

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:30,256

2
00:00:30,256 --> 00:00:30,760
Mark.

3
00:00:30,760 --> 00:00:31,390
Three marker.

4
00:00:31,390 --> 00:00:36,100

5
00:00:36,100 --> 00:00:40,130
So you were getting ready to
tell me about the big action.

6
00:00:40,130 --> 00:00:42,580
Yes.

7
00:00:42,580 --> 00:00:45,800
While we were building
the air force--

8
00:00:45,800 --> 00:00:48,955
while we were building the
runways for the German Air

9
00:00:48,955 --> 00:00:53,250
Force day and
night, 5,000 people

10
00:00:53,250 --> 00:00:57,940
were on one shift, and 5,000
people on the night shift.

11
00:00:57,940 --> 00:01:03,070
We got back to the camp
on October the 27th.

12
00:01:03,070 --> 00:01:07,300
And then there were very loud

speakers, and also posters

13

00:01:07,300 --> 00:01:11,200

all over the camp
that Helmut Rauca--

14

00:01:11,200 --> 00:01:13,810

who was in charge, at
that time, of the camp--

15

00:01:13,810 --> 00:01:18,580

is demanding the
entire population

16

00:01:18,580 --> 00:01:24,370

of the camp to be at a certain
place in order to be counted.

17

00:01:24,370 --> 00:01:33,190

And the excuse was that he does
not trust the Judenrat giving

18

00:01:33,190 --> 00:01:35,560

him the amount of inmates.

19

00:01:35,560 --> 00:01:44,720

In order to know how much better
to give us, we must be counted.

20

00:01:44,720 --> 00:01:51,550

And regardless of age, children,
old people, sick or well

21

00:01:51,550 --> 00:01:53,830

must be there.

22

00:01:53,830 --> 00:01:56,320

Anybody who would be on
the premises would be shot.

23

00:01:56,320 --> 00:01:58,300

The doors must be open.

24

00:01:58,300 --> 00:02:06,680

And we were so naive that we
did believe what we were told.

25

00:02:06,680 --> 00:02:11,110

And I do recall, on 6 o'clock in
the morning, October the 28th,

26

00:02:11,110 --> 00:02:18,220

we were at the empty lot, which
was the middle of the camp.

27

00:02:18,220 --> 00:02:19,930

And it was cold.

28

00:02:19,930 --> 00:02:23,230

October in Europe is
cold in the morning.

29

00:02:23,230 --> 00:02:26,950

And by about 9
o'clock, I remember

30

00:02:26,950 --> 00:02:30,130

that Helmut Rauca, with
two more sergeants, came.

31

00:02:30,130 --> 00:02:31,690

And the selection started.

32

00:02:31,690 --> 00:02:37,210

We were, at that
time, 30,000 inmates.

33

00:02:37,210 --> 00:02:39,010

We were lined up
with our families.

34

00:02:39,010 --> 00:02:43,660

I was standing with my
mother's sister, and Jerry,

35

00:02:43,660 --> 00:02:45,640
and my girlfriend.

36
00:02:45,640 --> 00:02:48,860
And we didn't know
in the beginning

37
00:02:48,860 --> 00:02:50,670
exactly what's going on.

38
00:02:50,670 --> 00:02:54,430
But while we were getting
closer and closer to Rauca,

39
00:02:54,430 --> 00:02:58,930
we saw people being divided.

40
00:02:58,930 --> 00:03:01,510
Some went left, and
some were right.

41
00:03:01,510 --> 00:03:05,410
And while I was in
line, a friend of mine,

42
00:03:05,410 --> 00:03:07,780
who was a Jewish policeman--

43
00:03:07,780 --> 00:03:11,020
and I want you to know that,
in our police force, which

44
00:03:11,020 --> 00:03:13,840
consisted out of
200 people, they

45
00:03:13,840 --> 00:03:17,020
were very, very fine
intelligent men,

46
00:03:17,020 --> 00:03:19,090
not like in some other ghettos.

