

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:15,710

2  
00:00:15,710 --> 00:00:16,210  
Rolling.

3  
00:00:16,210 --> 00:00:19,580

4  
00:00:19,580 --> 00:00:26,960  
OK, Henny, I want you to tell  
me about when you left one work

5  
00:00:26,960 --> 00:00:28,970  
camp and ended up in Dachau.

6  
00:00:28,970 --> 00:00:32,930  
Start with what time of year  
it was and how old you were.

7  
00:00:32,930 --> 00:00:35,960  
And then just start telling  
me what your life was like.

8  
00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:37,850  
What work you did,  
where you lived.

9  
00:00:37,850 --> 00:00:43,520

10  
00:00:43,520 --> 00:00:49,520  
After the ghetto, Vilna  
ghetto, was liquidated,

11  
00:00:49,520 --> 00:00:54,990  
they brought us to  
Kaiserwald, to Latvia.

12  
00:00:54,990 --> 00:00:56,880  
And it was a terrible camp.

13  
00:00:56,880 --> 00:00:59,820  
And we were there two days.

14  
00:00:59,820 --> 00:01:06,225  
And then they brought  
us to one of the camps.

15  
00:01:06,225 --> 00:01:08,820  
Now, I don't remember.

16  
00:01:08,820 --> 00:01:09,420  
OK.

17  
00:01:09,420 --> 00:01:10,128  
That's all right.

18  
00:01:10,128 --> 00:01:11,390  
Let's stop for a minute.

19  
00:01:11,390 --> 00:01:14,180  
That's so--

20  
00:01:14,180 --> 00:01:14,810  
Number two.

21  
00:01:14,810 --> 00:01:16,040  
Now, wait just a sec.

22  
00:01:16,040 --> 00:01:16,540  
OK.

23  
00:01:16,540 --> 00:01:17,450  
Now, go ahead.

24  
00:01:17,450 --> 00:01:20,000  
And then they brought  
us to DÄ¼nawerke.

25  
00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,660  
DÄ¼nawerke or verke,

whichever way you pronounce.

26

00:01:23,660 --> 00:01:28,100

And we were there  
close to a year.

27

00:01:28,100 --> 00:01:34,180

The work was very hard,  
unbelievably hard work.

28

00:01:34,180 --> 00:01:37,997

There were people outside.

29

00:01:37,997 --> 00:01:39,205

There were all nationalities.

30

00:01:39,205 --> 00:01:43,900

There were even the Russians  
there that worked in all parts

31

00:01:43,900 --> 00:01:45,390

of DÃ¼nawerke.

32

00:01:45,390 --> 00:01:50,580

33

00:01:50,580 --> 00:01:53,290

They didn't give  
us enough of food.

34

00:01:53,290 --> 00:01:59,700

We were always hungry, always  
cold, and always overworked.

35

00:01:59,700 --> 00:02:04,850

36

00:02:04,850 --> 00:02:08,090

So tell me when you  
ended up in Dachau.

37

00:02:08,090 --> 00:02:11,060

38  
00:02:11,060 --> 00:02:14,910  
Was it in the fall of 1944?

39  
00:02:14,910 --> 00:02:18,620  
Yes, it was 1944.

40  
00:02:18,620 --> 00:02:22,340  
They brought us to Stutthof.

41  
00:02:22,340 --> 00:02:25,850  
And then another  
selection was done

42  
00:02:25,850 --> 00:02:30,560  
to all the inmates, where  
everybody else was going,

43  
00:02:30,560 --> 00:02:34,040  
and where everybody else  
was sent to different camps.

44  
00:02:34,040 --> 00:02:37,550  
We were brought to Poniewiez.

45  
00:02:37,550 --> 00:02:38,900  
And we were there two months.

46  
00:02:38,900 --> 00:02:41,960

47  
00:02:41,960 --> 00:02:45,700  
And then they brought us  
to Landsberg, Lager Eins,

48  
00:02:45,700 --> 00:02:48,835  
which was one of the  
complexes of Dachau.

49  
00:02:48,835 --> 00:02:51,450

50  
00:02:51,450 --> 00:02:58,480  
It was an unbelievably  
terrible, terrible camp.

51  
00:02:58,480 --> 00:03:03,340  
The time of the year  
was the end of fall.

52  
00:03:03,340 --> 00:03:05,170  
The camp was in the woods.

53  
00:03:05,170 --> 00:03:07,510  
It was freezing.

54  
00:03:07,510 --> 00:03:10,150  
I didn't even have a jacket.

55  
00:03:10,150 --> 00:03:13,540  
I was trembling with a cold,  
and I ran into the barracks,

56  
00:03:13,540 --> 00:03:17,130  
and they started to call me.

57  
00:03:17,130 --> 00:03:18,670  
And I was just trembling.

58  
00:03:18,670 --> 00:03:19,650  
I couldn't.

59  
00:03:19,650 --> 00:03:21,180  
They asked me to sing.

60  
00:03:21,180 --> 00:03:25,410  
And I heard sounds of music.

61  
00:03:25,410 --> 00:03:32,650  
So somebody handed me a  
jacket and ordered me to sing.

62

00:03:32,650 --> 00:03:34,780  
I went over.

63  
00:03:34,780 --> 00:03:37,395  
I was told to go over  
to the orchestra.

64  
00:03:37,395 --> 00:03:39,820  
There were about six  
musicians sitting

65  
00:03:39,820 --> 00:03:42,700  
in the middle of the camp.

66  
00:03:42,700 --> 00:03:46,150  
Nazis were sitting  
around on benches.

67  
00:03:46,150 --> 00:03:50,530  
The inmates were standing  
behind the barbed wires

68  
00:03:50,530 --> 00:03:52,615  
and waiting for the concert.

69  
00:03:52,615 --> 00:03:55,890

70  
00:03:55,890 --> 00:03:59,060  
They played the  
William Tell Overture.

