

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:43,960

2
00:00:43,960 --> 00:00:44,460
Mark.

3
00:00:44,460 --> 00:00:49,400

4
00:00:49,400 --> 00:00:50,720
I'm not close enough.

5
00:00:50,720 --> 00:00:51,540
Good.

6
00:00:51,540 --> 00:00:52,040
Yeah.

7
00:00:52,040 --> 00:00:52,780
You going to cut?

8
00:00:52,780 --> 00:00:53,680
Yeah.

9
00:00:53,680 --> 00:00:54,300
Marker two.

10
00:00:54,300 --> 00:01:00,040

11
00:01:00,040 --> 00:01:03,210
Tell me when and
where you were born.

12
00:01:03,210 --> 00:01:09,300
I was born in Siauliai,
Lithuania on October 16, 1928.

13
00:01:09,300 --> 00:01:13,290
Tell me a little bit

about your childhood.

14
00:01:13,290 --> 00:01:16,870
My father was a successful
business person.

15
00:01:16,870 --> 00:01:18,180
We had a movie house.

16
00:01:18,180 --> 00:01:21,420
We had a cafe and a bakery.

17
00:01:21,420 --> 00:01:25,950
And we lived in a very
nice part of town.

18
00:01:25,950 --> 00:01:32,850
I was the only
child, very pampered.

19
00:01:32,850 --> 00:01:36,870
I had a caretaker, a nanny.

20
00:01:36,870 --> 00:01:41,190
And my mother never worked.

21
00:01:41,190 --> 00:01:43,680
We had a lot of
help in the house.

22
00:01:43,680 --> 00:01:46,800
And we lived very affluent.

23
00:01:46,800 --> 00:01:52,440
And tell me how you remember
that things changed.

24
00:01:52,440 --> 00:01:58,860
In 1940, the Russians, the
Soviets occupied Lithuania.

25
00:01:58,860 --> 00:02:03,780

And one morning, we woke up,
and we saw the Russian army

26
00:02:03,780 --> 00:02:06,390
in charge of the country.

27
00:02:06,390 --> 00:02:08,250
And a lot of things
changed then.

28
00:02:08,250 --> 00:02:10,650
They took away my
father's business,

29
00:02:10,650 --> 00:02:13,305
made him an employee
in his own business.

30
00:02:13,305 --> 00:02:16,490

31
00:02:16,490 --> 00:02:20,860
And after a very short
time, we realized

32
00:02:20,860 --> 00:02:23,590
that if we don't move
out of that town,

33
00:02:23,590 --> 00:02:27,580
they'll eventually arrest
my father, the Soviets,

34
00:02:27,580 --> 00:02:29,410
and send him off to Siberia.

35
00:02:29,410 --> 00:02:33,540
In order to prevent or
delay that occurrence,

36
00:02:33,540 --> 00:02:40,440
we moved to Kovno in
about the fall of 1940.

37
00:02:40,440 --> 00:02:46,270
And our life became
changed, because my father

38
00:02:46,270 --> 00:02:49,030
got a job someplace.

39
00:02:49,030 --> 00:02:52,640
We had enough money from before.

40
00:02:52,640 --> 00:02:56,860
So economically, we
were rather well-off.

41
00:02:56,860 --> 00:02:59,350
But everything changed.

42
00:02:59,350 --> 00:03:03,760
I started going to a public
school, where I always

43
00:03:03,760 --> 00:03:05,710
went to private school.

44
00:03:05,710 --> 00:03:09,370
I also had to become a Pioneer.

45
00:03:09,370 --> 00:03:12,910
This could be [INAUDIBLE]
to a Boy Scout.

46
00:03:12,910 --> 00:03:15,790
I wore this white
shirt and a red tie

47
00:03:15,790 --> 00:03:21,040
and belonged to Communist Youth
Organization, because that

48
00:03:21,040 --> 00:03:23,410
was politically correct.

49

00:03:23,410 --> 00:03:30,400

And the school I went to was
not a private school anymore.

50

00:03:30,400 --> 00:03:32,980

As I said before, it
was public school.

51

00:03:32,980 --> 00:03:39,040

And the whole life became
on a different level.