47

00:03:19,090 --> 00:03:22,520

And he says to me, look, I
don't know, I don't know.

48

00:03:22,520 --> 00:03:25,400

But he said to me he doesn't
know exactly what's going on.

49

00:03:25,400 --> 00:03:26,980

But try to pull always back.

50

00:03:26,980 --> 00:03:29,020

Don't go ahead.

51

00:03:29,020 --> 00:03:30,250

Pull back.

52

00:03:30,250 --> 00:03:32,570

And that's exactly what I did.

53

00:03:32,570 --> 00:03:37,990

And more or less, about
4:00 in the afternoon,

54

00:03:37,990 --> 00:03:43,040

all the people who went to
the left were taken away.

55

00:03:43,040 --> 00:03:51,190

I never faced Rauca
because, like I said,

56

00:03:51,190 --> 00:03:54,220

by now we do know that the
orders were coming from Berlin

57

00:03:54,220 --> 00:03:55,780

from the headquarters.

58

00:03:55,780 --> 00:04:02,480

And on the 28th of October,
10,500 people went to the left.

59

00:04:02,480 --> 00:04:06,580

And next morning, the
29th, I was staying

60

00:04:06,580 --> 00:04:08,410

very close to the fence.

61

00:04:08,410 --> 00:04:14,650

And I saw, unfortunately,
groups of 100 people going up

62

00:04:14,650 --> 00:04:18,459

the hill, which was in the
direction of the Ninth Fort.

63

00:04:18,459 --> 00:04:21,399

And all day long, we
just heard machine guns.

64

00:04:21,399 --> 00:04:25,970

65

00:04:25,970 --> 00:04:32,160

And again, one
boy, 10 years old,

66

00:04:32,160 --> 00:04:35,040

he was already in the ditch.

67

00:04:35,040 --> 00:04:38,750

68

00:04:38,750 --> 00:04:41,810

It seems to be that
he was not shot.

69

00:04:41,810 --> 00:04:44,810

And at night time, he
came back to the ghetto.

70

00:04:44,810 --> 00:04:49,140

And he told us more details
how the executions took place.

71
00:04:49,140 --> 00:04:53,930
So for future generation,
it would be interesting

72
00:04:53,930 --> 00:05:00,260
that, while you saw only 100
people at a time going up

73
00:05:00,260 --> 00:05:06,620
in direction of the Ninth
Fort, a group of 100 people

74
00:05:06,620 --> 00:05:07,850
were shot.

75
00:05:07,850 --> 00:05:11,960
In other words, in order
not to create a panic,

76
00:05:11,960 --> 00:05:14,240
they couldn't take
10,000 at one time.

77
00:05:14,240 --> 00:05:15,170
They were going there.

78
00:05:15,170 --> 00:05:19,670
But while 100 were shot,
another 100 were taken.

79
00:05:19,670 --> 00:05:26,450
And next day, we went
back to the airport.

80
00:05:26,450 --> 00:05:30,620
And I do recall that my
particular guard, a German Air

81
00:05:30,620 --> 00:05:34,610
Force soldier who was

from Sudetenland, a Czech,

82

00:05:34,610 --> 00:05:37,070
asked us how come we didn't
come to work yesterday.

83

00:05:37,070 --> 00:05:42,320
And when we told him, he
said, well, I'm very sorry,

84

00:05:42,320 --> 00:05:44,930
but I really don't believe it.

85

00:05:44,930 --> 00:05:46,700
But I think that it was--

86

00:05:46,700 --> 00:05:47,780
we made a mistake.

87

00:05:47,780 --> 00:05:51,000
Something did happen. and
by mistake, they took away.

88

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:54,710
But I don't believe
that civilized people

89

00:05:54,710 --> 00:05:58,220
like we are doing the killing.

90

00:05:58,220 --> 00:06:03,170
So just imagine.

