

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:38,320

2  
00:00:38,320 --> 00:00:40,900  
So why don't we begin  
with you telling me

3  
00:00:40,900 --> 00:00:43,550  
when and where you were born.

4  
00:00:43,550 --> 00:00:46,970  
I was born in Kovno,  
October 7, 1938.

5  
00:00:46,970 --> 00:00:49,630  
Kovno, Lithuania.

6  
00:00:49,630 --> 00:00:53,530  
And tell me your  
earliest recollections

7  
00:00:53,530 --> 00:00:56,390  
about Kovno itself.

8  
00:00:56,390 --> 00:01:00,546  
What are some of the  
snippets that you remember?

9  
00:01:00,546 --> 00:01:02,690  
Actually, I really  
don't remember anything

10  
00:01:02,690 --> 00:01:05,570  
before we were  
sent to the ghetto.

11  
00:01:05,570 --> 00:01:08,030  
I was 2 and 1/2  
years old when we

12  
00:01:08,030 --> 00:01:11,450

entered the ghetto, so  
basically what I remember

13  
00:01:11,450 --> 00:01:15,020  
is just being in the  
ghetto in the room mostly.

14  
00:01:15,020 --> 00:01:17,900  
Do you remember actually  
going to the ghetto?

15  
00:01:17,900 --> 00:01:19,760  
No, I don't.

16  
00:01:19,760 --> 00:01:22,700  
So tell me what you remember  
from being in the room

17  
00:01:22,700 --> 00:01:24,350  
in the ghetto.

18  
00:01:24,350 --> 00:01:27,380  
Well, I remember just one  
room where my parents--

19  
00:01:27,380 --> 00:01:29,300  
my mother, father,  
and my grandmother--

20  
00:01:29,300 --> 00:01:31,910  
lived in this one room.

21  
00:01:31,910 --> 00:01:34,130  
I remember a little  
table in the middle

22  
00:01:34,130 --> 00:01:35,930  
with a cloth hanging  
over it and I

23  
00:01:35,930 --> 00:01:38,670  
would sit under it most of  
the time because I was afraid.

24  
00:01:38,670 --> 00:01:41,550  
I knew that Germans were  
always searching for children,

25  
00:01:41,550 --> 00:01:43,340  
so I would basically  
just sit under there

26  
00:01:43,340 --> 00:01:46,320  
and sometimes draw  
pictures, but that was it.

27  
00:01:46,320 --> 00:01:49,550  
That was my place of hiding  
unless someone were literally

28  
00:01:49,550 --> 00:01:51,020  
coming in to look  
for children then

29  
00:01:51,020 --> 00:01:54,140  
there were other hiding places  
that I would have to go to.

30  
00:01:54,140 --> 00:01:56,370  
But that's really  
all I remember,

31  
00:01:56,370 --> 00:01:58,610  
is just the room because  
I wasn't really allowed--

32  
00:01:58,610 --> 00:02:01,670  
At the beginning my father  
said they would let me outside

33  
00:02:01,670 --> 00:02:03,860  
and I would have to stand  
right near the door.

34  
00:02:03,860 --> 00:02:05,960  
But after that I had

to remain in the room

35  
00:02:05,960 --> 00:02:08,240  
because they were always  
searching for children

36  
00:02:08,240 --> 00:02:10,490  
to kill children.

37  
00:02:10,490 --> 00:02:12,380  
So that's pretty much--

38  
00:02:12,380 --> 00:02:14,282  
I know I had a crib  
which eventually they

39  
00:02:14,282 --> 00:02:15,740  
got rid of because  
again that would

40  
00:02:15,740 --> 00:02:19,730  
have been a sign that a child  
was living in that house.

41  
00:02:19,730 --> 00:02:22,720  
That's pretty much it.

42  
00:02:22,720 --> 00:02:26,770  
Do you remember being  
taught to be quiet

43  
00:02:26,770 --> 00:02:28,630  
and to stay under the table?

44  
00:02:28,630 --> 00:02:31,000  
Can you tell me about that?

45  
00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:33,620  
I wasn't taught to  
stay under the table,

46  
00:02:33,620 --> 00:02:35,350

I would just do it myself.

47

00:02:35,350 --> 00:02:38,890

I just felt comfortable, a  
little more secure there.

48

00:02:38,890 --> 00:02:41,308

There were times when  
I had to hide places

49

00:02:41,308 --> 00:02:43,600

and my parents would of course  
tell me to be very quiet

50

00:02:43,600 --> 00:02:45,890

and not to move.

