

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:18,660

2
00:00:18,660 --> 00:00:19,650
And marker one.

3
00:00:19,650 --> 00:00:27,310

4
00:00:27,310 --> 00:00:31,460
First of all, could you tell me
when and where you were born?

5
00:00:31,460 --> 00:00:40,390
I was born April the 25th,
1929 in Kovno, Lithuania.

6
00:00:40,390 --> 00:00:43,750
And can you tell me a little
bit about your childhood

7
00:00:43,750 --> 00:00:46,480
before the war began?

8
00:00:46,480 --> 00:00:47,890
It was rather normal.

9
00:00:47,890 --> 00:00:50,200
I went to school.

10
00:00:50,200 --> 00:00:53,320
I went to what we had--

11
00:00:53,320 --> 00:00:57,250
called a public school, but
it was a Jewish public school

12
00:00:57,250 --> 00:01:01,420
as opposed to the
general public school.

13

00:01:01,420 --> 00:01:04,014

My parents were
middle-class people,

14

00:01:04,014 --> 00:01:06,470

and my father had
a small business.

15

00:01:06,470 --> 00:01:08,230

And so did my mom.

16

00:01:08,230 --> 00:01:14,320

And I had one sister, and we
lived in a rather middle-class

17

00:01:14,320 --> 00:01:16,820

neighborhood in an apartment.

18

00:01:16,820 --> 00:01:20,860

And I had a dog.

19

00:01:20,860 --> 00:01:22,610

That's about all I can say.

20

00:01:22,610 --> 00:01:26,140

My interests at
a time when I was

21

00:01:26,140 --> 00:01:31,210

a child, especially in the
ages between maybe 7 and 10,

22

00:01:31,210 --> 00:01:38,050

was to swim in the summer in
a river, skate in the winter,

23

00:01:38,050 --> 00:01:41,770

and play soccer and ping pong.

24

00:01:41,770 --> 00:01:45,790

And this was what I
liked to do as a child.

25
00:01:45,790 --> 00:01:49,810
And in addition to that,
I was an avid reader,

26
00:01:49,810 --> 00:01:56,250
and I would read many
books during a year.

27
00:01:56,250 --> 00:01:59,970
Describe to me
what you recollect

28
00:01:59,970 --> 00:02:05,830
yourself of when things
changed and the war began?

29
00:02:05,830 --> 00:02:07,900
Well, there were
actually two changes.

30
00:02:07,900 --> 00:02:13,720
The first change was when the
Soviet Union, the Red Army,

31
00:02:13,720 --> 00:02:19,660
occupied Lithuania, and
that change I did not feel.

32
00:02:19,660 --> 00:02:24,910
My parents did because they
lost their businesses due

33
00:02:24,910 --> 00:02:28,540
to confiscation of
private property, but I

34
00:02:28,540 --> 00:02:34,750
myself did not feel
any lesser life.

35
00:02:34,750 --> 00:02:38,350
On the contrary, there

was more for children

36
00:02:38,350 --> 00:02:44,590
in the Soviet system during
different palaces, and groups,

37
00:02:44,590 --> 00:02:47,950
and sports clubs, as well as--

38
00:02:47,950 --> 00:02:50,500
schools were upgraded
to some extent,

39
00:02:50,500 --> 00:02:53,270
so personally, I
felt very little.

40
00:02:53,270 --> 00:03:00,220
However, a year later, when
Hitler's forces attacked,

41
00:03:00,220 --> 00:03:06,700
the Soviets, of course,
retreated very quickly,

42
00:03:06,700 --> 00:03:11,890
and within two days, the German
armies had occupied Kovno.

43
00:03:11,890 --> 00:03:14,860
And of course, and
that's where it began.

44
00:03:14,860 --> 00:03:19,450
My first notice of that was
that we lived in a building

45
00:03:19,450 --> 00:03:23,590
right next to the river,
on the river side,

46
00:03:23,590 --> 00:03:26,920
and the airport was about

maybe 2 or 3 kilometers

47

00:03:26,920 --> 00:03:28,330
on the other side of the river.

48

00:03:28,330 --> 00:03:36,490
And I was evoked by explosions.

