
sewing machine and lots

216

00:13:44,230 --> 00:13:45,370

of threads and needles.

217

00:13:45,370 --> 00:13:48,290

And that was his shop.

218

00:13:48,290 --> 00:13:52,160

Did your mother have time
other than raising such

219

00:13:52,160 --> 00:13:54,920

a large family to also work?

220

00:13:54,920 --> 00:13:55,820

No.

221
00:13:55,820 --> 00:13:59,220
My mother was not working
outside of the home.

222
00:13:59,220 --> 00:14:03,030
She was totally preoccupied
with the raising of the six

223
00:14:03,030 --> 00:14:03,530
children.

224
00:14:03,530 --> 00:14:06,040

225
00:14:06,040 --> 00:14:09,850
What languages did your
family use at home?

226
00:14:09,850 --> 00:14:17,410
When we returned from Romania,
we all spoke Romanian.

227
00:14:17,410 --> 00:14:19,390
Those children that
were already old enough

228
00:14:19,390 --> 00:14:21,770
to speak the language
spoke Romanian.

229
00:14:21,770 --> 00:14:25,990
I spoke Romanian and did
not speak a word of Polish.

230
00:14:25,990 --> 00:14:31,760
When we came into Poland, the--

231
00:14:31,760 --> 00:14:36,010
our language at
home was Yiddish,

232
00:14:36,010 --> 00:14:38,530
but we also spoke Romanian.

233

00:14:38,530 --> 00:14:42,190

When we arrived in Poland,
the school authorities

234

00:14:42,190 --> 00:14:44,230

advised us that the
best thing would

235

00:14:44,230 --> 00:14:48,940

be if the language at
home became Polish rather

236

00:14:48,940 --> 00:14:52,060

than Yiddish to help us
get along a little faster

237

00:14:52,060 --> 00:14:53,740

and learn the language.

238

00:14:53,740 --> 00:14:58,150

And by doing that,
one year later,

239

00:14:58,150 --> 00:15:00,310

I remember myself
speaking Polish

240

00:15:00,310 --> 00:15:05,180

and almost totally forgetting
the Romanian language.

241

00:15:05,180 --> 00:15:08,890

Your parents, though, they
mainly spoke in Yiddish?

242

00:15:08,890 --> 00:15:12,730

My parents spoke Yiddish
amongst themselves.

243

00:15:12,730 --> 00:15:14,230

And the whole family
spoke Yiddish.

244

00:15:14,230 --> 00:15:16,750

Yiddish was the language.

245

00:15:16,750 --> 00:15:20,020

Did your father
also knew Polish.

246

00:15:20,020 --> 00:15:23,170

My father, mother spoke Polish.

247

00:15:23,170 --> 00:15:27,380

But usually, the
majority of times

248

00:15:27,380 --> 00:15:29,920

they were speaking Yiddish.

249

00:15:29,920 --> 00:15:32,230

What about your father's
customers, what kind

250

00:15:32,230 --> 00:15:33,560

of customers did he have?

251

00:15:33,560 --> 00:15:38,560

The customers for
the tailoring were

252

00:15:38,560 --> 00:15:40,600

coming from the
Jewish community,

253

00:15:40,600 --> 00:15:45,250

from friends and neighbors.

254

00:15:45,250 --> 00:15:48,160

What kind of schooling-- would
you know what kind of schooling

255

00:15:48,160 --> 00:15:49,300

your parents had?

256

00:15:49,300 --> 00:15:54,340

I have no recollection, no
knowledge of what schooling

257

00:15:54,340 --> 00:15:57,490
my parents had.

258
00:15:57,490 --> 00:16:03,190
Do you recall whether or
not your father's business

259
00:16:03,190 --> 00:16:08,290
was affected in the 1930s by
any laws that were being passed

260
00:16:08,290 --> 00:16:09,962
by the Polish government?

261
00:16:09,962 --> 00:16:12,860

262
00:16:12,860 --> 00:16:19,340
My memories bring me
back to the 1933s--

263
00:16:19,340 --> 00:16:25,370
'33, which coincides with the
rise of Hitler and Germany,

264
00:16:25,370 --> 00:16:26,430
also at that time.

265
00:16:26,430 --> 00:16:31,380
This was not too much on my
mind Hitler's rise to power.

266
00:16:31,380 --> 00:16:37,620
But the antisemitic
situation just

267
00:16:37,620 --> 00:16:39,630
was getting stronger
and stronger,

268
00:16:39,630 --> 00:16:43,860
and life was a
little more difficult

269
00:16:43,860 --> 00:16:48,340

as the years went by up to
the war and into the war.

270

00:16:48,340 --> 00:16:52,320

And I remember vividly that
my father, who had a groomed

271

00:16:52,320 --> 00:16:56,760

beard and had to get
outside into the wall

272

00:16:56,760 --> 00:17:01,110

to see customers,
or walk the streets,

273

00:17:01,110 --> 00:17:03,840

he would take with
him a pair of scissors

274

00:17:03,840 --> 00:17:05,250

and carried them into--

275

00:17:05,250 --> 00:17:06,900

in his pocket.

276

00:17:06,900 --> 00:17:10,140

And that was not
meant to be there

277

00:17:10,140 --> 00:17:14,760

for his need in the trade, but
it was in case of an attack

278

00:17:14,760 --> 00:17:20,050

by antisemites, he would have
a way of defending himself.

279

00:17:20,050 --> 00:17:22,770

So that remains in my memory
that he took the scissors

280

00:17:22,770 --> 00:17:28,840

and put them away carefully
if he ever needed that.

281

00:17:28,840 --> 00:17:32,380
So antisemitism is
getting stronger.

282
00:17:32,380 --> 00:17:35,080
Antisemitism was getting
stronger and stronger

283
00:17:35,080 --> 00:17:40,510
every year since
the 1933s, which

284
00:17:40,510 --> 00:17:44,560
was about the time we arrived
from Romania to Poland.

285
00:17:44,560 --> 00:17:47,050
Did your family,
your parents mainly,

286
00:17:47,050 --> 00:17:50,610
did they ever talk about
Hitler and the Nazis?

287
00:17:50,610 --> 00:17:58,480
I have no memories of
strong talk about the Nazis,

288
00:17:58,480 --> 00:18:02,280
about Hitler, in my childhood.

289
00:18:02,280 --> 00:18:14,980
Also, towards 1938, '39, I
remember the great concern

290
00:18:14,980 --> 00:18:19,100
and reading papers.

291
00:18:19,100 --> 00:18:22,240
I did not read the papers,
but the adults did,

292
00:18:22,240 --> 00:18:25,240
and listening to
the radio, and where

293

00:18:25,240 --> 00:18:30,460

Poland was raving about its
strong army and its ability

294

00:18:30,460 --> 00:18:33,895

to defend itself if
attacked by the Germans.

295

00:18:33,895 --> 00:18:36,420

296

00:18:36,420 --> 00:18:39,150

So you were aware that
there was the danger of war.

297

00:18:39,150 --> 00:18:42,330

There was a danger of
war, and it was in the air

298

00:18:42,330 --> 00:18:47,500

as the years got closer to 1939.

299

00:18:47,500 --> 00:18:51,750

But I could not say that
I had any great idea what

300

00:18:51,750 --> 00:18:54,840

it meant to me myself.

301

00:18:54,840 --> 00:18:58,640

The Polish authorities
kept on hammering away

302

00:18:58,640 --> 00:19:03,300

that they are able to
withstand any attacks that

303

00:19:03,300 --> 00:19:05,310

would come from
Germany, and so there

304

00:19:05,310 --> 00:19:08,310

was no great concern, really.

305

00:19:08,310 --> 00:19:12,450
Did your parents ever talk about
or consider the possibility

306
00:19:12,450 --> 00:19:15,000
of emigrating, of leaving?

307
00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:20,250
No, we had no
conversations in our house

308
00:19:20,250 --> 00:19:24,230
that I would have remembered
about emigrating to any place.

309
00:19:24,230 --> 00:19:29,220
Of course, if we were going to
do that, when we were Romania,

310
00:19:29,220 --> 00:19:31,830
this was the time to
go towards Palestine

311
00:19:31,830 --> 00:19:33,510
opposed to go on to Poland.

312
00:19:33,510 --> 00:19:36,390
But I don't know
whether my parents

313
00:19:36,390 --> 00:19:41,040
had this option, whether
they had the means

314
00:19:41,040 --> 00:19:42,510
to do these things.

315
00:19:42,510 --> 00:19:45,870
They simply returned
from Romania to Poland.

316
00:19:45,870 --> 00:19:47,790
Now, would you know
why your parents

317

00:19:47,790 --> 00:19:54,040
chose to move to Borek
after the return,

318
00:19:54,040 --> 00:19:55,820
after you got out of prison?

319
00:19:55,820 --> 00:20:00,170
The-- yeah, the reason that we
returned to Borek Fałęcki is

320
00:20:00,170 --> 00:20:05,090
because we could not afford any
housing in the City of Kraków.

321
00:20:05,090 --> 00:20:08,660
And in fact, we needed
assistance to be able to afford

322
00:20:08,660 --> 00:20:11,072
any housing in Borek Fałęcki.

323
00:20:11,072 --> 00:20:13,818

324
00:20:13,818 --> 00:20:15,860
But your parents had never
lived there, so they--

325
00:20:15,860 --> 00:20:20,330
the goal was to move to
Kraków, or as close to Kraków

326
00:20:20,330 --> 00:20:21,000
as possible.

327
00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:21,500
Yes.

328
00:20:21,500 --> 00:20:24,620
The goal was to
somehow get to Kraków,

329
00:20:24,620 --> 00:20:28,160
and that's as close as we

could get to is Borek Fałęcki,

330

00:20:28,160 --> 00:20:33,440
only because the economical
means were not there.

331

00:20:33,440 --> 00:20:39,400
Now, what were you doing on
the day that the war began?

332

00:20:39,400 --> 00:20:46,450
September 1, 1939,
the war broke out.

333

00:20:46,450 --> 00:20:52,510
And as I recall it, it was in
two or three days the Germans

334

00:20:52,510 --> 00:20:55,710
were in Kraków.

335

00:20:55,710 --> 00:21:00,000
And I remember going
out with other children

336

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:07,590
to greet the Germans, to
get close to the tanks,

337

00:21:07,590 --> 00:21:09,450
and to the trucks,
and shake hands.

338

00:21:09,450 --> 00:21:13,860
And everybody was jovial
and there was no fear,

339

00:21:13,860 --> 00:21:21,240
because as the war approached,
the conversation at home

340

00:21:21,240 --> 00:21:26,040
was that the Germans are more
civil people than the Poles,

341

00:21:26,040 --> 00:21:28,740
and actually, there
wasn't much to fear.

342
00:21:28,740 --> 00:21:33,090
So from what I remember from
my parents' conversation,

343
00:21:33,090 --> 00:21:34,710
we were just free
to go and shake

344
00:21:34,710 --> 00:21:39,360
the hands of this more
civil people, the Germans.

345
00:21:39,360 --> 00:21:43,070

346
00:21:43,070 --> 00:21:47,210
They would occasionally
hand out some food to us

347
00:21:47,210 --> 00:21:48,410
in those early days.

348
00:21:48,410 --> 00:21:51,920

349
00:21:51,920 --> 00:21:53,300
Confusion was rampant.

350
00:21:53,300 --> 00:21:56,750

351
00:21:56,750 --> 00:21:59,360
My parents, along
with other people,

352
00:21:59,360 --> 00:22:04,010
did not even know whether
those soldiers that are now

353
00:22:04,010 --> 00:22:08,090
arriving in the

first days, and now

354

00:22:08,090 --> 00:22:13,400
are stationed at the bridges,
whether they were Germans,

355

00:22:13,400 --> 00:22:15,930
in fact, or whether they
were English soldiers.

356

00:22:15,930 --> 00:22:17,990
We heard so much about the--

357

00:22:17,990 --> 00:22:21,410
England coming in
and protecting us,

358

00:22:21,410 --> 00:22:24,090
so that we-- on the day when
they arrived and controlled

359

00:22:24,090 --> 00:22:27,260
the bridges and all this, we
had to go out and take a look

360

00:22:27,260 --> 00:22:30,590
and find out whether those
were Germans or English.

361

00:22:30,590 --> 00:22:34,250
And we discovered they were
Germans, which at that time

362

00:22:34,250 --> 00:22:37,550
made no difference to
us because we expected

363

00:22:37,550 --> 00:22:42,110
maybe better things opposed
to the catastrophe that

364

00:22:42,110 --> 00:22:44,450
was awaiting us.

365

00:22:44,450 --> 00:22:46,940

So at first, they
behaved decently.

366
00:22:46,940 --> 00:22:49,970
In the very first days,
the group of soldiers

367
00:22:49,970 --> 00:22:54,110
we ran into behaved
decently and handed out food

368
00:22:54,110 --> 00:22:59,130
and talked to us and
laughed, and we all laughed.

369
00:22:59,130 --> 00:23:02,250
And there was no
destruction, no combat.