91

00:06:03,170 --> 00:06:03,890
He didn't know.

92

00:06:03,890 --> 00:06:07,590
He, by himself, didn't
believe what was happening.

93

00:06:07,590 --> 00:06:12,140
And then there's

no way to tell you

94

00:06:12,140 --> 00:06:15,620
what happened in 1942 and '43.

95

00:06:15,620 --> 00:06:18,890
All we knew, since we
were completely isolated

96

00:06:18,890 --> 00:06:22,850
in the camp, without
getting any news--

97

00:06:22,850 --> 00:06:25,040
because there was no
such a thing like mail,

98

00:06:25,040 --> 00:06:27,110
or telephone, or newspapers.

99

00:06:27,110 --> 00:06:31,700
But in order to find out
more or less what's going on,

100

00:06:31,700 --> 00:06:34,250
when we saw the
guards smiling, we

101

00:06:34,250 --> 00:06:36,440
knew that things are
very good for them.

102

00:06:36,440 --> 00:06:41,840
But then, the end of '42
when the German army got

103

00:06:41,840 --> 00:06:46,910
as far as Stalingrad on the
Volga, as you probably know,

104

00:06:46,910 --> 00:06:50,210
this was the beginning of the
defeat of the German army.

105
00:06:50,210 --> 00:06:53,630
At the same time, the
American and British Air Force

106
00:06:53,630 --> 00:06:56,630
started to bomb German cities.

107
00:06:56,630 --> 00:07:00,200
And I presume that the German
guards were getting news

108
00:07:00,200 --> 00:07:03,110
that maybe their families
or maybe their homes

109
00:07:03,110 --> 00:07:04,190
were destroyed.

110
00:07:04,190 --> 00:07:07,050
You saw their faces
changing a little bit.

111
00:07:07,050 --> 00:07:12,330
So this is the only way we knew
that something is not exactly

112
00:07:12,330 --> 00:07:15,320
they would like to have it.

113
00:07:15,320 --> 00:07:23,570
And beside this, there
was no way-- go ahead.

114
00:07:23,570 --> 00:07:28,610
You mentioned before something
about Lithuania with--

115
00:07:28,610 --> 00:07:31,642
following women going
to the Ninth Fort

116

00:07:31,642 --> 00:07:32,600
who had baby carriages.

117
00:07:32,600 --> 00:07:33,470
I didn't mention it.

118
00:07:33,470 --> 00:07:33,740
No?

119
00:07:33,740 --> 00:07:34,240
I didn't.

120
00:07:34,240 --> 00:07:35,900
But I can mention it.

121
00:07:35,900 --> 00:07:41,150
Well, it's a very,
very sad episode,

122
00:07:41,150 --> 00:07:45,780
because I was watching
what was going on.

123
00:07:45,780 --> 00:07:49,940
And I saw 10,000 people.

124
00:07:49,940 --> 00:07:51,530
There is a lot of people.

125
00:07:51,530 --> 00:07:58,910
And we saw some older Lithuanian
women following the march.

126
00:07:58,910 --> 00:08:00,650
And we didn't know exactly why.

127
00:08:00,650 --> 00:08:10,200
But about 5:00 in the
afternoon, some women

128
00:08:10,200 --> 00:08:12,900
were coming back from the

fort, which was only about half

129

00:08:12,900 --> 00:08:14,130
a mile away.

130

00:08:14,130 --> 00:08:17,370
And they did carry with
them baby carriages.

131

00:08:17,370 --> 00:08:23,640
And how sad it is that, while
the mothers and the children

132

00:08:23,640 --> 00:08:25,830
were shot at Ninth
Fort-- and I presume

133

00:08:25,830 --> 00:08:31,440
that the Germans gave away the
baby carriages to Lithuanians.

134

00:08:31,440 --> 00:08:35,090
But this is a very sad episode.