51

00:02:45,890 --> 00:02:47,710

But as far as the  
table itself, I

52

00:02:47,710 --> 00:02:50,890

think it was just my  
own little refuge.

53

00:02:50,890 --> 00:02:53,770

Or sometimes even under the bed.

54

00:02:53,770 --> 00:02:59,200

And you already had  
a fear of Germans.

55

00:02:59,200 --> 00:03:00,970

Tell me a little  
more about that.

56

00:03:00,970 --> 00:03:01,720

Yes, I do.

57

00:03:01,720 --> 00:03:02,440

I remember that.

58

00:03:02,440 --> 00:03:04,933

It's interesting, because  
I remember as I said

59

00:03:04,933 --> 00:03:06,100

I would sit under the table.

60

00:03:06,100 --> 00:03:09,010

And I really didn't have any  
toys but a paper and pencil

61

00:03:09,010 --> 00:03:12,370

and I would draw pictures and  
it was always about soldiers,

62

00:03:12,370 --> 00:03:15,040

Germans, and the Jews fighting.

63

00:03:15,040 --> 00:03:18,070

I remember drawing  
pictures of a house--

64

00:03:18,070 --> 00:03:20,860

This one is just amazing because  
it has always stayed with me--

65

00:03:20,860 --> 00:03:23,410

I drew a picture of a  
house with a chimney

66

00:03:23,410 --> 00:03:26,260

and that I would stuff  
Hitler inside that chimney

67

00:03:26,260 --> 00:03:27,760

and that he would  
suffocate and die.

68

00:03:27,760 --> 00:03:31,030

And it's only recently I  
even thought about my God

69

00:03:31,030 --> 00:03:32,470

how symbolic the chimney was.

70

00:03:32,470 --> 00:03:35,350  
Obviously I had no idea, I just  
knew the house had a chimney,

71

00:03:35,350 --> 00:03:37,660  
but it's just amazing.

72

00:03:37,660 --> 00:03:39,400  
But I did know.

73

00:03:39,400 --> 00:03:43,300  
I understood the risk  
that was involved for me

74

00:03:43,300 --> 00:03:47,590  
if I was not quiet  
or if I would move

75

00:03:47,590 --> 00:03:50,290  
if I was told not to and so on.

76

00:03:50,290 --> 00:03:52,940  
I definitely knew the danger.

77

00:03:52,940 --> 00:03:53,930  
I was aware of that.

78

00:03:53,930 --> 00:04:03,400

79

00:04:03,400 --> 00:04:10,450  
So you remember knowing  
who Adolf Hitler was.

80

00:04:10,450 --> 00:04:11,860  
Yes, I knew about Hitler.

81

00:04:11,860 --> 00:04:14,830  
I knew the name Hitler  
and that he was a bad guy.

82  
00:04:14,830 --> 00:04:17,470  
I definitely knew that because  
again with that picture

83  
00:04:17,470 --> 00:04:18,790  
with the chimney I wanted him.

84  
00:04:18,790 --> 00:04:21,130  
I knew he meant, I guess,  
the leader, I suppose

85  
00:04:21,130 --> 00:04:24,850  
or the important one that I  
felt that he deserved to die.

86  
00:04:24,850 --> 00:04:27,680

87  
00:04:27,680 --> 00:04:33,510  
Do you remember anything about  
being cold or being hungry

88  
00:04:33,510 --> 00:04:34,770  
or anything like that?

89  
00:04:34,770 --> 00:04:36,000  
Yes, definitely.

90  
00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:37,650  
Definitely, I remember that.

91  
00:04:37,650 --> 00:04:40,110  
There was one time  
specifically, actually

92  
00:04:40,110 --> 00:04:42,930  
it was towards the end.

93  
00:04:42,930 --> 00:04:47,100  
In March of '44, the Germans  
had a major search for children

94  
00:04:47,100 --> 00:04:49,320  
they called the Kinder Aktion.

95  
00:04:49,320 --> 00:04:54,240  
And my parents had to hide me.

96  
00:04:54,240 --> 00:04:56,310  
And we went underneath  
the stairway.

97  
00:04:56,310 --> 00:04:59,880  
Where we lived, there was  
a second floor, and we--

98  
00:04:59,880 --> 00:05:01,350  
I'm really sorry about that.

99  
00:05:01,350 --> 00:05:07,260

100  
00:05:07,260 --> 00:05:09,870  
OK, you were talking  
about the Kinder Aktion.