71  
00:03:59,060 --> 00:04:04,870  
And they asked me what  
I'll be able to sing.

72  
00:04:04,870 --> 00:04:06,370  
I thought, they're  
Germans, I didn't

73  
00:04:06,370 --> 00:04:08,410  
want to sing Yiddish songs.

74

00:04:08,410 --> 00:04:13,900

I sang-- I told him I'll sing  
Schubert's Serenade in German.

75

00:04:13,900 --> 00:04:19,440

And from then on,  
we were like a unit.

76

00:04:19,440 --> 00:04:23,400

We were singing  
and entertaining,

77

00:04:23,400 --> 00:04:26,250

going from one  
camp to the other.

78

00:04:26,250 --> 00:04:30,150

On Sunday, when  
everybody was resting,

79

00:04:30,150 --> 00:04:35,130

we had to walk miles and miles  
from one camp to the other

80

00:04:35,130 --> 00:04:35,640

to perform.

81

00:04:35,640 --> 00:04:39,240

82

00:04:39,240 --> 00:04:45,810

And it was you and these  
same musicians who did this?

83

00:04:45,810 --> 00:04:46,310

OK.

84

00:04:46,310 --> 00:04:49,900

After the liberation, yes.

85

00:04:49,900 --> 00:04:55,270

So tell me a little bit about

what you did during the week

86

00:04:55,270 --> 00:04:58,090

when you were singing with  
them at this particular camp.

87

00:04:58,090 --> 00:04:59,740

And put your book down.

88

00:04:59,740 --> 00:05:02,380

We worked in Moll.

89

00:05:02,380 --> 00:05:07,150

M-O-L-L. It was a  
terrible, terrible place.

90

00:05:07,150 --> 00:05:12,450

We called it Egypt, like we  
were the slaves in Egypt.

91

00:05:12,450 --> 00:05:17,870

The work was very,  
very physically hard.

92

00:05:17,870 --> 00:05:21,860

And the whole surroundings,  
I can't even describe it.

93

00:05:21,860 --> 00:05:25,490

It was so unbelievable.

94

00:05:25,490 --> 00:05:31,280

There was a gigantic  
man-made mountain so high.

95

00:05:31,280 --> 00:05:34,850

And some people had to  
climb this mountain.

96

00:05:34,850 --> 00:05:36,770

We didn't know what it was.

97



00:05:36,770 --> 00:05:39,200

After the war, we  
found out that it

98

00:05:39,200 --> 00:05:42,610

was some kind of an  
atomic research center

99

00:05:42,610 --> 00:05:46,050

that they tried to camouflage.

100

00:05:46,050 --> 00:05:47,880

And we did all the work there.

101

00:05:47,880 --> 00:05:52,240

[INAUDIBLE] We had to walk up  
and down the highest mountain,

102

00:05:52,240 --> 00:05:55,770

carry stones, and  
rocks, and cement.

103

00:05:55,770 --> 00:05:58,090

Very hard work for young girls.

104

00:05:58,090 --> 00:06:00,670

105

00:06:00,670 --> 00:06:01,690

For everybody.

106

00:06:01,690 --> 00:06:03,620

How long did you--

107

00:06:03,620 --> 00:06:05,900

what were your days like?

108

00:06:05,900 --> 00:06:08,480

And did you have friends there?

109

00:06:08,480 --> 00:06:11,110

My sister was with me.

110  
00:06:11,110 --> 00:06:13,270  
And of course, we  
all became friends

111  
00:06:13,270 --> 00:06:16,960  
because people were brought  
from all parts of the country.

112  
00:06:16,960 --> 00:06:20,320  
There weren't people  
exactly from my hometown

113  
00:06:20,320 --> 00:06:25,150  
because we were always  
sent to different places.

114  
00:06:25,150 --> 00:06:33,210  
But we lived in those  
unbelievable bungalows,

115  
00:06:33,210 --> 00:06:37,120  
which were more deeper  
in the ground there,

116  
00:06:37,120 --> 00:06:40,210  
on the top was damp, cold.

117  
00:06:40,210 --> 00:06:42,990

118  
00:06:42,990 --> 00:06:44,950  
We never had enough food.

119  
00:06:44,950 --> 00:06:48,810  
And no matter how little  
I had, I always shared.

120  
00:06:48,810 --> 00:06:51,810  
And the girls used to tell  
me, you'll kill yourself.

121

00:06:51,810 --> 00:06:55,410  
Because we used to get  
such a tiny piece of bread

122  
00:06:55,410 --> 00:06:56,400  
for the day.

123  
00:06:56,400 --> 00:07:01,230  
And when somebody walked by and  
looked at me, I gave a bite.

124  
00:07:01,230 --> 00:07:02,760  
I just couldn't take it.

125  
00:07:02,760 --> 00:07:04,680  
I had to give it away.

126  
00:07:04,680 --> 00:07:12,220

127  
00:07:12,220 --> 00:07:12,850  
I'm sorry.

128  
00:07:12,850 --> 00:07:15,030  
It's all right.

129  
00:07:15,030 --> 00:07:20,460  
So was it from that camp that  
you left to go on the train?

130  
00:07:20,460 --> 00:07:20,960  
Yes.

131  
00:07:20,960 --> 00:07:21,660  
On the dead?

132  
00:07:21,660 --> 00:07:25,110  
One night, we came late  
at night from work.

133  
00:07:25,110 --> 00:07:26,460  
That day, we came late.

134  
00:07:26,460 --> 00:07:30,270  
I don't know what happened  
that they brought us late.

135  
00:07:30,270 --> 00:07:33,465  
And we saw the whole  
camp was in an uproar.

136  
00:07:33,465 --> 00:07:37,380  
The whole Landsberg camp was in.

137  
00:07:37,380 --> 00:07:40,950  
Like nobody was sleeping,  
usually they sleep at night.

138  
00:07:40,950 --> 00:07:44,280  
And we were told that the  
camp is being liquidated.