135

00:08:35,090 --> 00:08:39,419
By now, if somebody
asked me, how

136

00:08:39,419 --> 00:08:44,430
didn't you-- did you write
while in the ghetto a diary?

137

00:08:44,430 --> 00:08:48,180
And I said, well, I did not,
because the situation was

138

00:08:48,180 --> 00:08:52,170
getting so hopeless that I knew
that none of us would survive,

139

00:08:52,170 --> 00:08:57,120
because up to the big
action, they were taking--

140
00:08:57,120 --> 00:08:59,370
when I said they,
the Germans were

141
00:08:59,370 --> 00:09:06,660
taking almost weekly
groups of 100 to 150 people

142
00:09:06,660 --> 00:09:07,780
to be deported.

143
00:09:07,780 --> 00:09:10,920
And we really didn't know
exactly in what directions.

144
00:09:10,920 --> 00:09:12,855
Either they were going
to Latvia, or Estonia,

145
00:09:12,855 --> 00:09:14,430
or to Poland.

146
00:09:14,430 --> 00:09:19,260
But it came to a point that
we knew that none of us

147
00:09:19,260 --> 00:09:20,410
would survive.

148
00:09:20,410 --> 00:09:23,460
And beside this, if somebody
would like to write a diary,

149
00:09:23,460 --> 00:09:26,790
we didn't have a pencil or
pen or paper to write it.

150
00:09:26,790 --> 00:09:29,970

151
00:09:29,970 --> 00:09:33,510

Let me get to--

152

00:09:33,510 --> 00:09:35,290

Let me ask you a
couple of questions.

153

00:09:35,290 --> 00:09:35,790

Yes.

154

00:09:35,790 --> 00:09:39,140

155

00:09:39,140 --> 00:09:42,950

Food in the ghetto, and
trying to bring food in--

156

00:09:42,950 --> 00:09:45,740

can you tell me
anything about that?

157

00:09:45,740 --> 00:09:47,700

Did you smuggle any food?

158

00:09:47,700 --> 00:09:51,200

159

00:09:51,200 --> 00:09:55,640

It came to a point that
our biggest enemy was not

160

00:09:55,640 --> 00:09:57,710

the German guards.

161

00:09:57,710 --> 00:10:08,780

Hunger and cold became so
severe that, while working

162

00:10:08,780 --> 00:10:11,800

at the airport, we
didn't have any chance

163

00:10:11,800 --> 00:10:16,250

to get any food, with exception.

164

00:10:16,250 --> 00:10:19,400

At midnight, we were
getting a little bit

165

00:10:19,400 --> 00:10:24,290

warm soup, which
if somebody would

166

00:10:24,290 --> 00:10:26,930

have seen the soup
in America, you

167

00:10:26,930 --> 00:10:28,460

would think that
this is not even

168

00:10:28,460 --> 00:10:32,090

good for a hungry dog or cat--

169

00:10:32,090 --> 00:10:35,375

once in a while, maybe a
rotten carrot or a potato.

170

00:10:35,375 --> 00:10:38,150

171

00:10:38,150 --> 00:10:44,390

Now, once the airport
assignment came to an end,

172

00:10:44,390 --> 00:10:48,560

a smaller group was sent
to different places.

173

00:10:48,560 --> 00:10:56,990

And there was a possibility,
whatever we still had left--

174

00:10:56,990 --> 00:11:01,910

and it didn't really mean
anything what it was,

175
00:11:01,910 --> 00:11:06,080
a pair of socks, or underwear,
or a belt, or a suit.

176
00:11:06,080 --> 00:11:09,350
Lithuanian were
coming to the places

177
00:11:09,350 --> 00:11:15,350
where we were working and
exchanging for a little food.

178
00:11:15,350 --> 00:11:19,620
And the food which
we were getting

179
00:11:19,620 --> 00:11:22,980
was not easy to smuggle
in to the ghetto,

180
00:11:22,980 --> 00:11:25,220
because there were always--

181
00:11:25,220 --> 00:11:27,950
the guards were searching us.

