

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:36,160

2
00:00:36,160 --> 00:00:37,403
24, marker one.

3
00:00:37,403 --> 00:00:37,903
Marker.

4
00:00:37,903 --> 00:00:47,080

5
00:00:47,080 --> 00:00:51,020
Mr. Kellen, tell me when
and where you were born.

6
00:00:51,020 --> 00:00:55,180
I was born in Lodz,
Poland, L-O-D-Z,

7
00:00:55,180 --> 00:00:58,660
the second biggest
city in Poland,

8
00:00:58,660 --> 00:01:02,110
100 miles south of Warsaw.

9
00:01:02,110 --> 00:01:03,598
And what year were you born?

10
00:01:03,598 --> 00:01:04,390
When were you born?

11
00:01:04,390 --> 00:01:08,440
I was born in 1915.

12
00:01:08,440 --> 00:01:11,920
Tell me a little bit about
your childhood and life

13

00:01:11,920 --> 00:01:14,230
before World War II.

14
00:01:14,230 --> 00:01:17,580

15
00:01:17,580 --> 00:01:19,440
Basically, I was
born, like I said,

16
00:01:19,440 --> 00:01:24,480
in a big community, a
population of 600,000.

17
00:01:24,480 --> 00:01:33,175
And just by historical
events, one third of the city

18
00:01:33,175 --> 00:01:33,675
were Jewish.

19
00:01:33,675 --> 00:01:36,300

20
00:01:36,300 --> 00:01:41,040
I attended 11 years
in Hebrew day school,

21
00:01:41,040 --> 00:01:49,990
basically with the Polish
language as the main language.

22
00:01:49,990 --> 00:01:55,590
However, we took up lots of
Latin, French, and German

23
00:01:55,590 --> 00:01:58,380
as foreign languages.

24
00:01:58,380 --> 00:02:01,950
The system of learning
was entirely different

25

00:02:01,950 --> 00:02:07,020
than the United States, because
somehow my school teacher

26

00:02:07,020 --> 00:02:10,990
thought that learning by
heart is very, very important.

27

00:02:10,990 --> 00:02:15,150
And therefore, our
homework was not easy,

28

00:02:15,150 --> 00:02:18,930
because we had to learn every
single day Polish poetry,

29

00:02:18,930 --> 00:02:21,645
and French poetry, and German
poetry, and Hebrew poetry.

30

00:02:21,645 --> 00:02:24,330

31

00:02:24,330 --> 00:02:28,080
While in school, I
was very fortunate,

32

00:02:28,080 --> 00:02:33,300
because I had a
beautiful bicycle,

33

00:02:33,300 --> 00:02:35,250
playing lots of football.

34

00:02:35,250 --> 00:02:39,970
And while I graduated
high school,

35

00:02:39,970 --> 00:02:44,730
my father was able to send
me to France to a city

36

00:02:44,730 --> 00:02:49,050
by the name Strasbourg,
where I took up engineering.

37
00:02:49,050 --> 00:02:52,980
And maybe I was
very, very lucky,

38
00:02:52,980 --> 00:02:57,270
because some of my
friends in my class

39
00:02:57,270 --> 00:03:01,750
were not able to get
better education.

40
00:03:01,750 --> 00:03:06,930
The community,
while being young,

41
00:03:06,930 --> 00:03:13,380
was very active, especially
young boys and young girls,

42
00:03:13,380 --> 00:03:20,730
because we just didn't feel
comfortable to live in Poland

43
00:03:20,730 --> 00:03:25,620
due to the fact that the
Polish population was not

44
00:03:25,620 --> 00:03:27,090
friendly to us.

45
00:03:27,090 --> 00:03:30,330
And we knew that we
need a new homeland.

46
00:03:30,330 --> 00:03:35,160
Therefore, there was not
persecutions to talk about

47

00:03:35,160 --> 00:03:35,890
in Poland.

48
00:03:35,890 --> 00:03:43,800
However, we thought that
anti-Semitism in Poland

49
00:03:43,800 --> 00:03:47,870
was basically coming from the
church, and also economical.

50
00:03:47,870 --> 00:03:51,060

51
00:03:51,060 --> 00:03:56,580
Altogether, the Jewish-- the
general population of Poland

52
00:03:56,580 --> 00:03:58,680
did amount to 30 million.