370
00:23:02,250 --> 00:23:05,820
No, no destruction
other than the war

371
00:23:05,820 --> 00:23:13,050
was affecting us because now the
total civil population didn't

372
00:23:13,050 --> 00:23:13,630
know--

373
00:23:13,630 --> 00:23:15,930
did not know what to
do with themselves,

374
00:23:15,930 --> 00:23:18,000
whether to remain home.

375
00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:22,000
The bombers were coming
over Poland over our area.

376
00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:26,850
And we did not know
because of total confusion

377

00:23:26,850 --> 00:23:31,590
in Polish authorities as to what
is best to do is to stay home

378
00:23:31,590 --> 00:23:35,130
or not to stay home, or
go, where would you go,

379
00:23:35,130 --> 00:23:36,250
and all that.

380
00:23:36,250 --> 00:23:39,270
So we actually as a family
undertook to go towards

381
00:23:39,270 --> 00:23:41,970
the City of Kraków.

382
00:23:41,970 --> 00:23:44,370
What sense that
made, I can't tell,

383
00:23:44,370 --> 00:23:46,680
and it probably
didn't make any sense.

384
00:23:46,680 --> 00:23:51,180
But we walked towards the City
of Kraków in the unit of eight

385
00:23:51,180 --> 00:23:53,680
members in our family,
along with many,

386
00:23:53,680 --> 00:23:55,980
many thousands of
other families.

387
00:23:55,980 --> 00:24:01,380
And while walking towards
the City of Kraków,

388
00:24:01,380 --> 00:24:05,790
we walked in the hail of bombs
that were falling on the roads

389

00:24:05,790 --> 00:24:07,590
and streets.

390

00:24:07,590 --> 00:24:11,310
And we somehow managed to
get to Kraków, eventually.

391

00:24:11,310 --> 00:24:16,540
And then only to discover that
that was not a safer place,

392

00:24:16,540 --> 00:24:20,670
and then returned
back to Borek Fałęcki.

393

00:24:20,670 --> 00:24:23,790
How about school, did
school open that year?

394

00:24:23,790 --> 00:24:27,450
19-- the school was
totally interrupted.

395

00:24:27,450 --> 00:24:28,980
There was no longer--

396

00:24:28,980 --> 00:24:33,900
this was when the war broke
out was probably vacation time,

397

00:24:33,900 --> 00:24:39,930
and the schools never accepted
Jewish children after that.

398

00:24:39,930 --> 00:24:44,830
So my schooling was
interrupted in 1939.

399

00:24:44,830 --> 00:24:46,910
The religious school
was also closed,

400

00:24:46,910 --> 00:24:50,740
so essentially, there
was no schooling at all

401
00:24:50,740 --> 00:24:55,310
from September of 1939.

402
00:24:55,310 --> 00:24:58,750
So even your school, which
was mostly entirely Jewish

403
00:24:58,750 --> 00:24:59,920
students, that was closed.

404
00:24:59,920 --> 00:25:02,340
That was closed because
there were Jewish students.

405
00:25:02,340 --> 00:25:03,980
So there was no
schooling at all.

406
00:25:03,980 --> 00:25:05,230
It was all interrupted.

407
00:25:05,230 --> 00:25:07,150
Everything was in chaos.

408
00:25:07,150 --> 00:25:11,580
Jewish children did not
have any schools to enter.

409
00:25:11,580 --> 00:25:18,270
How long did the German
behavior remain civil?

410
00:25:18,270 --> 00:25:19,620
Very short.

411
00:25:19,620 --> 00:25:23,460
The civil behavior was
disappearing as they settled

412
00:25:23,460 --> 00:25:31,860
down in the city and began to
give orders on what Jews can

413

00:25:31,860 --> 00:25:33,960
and what Jews cannot do.

414
00:25:33,960 --> 00:25:38,220
And it was not much later
than entering into 1940

415
00:25:38,220 --> 00:25:42,270
already where there were
certain sections of the city

416
00:25:42,270 --> 00:25:47,760
off limits to Jews, and we could
not walk on certain streets.

417
00:25:47,760 --> 00:25:50,760
And later on, the orders
came out, again, to--

418
00:25:50,760 --> 00:25:54,795
that all Jews walking anyplace
would have to wear armband.

419
00:25:54,795 --> 00:25:57,480

420
00:25:57,480 --> 00:26:05,260
And as the war went
on in 1941, possibly,

421
00:26:05,260 --> 00:26:09,850
there were no Jews
allowed to walk anyplace

422
00:26:09,850 --> 00:26:14,460
unless they had business
and they would be identified

423
00:26:14,460 --> 00:26:17,310
by some armband that
would tell whether they

424
00:26:17,310 --> 00:26:22,030
work in an industry
that is important.

425

00:26:22,030 --> 00:26:30,770

I remember that my older brother
wore a armband with an R.

426

00:26:30,770 --> 00:26:32,960

And I can't even
remember where he worked,

427

00:26:32,960 --> 00:26:37,220

but evidently, he did work
in some important industry.

428

00:26:37,220 --> 00:26:38,030

In Kraków.

429

00:26:38,030 --> 00:26:39,440

In Kraków.

430

00:26:39,440 --> 00:26:42,660

And this would have been
when, after the ghetto?

431

00:26:42,660 --> 00:26:44,540

No, this was before
the ghetto opened.

432

00:26:44,540 --> 00:26:49,030

This was in 1940 and '41.

433

00:26:49,030 --> 00:26:53,110

My father was limited
in his ability

434

00:26:53,110 --> 00:26:57,880

to walk the streets from
the earlier days because

435

00:26:57,880 --> 00:27:00,910

of his beard, and
his appearance,

436

00:27:00,910 --> 00:27:03,260

and the neighbor's knowledge
that he was Jewish.

437

00:27:03,260 --> 00:27:05,260

So he was sort of limited.

438

00:27:05,260 --> 00:27:11,620

My mother undertook the duties
of providing for the family

439

00:27:11,620 --> 00:27:18,340

as soon as the war broke
out by appearing Christian.

440

00:27:18,340 --> 00:27:20,710

She was able to still
travel on trains

441

00:27:20,710 --> 00:27:23,980

and to go into villages
and return home

442

00:27:23,980 --> 00:27:27,550

with some provisions
of eggs, and flour,

443

00:27:27,550 --> 00:27:31,780

and other things that would
be necessary to survive.

444

00:27:31,780 --> 00:27:36,310

The children were also
expected from the first day on,

445

00:27:36,310 --> 00:27:43,960

each child that was already
grown up, maybe 12 to 13,

446

00:27:43,960 --> 00:27:48,320

to get into lines and stand on
lines, potentially a full night

447

00:27:48,320 --> 00:27:51,010

and into the day,
and see if they

448

00:27:51,010 --> 00:27:54,310

could buy a bread or other

provisions that we needed--

449

00:27:54,310 --> 00:27:57,850
coal, kerosene.

450

00:27:57,850 --> 00:28:01,660
So each child would have
the duty of getting on line.

451

00:28:01,660 --> 00:28:04,480
And I remember myself
standing on many occasions

452

00:28:04,480 --> 00:28:08,660
in cold nights, winter nights,
in lines waiting for bread.

453

00:28:08,660 --> 00:28:10,780
And when finally
the bakery opened

454

00:28:10,780 --> 00:28:13,450
and I got to the head of
the line, the bread ran out

455

00:28:13,450 --> 00:28:18,100
and I returned home
without anything.

456

00:28:18,100 --> 00:28:21,265
Was your brother Samuel the only
one who worked in the factory

457

00:28:21,265 --> 00:28:22,240
during these--

458

00:28:22,240 --> 00:28:25,660
As far as I remember, he has
the-- he had the only armband

459

00:28:25,660 --> 00:28:29,300
with an R on it.

460

00:28:29,300 --> 00:28:32,180
The rest of us were unemployed.

461
00:28:32,180 --> 00:28:35,420
Whether my father still
was able to do tailoring,

462
00:28:35,420 --> 00:28:40,730
I think, at home and
got some pay for that.

463
00:28:40,730 --> 00:28:45,550
But life was approaching
the unbearable.

464
00:28:45,550 --> 00:28:50,980
Were Germans present in
Borek during these years?

465
00:28:50,980 --> 00:28:54,840
In Borek Fałęcki, which was
about four kilometers outside

466
00:28:54,840 --> 00:28:58,530
of the city, there were Germans
but not in large groups.

467
00:28:58,530 --> 00:29:03,540
They were in the city
offices and managing

468
00:29:03,540 --> 00:29:05,340
the affairs of everything.

469
00:29:05,340 --> 00:29:09,300
But they were not in great
masses there as soldiers.

470
00:29:09,300 --> 00:29:12,680
So it was relatively
safer to live in Borek?

471
00:29:12,680 --> 00:29:17,010
It was relatively safer
there, and that's what led us

472
00:29:17,010 --> 00:29:20,670

to believe that when the order
finally came for us to report

473

00:29:20,670 --> 00:29:25,530
to the ghetto, that we could
survive somehow and maybe wait

474

00:29:25,530 --> 00:29:31,110
out the war by living in Borek
Fałęcki without reporting

475

00:29:31,110 --> 00:29:34,800
to the ghetto, always hoping
that the war will be over any

476

00:29:34,800 --> 00:29:36,060
day.

477

00:29:36,060 --> 00:29:39,330
Do you remember when this order
to report into the ghetto?

478

00:29:39,330 --> 00:29:42,120

479

00:29:42,120 --> 00:29:44,310
The order to report
to the ghetto

480

00:29:44,310 --> 00:29:52,500
would have been in
1941, middle of 1941.

481

00:29:52,500 --> 00:29:55,100
And we did not report till the--

482

00:29:55,100 --> 00:29:58,256
close to the middle of 1942.

483

00:29:58,256 --> 00:30:00,550
So you ignored
civil disobedience

484

00:30:00,550 --> 00:30:01,850
in the Urbach family.

485

00:30:01,850 --> 00:30:04,340

Yeah, we certainly were.

486

00:30:04,340 --> 00:30:09,070

In fact, when the--

487

00:30:09,070 --> 00:30:12,640

my family finally made the
decision to enter the ghetto,

488

00:30:12,640 --> 00:30:17,320

smuggle ourselves in,
a decision was also

489

00:30:17,320 --> 00:30:21,460

made that I could
potentially stay away and not

490

00:30:21,460 --> 00:30:25,210

report to the ghetto,
which I did temporarily.

491

00:30:25,210 --> 00:30:30,720

And a Polish employer
of mine at that time

492

00:30:30,720 --> 00:30:36,330

where I began to work
as a cabinet maker,

493

00:30:36,330 --> 00:30:40,410

because I had lots
of idle time, I

494

00:30:40,410 --> 00:30:45,540

began to observe a
cabinet maker's shop.

495

00:30:45,540 --> 00:30:49,260

And I was there often enough
to begin to learn the trade,

496

00:30:49,260 --> 00:30:53,500

and I was finally

employed by this Pole

497

00:30:53,500 --> 00:30:55,690
by the name of Kaminsky.

498

00:30:55,690 --> 00:30:56,880
Was this in Borek?

499

00:30:56,880 --> 00:31:04,360
In Borek Fałęcki that led me
to an employment with him.

500

00:31:04,360 --> 00:31:10,390
And so when my family
decided to enter together,

501

00:31:10,390 --> 00:31:14,230
he promised that he could help
me stay out of the ghetto,

502

00:31:14,230 --> 00:31:20,230
and he allowed me to
stay over in his shop

503

00:31:20,230 --> 00:31:22,630
and sleep in his shop.

504

00:31:22,630 --> 00:31:26,350
I can't say whether
I asked for it,

505

00:31:26,350 --> 00:31:29,710
or he volunteered at this point.

506

00:31:29,710 --> 00:31:35,470
But I did stay over for a
number of nights and days,

507

00:31:35,470 --> 00:31:39,520
continuing work in this
furniture-making shop

508

00:31:39,520 --> 00:31:43,720
and staying into the night
and sleeping at night.

509

00:31:43,720 --> 00:31:46,330

But the situation
got to be unbearable.

510

00:31:46,330 --> 00:31:50,320

I was dying of fear
at night sleeping

511

00:31:50,320 --> 00:31:57,730

in this shop of wood and tools,
and all alone in a large shop,

512

00:31:57,730 --> 00:32:00,610

being the youngster I was.

513

00:32:00,610 --> 00:32:02,290

I was simply dying of fear.

514

00:32:02,290 --> 00:32:04,900

I saw shadows walking around.

515

00:32:04,900 --> 00:32:07,330

I saw people knocking.

516

00:32:07,330 --> 00:32:10,300

I heard people knocking on the
doors, which was all not true

517

00:32:10,300 --> 00:32:13,300

but the fear was so great
that I couldn't survive there,

518

00:32:13,300 --> 00:32:16,630

and eventually, joined
my family in the ghetto.

519

00:32:16,630 --> 00:32:19,360

So you did not go
with the entire family

520

00:32:19,360 --> 00:32:20,950

when they went to the ghetto.

521

00:32:20,950 --> 00:32:21,500
That's right.