49

00:03:36,490 --> 00:03:38,260
When I looked out
the window, i saw

50

00:03:38,260 --> 00:03:42,700
wide columns of smoke
rising from the airport.

51

00:03:42,700 --> 00:03:46,480
My parents immediately
realized there was war,

52

00:03:46,480 --> 00:03:49,300
and we turned on the radio.

53

00:03:49,300 --> 00:03:51,460
We realized that the
Germans had attacked

54

00:03:51,460 --> 00:03:55,140
and that they were
marching towards our city.

55

00:03:55,140 --> 00:03:59,290
As I said, two days later,
they occupied Kovno,

56

00:03:59,290 --> 00:04:08,200
and the first order of their
business was to issue edicts

57

00:04:08,200 --> 00:04:12,340
against the Jews and started to
tell us what we can and cannot

58

00:04:12,340 --> 00:04:13,630

do.

59

00:04:13,630 --> 00:04:16,539

The orders came one after
the other very quickly.

60

00:04:16,539 --> 00:04:19,209

61

00:04:19,209 --> 00:04:22,750

We had to give up our
radios and our vehicles,

62

00:04:22,750 --> 00:04:27,010

those who had them, even
bicycles and motorcycles.

63

00:04:27,010 --> 00:04:30,430

We were not allowed to
have any transportation

64

00:04:30,430 --> 00:04:34,030

or any communication equipment.

65

00:04:34,030 --> 00:04:36,760

All we had, of course,
was radios at the time.

66

00:04:36,760 --> 00:04:39,430

Also, we had to give up cameras.

67

00:04:39,430 --> 00:04:44,890

Personally, I was still only
12 years old at the time,

68

00:04:44,890 --> 00:04:52,030

and of course I was
extremely scared of what

69

00:04:52,030 --> 00:04:56,170

is about to come, not that

I understood all that much

70

00:04:56,170 --> 00:04:59,890
but what I heard grown-ups talk.

71

00:04:59,890 --> 00:05:06,550
And this fear was
constantly with me,

72

00:05:06,550 --> 00:05:10,090
and I could always
feel some kind

73

00:05:10,090 --> 00:05:14,230
of energy going through my body,
which I could only describe

74

00:05:14,230 --> 00:05:16,900
as my stomach shaking
and so on every time

75

00:05:16,900 --> 00:05:19,960
I saw a German soldier.

76

00:05:19,960 --> 00:05:25,510
The other thing that I was--
what completely amazed me

77

00:05:25,510 --> 00:05:29,590
at that time was the behavior
of the general Lithuanian

78

00:05:29,590 --> 00:05:31,690
population towards the Jews.

79

00:05:31,690 --> 00:05:35,980
It wasn't just that
the Germans had--

80

00:05:35,980 --> 00:05:39,940
did to us with their
edicts, and laws, and rules,

81

00:05:39,940 --> 00:05:43,930
and regulations but rather
that the general population,

82

00:05:43,930 --> 00:05:49,210
the Lithuanians, picked up
arms, first against the Soviet

83

00:05:49,210 --> 00:05:50,980
soldiers as they
were retreating--

84

00:05:50,980 --> 00:05:52,960
they were shooting
them in the back--

85

00:05:52,960 --> 00:05:57,190
and then against Jewish
neighborhoods and Jews

86

00:05:57,190 --> 00:05:57,880
in generally.

87

00:05:57,880 --> 00:06:00,670
Whenever they saw
anyone in the street,

88

00:06:00,670 --> 00:06:04,450
they shot first simply to kill
and not because they weren't

89

00:06:04,450 --> 00:06:05,830
allowed to go on the streets.

90

00:06:05,830 --> 00:06:08,590
And some neighborhoods
actually had

91

00:06:08,590 --> 00:06:13,240
pogroms where dozens of people
were taken from their homes

92

00:06:13,240 --> 00:06:14,620
and massacred.

93
00:06:14,620 --> 00:06:17,440

94
00:06:17,440 --> 00:06:19,690
Several of these people
were related to me

95
00:06:19,690 --> 00:06:22,870
by marriage, my uncle's
family, who was completely

96
00:06:22,870 --> 00:06:27,850
massacred during the first
two days of the occupation.

