

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,510

2  
00:00:05,510 --> 00:00:09,690  
So you worked for a  
week in this restaurant.

3  
00:00:09,690 --> 00:00:10,610  
And this little boy--

4  
00:00:10,610 --> 00:00:12,578

5  
00:00:12,578 --> 00:00:13,620  
Pointed, called me a Jew.

6  
00:00:13,620 --> 00:00:14,390  
Pointed at you.

7  
00:00:14,390 --> 00:00:16,360  
Yes.

8  
00:00:16,360 --> 00:00:20,770  
And I was back in my  
little room, locked.

9  
00:00:20,770 --> 00:00:23,960  
Did anybody else say  
anything on the streetcar

10  
00:00:23,960 --> 00:00:24,860  
after he said that?

11  
00:00:24,860 --> 00:00:25,040  
They didn't get a chance.

12  
00:00:25,040 --> 00:00:26,180  
The first stop, I ran out.

13  
00:00:26,180 --> 00:00:26,680

I see.

14  
00:00:26,680 --> 00:00:28,968

15  
00:00:28,968 --> 00:00:31,010  
I don't know what would  
happen that I would stay.

16  
00:00:31,010 --> 00:00:33,760  
Maybe one would get up  
and say he's an SS man

17  
00:00:33,760 --> 00:00:36,230  
or he's a police officer.

18  
00:00:36,230 --> 00:00:37,610  
I didn't want to take chances.

19  
00:00:37,610 --> 00:00:45,650  
There was another aspect of it,  
that nobody knew physically how

20  
00:00:45,650 --> 00:00:50,900  
much you can take  
when SS men caught

21  
00:00:50,900 --> 00:00:57,420  
a Jew who lived with family,  
with another Jewish family.

22  
00:00:57,420 --> 00:01:00,620  
And if they hit you really  
hard, that you cannot stand it,

23  
00:01:00,620 --> 00:01:03,510  
can you keep your mouth shut  
and not say what your sister,

24  
00:01:03,510 --> 00:01:04,430  
your mother lives.

25

00:01:04,430 --> 00:01:07,700  
Most of the time, for that  
reason, we did not ask,

26  
00:01:07,700 --> 00:01:12,110  
we did not know the  
addresses of our relatives.

27  
00:01:12,110 --> 00:01:17,060  
We were taken there and this  
security for me and for them.

28  
00:01:17,060 --> 00:01:19,880  
So that I escaped  
from the street car,

29  
00:01:19,880 --> 00:01:20,972  
this was the reason.

30  
00:01:20,972 --> 00:01:22,430  
I didn't want to  
take chances and I

31  
00:01:22,430 --> 00:01:27,140  
didn't know if I would tell my  
mother, sister, or father is.

32  
00:01:27,140 --> 00:01:29,600  
And then you just went  
back to your sister's?

33  
00:01:29,600 --> 00:01:31,940  
I was running for a long time.

34  
00:01:31,940 --> 00:01:37,890  
Then I called my sister at  
the hospital where she worked.

35  
00:01:37,890 --> 00:01:40,940  
And I met her.

36  
00:01:40,940 --> 00:01:42,350  
We went home.

37

00:01:42,350 --> 00:01:46,160

And she made the decision  
that I can't go out anymore.

38

00:01:46,160 --> 00:01:49,850

For me to survive,  
I have to be locked.

39

00:01:49,850 --> 00:01:55,250

Because of my looks, I could  
not fool that little boy.

40

00:01:55,250 --> 00:01:56,330

Even with the--

41

00:01:56,330 --> 00:02:00,215

Even with my big cross  
and bleached her.

42

00:02:00,215 --> 00:02:04,260

This was not convincing.

43

00:02:04,260 --> 00:02:06,430

And then how long was it until--

44

00:02:06,430 --> 00:02:07,278

Oh, three months.

45

00:02:07,278 --> 00:02:07,820

Three months.

46

00:02:07,820 --> 00:02:08,229

Yes.

47

00:02:08,229 --> 00:02:10,187

You were just in the  
apartment this whole time.

48

00:02:10,187 --> 00:02:11,710

Yeah.

49

00:02:11,710 --> 00:02:13,850

Would you do anything  
special to pass the time?

50

00:02:13,850 --> 00:02:17,050

Reading, the same thing,  
the same magazine or book,

51

00:02:17,050 --> 00:02:20,060

I read probably 102 times.

52

00:02:20,060 --> 00:02:26,200

And talking to the cat,  
whispering to the ca,

53

00:02:26,200 --> 00:02:28,760

who became my biggest  
friend and my biggest enemy,

54

00:02:28,760 --> 00:02:33,020

because he had to go out--  
he could go out and I didn't.