53
00:03:58,680 --> 00:04:02,160
And 10% was Jewish, in other
word 3 million Jewish people.

54
00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:06,780
The main concentration
was Warsaw and Lodz.

55
00:04:06,780 --> 00:04:10,510
I also was a Boy Scout.

56
00:04:10,510 --> 00:04:17,260
And myself didn't
feel too much hatred

57
00:04:17,260 --> 00:04:19,450
from the Polish
Christian people,

58
00:04:19,450 --> 00:04:22,350
because like I said
a few minutes ago, I

59

00:04:22,350 --> 00:04:24,070
attended the Hebrew day school.

60

00:04:24,070 --> 00:04:27,730
And we wanted Jewish children.

61

00:04:27,730 --> 00:04:33,340
And to talk about the
economical structure,

62

00:04:33,340 --> 00:04:41,230
I feel that, as much as I know,
10% of the Jewish population,

63

00:04:41,230 --> 00:04:44,260
if you can say it, did
belong to the upper class,

64

00:04:44,260 --> 00:04:47,740
were assimilated.

65

00:04:47,740 --> 00:04:52,750
40% were, I would
say, well-to-do.

66

00:04:52,750 --> 00:04:55,000
But let's say middle class.

67

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:59,330
But 50% of the Jewish
population were very, very poor.

68

00:04:59,330 --> 00:05:05,290
And consequently,
the Jewish Federation

69

00:05:05,290 --> 00:05:09,010
in my hometown,
if I were to call,

70

00:05:09,010 --> 00:05:13,480

had about 300
employees because they

71
00:05:13,480 --> 00:05:17,095
had to care of a
big Jewish hospital.

72
00:05:17,095 --> 00:05:20,200
A orphanage home
alone in my hometown

73
00:05:20,200 --> 00:05:26,270
had at least about 4,000
children, a big cemetery.

74
00:05:26,270 --> 00:05:29,020
And they really kept
busy, especially

75
00:05:29,020 --> 00:05:32,620
helping the poor people.

76
00:05:32,620 --> 00:05:39,340
Well, my name was Henry
Katzenellenbogen which was

77
00:05:39,340 --> 00:05:42,520
changed when I came to
America in 1946 to Kellen,

78
00:05:42,520 --> 00:05:48,320
because when I got my first
papers, the judge in El Paso,

79
00:05:48,320 --> 00:05:50,980
Texas said that he
cannot pronounce my name.

80
00:05:50,980 --> 00:05:55,120
And he did advise me to make
it a little bit shorter.

81
00:05:55,120 --> 00:05:58,870

So consequently, from
Katzenellenbogen my name

82
00:05:58,870 --> 00:06:03,620
is Kellen, K-E double L E-N.

83
00:06:03,620 --> 00:06:09,410
Tell me about the eve of World
War II, what things were like,

84
00:06:09,410 --> 00:06:14,480
and what you remember
of the very beginning.

85
00:06:14,480 --> 00:06:20,540
I graduated college
in 1938 in France.

86
00:06:20,540 --> 00:06:22,940
My parents, since they
were born in Lithuania--

87
00:06:22,940 --> 00:06:26,480
while I was in France,
they moved back home.

88
00:06:26,480 --> 00:06:31,670
And we were living in a town
by the name Klaipėda or Memel,

89
00:06:31,670 --> 00:06:39,620
where my father was always
expert in textile fabrication.

90
00:06:39,620 --> 00:06:42,380
And we were running,
at that time,

91
00:06:42,380 --> 00:06:45,561
a textile factory
in Klaipėda Memel.

92
00:06:45,561 --> 00:06:49,250

93

00:06:49,250 --> 00:06:54,260
While Hitler in all his speeches
always kept on repeating,

94

00:06:54,260 --> 00:06:58,470
all I want is peace,
what he meant by peace

95

00:06:58,470 --> 00:07:01,570
is a piece of Czechoslovakia,
a piece of Austria,

96

00:07:01,570 --> 00:07:03,120
a piece of Lithuania.

97

00:07:03,120 --> 00:07:08,870
And eventually, he
ended up with Pont,

98

00:07:08,870 --> 00:07:13,370
demanding a piece of a
town Danzig, which did

99

00:07:13,370 --> 00:07:17,780
belong to Germany before 1914.