97
00:06:27,850 --> 00:06:35,080
And so that pretty well set
the stage of what was to come,

98
00:06:35,080 --> 00:06:38,890
and even though I was only
12, I began to understand,

99
00:06:38,890 --> 00:06:45,480
to realize that survival is
going to be very difficult.

100
00:06:45,480 --> 00:06:50,380
In addition to that, of course
there was a scarcity of food

101
00:06:50,380 --> 00:06:51,280
immediately.

102
00:06:51,280 --> 00:06:54,070
There was whatever we
had in the house we ate.

103
00:06:54,070 --> 00:06:58,630
It was almost impossible

for us to go out to buy food

104
00:06:58,630 --> 00:07:02,040
because in the stores
they wouldn't sell us any.

105
00:07:02,040 --> 00:07:05,100
So somehow we had
to gather whatever

106
00:07:05,100 --> 00:07:09,540
we could with our own wits to
try to get something to eat,

107
00:07:09,540 --> 00:07:10,800
or else we'd starve to death.

108
00:07:10,800 --> 00:07:14,550
And that is part of
what I used to do

109
00:07:14,550 --> 00:07:16,390
because I was small and young.

110
00:07:16,390 --> 00:07:23,160
I would go out and try to
generate some groceries

111
00:07:23,160 --> 00:07:25,590
somewhere and bring it home.

112
00:07:25,590 --> 00:07:29,550
At that time, it was
pretty clear to me

113
00:07:29,550 --> 00:07:32,910
what the next months
or years would bring.

114
00:07:32,910 --> 00:07:36,440

115

00:07:36,440 --> 00:07:39,145
Tell me what happened
to your uncle's family.

116
00:07:39,145 --> 00:07:41,770

117
00:07:41,770 --> 00:07:47,530
They lived in a section of
the city that was called--

118
00:07:47,530 --> 00:07:50,050
in Lithuanian it was
called [NON-ENGLISH]..

119
00:07:50,050 --> 00:07:52,870
In Yiddish it was
called Slobodka.

120
00:07:52,870 --> 00:07:58,060
And they lived very close to
or to a rabbinical college

121
00:07:58,060 --> 00:08:06,610
or a yeshiva, although they were
not extremely religious people,

122
00:08:06,610 --> 00:08:09,190
but they were observant.

123
00:08:09,190 --> 00:08:13,780
But they were not
part of the yeshiva.

124
00:08:13,780 --> 00:08:18,470

125
00:08:18,470 --> 00:08:22,120
When these pogroms
started, this is

126
00:08:22,120 --> 00:08:23,890
where it started,

around to yeshiva area,

127

00:08:23,890 --> 00:08:27,310

and many of the rabbis and many
of the people that lived around

128

00:08:27,310 --> 00:08:32,440

there were the
ones that suffered

129

00:08:32,440 --> 00:08:34,690

the consequences of the pogrom.

130

00:08:34,690 --> 00:08:36,429

And because they
lived that close,

131

00:08:36,429 --> 00:08:39,130

they also took them
out of their home,

132

00:08:39,130 --> 00:08:41,440

and they shot them
in the streets.

133

00:08:41,440 --> 00:08:43,720

And that was his
father, his mother,

134

00:08:43,720 --> 00:08:46,660

and two of his brothers.

135

00:08:46,660 --> 00:08:49,240

One escaped and came
to us, and then he

136

00:08:49,240 --> 00:08:50,950

told us what had happened.

137

00:08:50,950 --> 00:08:54,880

And all I know is what
he had said because I

138

00:08:54,880 --> 00:08:58,690
was not there at the time.

139

00:08:58,690 --> 00:09:02,700
So when you say you pretty well
knew what was going to happen,

140

00:09:02,700 --> 00:09:04,500
can you tell me a
little more about that?

141

00:09:04,500 --> 00:09:07,060

142

00:09:07,060 --> 00:09:10,650
Well, I pretty well
understood that we

143

00:09:10,650 --> 00:09:15,780
are in for a bad
time with the Germans

144

00:09:15,780 --> 00:09:18,180
as well as the Lithuanians.

