```
00:00:00,000 \longrightarrow 00:00:34,610
2
00:00:34,610 --> 00:00:35,497
Worker.
00:00:35,497 \longrightarrow 00:00:43,450
4
00:00:43,450 --> 00:00:47,490
So you were telling me
about the Kinderaktion.
00:00:47,490 --> 00:00:47,990
Yes.
00:00:47,990 --> 00:00:51,240
00:00:51,240 \longrightarrow 00:00:54,240
I stayed home because
of the bad cold.
And had I worked
anyplace else, I
```

00:00:54,240 --> 00:00:59,310

00:00:59,310 --> 00:01:01,920 would certainly have reported to work,

10 00:01:01,920 --> 00:01:09,450 because it was unforgivable to miss work.

11 00:01:09,450 --> 00:01:13,340 It could have had harsh consequences.

12 00:01:13,340 --> 00:01:18,430 13 00:01:18,430 --> 00:01:25,240 The young couple who shared the room with my father and me,

14 00:01:25,240 --> 00:01:27,370 because we had already been relocated

15 00:01:27,370 --> 00:01:33,670 to another place as the ghetto had been made smaller a year

16 00:01:33,670 --> 00:01:37,900 or so predating this date.

17 00:01:37,900 --> 00:01:40,860

18 00:01:40,860 --> 00:01:45,740 So the only people in this one room

19 00:01:45,740 --> 00:01:50,540 that I was sharing with, like I said,

20 00:01:50,540 --> 00:01:53,660 other people, other families, was also

21 00:01:53,660 --> 00:01:58,430 occupied by an elderly couple who

22 00:01:58,430 --> 00:02:01,400 didn't work outside the ghetto.

23 00:02:01,400 --> 00:02:08,539 Who were the guardians of a young granddaughter 00:02:08,539 --> 00:02:13,760 who may have been three, four or five years old.

25

00:02:13,760 --> 00:02:17,270

26

00:02:17,270 --> 00:02:19,130 A very good child.

27

00:02:19,130 --> 00:02:21,750 I never saw her during the day.

28

00:02:21,750 --> 00:02:28,130 But I didn't-- nobody even knew there was a child in the room.

29

00:02:28,130 --> 00:02:29,975 She was so quiet.

30

00:02:29,975 --> 00:02:34,950

31 00:02:34,950 --> 00:02:39,290 The people left that morning were the elderly couple,

32 00:02:39,290 --> 00:02:45,600 the little girl, and I. The three of us were all dressed.

33 00:02:45,600 --> 00:02:46,985 The little girl I don't remember.

34 00:02:46,985 --> 00:02:49,970

35 00:02:49,970 --> 00:02:53,480 Whatever time it was, but it was early in the morning, maybe 8 00:02:53,480 --> 00:02:56,360 o'clock, I look out the window.

37 00:02:56,360 --> 00:03:04,310 And I see buses lining up down the street, trucks, buses.

38 00:03:04,310 --> 00:03:10,190 And Germans jumping out with dogs.

39 00:03:10,190 --> 00:03:13,100 And one of those trucks--

40 00:03:13,100 --> 00:03:19,000

41 00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:28,220 I don't remember whether it had a cover on the back or not.

42 00:03:28,220 --> 00:03:36,280 Anyway, one of those trucks stops before our house.

43 00:03:36,280 --> 00:03:43,850 Out jump the Germans in their shiny boots, grim faces.

44 00:03:43,850 --> 00:03:49,880 And momentarily, they barge into the kitchen,

45 00:03:49,880 --> 00:03:51,530 a very small kitchen.

46 00:03:51,530 --> 00:03:58,160 They barge in there and barge into the bedroom.

47 00:03:58,160 --> 00:04:05,070 And they survey the room and say-- 48 00:04:05,070 --> 00:04:11,450 tell the three of us, because the child was already hidden,

49 00:04:11,450 --> 00:04:21,440 the three adults, to stand and explain why we're not at work.

50 00:04:21,440 --> 00:04:23,840 The elderly couple, to the best of my recollection,

51 00:04:23,840 --> 00:04:27,620 did not have a steady workplace.