139  
00:07:44,280 --> 00:07:46,320  
And-- sorry.

140  
00:07:46,320 --> 00:07:52,850

141  
00:07:52,850 --> 00:07:56,380  
Please cut it up.

142  
00:07:56,380 --> 00:07:57,336  
Do you want to stop?

143  
00:07:57,336 --> 00:07:58,292  
Part.

144  
00:07:58,292 --> 00:07:59,730  
Do you want to  
stop for a minute?

145  
00:07:59,730 --> 00:08:01,590  
I don't know why I'm  
crying all of a sudden.

146  
00:08:01,590 --> 00:08:13,820

147  
00:08:13,820 --> 00:08:18,080  
So we had to take  
whatever belongings we had

148  
00:08:18,080 --> 00:08:21,380  
and start walking  
on the highway.

149  
00:08:21,380 --> 00:08:24,820

150  
00:08:24,820 --> 00:08:30,670  
We walked endlessly  
the whole night.

151  
00:08:30,670 --> 00:08:32,820  
And then we saw--

152  
00:08:32,820 --> 00:08:35,110  
it was when the sun  
started to come out.

153  
00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:38,690  
We saw a German pass us by.

154  
00:08:38,690 --> 00:08:41,204  
And he said, [GERMAN].

155  
00:08:41,204 --> 00:08:43,880

156  
00:08:43,880 --> 00:08:45,710  
You know what it means?

157  
00:08:45,710 --> 00:08:48,050  
Hold your head up high,  
freedom is coming.

158

00:08:48,050 --> 00:08:53,830

159

00:08:53,830 --> 00:08:56,700

This was a civilian German.

160

00:08:56,700 --> 00:08:59,320

And then we walked,  
we kept on walking.

161

00:08:59,320 --> 00:09:02,460

And a German was standing  
behind the fence.

162

00:09:02,460 --> 00:09:04,785

And he screamed at  
the Nazis, [GERMAN]..

163

00:09:04,785 --> 00:09:08,240

164

00:09:08,240 --> 00:09:12,180

We looked like little children,  
we were so starved, and hungry,

165

00:09:12,180 --> 00:09:16,490

and you know, underfed,  
and were so skinny that we

166

00:09:16,490 --> 00:09:17,430

looked like children.

167

00:09:17,430 --> 00:09:20,870

And he said, you're  
disgusting, let them go.

168

00:09:20,870 --> 00:09:21,650

What do you want?

169

00:09:21,650 --> 00:09:23,750

You're animals, let  
these children go.

170  
00:09:23,750 --> 00:09:27,330

171  
00:09:27,330 --> 00:09:31,110  
And then they brought us.

172  
00:09:31,110 --> 00:09:33,210  
Do you want details  
about this march?

173  
00:09:33,210 --> 00:09:36,830

174  
00:09:36,830 --> 00:09:40,190  
We were walking endlessly  
and we heard shots.

175  
00:09:40,190 --> 00:09:43,380

176  
00:09:43,380 --> 00:09:47,680  
And we understood  
we're on a death march.

177  
00:09:47,680 --> 00:09:50,650  
Whoever couldn't go on--

178  
00:09:50,650 --> 00:09:54,340  
whoever couldn't was being shot.

179  
00:09:54,340 --> 00:09:58,570  
And while I was walking  
and it was still nighttime,

180  
00:09:58,570 --> 00:10:00,940  
I fell asleep while walking,  
and I was exhausted,

181  
00:10:00,940 --> 00:10:04,660  
and I was very tired, and  
I walked off the road.

182  
00:10:04,660 --> 00:10:06,250  
And somebody grabbed me fast.

183  
00:10:06,250 --> 00:10:10,120  
One of my people-- you know,  
we were walking in fives.

184  
00:10:10,120 --> 00:10:14,590  
And she dragged me  
in or they would

185  
00:10:14,590 --> 00:10:17,380  
have they would have thought  
that I'm trying to run away.

186  
00:10:17,380 --> 00:10:19,660  
Because I went off the road.

187  
00:10:19,660 --> 00:10:22,390  
And I woke up.

188  
00:10:22,390 --> 00:10:26,920  
And then they told us  
to lie down, to rest.

189  
00:10:26,920 --> 00:10:30,500  
The minute they told us to rest,  
right away, we had to get up.

190  
00:10:30,500 --> 00:10:32,110  
It was so cruel.

191  
00:10:32,110 --> 00:10:34,300  
Like they didn't give  
us a chance at all

192  
00:10:34,300 --> 00:10:38,210  
for the body to rest.

193  
00:10:38,210 --> 00:10:42,440  
Then all of a sudden, we saw



from far away barbed wires

194  
00:10:42,440 --> 00:10:43,340  
again.

195  
00:10:43,340 --> 00:10:46,010  
A camp.

196  
00:10:46,010 --> 00:10:48,530  
It was already-- the  
sun came out already.

197  
00:10:48,530 --> 00:10:53,660  
And we could see clearly  
that it was a camp.

198  
00:10:53,660 --> 00:10:55,790  
And we walked in there.

199  
00:10:55,790 --> 00:10:58,810  
It was a Ukrainian camp.

200  
00:10:58,810 --> 00:11:01,510  
And we, the girls, were  
very scared of them

201  
00:11:01,510 --> 00:11:04,540  
because they are a  
very rough people.

202  
00:11:04,540 --> 00:11:09,200  
And we were trying to keep away  
from them as much as we could.

203  
00:11:09,200 --> 00:11:09,700  
OK.

204  
00:11:09,700 --> 00:11:18,910

205  
00:11:18,910 --> 00:11:20,630  
OK, Henny.

206  
00:11:20,630 --> 00:11:24,980  
Now, we're going to go back to  
when the girl pulled you back

207  
00:11:24,980 --> 00:11:25,700  
into the line.