182
00:11:27,950 --> 00:11:32,090
And we were very lucky when
the guards were lenient

183
00:11:32,090 --> 00:11:33,597
and we could bring something.

184
00:11:33,597 --> 00:11:47,740

185
00:11:47,740 --> 00:11:51,730
So I want you to tell me--

186
00:11:51,730 --> 00:11:53,420
describe the ghetto to me.

187
00:11:53,420 --> 00:11:57,910
Tell me about the workshops
and a little bit--

188
00:11:57,910 --> 00:12:01,960
and talk to me about the period
of quiet after the great action

189
00:12:01,960 --> 00:12:08,710
and before it started turning
into a real concentration camp.

190
00:12:08,710 --> 00:12:12,360
Let's put it this way.

191
00:12:12,360 --> 00:12:19,090
A lot of things, which was
happening in the ghetto,

192
00:12:19,090 --> 00:12:21,590
I really don't-- lots of
details, I don't know.

193
00:12:21,590 --> 00:12:25,180
I really don't
know, because I do

194
00:12:25,180 --> 00:12:29,260
recall that, before
the German invasion,

195
00:12:29,260 --> 00:12:32,350
life was just as
normal as it could be.

196
00:12:32,350 --> 00:12:36,340
Maybe the food wasn't
as fancy as it is now

197
00:12:36,340 --> 00:12:37,330
in the United States.

198

00:12:37,330 --> 00:12:41,830

Maybe it's better, because
people were not getting as sick

199

00:12:41,830 --> 00:12:44,320

as they are now.

200

00:12:44,320 --> 00:12:46,930

And complete freedom--

201

00:12:46,930 --> 00:12:53,600

I mean, absolutely nothing to
be expected what was happening.

202

00:12:53,600 --> 00:12:59,590

And then-- I am
not a psychiatrist,

203

00:12:59,590 --> 00:13:01,690

and not a philosopher.

204

00:13:01,690 --> 00:13:06,070

But you wouldn't
believe what can happen

205

00:13:06,070 --> 00:13:11,170

to people affected by hunger.

206

00:13:11,170 --> 00:13:17,830

Hunger is not only causing a
terrible pain in your stomach.

207

00:13:17,830 --> 00:13:21,400

But your brain don't functions.

208

00:13:21,400 --> 00:13:26,320

People, which we did associate,
and being our friends

209

00:13:26,320 --> 00:13:30,580

before the war, they
were not friends anymore,

210
00:13:30,580 --> 00:13:34,690
because everybody was looking
for himself how to survive,

211
00:13:34,690 --> 00:13:37,930
how to get something to eat.

212
00:13:37,930 --> 00:13:43,240
We just became like wild
angry animals in a zoo.

213
00:13:43,240 --> 00:13:48,460
And all we had in
mind is dreaming

214
00:13:48,460 --> 00:13:51,415
how to fill up our
stomach, because--

215
00:13:51,415 --> 00:13:54,910

216
00:13:54,910 --> 00:13:56,680
it is really hard to describe.

217
00:13:56,680 --> 00:14:04,270
However, once you
don't eat for weeks,

218
00:14:04,270 --> 00:14:06,220
your stomach is
getting used to it.

219
00:14:06,220 --> 00:14:08,290
It shrinks, to a certain extent.

220
00:14:08,290 --> 00:14:11,230
Just a little piece of
bread, which we were given--

221
00:14:11,230 --> 00:14:14,500

if you can call it bread--

222

00:14:14,500 --> 00:14:17,710
is enough to keep on going.

223

00:14:17,710 --> 00:14:23,080
And intellectual peoples
older than I was--

224

00:14:23,080 --> 00:14:25,810
college professors,
and schoolteachers,

225

00:14:25,810 --> 00:14:31,180
and lawyers, who
maybe did realize

226

00:14:31,180 --> 00:14:34,810
exactly what is happening--

227

00:14:34,810 --> 00:14:39,260
knowing that the situation is
hopeless, most of these people

228

00:14:39,260 --> 00:14:42,110
were committing suicide in
the very first beginning.