100

00:07:17,780 --> 00:07:24,440
While in January 1939,
a piece of Lithuania

101

00:07:24,440 --> 00:07:30,060
was given back to the Germans,
to Germany, we went back--

102

00:07:30,060 --> 00:07:33,350
we went to the capital,
Kaunas or Kovno.

103

00:07:33,350 --> 00:07:38,000
And I got myself a job
as a mechanical engineer

104
00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:39,170
in one of the factories.

105
00:07:39,170 --> 00:07:41,840

106
00:07:41,840 --> 00:07:44,330
I was independent for a while.

107
00:07:44,330 --> 00:07:50,330
And the war broke out on
September the 1st, 1939 when

108
00:07:50,330 --> 00:07:53,540
Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

109
00:07:53,540 --> 00:08:02,660
I want to emphasize that, while
Poland had a powerful army,

110
00:08:02,660 --> 00:08:06,080
they did surrender
in 19, 20 days.

111
00:08:06,080 --> 00:08:09,830
And this was naturally the
beginning of the Holocaust,

112
00:08:09,830 --> 00:08:19,670
because the German army,
while occupied Poland, started

113
00:08:19,670 --> 00:08:22,160
without having a
program, what to do

114
00:08:22,160 --> 00:08:23,930
with the Jewish population.

115
00:08:23,930 --> 00:08:27,680
The Holocaust started

in 1939 and kept

116
00:08:27,680 --> 00:08:32,059
on going until 1940 before
concentration camps were

117
00:08:32,059 --> 00:08:33,165
established.

118
00:08:33,165 --> 00:08:38,390

119
00:08:38,390 --> 00:08:39,650
What did you hear?

120
00:08:39,650 --> 00:08:41,570
What did you hear
when the war started?

121
00:08:41,570 --> 00:08:47,270
Well, unfortunately, my sister,
her husband, and their son

122
00:08:47,270 --> 00:08:49,940
Jerry were in Poland.

123
00:08:49,940 --> 00:08:52,910
And we were cut
off for a long time

124
00:08:52,910 --> 00:08:56,580
without getting
any news from them.

125
00:08:56,580 --> 00:09:02,570
But since my sister was a
Lithuanian citizen, so I did

126
00:09:02,570 --> 00:09:07,310
manage to bring her from
Poland, her and her son Jerry,

127

00:09:07,310 --> 00:09:08,900
to Lithuania.

128
00:09:08,900 --> 00:09:12,050
Unfortunately, her husband
was staying behind,

129
00:09:12,050 --> 00:09:17,870
because he never got
Lithuanian citizenship.

130
00:09:17,870 --> 00:09:18,890
She came.

131
00:09:18,890 --> 00:09:21,080
She came to Kaunas.

132
00:09:21,080 --> 00:09:24,530
Her husband, like I
said, was left behind.

133
00:09:24,530 --> 00:09:30,320
And while he looked very
much like a Christian--

134
00:09:30,320 --> 00:09:32,960
having blond hair,
and blue eyes,

135
00:09:32,960 --> 00:09:35,630
and very white
complexion-- somehow,

136
00:09:35,630 --> 00:09:38,690
he was on the train going
from Lodz to Warsaw.

137
00:09:38,690 --> 00:09:41,460

138
00:09:41,460 --> 00:09:44,720
I don't know no details
how he was caught.

139
00:09:44,720 --> 00:09:46,220
And he was arrested.

140
00:09:46,220 --> 00:09:52,160
And he ended up in Warsaw in
the well-known prison Pawiak.

141
00:09:52,160 --> 00:09:53,900
And he was shot over there.

142
00:09:53,900 --> 00:09:57,020

143
00:09:57,020 --> 00:10:02,660
Also, we never had a picture,
a photo of him, of his.

144
00:10:02,660 --> 00:10:09,920
And this is, as far as I
know-- that a man who survived

145
00:10:09,920 --> 00:10:13,250
the Pawiak, and from all
the books which I reading,

146
00:10:13,250 --> 00:10:17,690
that most of the Jews who were
arrested ended up in prison,

147
00:10:17,690 --> 00:10:18,943
they were shot over there.