101  
00:05:09,870 --> 00:05:10,980  
Yes.

102  
00:05:10,980 --> 00:05:12,810  
So we hid underneath  
the stairway.

103  
00:05:12,810 --> 00:05:14,850  
My parents had a  
cousin of mine place

104  
00:05:14,850 --> 00:05:17,970  
a mattress to  
camouflage the opening,

105  
00:05:17,970 --> 00:05:20,610  
and we stayed there for

two days and two nights.

106  
00:05:20,610 --> 00:05:22,720  
And it was in March and  
it was very, very cold.

107  
00:05:22,720 --> 00:05:26,760  
The house was just  
made out of wood,

108  
00:05:26,760 --> 00:05:29,380  
and you could see through  
the cracks the outdoors.

109  
00:05:29,380 --> 00:05:33,070  
And I remember being  
very, very cold, hungry.

110  
00:05:33,070 --> 00:05:33,960  
I had a cold.

111  
00:05:33,960 --> 00:05:35,670  
I was coughing and  
I remember having

112  
00:05:35,670 --> 00:05:38,100  
to try to suffocate the cold.

113  
00:05:38,100 --> 00:05:40,080  
I knew that if I  
would cough out they

114  
00:05:40,080 --> 00:05:41,760  
would hear me  
because I can still

115  
00:05:41,760 --> 00:05:46,230  
remember the sound of the Nazi  
soldiers walking up the stairs,

116  
00:05:46,230 --> 00:05:50,190  
you know the boots, and hearing  
people screaming outside.

117  
00:05:50,190 --> 00:05:52,380  
And so I definitely  
it was the fear

118  
00:05:52,380 --> 00:05:55,260  
and the hunger and the cold  
and that I definitely remember.

119  
00:05:55,260 --> 00:05:57,720  
There was something  
that just never left me.

120  
00:05:57,720 --> 00:06:01,300

121  
00:06:01,300 --> 00:06:03,220  
Besides being hungry,  
of course, in between.

122  
00:06:03,220 --> 00:06:06,800  
The whole time in the ghetto  
there was very little food.

123  
00:06:06,800 --> 00:06:09,720  
Going back to near the  
beginning of the ghetto,

124  
00:06:09,720 --> 00:06:13,850  
so this is when you were  
littler, the Great Aktion,

125  
00:06:13,850 --> 00:06:17,030  
do you remember  
anything about that?

126  
00:06:17,030 --> 00:06:18,020  
Actually, I don't.

127  
00:06:18,020 --> 00:06:21,350  
My father has  
described it to me.

128

00:06:21,350 --> 00:06:25,910  
Interestingly, I might add that  
he mentioned that the day when

129

00:06:25,910 --> 00:06:28,310  
everybody had to line  
up in front of the Nazi

130

00:06:28,310 --> 00:06:31,250  
and he pointed people to go  
to the left and to the right,

131

00:06:31,250 --> 00:06:33,500  
and my father noticed  
that the people that

132

00:06:33,500 --> 00:06:36,650  
were being sent to the left were  
the disabled the old and the

133

00:06:36,650 --> 00:06:37,770  
children.

134

00:06:37,770 --> 00:06:39,590  
So when it was our  
turn and apparently he

135

00:06:39,590 --> 00:06:41,785  
pointed to the left my  
father just grabbed me

136

00:06:41,785 --> 00:06:43,910  
as we were walking together  
and just pushed our way

137

00:06:43,910 --> 00:06:46,250  
into the right  
side, and that's why

138

00:06:46,250 --> 00:06:48,440  
I survived or I  
survived certainly

139

00:06:48,440 --> 00:06:50,340  
as a child the Aktion.

140

00:06:50,340 --> 00:06:53,780  
But I don't remember  
that because I had just

141

00:06:53,780 --> 00:06:54,450  
turned three.

142

00:06:54,450 --> 00:07:04,010

143

00:07:04,010 --> 00:07:07,520  
Tell me about the Great  
Aktion from what you've

144

00:07:07,520 --> 00:07:10,730  
learned from your father.

145

00:07:10,730 --> 00:07:12,260  
At that particular day?

146

00:07:12,260 --> 00:07:13,820  
Yes, that particular day.

147

00:07:13,820 --> 00:07:16,490  
Well, as he told me, he said  
it was early in the morning

148

00:07:16,490 --> 00:07:19,520  
October 28, 1941.

149

00:07:19,520 --> 00:07:23,070  
I had turned three October  
7th as a matter of fact.