522
00:32:21,500 --> 00:32:23,740
You joined them
after a few days.

523
00:32:23,740 --> 00:32:25,120
Few days, yeah.

524
00:32:25,120 --> 00:32:28,320
What were your brothers
and sisters doing in Borek

525
00:32:28,320 --> 00:32:32,770
before they went to the
ghetto with your parents,

526
00:32:32,770 --> 00:32:35,650
besides getting on
lines and trying to get

527
00:32:35,650 --> 00:32:39,440
food and stuff like that?

528
00:32:39,440 --> 00:32:45,860
The only one that was
employed would have

529
00:32:45,860 --> 00:32:49,490
been my oldest brother, Samuel.

530
00:32:49,490 --> 00:32:53,030
All the other children simply
tried to help out at home

531
00:32:53,030 --> 00:32:58,700
and do whatever they could in
order to bring in some food

532
00:32:58,700 --> 00:33:03,920
to the house, bring in some
coal, bring in some kerosene.

533
00:33:03,920 --> 00:33:12,440

I remember getting to
the railroad station.

534

00:33:12,440 --> 00:33:16,520

And how that was done
is unbelievable to me

535

00:33:16,520 --> 00:33:17,240

at this point.

536

00:33:17,240 --> 00:33:20,060

But we somehow managed
with some neighbors,

537

00:33:20,060 --> 00:33:27,110

potentially, to get on railroad
cars which were transporting

538

00:33:27,110 --> 00:33:31,190

coal from Poland
to someplace all

539

00:33:31,190 --> 00:33:33,980

during the German
occupation already.

540

00:33:33,980 --> 00:33:37,640

We somehow managed to
get on these coal trains

541

00:33:37,640 --> 00:33:43,370

and throw off enough coal, and
gather it up into burlap bags

542

00:33:43,370 --> 00:33:47,610

and bring it home so we
would have some fuel.

543

00:33:47,610 --> 00:33:52,820

As odd as it sounds,
that's how it was.

544

00:33:52,820 --> 00:33:55,850

Do you remember what
prompted your parents

545

00:33:55,850 --> 00:33:59,780

to go to the ghetto at
that particular time?

546

00:33:59,780 --> 00:34:06,810

The situation to-- that
made my family rethink

547

00:34:06,810 --> 00:34:10,590

their status outside of the
ghetto came from neighbors

548

00:34:10,590 --> 00:34:16,920

and whom we had known for
years before the war that

549

00:34:16,920 --> 00:34:20,020

said that the situation
is getting real bad,

550

00:34:20,020 --> 00:34:25,230

that they no longer could
keep quiet and not reporter us

551

00:34:25,230 --> 00:34:32,040

because this was already
a crime on their part

552

00:34:32,040 --> 00:34:35,920

not to report any Jews
live outside of the ghetto.

553

00:34:35,920 --> 00:34:37,900

So they advised
us, some of those

554

00:34:37,900 --> 00:34:40,050

that were friendlier
with our family,

555

00:34:40,050 --> 00:34:43,170

advised us to somehow get
out of there before things

556

00:34:43,170 --> 00:34:45,969

get real bad.

557

00:34:45,969 --> 00:34:49,800

So it's fear of your
neighbors who themselves

558

00:34:49,800 --> 00:34:51,630

were afraid of the Germans.

559

00:34:51,630 --> 00:34:52,600

That's correct.

560

00:34:52,600 --> 00:34:56,460

There was not any direct order
or roundup by the Germans

561

00:34:56,460 --> 00:34:58,200

that made us go to the ghetto.

562

00:34:58,200 --> 00:35:01,500

It was fear and the
stories that were told

563

00:35:01,500 --> 00:35:04,850

to us by the Polish neighbors.

564

00:35:04,850 --> 00:35:07,550

Whereas, the initial
order a year before

565

00:35:07,550 --> 00:35:09,920

to go to the ghetto, that
was from the Germans.

566

00:35:09,920 --> 00:35:12,110

The initial order to
report to the ghetto

567

00:35:12,110 --> 00:35:16,280

was from the Germans, and
that would have been pasted--

568

00:35:16,280 --> 00:35:23,160

notices were pasted on
kiosks and some walls.

569

00:35:23,160 --> 00:35:26,580

And this was an official
report that we simply

570

00:35:26,580 --> 00:35:32,840

take what we can carry with
us and report to the ghetto.

571

00:35:32,840 --> 00:35:34,680

If we did that at
that time, we would

572

00:35:34,680 --> 00:35:39,150

have had to begin our
march much earlier

573

00:35:39,150 --> 00:35:43,830

than we eventually
did by hiding out.

574

00:35:43,830 --> 00:35:48,270

Were there other Jewish families
that ignored the order in 1941?

575

00:35:48,270 --> 00:35:52,050

I am not aware of anyone that--
any other Jewish families

576

00:35:52,050 --> 00:35:53,010

in my area.

577

00:35:53,010 --> 00:35:55,110

Also, it could very
well have been,

578

00:35:55,110 --> 00:35:58,690

but I don't remember that.

579

00:35:58,690 --> 00:36:03,240

What do you remember taking with
you when you went to the Kraków

580

00:36:03,240 --> 00:36:06,180

ghetto?

581
00:36:06,180 --> 00:36:09,060
When we finally reported
to the Kraków ghetto,

582
00:36:09,060 --> 00:36:11,730
what we were able
to gather at home--

583
00:36:11,730 --> 00:36:14,490
and I can't say that we
had very much at home,

584
00:36:14,490 --> 00:36:19,170
so we did not have
much to carry with us.

585
00:36:19,170 --> 00:36:25,650
We were not burdened by
any extra large amounts

586
00:36:25,650 --> 00:36:31,280
of clothing, or
valuables, and we simply

587
00:36:31,280 --> 00:36:39,310
had just a small bundle of
things that we took with us.

588
00:36:39,310 --> 00:36:41,840
And of course, the family had
no idea where they would be

589
00:36:41,840 --> 00:36:45,110
staying when they
went to Kraków.

590
00:36:45,110 --> 00:36:48,940
Did you have a particular
address in mind?

591
00:36:48,940 --> 00:36:53,620
When we went already, we went
to-- we went to the ghetto

592

00:36:53,620 --> 00:36:55,540
when we finally
reported to ghetto,

593
00:36:55,540 --> 00:37:00,520
then we became subject to what
the authorities, and that would

594
00:37:00,520 --> 00:37:04,240
potentially be the Jewish
authorities inside the ghetto

595
00:37:04,240 --> 00:37:10,220
would assign to us as our
living quarters in the ghetto.

596
00:37:10,220 --> 00:37:14,680
Do you remember how your
father managed after smuggling

597
00:37:14,680 --> 00:37:17,050
the family into the
ghetto, how he managed

598
00:37:17,050 --> 00:37:23,650
to explain to them that
he needed accommodations

599
00:37:23,650 --> 00:37:24,670
after all they--

600
00:37:24,670 --> 00:37:27,580
he had to pretend that he had
been there all along, right?

601
00:37:27,580 --> 00:37:31,300
Well, I don't know whether
he had to pretend that,

602
00:37:31,300 --> 00:37:36,670
whether he did not fall into
a category of other people

603
00:37:36,670 --> 00:37:40,725
returning to the
ghetto a later date.

604

00:37:40,725 --> 00:37:42,100

There is a good
chance that there

605

00:37:42,100 --> 00:37:45,280

were other similar situations.

606

00:37:45,280 --> 00:37:48,610

But the problem that we
experienced at that time

607

00:37:48,610 --> 00:37:51,940

is that we would simply
be at the end of the line

608

00:37:51,940 --> 00:37:54,930

and the end of the--

609

00:37:54,930 --> 00:37:59,040

in receiving housing.

610

00:37:59,040 --> 00:38:04,417

And a room in a basement was
assigned to us for all eight

611

00:38:04,417 --> 00:38:05,070

of us.

612

00:38:05,070 --> 00:38:11,830

613

00:38:11,830 --> 00:38:14,980

What was it like
living in the ghetto?

614

00:38:14,980 --> 00:38:20,740

In the ghetto was a total
idleness on the part of all

615

00:38:20,740 --> 00:38:27,280

the family members, other
than on different days,

616

00:38:27,280 --> 00:38:33,010
or different members of my
family, along with others,

617
00:38:33,010 --> 00:38:34,930
would be rounded up for--

618
00:38:34,930 --> 00:38:35,860
by the Germans.

619
00:38:35,860 --> 00:38:38,110
The Germans would
come into the ghetto

620
00:38:38,110 --> 00:38:43,540
and round up people and take
them away for a daily work

621
00:38:43,540 --> 00:38:44,810
outside of the ghetto.

622
00:38:44,810 --> 00:38:46,570
And this would have
been to clean streets,

623
00:38:46,570 --> 00:38:51,790
to unload coal under
German supervision,

624
00:38:51,790 --> 00:38:59,080
to do any kind of jobs that
suited the Germans, and then

625
00:38:59,080 --> 00:39:00,640
returning to the ghetto.

626
00:39:00,640 --> 00:39:03,700
On many of those occasions,
some of those people

627
00:39:03,700 --> 00:39:07,030
that were rounded up
and taken out to work,

628
00:39:07,030 --> 00:39:09,340

people did not return.

629

00:39:09,340 --> 00:39:13,610
And this was simply
instilling greater fear in us

630

00:39:13,610 --> 00:39:18,190
that one of our family
members might also

631

00:39:18,190 --> 00:39:19,750
be subject to the same thing.

632

00:39:19,750 --> 00:39:23,950
But my family members did
manage to return whenever they

633

00:39:23,950 --> 00:39:25,780
worked outside of the ghetto.

634

00:39:25,780 --> 00:39:32,020
They came back to the ghetto.

635

00:39:32,020 --> 00:39:38,590
On one of those roundups
that I was speaking about,

636

00:39:38,590 --> 00:39:44,740
I was outside of my
building when a--

637

00:39:44,740 --> 00:39:49,720
two small trucks
with Germans arrived

638

00:39:49,720 --> 00:39:53,500
in front of our building
almost and simply grabbed

639

00:39:53,500 --> 00:39:55,660
anyone they could
lay their hands on,

640

00:39:55,660 --> 00:39:59,650
and pushed them

into the two trucks.

641
00:39:59,650 --> 00:40:06,160
And this would have been in
the-- towards the end of 1942.

642
00:40:06,160 --> 00:40:10,840
And they delivered us to
what I later on found out

643
00:40:10,840 --> 00:40:17,660
to be the Schindler factory,
which was an enamel works

644
00:40:17,660 --> 00:40:20,210
factory making pots and pans.

645
00:40:20,210 --> 00:40:25,160
And they simply delivered
us to that camp.

646
00:40:25,160 --> 00:40:28,220
I remember Oskar
Schindler being there

647
00:40:28,220 --> 00:40:36,440
when the Germans delivered us to
his yard adjoining the factory,

648
00:40:36,440 --> 00:40:42,050
and there we were lined up
for Schindler's inspection.

649
00:40:42,050 --> 00:40:45,220
Schindler looked us over--

650
00:40:45,220 --> 00:40:47,760

651
00:40:47,760 --> 00:40:53,330
and we were there in a group
of potentially 100 people--

652
00:40:53,330 --> 00:41:00,210
and took two of us

out of the line.

653

00:41:00,210 --> 00:41:03,450
That was myself, and I
remember another friend

654

00:41:03,450 --> 00:41:06,720
of mine by the name
of [? Goathurst, ?]

655

00:41:06,720 --> 00:41:09,630
who was pulled out of
those 100, and Schindler

656

00:41:09,630 --> 00:41:12,880
said to the Germans that he
does not need any children.

657

00:41:12,880 --> 00:41:15,820
I still remember it in German,
ich brauch kein kinder.

658

00:41:15,820 --> 00:41:18,750

659

00:41:18,750 --> 00:41:22,860
And the Germans in those
days did not know much

660

00:41:22,860 --> 00:41:24,690
about Oskar Schindler,
and he wasn't

661

00:41:24,690 --> 00:41:28,080
very important at
that time to them,

662

00:41:28,080 --> 00:41:33,420
because I remember them
snapping back to Schindler,

663

00:41:33,420 --> 00:41:35,790
you will keep what we delivered.

664

00:41:35,790 --> 00:41:40,500

And at that, they parted and we became employees of the Oskar

665

00:41:40,500 --> 00:41:45,270
Schindler industrial complex,
which was at that time

666

00:41:45,270 --> 00:41:50,830
making only pots and
pans and peddling those

667

00:41:50,830 --> 00:41:53,160
to the Polish citizenry.

668

00:41:53,160 --> 00:41:55,690

669

00:41:55,690 --> 00:41:56,590
And this was when?

670

00:41:56,590 --> 00:41:57,550
When did you--

671

00:41:57,550 --> 00:42:01,210
In 19-- end of 1942.

672

00:42:01,210 --> 00:42:03,760
Now, you mentioned that
the Germans would round up

673

00:42:03,760 --> 00:42:06,460
people to work on the streets.