52

00:03:39,040 --> 00:03:44,600

In order to be politically
correct, the young Pioneers,

53

00:03:44,600 --> 00:03:47,800

they sent everybody
in the summer to camp

54

00:03:47,800 --> 00:03:50,660

in summer of 1941.

55

00:03:50,660 --> 00:03:53,080

And it so happens that
the camp they sent us

56

00:03:53,080 --> 00:03:56,140

was Palanga, which was
a seaside resort where

57

00:03:56,140 --> 00:04:01,330

I used to go every year with
my mother in a very, very

58

00:04:01,330 --> 00:04:02,230

luxurious way.

59

00:04:02,230 --> 00:04:07,210

And here they put me in to
big tents with many people,

60

00:04:07,210 --> 00:04:08,830
sharing bathrooms.

61

00:04:08,830 --> 00:04:11,240
And I wasn't used to
anything like that.

62

00:04:11,240 --> 00:04:17,000
So at the age of 12, I figured
I have to try to escape.

63

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:19,390
And I figured the
only way to escape

64

00:04:19,390 --> 00:04:24,630
is to somehow fool
them into that I

65

00:04:24,630 --> 00:04:27,150
have appendicitis attack.

66

00:04:27,150 --> 00:04:29,280
And maybe they'll send me home.

67

00:04:29,280 --> 00:04:30,900
That, I did.

68

00:04:30,900 --> 00:04:34,170
And it so happens that
the surgeon in the camp

69

00:04:34,170 --> 00:04:36,790
was somebody who knew
me from childhood.

70

00:04:36,790 --> 00:04:41,640
Even though he realized
that I am faking it,

71

00:04:41,640 --> 00:04:43,590
he managed to send me home.

72
00:04:43,590 --> 00:04:49,140
That was in the summer
of 1941, just a few weeks

73
00:04:49,140 --> 00:04:50,880
before the war started.

74
00:04:50,880 --> 00:04:53,490
That may have saved
my life, because when

75
00:04:53,490 --> 00:04:57,480
the Germans overran that
part of Lithuania, which

76
00:04:57,480 --> 00:05:00,120
was very close to
Germany, I believe

77
00:05:00,120 --> 00:05:03,180
that most of the children
in that camp were destroyed.

78
00:05:03,180 --> 00:05:06,210

79
00:05:06,210 --> 00:05:09,580
Tell me about the actual start
of the war-- what you saw,

80
00:05:09,580 --> 00:05:11,400
what you heard.

81
00:05:11,400 --> 00:05:18,980
In about the summer of 1941,
things were very tense.

82
00:05:18,980 --> 00:05:22,460
But the Russians were
still in full control.

83

00:05:22,460 --> 00:05:24,530
And we really didn't know much.

84
00:05:24,530 --> 00:05:29,690
One morning, we heard
all kinds of gunfire--

85
00:05:29,690 --> 00:05:32,060
bombs, guns.

86
00:05:32,060 --> 00:05:38,500
And maybe by the next day, the
Germans occupied Lithuania.

87
00:05:38,500 --> 00:05:41,050
It was not-- there was
very little resistance

88
00:05:41,050 --> 00:05:44,800
from the Lithuanians
against the Germans, A,

89
00:05:44,800 --> 00:05:47,560
because the Russians
are too strong, B,

90
00:05:47,560 --> 00:05:50,890
because the Lithuanians
are very much pro-German,

91
00:05:50,890 --> 00:05:51,850
and they welcomed it.

92
00:05:51,850 --> 00:05:54,420

93
00:05:54,420 --> 00:05:59,850
What other changes-- did you
notice any changes just before

94
00:05:59,850 --> 00:06:02,424
or just after the
Germans came in, in terms

95
00:06:02,424 --> 00:06:03,360
of the Lithuanian--

96
00:06:03,360 --> 00:06:07,860
After the Germans came in, and
even before they fully came in,

97
00:06:07,860 --> 00:06:13,650
the Lithuanians started to
commit tremendous atrocities--

98
00:06:13,650 --> 00:06:15,600
actually cutting
off Jewish heads,

99
00:06:15,600 --> 00:06:17,640
and putting them on fences.