148
00:10:18,943 --> 00:10:22,887

149
00:10:22,887 --> 00:10:29,080
In the meantime, in
the spring of 1940,

150
00:10:29,080 --> 00:10:34,690
the German army managed to

occupy Belgium, and Holland,

151
00:10:34,690 --> 00:10:36,190
and France.

152
00:10:36,190 --> 00:10:41,560
And Stalin, which was in
charge of the Soviet Union,

153
00:10:41,560 --> 00:10:45,340
in order to prevent the German
to occupy the Baltic countries,

154
00:10:45,340 --> 00:10:51,160
they marched in on
June the 15th of 1941--

155
00:10:51,160 --> 00:10:53,110
excuse me, 1940.

156
00:10:53,110 --> 00:10:55,200
They occupied the
Baltic countries.

157
00:10:55,200 --> 00:10:58,730
So over night Lithuania,
and Latvia, and Estonia

158
00:10:58,730 --> 00:11:02,290
became part of the Soviet Union.

159
00:11:02,290 --> 00:11:06,760
Actually, to live under
the communist regime

160
00:11:06,760 --> 00:11:10,090
is far away of being pleasant.

161
00:11:10,090 --> 00:11:14,390
However, we thought
that maybe we

162

00:11:14,390 --> 00:11:19,490
are better off being under
the communists than the Nazis,

163
00:11:19,490 --> 00:11:22,340
because there was no such a
thing like a mass killing.

164
00:11:22,340 --> 00:11:26,120

165
00:11:26,120 --> 00:11:32,640
Then, just shortly
before the war, we--

166
00:11:32,640 --> 00:11:42,420

167
00:11:42,420 --> 00:11:42,920
Mark.

168
00:11:42,920 --> 00:11:43,760
Marker two.

169
00:11:43,760 --> 00:11:50,550

170
00:11:50,550 --> 00:11:54,780
So Henry, tell me
about the changes

171
00:11:54,780 --> 00:11:57,990
just on the eve of when the
Germans came in, and then

172
00:11:57,990 --> 00:12:01,330
what you saw and
heard when they came.

173
00:12:01,330 --> 00:12:04,240
Well, we never
expected that we would

174

00:12:04,240 --> 00:12:10,150
be attacked by the German army,
because the Russian army was

175

00:12:10,150 --> 00:12:10,840
powerful.

176

00:12:10,840 --> 00:12:14,800
And we never knew
what will happen.

177

00:12:14,800 --> 00:12:18,370
We felt protected somehow.

178

00:12:18,370 --> 00:12:25,550
The night of Saturday to
Sunday the 21st of June,

179

00:12:25,550 --> 00:12:28,670
I went with my girlfriend
to a nightclub.

180

00:12:28,670 --> 00:12:33,370
And we had a good time having
dinner and dancing late.

181

00:12:33,370 --> 00:12:37,150
We came home about 2:00 AM.

182

00:12:37,150 --> 00:12:42,160
And then, by the time I
got home, it was about 6:00

183

00:12:42,160 --> 00:12:43,390
in the morning.

184

00:12:43,390 --> 00:12:47,830
While the windows were
open, I heard a noise.

185

00:12:47,830 --> 00:12:49,390
And I looked through the window.

186
00:12:49,390 --> 00:12:54,550
And I saw some smoke
far away, which

187
00:12:54,550 --> 00:12:58,660
was the airport in Kaunas.

188
00:12:58,660 --> 00:13:01,870
And in the beginning,
we were not suspicious

189
00:13:01,870 --> 00:13:03,520
if something was going on.

190
00:13:03,520 --> 00:13:07,900
I turned on immediately our
radio, which was silent.

191
00:13:07,900 --> 00:13:10,090
It was about 6:00
in the morning.

192
00:13:10,090 --> 00:13:14,110
And then, since I heard
some more explosions,

193
00:13:14,110 --> 00:13:16,990
I turned into Berlin radio.

194
00:13:16,990 --> 00:13:21,520
And sure enough, Joseph
Goebbels, the propaganda

195
00:13:21,520 --> 00:13:23,650
minister, spoke in German.