208  
00:11:25,700 --> 00:11:28,890  
And tell me what  
happened from there.

209  
00:11:28,890 --> 00:11:35,070  
So we went into  
this Ukrainian camp

210  
00:11:35,070 --> 00:11:42,150  
and then we heard  
the next morning

211  
00:11:42,150 --> 00:11:47,440  
that the Americans are coming.

212  
00:11:47,440 --> 00:11:52,670  
And then all of a sudden,  
we start hearing shots.

213  
00:11:52,670 --> 00:11:57,200  
We never knew if the shots is  
killing inmates or the American

214  
00:11:57,200 --> 00:11:57,740  
Army.

215  
00:11:57,740 --> 00:11:59,000  
But we heard shots.

216  
00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:06,410  
And the leaders of  
the camp started

217  
00:12:06,410 --> 00:12:10,640

to run because they knew if  
the Americans are coming,

218  
00:12:10,640 --> 00:12:14,050  
they will be punished.

219  
00:12:14,050 --> 00:12:17,130  
But they were busy with their  
stuff because the next morning,

220  
00:12:17,130 --> 00:12:20,490  
we saw that the  
leader of the camp

221  
00:12:20,490 --> 00:12:26,540  
was hanging on a high pole,  
his body swaying in the wind.

222  
00:12:26,540 --> 00:12:30,530  
They hung him because  
he was pro-Nazi.

223  
00:12:30,530 --> 00:12:34,670  
He was very cruel to  
the people in the camp.

224  
00:12:34,670 --> 00:12:41,420  
And from all this  
walking, I was so weak

225  
00:12:41,420 --> 00:12:44,750  
that I was laying on  
this kind of a cot.

226  
00:12:44,750 --> 00:12:47,030  
And all of a sudden, I heard--

227  
00:12:47,030 --> 00:12:51,350  
and I was like passed out  
from being very tired.

228  
00:12:51,350 --> 00:12:54,740  
And then I heard

unbelievable screams.

229

00:12:54,740 --> 00:12:58,020

And somebody said,  
American is coming.

230

00:12:58,020 --> 00:13:01,830

An American tank  
came into the camp.

231

00:13:01,830 --> 00:13:08,540

He walked in to our  
bungalow and came over to me

232

00:13:08,540 --> 00:13:10,880

while I was lying on this cot.

233

00:13:10,880 --> 00:13:14,300

And I said to him, why did  
you let us wait so long?

234

00:13:14,300 --> 00:13:16,650

And I passed out.

235

00:13:16,650 --> 00:13:19,560

And of course, they left.

236

00:13:19,560 --> 00:13:22,870

And then we took off from there.

237

00:13:22,870 --> 00:13:31,890

We started-- we wanted to start  
a life after that, if possible.

238

00:13:31,890 --> 00:13:35,630

If it was possible at  
all to live after that.

239

00:13:35,630 --> 00:13:39,600

But life is stronger  
than everything.

240

00:13:39,600 --> 00:13:41,970  
We had to go on.

241  
00:13:41,970 --> 00:13:45,620  
And little by little,  
we got on our feet.

242  
00:13:45,620 --> 00:13:49,180

243  
00:13:49,180 --> 00:13:54,350  
I was called by the  
orchestra of the six--

244  
00:13:54,350 --> 00:13:59,540  
of the few musicians, that  
they found more musicians

245  
00:13:59,540 --> 00:14:02,030  
that survived.

246  
00:14:02,030 --> 00:14:05,650  
They formed an orchestra.

247  
00:14:05,650 --> 00:14:13,530  
And we were appearing before  
the audiences, in front

248  
00:14:13,530 --> 00:14:15,630  
of the survivors, for years.

249  
00:14:15,630 --> 00:14:19,420

250  
00:14:19,420 --> 00:14:22,660  
Let's go back a little bit  
to when you were in the camp

251  
00:14:22,660 --> 00:14:25,010  
and the Americans came.

252  
00:14:25,010 --> 00:14:27,470

Do you not remember  
much of that because you

253  
00:14:27,470 --> 00:14:30,240  
were in such bad shape?

254  
00:14:30,240 --> 00:14:32,950  
Completely weak.

255  
00:14:32,950 --> 00:14:36,730  
That's what I just said,  
that the American came.

256  
00:14:36,730 --> 00:14:41,110  
He gave everybody a piece  
of chocolate and he left.

257  
00:14:41,110 --> 00:14:44,440  
And the whole tank left because  
they were meeting somewhere.

258  
00:14:44,440 --> 00:14:48,130  
But that meant that  
this area was taken over

259  
00:14:48,130 --> 00:14:51,160  
by the Americans.

260  
00:14:51,160 --> 00:14:53,720  
Can you put your  
purse just down there?

261  
00:14:53,720 --> 00:14:59,820

262  
00:14:59,820 --> 00:15:01,830  
So the tank came and left.

263  
00:15:01,830 --> 00:15:05,370  
And nobody came in to help  
all of you get organized?

264

00:15:05,370 --> 00:15:09,030  
And so all of you were  
left there with no help.

265  
00:15:09,030 --> 00:15:09,760  
Is that right?

266  
00:15:09,760 --> 00:15:10,260  
Tell.

267  
00:15:10,260 --> 00:15:14,430  
We tried to organize  
as much as we could.

268  
00:15:14,430 --> 00:15:17,480  
But we were so wiped  
out, we were so

269  
00:15:17,480 --> 00:15:20,860  
exhausted physically  
and mentally,

270  
00:15:20,860 --> 00:15:23,960  
you know, from everything  
that we went through,

271  
00:15:23,960 --> 00:15:29,730  
that it took a while  
till we got on our feet.

272  
00:15:29,730 --> 00:15:32,640  
Did you get taken to a  
hospital or anything?

273  
00:15:32,640 --> 00:15:36,540  
Were brought to St. Otilien.

274  
00:15:36,540 --> 00:15:39,450  
This was a church.