100
00:06:17,640 --> 00:06:20,460
And they were horrendous
to such a point

101
00:06:20,460 --> 00:06:22,600
that, when the
Germans came, we found

102
00:06:22,600 --> 00:06:26,706
a relief because they stopped
that indiscriminate slaughter.

103
00:06:26,706 --> 00:06:29,900

104
00:06:29,900 --> 00:06:31,550
Did you witness any of this?

105
00:06:31,550 --> 00:06:34,100
I, personally, did
not witness it.

106
00:06:34,100 --> 00:06:38,090

But I heard people.

107
00:06:38,090 --> 00:06:41,550
I spoke to people
who did witness it.

108
00:06:41,550 --> 00:06:45,710
And so at your age, how did
you feel, in general then?

109
00:06:45,710 --> 00:06:46,970
Started being afraid.

110
00:06:46,970 --> 00:06:53,440
That became the primary
modus to operate, fear--

111
00:06:53,440 --> 00:06:56,520
fear, uncertainty.

112
00:06:56,520 --> 00:06:59,740
We never knew what's
going to happen.

113
00:06:59,740 --> 00:07:02,880
And so then the decree went out
for the ghetto to be formed.

114
00:07:02,880 --> 00:07:05,430
Tell me about yours--

115
00:07:05,430 --> 00:07:07,560
A final time later,
the decree came out

116
00:07:07,560 --> 00:07:11,550
that all Jews have to
move into the ghetto.

117
00:07:11,550 --> 00:07:15,780
And it was very funny,
because they actually

118

00:07:15,780 --> 00:07:21,840

permitted you to trade
houses with Lithuanians

119

00:07:21,840 --> 00:07:24,640

who lived in that part of town.

120

00:07:24,640 --> 00:07:28,380

The house which I lived
in belonged to a cousin

121

00:07:28,380 --> 00:07:29,700

of my father's.

122

00:07:29,700 --> 00:07:32,100

And it was a very,
very beautiful house.

123

00:07:32,100 --> 00:07:36,240

So it was very easy to get
a reasonably nice place

124

00:07:36,240 --> 00:07:39,030

in the ghetto as an exchange.

125

00:07:39,030 --> 00:07:41,050

And that took place.

126

00:07:41,050 --> 00:07:46,530

And we actually moved into
a house in the ghetto.

127

00:07:46,530 --> 00:07:51,760

And those people who owned that
house occupied the house we

128

00:07:51,760 --> 00:07:53,130

lived in.

129

00:07:53,130 --> 00:07:54,720

Was that even trade?

130

00:07:54,720 --> 00:07:57,390

No, it wasn't an even trade.

131

00:07:57,390 --> 00:07:59,550

But it was the best you can do.

132

00:07:59,550 --> 00:08:01,680

Do you remember
actually moving in?

133

00:08:01,680 --> 00:08:02,580

Do you remember--

134

00:08:02,580 --> 00:08:03,570

Oh, yes.

135

00:08:03,570 --> 00:08:06,780

Tell me what you took.

136

00:08:06,780 --> 00:08:10,830

They did not restrict us
from taking any belongings.

137

00:08:10,830 --> 00:08:15,030

But due to the fact that the
new place was much smaller

138

00:08:15,030 --> 00:08:18,960

and the living
space was allocated,

139

00:08:18,960 --> 00:08:25,530

we wound up one or more families
per room, not even per house.

140

00:08:25,530 --> 00:08:29,510

So you really took
as little as you had

141

00:08:29,510 --> 00:08:34,500

to, just the bare necessities.

142

00:08:34,500 --> 00:08:37,830

And it immediately became
obvious electricity

143

00:08:37,830 --> 00:08:39,539

wasn't sufficient
for all those people.

144

00:08:39,539 --> 00:08:42,698

Sanitary conditions
were insufficient.

145

00:08:42,698 --> 00:08:44,865

And the first thing people
did is build an outhouse.

146

00:08:44,865 --> 00:08:48,560

147

00:08:48,560 --> 00:08:50,520

And the actual move--

148

00:08:50,520 --> 00:08:51,550

how did you get there?