674

00:42:06,460 --> 00:42:08,570
Did any of your brothers
and sisters get--

675

00:42:08,570 --> 00:42:09,070
Yeah.

676

00:42:09,070 --> 00:42:13,750
My father, my older
sister and brother

677

00:42:13,750 --> 00:42:19,720
all wound up working on occasion
and on different duties outside

678
00:42:19,720 --> 00:42:21,400
of the ghetto.

679
00:42:21,400 --> 00:42:25,300
And then returned to the
ghetto at the end of the day.

680
00:42:25,300 --> 00:42:31,060
Similarly, when I was rounded
up and delivered to Oskar

681
00:42:31,060 --> 00:42:41,850
Schindler's factory outside of
Kraków for the next few months,

682
00:42:41,850 --> 00:42:44,460
we were simply
marched out daily.

683
00:42:44,460 --> 00:42:47,370
The group of 100 was
marched out daily

684
00:42:47,370 --> 00:42:51,960
under the supervision of
SS guards, fixed bayonets.

685
00:42:51,960 --> 00:42:56,430
We were marched out of the
ghetto in Kraków and walked

686
00:42:56,430 --> 00:43:02,430
towards the factory which was
operated by Oskar Schindler.

687
00:43:02,430 --> 00:43:06,210
I don't know exactly
the distance,

688
00:43:06,210 --> 00:43:09,000
but it seemed like a half
hour to one hour walk

689
00:43:09,000 --> 00:43:10,240
from the ghetto.

690
00:43:10,240 --> 00:43:11,430
And this was done daily.

691
00:43:11,430 --> 00:43:12,520
We were delivered there.

692
00:43:12,520 --> 00:43:14,490
In the evening,
we reported back.

693
00:43:14,490 --> 00:43:16,710
And they were-- also
then, later on, we also

694
00:43:16,710 --> 00:43:20,820
broke up into shifts where
some of us worked nights,

695
00:43:20,820 --> 00:43:22,950
and some of us worked days.

696
00:43:22,950 --> 00:43:26,520
I happened to wind up on a
shift working at night at Oskar

697
00:43:26,520 --> 00:43:28,540
Schindler's.

698
00:43:28,540 --> 00:43:32,010
So you would sleep in the
ghetto during the day?

699
00:43:32,010 --> 00:43:35,130
I would try to sleep
during the day, which

700
00:43:35,130 --> 00:43:39,240
was next to impossible because
we were in such living quarters

701

00:43:39,240 --> 00:43:45,215
that the noise level and the
activity simply did not permit.

702
00:43:45,215 --> 00:43:47,280
And this was one room.

703
00:43:47,280 --> 00:43:51,240
And what really was
happening on many occasions

704
00:43:51,240 --> 00:43:54,960
that I was so tired and
exhausted, that I remember

705
00:43:54,960 --> 00:43:58,260
myself falling
asleep while standing

706
00:43:58,260 --> 00:44:06,290
and working on a press in the
factory of Oskar Schindler,

707
00:44:06,290 --> 00:44:09,290
or falling asleep
trying to feed the pots

708
00:44:09,290 --> 00:44:13,670
and pans into the ovens out
of total exhaustion, a lack

709
00:44:13,670 --> 00:44:15,980
of sleep.

710
00:44:15,980 --> 00:44:20,270
What did you get in
return for your work?

711
00:44:20,270 --> 00:44:22,280
There was no pay involved.

712
00:44:22,280 --> 00:44:26,140
We were fed there at
Oskar Schindler's.

713

00:44:26,140 --> 00:44:28,390
There was no pay involved.

714
00:44:28,390 --> 00:44:30,310
What kind of food
did they gave you?

715
00:44:30,310 --> 00:44:32,710
There was a-- as
far as I remember,

716
00:44:32,710 --> 00:44:40,000
there was a soup during the
day, and all the other food

717
00:44:40,000 --> 00:44:44,530
we would receive in the
ghetto when we returned home.

718
00:44:44,530 --> 00:44:47,910
Would they give
you a ration card?

719
00:44:47,910 --> 00:44:51,570
There was some method
of rationing, also.

720
00:44:51,570 --> 00:44:55,560
I don't remember exactly
how the food was received

721
00:44:55,560 --> 00:44:58,380
in the ghetto, but there
was some food received

722
00:44:58,380 --> 00:45:01,350
by way of a ration card.

723
00:45:01,350 --> 00:45:05,460
How did the rest of
your family get food?

724
00:45:05,460 --> 00:45:08,010
They lived on what was
available in the ghetto.

725

00:45:08,010 --> 00:45:10,530

There was no other source.

726

00:45:10,530 --> 00:45:13,350

There was no ability.

727

00:45:13,350 --> 00:45:16,470

The two older
members and my father

728

00:45:16,470 --> 00:45:20,680

were possibly receiving some
food outside of the ghetto.

729

00:45:20,680 --> 00:45:23,100

And there was-- in
the earlier days,

730

00:45:23,100 --> 00:45:26,730

there were still some
trading inside of the ghetto

731

00:45:26,730 --> 00:45:30,520

where you could do some work
and receive food in return.

732

00:45:30,520 --> 00:45:33,450

And so we managed
to eat and survive

733

00:45:33,450 --> 00:45:37,370

in the ghetto for
the next few months.

734

00:45:37,370 --> 00:45:40,750

How long did this go on?

735

00:45:40,750 --> 00:45:45,960

This existence in
the ghetto, to me,

736

00:45:45,960 --> 00:45:48,090

it appeared like a
giant waiting room.

737

00:45:48,090 --> 00:45:52,030

I just-- everybody was waiting
for something to happen.

738

00:45:52,030 --> 00:45:54,840

We didn't know exactly what
was supposed to be happening,

739

00:45:54,840 --> 00:45:58,020

but we always hoped that
maybe the war will end

740

00:45:58,020 --> 00:46:00,960

and everything will
turn out all right.

741

00:46:00,960 --> 00:46:07,170

But in March,
potentially, March 10

742

00:46:07,170 --> 00:46:14,600

or 11 while working at Oskar
Schindler's night shift,

743

00:46:14,600 --> 00:46:16,150

I was--

744

00:46:16,150 --> 00:46:22,070

I, along with the
rest of my group,

745

00:46:22,070 --> 00:46:27,760

were ordered to stay at the
factory of Oskar Schindler

746

00:46:27,760 --> 00:46:31,960

and not to return to the ghetto.

747

00:46:31,960 --> 00:46:36,820

Because Schindler has-- had
discovered that there was

748

00:46:36,820 --> 00:46:42,850

an action going
on at the ghetto--

749

00:46:42,850 --> 00:46:44,875
as the Germans would
call it, an aktion--

750

00:46:44,875 --> 00:46:47,530

751

00:46:47,530 --> 00:46:49,090
whereby there was--

752

00:46:49,090 --> 00:47:00,740

753

00:47:00,740 --> 00:47:04,490
Oskar Schindler who brought
this information back to us

754

00:47:04,490 --> 00:47:08,150
in the factory, but
he did not permit--

755

00:47:08,150 --> 00:47:16,310

756

00:47:16,310 --> 00:47:20,130
Now, this was March 1943.

757

00:47:20,130 --> 00:47:25,200
March 1943, the 10,
11, 12, we stayed over

758

00:47:25,200 --> 00:47:29,490
at the factory, Oskar
Schindler's factory,

759

00:47:29,490 --> 00:47:34,680
being fully aware of it that
the ghetto is being liquidated.

760

00:47:34,680 --> 00:47:36,360
And I personally
being fully aware

761

00:47:36,360 --> 00:47:39,150
of it that my whole
family is in the ghetto,

762
00:47:39,150 --> 00:47:44,560
and not knowing what
is happening to them.

763
00:47:44,560 --> 00:47:48,780

764
00:47:48,780 --> 00:47:54,900
The Kraków ghetto
was stilled totally.

765
00:47:54,900 --> 00:47:58,980
And after the three
nights were over in--

766
00:47:58,980 --> 00:48:05,100
where we stayed over at the
Oskar Schindler factory,

767
00:48:05,100 --> 00:48:07,950
we were marched back into--

768
00:48:07,950 --> 00:48:10,500
no longer to the ghetto,
but we were marched

769
00:48:10,500 --> 00:48:14,740
into a concentration
camp outside of Kraków,

770
00:48:14,740 --> 00:48:21,440
known as Kraków-Plaszow, a
full-fledged concentration camp

771
00:48:21,440 --> 00:48:31,360
with barbed wires, watchtowers,
lots of busy SS people all over

772
00:48:31,360 --> 00:48:33,250
the place--

773

00:48:33,250 --> 00:48:34,915
totally fearsome place.

774
00:48:34,915 --> 00:48:38,970

775
00:48:38,970 --> 00:48:45,970
I came into this
camp as a youngster,

776
00:48:45,970 --> 00:48:50,170
not knowing at all where
the rest of my family is,

777
00:48:50,170 --> 00:48:55,810
and being assigned to a barrack
with lots of people sleeping

778
00:48:55,810 --> 00:49:01,520
one next to the other on
three rows high of berth

779
00:49:01,520 --> 00:49:05,680
or with some straw on it.

780
00:49:05,680 --> 00:49:09,450

781
00:49:09,450 --> 00:49:15,375
During the next few days, the--

782
00:49:15,375 --> 00:49:18,100

783
00:49:18,100 --> 00:49:26,830
I was assigned to
work in a stone quarry

784
00:49:26,830 --> 00:49:31,600
and worked there
full days, received

785
00:49:31,600 --> 00:49:35,360
some soup during the day.

786

00:49:35,360 --> 00:49:39,760

At the same time while I was
in that concentration camp,

787

00:49:39,760 --> 00:49:43,510

my beginning in the
concentration camp,

788

00:49:43,510 --> 00:49:49,730

trucks were still arriving
from what was then rumored

789

00:49:49,730 --> 00:49:55,220

in the camp as those that
were killed in the liquidation

790

00:49:55,220 --> 00:49:57,590

of the Kraków ghetto.

791

00:49:57,590 --> 00:50:03,140

Trucks were arriving with bodies
into our concentration camp

792

00:50:03,140 --> 00:50:08,110

into prepared open pits.

793

00:50:08,110 --> 00:50:11,440

The dump trucks were
dumping the bodies

794

00:50:11,440 --> 00:50:16,480

and returning for more loads
to clean up the ghetto.

795

00:50:16,480 --> 00:50:22,510

It did enter my mind
that possibly my family--

796

00:50:22,510 --> 00:50:26,820

brothers, sisters,
parents-- were among those

797

00:50:26,820 --> 00:50:31,160

that were buried in that camp.

798

00:50:31,160 --> 00:50:36,220

But it was also rumored that
some people survived by being

799

00:50:36,220 --> 00:50:37,610

shipped to other camps.

800

00:50:37,610 --> 00:50:41,590

I was not fully aware of what
could have possibly happened

801

00:50:41,590 --> 00:50:44,460

to my family.

802

00:50:44,460 --> 00:50:54,850

One of the-- or word got to me
from one person that arrived

803

00:50:54,850 --> 00:50:59,950

back from the ghetto into the
concentration camp is that he

804

00:50:59,950 --> 00:51:05,540

saw my brother trying to
run from a line that he was

805

00:51:05,540 --> 00:51:10,490

in to join his family and he was
shot on the spot in the Kraków

806

00:51:10,490 --> 00:51:12,290

ghetto liquidation.

807

00:51:12,290 --> 00:51:15,290

But other than this
word and whether this

808

00:51:15,290 --> 00:51:18,440

could have been relied
totally upon, I don't know.

809

00:51:18,440 --> 00:51:20,600

But that was the
only word that I

810

00:51:20,600 --> 00:51:24,050
got from someone that
supposedly saw my brother being

811

00:51:24,050 --> 00:51:27,470
shot and died right there.

812

00:51:27,470 --> 00:51:31,010
The rest of the family I
had no knowledge at all.

813

00:51:31,010 --> 00:51:32,540
Which brother would
this have been?

814

00:51:32,540 --> 00:51:34,910
Samuel was the one
that would have

815

00:51:34,910 --> 00:51:38,400
been shot by trying to join
the rest of his family.

816

00:51:38,400 --> 00:51:46,570

817

00:51:46,570 --> 00:51:54,810
I remained in the Plaszow
concentration camp

818

00:51:54,810 --> 00:52:03,930
for a number of weeks
observing hangings

819

00:52:03,930 --> 00:52:06,195
standing on the appelplatz.

820

00:52:06,195 --> 00:52:10,660

821

00:52:10,660 --> 00:52:13,510
During inspection
time, which I recall

822

00:52:13,510 --> 00:52:17,400
as being every day,
during which time

823
00:52:17,400 --> 00:52:20,820
Goeth and the sum of his
cohorts were marching

824
00:52:20,820 --> 00:52:24,650
through the potentially
30,000 people

825
00:52:24,650 --> 00:52:29,810
standing outdoors
for inspection.

826
00:52:29,810 --> 00:52:34,190
And you could actually hear
a pin drop because no one--

827
00:52:34,190 --> 00:52:36,180
no one dared
breathe at that time

828
00:52:36,180 --> 00:52:38,000
when this inspection
was going on.