275  
00:15:39,450 --> 00:15:42,960  
That is where a lot  
of people were brought

276  
00:15:42,960 --> 00:15:45,660  
to be restored to health.

277  
00:15:45,660 --> 00:15:48,398  
They brought us there.

278  
00:15:48,398 --> 00:15:51,650  
The orchestra came  
there, the few people.

279  
00:15:51,650 --> 00:15:56,070  
And when we came in that  
day, the last Germans

280  
00:15:56,070 --> 00:15:58,590  
were leaving the camp.

281  
00:15:58,590 --> 00:16:01,422

282  
00:16:01,422 --> 00:16:02,195  
This hospital.

283  
00:16:02,195 --> 00:16:05,720

284  
00:16:05,720 --> 00:16:09,800  
After that, they brought  
us to FÃ¼rstenfeldbruck,

285  
00:16:09,800 --> 00:16:15,910  
which is about 20 miles  
from St. Ottilien.

286  
00:16:15,910 --> 00:16:19,360  
And after that, all  
the DP camps started

287  
00:16:19,360 --> 00:16:23,785  
to form in Bavaria, in Germany.



288

00:16:23,785 --> 00:16:26,650

289

00:16:26,650 --> 00:16:29,320

So how long were  
you in St. Ottilien?

290

00:16:29,320 --> 00:16:32,500

And about what-- do you know  
what months you were there?

291

00:16:32,500 --> 00:16:33,580

No.

292

00:16:33,580 --> 00:16:37,600

I don't remember the months,  
but we must have been there

293

00:16:37,600 --> 00:16:42,080

about two years.

294

00:16:42,080 --> 00:16:45,890

And we were going  
from camp to camp,

295

00:16:45,890 --> 00:16:47,840

from one DP camp to another.

296

00:16:47,840 --> 00:16:50,730

Every function.

297

00:16:50,730 --> 00:16:54,900

The first Zionist  
Congress, everything.

298

00:16:54,900 --> 00:16:57,900

Ben Gurion came to Germany.

299

00:16:57,900 --> 00:17:04,680

We appeared on every major  
political and not political

300

00:17:04,680 --> 00:17:07,730  
happening.

301

00:17:07,730 --> 00:17:10,849  
As a matter of fact, in  
1948, Leonard Bernstein

302

00:17:10,849 --> 00:17:13,760  
came to Germany and heard  
about the orchestra.

303

00:17:13,760 --> 00:17:16,880  
By then, we were already  
a bigger orchestra

304

00:17:16,880 --> 00:17:19,700  
because they found  
more musicians.

305

00:17:19,700 --> 00:17:20,900  
More of them survived.

306

00:17:20,900 --> 00:17:23,599  
And it wasn't that big one.

307

00:17:23,599 --> 00:17:25,460  
It was only 18 people.

308

00:17:25,460 --> 00:17:29,990  
And Leonard Bernstein  
conducted the orchestra.

309

00:17:29,990 --> 00:17:33,890  
Accompanied me on the piano.

310

00:17:33,890 --> 00:17:36,050  
This was something to remember.

311

00:17:36,050 --> 00:17:38,960

312

00:17:38,960 --> 00:17:43,490  
When you were back  
at St. Ottilien,

313  
00:17:43,490 --> 00:17:46,370  
was that sort of like a  
home base where you came?

314  
00:17:46,370 --> 00:17:49,580  
And then you and the orchestra  
went out to the DP camp?

315  
00:17:49,580 --> 00:17:51,080  
Yes.

316  
00:17:51,080 --> 00:17:55,490  
And did you know Rabbi Klausner?

317  
00:17:55,490 --> 00:17:59,220  
Did you run across  
him when he was there?

318  
00:17:59,220 --> 00:18:01,130  
He was an American.

319  
00:18:01,130 --> 00:18:03,650  
He was in St. Ottilien?

320  
00:18:03,650 --> 00:18:06,500  
He must have been the  
rabbi there, then.

321  
00:18:06,500 --> 00:18:07,560  
I think so.

322  
00:18:07,560 --> 00:18:14,000

323  
00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:17,450  
Tell me about the sort  
of day-to-day life

324

00:18:17,450 --> 00:18:20,920  
that you had with the orchestra.

325  
00:18:20,920 --> 00:18:26,170  
Were you happy or  
was it just a way

326  
00:18:26,170 --> 00:18:29,155  
to pass the time while  
you waited to get out?

327  
00:18:29,155 --> 00:18:33,950

328  
00:18:33,950 --> 00:18:35,790  
After everything  
that we went through,

329  
00:18:35,790 --> 00:18:37,110  
we couldn't have been happy.

330  
00:18:37,110 --> 00:18:40,340  
But we did the best of it.

331  
00:18:40,340 --> 00:18:42,680  
We cannot change things.

332  
00:18:42,680 --> 00:18:44,720  
Things that happened happened.

333  
00:18:44,720 --> 00:18:48,400  
We had to go on with life  
and we made the best of it.

334  
00:18:48,400 --> 00:18:52,220

335  
00:18:52,220 --> 00:18:55,160  
Did you live in any  
of the DP camps,

336  
00:18:55,160 --> 00:18:56,660

even just for a short time?

337

00:18:56,660 --> 00:18:59,120

Can you tell me what the conditions were like?

338

00:18:59,120 --> 00:19:04,790

339

00:19:04,790 --> 00:19:09,140

It was not a comfortable life in the DP camps.

340

00:19:09,140 --> 00:19:12,350

But at least they were free and they

341

00:19:12,350 --> 00:19:14,030

could do what they want to do.

342

00:19:14,030 --> 00:19:17,150

Because they had their rules and regulations,

343

00:19:17,150 --> 00:19:18,410

but they are allowed to do.

344

00:19:18,410 --> 00:19:19,310

Because it's a camp.

345

00:19:19,310 --> 00:19:22,280

346

00:19:22,280 --> 00:19:24,260

But they had enough food.