149

00:08:51,550 --> 00:08:54,240

150

00:08:54,240 --> 00:08:55,980

I do not recollect.

151

00:08:55,980 --> 00:09:02,340

152

00:09:02,340 --> 00:09:04,590

We have only a little bit.

153

00:09:04,590 --> 00:09:10,610

Why don't you describe to me the
living space was you remember?

154

00:09:10,610 --> 00:09:16,340

As I remember it, my
mother, father, and myself,

155

00:09:16,340 --> 00:09:21,180

plus two or three more
people got one room only.

156

00:09:21,180 --> 00:09:26,810

And we had to make bunks in
order to accommodate everybody.

157

00:09:26,810 --> 00:09:34,380

And there was the kitchen.

158

00:09:34,380 --> 00:09:35,790

There was maybe one kitchen.

159

00:09:35,790 --> 00:09:40,530

And you wound up having
to cook over there maybe

160

00:09:40,530 --> 00:09:42,880

for 20 or 30 people.

161

00:09:42,880 --> 00:09:47,190

So I remember that we
made little stoves out

162

00:09:47,190 --> 00:09:48,420

of sheet metal.

163

00:09:48,420 --> 00:09:50,810

And we used to make--

164

00:09:50,810 --> 00:09:53,670

and we used to be able
to cook on kindling wood.

165

00:09:53,670 --> 00:09:56,050

That, I remember very vividly.

166

00:09:56,050 --> 00:10:00,200
And so every room, more or
less, had their own cooking

167
00:10:00,200 --> 00:10:02,790
facilities.

168
00:10:02,790 --> 00:10:06,040
What about heating?

169
00:10:06,040 --> 00:10:09,130
In the very beginning,
there was enough heat.

170
00:10:09,130 --> 00:10:18,060
That particular-- there was a
stove, I think, in every room.

171
00:10:18,060 --> 00:10:21,480
And that was used for heating.

172
00:10:21,480 --> 00:10:27,360
And also, the cooking
facilities gave out enough heat.

173
00:10:27,360 --> 00:10:30,190
And due to the fact that there
were many people in one room,

174
00:10:30,190 --> 00:10:31,980
it wasn't that cold.

175
00:10:31,980 --> 00:10:35,820
But that was, of course,
in the summer and the fall.

176
00:10:35,820 --> 00:10:38,760
When the winter came,
things became very bad.

177
00:10:38,760 --> 00:10:40,560
And we started
burning furniture.

178
00:10:40,560 --> 00:10:43,760

179
00:10:43,760 --> 00:10:44,260
OK.

180
00:10:44,260 --> 00:10:47,022
I think we're just about
to run out of time.

181
00:10:47,022 --> 00:11:08,842

182
00:11:08,842 --> 00:11:09,342
Mark.

183
00:11:09,342 --> 00:11:14,830

184
00:11:14,830 --> 00:11:19,940
In the early days of
the ghetto, were you

185
00:11:19,940 --> 00:11:22,850
aware of the actions
before the big action?

186
00:11:22,850 --> 00:11:25,650
Yeah, they always had
something going on.

187
00:11:25,650 --> 00:11:27,290
Tell me what you
remember of that.

188
00:11:27,290 --> 00:11:30,330

189
00:11:30,330 --> 00:11:34,350
I think they had some old
actions where they rounded up

190
00:11:34,350 --> 00:11:36,040
people, where they
rounded people up.

191
00:11:36,040 --> 00:11:39,450
And they used to send
them away from the ghetto,

192
00:11:39,450 --> 00:11:45,560
supposedly to war camps in
Estonia, some elsewhere.

193
00:11:45,560 --> 00:11:47,880
And tell me about
the big action.

194
00:11:47,880 --> 00:11:49,610
The big action--
that, I can remember.

195
00:11:49,610 --> 00:11:53,050
It was in-- I think
it was October 28.

196
00:11:53,050 --> 00:11:55,570
I think it was '43,
if I'm not mistaken.

197
00:11:55,570 --> 00:11:56,070
Or--

198
00:11:56,070 --> 00:11:56,870
'41.

199
00:11:56,870 --> 00:11:57,510
'41.