150

00:07:23,070 --> 00:07:28,280  
And he said that trucks  
with loudspeakers

151

00:07:28,280 --> 00:07:31,190  
drove through the  
ghetto and told everyone

152  
00:07:31,190 --> 00:07:32,900  
to leave their home,  
that every person

153  
00:07:32,900 --> 00:07:36,200  
had to leave and  
assemble on a place.

154  
00:07:36,200 --> 00:07:39,125  
And then that we had to  
line up in rows of eight,

155  
00:07:39,125 --> 00:07:44,540  
I believe, and march in front  
of this Nazi who sat on a chair

156  
00:07:44,540 --> 00:07:48,410  
and pointed to people to go  
to the left or to the right.

157  
00:07:48,410 --> 00:07:52,380  
And he said that, as I pointed  
out, my father of course

158  
00:07:52,380 --> 00:07:55,700  
became aware that the  
people to the left he just

159  
00:07:55,700 --> 00:07:57,290  
had this feeling  
something was wrong

160  
00:07:57,290 --> 00:08:00,320  
why there were all these  
elderly and the small children

161  
00:08:00,320 --> 00:08:02,360  
and sick people were  
being sent to the left,

162

00:08:02,360 --> 00:08:04,460  
he just yanked us to the right.

163

00:08:04,460 --> 00:08:07,250  
And the next day we found  
out that the people who were

164

00:08:07,250 --> 00:08:08,720  
sent to the left were killed.

165

00:08:08,720 --> 00:08:10,160  
And there were  
about 10,000 people

166

00:08:10,160 --> 00:08:12,110  
who were killed that day.

167

00:08:12,110 --> 00:08:12,800  
So this is--

168

00:08:12,800 --> 00:08:16,670

169

00:08:16,670 --> 00:08:20,420  
Tell me instances of  
you being hidden just

170

00:08:20,420 --> 00:08:24,920  
when the Germans did  
come in to your--

171

00:08:24,920 --> 00:08:28,430  
There was one instance, this  
was before the Kinder Aktion,

172

00:08:28,430 --> 00:08:31,850  
when a neighbor came yelling,  
quick, hide her, hide her--

173

00:08:31,850 --> 00:08:34,340  
people would watch  
out for one another--

174  
00:08:34,340 --> 00:08:37,440  
and that a Nazi was  
coming into the house.

175  
00:08:37,440 --> 00:08:41,809  
So my parents had  
already removed the crib

176  
00:08:41,809 --> 00:08:44,120  
that I had been in and  
we just had one bed.

177  
00:08:44,120 --> 00:08:48,230  
So they rolled me up in  
the bedding like a sausage.

178  
00:08:48,230 --> 00:08:50,600  
I was inside of that and  
they rolled me against--

179  
00:08:50,600 --> 00:08:52,640  
placed me I should  
say-- against the wall

180  
00:08:52,640 --> 00:08:55,880  
so it looked like the back of a  
sofa if you can visualize that.

181  
00:08:55,880 --> 00:08:58,490  
But they placed me in there and  
they told me to be very quiet

182  
00:08:58,490 --> 00:09:00,080  
and not to move.

183  
00:09:00,080 --> 00:09:04,230  
And I remember feeling  
that I was suffocating.

184  
00:09:04,230 --> 00:09:05,160  
I couldn't breathe.

185

00:09:05,160 --> 00:09:07,010

And yet I knew I  
wasn't supposed to move

186

00:09:07,010 --> 00:09:10,190

because otherwise they'd  
find me and that meant death.

187

00:09:10,190 --> 00:09:15,950

So that was a very significant  
event that I remember.

188

00:09:15,950 --> 00:09:18,075

The other one, of course,  
was underneath the steps.

189

00:09:18,075 --> 00:09:20,850

190

00:09:20,850 --> 00:09:23,850

Another episode is eventually  
when I was smuggled out

191

00:09:23,850 --> 00:09:25,680

of the ghetto, but  
everything in between

192

00:09:25,680 --> 00:09:28,260

is pretty much it's  
sort of like snapshots.

193

00:09:28,260 --> 00:09:30,630

A couple that really stand  
out and everything else I

194

00:09:30,630 --> 00:09:33,480

just don't recall that well.

195

00:09:33,480 --> 00:09:37,900

Tell me again about  
under the stairs

196

00:09:37,900 --> 00:09:40,040  
during the Kinder Aktion.