196
00:13:23,650 --> 00:13:31,330
And he said that, while
I am here on the radio,

197
00:13:31,330 --> 00:13:34,960

we are marching in to Russia.

198

00:13:34,960 --> 00:13:41,090

And in the name of God,
we will be successful.

199

00:13:41,090 --> 00:13:45,040

We are going to destroy
the system and the Jews.

200

00:13:45,040 --> 00:13:47,860

And then we knew
that we are at war.

201

00:13:47,860 --> 00:13:51,100

202

00:13:51,100 --> 00:13:54,820

We were living at that time
on the outskirts of the city,

203

00:13:54,820 --> 00:13:58,390

a mostly Christian population.

204

00:13:58,390 --> 00:14:02,380

We didn't know exactly what is
going on, because by the time

205

00:14:02,380 --> 00:14:06,130

we got some news on our local
radio, it was almost noon.

206

00:14:06,130 --> 00:14:09,970

And the rumors were that
the Red Army is already

207

00:14:09,970 --> 00:14:13,930

at least Prussia, what means
in the German territories.

208

00:14:13,930 --> 00:14:18,310

However, I understood that the
members of the Communist Party

209
00:14:18,310 --> 00:14:19,390
were already packing.

210
00:14:19,390 --> 00:14:24,130
And they were running
to the railroad station.

211
00:14:24,130 --> 00:14:27,550
Monday, there were
all kinds of rumors.

212
00:14:27,550 --> 00:14:30,340
About Tuesday
afternoon, we saw--

213
00:14:30,340 --> 00:14:35,260
I saw already at the outskirts
German motorcycles coming.

214
00:14:35,260 --> 00:14:40,990
Next day, which was
a Wednesday, a car

215
00:14:40,990 --> 00:14:42,760
stopped in front of our house.

216
00:14:42,760 --> 00:14:45,730
And there were some
four German officers,

217
00:14:45,730 --> 00:14:51,580
which asked us for permission
to have breakfast in the garden.

218
00:14:51,580 --> 00:14:53,200
And we were sitting with them.

219
00:14:53,200 --> 00:14:58,180
And naturally, all my family
spoke fluently German.

220

00:14:58,180 --> 00:15:01,000
They never asked us
about our religion.

221
00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:05,500
However, I do recall that a
soldier, which came with them,

222
00:15:05,500 --> 00:15:07,190
was standing nearby.

223
00:15:07,190 --> 00:15:08,800
And he had the buckle.

224
00:15:08,800 --> 00:15:11,980
All the soldiers do have
a belt with a buckle.

225
00:15:11,980 --> 00:15:16,150
And on the buckle it
said, [GERMAN],, which

226
00:15:16,150 --> 00:15:18,550
means in English, God with us.

227
00:15:18,550 --> 00:15:22,480
And I figured out, knowing
exactly what was going on

228
00:15:22,480 --> 00:15:28,210
in Germany-- because while
going to school in France,

229
00:15:28,210 --> 00:15:32,110
I was always in Berlin,
at least one day,

230
00:15:32,110 --> 00:15:38,230
while waiting for
changing trains.

231
00:15:38,230 --> 00:15:44,230
And I figured out that, if

the slogan is God is with us,

232

00:15:44,230 --> 00:15:47,350

nothing will happen to us.

233

00:15:47,350 --> 00:15:50,500

234

00:15:50,500 --> 00:15:56,920

Unfortunately, the slaughter
of the Jewish population

235

00:15:56,920 --> 00:16:02,020

did not start immediately.

236

00:16:02,020 --> 00:16:06,960

However, the title came from
the Lithuanian population.

237

00:16:06,960 --> 00:16:12,840

And I'm sorry to tell you that,
while being in Lithuanian army,

238

00:16:12,840 --> 00:16:18,670

I never felt any hatred
against the few Jewish soldiers

239

00:16:18,670 --> 00:16:21,330

who were my company.

240

00:16:21,330 --> 00:16:25,590

I even played chess with my
Lieutenant [? Mikalauskas. ?]

241

00:16:25,590 --> 00:16:32,440

And why the Lithuanian
populations--

242

00:16:32,440 --> 00:16:35,130

and I wouldn't say population,
because naturally you cannot

243

00:16:35,130 --> 00:16:36,900
accuse the whole population.