145

00:09:18,180 --> 00:09:21,240
What we did not understand--
and especially me,

146

00:09:21,240 --> 00:09:23,160
being as young as I was--

147

00:09:23,160 --> 00:09:29,355
that the day end would
be what we call today

148

00:09:29,355 --> 00:09:33,690
a Holocaust and that
six million Jews

149

00:09:33,690 --> 00:09:37,710
would die throughout Europe.

150
00:09:37,710 --> 00:09:40,710
That was not something
that we understood.

151
00:09:40,710 --> 00:09:43,770
That was not what we expected.

152
00:09:43,770 --> 00:09:51,690
We knew that some of us would
die because we saw it happen.

153
00:09:51,690 --> 00:09:58,085
During the first
week, a number of--

154
00:09:58,085 --> 00:10:00,650
Let's stop.

155
00:10:00,650 --> 00:10:01,460
Mark two.

156
00:10:01,460 --> 00:10:04,230

157
00:10:04,230 --> 00:10:06,240
So go ahead and finish this.

158
00:10:06,240 --> 00:10:11,730
Well, my uncle himself,
whose family had died,

159
00:10:11,730 --> 00:10:16,170
two days later was
captured and taken

160
00:10:16,170 --> 00:10:19,860
to a place with several
thousand other people.

161
00:10:19,860 --> 00:10:22,440
It was called up

Fort Number Seven.

162
00:10:22,440 --> 00:10:25,650
And we called them the--

163
00:10:25,650 --> 00:10:32,490
just to give names to the people
that disappeared or got killed,

164
00:10:32,490 --> 00:10:36,960
we sort of gave a name to every
group of people disappeared.

165
00:10:36,960 --> 00:10:40,290
And the first ones, of
course, was the massacres,

166
00:10:40,290 --> 00:10:45,420
and the second one was that they
were just arrested and taken

167
00:10:45,420 --> 00:10:46,030
somewhere.

168
00:10:46,030 --> 00:10:49,740
We didn't know whether
they would live or die,

169
00:10:49,740 --> 00:10:54,540
and we called them the first
arrested, in other words,

170
00:10:54,540 --> 00:10:56,340
the first group
that was arrested.

171
00:10:56,340 --> 00:11:01,190
And my uncle was among them,
the one who had lost his family,

172
00:11:01,190 --> 00:11:03,990
and the reason is because
he went to investigate.

173
00:11:03,990 --> 00:11:14,200

174
00:11:14,200 --> 00:11:14,700
And-- mark.

175
00:11:14,700 --> 00:11:16,060
Mark.

176
00:11:16,060 --> 00:11:17,120
Do you need to get away?

177
00:11:17,120 --> 00:11:18,056
I'm fine.

178
00:11:18,056 --> 00:11:23,680

179
00:11:23,680 --> 00:11:28,660
Now can you describe for
me your recollections

180
00:11:28,660 --> 00:11:32,460
of the formation of the ghetto?

181
00:11:32,460 --> 00:11:37,740
Yes, it was rather a simple way.

182
00:11:37,740 --> 00:11:46,350
We were told that by
the 15th of August, 1941

183
00:11:46,350 --> 00:11:52,950
we had to evacuate our
homes and apartments

184
00:11:52,950 --> 00:11:58,830
and that we had to move
to a predesignated area

185

00:11:58,830 --> 00:12:04,620
across the river, that same
area where my uncle's family had

186
00:12:04,620 --> 00:12:06,750
died earlier.

187
00:12:06,750 --> 00:12:09,000
And it was called
Slobodka, and it

188
00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:11,370
was called the Slobodka ghetto.

189
00:12:11,370 --> 00:12:16,350
And they had formed, actually,
two ghettos because that

190
00:12:16,350 --> 00:12:23,140
was a main street or road
that ran through the city,

191
00:12:23,140 --> 00:12:27,030
so they had made one large
ghetto and one small ghetto

192
00:12:27,030 --> 00:12:30,730
with a bridge that crossed
from one to the other.

193
00:12:30,730 --> 00:12:37,140
And we had to, ourselves,
find a place where to live.