200
00:11:57,510 --> 00:11:58,210
OK.

201
00:11:58,210 --> 00:12:00,200

I was wrong with the year.

202
00:12:00,200 --> 00:12:04,790
Everybody supposedly
supposed to have been--

203
00:12:04,790 --> 00:12:08,330
they did it in the
guise of a census.

204
00:12:08,330 --> 00:12:12,560
And people were supposed to
all gather early in the morning

205
00:12:12,560 --> 00:12:15,630
in a place called
Democratic Place.

206
00:12:15,630 --> 00:12:20,450
And I remember very vividly it
was a gray, cold, drizzly day.

207
00:12:20,450 --> 00:12:26,210
And we went to this big,
open field in the morning.

208
00:12:26,210 --> 00:12:29,000
And they had these
tables set up.

209
00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:31,850
And they started to make
the selections, to the right

210
00:12:31,850 --> 00:12:34,280
and to the left.

211
00:12:34,280 --> 00:12:38,270
Whoever invented the right
was saved for the moment.

212
00:12:38,270 --> 00:12:42,635
Whoever went to the left was

resettled out of the ghetto.

213
00:12:42,635 --> 00:12:45,380

214
00:12:45,380 --> 00:12:48,200
What happened to your
family on that day?

215
00:12:48,200 --> 00:12:51,590
We managed to stay intact.

216
00:12:51,590 --> 00:12:56,630
One of the reasons we
stayed intact, I believe--

217
00:12:56,630 --> 00:12:59,900
we had an inkling that
the ghetto police is not

218
00:12:59,900 --> 00:13:02,330
going to be touched.

219
00:13:02,330 --> 00:13:05,330
The house I lived
in was also occupied

220
00:13:05,330 --> 00:13:09,560
by a high-ranking person
from the ghetto police.

221
00:13:09,560 --> 00:13:11,900
His name was Gudinski.

222
00:13:11,900 --> 00:13:15,020
And the ghetto
police was identified

223
00:13:15,020 --> 00:13:20,900
via an armband, which
had I think a Jewish star

224

00:13:20,900 --> 00:13:23,090
and some stamping.

225
00:13:23,090 --> 00:13:25,910
I was a very good craftsman.

226
00:13:25,910 --> 00:13:32,160
And I actually stole at
night this armband of his.

227
00:13:32,160 --> 00:13:38,990
And I copied it with oil
paint on a piece of canvas.

228
00:13:38,990 --> 00:13:42,020
And my father put it on.

229
00:13:42,020 --> 00:13:44,600
And I figured then
that nobody is going

230
00:13:44,600 --> 00:13:47,250
to look at it that closely.

231
00:13:47,250 --> 00:13:51,410
So if I make it appear correct,
it's going to be correct.

232
00:13:51,410 --> 00:13:55,290
And that was one of the reasons
which we may have been saved.

233
00:13:55,290 --> 00:13:57,960
I don't know.

234
00:13:57,960 --> 00:14:00,240
Did your father wear
that the whole time

235
00:14:00,240 --> 00:14:02,910
when you walked to the place?

236

00:14:02,910 --> 00:14:04,597

Or was he scared to?

237

00:14:04,597 --> 00:14:05,180

He was scared.

238

00:14:05,180 --> 00:14:07,630

He just put it on at the
place, because we were

239

00:14:07,630 --> 00:14:10,680

scared of the ghetto police.

240

00:14:10,680 --> 00:14:12,630

You were scared that you
would get discovered.

241

00:14:12,630 --> 00:14:13,350

That's right.

242

00:14:13,350 --> 00:14:15,900

The ghetto police--
not everybody was bad,

243

00:14:15,900 --> 00:14:18,090

but not everybody was good.

244

00:14:18,090 --> 00:14:21,150

As a rule, the ghetto
police were not terrible.

245

00:14:21,150 --> 00:14:23,820

But we really didn't
know whom we can trust.

246

00:14:23,820 --> 00:14:27,390

And even the person who lived
in the same house where we did,

247

00:14:27,390 --> 00:14:28,650

I really didn't--

248

00:14:28,650 --> 00:14:31,320
we didn't know if
we can trust him.