197  
00:09:40,040 --> 00:09:45,450  
Well, we went into hiding  
under the stairs that were--

198  
00:09:45,450 --> 00:09:47,900  
It was an opening.

199  
00:09:47,900 --> 00:09:50,870  
The house had two  
stories and we were

200  
00:09:50,870 --> 00:09:52,410  
right underneath the stairs.

201  
00:09:52,410 --> 00:09:55,340  
A mattress was placed  
against it to camouflage us.

202  
00:09:55,340 --> 00:09:56,690  
My parents and I were there.

203  
00:09:56,690 --> 00:09:59,150  
My grandmother had  
already passed away.

204  
00:09:59,150 --> 00:10:02,990  
And we stayed there for  
two days and two nights.

205  
00:10:02,990 --> 00:10:04,860  
And it was very cold.

206  
00:10:04,860 --> 00:10:06,800  
It was in March,  
the end of March.

207  
00:10:06,800 --> 00:10:08,270  
I had a very bad cough.

208

00:10:08,270 --> 00:10:11,000  
I remember how I was trying  
not to cough so that I wouldn't

209  
00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,850  
be heard because we could hear  
everything that was going on

210  
00:10:13,850 --> 00:10:17,870  
and we obviously realized  
that they could hear us.

211  
00:10:17,870 --> 00:10:20,780  
I remember hearing  
the noise, the sound

212  
00:10:20,780 --> 00:10:23,400  
of the boots of the marching  
soldiers running up and down

213  
00:10:23,400 --> 00:10:26,810  
the steps over our heads.

214  
00:10:26,810 --> 00:10:30,440  
Being very hungry  
and cold and afraid.

215  
00:10:30,440 --> 00:10:32,570  
That was my memories.

216  
00:10:32,570 --> 00:10:34,640  
Your parents were  
in there with you.

217  
00:10:34,640 --> 00:10:35,390  
Excuse me?

218  
00:10:35,390 --> 00:10:36,770  
Were your parents in there?

219  
00:10:36,770 --> 00:10:38,090  
Yes, they were with me.

220

00:10:38,090 --> 00:10:41,250

They were with me.

221

00:10:41,250 --> 00:10:44,280

Do you remember  
anything else right

222

00:10:44,280 --> 00:10:47,820

after that when you came  
out after the Kinder Aktion.

223

00:10:47,820 --> 00:10:50,670

No, I really don't.

224

00:10:50,670 --> 00:10:53,040

No after that particular  
day I remember

225

00:10:53,040 --> 00:10:56,580

that within three  
weeks from that event

226

00:10:56,580 --> 00:10:58,140

I was smuggled  
out of the ghetto.

227

00:10:58,140 --> 00:11:01,860

My parents decided  
to smuggle me out

228

00:11:01,860 --> 00:11:03,690

and they knew that  
I would be staying

229

00:11:03,690 --> 00:11:05,370

with a Christian family.

230

00:11:05,370 --> 00:11:07,740

And interestingly, even  
though I was born in Lithuania

231

00:11:07,740 --> 00:11:09,030

I did not speak Lithuanian.

232

00:11:09,030 --> 00:11:10,560

We spoke Yiddish at home.

233

00:11:10,560 --> 00:11:12,380

was 2 and 1/2 and I  
entered the ghetto,

234

00:11:12,380 --> 00:11:15,000

so obviously my vocabulary  
wasn't very extensive.

235

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:17,590

But in the house  
we spoke Yiddish.

236

00:11:17,590 --> 00:11:20,910

So now they had to  
basically brainwash me

237

00:11:20,910 --> 00:11:23,670

that I was Christian,  
that I was Lithuanian,

238

00:11:23,670 --> 00:11:27,810

and we had three weeks to  
teach me Lithuanian and to

239

00:11:27,810 --> 00:11:30,320

again to teach me that  
I was Christian and--

240

00:11:30,320 --> 00:11:46,040

241

00:11:46,040 --> 00:11:48,050

So as if you  
haven't already told

242

00:11:48,050 --> 00:11:51,505

me anything about the  
escape three weeks after,

243  
00:11:51,505 --> 00:11:53,970  
just tell me about that.

244  
00:11:53,970 --> 00:11:55,560  
OK.

245  
00:11:55,560 --> 00:11:59,100  
Right after the Kinder  
Aktion, my parents

246  
00:11:59,100 --> 00:12:01,770  
realized that in order  
for me to survive

247  
00:12:01,770 --> 00:12:04,020  
they would have to get  
me out of the ghetto,

248  
00:12:04,020 --> 00:12:06,250  
that luck would run  
out sooner or later.