194
00:12:37,140 --> 00:12:42,930
Of course, there were a
number of people, Lithuanians,

195
00:12:42,930 --> 00:12:44,610
who lived in this area.

196
00:12:44,610 --> 00:12:46,230
They had to move out.

197
00:12:46,230 --> 00:12:52,740
In some cases, we traded
apartments or traded places.

198
00:12:52,740 --> 00:12:54,360
They would take the place.

199
00:12:54,360 --> 00:12:57,270
Of course, we could
take nothing with us,

200
00:12:57,270 --> 00:12:58,740
except what we could carry.

201
00:12:58,740 --> 00:13:02,230
Like I said before,
transportation was forbidden.

202
00:13:02,230 --> 00:13:07,680
So whatever we could find
in the empty apartments

203
00:13:07,680 --> 00:13:09,690
or whatever we
could carry with us

204
00:13:09,690 --> 00:13:15,480
is what sustained us for the
rest of the time in the ghetto.

205
00:13:15,480 --> 00:13:21,210
Personally, we found a place
at the very end of the ghetto,

206
00:13:21,210 --> 00:13:24,420
in the very farthest
part, and we

207
00:13:24,420 --> 00:13:28,680
found a two-bedroom
apartment that was empty.

208

00:13:28,680 --> 00:13:31,050

And we moved in there.

209

00:13:31,050 --> 00:13:34,050

Of course, almost the entire family that was left

210

00:13:34,050 --> 00:13:35,010

was moved in there.

211

00:13:35,010 --> 00:13:41,430

There were as many as, I believe, 14 people, perhaps 16

212

00:13:41,430 --> 00:13:44,920

people that lived in that apartment,

213

00:13:44,920 --> 00:13:46,720

in those two bedrooms.

214

00:13:46,720 --> 00:13:52,480

And we stay, and of course, whatever we had we left behind.

215

00:13:52,480 --> 00:13:54,220

The only thing is since--

216

00:13:54,220 --> 00:13:57,100

a little innovation is that to carry some of this stuff

217

00:13:57,100 --> 00:14:00,790

that my mother needed for that new place-- of course,

218

00:14:00,790 --> 00:14:03,790

we made several trips back and forth.

219

00:14:03,790 --> 00:14:07,510

We took a table and

turned it upside down

220

00:14:07,510 --> 00:14:09,820
and made sort of like
a sled out of it,

221

00:14:09,820 --> 00:14:12,160
and we put some
cardboard around the legs

222

00:14:12,160 --> 00:14:13,870
and tied it with strings.

223

00:14:13,870 --> 00:14:15,610
And we put some stuff
in there and then

224

00:14:15,610 --> 00:14:17,440
pulled it all the
way across, perhaps,

225

00:14:17,440 --> 00:14:24,040
as much as 7 or 8 kilometers,
and that was an ordeal.

226

00:14:24,040 --> 00:14:29,530
But we managed to take some
things that we needed over,

227

00:14:29,530 --> 00:14:33,610
and we moved into the new
apartment in the ghetto.

228

00:14:33,610 --> 00:14:40,000
And that was the way the
ghetto started because everyone

229

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:43,450
will have a different story
to tell on how they got in

230

00:14:43,450 --> 00:14:46,600
and what happened

because those Jews

231
00:14:46,600 --> 00:14:48,910
who already lived there
didn't have to do anything.

232
00:14:48,910 --> 00:14:50,740
They stayed in their
own homes that they

233
00:14:50,740 --> 00:14:57,810
had lived in for many
years, and just life

234
00:14:57,810 --> 00:15:00,210
continued for a little
while because the ghetto

235
00:15:00,210 --> 00:15:03,540
was surrounded with barbed-wire
fences all the way around.

236
00:15:03,540 --> 00:15:05,910
There were gates
to come in and out.

237
00:15:05,910 --> 00:15:13,350
And immediately after
that, the Jewish community

238
00:15:13,350 --> 00:15:16,980
started to form some
semblance of organization,

239
00:15:16,980 --> 00:15:22,730
with a police force, and
ghetto police, and committees,

240
00:15:22,730 --> 00:15:33,130
and what I suppose you might
call the mayor of the ghetto.