347

00:19:24,260 --> 00:19:26,390

And they did some work.

348

00:19:26,390 --> 00:19:32,450

Everybody was assigned to a different kind of work.

349  
00:19:32,450 --> 00:19:36,110  
And everybody was waiting  
to get papers to immigrate.

350  
00:19:36,110 --> 00:19:40,690

351  
00:19:40,690 --> 00:19:44,875  
What about looking for your  
family other than your sister?

352  
00:19:44,875 --> 00:19:47,470

353  
00:19:47,470 --> 00:19:54,130  
My brother was killed in  
Kloga, which is Estonia.

354  
00:19:54,130 --> 00:19:57,050  
The most horrible camp ever.

355  
00:19:57,050 --> 00:20:03,330  
My brother, whose name, whose  
Hebrew name was Shimshon Zeev,

356  
00:20:03,330 --> 00:20:07,540  
and was Vladimir  
known to the world.

357  
00:20:07,540 --> 00:20:11,450  
Vladimir Durmashkin  
was a great conductor.

358  
00:20:11,450 --> 00:20:15,956  
He was the conductor of the  
philharmonic orchestra in Vilna

359  
00:20:15,956 --> 00:20:19,610  
at 25 years of age.

360  
00:20:19,610 --> 00:20:21,280

He was a child prodigy.

361  
00:20:21,280 --> 00:20:25,330  
He was on stage since  
he was six years old.

362  
00:20:25,330 --> 00:20:26,890  
And he was brilliant.

363  
00:20:26,890 --> 00:20:31,030  
He finished at Conservatory  
of Music in Vilna.

364  
00:20:31,030 --> 00:20:33,460  
Then he went to the  
Warsaw Conservatory.

365  
00:20:33,460 --> 00:20:36,580  
And he started to conduct.

366  
00:20:36,580 --> 00:20:39,870  
At first, he was a  
fantastic pianist.

367  
00:20:39,870 --> 00:20:44,870  
But he turned to conducting  
because some of his fingers

368  
00:20:44,870 --> 00:20:46,910  
became like a little numb.

369  
00:20:46,910 --> 00:20:49,700  
So he turned to conducting.

370  
00:20:49,700 --> 00:20:55,710  
And he was right away  
assigned to be the conductor

371  
00:20:55,710 --> 00:20:57,255  
of the philharmonic.

372  
00:20:57,255 --> 00:21:01,890

It was on a very, very high level, the Vilna Philharmonic.

373  
00:21:01,890 --> 00:21:07,110  
And when the ghetto was liquidated, they were brought--

374  
00:21:07,110 --> 00:21:09,240  
the men were brought to Kloga.

375  
00:21:09,240 --> 00:21:13,720  
K-L-O-G-A. And it was a terrible camp.

376  
00:21:13,720 --> 00:21:16,020  
Some people survived.

377  
00:21:16,020 --> 00:21:19,620  
It just so happened that before the Russians were coming

378  
00:21:19,620 --> 00:21:21,720  
from the East and the Americans were pushing

379  
00:21:21,720 --> 00:21:26,260  
from the West, an hour before liberation,

380  
00:21:26,260 --> 00:21:29,550  
they burned them to death.

381  
00:21:29,550 --> 00:21:30,410  
They burned them.

382  
00:21:30,410 --> 00:21:38,290

383  
00:21:38,290 --> 00:21:43,110  
I think we're about to run out of film.

384



00:21:43,110 --> 00:21:44,190  
So we'll just wait.

385  
00:21:44,190 --> 00:22:08,970

386  
00:22:08,970 --> 00:22:13,040  
Did you experience  
a feeling related

387  
00:22:13,040 --> 00:22:18,040  
to being free finally after all  
that time of being a prisoner?

388  
00:22:18,040 --> 00:22:20,545  
Or could you not sort  
that out from your losses?

389  
00:22:20,545 --> 00:22:27,350

390  
00:22:27,350 --> 00:22:33,190  
I feel that with everything  
we went through, you know,

391  
00:22:33,190 --> 00:22:38,448  
it was very hard to  
be happy because we

392  
00:22:38,448 --> 00:22:39,490  
didn't have our families.

393  
00:22:39,490 --> 00:22:42,860

394  
00:22:42,860 --> 00:22:52,540  
And we went through so much that  
we couldn't even feel it 100%.

395  
00:22:52,540 --> 00:22:55,230  
Me especially.

396

00:22:55,230 --> 00:22:56,590  
I don't know about the others.

397  
00:22:56,590 --> 00:22:59,370

398  
00:22:59,370 --> 00:23:03,580  
There was no  
outrageous happiness.

399  
00:23:03,580 --> 00:23:09,360  
But of course, when we  
saw the first American,

400  
00:23:09,360 --> 00:23:10,920  
we knew that we are free.

401  
00:23:10,920 --> 00:23:17,840  
And the feeling, it takes  
a while to appreciate.

402  
00:23:17,840 --> 00:23:20,760

403  
00:23:20,760 --> 00:23:28,970  
The shock in itself of being  
from this camp on to freedom,

404  
00:23:28,970 --> 00:23:32,690  
it takes a while to  
realize that you're free.

405  
00:23:32,690 --> 00:23:37,940  
That we had to wake up in the  
morning every day and think

406  
00:23:37,940 --> 00:23:39,360  
are we free?

407  
00:23:39,360 --> 00:23:41,270  
Or are we still in camp?

408

00:23:41,270 --> 00:23:44,310  
You know, it takes  
a while to adjust.

409  
00:23:44,310 --> 00:23:47,210

410  
00:23:47,210 --> 00:23:52,910  
What about in those  
months after liberation?

411  
00:23:52,910 --> 00:23:57,230  
Did you witness other people  
finding their families?