249  
00:12:06,250 --> 00:12:08,400  
And so they were  
able to get in touch

250  
00:12:08,400 --> 00:12:10,650  
with someone, a  
Christian who's actually

251  
00:12:10,650 --> 00:12:11,900  
a colleague of my father.

252  
00:12:11,900 --> 00:12:13,690  
My father was a  
teacher before the war

253  
00:12:13,690 --> 00:12:15,120  
and so was this gentleman.

254  
00:12:15,120 --> 00:12:16,590

But he was a Christian.

255  
00:12:16,590 --> 00:12:18,518  
He was a teacher of  
Lithuanian school.

256  
00:12:18,518 --> 00:12:20,310  
My father was a teacher  
at a Jewish school,

257  
00:12:20,310 --> 00:12:21,720  
but they used to meet.

258  
00:12:21,720 --> 00:12:24,600  
And he was able to  
get a note to him

259  
00:12:24,600 --> 00:12:27,930  
to ask him if he would take  
me, if he would save my life.

260  
00:12:27,930 --> 00:12:31,120  
And he responded that he  
would he liked my father

261  
00:12:31,120 --> 00:12:32,760  
and he would do it for him.

262  
00:12:32,760 --> 00:12:35,070  
So now my parents had  
to make arrangements--

263  
00:12:35,070 --> 00:12:37,620  
you just don't walk out of the  
ghetto-- how to get me out.

264  
00:12:37,620 --> 00:12:42,420  
So they decided to use a potato  
sack and to put me in that bag

265  
00:12:42,420 --> 00:12:44,940  
and then when my mother would  
go to work with the women,

266  
00:12:44,940 --> 00:12:47,850  
you know, they had to file out  
of the ghetto to go to work,

267  
00:12:47,850 --> 00:12:50,100  
she would carry me out that way.

268  
00:12:50,100 --> 00:12:52,440  
They planned on a  
special day when

269  
00:12:52,440 --> 00:12:54,540  
they knew that there  
were different guards

270  
00:12:54,540 --> 00:12:56,155  
in this particular  
one was bribed.

271  
00:12:56,155 --> 00:12:57,780  
He was a little better  
than the others,

272  
00:12:57,780 --> 00:13:02,880  
and arrangements had been made  
so I had about three weeks

273  
00:13:02,880 --> 00:13:06,150  
to learn Lithuanian because  
I only spoke Yiddish at home.

274  
00:13:06,150 --> 00:13:08,880  
And my parents had to  
basically brainwash

275  
00:13:08,880 --> 00:13:11,730  
me to teach me that  
I was to be Christian

276  
00:13:11,730 --> 00:13:13,920  
and that I would never  
admit that I was Jewish.

277

00:13:13,920 --> 00:13:16,500

And they gave me a new  
name, My Yiddish name

278

00:13:16,500 --> 00:13:19,830

was Etta or Ettaleh, and  
they called me Elenitcha.

279

00:13:19,830 --> 00:13:22,830

280

00:13:22,830 --> 00:13:24,630

And as I said, I had  
to learn Lithuanian.

281

00:13:24,630 --> 00:13:27,660

And so when the day arrived--

282

00:13:27,660 --> 00:13:29,350

Oh, and also I had practiced.

283

00:13:29,350 --> 00:13:31,800

They would practice with  
me to sit in that bag

284

00:13:31,800 --> 00:13:34,020

without moving while my  
mother would carry me around

285

00:13:34,020 --> 00:13:35,400

in the room.

286

00:13:35,400 --> 00:13:43,720

So then when the day arrived  
and I had to be carried out,

287

00:13:43,720 --> 00:13:49,340

I just remember my mother  
taking that risk, obviously,

288

00:13:49,340 --> 00:13:55,150

and she carried me out  
and we met the Lithuanian.

289

00:13:55,150 --> 00:13:59,750  
She got out, removed her yellow  
star because so she would look

290

00:13:59,750 --> 00:14:03,330  
Lithuanian and she'd appear  
that way, and took off my star--

291

00:14:03,330 --> 00:14:05,780  
we all were stars  
in the ghetto--

292

00:14:05,780 --> 00:14:11,220  
and then she handed  
me over to this woman.

293

00:14:11,220 --> 00:14:13,750

294

00:14:13,750 --> 00:14:16,542  
I remember saying goodbye.

295

00:14:16,542 --> 00:14:17,508  
I'm sorry.