52 00:04:27,620 --> 00:04:35,270 I think they earned their bread, their meager bread, by doing--

53 00:04:35,270 --> 00:04:40,030

54 00:04:40,030 --> 00:04:43,510 they were sawing wood for other people who needed--

55 00:04:43,510 --> 00:04:45,250 who brought home logs.

56 00:04:45,250 --> 00:04:48,970 Maybe had smuggled out some logs from the workplace.

57 00:04:48,970 --> 00:04:56,230 And the elderly man had a good saw, which

58 00:04:56,230 --> 00:04:57,940 he sharpened all the time.

59 00:04:57,940 --> 00:05:04,300 And they went around doing this intermittent work.

60 00:05:04,300 --> 00:05:06,910 And always took the little girl along.

61 00:05:06,910 --> 00:05:16,480 Well, they must have realized that these trucks bode no good.

62 00:05:16,480 --> 00:05:20,260 I mean, especially for the little girl,

63 00:05:20,260 --> 00:05:23,320 because at that time, there were very few children

64 00:05:23,320 --> 00:05:25,000 left in the ghetto.

65 00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:29,870

66 00:05:29,870 --> 00:05:35,210 Frantically, the grandmother had put the little girl

67 00:05:35,210 --> 00:05:39,530 into the bed that was shared by all three,

68 00:05:39,530 --> 00:05:45,020 and had heaped all the blankets and quilts.

69 00:05:45,020 --> 00:05:47,680

70 00:05:47,680 --> 00:05:51,820 Well, actually, she had made it so it would look 71 00:05:51,820 --> 00:05:56,035 that it was just a made-up bed.

72 00:05:56,035 --> 00:06:01,360

73 00:06:01,360 --> 00:06:09,820 So first of all, one of the soldiers or officers

74 00:06:09,820 --> 00:06:14,620 confronts me and wants to know why I'm not at my workplace.

75 00:06:14,620 --> 00:06:15,985 Fortunately, I was dressed.

76 00:06:15,985 --> 00:06:19,750

77 00:06:19,750 --> 00:06:23,590 I showed him my work permit.

78 00:06:23,590 --> 00:06:26,500 But what I said to him, I do not--

79 00:06:26,500 --> 00:06:28,190 I don't know.

80 00:06:28,190 --> 00:06:39,230 I was stunned, petrified, and my heart was racing.

81 00:06:39,230 --> 00:06:45,120 I am sure it could be seen through what I was wearing.

82 00:06:45,120 --> 00:06:48,300 I think at one time it actually stopped beating. 83 00:06:48,300 --> 00:06:51,030

84 00:06:51,030 --> 00:06:53,520 He left me alone.

85 00:06:53,520 --> 00:06:56,740 He gave the grandparents a stern look.

86 00:06:56,740 --> 00:06:59,790 Perhaps he admonished me to not stay home anymore,

87 00:06:59,790 --> 00:07:02,880 that this could carry grave consequences,

88 00:07:02,880 --> 00:07:04,650 but I really don't remember.

89 00:07:04,650 --> 00:07:09,630 But he spoke to me sternly then shoved me away or out

90 00:07:09,630 --> 00:07:11,355 of the way.

91 00:07:11,355 --> 00:07:14,280 The grandparents, he left--

92 00:07:14,280 --> 00:07:16,710 said something in a harsh language to them,

93 00:07:16,710 --> 00:07:20,220 left them alone, then started tearing up the room.

94 00:07:20,220 --> 00:07:22,890 95 00:07:22,890 --> 00:07:25,320 I think all three did that.

96 00:07:25,320 --> 00:07:27,720 They tore up the room.

97 00:07:27,720 --> 00:07:33,480 And it didn't take them any time to tear apart

98 00:07:33,480 --> 00:07:39,570 the bed clothes to come upon the little girl

99 00:07:39,570 --> 00:07:46,110 and dragged her out.

100 00:07:46,110 --> 00:07:47,640 When they made sure there is nobody

101 00:07:47,640 --> 00:07:52,560 else hiding and nothing else was to be found,

102 00:07:52,560 --> 00:07:59,120 they dragged her out towards this truck.

103 00:07:59,120 --> 00:08:13,520 And the grandmother ran after them, fell down--

104 00:08:13,520 --> 00:08:15,200 fell on her knees.