829
00:52:38,000 --> 00:52:41,050
It was total
silence, total fear.

830
00:52:41,050 --> 00:52:44,450
Everybody standing and
numb, totally numb,

831
00:52:44,450 --> 00:52:47,800
not being able to
speak to one another.

832
00:52:47,800 --> 00:52:50,950
Because while we were
standing on the appelplatz,

833
00:52:50,950 --> 00:52:56,390
we were fully aware of the

fact that Amon Goeth, who

834

00:52:56,390 --> 00:53:00,180
was the head of the
concentration camp,

835

00:53:00,180 --> 00:53:04,400
the SS, the head of
the concentration camp,

836

00:53:04,400 --> 00:53:08,000
was marching through those
lines with his cohorts.

837

00:53:08,000 --> 00:53:14,140
And for no apparent reason
would shoot certain people

838

00:53:14,140 --> 00:53:16,480
and they would fall
as he walked by.

839

00:53:16,480 --> 00:53:23,680
And at other times, there were
lynchings going on while we all

840

00:53:23,680 --> 00:53:25,330
stood there and observed.

841

00:53:25,330 --> 00:53:29,390
And all this was done to
instill more fear into us,

842

00:53:29,390 --> 00:53:31,030
and that was certainly
accomplished.

843

00:53:31,030 --> 00:53:36,530
We simply lived in daily fear.

844

00:53:36,530 --> 00:53:39,440
Did you still wear
the clothes that you

845

00:53:39,440 --> 00:53:43,040

had with you when you
first go on the Schindler

846
00:53:43,040 --> 00:53:47,950
or were you given prison garb?

847
00:53:47,950 --> 00:53:52,090
Upon arrival at the
Kraków Plaszow Camp,

848
00:53:52,090 --> 00:53:55,080
we did not receive any prison--

849
00:53:55,080 --> 00:53:59,440
any prison garb, any clothing.

850
00:53:59,440 --> 00:54:10,410
I don't recall wearing any
unusual clothing at that camp,

851
00:54:10,410 --> 00:54:13,080
because as it
turned out to be, I

852
00:54:13,080 --> 00:54:19,450
was not a long-term inmate
of this concentration camp.

853
00:54:19,450 --> 00:54:25,270
And after a few weeks, stayed
there and working at the stone

854
00:54:25,270 --> 00:54:30,530
quarry, the group of
people that was once

855
00:54:30,530 --> 00:54:36,110
employed by Oskar Schindler was
eventually marched out daily,

856
00:54:36,110 --> 00:54:42,060
again, from this
concentration camp,

857
00:54:42,060 --> 00:54:44,700

and we will return to
work at Oscar Schindler's

858
00:54:44,700 --> 00:54:52,350
factory, or the enamel factory.

859
00:54:52,350 --> 00:54:56,320
So we would march out daily.

860
00:54:56,320 --> 00:54:59,070
Then, again, on the--
upon the return,

861
00:54:59,070 --> 00:55:04,200
we would rejoin our people
standing on the appelplatz,

862
00:55:04,200 --> 00:55:11,070
be subject to nightly
attacks by Germans

863
00:55:11,070 --> 00:55:16,500
into our barracks to
take out some people

864
00:55:16,500 --> 00:55:18,555
for some unusual work.

865
00:55:18,555 --> 00:55:22,040

866
00:55:22,040 --> 00:55:33,500
But basically, the work at the
outside of the concentration

867
00:55:33,500 --> 00:55:41,540
camp at the factory was working
on presses, steel presses,

868
00:55:41,540 --> 00:55:46,800
that is, to punch out
the pots and pans.

869
00:55:46,800 --> 00:55:53,750
Eventually, I was shifted into

some cabinet work, woodworking

870

00:55:53,750 --> 00:55:54,890
shop.

871

00:55:54,890 --> 00:55:57,050
Because of my
previous experience

872

00:55:57,050 --> 00:55:59,960
of working in a
furniture shop just

873

00:55:59,960 --> 00:56:08,530
led me into some woodworking
position in the Oskar Schindler

874

00:56:08,530 --> 00:56:09,030
factory.

875

00:56:09,030 --> 00:56:13,030

876

00:56:13,030 --> 00:56:19,970
Eventually, I began
to be in charge

877

00:56:19,970 --> 00:56:24,890
of providing all the blackout
shades for the offices of Oskar

878

00:56:24,890 --> 00:56:26,520
Schindler.

879

00:56:26,520 --> 00:56:33,250
And was in those duties I
entered Oskar Schindler's

880

00:56:33,250 --> 00:56:41,810
office on many occasion
with the purpose of seeing

881

00:56:41,810 --> 00:56:44,590
that the blackout shades
were in proper order,

882
00:56:44,590 --> 00:56:49,110
working order, or
replacing them.

883
00:56:49,110 --> 00:56:53,410
I would get to know
Schindler fairly well,

884
00:56:53,410 --> 00:56:56,930
and on occasion, he
would even speak to me

885
00:56:56,930 --> 00:57:04,870
and expressed some hope that
this will maybe end one day.

886
00:57:04,870 --> 00:57:08,140
On those trips, I
would also observe--

887
00:57:08,140 --> 00:57:10,450
those trips to the offices
of Oskar Schindler,

888
00:57:10,450 --> 00:57:16,150
I would also observe that
one of our inmates, a fellow

889
00:57:16,150 --> 00:57:20,500
by the name Bankier would
be sitting in an office

890
00:57:20,500 --> 00:57:24,980
adjoining Oskar Schindler.

891
00:57:24,980 --> 00:57:28,100
Bankier was the former
owner of this factory.

892
00:57:28,100 --> 00:57:30,860
And someplace along the
line, Oskar Schindler

893
00:57:30,860 --> 00:57:34,550

discovered that he could
not conduct business

894
00:57:34,550 --> 00:57:37,880
with the Polish population.

895
00:57:37,880 --> 00:57:43,890
And the only way to be able to
sell the pots and pans, which

896
00:57:43,890 --> 00:57:47,180
we were still manufacturing
great numbers,

897
00:57:47,180 --> 00:57:53,240
was to have this Bankier
sit in back of his office

898
00:57:53,240 --> 00:57:55,610
and conduct business with
the Polish population.

899
00:57:55,610 --> 00:58:00,690
And this is how the
wares were sold.

900
00:58:00,690 --> 00:58:03,890
So this is the former owner
of the factory now being

901
00:58:03,890 --> 00:58:08,650
asked to help the new owner
of the factory make a profit.

902
00:58:08,650 --> 00:58:09,410
That's right.

903
00:58:09,410 --> 00:58:14,310
The former owner of the
factory, the Jewish owner

904
00:58:14,310 --> 00:58:18,570
of the factory, was
brought back to--

905

00:58:18,570 --> 00:58:21,060
he was one of the
earlier members

906
00:58:21,060 --> 00:58:23,010
that was brought
back to work there

907
00:58:23,010 --> 00:58:25,020
because Oskar Schindler
recognized that he

908
00:58:25,020 --> 00:58:27,450
needed him to run the business.

909
00:58:27,450 --> 00:58:34,950
There was potentially another
owner in that with Bankier

910
00:58:34,950 --> 00:58:38,730
whose first name I
don't remember anymore.

911
00:58:38,730 --> 00:58:41,220
But I don't remember the
other people involved.

912
00:58:41,220 --> 00:58:43,680
I only remember Bankier.

913
00:58:43,680 --> 00:58:46,937
Would you know when
Bankier lost his factory?

914
00:58:46,937 --> 00:58:47,770
When did this begin?

915
00:58:47,770 --> 00:58:53,050
With the-- as soon as the
Germans got settled in Kraków,

916
00:58:53,050 --> 00:59:00,050
they took away this factory
from all Jewish proprietors.

917

00:59:00,050 --> 00:59:03,030
They took his factory
away from him.

918
00:59:03,030 --> 00:59:06,200
And as far as I know,
they took this factory

919
00:59:06,200 --> 00:59:09,590
and gave it to Oskar
Schindler as a gift to him

920
00:59:09,590 --> 00:59:13,520
for his previous contributions
to the Nazi party,

921
00:59:13,520 --> 00:59:16,790
or to the Nazi effort.

922
00:59:16,790 --> 00:59:18,500
And Oskar Schindler
got this gift

923
00:59:18,500 --> 00:59:20,670
but didn't know exactly
what to do with it.

924
00:59:20,670 --> 00:59:24,590
But to bring back the
former owner, or owners,

925
00:59:24,590 --> 00:59:28,850
to help him run this factory and
help him sell the wares that he

926
00:59:28,850 --> 00:59:30,890
was producing.

927
00:59:30,890 --> 00:59:33,620
What was Mr. Schindler like?

928
00:59:33,620 --> 00:59:37,910
Oskar Schindler was a very
impressive young man--

929

00:59:37,910 --> 00:59:39,020
tall, handsome.

930
00:59:39,020 --> 00:59:42,510

931
00:59:42,510 --> 00:59:46,620
In the earlier days, I remember
Oskar Schindler actually

932
00:59:46,620 --> 00:59:48,030
still doing some work.

933
00:59:48,030 --> 00:59:52,260

934
00:59:52,260 --> 00:59:54,480
I remember observing
him one time

935
00:59:54,480 --> 00:59:58,560
where he was doing some
wood work on a machine.

936
00:59:58,560 --> 01:00:04,000
But in later days, he
became an industrialist

937
01:00:04,000 --> 01:00:07,810
and would travel in company
of very important people

938
01:00:07,810 --> 01:00:10,360
from Berlin, bringing
in people from Berlin,

939
01:00:10,360 --> 01:00:12,730
to show them what
he is doing here

940
01:00:12,730 --> 01:00:20,340
and what the future plans are
in developing this seemingly

941
01:00:20,340 --> 01:00:26,520

unimportant complex
into a factory

942
01:00:26,520 --> 01:00:31,960
that would produce materials
for the war effort.

943
01:00:31,960 --> 01:00:35,430
And so many times, there
were very important engineers

944
01:00:35,430 --> 01:00:38,460
with very important
high-ranking officers arriving,

945
01:00:38,460 --> 01:00:41,430
and he would take them through
inspections showing them

946
01:00:41,430 --> 01:00:42,840
what can be done in this place.

947
01:00:42,840 --> 01:00:46,140
And eventually, it
was materialized,

948
01:00:46,140 --> 01:00:49,770
whereby, he received
monies from someplace

949
01:00:49,770 --> 01:00:51,690
to develop this factory.

950
01:00:51,690 --> 01:00:55,530
He built a big office
building, and eventually, plans

951
01:00:55,530 --> 01:01:03,970
were developed to build a
giant hanger like building

952
01:01:03,970 --> 01:01:07,450
or a big factory
building in which rumors

953

01:01:07,450 --> 01:01:17,750
were that there were some
parts of bullets, the--

954
01:01:17,750 --> 01:01:18,831
what you call-- the--

955
01:01:18,831 --> 01:01:21,717

956
01:01:21,717 --> 01:01:22,680
The casings?

957
01:01:22,680 --> 01:01:25,620
--the casings to the
bullets of different types

958
01:01:25,620 --> 01:01:31,440
would be pressed out there and
this would be his contribution,

959
01:01:31,440 --> 01:01:32,655
again, to the war effort.

960
01:01:32,655 --> 01:01:36,010

961
01:01:36,010 --> 01:01:46,930
This work at the factory
continued for how long.

962
01:01:46,930 --> 01:01:49,530
I could no longer be sure of.

963
01:01:49,530 --> 01:01:52,180
But we were marched out
daily, as I said before,

964
01:01:52,180 --> 01:01:56,030
from the concentration camp.

965
01:01:56,030 --> 01:02:02,630
And on those daily marches
from the concentration camps,

966

01:02:02,630 --> 01:02:06,320

most of the times we
were ordered by the SS

967

01:02:06,320 --> 01:02:11,660

guards in the concentration
camp to pick up

968

01:02:11,660 --> 01:02:15,620

a rock near our
barracks and carry it

969

01:02:15,620 --> 01:02:18,610

until we got to the gate.

970

01:02:18,610 --> 01:02:23,020

Then upon return from work,
we would take the same rocks

971

01:02:23,020 --> 01:02:26,650

and bring them back from the
gate of the concentration camp

972

01:02:26,650 --> 01:02:28,240

to a pile near the barracks.

973

01:02:28,240 --> 01:02:32,830

This was simply to load us up
and make us feel like inmates,

974

01:02:32,830 --> 01:02:34,750

rather than free people.

975

01:02:34,750 --> 01:02:36,760

But we did not carry any rocks.

976

01:02:36,760 --> 01:02:40,330

We were simply
guarded by SS people

977

01:02:40,330 --> 01:02:43,460

on the march from the
gate to the factory.

978

01:02:43,460 --> 01:02:46,140

979

01:02:46,140 --> 01:02:54,860

This went on for a
long time, potentially

980

01:02:54,860 --> 01:03:04,780

into the end of 1943.