249
00:14:31,320 --> 00:14:34,590
And you have to realize that,
when an action like that

250
00:14:34,590 --> 00:14:36,900
takes place, chaos--

251
00:14:36,900 --> 00:14:40,020
shouting, yelling,
shoving, and pushing--

252
00:14:40,020 --> 00:14:44,160
is one of the main ingredients
by which the Germans were

253
00:14:44,160 --> 00:14:48,600
able to make people
behave a certain way.

254
00:14:48,600 --> 00:14:51,210
And that chaos,
which took place,

255
00:14:51,210 --> 00:14:57,270
also meant that minute
details are overlooked.

256
00:14:57,270 --> 00:14:58,980
I didn't know it
then, but I feel

257
00:14:58,980 --> 00:15:01,560
this is what must have
been taking place.

258
00:15:01,560 --> 00:15:04,830
Tell me how you
stole his armband.

259

00:15:04,830 --> 00:15:07,850
Oh, it's very simple.

260
00:15:07,850 --> 00:15:11,460
His coat was hanging
in a common vestibule.

261
00:15:11,460 --> 00:15:15,050

262
00:15:15,050 --> 00:15:17,480
Did he have many of
them, or did he-- ?

263
00:15:17,480 --> 00:15:18,830
I really don't remember.

264
00:15:18,830 --> 00:15:21,510
I remember it was
a leather coat.

265
00:15:21,510 --> 00:15:26,700
And that armband was
pinned on, on the sleeve.

266
00:15:26,700 --> 00:15:29,100
And do you remember
how long you had it,

267
00:15:29,100 --> 00:15:30,420
how long you borrowed it?

268
00:15:30,420 --> 00:15:31,712
What you weren't quick with it?

269
00:15:31,712 --> 00:15:32,600
I did it overnight.

270
00:15:32,600 --> 00:15:39,610

271
00:15:39,610 --> 00:15:43,750

And tell me what you
knew of what happened

272
00:15:43,750 --> 00:15:45,090
to the people who went to the--

273
00:15:45,090 --> 00:15:47,710

274
00:15:47,710 --> 00:15:50,650
As far as we knew,
the people were

275
00:15:50,650 --> 00:15:59,110
sent to work in Estonia, which
was not a ghetto anymore.

276
00:15:59,110 --> 00:16:02,770
But it was a concentration
camp type situation.

277
00:16:02,770 --> 00:16:05,260
And the conditions
were very harsh.

278
00:16:05,260 --> 00:16:07,660
And many people perished.

279
00:16:07,660 --> 00:16:12,160
And they must have also taken
some people to the Ninth Fort

280
00:16:12,160 --> 00:16:13,640
and destroyed them.

281
00:16:13,640 --> 00:16:15,670
I don't remember the details.

282
00:16:15,670 --> 00:16:17,290
I cannot recollect.

283
00:16:17,290 --> 00:16:19,300

And you didn't know
about it at the time.

284
00:16:19,300 --> 00:16:21,530
And you didn't see them going.

285
00:16:21,530 --> 00:16:22,030
No.

286
00:16:22,030 --> 00:16:24,400
You really didn't
see anybody going.

287
00:16:24,400 --> 00:16:27,380
You just were separated away.

288
00:16:27,380 --> 00:16:32,740
And eventually, when evening
came, we went back to our place

289
00:16:32,740 --> 00:16:34,150
where we lived.

290
00:16:34,150 --> 00:16:36,490
And did you-- from where
you lived, could you

291
00:16:36,490 --> 00:16:38,710
hear a machine gun?

292
00:16:38,710 --> 00:16:39,210
Or did--

293
00:16:39,210 --> 00:16:41,160
I don't believe so, no.

294
00:16:41,160 --> 00:16:42,360
I didn't.

295
00:16:42,360 --> 00:16:44,730
If they did machine
gun, they did not

296
00:16:44,730 --> 00:16:48,290
do it right there and then.

297
00:16:48,290 --> 00:16:52,430
And what about the--
your father somehow

298
00:16:52,430 --> 00:16:56,030
was at the railroad and
sorting clothes or something.