241
00:15:33,130 --> 00:15:34,710

And that was Dr. Elkes.

242

00:15:34,710 --> 00:15:46,020

And we tried to duplicate
some form of normal life,

243

00:15:46,020 --> 00:15:52,470

but it didn't last very long
because one of the things that

244

00:15:52,470 --> 00:15:55,830

happened then was that they
formed brigades of workers that

245

00:15:55,830 --> 00:16:03,830

were going out to work in
areas, and most of the people

246

00:16:03,830 --> 00:16:07,860

who worked where at the
airport because the Germans

247

00:16:07,860 --> 00:16:13,560

started building an
airport that could handle

248

00:16:13,560 --> 00:16:16,590

military planes because
that airport was very

249

00:16:16,590 --> 00:16:20,310

small before them
and building runways.

250

00:16:20,310 --> 00:16:23,640

And that is what
many hundreds of Jews

251

00:16:23,640 --> 00:16:30,810

were doing during the first
several months of the ghetto

252

00:16:30,810 --> 00:16:36,930

until some things started
happening very quickly.

253
00:16:36,930 --> 00:16:38,910
And of course, the first
thing that happened

254
00:16:38,910 --> 00:16:42,450
was the elimination
of the small ghetto

255
00:16:42,450 --> 00:16:43,710
that I had mentioned before.

256
00:16:43,710 --> 00:16:48,330

257
00:16:48,330 --> 00:16:53,330
There were perhaps as many
as 2,000 or 3,000 people

258
00:16:53,330 --> 00:16:56,240
that lived in this small
ghetto, and all of them

259
00:16:56,240 --> 00:17:00,380
were taken to the
Ninth Fort at one time.

260
00:17:00,380 --> 00:17:02,810
I believe that was at
the beginning of October,

261
00:17:02,810 --> 00:17:05,640
either the 4th or
the 6th of October,

262
00:17:05,640 --> 00:17:07,770
and they were taken there.

263
00:17:07,770 --> 00:17:12,829
And at one point, they
were brought back because--

264
00:17:12,829 --> 00:17:13,880
I don't know why.

265
00:17:13,880 --> 00:17:16,280
They were taken there
and brought back,

266
00:17:16,280 --> 00:17:19,999
and they were telling
us that they had seen--

267
00:17:19,999 --> 00:17:23,569

268
00:17:23,569 --> 00:17:26,869
they had seen graves,
pre-dug graves

269
00:17:26,869 --> 00:17:28,850
or what they
thought were graves,

270
00:17:28,850 --> 00:17:30,440
but they had brought them back.

271
00:17:30,440 --> 00:17:33,290
So we weren't very
concerned about that.

272
00:17:33,290 --> 00:17:36,500
But several days later,
they took them out

273
00:17:36,500 --> 00:17:41,060
and didn't bring them
back, and whoever

274
00:17:41,060 --> 00:17:45,110
was left in the small ghetto was
forced into the large ghetto,

275

00:17:45,110 --> 00:17:49,790
and that small ghetto
stayed empty for a while

276
00:17:49,790 --> 00:17:57,140
until the 28th of October.

277
00:17:57,140 --> 00:18:00,860
And that is when the first--

278
00:18:00,860 --> 00:18:06,140
what we called in Yiddish a
[NON-ENGLISH] or the large

279
00:18:06,140 --> 00:18:12,770
selection, and that is when half
the people of the ghetto were

280
00:18:12,770 --> 00:18:17,630
separated from the other half
and taken to the Ninth Fort.

281
00:18:17,630 --> 00:18:22,340
It happened the 28th of October.

282
00:18:22,340 --> 00:18:31,790
And the night before, the guards
outside the barbed-wire fences

283
00:18:31,790 --> 00:18:40,340
were increased, and we were told
that all of us have to leave

284
00:18:40,340 --> 00:18:50,390
our homes and gather in a
place called [NON-ENGLISH]..