981

01:03:04,780 --> 01:03:07,670

This type of work and
daily marching out

982

01:03:07,670 --> 01:03:13,600

was going on until one
day in the end of 1943,

983

01:03:13,600 --> 01:03:20,350

or maybe beginning of 1944
already, an English spy plane--

984

01:03:20,350 --> 01:03:24,160

985

01:03:24,160 --> 01:03:27,030

I have to back off here.

986

01:03:27,030 --> 01:03:29,520

I skipped a part.

987

01:03:29,520 --> 01:03:36,000

And that is the part where
at one point in time, the--

988

01:03:36,000 --> 01:03:41,310

Schindler was given permission
to build his own concentration

989

01:03:41,310 --> 01:03:42,876

camp.

990

01:03:42,876 --> 01:03:46,170

He somehow received
permission from Berlin

991
01:03:46,170 --> 01:03:48,180
to build his own
concentration camp

992
01:03:48,180 --> 01:03:49,455
on the grounds of the factory.

993
01:03:49,455 --> 01:03:52,060

994
01:03:52,060 --> 01:03:59,950
And towards the end
of 1943, he actually

995
01:03:59,950 --> 01:04:08,810
established barracks--
built barracks, and also was

996
01:04:08,810 --> 01:04:13,170
told that he can no
longer employ 100 people.

997
01:04:13,170 --> 01:04:14,990
So the concentration
camps that would

998
01:04:14,990 --> 01:04:17,300
be permitted on
his grounds would

999
01:04:17,300 --> 01:04:21,310
have to have a minimum
of 1,000 people.

1000
01:04:21,310 --> 01:04:24,700
And that connection,
as I mentioned before,

1001
01:04:24,700 --> 01:04:31,000
is the grandiose plans
to build this armament--

1002
01:04:31,000 --> 01:04:35,860
armament producing factory was

already on the drawing boards

1003

01:04:35,860 --> 01:04:43,980
and some buildings
began to be constructed.

1004

01:04:43,980 --> 01:04:46,590
Eventually, Oskar
Schindler pulled off

1005

01:04:46,590 --> 01:04:51,930
the shipment of 1,000
inmates, including ourselves,

1006

01:04:51,930 --> 01:04:55,360
the original 100
people in the group,

1007

01:04:55,360 --> 01:04:59,010
and we were housed
now in a concentration

1008

01:04:59,010 --> 01:05:06,440
camp adjoining the enamel
factory ran and operated

1009

01:05:06,440 --> 01:05:09,800
by Oskar Schindler.

1010

01:05:09,800 --> 01:05:11,120
These camps as I--

1011

01:05:11,120 --> 01:05:16,520
these barracks, as I
remember, were two rows,

1012

01:05:16,520 --> 01:05:22,670
potentially six barracks,
on a very small site where

1013

01:05:22,670 --> 01:05:31,060
our housing accommodations and
life became much more bearable.

1014

01:05:31,060 --> 01:05:34,030

Oskar Schindler
would be amongst us.

1015
01:05:34,030 --> 01:05:37,240
In fact, I recall
when these barracks

1016
01:05:37,240 --> 01:05:44,420
were being built, the barbed
wire going around the camp.

1017
01:05:44,420 --> 01:05:47,360
Watchtower is constructed.

1018
01:05:47,360 --> 01:05:52,610
I remember one conversation with
a group of inmates and Oskar

1019
01:05:52,610 --> 01:05:55,970
Schindler, in which
Oskar Schindler described

1020
01:05:55,970 --> 01:06:03,330
to us the need for the barbed
wires and the watchtowers,

1021
01:06:03,330 --> 01:06:06,570
because it was going to
be so good in this camp

1022
01:06:06,570 --> 01:06:08,700
that some people
from the outside

1023
01:06:08,700 --> 01:06:11,970
would try to come
into this camp.

1024
01:06:11,970 --> 01:06:14,200
Nevertheless, the
watchtowers went up

1025
01:06:14,200 --> 01:06:16,560
and barbed wires
because he obviously had

1026

01:06:16,560 --> 01:06:19,980
to meet specifications to be--

1027

01:06:19,980 --> 01:06:23,100
to operate, or to
have the privilege

1028

01:06:23,100 --> 01:06:26,790
of having the 1,000
slave laborers working

1029

01:06:26,790 --> 01:06:30,410
for this effort
that he was going

1030

01:06:30,410 --> 01:06:33,035
to put on for the Third Reich.

1031

01:06:33,035 --> 01:06:36,700

1032

01:06:36,700 --> 01:06:38,920
We were housed there
and worked there.

1033

01:06:38,920 --> 01:06:44,560
So it was no big deal walking
out of the concentration camp

1034

01:06:44,560 --> 01:06:47,050
through a gate, and walking
into the factory which

1035

01:06:47,050 --> 01:06:48,910
was totally adjoining.

1036

01:06:48,910 --> 01:06:54,160
Worked as many
hours as the factory

1037

01:06:54,160 --> 01:06:56,920
operators needed, and
then returned back

1038

01:06:56,920 --> 01:07:02,410
to our concentration camp, which
was a bearable place, really,

1039
01:07:02,410 --> 01:07:05,800
because there was no
one dying there anymore.

1040
01:07:05,800 --> 01:07:10,360
Nobody was being killed in
that concentration camp.

1041
01:07:10,360 --> 01:07:15,910
I recall many ordinary illnesses
afflicting people, potentially

1042
01:07:15,910 --> 01:07:22,540
dying, but not because of
any hangings or lynchings,

1043
01:07:22,540 --> 01:07:24,520
or abused by the Germans.

1044
01:07:24,520 --> 01:07:29,710
The Oskar Schindler influence
was all over the lot,

1045
01:07:29,710 --> 01:07:35,380
and the SS guards watching
us could not abuse us as much

1046
01:07:35,380 --> 01:07:41,560
as they did in the Kraków
Plaszow camp, or in the ghetto.

1047
01:07:41,560 --> 01:07:46,180
How were the 1,000
selected, the 1,000 inmates?

1048
01:07:46,180 --> 01:07:51,010
I have absolutely no knowledge
on how they were selected.

1049
01:07:51,010 --> 01:07:55,600
But they came into
different transports.

1050
01:07:55,600 --> 01:08:02,740
At the time, they were still
outlying small ghettos,

1051
01:08:02,740 --> 01:08:07,090
like Skarzysko and Wieliczka.

1052
01:08:07,090 --> 01:08:11,960
Small ghettos of people where
the ghettos were liquidated,

1053
01:08:11,960 --> 01:08:17,020
some of those shipments from
the people surviving those

1054
01:08:17,020 --> 01:08:20,439
liquidations came into
our camp, and potentially,

1055
01:08:20,439 --> 01:08:24,819
some of them came from the
Kraków Plaszow concentration

1056
01:08:24,819 --> 01:08:26,260
camp.

1057
01:08:26,260 --> 01:08:29,200
I could not recall it, for sure.

1058
01:08:29,200 --> 01:08:33,100
Also, I had some friends
that arrived from other camps

1059
01:08:33,100 --> 01:08:35,569
and from other ghettos.

1060
01:08:35,569 --> 01:08:38,729
But the total count of
people where they came from,

1061
01:08:38,729 --> 01:08:41,109
I would not be aware of.

1062

01:08:41,109 --> 01:08:43,990
You're still wearing the
same clothes that you had on?

1063
01:08:43,990 --> 01:08:49,729
I still recall wearing
the same clothes.

1064
01:08:49,729 --> 01:08:54,529
Also, sometimes
during the time when

1065
01:08:54,529 --> 01:09:00,819
we were inmates at the
concentration camp in the--

1066
01:09:00,819 --> 01:09:05,520
now known as [INAUDIBLE]
and Emalia, somehow

1067
01:09:05,520 --> 01:09:11,890
two factories combining and
using the people of the 1,000

1068
01:09:11,890 --> 01:09:13,104
inmates as their workers.

1069
01:09:13,104 --> 01:09:16,170

1070
01:09:16,170 --> 01:09:18,930
Sometimes during that
time, our clothes

1071
01:09:18,930 --> 01:09:23,100
was changed into stripes--

1072
01:09:23,100 --> 01:09:25,379
striped outfits so that
we could not escape.

1073
01:09:25,379 --> 01:09:28,279

1074
01:09:28,279 --> 01:09:31,069

During any of this time
from when you first

1075
01:09:31,069 --> 01:09:36,350
began working for Oskar
Schindler, were you

1076
01:09:36,350 --> 01:09:39,569
still required to
wear the yellow star?

1077
01:09:39,569 --> 01:09:41,819
Remember when-- I think you
were back in the ghetto,

1078
01:09:41,819 --> 01:09:45,120
you had to wear an
armband of some sort.

1079
01:09:45,120 --> 01:09:45,620
No.

1080
01:09:45,620 --> 01:09:51,380
During this stay in Oskar
Schindler's concentration camp

1081
01:09:51,380 --> 01:09:59,210
and factory, we were not
wearing any armbands.

1082
01:09:59,210 --> 01:10:04,430
That was a time when the clothes
was changed into stripes,

1083
01:10:04,430 --> 01:10:12,260
and we're wearing inmates
outfits with caps.

1084
01:10:12,260 --> 01:10:17,780
Sometimes during the time when
this concentration camp came

1085
01:10:17,780 --> 01:10:22,600
into being under Oskar
Schindler influence,

1086

01:10:22,600 --> 01:10:27,760
and the SS guards guarding
us, there was a time

1087

01:10:27,760 --> 01:10:32,440
that we underwent--
all of the inmates

1088

01:10:32,440 --> 01:10:38,350
underwent a tattooing
process, whereby

1089

01:10:38,350 --> 01:10:44,890
the tattoo of a large KL was
tattooed on our, if I recall,

1090

01:10:44,890 --> 01:10:47,990
left wrist.

1091

01:10:47,990 --> 01:10:50,440
The K stood for concentration.

1092

01:10:50,440 --> 01:10:54,110
The L for Lager,
concentrations Lager.

1093

01:10:54,110 --> 01:10:57,290
So this was done so that
we could no longer escape

1094

01:10:57,290 --> 01:11:02,770
the-- we had the-- it was a
rather large letters, maybe one

1095

01:11:02,770 --> 01:11:11,480
inch or larger letters
tattooed on the wrist.

1096

01:11:11,480 --> 01:11:15,210
I received the same
as everybody else.

1097

01:11:15,210 --> 01:11:21,010
But I also traveled
in a circle of friends

1098
01:11:21,010 --> 01:11:24,670
who still had some
hopes of escaping,

1099
01:11:24,670 --> 01:11:26,920
and we talked a
great deal about it.

1100
01:11:26,920 --> 01:11:28,810
We could never do
anything about it,

1101
01:11:28,810 --> 01:11:31,990
but we always talked
about the possibility.

1102
01:11:31,990 --> 01:11:36,760
And in that connection,
somebody informed me, at least,

1103
01:11:36,760 --> 01:11:43,930
that if I sucked out the
tattooing right after it

1104
01:11:43,930 --> 01:11:47,170
was done when it was still
fresh, it would disappear

1105
01:11:47,170 --> 01:11:51,890
and, thereby, I would still
have a chance of escaping.

1106
01:11:51,890 --> 01:11:55,880
And being a young person,
naively hoping that this

1107
01:11:55,880 --> 01:11:58,050
could happen, one day I did it.

1108
01:11:58,050 --> 01:12:01,130
And surprisingly
enough, this came out

1109
01:12:01,130 --> 01:12:03,470

and I never had a tattoo.

1110

01:12:03,470 --> 01:12:06,590

And to this day, I
don't have a tattoo.

1111

01:12:06,590 --> 01:12:10,490

And yet the friends with whom I
survived together in this camp

1112

01:12:10,490 --> 01:12:13,850

eventually have this
large KL on their wrist.

1113

01:12:13,850 --> 01:12:15,140

I don't have it.

1114

01:12:15,140 --> 01:12:17,990

But I know I received
it and I sucked it out

1115

01:12:17,990 --> 01:12:22,170

and it worked so well that
there is no sign left of the KL

1116

01:12:22,170 --> 01:12:24,050

on my wrist.

1117

01:12:24,050 --> 01:12:25,820

Of course, escape never came.

1118

01:12:25,820 --> 01:12:28,130

Escape never was possible.

1119

01:12:28,130 --> 01:12:32,000

And somehow, I managed
to get by without ever

1120

01:12:32,000 --> 01:12:36,620

having to prove that I
belonged there without the KL.

1121

01:12:36,620 --> 01:12:39,530

Did Schindler know you by then?

1122

01:12:39,530 --> 01:12:42,410

Schindler would know
me a little better

1123

01:12:42,410 --> 01:12:44,810

than he knew a lot
of other inmates,

1124

01:12:44,810 --> 01:12:48,710

other than maybe Bankier and
some of the other officials.

1125

01:12:48,710 --> 01:12:53,240

He knew me by sight
because of the exposure

1126

01:12:53,240 --> 01:12:57,050

that I had to him in
that work in his offices

1127

01:12:57,050 --> 01:12:59,120

with the blackout shades.