105 00:08:15,200 --> 00:08:18,510

106 00:08:18,510 --> 00:08:30,270 Begged, pleaded, cried, wailed, followed them out to the truck

107 00:08:30,270 --> 00:08:33,150 to the curb.

108 00:08:33,150 --> 00:08:42,840 And one of the soldiers either used his gun or a club

109 00:08:42,840 --> 00:08:45,570 and hit her.

110 00:08:45,570 --> 00:08:47,590 And she fell to the ground.

111 00:08:47,590 --> 00:08:51,090 She fell down in the street.

112 00:08:51,090 --> 00:08:55,787 The truck took off, and she was left behind.

113 00:08:55,787 --> 00:08:56,870 They took the little girl.

114 00:08:56,870 --> 00:09:00,260 There were other children on the truck.

115 00:09:00,260 --> 00:09:02,570 I could see that from the window.

116 00:09:02,570 --> 00:09:05,330 After I had seen that, I didn't want to see anymore.

117 00:09:05,330 --> 00:09:10,430

118 00:09:10,430 --> 00:09:13,940 I know the grandmother came back in.

119

00:09:13,940 --> 00:09:18,410 And it was probably the greatest human tragedy

120

00:09:18,410 --> 00:09:23,510 that I have seen before my eyes.

121

00:09:23,510 --> 00:09:28,280 And so three weeks later, you?

122

00:09:28,280 --> 00:09:35,840 Three weeks later, shortly thereafter the kinder Aktion,

123

00:09:35,840 --> 00:09:41,960 my father decided that there was no hope for anybody

124

00:09:41,960 --> 00:09:46,610 to stay alive in the ghetto.

125

00:09:46,610 --> 00:09:50,240 And it would be--

126

00:09:50,240 --> 00:09:57,106 it was time for me to make arrangements to escape.

127

00:09:57,106 --> 00:10:00,740 Do you want to hear about that?

128

00:10:00,740 --> 00:10:04,730 Oh, that was easier said than done.

129

00:10:04,730 --> 00:10:11,360 It was very hard to find a family, a Lithuanian family,

130

00:10:11,360 --> 00:10:13,760

who would provide shelter.

131

00:10:13,760 --> 00:10:15,260 For good reason.

132

00:10:15,260 --> 00:10:21,740 They would put their own lives into grave danger.

133

00:10:21,740 --> 00:10:28,250 Harboring a Jew was almost a--

134

00:10:28,250 --> 00:10:29,900 what is it?

135

00:10:29,900 --> 00:10:30,920 Well, a death sentence.

136

00:10:30,920 --> 00:10:34,420

137

00:10:34,420 --> 00:10:39,760 And so there was one hurdle, to find a place,

138

00:10:39,760 --> 00:10:44,170 to find a person willing to provide shelter.

139

00:10:44,170 --> 00:10:48,580 The other hurdle was to get out of the ghetto.

140

00:10:48,580 --> 00:10:51,490 All gates were guarded.

141

00:10:51,490 --> 00:10:54,430 It was difficult to slip through the fence.

142

00:10:54,430 --> 00:10:59,770 There are guard towers that are manned at all times.

143

00:10:59,770 --> 00:11:08,860 And there were ways to slip out with a work group,

144

00:11:08,860 --> 00:11:11,560 or work brigade, as they were called,

145

00:11:11,560 --> 00:11:15,340 that worked outside of the ghetto.

146

00:11:15,340 --> 00:11:19,810 And with the knowledge--

147

00:11:19,810 --> 00:11:22,900 it was usually best that with the knowledge of the group

148

00:11:22,900 --> 00:11:27,130 leader one could slip away either

149

00:11:27,130 --> 00:11:30,775 to do some trading, bartering, get food.

150

00:11:30,775 --> 00:11:41,410

151

00:11:41,410 --> 00:11:42,560 Eight Mark.

152

00:11:42,560 --> 00:11:51,860

153

00:11:51,860 --> 00:11:55,930 So you could get out with the work brigade.

00:11:55,930 --> 00:11:57,570 Yes.