296

00:14:17,508 --> 00:14:20,900

297

00:14:20,900 --> 00:14:23,290  
Being a mother  
myself, I just wonder

298

00:14:23,290 --> 00:14:25,430  
how hard it was  
for her realizing

299

00:14:25,430 --> 00:14:28,200  
she'd never see me again.

300

00:14:28,200 --> 00:14:29,430

I'm sorry.

301

00:14:29,430 --> 00:14:33,070

302

00:14:33,070 --> 00:14:35,387

And then I was taken away.

303

00:14:35,387 --> 00:14:36,970

My mother went back,  
put back her star

304

00:14:36,970 --> 00:14:40,990

and went back into the line  
with the women and to work.

305

00:14:40,990 --> 00:14:44,410

And that was in April  
when she smuggled me out,

306

00:14:44,410 --> 00:14:48,040

and then in July the ghetto  
was liquidated and sent off

307

00:14:48,040 --> 00:14:49,930

to camps, to the  
concentration camps.

308

00:14:49,930 --> 00:14:52,570

309

00:14:52,570 --> 00:14:55,316

What about the family  
that you lived with?

310

00:14:55,316 --> 00:14:57,250

What happened to you after that?

311

00:14:57,250 --> 00:15:00,110

Oh, well basically  
I was with them.

312  
00:15:00,110 --> 00:15:01,270  
They had eight children.

313  
00:15:01,270 --> 00:15:02,830  
Some were already grown.

314  
00:15:02,830 --> 00:15:06,940  
This teacher was quite a  
bit older than my father.

315  
00:15:06,940 --> 00:15:09,895  
There were some young ones.

316  
00:15:09,895 --> 00:15:11,770  
There was a couple of  
teenagers in the house.

317  
00:15:11,770 --> 00:15:14,550  
And I remember one episode  
when this boy would tease me

318  
00:15:14,550 --> 00:15:16,675  
that I'm Jewish and I  
remember saying, no, I'm not.

319  
00:15:16,675 --> 00:15:20,320

320  
00:15:20,320 --> 00:15:21,910  
I think I was  
treated pretty well.

321  
00:15:21,910 --> 00:15:24,950  
I don't have any  
recollections really.

322  
00:15:24,950 --> 00:15:26,680  
I just remember that I know--

323  
00:15:26,680 --> 00:15:32,440  
Well, there was one time  
when the sirens were going

324  
00:15:32,440 --> 00:15:34,150  
and they went into  
hiding and there

325  
00:15:34,150 --> 00:15:36,767  
were afraid to take me with  
them into the hiding place

326  
00:15:36,767 --> 00:15:38,350  
because the neighbors  
would know then.

327  
00:15:38,350 --> 00:15:39,900  
I mean, I was kept  
inside, you know,

328  
00:15:39,900 --> 00:15:42,070  
so they left me in the  
house all by myself

329  
00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:44,920  
while they all went to hide.

330  
00:15:44,920 --> 00:15:45,910  
And then another time--

331  
00:15:45,910 --> 00:15:48,640  
Actually, I was in that  
house for three months

332  
00:15:48,640 --> 00:15:52,320  
and then they had to  
move me to the country.

333  
00:15:52,320 --> 00:15:55,750  
This gentleman, his name was  
Mr. Lazowska, Jonas Lazowska,

334  
00:15:55,750 --> 00:15:57,550  
had a sister in the country.

335

00:15:57,550 --> 00:16:00,910  
And they placed me there  
because he was afraid

336  
00:16:00,910 --> 00:16:03,460  
that it was too dangerous  
to keep me in the house,

337  
00:16:03,460 --> 00:16:05,690  
that neighbors might  
talk and children,

338  
00:16:05,690 --> 00:16:10,180  
other children, friends of  
the children that I was with.

339  
00:16:10,180 --> 00:16:13,180  
So then I spent three  
months on a farm.

340  
00:16:13,180 --> 00:16:16,480  
But I just remember be sleeping  
in a bed with two other kids.

341  
00:16:16,480 --> 00:16:20,200  
But nothing major  
really or eventful that

342  
00:16:20,200 --> 00:16:22,120  
occurred at that  
point until finally

343  
00:16:22,120 --> 00:16:23,630  
when my father came to get me.

344  
00:16:23,630 --> 00:16:27,070  
And when he arrived  
I can still remember

345  
00:16:27,070 --> 00:16:29,170  
I was sitting at a  
table drawing pictures

346

00:16:29,170 --> 00:16:30,350  
with the other children.