244
00:16:36,900 --> 00:16:42,630
But why such a big percentage
of Lithuanians started,

245
00:16:42,630 --> 00:16:45,720
especially in small
towns and villages,

246
00:16:45,720 --> 00:16:51,240
bloodshed against Jews cannot
be understood until now

247
00:16:51,240 --> 00:16:58,660
by anybody, because the Jews
were living in Lithuania for 11

248
00:16:58,660 --> 00:17:00,160
centuries.

249
00:17:00,160 --> 00:17:04,720
And they were just
part of the country.

250
00:17:04,720 --> 00:17:08,380
Two weeks later, naturally
while the army was going deeper

251
00:17:08,380 --> 00:17:12,550
to Russia, the gestapo came in.

252
00:17:12,550 --> 00:17:16,960
And the first thing what
did happen in the ghetto--

253
00:17:16,960 --> 00:17:20,170
going back to the ghetto.

254
00:17:20,170 --> 00:17:21,910
Before we went to
the ghetto, naturally

255
00:17:21,910 --> 00:17:25,240
we were told to wear
a star, and then

256
00:17:25,240 --> 00:17:28,150
the other star on the back.

257
00:17:28,150 --> 00:17:34,570
And by August 15 of
1941, we were locked up

258
00:17:34,570 --> 00:17:40,630
in the suburb of the city
Vilijampole, or Slabodka.

259
00:17:40,630 --> 00:17:44,860
And we were behind the fence,
which was 7 feet high--

260
00:17:44,860 --> 00:17:47,890

261
00:17:47,890 --> 00:17:52,220
not a big problem how to escape,
because this was not a wall,

262
00:17:52,220 --> 00:17:54,320
like in Warsaw ghetto.

263
00:17:54,320 --> 00:17:57,590
And this was on a Friday.

264
00:17:57,590 --> 00:18:02,230
And next day, there
were already posters

265
00:18:02,230 --> 00:18:07,090
all over the ghetto saying
in German and Lithuanian

266
00:18:07,090 --> 00:18:10,420

that the German
authorities are demanding

267
00:18:10,420 --> 00:18:18,130
500 men, college graduated
and professional people,

268
00:18:18,130 --> 00:18:22,180
to be at a certain place
to be sent to the city hall

269
00:18:22,180 --> 00:18:24,940
to do some paperwork
with the guarantee

270
00:18:24,940 --> 00:18:27,910
that they will come back
the very same night.

271
00:18:27,910 --> 00:18:30,190
We were supposed to be
there Monday morning.

272
00:18:30,190 --> 00:18:35,140
My brother was college graduate
that graduated, and so was me.

273
00:18:35,140 --> 00:18:41,470
And I do recall June the 18th
of 1941, on Monday morning,

274
00:18:41,470 --> 00:18:45,130
my mother-- may she rest in
peace-- told both of us to go,

275
00:18:45,130 --> 00:18:49,420
because there's nothing to it.

276
00:18:49,420 --> 00:18:52,520
And they guaranteed
that we will be back.

277
00:18:52,520 --> 00:18:57,010

I cannot explain
why I didn't go.

278
00:18:57,010 --> 00:18:58,810
My brother went.

279
00:18:58,810 --> 00:19:03,730
And this was the first of what
we call the Intelligenzaktion,

280
00:19:03,730 --> 00:19:06,460
or Operation Intellectuals.

281
00:19:06,460 --> 00:19:09,280

282
00:19:09,280 --> 00:19:11,530
My brother never came back.

283
00:19:11,530 --> 00:19:14,980
And while we were waiting
for him at the gate,

284
00:19:14,980 --> 00:19:20,830
from 6 o'clock in the evening
and the rest of the night,

285
00:19:20,830 --> 00:19:23,680
the rumors came that they
will stay there over night.

286
00:19:23,680 --> 00:19:25,060
They will maybe come tomorrow.

287
00:19:25,060 --> 00:19:28,360
And then, since they
were not coming tomorrow,

288
00:19:28,360 --> 00:19:31,070
maybe they were sent
out someplace else.

289

00:19:31,070 --> 00:19:36,080
And after the war
was over, I found out

290
00:19:36,080 --> 00:19:38,450
that, just a few
hours later, they were

291
00:19:38,450 --> 00:19:42,890
taken to fortification seven.