55

00:02:33,020 --> 00:02:36,445

He could knock down a glass from  
the table and not be afraid.

56

00:02:36,445 --> 00:02:39,140

And would happen to me, I  
would be scared to death.

57

00:02:39,140 --> 00:02:40,140

What was the cat's name?

58

00:02:40,140 --> 00:02:41,595

Do you remember?

59

00:02:41,595 --> 00:02:42,095

No.

60

00:02:42,095 --> 00:02:44,080

No.

61  
00:02:44,080 --> 00:02:48,570  
And then this-- then  
there was a decision

62  
00:02:48,570 --> 00:02:50,760  
that everyone was  
leaving Warsaw.

63  
00:02:50,760 --> 00:02:51,510  
Yes.

64  
00:02:51,510 --> 00:02:52,320  
We were told.

65  
00:02:52,320 --> 00:02:55,260  
It was not our decision,  
the German decision,

66  
00:02:55,260 --> 00:02:58,350  
that we were going  
to be leaving Warsaw.

67  
00:02:58,350 --> 00:02:59,720  
Jews will be leaving Warsaw.

68  
00:02:59,720 --> 00:03:00,705  
Not Jews, everybody.

69  
00:03:00,705 --> 00:03:02,700  
Everybody, OK.

70  
00:03:02,700 --> 00:03:05,580  
And we were all in  
tremendous groups.

71  
00:03:05,580 --> 00:03:09,810  
And there was a lot of gunfire  
in the background, not exactly

72  
00:03:09,810 --> 00:03:14,730  
following us, but between

the Russian Katyushas

73

00:03:14,730 --> 00:03:17,946

and the German Army.

74

00:03:17,946 --> 00:03:22,680

And we were put on  
trains, loaded on trains.

75

00:03:22,680 --> 00:03:26,590

And after a whole day  
traveling up, taken off.

76

00:03:26,590 --> 00:03:29,300

77

00:03:29,300 --> 00:03:32,340

Not knowing what the  
next day will bring us.

78

00:03:32,340 --> 00:03:34,610

Were there other Jews with  
you or did you not know?

79

00:03:34,610 --> 00:03:36,290

We didn't know, but  
you could guess.

80

00:03:36,290 --> 00:03:38,330

Just like the little  
boy could recognize me,

81

00:03:38,330 --> 00:03:40,430

we could recognize.

82

00:03:40,430 --> 00:03:44,870

Maybe more sense than recognize.

83

00:03:44,870 --> 00:03:46,426

We behave different.

84

00:03:46,426 --> 00:03:50,400

85  
00:03:50,400 --> 00:03:53,580  
And then in Stutthof--

86  
00:03:53,580 --> 00:03:54,870  
It started.

87  
00:03:54,870 --> 00:04:00,840  
In Stutthof we  
already saw the Jews

88  
00:04:00,840 --> 00:04:05,910  
under the wire in  
camp and looking

89  
00:04:05,910 --> 00:04:10,680  
terrible, sad,  
under-fed, frightened.

90  
00:04:10,680 --> 00:04:13,840  
At this point you were  
still considered a Gentile.

91  
00:04:13,840 --> 00:04:14,700  
Yes.

92  
00:04:14,700 --> 00:04:17,040  
I thought of it more than  
I was considered Gentile.

93  
00:04:17,040 --> 00:04:21,130  
I knew I had a name  
which I assumed,

94  
00:04:21,130 --> 00:04:27,910  
which wasn't mine, which  
didn't help at all.

95  
00:04:27,910 --> 00:04:32,784  
And time passed by.

96



00:04:32,784 --> 00:04:38,190  
We did little chores, picking  
up trees, cutting trees.

97  
00:04:38,190 --> 00:04:43,930  
And in news from time  
to time, somebody

98  
00:04:43,930 --> 00:04:46,960  
heard from somebody  
who had a radio,

99  
00:04:46,960 --> 00:04:51,350  
somebody overheard what SS men  
said, that the Germans are--

100  
00:04:51,350 --> 00:04:55,420  
the American army's close  
and the Russian army's

101  
00:04:55,420 --> 00:04:58,510  
getting somewhere  
close, that maybe this

102  
00:04:58,510 --> 00:05:02,650  
is the end of the war,  
and maybe we'll be free,

103  
00:05:02,650 --> 00:05:06,160  
but these were just guesses.

104  
00:05:06,160 --> 00:05:14,120  
And they real proof,  
it was obvious

105  
00:05:14,120 --> 00:05:17,210  
that something was going on when  
there was a lot of confusion

106  
00:05:17,210 --> 00:05:20,930  
and less and less guards  
were left in the camp.

107

00:05:20,930 --> 00:05:23,840  
And they gradually  
started transporting us

108  
00:05:23,840 --> 00:05:26,280  
from one place to the other.