347  
00:16:30,350 --> 00:16:31,630  
And this was on the farm.

348  
00:16:31,630 --> 00:16:36,310  
And he came up and he  
said, you know who I am?

349  
00:16:36,310 --> 00:16:38,320  
And I looked at him  
and then I looked down.

350  
00:16:38,320 --> 00:16:40,447  
I was afraid to  
admit because I'd

351  
00:16:40,447 --> 00:16:42,280  
been taught not to admit  
anything, you know,

352  
00:16:42,280 --> 00:16:43,760  
that I was Jewish and so on.

353  
00:16:43,760 --> 00:16:45,160  
So I was just afraid.

354  
00:16:45,160 --> 00:16:47,410  
So then later, he took  
me aside and took me

355  
00:16:47,410 --> 00:16:49,630  
outside we went for  
a walk and he says,

356  
00:16:49,630 --> 00:16:51,430  
do you remember  
grandmother so-and-so?

357  
00:16:51,430 --> 00:16:52,540  
And of course I said, yes.

358

00:16:52,540 --> 00:16:53,680

And you know then I--

359

00:16:53,680 --> 00:16:55,780

So I did recognize  
him, but I was still

360

00:16:55,780 --> 00:16:57,290

afraid to say anything.

361

00:16:57,290 --> 00:16:59,260

I was 5 and 1/2.

362

00:16:59,260 --> 00:17:03,210

So I was well taught.

363

00:17:03,210 --> 00:17:05,520

OK, let's cut for just a second.

364

00:17:05,520 --> 00:17:13,180

365

00:17:13,180 --> 00:17:17,140

So after you were smuggled  
out of the ghetto,

366

00:17:17,140 --> 00:17:19,540

what happened to your parents?

367

00:17:19,540 --> 00:17:22,000

Well, my parents were  
still in the ghetto.

368

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:27,640

And then what I understand  
July, the middle of July of 1944

369

00:17:27,640 --> 00:17:31,270

the ghetto was liquidated  
and they transported everyone

370

00:17:31,270 --> 00:17:33,100  
to concentration camps.

371  
00:17:33,100 --> 00:17:37,630  
They placed them on cattle  
trains and my parents,

372  
00:17:37,630 --> 00:17:42,040  
apparently during that time  
when they were traveling,

373  
00:17:42,040 --> 00:17:45,550  
they talked about maybe one of  
them should jump off the train

374  
00:17:45,550 --> 00:17:48,430  
and just take a chance that  
maybe one parent would survive

375  
00:17:48,430 --> 00:17:50,600  
so that I would have a parent.

376  
00:17:50,600 --> 00:17:53,260  
And my mother was  
afraid to jump,

377  
00:17:53,260 --> 00:17:55,730  
so my father said,  
OK he'll do it.

378  
00:17:55,730 --> 00:17:59,128  
And so he jumped off the train  
from that little opening,

379  
00:17:59,128 --> 00:18:01,420  
it was just a little window,  
while the train was moving

380  
00:18:01,420 --> 00:18:04,000  
and it was still in  
Lithuanian territory.

381  
00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:06,050

He jumped, and of  
course fell, got hurt.

382  
00:18:06,050 --> 00:18:08,200  
He must have lost  
consciousness, he said,

383  
00:18:08,200 --> 00:18:11,860  
because when he woke up there  
was somebody standing there,

384  
00:18:11,860 --> 00:18:15,385  
a railroad worker who was going  
to take him to the Gestapo.

385  
00:18:15,385 --> 00:18:17,260  
He said he didn't believe,  
you know, he says,

386  
00:18:17,260 --> 00:18:18,177  
where are your papers?

387  
00:18:18,177 --> 00:18:19,790  
My father didn't  
have anything, so on.

388  
00:18:19,790 --> 00:18:23,560  
So my father managed to run  
away from him and my father

389  
00:18:23,560 --> 00:18:26,500  
survived basically by hiding  
in the woods and on farms

390  
00:18:26,500 --> 00:18:29,060  
and that's how he  
survived the war.

391  
00:18:29,060 --> 00:18:30,730  
My mother, on the  
other hand, went on

392  
00:18:30,730 --> 00:18:33,670

to the concentration  
camp, which was too tough.

393

00:18:33,670 --> 00:18:40,240

And that's where she was for  
the remainder of the war.

394

00:18:40,240 --> 00:18:44,390

OK, let's cut.

395

00:18:44,390 --> 00:21:11,232