299
00:16:56,030 --> 00:16:58,760
That was at the previous time.

300
00:16:58,760 --> 00:17:04,849
We used to wind up working in
Kovno on the main railroad.

301
00:17:04,849 --> 00:17:08,420
And Lithuania was
a place where they

302
00:17:08,420 --> 00:17:12,470
used to bring German
Jews and Austrian Jews

303
00:17:12,470 --> 00:17:16,040
to be liquidated
on the Ninth Fort.

304
00:17:16,040 --> 00:17:20,690
And we used to do plain
labor on the railroad.

305
00:17:20,690 --> 00:17:28,369
And we saw once a whole
contingent of German Jews

306
00:17:28,369 --> 00:17:29,180
who came in.

307

00:17:29,180 --> 00:17:31,730
And they were brought
in in regular cars,

308
00:17:31,730 --> 00:17:33,530
not in cattle cars.

309
00:17:33,530 --> 00:17:37,070
The Germans tried to maintain
that lie all the way,

310
00:17:37,070 --> 00:17:39,830
because they figured it's
probably much easier to deal

311
00:17:39,830 --> 00:17:41,570
with the people this way.

312
00:17:41,570 --> 00:17:44,430
When those people
came and we saw them,

313
00:17:44,430 --> 00:17:48,080
we try to tell them that--

314
00:17:48,080 --> 00:17:51,020
try to blend in amongst us.

315
00:17:51,020 --> 00:17:54,350
We have no idea what's going
to happen to us tomorrow.

316
00:17:54,350 --> 00:17:56,690
But today, we seem to be safe.

317
00:17:56,690 --> 00:17:59,210
And if they would have
blended in amongst us,

318
00:17:59,210 --> 00:18:01,490
they could have gone back
to the ghetto at night

319

00:18:01,490 --> 00:18:05,650
and be safe for the moment.

320

00:18:05,650 --> 00:18:07,430
The German Jews
were very arrogant.

321

00:18:07,430 --> 00:18:10,000
They didn't believe
us, because they really

322

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:11,650
put themselves apart.

323

00:18:11,650 --> 00:18:13,930
They used to call
us [NON-ENGLISH]..

324

00:18:13,930 --> 00:18:15,640
And themselves,
they used to refer

325

00:18:15,640 --> 00:18:18,970
to as German of the
Hebraic persuasion.

326

00:18:18,970 --> 00:18:24,370
And they actually wound up
being killed the same evening

327

00:18:24,370 --> 00:18:25,840
at the Ninth Fort.

328

00:18:25,840 --> 00:18:29,140
And subsequently, when we
worked on the railroad,

329

00:18:29,140 --> 00:18:32,590
we used to wind up
sorting out clothes,

330

00:18:32,590 --> 00:18:35,770

which the German very
neatly packed up and did

331
00:18:35,770 --> 00:18:37,330
whatever they wanted with them.

332
00:18:37,330 --> 00:18:39,790
And my father knew
certain people

333
00:18:39,790 --> 00:18:42,230
from Germany and from
Austria from before the war.

334
00:18:42,230 --> 00:18:45,340
And we actually came up
with clothing with the names

335
00:18:45,340 --> 00:18:46,300
which we recognized.

336
00:18:46,300 --> 00:18:52,120

337
00:18:52,120 --> 00:18:58,650
Back to how the ghetto then
settled down into a routine

338
00:18:58,650 --> 00:18:59,630
after that.

339
00:18:59,630 --> 00:19:00,610
Yeah.

340
00:19:00,610 --> 00:19:04,630
The ghetto settled into
a lull, into a routine.

341
00:19:04,630 --> 00:19:09,370
And there was a lot of work
being done for the Germans

342

00:19:09,370 --> 00:19:10,000
in the ghetto.

343
00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:13,960
We had shops.

344
00:19:13,960 --> 00:19:17,110
And we also had a trade school.

345
00:19:17,110 --> 00:19:21,190
The trade school was
designed in order

346
00:19:21,190 --> 00:19:25,270
to somehow convince the Germans
that, if they let the trade

347
00:19:25,270 --> 00:19:29,560
school go on, the children who
are going to learn the trade

348
00:19:29,560 --> 00:19:34,060
are subsequently going to be
able to provide useful labor

349
00:19:34,060 --> 00:19:37,050
for the German army.