155

00:11:57,570 --> 00:12:00,770 So the preliminary plans that had to be made

156

00:12:00,770 --> 00:12:08,270 were to establish contact with a former bookkeeper who

157

00:12:08,270 --> 00:12:13,160 had worked for my dad in my hometown.

158

00:12:13,160 --> 00:12:16,190 Perhaps it's somewhat reminiscent of the Frank

159

00:12:16,190 --> 00:12:19,530 family's bookkeeper.

160

00:12:19,530 --> 00:12:26,690 This was a very devoted former employee

161

00:12:26,690 --> 00:12:29,270 who had known me since--

162

00:12:29,270 --> 00:12:34,910 practically since I was born, and had always

163

00:12:34,910 --> 00:12:37,880 allowed me to have the run of the office, and type on--

164

00:12:37,880 --> 00:12:41,990 and play on every typewriter that I could find.

165

00:12:41,990 --> 00:12:44,150 She had married a Lithuanian.

166 00:12:44,150 --> 00:12:53,990 She was herself a German of Russian German descent

167

00:12:53,990 --> 00:12:55,640 who had married a Lithuanian and had

168

00:12:55,640 --> 00:12:58,940 moved to Kovno after her marriage,

169

00:12:58,940 --> 00:13:05,420 after Memel had been retaken by the Germans in 1939.

170

00:13:05,420 --> 00:13:12,230 And my dad had found out that her husband occasionally came

171

00:13:12,230 --> 00:13:15,830 to the ghetto on some business.

172

00:13:15,830 --> 00:13:18,150 I'm not quite sure what it was.

173

00:13:18,150 --> 00:13:20,210 But there were some work--

174

00:13:20,210 --> 00:13:26,690

175

00:13:26,690 --> 00:13:29,140 what is it?

176

00:13:29,140 --> 00:13:32,020 I can think of the German word.

177

00:13:32,020 --> 00:13:34,795 [SPEAKING GERMAN] 178 00:13:34,795 --> 00:13:36,070 Workshops.

179

00:13:36,070 --> 00:13:42,400 Yes, workshops, exactly, where German uniforms were repaired.

180

00:13:42,400 --> 00:13:46,540 And perhaps other repair work was done.

181

00:13:46,540 --> 00:13:51,700 And the bookkeeper's husband, [? Maita's ?] husband,

182

00:13:51,700 --> 00:13:54,430 occasionally came to the ghetto.

183

00:13:54,430 --> 00:13:58,420 My father could not contact him personally,

184

00:13:58,420 --> 00:14:01,840 because my father did not work inside the ghetto.

185

00:14:01,840 --> 00:14:04,480 He worked at the airfield.

186

00:14:04,480 --> 00:14:09,550 But I believe that he passed on written messages

187

00:14:09,550 --> 00:14:16,840 to be delivered to [? Maita's ?] husband asking him

188

00:14:16,840 --> 00:14:18,970 if there was a way--

189

00:14:18,970 --> 00:14:22,120 if they knew of anybody

who would take me in.

190 00:14:22,120 --> 00:14:27,390 And the reply came back a short while later

191

00:14:27,390 --> 00:14:34,680 that if I could find a way out-a safe way out of the ghetto,

192

00:14:34,680 --> 00:14:38,550 that I could stay with [? Maita ?] and her husband

193

00:14:38,550 --> 00:14:42,450 in Kaunas in their very own apartment.

194

00:14:42,450 --> 00:14:43,980 At least for a while.

195

00:14:43,980 --> 00:14:49,170 Maybe later, they would find a safer place for me

196

00:14:49,170 --> 00:14:51,600 in the country, perhaps.

197

00:14:51,600 --> 00:14:59,330 But that happened April or May.

198

00:14:59,330 --> 00:15:01,710 I think it was in April.

199

00:15:01,710 --> 00:15:05,180 So very hasty arrangements were made.

200

00:15:05,180 --> 00:15:06,770 None by me.

201

00:15:06,770 --> 00:15:09,830

All done by my father, to whom I really owe my life.

202

00:15:09,830 --> 00:15:13,790

203

00:15:13,790 --> 00:15:18,290 He found a work brigade that worked outside the ghetto.

204

00:15:18,290 --> 00:15:22,460 The group leader was willing to let me join

205

00:15:22,460 --> 00:15:24,620 his group on a certain day.