412  
00:23:57,230 --> 00:24:01,100  
Did you witness any  
things that stand out

413  
00:24:01,100 --> 00:24:05,510  
in your mind of people  
finding parents,

414  
00:24:05,510 --> 00:24:07,670  
or children, or  
brothers, or sisters

415  
00:24:07,670 --> 00:24:09,620  
who they hadn't  
expected to find,

416  
00:24:09,620 --> 00:24:12,610  
and they had looked and looked?

417  
00:24:12,610 --> 00:24:16,570  
Everybody was trying to  
find out whether somebody

418  
00:24:16,570 --> 00:24:20,770  
survived because we were so--

419  
00:24:20,770 --> 00:24:24,130  
you know, we were like

away from our hometown.

420  
00:24:24,130 --> 00:24:29,370  
And people were from  
all over the country.

421  
00:24:29,370 --> 00:24:32,670  
There were very few, hardly  
any from the same part,

422  
00:24:32,670 --> 00:24:35,740  
from the same country or city.

423  
00:24:35,740 --> 00:24:40,620  
So it took an awful long time  
to find out whether somebody

424  
00:24:40,620 --> 00:24:42,460  
survived or not.

425  
00:24:42,460 --> 00:24:43,740  
How did people do it?

426  
00:24:43,740 --> 00:24:46,960

427  
00:24:46,960 --> 00:24:52,270  
We didn't have-- they tried.

428  
00:24:52,270 --> 00:24:57,380  
There was like a DP  
camp newspaper that

429  
00:24:57,380 --> 00:24:59,190  
came out like once a month.

430  
00:24:59,190 --> 00:25:05,360  
And they couldn't  
advertise it, you know.

431  
00:25:05,360 --> 00:25:07,400  
But some did.

432  
00:25:07,400 --> 00:25:09,620  
But it didn't go all over.

433  
00:25:09,620 --> 00:25:12,370  
It was just a local paper.

434  
00:25:12,370 --> 00:25:13,780  
It wasn't a huge paper.

435  
00:25:13,780 --> 00:25:16,060  
It was a little tiny paper.

436  
00:25:16,060 --> 00:25:21,060  
But little by little, we  
used to hear that guess

437  
00:25:21,060 --> 00:25:22,890  
what, this and that happened.

438  
00:25:22,890 --> 00:25:25,630  
Somebody came from  
the same hometown.

439  
00:25:25,630 --> 00:25:30,030  
And they tried to inquire  
whether somebody survived.

440  
00:25:30,030 --> 00:25:31,695  
Most of the time, they didn't.

441  
00:25:31,695 --> 00:25:34,610

442  
00:25:34,610 --> 00:25:39,650  
But I think once or  
twice, I did hear

443  
00:25:39,650 --> 00:25:44,240  
that they met somebody from the  
family, members of the family.

444

00:25:44,240 --> 00:25:49,190

445

00:25:49,190 --> 00:25:51,850

Ben Gurion's visit,  
you remember that.

446

00:25:51,850 --> 00:25:52,880

Yes.

447

00:25:52,880 --> 00:25:55,640

Where were you when you--

448

00:25:55,640 --> 00:25:57,920

were you at the  
same place that was?

449

00:25:57,920 --> 00:25:59,630

And which camp was it?

450

00:25:59,630 --> 00:26:02,380

It was not a camp.

451

00:26:02,380 --> 00:26:06,860

They had it somewhere  
outside of a camp.

452

00:26:06,860 --> 00:26:11,260

And we had to travel  
by bus, naturally.

453

00:26:11,260 --> 00:26:14,905

We were constantly traveling  
by bus to get there.

454

00:26:14,905 --> 00:26:18,700

455

00:26:18,700 --> 00:26:23,590

Ben Gurion was a very  
powerful speaker.

456

00:26:23,590 --> 00:26:29,650

And after his  
speech, we performed.

457

00:26:29,650 --> 00:26:31,730

I sang Hebrew songs.

458

00:26:31,730 --> 00:26:34,960

The orchestra played a  
medley of Hebrew songs

459

00:26:34,960 --> 00:26:40,020

beside all the classical pieces  
that they usually played.

460

00:26:40,020 --> 00:26:44,680

And I remember once--

461

00:26:44,680 --> 00:26:49,580

462

00:26:49,580 --> 00:26:52,370

please cut it out.

463

00:26:52,370 --> 00:26:55,310

I remembered from my childhood  
something that I wanted to add.

464

00:26:55,310 --> 00:26:58,898

465

00:26:58,898 --> 00:26:59,398

OK.

466

00:26:59,398 --> 00:27:01,561

467

00:27:01,561 --> 00:27:03,186

Just saying, we're  
getting a little bit

468

00:27:03,186 --> 00:27:06,150  
of the paper, the tissue.

469  
00:27:06,150 --> 00:27:07,090  
Oh, yeah.

470  
00:27:07,090 --> 00:27:08,020  
I am nervous.

471  
00:27:08,020 --> 00:27:08,986  
It's OK.

472  
00:27:08,986 --> 00:27:12,980

473  
00:27:12,980 --> 00:27:17,270  
Can you tell me about playing  
at the Nuremberg trials,

474  
00:27:17,270 --> 00:27:18,350  
or singing there?

475  
00:27:18,350 --> 00:27:21,230  
While the Nazis  
were on trial, we

476  
00:27:21,230 --> 00:27:25,070  
were asked to come and  
perform in Nuremberg.

477  
00:27:25,070 --> 00:27:28,030

478  
00:27:28,030 --> 00:27:30,130  
As a matter of fact, I  
have the program here

479  
00:27:30,130 --> 00:27:31,540  
if you're interested to see.

480  
00:27:31,540 --> 00:27:36,750



481  
00:27:36,750 --> 00:27:41,190  
There was the media  
from all over the world.

482  
00:27:41,190 --> 00:27:43,100  
We're sang in striped--

483  
00:27:43,100 --> 00:27:48,780  
we appeared in striped  
jackets, like the ones

484  
00:27:48,780 --> 00:27:50,940  
we wore in the camps.