292
00:19:42,890 --> 00:19:45,090
In they were all
shot over there.

293
00:19:45,090 --> 00:19:49,310
And this was the same
pattern in every ghetto,

294
00:19:49,310 --> 00:19:55,460
because the Germans thought that
people who graduated colleges,

295
00:19:55,460 --> 00:19:58,010
maybe they had more brains.

296
00:19:58,010 --> 00:20:03,170
And in order to avoid in
the future a resistance,

297
00:20:03,170 --> 00:20:08,960
they wanted to get rid
of this kind of people.

298
00:20:08,960 --> 00:20:13,640
In the next days, or
maybe a week later--

299
00:20:13,640 --> 00:20:16,590
as you probably
know, in the ghetto,

300
00:20:16,590 --> 00:20:21,900

there was the big advantage
being in the ghetto

301
00:20:21,900 --> 00:20:25,070
than in the concentration
camps, because first of all

302
00:20:25,070 --> 00:20:27,110
the families were together.

303
00:20:27,110 --> 00:20:30,470
And we didn't have any
Germans there at nighttime.

304
00:20:30,470 --> 00:20:33,110
The way the ghetto
was established,

305
00:20:33,110 --> 00:20:36,980
we had what we called
the Judenrat, which was--

306
00:20:36,980 --> 00:20:42,560
a head in our camp was Dr.
Elkes, a well-known eye doctor.

307
00:20:42,560 --> 00:20:45,350
And they were just
like a city hall,

308
00:20:45,350 --> 00:20:47,430
because they had
different departments.

309
00:20:47,430 --> 00:20:49,895
The most important department
was the labor department,

310
00:20:49,895 --> 00:20:52,820
who had to supply so
many people every morning

311
00:20:52,820 --> 00:20:56,000

to go for different
assignments, and then the police

312
00:20:56,000 --> 00:21:01,010
department, and sanitation
department, and you mention.

313
00:21:01,010 --> 00:21:09,645
And after the Operation
Intellectuals,

314
00:21:09,645 --> 00:21:12,870
three or four Germans
came to the ghetto.

315
00:21:12,870 --> 00:21:19,320
And we were ordered to
deliver everything of value--

316
00:21:19,320 --> 00:21:24,050
our rings, silver
spoons and silver forks,

317
00:21:24,050 --> 00:21:28,670
whatever it was, radios,
philatelic stamps,

318
00:21:28,670 --> 00:21:30,780
and instruments.

319
00:21:30,780 --> 00:21:33,650
I do emphasize
instruments, because I

320
00:21:33,650 --> 00:21:38,480
will tell you later on what did
happen with the instruments.

321
00:21:38,480 --> 00:21:41,390

322
00:21:41,390 --> 00:21:45,410
Then the next

episode I do recall

323

00:21:45,410 --> 00:21:53,690
was sending daily the 5,000 men
and women to build the runways

324

00:21:53,690 --> 00:21:55,430
for the German Air Force.

325

00:21:55,430 --> 00:22:00,530
And there's nothing
wrong building a highway

326

00:22:00,530 --> 00:22:02,450
or building a runway.

327

00:22:02,450 --> 00:22:07,100
But it is absolutely
beyond your comprehension

328

00:22:07,100 --> 00:22:11,930
what it means to be constantly
hungry, without having

329

00:22:11,930 --> 00:22:18,680
proper clothes, and being beaten
up and cursed by the guards.

330

00:22:18,680 --> 00:22:22,810

331

00:22:22,810 --> 00:22:28,870
We got back to a very important
event, which took place

332

00:22:28,870 --> 00:22:32,060
on October the 28th, 1941.

333

00:22:32,060 --> 00:22:32,890
This--

334

00:22:32,890 --> 00:22:37,510

Let's just wait, because
we're just about to run out.

335
00:22:37,510 --> 00:22:38,860
What happened to your father?

336
00:22:38,860 --> 00:22:40,010
Was he saved?

337
00:22:40,010 --> 00:22:44,170
My father was killed before
we went to the ghetto.

338
00:22:44,170 --> 00:22:46,680
Like I mentioned--

339
00:22:46,680 --> 00:24:50,411