350
00:19:37,050 --> 00:19:41,670
And the man who actually
started this whole school

351
00:19:41,670 --> 00:19:43,710
used to be the director of ORT.

352
00:19:43,710 --> 00:19:48,610
ORT is an American organization
before the war in Lithuania.

353
00:19:48,610 --> 00:19:50,730
His name was Orlinsky.

354

00:19:50,730 --> 00:19:52,650
And that was a school
where they taught you

355
00:19:52,650 --> 00:19:58,400
how to be a
locksmith, carpentry,

356
00:19:58,400 --> 00:20:02,480
and other things, trades.

357
00:20:02,480 --> 00:20:04,700
I was lucky enough
to also having

358
00:20:04,700 --> 00:20:07,480
gone into that trade school.

359
00:20:07,480 --> 00:20:11,530
When I was there, I learned
how to be a locksmith.

360
00:20:11,530 --> 00:20:17,850
I also learned how to
do very fine carpentry.

361
00:20:17,850 --> 00:20:20,820
And after a while,
I was good enough

362
00:20:20,820 --> 00:20:24,360
that I went to work in the
shops, which was obviously

363
00:20:24,360 --> 00:20:25,920
a safer place.

364
00:20:25,920 --> 00:20:30,000
While I was in the shops,
I did a lot of dollhouses.

365
00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:34,440
My expertise became dollhouses

for higher ranking Germans

366
00:20:34,440 --> 00:20:37,650
to the point they used to bring
photographs of their houses.

367
00:20:37,650 --> 00:20:40,200
I used to scale them
and build a dollhouse

368
00:20:40,200 --> 00:20:42,540
to mimic their house--

369
00:20:42,540 --> 00:20:49,260
furniture, electricity inside,
very, very elaborate setups.

370
00:20:49,260 --> 00:20:52,890
And tell me why it
was safe if you--

371
00:20:52,890 --> 00:20:57,040
Well, when you are in this type
of a mode, you were useful.

372
00:20:57,040 --> 00:20:58,920
You did things.

373
00:20:58,920 --> 00:21:04,240
So as long as that regime in
the ghetto administration,

374
00:21:04,240 --> 00:21:10,330
the German regime remained
as is, you felt safe.

375
00:21:10,330 --> 00:21:11,670
I don't know if it was safe.

376
00:21:11,670 --> 00:21:14,730
Obviously, eventually
it was proven it wasn't.

377
00:21:14,730 --> 00:21:15,770
But it felt safe.

378
00:21:15,770 --> 00:21:20,260

379
00:21:20,260 --> 00:21:23,150
What about fun in the ghetto?

380
00:21:23,150 --> 00:21:26,510
The ghetto had an orchestra.

381
00:21:26,510 --> 00:21:28,630
And it so happens that
the first violinist

382
00:21:28,630 --> 00:21:31,550
of the orchestra of the
ghetto didn't have a bow.

383
00:21:31,550 --> 00:21:34,300
And I gave him the
bow which I had

384
00:21:34,300 --> 00:21:36,254
when I was a child,
because when I

385
00:21:36,254 --> 00:21:38,860
was a child, besides
going to regular school,

386
00:21:38,860 --> 00:21:40,480
I also went to music school.

387
00:21:40,480 --> 00:21:42,580
And I took the
violin and the piano.

388
00:21:42,580 --> 00:21:46,600
And somehow, my bow and my
violin wound up in the ghetto.

389

00:21:46,600 --> 00:21:51,210

So my violin played in
the ghetto orchestra.

390

00:21:51,210 --> 00:21:53,920

And we had-- I think,
if I remember correctly,

391

00:21:53,920 --> 00:21:56,370

they had some theater.

392

00:21:56,370 --> 00:22:01,920

We tried to maintain inside the
ghetto a semblance of a life.

393

00:22:01,920 --> 00:22:03,750

OK, we have to put
another roll in.

394

00:22:03,750 --> 00:22:05,300

Sure.

395

00:22:05,300 --> 00:24:26,000