485  
00:27:50,940 --> 00:27:59,610  
And after they were trying the  
Nazis, the concert took place.

486  
00:27:59,610 --> 00:28:02,120

487  
00:28:02,120 --> 00:28:05,470  
I hear the plane.

488  
00:28:05,470 --> 00:28:07,130  
Why don't we wait for this one?

489  
00:28:07,130 --> 00:28:09,830  
Let's cut.

490  
00:28:09,830 --> 00:28:10,330  
Five.

491  
00:28:10,330 --> 00:28:15,750

492  
00:28:15,750 --> 00:28:20,980  
Tell me again how you sang and  
played at the Nuremberg trials.

493

00:28:20,980 --> 00:28:27,696

494

00:28:27,696 --> 00:28:30,580

When they were, of course,  
they were trying the Nazis,

495

00:28:30,580 --> 00:28:35,160

and after this  
trial was over, they

496

00:28:35,160 --> 00:28:39,800

asked us to perform  
in the big hall.

497

00:28:39,800 --> 00:28:42,970

There was the media  
from all over the world.

498

00:28:42,970 --> 00:28:44,920

The orchestra played.

499

00:28:44,920 --> 00:28:51,510

We all appeared in striped  
jackets with our numbers

500

00:28:51,510 --> 00:28:55,290

on the left side of the chest.

501

00:28:55,290 --> 00:29:00,390

And I sang ghetto songs.

502

00:29:00,390 --> 00:29:05,700

I was very fortunate that I  
remembered all these words

503

00:29:05,700 --> 00:29:10,340

from the ghetto,  
where in my ghetto,

504

00:29:10,340 --> 00:29:15,790

these songs were written,  
and they became popular

505  
00:29:15,790 --> 00:29:18,560  
throughout the camps.

506  
00:29:18,560 --> 00:29:22,590  
And this is when I started  
to sing the songs in Yiddish.

507  
00:29:22,590 --> 00:29:24,500  
I don't know how many  
people understood

508  
00:29:24,500 --> 00:29:29,120  
in this huge hall in the  
opera house in Nuremberg.

509  
00:29:29,120 --> 00:29:35,310  
And the concert was  
a great success.

510  
00:29:35,310 --> 00:29:39,130

511  
00:29:39,130 --> 00:29:43,750  
What was the reaction  
of the people on trial?

512  
00:29:43,750 --> 00:29:45,160  
Or was there any?

513  
00:29:45,160 --> 00:29:47,080  
Could you see any reaction?

514  
00:29:47,080 --> 00:29:49,090  
Do you remember  
anything in particular?

515  
00:29:49,090 --> 00:29:54,320

516  
00:29:54,320 --> 00:29:59,910  
Just that he tried

to, you know, like--

517  
00:29:59,910 --> 00:30:05,540  
I don't remember exactly  
who was tried at the time

518  
00:30:05,540 --> 00:30:07,630  
that we were there.

519  
00:30:07,630 --> 00:30:08,490  
One of the ex-Nazis.

520  
00:30:08,490 --> 00:30:11,340

521  
00:30:11,340 --> 00:30:17,690  
And the trial was going on  
like in any other court,

522  
00:30:17,690 --> 00:30:24,410  
but in a huge, huge way because  
it was such a tremendous place.

523  
00:30:24,410 --> 00:30:27,405  
And he tried to defend himself.

524  
00:30:27,405 --> 00:30:27,905  
He couldn't.

525  
00:30:27,905 --> 00:30:36,110

526  
00:30:36,110 --> 00:30:40,210  
Tell me again about  
the Germans who

527  
00:30:40,210 --> 00:30:42,700  
spoke to you on the  
death march and told you

528  
00:30:42,700 --> 00:30:45,550  
that liberation was near.

529

00:30:45,550 --> 00:30:52,150

These were people from the  
villages that we were passing.

530

00:30:52,150 --> 00:30:54,430

And I'm sure that  
they were anti-Nazi,

531

00:30:54,430 --> 00:30:56,980

otherwise they  
wouldn't have told us.

532

00:30:56,980 --> 00:31:00,640

And by saying what they did,  
gave us a lot of courage.

533

00:31:00,640 --> 00:31:02,890

Because we were  
like in the unknown,

534

00:31:02,890 --> 00:31:06,230

we didn't know what is going on.

535

00:31:06,230 --> 00:31:13,430

And that gave us, you know,  
hope that maybe we will survive.

536

00:31:13,430 --> 00:31:15,410

We appreciated it very much.

537

00:31:15,410 --> 00:31:18,790

538

00:31:18,790 --> 00:31:21,780

OK.

539

00:31:21,780 --> 00:31:24,190

We're just about to run out.

540

00:31:24,190 --> 00:31:26,650

I think we only have

one minute left.

541  
00:31:26,650 --> 00:31:30,060  
And I want you to sing  
some of your songs.

542  
00:31:30,060 --> 00:31:31,250  
In one minute?

543  
00:31:31,250 --> 00:31:32,602  
No, not in one minute.

544  
00:31:32,602 --> 00:31:37,760

545  
00:31:37,760 --> 00:31:39,140  
Why don't we just--

546  
00:31:39,140 --> 00:31:41,780  
why don't we all be  
very quiet and record

547  
00:31:41,780 --> 00:31:43,033  
room tone of the jet.

548  
00:31:43,033 --> 00:31:46,350

549  
00:31:46,350 --> 00:31:47,220  
Which song?

550  
00:31:47,220 --> 00:32:08,470

551  
00:32:08,470 --> 00:32:10,350  
OK.

552  
00:32:10,350 --> 00:32:13,180  
You must be almost  
out right there.

553

00:32:13,180 --> 00:32:15,180

I can't even sing.

554

00:32:15,180 --> 00:32:17,630

Yes, you can really sing.

555

00:32:17,630 --> 00:32:37,000