285
00:18:50,390 --> 00:18:54,110
And no one may
stay in the house,

286
00:18:54,110 --> 00:18:57,740
and all the doors

must be left open

287

00:18:57,740 --> 00:19:07,340
because they were going
to search for contraband

288

00:19:07,340 --> 00:19:11,360
or hidden perhaps weapons,
perhaps communication

289

00:19:11,360 --> 00:19:15,770
radios, gold, silver, furs,
whatever they could find.

290

00:19:15,770 --> 00:19:18,200
We were not allowed to
take anything with us

291

00:19:18,200 --> 00:19:21,260
except the clothing
that we were wearing,

292

00:19:21,260 --> 00:19:26,570
and that is what we thought
was going to happen.

293

00:19:26,570 --> 00:19:30,560
Well, they took us
out to that place,

294

00:19:30,560 --> 00:19:32,660
and we stood there for perhaps--

295

00:19:32,660 --> 00:19:35,450
we gathered there at
6:00 in the morning,

296

00:19:35,450 --> 00:19:40,100
and we stood there, perhaps,
three or four hours, waiting

297

00:19:40,100 --> 00:19:45,890
for the third shift to come

back from the airport who

298

00:19:45,890 --> 00:19:47,790

worked at the airport.

299

00:19:47,790 --> 00:19:52,100

And of course, since those
that worked the airport most--

300

00:19:52,100 --> 00:19:54,260

many were just men.

301

00:19:54,260 --> 00:19:58,190

When they came into this
place where we were gathered,

302

00:19:58,190 --> 00:20:01,160

they started looking for
their families, their wives

303

00:20:01,160 --> 00:20:03,050

and their children.

304

00:20:03,050 --> 00:20:11,700

And in many cases, they
couldn't find one another.

305

00:20:11,700 --> 00:20:21,740

Then the Germans
arrived, the SS,

306

00:20:21,740 --> 00:20:26,660

and they set up sort
of like a platform.

307

00:20:26,660 --> 00:20:36,530

And they told us that we had to
march by them in a single file

308

00:20:36,530 --> 00:20:41,240

by family, every
family by itself.

309

00:20:41,240 --> 00:20:44,570

At the beginning, we weren't quite sure what was happening,

310

00:20:44,570 --> 00:20:48,950

but after an hour or two, it became clear

311

00:20:48,950 --> 00:20:54,080

that they were separating the old, and the children,

312

00:20:54,080 --> 00:20:55,850

and the lame.

313

00:20:55,850 --> 00:21:01,010

And those couples that had, let's say,

314

00:21:01,010 --> 00:21:04,520

two or three small children went to the right,

315

00:21:04,520 --> 00:21:09,950

and those couples that were with a teenage child or two

316

00:21:09,950 --> 00:21:11,780

went to the left.

317

00:21:11,780 --> 00:21:14,630

And at first, it wasn't clear which

318

00:21:14,630 --> 00:21:16,670

was the good side, which was the bad side,

319

00:21:16,670 --> 00:21:20,330

but it became clear after a while

320

00:21:20,330 --> 00:21:22,220
that the left side
was the good side.

321
00:21:22,220 --> 00:21:25,590

322
00:21:25,590 --> 00:21:30,480
My father, and my mother,
and I walked through,

323
00:21:30,480 --> 00:21:34,530
and we were sent
to the left side.

324
00:21:34,530 --> 00:21:40,570
My aunt, whose husband
was already dead,

325
00:21:40,570 --> 00:21:42,980
killed at the beginning--

326
00:21:42,980 --> 00:21:45,540
she had a little
girl, and she walked

327
00:21:45,540 --> 00:21:50,070
with her unmarried brother
and my grandfather, who

328
00:21:50,070 --> 00:21:51,970
was her father.

329
00:21:51,970 --> 00:21:53,040
They went to the right.

330
00:21:53,040 --> 00:21:55,830

331
00:21:55,830 --> 00:22:00,360
Many of my relatives
went to the right.

332

00:22:00,360 --> 00:22:07,920

We lost half of our family
during that selection.

333

00:22:07,920 --> 00:22:13,260

As those of us who went to
the left side were taken,

334

00:22:13,260 --> 00:22:16,790

on the other side
they had made a--

335

00:22:16,790 --> 00:22:40,000