229

00:14:42,110 --> 00:14:44,500
And I was only 24 years old.

230

00:14:44,500 --> 00:14:46,150
And I had the big
responsibility,

231

00:14:46,150 --> 00:14:50,500
because I had to see to
it that my mother, who

232

00:14:50,500 --> 00:14:53,470
was naturally 20
years older than I am,

233

00:14:53,470 --> 00:14:56,660

and my sister, and my
nephew should survive.

234

00:14:56,660 --> 00:15:01,300

And I felt, well, if
I will commit suicide,

235

00:15:01,300 --> 00:15:03,310

that won't stop their death.

236

00:15:03,310 --> 00:15:05,710

So I did the best I could.

237

00:15:05,710 --> 00:15:08,720

And I felt that, instead
to stay in the ghetto

238

00:15:08,720 --> 00:15:16,240

or to work for the authority,
the Judenrat, if I will go out,

239

00:15:16,240 --> 00:15:19,490

I have a better possibility
to bring some food.

240

00:15:19,490 --> 00:15:24,080

So in order, this way, we can
survive a little bit longer.

241

00:15:24,080 --> 00:15:29,350

But now there's quite
many books written

242

00:15:29,350 --> 00:15:33,610

by people who were
in the ghetto and who

243

00:15:33,610 --> 00:15:39,070

do know more details, what was
happening, which I didn't know.

244

00:15:39,070 --> 00:15:41,200

And every day,
doing my homework,

245

00:15:41,200 --> 00:15:44,590

I discover new things, which
I was absolutely ignorant

246

00:15:44,590 --> 00:15:45,160

about this.

247

00:15:45,160 --> 00:15:49,630

248

00:15:49,630 --> 00:15:54,695

Why don't you tell me
about the Kinder Aktion?

249

00:15:54,695 --> 00:15:55,195

OK.

250

00:15:55,195 --> 00:15:58,390

251

00:15:58,390 --> 00:15:59,410

What was happening?

252

00:15:59,410 --> 00:16:02,740

I did mention to you in
the very first beginning

253

00:16:02,740 --> 00:16:09,160

that, while everything of value
was given away by the Germans,

254

00:16:09,160 --> 00:16:18,020

including the instruments, if
somebody is asking me daily,

255

00:16:18,020 --> 00:16:19,385

ever since you do a lecture--

256

00:16:19,385 --> 00:16:23,810
Guys, we're getting a fair
amount of scratching noise.

257
00:16:23,810 --> 00:16:24,620
Sorry to interrupt.

258
00:16:24,620 --> 00:16:26,900
But I don't know if it was the--

259
00:16:26,900 --> 00:16:29,480
Maybe it's [INAUDIBLE].

260
00:16:29,480 --> 00:16:30,420
I don't hear it.

261
00:16:30,420 --> 00:16:31,160
It's [INAUDIBLE].

262
00:16:31,160 --> 00:16:32,118
All right, let's break.

263
00:16:32,118 --> 00:16:32,930
Let's cut.

264
00:16:32,930 --> 00:16:33,790
Mark five, mark.

265
00:16:33,790 --> 00:16:38,050

266
00:16:38,050 --> 00:16:43,480
By September 1943,
all the ghettos

267
00:16:43,480 --> 00:16:46,270
were already liquidated.

268
00:16:46,270 --> 00:16:53,290
Just by miracle, we got a new
commanding officer who was sent

269

00:16:53,290 --> 00:16:57,970
from Berlin by the name Wilhelm
GÃ¶tcke who changed the name from

270

00:16:57,970 --> 00:17:00,550
ghetto to concentration camp.