109  
00:05:26,280 --> 00:05:27,830  
Sometimes, it was just an hour.

110  
00:05:27,830 --> 00:05:31,220  
Sometimes, it was  
two or three hours.

111  
00:05:31,220 --> 00:05:36,710  
And we end up again  
in the deep woods.

112  
00:05:36,710 --> 00:05:38,570  
So it just seemed they  
were moving you away

113  
00:05:38,570 --> 00:05:40,750  
from Stutthof for a few hours.

114  
00:05:40,750 --> 00:05:42,680  
Permanent, we didn't go back.

115  
00:05:42,680 --> 00:05:47,330  
But it became to us obvious  
that something was going on,

116  
00:05:47,330 --> 00:05:51,080  
that somebody is getting closer  
to that area where we were.

117  
00:05:51,080 --> 00:05:57,380  
And then less guards  
were left in the camp.

118  
00:05:57,380 --> 00:06:01,270  
And then one day, we heard  
that music, that harmonica

119  
00:06:01,270 --> 00:06:02,760  
and singing.

120  
00:06:02,760 --> 00:06:05,240  
And that was at Gross-Rosen.

121  
00:06:05,240 --> 00:06:08,210  
Yes, this was when the  
German army came in.

122  
00:06:08,210 --> 00:06:09,710  
So as they moved  
away from Stutthof,

123  
00:06:09,710 --> 00:06:11,180  
eventually you  
reached Gross-Rosen.

124  
00:06:11,180 --> 00:06:12,050  
Yes.

125  
00:06:12,050 --> 00:06:13,820  
Over how many days?

126  
00:06:13,820 --> 00:06:14,690  
Do you recall?

127  
00:06:14,690 --> 00:06:15,630  
I know it's hard to.

128  
00:06:15,630 --> 00:06:21,180  
Yes, well, time is so uncertain.

129  
00:06:21,180 --> 00:06:23,300  
Now I don't know if  
it was hours or days.

130  
00:06:23,300 --> 00:06:28,350

131

00:06:28,350 --> 00:06:31,200  
It was winter time.

132  
00:06:31,200 --> 00:06:33,840  
Because when we  
were finally freed

133  
00:06:33,840 --> 00:06:37,430  
and we walked back to  
Poland, it was January.

134  
00:06:37,430 --> 00:06:37,970  
January.

135  
00:06:37,970 --> 00:06:38,470  
Yeah.

136  
00:06:38,470 --> 00:06:42,460

137  
00:06:42,460 --> 00:06:45,940  
So your time at  
Gross-Rosen was short.

138  
00:06:45,940 --> 00:06:47,980  
Yes.

139  
00:06:47,980 --> 00:06:48,970  
Just a month?

140  
00:06:48,970 --> 00:06:51,490  
To know where you  
were with something.

141  
00:06:51,490 --> 00:06:53,050  
You didn't care.

142  
00:06:53,050 --> 00:06:54,580  
And you were not told.

143  
00:06:54,580 --> 00:06:57,340  
Right.

144  
00:06:57,340 --> 00:07:00,400  
It was not actually  
important even

145  
00:07:00,400 --> 00:07:03,940  
to know where we were,  
as long as we were not

146  
00:07:03,940 --> 00:07:07,060  
chased or beaten.

147  
00:07:07,060 --> 00:07:09,080  
It was stranger to--

148  
00:07:09,080 --> 00:07:12,400  
we were stripped  
completely from dignity.

149  
00:07:12,400 --> 00:07:15,370  
People, [INAUDIBLE]  
didn't matter.

150  
00:07:15,370 --> 00:07:18,850  
Just to fill your stomach for  
a few hours was very important.

151  
00:07:18,850 --> 00:07:21,720  
And to be alive  
was very important.

152  
00:07:21,720 --> 00:07:27,490  
And as I mentioned  
before, the closer you

153  
00:07:27,490 --> 00:07:32,200  
are facing a tragedy, the  
more you want to live.

154  
00:07:32,200 --> 00:07:36,350

155

00:07:36,350 --> 00:07:39,410  
And your father was  
sent where from Warsaw?

156  
00:07:39,410 --> 00:07:42,222  
My father was in Stutthof  
and then he went back.

157  
00:07:42,222 --> 00:07:42,722  
He was also.

158  
00:07:42,722 --> 00:07:43,222  
Yeah.

159  
00:07:43,222 --> 00:07:44,450  
I see.

160  
00:07:44,450 --> 00:07:46,750  
Then he went back to Warsaw.

161  
00:07:46,750 --> 00:07:47,690  
Back to Poland.

162  
00:07:47,690 --> 00:07:48,930  
I see.