206

00:15:24,620 --> 00:15:29,200

207

00:15:29,200 --> 00:15:36,050 His group was guarded by several German guards, some of whom

208

00:15:36,050 --> 00:15:41,900 had shown a shred of humanity in the past

209

00:15:41,900 --> 00:15:47,390 and had let people not connected with the group

210

00:15:47,390 --> 00:15:58,720 either leave the group before they got to their workplace.

211

00:15:58,720 --> 00:16:08,890 And so I left with--

212

00:16:08,890 --> 00:16:13,180 I went to the place of assembly.

00:16:13,180 --> 00:16:16,060 It was a small group.

214

00:16:16,060 --> 00:16:20,950 Unfortunately, I don't remember the group's leader's name.

215

00:16:20,950 --> 00:16:23,380 But I do know that they had to cross

216

00:16:23,380 --> 00:16:29,720 a small river from the ghetto to get to their workplace.

217

00:16:29,720 --> 00:16:30,985 So all of us--

218

00:16:30,985 --> 00:16:32,695 it must have been the river Neris.

219

00:16:32,695 --> 00:16:36,720

220

00:16:36,720 --> 00:16:44,940 The group, 10 or 15 people at the most,

221

00:16:44,940 --> 00:16:49,620 all sat down in a row boat.

222

00:16:49,620 --> 00:16:52,590 And the boat crossed the river.

223

00:16:52,590 --> 00:16:56,870

224

00:16:56,870 --> 00:17:00,200 I don't know if the guard had been bribed or not.

00:17:00,200 --> 00:17:02,060 I don't know that.

226

00:17:02,060 --> 00:17:07,730 Some guards would take a bribe and would look the other way.

227

00:17:07,730 --> 00:17:12,859 Some would take a bribe and would not look the other way.

228

00:17:12,859 --> 00:17:16,268

229

00:17:16,268 --> 00:17:23,300 I also had to have somebody help me to take off the yellow star.

230

00:17:23,300 --> 00:17:26,750 Both of them, front and back, had been pinned on.

231

00:17:26,750 --> 00:17:30,290 I could certainly handle the one in the front, needed somebody

232

00:17:30,290 --> 00:17:33,170 to help me with the star in the back.

233

00:17:33,170 --> 00:17:36,800 And I didn't know that, but a dear friend

234

00:17:36,800 --> 00:17:38,840 was in that work group.

235

00:17:38,840 --> 00:17:41,270 And she sat behind me.

236

00:17:41,270 --> 00:17:48,740 So I asked her, would she remove the pins from the star.

237

00:17:48,740 --> 00:17:49,340

She did.

238

00:17:49,340 --> 00:17:51,640

She wished me good

luck, embraced me.

239

00:17:51,640 --> 00:17:55,780

240

 $00:17:55,780 \longrightarrow 00:17:58,420$

She survived.

241

 $00:17:58,420 \longrightarrow 00:17:59,540$

She was in Israel.

242

00:17:59,540 --> 00:18:03,000

I don't know if

she's still alive.

243

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:06,930

Her name was [? Shainale ?]

[? Suvolsky. ?] She had been

244

00:18:06,930 --> 00:18:08,175

one of my mother's nurses.

245

00:18:08,175 --> 00:18:11,220

246

00:18:11,220 --> 00:18:16,320

Well, we reached the other

side of the river at the--

247

00:18:16,320 --> 00:18:17,550

yes.

248

00:18:17,550 --> 00:18:25,020

Everybody got out and regrouped.

00:18:25,020 --> 00:18:33,750 And I stayed behind and hid behind some bushes, waited

250

00:18:33,750 --> 00:18:36,120 until everybody had left.

251

00:18:36,120 --> 00:18:43,200 And our meeting place had been previously

252

00:18:43,200 --> 00:18:49,910 discussed and designated.

253

00:18:49,910 --> 00:18:56,000 It was on the major highway just a few feet

254

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:00,230 from the small river where [? Maita ?] would

255

00:19:00,230 --> 00:19:03,215 be waiting in a carriage.

256

00:19:03,215 --> 00:19:08,170

257

00:19:08,170 --> 00:19:12,010 And as soon as we saw each other,

258

00:19:12,010 --> 00:19:18,220 we had to just get on with our journey.