1128

01:12:59,120 --> 01:13:01,220

And also worked
many nights there

1129

01:13:01,220 --> 01:13:07,620

in a building when the
construction was going on,

1130

01:13:07,620 --> 01:13:09,920

and it was going on
during the winter.

1131

01:13:09,920 --> 01:13:13,550

And I recall my
responsibilities also

1132

01:13:13,550 --> 01:13:18,530

as feeding the big
drums with some wood

1133

01:13:18,530 --> 01:13:27,080

so that there was heat provided

from those burning drums.

1134

01:13:27,080 --> 01:13:30,140
So I had to keep the fire
going so the place-- they

1135

01:13:30,140 --> 01:13:32,120
would be able to work,
lay bricks, and all

1136

01:13:32,120 --> 01:13:34,190
that during the day.

1137

01:13:34,190 --> 01:13:37,070
Did he remember you
as the Jewish boy

1138

01:13:37,070 --> 01:13:40,440
that he said was too
young to work there?

1139

01:13:40,440 --> 01:13:43,760
We never-- we never
talked about that.

1140

01:13:43,760 --> 01:13:46,260
I never brought this
up to him again.

1141

01:13:46,260 --> 01:13:48,480
I was kind of happy to be there.

1142

01:13:48,480 --> 01:13:51,800
I already began to recognize
that this is a better

1143

01:13:51,800 --> 01:13:54,210
place than someplace else.

1144

01:13:54,210 --> 01:13:57,260
So I wasn't going to bring up
the fact that he didn't want me

1145

01:13:57,260 --> 01:14:02,000
as a child in his factory.

1146
01:14:02,000 --> 01:14:08,420
But I somehow left
an impression on him,

1147
01:14:08,420 --> 01:14:11,570
because when I met
him after the war,

1148
01:14:11,570 --> 01:14:14,660
he greeted me warmly as
if he knew me forever.

1149
01:14:14,660 --> 01:14:18,920
So somehow, he did know
me as one of the earlier

1150
01:14:18,920 --> 01:14:21,430
inmates in his camp.

1151
01:14:21,430 --> 01:14:25,060
And how long did you work there?

1152
01:14:25,060 --> 01:14:31,650
This-- this existence of the
1,000 inmates in that camp

1153
01:14:31,650 --> 01:14:34,320
adjoining the enamel
works factory--

1154
01:14:34,320 --> 01:14:39,090

1155
01:14:39,090 --> 01:14:50,470
[INAUDIBLE]---- continued up
to a time of very late 1943,

1156
01:14:50,470 --> 01:15:00,100
or 1944, early 1944, when a
English spy plane traveling

1157
01:15:00,100 --> 01:15:05,350
over Kraków was shot down.

1158

01:15:05,350 --> 01:15:08,970

And of all the places
in the City of Kraków,

1159

01:15:08,970 --> 01:15:15,410

it landed in our small
concentration camp,

1160

01:15:15,410 --> 01:15:21,050

which I would at this point
size up as maybe a one acre site

1161

01:15:21,050 --> 01:15:24,110

with six buildings
housing the 1,000 inmates.

1162

01:15:24,110 --> 01:15:29,600

It landed in our concentration
camp right on top

1163

01:15:29,600 --> 01:15:33,330

of a building, miraculously.

1164

01:15:33,330 --> 01:15:36,840

This happened as far as I
remember during the night,

1165

01:15:36,840 --> 01:15:41,480

and those barracks were vacant.

1166

01:15:41,480 --> 01:15:43,400

Those barracks were
vacant so there was

1167

01:15:43,400 --> 01:15:46,970

no one of the inmates killed.

1168

01:15:46,970 --> 01:15:50,540

I lived in the upper barrack,
which was a little removed

1169

01:15:50,540 --> 01:15:53,930

from the site of
that plane crash,

1170

01:15:53,930 --> 01:15:55,535
or plane that was brought down.

1171

01:15:55,535 --> 01:15:59,290

1172

01:15:59,290 --> 01:16:03,790
But this brought
on a new situation,

1173

01:16:03,790 --> 01:16:10,410
because in that plane that
came down on our camp,

1174

01:16:10,410 --> 01:16:13,830
I of course,
witnessed either one

1175

01:16:13,830 --> 01:16:18,810
or two bodies that were
burned in that plane,

1176

01:16:18,810 --> 01:16:23,070
and the ammunition was
popping for a long time

1177

01:16:23,070 --> 01:16:24,060
out of the plane.

1178

01:16:24,060 --> 01:16:26,460
And when you finally
got a chance to see it,

1179

01:16:26,460 --> 01:16:31,620
we saw either one body that
was totally burned down.

1180

01:16:31,620 --> 01:16:35,170
The only thing was left
is his upper torso.

1181

01:16:35,170 --> 01:16:37,530
Either one or two of
the Englishmen in it

1182

01:16:37,530 --> 01:16:46,960

strapped down and still the
rest of the body being burned.

1183

01:16:46,960 --> 01:16:54,910

But the fire that resulted
from that crash burned out

1184

01:16:54,910 --> 01:16:57,420

of the six buildings that
were potentially there,

1185

01:16:57,420 --> 01:16:58,675

there were only two left.

1186

01:16:58,675 --> 01:17:01,350

1187

01:17:01,350 --> 01:17:11,740

So Schindler was ordered to
return to the Kraków-Plaszow

1188

01:17:11,740 --> 01:17:16,600

concentration camp
700 of these inmates,

1189

01:17:16,600 --> 01:17:19,070

and only 300 would remain.

1190

01:17:19,070 --> 01:17:22,720

Of course, all these numbers
I did not know at that time

1191

01:17:22,720 --> 01:17:25,640

when this was going on.

1192

01:17:25,640 --> 01:17:31,790

But this was from stories and
talking to different inmates

1193

01:17:31,790 --> 01:17:33,800

later on.

1194

01:17:33,800 --> 01:17:37,900

The 700 people that were supposed to be returned

1195
01:17:37,900 --> 01:17:42,490
to Kraków-Plaszow were arrived at a segregation--

1196
01:17:42,490 --> 01:17:50,100
or selection that the Germans conducted on the site.

1197
01:17:50,100 --> 01:17:55,380
Oskar Schindler was there, but the actual selection

1198
01:17:55,380 --> 01:17:59,820
of people, unless he has instructed them different

1199
01:17:59,820 --> 01:18:05,760
or made different requests, which I was unaware of,

1200
01:18:05,760 --> 01:18:09,090
the selection was done by the Germans.

1201
01:18:09,090 --> 01:18:14,440
And during the selection time, I somehow sensed--

1202
01:18:14,440 --> 01:18:18,450
and I can't say that I knew anything else--

1203
01:18:18,450 --> 01:18:24,540
but I somehow sensed that I am in a group of people that would

1204
01:18:24,540 --> 01:18:29,500
be returned to Kraków-Plaszow.

1205
01:18:29,500 --> 01:18:32,830
And somehow, my sense also was telling me

1206

01:18:32,830 --> 01:18:36,040
this was the wrong place to go.

1207

01:18:36,040 --> 01:18:42,160
And to this day, I don't know
what made me think that I had--

1208

01:18:42,160 --> 01:18:44,140
did not have any
previous knowledge.

1209

01:18:44,140 --> 01:18:47,380

1210

01:18:47,380 --> 01:18:50,290
But somehow something
was telling me

1211

01:18:50,290 --> 01:18:54,410
that I'm in the wrong place
and I had to do something.

1212

01:18:54,410 --> 01:19:00,330
And my immediate
reaction was to step out

1213

01:19:00,330 --> 01:19:05,250
of my line with the group
of people I was with,

1214

01:19:05,250 --> 01:19:08,430
step forward, run towards
Oskar Schindler, which

1215

01:19:08,430 --> 01:19:12,140
was at this point close to me.

1216

01:19:12,140 --> 01:19:14,450
And what you got to
remember, the SS guards

1217

01:19:14,450 --> 01:19:19,760
were very strict, very
business like with dogs

1218

01:19:19,760 --> 01:19:23,290
doing the selection.

1219

01:19:23,290 --> 01:19:31,140
I somehow was without any fear
stepping out forward, stepping

1220

01:19:31,140 --> 01:19:36,330
up to Schindler practically
shouting to Schindler,

1221

01:19:36,330 --> 01:19:41,660
Herr Schindler, kein
tischler ist geblieben.

1222

01:19:41,660 --> 01:19:43,850
What put these
words into my mouth,

1223

01:19:43,850 --> 01:19:48,020
why this was going to be so
important to Oskar Schindler,

1224

01:19:48,020 --> 01:19:49,700
I have absolutely no idea.

1225

01:19:49,700 --> 01:19:54,920
I was just a youngster and
doing what seemed to me

1226

01:19:54,920 --> 01:19:57,470
like very unimportant work.

1227

01:19:57,470 --> 01:20:05,130
But nevertheless, I did that and
Oskar Schindler, lo and behold,

1228

01:20:05,130 --> 01:20:09,630
instructed the SS guards to
place me in the other group.

1229

01:20:09,630 --> 01:20:16,430
And that's how I remained with
the 300 people in the camp that

1230

01:20:16,430 --> 01:20:21,020
was now 2/3 burned down,
2/3 of the people down

1231

01:20:21,020 --> 01:20:29,240
to Kraków-Plaszow, I remained
with the people in the Emalia

1232

01:20:29,240 --> 01:20:33,800
work concentration camp and
continued work at the factory.

1233

01:20:33,800 --> 01:20:38,100

1234

01:20:38,100 --> 01:20:39,920
This probably would
have been better placed

1235

01:20:39,920 --> 01:20:43,100
in the early 1944.

1236

01:20:43,100 --> 01:20:44,750
Still winter time?

1237

01:20:44,750 --> 01:20:48,530
Still winter time.

1238

01:20:48,530 --> 01:20:51,650
Also, the weather,
I recall, as being

1239

01:20:51,650 --> 01:20:55,490
mild when the plane crashed.

1240

01:20:55,490 --> 01:20:57,400
I remember that as being mild.

1241

01:20:57,400 --> 01:21:04,250
So whether this was later
into the springtime or early

1242

01:21:04,250 --> 01:21:08,230
in the fall, I could

not be 100% sure of.

1243

01:21:08,230 --> 01:21:17,310
But I would rather place it
into the earlier spring of 1944.

1244

01:21:17,310 --> 01:21:20,280
This arrangement
with the 300 people

1245

01:21:20,280 --> 01:21:24,400
only limping along,
working, shortage

1246

01:21:24,400 --> 01:21:30,930
of materials for producing
the pots and pans.

1247

01:21:30,930 --> 01:21:33,390
The buildings, which
were undertaken

1248

01:21:33,390 --> 01:21:39,120
for the larger complex, which
was going to produce armaments,

1249

01:21:39,120 --> 01:21:45,060
or some parts of armaments,
was no longer being completed.

1250

01:21:45,060 --> 01:21:50,270
Things began to come to a
standstill, just marking time.

1251

01:21:50,270 --> 01:21:54,460
Of course, at the time, we did
not know what was happening.

1252

01:21:54,460 --> 01:22:02,910
But pretty-- after a few
months, by October or September

1253

01:22:02,910 --> 01:22:10,150
of 1944, September 1944,
Schindler was ordered

1254

01:22:10,150 --> 01:22:17,990

to liquidate this concentration
camp and ship us all back

1255

01:22:17,990 --> 01:22:24,825

to the Kraków-Plaszow
concentration camps.

1256

01:22:24,825 --> 01:22:29,000

So once again, I along
with the 300 people,

1257

01:22:29,000 --> 01:22:34,490

were delivered to the
Kraków-Plaszow camp.

1258

01:22:34,490 --> 01:22:38,850

And the factory, in
fact, was closed.

1259

01:22:38,850 --> 01:22:42,680

And we remained for
a while in this--

1260

01:22:42,680 --> 01:22:46,830

of the Kraków-Plaszow
concentration camp.

1261

01:22:46,830 --> 01:22:48,810

This was an
extremely busy place.

1262

01:22:48,810 --> 01:22:51,970

Now, when we arrived
there, cattle cars

1263

01:22:51,970 --> 01:22:55,740

were being loaded daily.

1264

01:22:55,740 --> 01:23:02,520

Simultaneously, the appelpatz
was still active like before.

1265

01:23:02,520 --> 01:23:04,290

We were there daily.

1266
01:23:04,290 --> 01:23:08,430
Hangings were at a
much brisker pace now.

1267
01:23:08,430 --> 01:23:13,650
And during those
hangings, we all had to--

1268
01:23:13,650 --> 01:23:16,290
the inmates that were at
the concentration camp

1269
01:23:16,290 --> 01:23:19,830
had to stand and watch
the hangings in progress.

1270
01:23:19,830 --> 01:23:24,530

1271
01:23:24,530 --> 01:23:28,040
Some of my friends
were hung at that time,

1272
01:23:28,040 --> 01:23:32,600
and I witnessed-- observed
the hanging at that time.