163  
00:07:48,930 --> 00:07:49,430  
OK.

164  
00:07:49,430 --> 00:07:49,930  
Yeah.

165  
00:07:49,930 --> 00:07:55,020

166  
00:07:55,020 --> 00:08:00,340  
And if we can go way back,  
back to before the war,

167  
00:08:00,340 --> 00:08:04,690  
I just wanted to clarify  
some things in my head.

168  
00:08:04,690 --> 00:08:07,050  
Now you were the--

169  
00:08:07,050 --> 00:08:08,480  
Third in the family.

170  
00:08:08,480 --> 00:08:10,020  
The third oldest?

171  
00:08:10,020 --> 00:08:10,710  
Yes.

172  
00:08:10,710 --> 00:08:14,100  
My oldest sister was Hannah.

173  
00:08:14,100 --> 00:08:16,920

174  
00:08:16,920 --> 00:08:19,740  
She's now 80-some-- 80.

175  
00:08:19,740 --> 00:08:21,140  
And then was Irene.

176  
00:08:21,140 --> 00:08:26,360  
Irene was the one  
who saved us all.

177  
00:08:26,360 --> 00:08:27,150  
Is that the nurse?

178  
00:08:27,150 --> 00:08:28,170  
Yes.

179  
00:08:28,170 --> 00:08:31,882  
And then the third one died, and  
that was Frances, the youngest.

180  
00:08:31,882 --> 00:08:33,210  
OK.

181  
00:08:33,210 --> 00:08:36,990  
And after public school,  
you went to this other town,

182  
00:08:36,990 --> 00:08:38,884  
30 kilometers away  
for gymnasium.

183  
00:08:38,884 --> 00:08:40,049  
Yes, gymnasium.

184  
00:08:40,049 --> 00:08:41,789  
And after gymnasium--

185  
00:08:41,789 --> 00:08:45,330  
After gymnasium, my  
sister was near Katowice.

186  
00:08:45,330 --> 00:08:46,240  
She worked there.

187  
00:08:46,240 --> 00:08:47,640  
So I had a place to live.

188  
00:08:47,640 --> 00:08:50,830  
So I went there and I  
registered in Katowice

189  
00:08:50,830 --> 00:08:55,666  
to a school of business  
administration.

190  
00:08:55,666 --> 00:09:00,480  
As I mentioned before  
Katowice was once--

191  
00:09:00,480 --> 00:09:03,660  
belonged once to Germany and  
then going back to Poland.

192  
00:09:03,660 --> 00:09:07,770



Most of the population there  
were called Volksdeutsche,

193  
00:09:07,770 --> 00:09:12,470  
which means partly belong  
to Germany, part to Poland.

194  
00:09:12,470 --> 00:09:15,950  
They spoke a broken Polish  
and a broken German.

195  
00:09:15,950 --> 00:09:16,650  
And This.

196  
00:09:16,650 --> 00:09:20,410  
Was not a good element either.

197  
00:09:20,410 --> 00:09:26,580  
And then in August  
1939, my sister and I

198  
00:09:26,580 --> 00:09:29,010  
went back to our hometown,  
because we thought--

199  
00:09:29,010 --> 00:09:31,093  
Because you heard that the  
war was going to begin.

200  
00:09:31,093 --> 00:09:33,840  
Right, as so we felt that the  
war would mean in the larger

201  
00:09:33,840 --> 00:09:36,300  
cities, the army  
will fight, but we

202  
00:09:36,300 --> 00:09:38,730  
will be safe in that little  
town on the Vistula River,

203  
00:09:38,730 --> 00:09:41,790  
but we were wrong.

204  
00:09:41,790 --> 00:09:44,610  
When the Germans did  
come into your town,

205  
00:09:44,610 --> 00:09:47,280  
were you made to wear  
badges at any point?

206  
00:09:47,280 --> 00:09:48,540  
Yes.

207  
00:09:48,540 --> 00:09:53,100  
When they started ghetto and  
the camp, the labor camp,

208  
00:09:53,100 --> 00:09:55,260  
we all had yellow--

209  
00:09:55,260 --> 00:09:59,310  
we had bands on our  
arms and yellow stars.

210  
00:09:59,310 --> 00:10:01,980  
Yeah, this was our  
identification.

211  
00:10:01,980 --> 00:10:05,310  
But people who did not  
wear, were not Jews.

212  
00:10:05,310 --> 00:10:06,660  
Where did you get the armband?

213  
00:10:06,660 --> 00:10:10,900  
The Germans-- I think  
the Jewish community,

214  
00:10:10,900 --> 00:10:12,350  
which they established--

215  
00:10:12,350 --> 00:10:13,290

The Judenrat.

216  
00:10:13,290 --> 00:10:14,680  
Yes.