259

00:19:18,220 --> 00:19:22,870 There was I guess a coachman who--

260

00:19:22,870 --> 00:19:26,650

261

00:19:26,650 --> 00:19:30,040 that was the only transportation available.

262

00:19:30,040 --> 00:19:37,610 Very few civilian cars were available in the city.

263

00:19:37,610 --> 00:19:39,490 So she was sitting there waiting for me.

264

00:19:39,490 --> 00:19:40,390 I jumped in.

265

00:19:40,390 --> 00:19:43,270 We didn't say a word.

266

00:19:43,270 --> 00:19:49,520 Both of us must have been very, very tense and very,

267

00:19:49,520 --> 00:19:51,310 very scared.

268

00:19:51,310 --> 00:19:58,180 And she signaled that we were ready to get

269

00:19:58,180 --> 00:20:00,100 to her destination.

270

00:20:00,100 --> 00:20:05,560 And not one word was exchanged during the whole trip

271

00:20:05,560 --> 00:20:08,410 until we got to her place.

272

00:20:08,410 --> 00:20:13,280 And incidentally, she had a very, very nice place.

273 00:20:13,280 --> 00:20:22,480 And once we got there, we regrouped.

274 00:20:22,480 --> 00:20:30,210 And she gave me some coffee and revived my spirits.

275 00:20:30,210 --> 00:20:32,020 I think both of us were trembling

276 00:20:32,020 --> 00:20:35,800 when we made it up the stairs.

277 00:20:35,800 --> 00:20:39,565 And many things happened in that apartment also.

278 00:20:39,565 --> 00:20:43,270

279 00:20:43,270 --> 00:20:47,350 Ostensibly, I was going to be the maid there.

280 00:20:47,350 --> 00:20:50,380 I had my own room.

281 00:20:50,380 --> 00:20:55,300 And I certainly was not treated like a maid.

282 00:20:55,300 --> 00:21:06,340 But for anybody who visited, I had to play the role of a maid.

283 00:21:06,340 --> 00:21:10,040 And for the most part, I did that well. 00:21:10,040 --> 00:21:11,830 I found out late--

285

00:21:11,830 --> 00:21:18,190 yes, she told me that because the apartment was so large--

286

00:21:18,190 --> 00:21:24,610 it really was a luxury apartment on the main street in Kaunas--

287

00:21:24,610 --> 00:21:32,650 they had to give up one room to an SS woman who worked

288

00:21:32,650 --> 00:21:35,530 in the civilian administration.

289

00:21:35,530 --> 00:21:39,370 And of course she told me to be very careful

290

00:21:39,370 --> 00:21:43,060 and not to let on that I understood

291

00:21:43,060 --> 00:21:45,160 a syllable of German.

292

00:21:45,160 --> 00:21:50,990 That I was there as the newly hired Lithuanian maid.

293

00:21:50,990 --> 00:21:54,460 I think she gave me a kerchief to tie around

294

00:21:54,460 --> 00:21:57,910 my head and apron.

295

00:21:57,910 --> 00:22:02,540 And some coarse clothes, because I certainly 296 00:22:02,540 --> 00:22:04,640 didn't bring any clothes.

297 00:22:04,640 --> 00:22:05,750 I didn't have any clothes.

298 00:22:05,750 --> 00:22:08,630

299 00:22:08,630 --> 00:22:12,590 So yes, I had to be very careful around this very

300 00:22:12,590 --> 00:22:18,410 arrogant I think SS woman.

301 00:22:18,410 --> 00:22:21,070

302 00:22:21,070 --> 00:22:24,340 And I helped in the kitchen.

303 00:22:24,340 --> 00:22:27,080 I was very pleasant.

304 00:22:27,080 --> 00:22:31,780 I stayed out of sight when somebody

305 00:22:31,780 --> 00:22:35,200 visited, went to my room.

306 00:22:35,200 --> 00:22:41,800 Until one day, [? Maita ?] had a visitor.

307 00:22:41,800 --> 00:22:44,170 A trusted friend.

308 00:22:44,170 --> 00:22:46,320 A German woman.

309

00:22:46,320 --> 00:24:52,374