271

00:17:00,550 --> 00:17:05,980
And concentration camp
had a better future

272

00:17:05,980 --> 00:17:11,800
to survive the ghettos, because
the concentration camp existed

273

00:17:11,800 --> 00:17:15,250
almost to the very
end, before the Allies

274

00:17:15,250 --> 00:17:18,530
were getting very close.

275

00:17:18,530 --> 00:17:25,540
Wilhelm GÃ¶tcke was a short SS
man who knew exactly that,

276

00:17:25,540 --> 00:17:27,910
once the ghettos are
being liquidated,

277

00:17:27,910 --> 00:17:30,940
the Germans who are in charge
of the ghettos are being sent

278

00:17:30,940 --> 00:17:34,030
to the front to fight
the Russian army.

279

00:17:34,030 --> 00:17:36,740
And having good
connections in Berlin,

280

00:17:36,740 --> 00:17:40,690
he got a new assignment to
change the name of the ghetto

281
00:17:40,690 --> 00:17:42,438
to concentration camps.

282
00:17:42,438 --> 00:17:44,980
I have to admit that things were
getting a little bit better,

283
00:17:44,980 --> 00:17:47,860
because we were getting
a little bit more food

284
00:17:47,860 --> 00:17:49,210
than being in the ghetto.

285
00:17:49,210 --> 00:17:52,060

286
00:17:52,060 --> 00:17:57,760
I'm jumping to 1943,
beginning of March.

287
00:17:57,760 --> 00:18:05,560
And one day, we got the message
that Wilhelm GÃ¶tcke wants

288
00:18:05,560 --> 00:18:09,170
to have a concert in the camp.

289
00:18:09,170 --> 00:18:12,820
Well, this we couldn't
understand, because we

290
00:18:12,820 --> 00:18:13,930
didn't have the music.

291
00:18:13,930 --> 00:18:15,250
We didn't have the musicians.

292

00:18:15,250 --> 00:18:18,190
And we didn't have
any instruments.

293
00:18:18,190 --> 00:18:23,710
And sure enough, some violins
were brought from outside.

294
00:18:23,710 --> 00:18:26,920
And there was still
maybe a few men who

295
00:18:26,920 --> 00:18:30,170
played music before the war.

296
00:18:30,170 --> 00:18:36,790
And one Sunday morning, we were
told that the inmates who do

297
00:18:36,790 --> 00:18:40,210
feel like come to the
concert are welcome.

298
00:18:40,210 --> 00:18:43,690
And my wife and
myself went to listen.

299
00:18:43,690 --> 00:18:46,490
I even remember exactly
what was played.

300
00:18:46,490 --> 00:18:48,400
Naturally, you
couldn't compare this

301
00:18:48,400 --> 00:18:51,250
with the symphony orchestra,
because there were only about

302
00:18:51,250 --> 00:18:54,100
10 or 12 guys playing.

303
00:18:54,100 --> 00:18:57,220

The photos were
taken by the Germans.

304
00:18:57,220 --> 00:19:00,340
And you can find those
photos in encyclopedia,

305
00:19:00,340 --> 00:19:01,540
Holocaust encyclopedia.

306
00:19:01,540 --> 00:19:03,730
You can find them
in the museums.

307
00:19:03,730 --> 00:19:08,350
And something was
suspicious what

308
00:19:08,350 --> 00:19:12,190
is going on, because
all of a sudden,

309
00:19:12,190 --> 00:19:15,190
we are being considered
a human being

310
00:19:15,190 --> 00:19:17,326
with a little bit better--

311
00:19:17,326 --> 00:19:20,320
with a little bit
more food and music.

312
00:19:20,320 --> 00:19:26,140
But what was happening?

313
00:19:26,140 --> 00:19:28,060
We could get very dormant again.

314
00:19:28,060 --> 00:19:30,070
Well, at that time,
we still had about--

315

00:19:30,070 --> 00:19:35,860

out of 30,000, still
about 5,000 inmates.