217  
00:10:14,680 --> 00:10:17,308  
The Judenrat had to supply  
everything for the Germans.

218  
00:10:17,308 --> 00:10:18,600  
And this was one of the orders.

219  
00:10:18,600 --> 00:10:21,240

220  
00:10:21,240 --> 00:10:24,180  
And when you were taken out  
of your apartment, what do

221  
00:10:24,180 --> 00:10:26,380  
you remember taking with you?

222  
00:10:26,380 --> 00:10:26,880  
Nothing.

223  
00:10:26,880 --> 00:10:27,480  
Nothing.

224  
00:10:27,480 --> 00:10:30,990  
Because we thought-- they called  
us to leave the apartment.

225  
00:10:30,990 --> 00:10:32,930  
This didn't mean that  
we will never go back.

226  
00:10:32,930 --> 00:10:33,430  
I see.

227  
00:10:33,430 --> 00:10:35,590  
We thought we're just  
going for a little talk.

228  
00:10:35,590 --> 00:10:37,200  
Out to the town square.

229  
00:10:37,200 --> 00:10:38,130  
That's right.

230  
00:10:38,130 --> 00:10:40,170  
But we never went back.

231  
00:10:40,170 --> 00:10:42,400  
Did you live in a-- was  
there what was considered

232  
00:10:42,400 --> 00:10:43,317  
a Jewish neighborhood?

233  
00:10:43,317 --> 00:10:44,820  
You said there was  
a Jewish street.

234  
00:10:44,820 --> 00:10:47,250  
Yes, there was a Jewish street  
where the synagogue was.

235  
00:10:47,250 --> 00:10:50,010  
All the Jews who there lived  
on the Jewish street, just

236  
00:10:50,010 --> 00:10:54,780  
like you would say  
the [INAUDIBLE] Road.

237  
00:10:54,780 --> 00:10:55,830  
It was a street.

238  
00:10:55,830 --> 00:10:59,465  
But some non-Jewish lived  
there too, very poor.

239  
00:10:59,465 --> 00:11:01,840  
And your father's store was

in this neighborhood as well?

240  
00:11:01,840 --> 00:11:05,340  
No, my father's  
store was different--

241  
00:11:05,340 --> 00:11:08,100  
across from the city hall.

242  
00:11:08,100 --> 00:11:10,290  
This is where they  
gathered all the Jews.

243  
00:11:10,290 --> 00:11:13,110  
And we lived on the  
same street, which

244  
00:11:13,110 --> 00:11:17,700  
was called [? Tapatoska. ?]  
We lived across the street

245  
00:11:17,700 --> 00:11:20,790  
from a hospital and  
a Catholic church.

246  
00:11:20,790 --> 00:11:25,560

247  
00:11:25,560 --> 00:11:30,930  
And so you never--

248  
00:11:30,930 --> 00:11:32,430  
within the ghetto,  
were you ever--

249  
00:11:32,430 --> 00:11:34,860  
you went immediately  
to this barracks

250  
00:11:34,860 --> 00:11:36,060  
to work at this school.

251

00:11:36,060 --> 00:11:40,200  
We went first on that city,  
whole place, all the Jews went.

252  
00:11:40,200 --> 00:11:45,570  
Then part-- they selected  
who would stay in this part

253  
00:11:45,570 --> 00:11:46,710  
that they called ghetto.

254  
00:11:46,710 --> 00:11:47,400  
I see.

255  
00:11:47,400 --> 00:11:52,200  
They also brought Jews from the  
little towns around Sandomierz.

256  
00:11:52,200 --> 00:11:57,450  
And then the rest of  
the Jews from that place

257  
00:11:57,450 --> 00:12:00,840  
were taken to this  
labor camp, I call it,

258  
00:12:00,840 --> 00:12:07,710  
where I washed floors  
for the Hitler-Jugend.

259  
00:12:07,710 --> 00:12:11,140  
And when you were there, they  
just assigned jobs to people?

260  
00:12:11,140 --> 00:12:12,180  
You mean at the--

261  
00:12:12,180 --> 00:12:15,000  
At that labor camp?

262  
00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:18,390  
Well, they gave orders,  
you do this, you do this.

263

00:12:18,390 --> 00:12:21,030

And there were some they  
didn't have anything to do.

264

00:12:21,030 --> 00:12:23,820

And we don't know  
what happened to them.

265

00:12:23,820 --> 00:12:27,450

You were on their mercy and  
their caprice, whatever they

266

00:12:27,450 --> 00:12:29,158

wanted to do, they will do.

267

00:12:29,158 --> 00:12:31,970

268

00:12:31,970 --> 00:12:34,320

Do you remember anything else  
about those Hitler Youth?