1273
01:23:32,600 --> 01:23:34,880
[? Hilevich, ?] which
was the Jewish leader

1274
01:23:34,880 --> 01:23:41,420
of the concentration camp, or
the assistance of the German,

1275
01:23:41,420 --> 01:23:44,210
was also hung at that
time when I was there

1276
01:23:44,210 --> 01:23:46,230
in that concentration camp.

1277
01:23:46,230 --> 01:23:48,500
Why were they hanged?

1278
01:23:48,500 --> 01:23:53,900
Only rumors what we could
rely on why people were hung.

1279
01:23:53,900 --> 01:23:55,850
In the case of a
friend of mine that

1280
01:23:55,850 --> 01:23:59,990
went to the same cheder,
or religious school

1281
01:23:59,990 --> 01:24:02,360
that I went to
before the war, rumor

1282
01:24:02,360 --> 01:24:05,390
was that he tried to escape.

1283
01:24:05,390 --> 01:24:08,150
But these were all rumors.

1284
01:24:08,150 --> 01:24:12,170
Don't imagine how anyone could
escape from this concentration

1285
01:24:12,170 --> 01:24:14,680
camp.

1286
01:24:14,680 --> 01:24:17,910
This was all surrounded by
electrified barbed wires

1287
01:24:17,910 --> 01:24:19,710
with watchtowers.

1288
01:24:19,710 --> 01:24:22,890
We were at that time
underfed, undernourished,

1289
01:24:22,890 --> 01:24:24,520
just is unimaginable.

1290

01:24:24,520 --> 01:24:26,220
But nevertheless,
that was the rumor

1291
01:24:26,220 --> 01:24:28,770
that he was trying to escape.

1292
01:24:28,770 --> 01:24:33,180
In Hilevich's
case, the story was

1293
01:24:33,180 --> 01:24:37,380
that he was a helper
to Amon Goeth,

1294
01:24:37,380 --> 01:24:42,750
and Amon Goeth
had a long history

1295
01:24:42,750 --> 01:24:46,170
of destroying those people
that were too close to him.

1296
01:24:46,170 --> 01:24:50,310
And so he was one of the victims
that was too close to him.

1297
01:24:50,310 --> 01:24:51,150
And he was hung.

1298
01:24:51,150 --> 01:24:53,880
But there were many
other people hung.

1299
01:24:53,880 --> 01:24:55,470
Many other people
that were brought

1300
01:24:55,470 --> 01:25:01,830
in from the outside of
the concentration camp

1301
01:25:01,830 --> 01:25:05,100
were brought in because
they found them hiding out,

1302

01:25:05,100 --> 01:25:09,300
or otherwise at the same time
while hangings were going on,

1303

01:25:09,300 --> 01:25:11,640
there were also
shootings going on.

1304

01:25:11,640 --> 01:25:20,450
An Ukrainian guard serving
the Germans at that time

1305

01:25:20,450 --> 01:25:23,230
was doing--

1306

01:25:23,230 --> 01:25:28,000
contributing his killing
by shooting people

1307

01:25:28,000 --> 01:25:30,640
and torturing people
inside the camp.

1308

01:25:30,640 --> 01:25:34,620
There was a place where
this fellow by the name

1309

01:25:34,620 --> 01:25:38,890
[PERSONAL NAME],, a
Ukrainian would--

1310

01:25:38,890 --> 01:25:45,050
and his cohorts would shoot
people on that particular hill.

1311

01:25:45,050 --> 01:25:51,530
And this was the
existence in that camp

1312

01:25:51,530 --> 01:25:57,230
for the next few weeks
until October of 1944.

1313

01:25:57,230 --> 01:25:59,690
And in one of those

transports that

1314

01:25:59,690 --> 01:26:04,640
were going out of the
camp, because this camp was

1315

01:26:04,640 --> 01:26:09,680
being liquidated because of the
advancing Russian army, as we

1316

01:26:09,680 --> 01:26:12,050
would only hear from rumors.

1317

01:26:12,050 --> 01:26:15,590

1318

01:26:15,590 --> 01:26:17,600
We were too close to
the Russian front,

1319

01:26:17,600 --> 01:26:21,020
and the concentration camp
of Kraków-Plaszow had to be

1320

01:26:21,020 --> 01:26:22,430
liquidated.

1321

01:26:22,430 --> 01:26:26,830
Transports and killings
were going on, as I said.

1322

01:26:26,830 --> 01:26:35,060
One of those transports, I
was loaded into cattle cars,

1323

01:26:35,060 --> 01:26:39,770
together with other
inmates, which I had

1324

01:26:39,770 --> 01:26:41,915
no idea who the others were.

1325

01:26:41,915 --> 01:26:45,930

1326

01:26:45,930 --> 01:26:50,940

Somehow, we had an idea
that maybe Oskar Schindler

1327

01:26:50,940 --> 01:26:55,070

is still alive
someplace and will

1328

01:26:55,070 --> 01:26:59,020

be building some
concentration camp

1329

01:26:59,020 --> 01:27:00,790

and maybe that's where
we would be going.

1330

01:27:00,790 --> 01:27:05,620

That's what some of us in
my group at least thought.

1331

01:27:05,620 --> 01:27:09,910

But we were thrown
into these cattle cars.

1332

01:27:09,910 --> 01:27:16,280

The SS guards pushing us,
kicking us, into these cars.

1333

01:27:16,280 --> 01:27:21,150

The-- our railroad
car, or the rail--

1334

01:27:21,150 --> 01:27:28,360

the transport we were on,
would travel a few days

1335

01:27:28,360 --> 01:27:31,950

and food was very meager.

1336

01:27:31,950 --> 01:27:35,470

There was no way of getting
any food from the outside.

1337

01:27:35,470 --> 01:27:39,610

I don't recall the railroad

cars being opened at any time,

1338

01:27:39,610 --> 01:27:43,600
although, I recall them
being stopped and pushed

1339

01:27:43,600 --> 01:27:46,900
into different
sidings on that trip.

1340

01:27:46,900 --> 01:27:52,420
But we could only surmise
that some important transport

1341

01:27:52,420 --> 01:27:55,090
of Germans was going through
and needed the main lines,

1342

01:27:55,090 --> 01:27:57,820
so we were pushed off the track.

1343

01:27:57,820 --> 01:28:01,090
But I really don't
remember the railroad car

1344

01:28:01,090 --> 01:28:07,280
being opened until we
arrived in Gross-Rosen.

1345

01:28:07,280 --> 01:28:12,000
Gross-Rosen was a
concentration camp, quite

1346

01:28:12,000 --> 01:28:15,860
a gruesome concentration camp.

1347

01:28:15,860 --> 01:28:20,330
We arrived there
in October, cold.

1348

01:28:20,330 --> 01:28:28,510
We were received by the
SS guards there by--

1349

01:28:28,510 --> 01:28:34,790

I don't recall-- standing on
the appelplatz again counting

1350
01:28:34,790 --> 01:28:38,080
and inspections going on.

1351
01:28:38,080 --> 01:28:43,900
I remember a latrine that
was big enough for possibly

1352
01:28:43,900 --> 01:28:48,650
a hundred people, the
open air latrines.

1353
01:28:48,650 --> 01:28:51,485
And we stood there for what
seemed a very long time.

1354
01:28:51,485 --> 01:28:55,930

1355
01:28:55,930 --> 01:29:05,800
And I believe we were eventually
ordered to strip totally,

1356
01:29:05,800 --> 01:29:12,160
and in the nude, March to a
Entlausung showering facility,

1357
01:29:12,160 --> 01:29:15,600
cleaning facility.

1358
01:29:15,600 --> 01:29:19,470
The guards would kick.

1359
01:29:19,470 --> 01:29:21,210
If I recall
correctly, these were

1360
01:29:21,210 --> 01:29:25,800
Ukrainians that were on the
inside of the concentration

1361
01:29:25,800 --> 01:29:26,340
camp.

1362
01:29:26,340 --> 01:29:33,760
Ukrainian guards in black
uniforms would kick inmates.

1363
01:29:33,760 --> 01:29:35,770
And their habit
was to kick inmates

1364
01:29:35,770 --> 01:29:38,260
until they curled
up on the ground,

1365
01:29:38,260 --> 01:29:40,990
were either too ill to respond.

1366
01:29:40,990 --> 01:29:43,600
I don't know how
many people died

1367
01:29:43,600 --> 01:29:48,880
under these kicking
outbursts, but I

1368
01:29:48,880 --> 01:29:52,300
know that they injured
many people in the process.

1369
01:29:52,300 --> 01:30:00,100
When we arrived at the
showering process and lousing,

1370
01:30:00,100 --> 01:30:06,980
as they would call
it, we were going--

1371
01:30:06,980 --> 01:30:12,740
we went through a room
whereby our heads were--

1372
01:30:12,740 --> 01:30:13,835
we were given a crew cut.

1373
01:30:13,835 --> 01:30:16,870

1374

01:30:16,870 --> 01:30:22,150

And the Germans, or the
Ukrainian guards at that time,

1375

01:30:22,150 --> 01:30:27,110

would spit on our
heads to give them

1376

01:30:27,110 --> 01:30:31,760

the ability to shave a
stripe from front to back.

1377

01:30:31,760 --> 01:30:37,690

So it would wind up like a
one to two inch stripe running

1378

01:30:37,690 --> 01:30:42,160

through an otherwise crew cut,
there would be a shaved strip

1379

01:30:42,160 --> 01:30:43,240

so that we couldn't--

1380

01:30:43,240 --> 01:30:47,470

I suppose this was done so that
we would not be able to escape.

1381

01:30:47,470 --> 01:30:50,680

So in the Gross-Rosen camp,
we received this crew cut

1382

01:30:50,680 --> 01:30:55,390

and a shaved strip through
the middle running from front

1383

01:30:55,390 --> 01:30:56,440

to back of the head.

1384

01:30:56,440 --> 01:30:59,980

1385

01:30:59,980 --> 01:31:05,320

The situation inside
the Gross-Rosen camp,

1386
01:31:05,320 --> 01:31:07,750
as I described
before, whenever there

1387
01:31:07,750 --> 01:31:11,500
was a chance for the Ukrainian
guards to kick anyone,

1388
01:31:11,500 --> 01:31:13,300
they enjoy that.

1389
01:31:13,300 --> 01:31:20,920
I don't recall any killings
or hangings inside that camp.

1390
01:31:20,920 --> 01:31:24,820
The whole group
that I arrived with

1391
01:31:24,820 --> 01:31:30,760
was in a barrack that
potentially could have held

1392
01:31:30,760 --> 01:31:34,750
a couple of hundred people.

1393
01:31:34,750 --> 01:31:39,850
The-- it seemed like
all the 700 of us

1394
01:31:39,850 --> 01:31:43,270
were held in this one barrack.

1395
01:31:43,270 --> 01:31:48,010
One other thing I recall
is in front of the--

1396
01:31:48,010 --> 01:31:50,440
or at the entry of
the barrack, there

1397
01:31:50,440 --> 01:31:57,500
was a meticulous
room with the-- where

1398

01:31:57,500 --> 01:32:00,740
the SS guards, or
the Ukrainian guards,

1399

01:32:00,740 --> 01:32:06,800
would be standing by watching
us and the rest of the room.

1400

01:32:06,800 --> 01:32:08,810
And everything in
that entry room

1401

01:32:08,810 --> 01:32:13,340
was meticulous with pots and
cooking ware and all this.

1402

01:32:13,340 --> 01:32:15,530
It just looked like
a little showplace

1403

01:32:15,530 --> 01:32:19,430
until you got to the rest of the
barrack where we were housed.

1404

01:32:19,430 --> 01:32:23,030
And there was not
enough place for people

1405

01:32:23,030 --> 01:32:26,680
to be housed, all those 700.

1406

01:32:26,680 --> 01:32:30,110
And the only way we
could be in that room

1407

01:32:30,110 --> 01:32:34,550
would be by sitting on the
floor and sitting in one

1408

01:32:34,550 --> 01:32:36,650
another's lap.

1409

01:32:36,650 --> 01:32:39,470
The clothes we received
now at that Entlausung

1410
01:32:39,470 --> 01:32:41,150
was simply one shirt.

1411
01:32:41,150 --> 01:32:45,080
And somehow I don't
recall any other clothing

1412
01:32:45,080 --> 01:32:46,040
that we received.

1413
01:32:46,040 --> 01:32:48,920
We simply received one shirt.

1414
01:32:48,920 --> 01:32:52,760
And we were walking
around in that one shirt

1415
01:32:52,760 --> 01:33:00,470
sitting in one another's lap
in that Gross-Rosen barrack.

1416
01:33:00,470 --> 01:33:07,660
This lasted a few
days, possibly a week.

1417
01:33:07,660 --> 01:33:15,910
The only food I remember being
given in that Gross-Rosen camp.

1418
01:33:15,910 --> 01:33:21,700
Number one, some of us were
woken up at some hour like 4:00

1419
01:33:21,700 --> 01:33:22,670
in the morning.

1420
01:33:22,670 --> 01:33:28,110
This was winter approaching,
so it seemed like a deep--

1421
01:33:28,110 --> 01:33:29,112