316

00:19:35,860 --> 00:19:39,660

And a week later--

317

00:19:39,660 --> 00:19:47,160

to be exact, on March
the 27th, 1944--

318

00:19:47,160 --> 00:19:51,090

we knew, in the meantime, that
the Russians are getting closer

319

00:19:51,090 --> 00:19:51,690

to us.

320

00:19:51,690 --> 00:19:54,660

321

00:19:54,660 --> 00:19:58,770

Early in the morning,
I was in the ghetto.

322

00:19:58,770 --> 00:20:01,760

It was about 6:00
in the morning.

323

00:20:01,760 --> 00:20:09,630

We saw some black Volkswagens
coming with loudspeakers.

324

00:20:09,630 --> 00:20:12,990

And I do recall exactly the way.

325

00:20:12,990 --> 00:20:14,860

We heard the voices--

326

00:20:14,860 --> 00:20:18,750

[GERMAN], attention.

327

00:20:18,750 --> 00:20:23,820

Anybody who was on the
street should go immediately

328

00:20:23,820 --> 00:20:24,870

to the housing.

329

00:20:24,870 --> 00:20:27,040

Otherwise, he will be shot.

330

00:20:27,040 --> 00:20:33,660

And then we saw
German SS and gestapo

331

00:20:33,660 --> 00:20:38,250

with Ukrainian collaborators
going from house to house.

332

00:20:38,250 --> 00:20:40,740

And there were
some rumors already

333

00:20:40,740 --> 00:20:47,220

about a few months earlier that,
in the nearby ghetto, Vilnius,

334

00:20:47,220 --> 00:20:48,480

they took away the children.

335

00:20:48,480 --> 00:20:52,230

But we didn't believe
that this is possible,

336

00:20:52,230 --> 00:20:57,760

because the Germans
are civilized.

337

00:20:57,760 --> 00:21:00,600

They wouldn't do any
harm to children.

338

00:21:00,600 --> 00:21:06,020

And we didn't go
to work this day.

339
00:21:06,020 --> 00:21:10,080
My mother, and my
sister, and my nephew

340
00:21:10,080 --> 00:21:13,000
had a corner someplace
in one house.

341
00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:16,860
And my wife and
myself were living--

342
00:21:16,860 --> 00:21:18,360
if you can call living--

343
00:21:18,360 --> 00:21:21,940
in a two-story
dilapidated building.

344
00:21:21,940 --> 00:21:23,310
And what was happening?

345
00:21:23,310 --> 00:21:27,130

346
00:21:27,130 --> 00:21:30,600
We were looking through
the window from this attic,

347
00:21:30,600 --> 00:21:33,780
my wife Julia-- may she
rest in peace-- and myself.

348
00:21:33,780 --> 00:21:39,120
And this window was facing
the very same empty lot

349
00:21:39,120 --> 00:21:45,510
which the big action took place
in 1941, October the 28th.

350
00:21:45,510 --> 00:21:53,760
And we saw a truck with
high walls, without a roof.

351
00:21:53,760 --> 00:22:01,680
And through the day, we
saw something which myself,

352
00:22:01,680 --> 00:22:06,630
being today an old man who has
more time to think about this,

353
00:22:06,630 --> 00:22:11,530
something which I
cannot comprehend.

354
00:22:11,530 --> 00:22:16,870
Well, young German uniformed
soldiers, if you can call them,

355
00:22:16,870 --> 00:22:21,280
with Ukrainians were
dragging mothers

356
00:22:21,280 --> 00:22:25,220
with children to the truck.

357
00:22:25,220 --> 00:22:29,700
And it's really hard to
describe what was going on,

358
00:22:29,700 --> 00:22:33,080
because we saw
mothers who wouldn't

359
00:22:33,080 --> 00:22:35,330
let the children loose.

360
00:22:35,330 --> 00:22:40,600
And they were beaten.

361

00:22:40,600 --> 00:22:45,540
Some vicious doberman were--

362

00:22:45,540 --> 00:25:01,334