269

00:12:34,320 --> 00:12:35,990

You mentioned that  
they would stand--

270

00:12:35,990 --> 00:12:39,054

walk on your hands.

271

00:12:39,054 --> 00:12:41,410

They had no manners.

272

00:12:41,410 --> 00:12:44,852

They were rigid.

273

00:12:44,852 --> 00:12:50,950

They were-- young kids, you  
expect they would smile.

274

00:12:50,950 --> 00:12:51,880

They wasn't too happy.

275  
00:12:51,880 --> 00:12:55,110  
They didn't look happy.

276  
00:12:55,110 --> 00:12:57,930  
It was a military school.

277  
00:12:57,930 --> 00:12:59,340  
And they were all in uniform?

278  
00:12:59,340 --> 00:13:01,260  
Yes. oh, yes, with  
the heil Hitler.

279  
00:13:01,260 --> 00:13:05,105

280  
00:13:05,105 --> 00:13:06,980  
Do you remember anything  
about the commandant

281  
00:13:06,980 --> 00:13:09,350  
of that labor camp?

282  
00:13:09,350 --> 00:13:10,180  
There were many.

283  
00:13:10,180 --> 00:13:10,847  
There were many.

284  
00:13:10,847 --> 00:13:11,720  
There was not one.

285  
00:13:11,720 --> 00:13:15,170  
And they never  
approached single.

286  
00:13:15,170 --> 00:13:19,652  
They always were in the  
company of two or three,

287



00:13:19,652 --> 00:13:25,210  
with rifles, or revolvers,  
or armed, always armed.

288  
00:13:25,210 --> 00:13:28,560

289  
00:13:28,560 --> 00:13:31,380  
And in the barrack, was  
the whole family together?

290  
00:13:31,380 --> 00:13:32,060  
That is--

291  
00:13:32,060 --> 00:13:32,330  
No.

292  
00:13:32,330 --> 00:13:32,830  
No.

293  
00:13:32,830 --> 00:13:36,780  
They had younger  
women and older women.

294  
00:13:36,780 --> 00:13:40,300  
My mother and father  
were not together.

295  
00:13:40,300 --> 00:13:44,040  
What was your father doing  
in terms of work there?

296  
00:13:44,040 --> 00:13:47,893  
He was working what--

297  
00:13:47,893 --> 00:13:50,310  
they worked in the fields,  
just like we, in the beginning,

298  
00:13:50,310 --> 00:13:56,040  
worked in the fields, like  
digging, planting potatoes,

299

00:13:56,040 --> 00:13:57,370  
or digging out potatoes.

300

00:13:57,370 --> 00:13:58,860  
You couldn't straighten up.

301

00:13:58,860 --> 00:14:01,620  
If you ever saw people digging--

302

00:14:01,620 --> 00:14:04,290  
and we didn't have any  
machinery at that time.

303

00:14:04,290 --> 00:14:06,030  
It was very primitive.

304

00:14:06,030 --> 00:14:07,530  
You had to be in a  
bending position.

305

00:14:07,530 --> 00:14:11,750

306

00:14:11,750 --> 00:14:17,070  
It was hard labor, nothing  
you would pick to work.

307

00:14:17,070 --> 00:14:19,910

308

00:14:19,910 --> 00:14:21,860  
You mentioned very early  
on that your father

309

00:14:21,860 --> 00:14:23,270  
was in the city council.

310

00:14:23,270 --> 00:14:27,370  
Yes, he was a city-- yeah.

311

00:14:27,370 --> 00:14:30,500

Was he a member of the city council when the Germans came?

312  
00:14:30,500 --> 00:14:31,330  
He was the--

313  
00:14:31,330 --> 00:14:32,768  
Jews, they had representative.

314  
00:14:32,768 --> 00:14:35,310  
Of course, there were several, but my father was one of them.

315  
00:14:35,310 --> 00:14:36,380  
I see.

316  
00:14:36,380 --> 00:14:38,780  
He was paid for every meeting.

317  
00:14:38,780 --> 00:14:42,380  
They had, let's say, one, two meetings a month.

318  
00:14:42,380 --> 00:14:45,410  
They paid him, I remember, something like 10 zlotys,

319  
00:14:45,410 --> 00:14:47,870  
would be like \$10.

320  
00:14:47,870 --> 00:14:52,190  
And he wasn't asked to become part of the Judenrat?

321  
00:14:52,190 --> 00:14:53,450  
He was in the beginning.

322  
00:14:53,450 --> 00:15:01,120  
Yes, they had-- there were two lawyers, my father,

323  
00:15:01,120 --> 00:15:03,810

there were about six or  
eight business people.

324  
00:15:03,810 --> 00:15:05,680  
My father was one of them.

325  
00:15:05,680 --> 00:15:06,710  
Yeah.

326  
00:15:06,710 --> 00:15:09,720  
They didn't have any privileges  
for them, on the contrary.

327  
00:15:09,720 --> 00:15:16,380  
This was a very hard part,  
that the demands came to them.

328  
00:15:16,380 --> 00:15:19,010  
And they usually  
came either/or, which

329  
00:15:19,010 --> 00:15:24,740  
means you supply us 100 pairs  
of boots, what soldiers wear,

330  
00:15:24,740 --> 00:15:26,330  
leather boots.

331  
00:15:26,330 --> 00:15:27,500  
They gave you three days.

332  
00:15:27,500 --> 00:15:30,450

333  
00:15:30,450 --> 00:15:35,000  
And if you didn't meet  
the order, somebody died.

334  
00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:37,900

335  
00:15:37,900 --> 00:15:43,990

So the position of  
the Judenrat members

336  
00:15:43,990 --> 00:15:48,070  
was very difficult,  
very responsible.

337  
00:15:48,070 --> 00:15:53,020  
And least to say,  
not appreciated.

338  
00:15:53,020 --> 00:15:55,053  
What can you do?

339  
00:15:55,053 --> 00:15:57,220  
Do you remember your father  
saying-- talking about--

340  
00:15:57,220 --> 00:16:00,520  
My father hoped that  
he wouldn't be there.

341  
00:16:00,520 --> 00:16:06,850

342  
00:16:06,850 --> 00:16:09,190  
And early on, when  
the Germans came in,

343  
00:16:09,190 --> 00:16:12,610  
they gave an order that no  
Jews were to leave their homes.

344  
00:16:12,610 --> 00:16:14,620  
Homes, yes, to stay  
until next order.

345  
00:16:14,620 --> 00:16:16,300  
The order was a knock.

346  
00:16:16,300 --> 00:16:17,440  
I see.

347

00:16:17,440 --> 00:16:21,880

Not a gentle knock,  
like [INAUDIBLE]..

348

00:16:21,880 --> 00:16:23,980

What other orders came about?

349

00:16:23,980 --> 00:16:31,420

Oh, you had to supply  
tailors to do uniforms.

350

00:16:31,420 --> 00:16:36,970

And they wanted  
cigars or cigarettes.

351

00:16:36,970 --> 00:16:40,570

I don't think our town  
even had that supply.

352

00:16:40,570 --> 00:16:46,400

You had to perform a miracle  
to meet their demand.

353

00:16:46,400 --> 00:16:49,700

354

00:16:49,700 --> 00:17:05,545

All kinds of-- the most common  
was shoes, boots, tailors,

355

00:17:05,545 --> 00:17:06,045

cigarettes.

356

00:17:06,045 --> 00:17:11,890

Sometimes, they did not  
ask the Judenrat to supply,

357

00:17:11,890 --> 00:17:14,970

they helped themselves.

358

00:17:14,970 --> 00:17:17,250

What about money,

or gold, or jewelry?

359

00:17:17,250 --> 00:17:19,710

They took this away the  
first meeting we had.

360

00:17:19,710 --> 00:17:20,460

The stripped off--

361

00:17:20,460 --> 00:17:22,079

Everybody bring  
this, turn it in.

362

00:17:22,079 --> 00:17:22,740

Not bringing.

363

00:17:22,740 --> 00:17:28,240

They stripped off your  
finger if you had.

364

00:17:28,240 --> 00:17:31,110

They didn't send you home to  
dig out what you put away.

365

00:17:31,110 --> 00:17:33,700

Because you didn't have  
a chance even to do that.

366

00:17:33,700 --> 00:17:37,510

But if you had to watch, a  
ring, a chain on your neck,

367

00:17:37,510 --> 00:17:40,500

or a earring, they  
didn't ask for it.

368

00:17:40,500 --> 00:17:44,930

They pulled it off.

369

00:17:44,930 --> 00:17:46,340

What about food at that time?

370

00:17:46,340 --> 00:17:50,300

371

00:17:50,300 --> 00:17:53,600

We still had enough to eat.

372

00:17:53,600 --> 00:17:56,870

You could still go out and shop?

373

00:17:56,870 --> 00:18:00,530

On certain hours and you  
had to have the arm band on.

374

00:18:00,530 --> 00:18:01,610

Yes, you could.

375

00:18:01,610 --> 00:18:05,420

What were those  
hours, do you recall?

376

00:18:05,420 --> 00:18:08,900

From 8:00 to 4:00.

377

00:18:08,900 --> 00:18:13,370

And I remember one time, this  
probably was the last few days,

378

00:18:13,370 --> 00:18:19,040

it was just half a day, like  
8 to 12, and then stay in.

379

00:18:19,040 --> 00:18:22,130

If it was quiet, we worried.

380

00:18:22,130 --> 00:18:24,530

If it was noisy, we worried.

381

00:18:24,530 --> 00:18:26,510

I mean, you could  
go to the window

382

00:18:26,510 --> 00:18:28,670



and just peak and see  
if they're walking.

383  
00:18:28,670 --> 00:18:31,460  
You could hear them, the  
soldiers walking, talking.

384  
00:18:31,460 --> 00:18:34,070  
And there were some days that  
were so quiet that we knew

385  
00:18:34,070 --> 00:18:37,250  
something is going to happen.

386  
00:18:37,250 --> 00:18:39,775  
You learned to sense.

387  
00:18:39,775 --> 00:18:41,510  
Or maybe it's easier--

388  
00:18:41,510 --> 00:18:43,580  
it was easier to believe  
that something bad is

389  
00:18:43,580 --> 00:18:48,440  
going to happen than to  
hope for something better.

390  
00:18:48,440 --> 00:18:50,250  
Did you speak German?

391  
00:18:50,250 --> 00:18:52,460  
Yes, I had German in school.

392  
00:18:52,460 --> 00:18:54,530  
So you were able to  
communicate with the guards.

393  
00:18:54,530 --> 00:18:57,025  
Yeah.

394  
00:18:57,025 --> 00:18:58,720

And they spoke Polish too.

395

00:18:58,720 --> 00:19:00,590

As I said, they were  
spies, some of them.

396

00:19:00,590 --> 00:19:02,830

Right.

397

00:19:02,830 --> 00:19:07,150

Before we started recording, you  
had talked about the cemetery

398

00:19:07,150 --> 00:19:10,030

and when they uplifted  
the headstones.

399

00:19:10,030 --> 00:19:12,030

Would you mind telling  
me about that again?

400

00:19:12,030 --> 00:19:14,680

401

00:19:14,680 --> 00:19:20,800

The Germans ordered all the  
headstones from the cemetery

402

00:19:20,800 --> 00:19:26,632

to remove and to pave  
the streets of our town.

403

00:19:26,632 --> 00:19:28,090

Were they just dirt  
streets before?

404

00:19:28,090 --> 00:19:31,330

No, some of them had  
sidewalks, but they were maybe

405

00:19:31,330 --> 00:19:34,390

in bad condition.

406

00:19:34,390 --> 00:19:40,300

Or some of them had nothing,  
and these were the sidewalks.

407

00:19:40,300 --> 00:19:47,450

And after the war, when my son  
and I took the trip to Poland,

408

00:19:47,450 --> 00:19:50,020

this was the only  
familiar place,

409

00:19:50,020 --> 00:19:53,350

was the Jewish cemetery, which  
was there without headstones.

410

00:19:53,350 --> 00:19:56,170

But in the center  
of the cemetery was

411

00:19:56,170 --> 00:20:00,640

a monument put together.

412

00:20:00,640 --> 00:20:04,210

All the headstones were again  
removed from the sidewalks

413

00:20:04,210 --> 00:20:07,480

and pushed together.

414

00:20:07,480 --> 00:20:11,860

Not attached but they  
were standing together.

415

00:20:11,860 --> 00:20:16,630

But the inscriptions and the  
names are completely erased.

416

00:20:16,630 --> 00:20:19,000

Just by virtue of  
weather and age?

417

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:20,330  
Yes, walking on them.

418  
00:20:20,330 --> 00:20:21,247  
Walking on them, yeah.

419  
00:20:21,247 --> 00:20:23,870  
Yes.

420  
00:20:23,870 --> 00:20:26,990  
Were you were ordered to  
help remove headstands?

421  
00:20:26,990 --> 00:20:29,300  
The men.

422  
00:20:29,300 --> 00:20:32,250  
Yes, men and some  
Poles, not Jews, Poles

423  
00:20:32,250 --> 00:20:35,067  
were doing the work too.

424  
00:20:35,067 --> 00:20:37,025  
So this was before the  
ghetto was established--

425  
00:20:37,025 --> 00:20:37,680  
Yeah.

426  
00:20:37,680 --> 00:20:38,555  
--they had done this.

427  
00:20:38,555 --> 00:20:41,170

428  
00:20:41,170 --> 00:20:45,460  
Do you remember seeing the  
headstones in the town,

429  
00:20:45,460 --> 00:20:46,510  
serving as sidewalks?

430

00:20:46,510 --> 00:20:48,320

No.

431

00:20:48,320 --> 00:20:49,630

I never went back.

432

00:20:49,630 --> 00:20:53,480

433

00:20:53,480 --> 00:20:55,030

OK.

434

00:20:55,030 --> 00:20:59,000