

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:30,320

2  
00:00:30,320 --> 00:00:30,820  
Four.

3  
00:00:30,820 --> 00:00:39,240

4  
00:00:39,240 --> 00:00:43,020  
In the ghetto, what about books?

5  
00:00:43,020 --> 00:00:48,180  
We hid many books when  
we moved into the ghetto.

6  
00:00:48,180 --> 00:00:50,880  
And in the very  
beginning of the ghetto,

7  
00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:54,840  
I was a very avid reader,  
and I read voraciously.

8  
00:00:54,840 --> 00:00:57,540  
I read Hebrew books,  
I read Yiddish books,

9  
00:00:57,540 --> 00:01:01,170  
I read Russian books,  
Lithuanian books.

10  
00:01:01,170 --> 00:01:04,540  
And we got quite--

11  
00:01:04,540 --> 00:01:07,640  
I got quite a  
education in reading.

12  
00:01:07,640 --> 00:01:09,140  
Because in the very

beginning, there

13  
00:01:09,140 --> 00:01:12,600  
was nothing to do so we  
read books and played cards

14  
00:01:12,600 --> 00:01:14,460  
as children.

15  
00:01:14,460 --> 00:01:17,130  
Were books forbidden  
in the ghetto?

16  
00:01:17,130 --> 00:01:19,680  
Yes, they were forbidden.

17  
00:01:19,680 --> 00:01:23,070  
But we did bring in books,  
because the inner life

18  
00:01:23,070 --> 00:01:26,850  
of the ghetto was really  
run by the Jewish ghetto

19  
00:01:26,850 --> 00:01:29,190  
police rather than the Germans.

20  
00:01:29,190 --> 00:01:33,360  
The Germans left up most of the  
administration of the ghetto

21  
00:01:33,360 --> 00:01:36,540  
to the Jewish people themselves.

22  
00:01:36,540 --> 00:01:39,860  
They just-- they  
actually had decrees,

23  
00:01:39,860 --> 00:01:45,810  
and the Judenrat used  
to execute the decrees.

24

00:01:45,810 --> 00:01:49,860  
The ghetto police used to  
keep order in the ghetto.

25  
00:01:49,860 --> 00:01:53,670  
But otherwise, all the  
special actions took place,

26  
00:01:53,670 --> 00:01:57,690  
the Germans didn't frequent  
the ghetto that much inside.

27  
00:01:57,690 --> 00:02:04,440  
And were the ghetto police  
pretty much good guys?

28  
00:02:04,440 --> 00:02:07,530  
As a rule, the  
Kovno Ghetto police

29  
00:02:07,530 --> 00:02:10,440  
were reasonably decent people.

30  
00:02:10,440 --> 00:02:15,570  
Some of them were bad, but I  
cannot recollect any atrocities

31  
00:02:15,570 --> 00:02:17,925  
having been committed by  
the ghetto police in Kovno.

32  
00:02:17,925 --> 00:02:20,430

33  
00:02:20,430 --> 00:02:25,050  
And early in the ghetto, were  
the valuables taken away?

34  
00:02:25,050 --> 00:02:27,330  
The valuables were taken away.

35  
00:02:27,330 --> 00:02:33,850  
And the Germans actually

put in so much fear in us,

36

00:02:33,850 --> 00:02:35,950

they said that if we don't  
turn in the valuables,

37

00:02:35,950 --> 00:02:38,980

they have special dogs  
and special equipment

38

00:02:38,980 --> 00:02:40,750

to sniff out the valuables.

39

00:02:40,750 --> 00:02:43,120

And one day, we had to  
return the valuables.

40

00:02:43,120 --> 00:02:46,330

They put up tables,  
and people actually

41

00:02:46,330 --> 00:02:50,865

went and gave all  
their valuables away.

42

00:02:50,865 --> 00:02:53,410

I know we did.

43

00:02:53,410 --> 00:02:56,050

Some people who  
didn't believe them

44

00:02:56,050 --> 00:03:00,040

probably didn't turn everything  
in, but the fear was so great

45

00:03:00,040 --> 00:03:02,840

and the belief that they  
can sniff everything out

46

00:03:02,840 --> 00:03:10,770

was so proper, that  
people turned them out.

47  
00:03:10,770 --> 00:03:16,580  
And did you do any  
organizing for food,

48  
00:03:16,580 --> 00:03:18,050  
any trading, any smuggling?

49  
00:03:18,050 --> 00:03:22,100  
Yes, we did a lot  
of trading for food

50  
00:03:22,100 --> 00:03:24,710  
with the Lithuanian peasants.

51  
00:03:24,710 --> 00:03:29,960  
My father had a tremendous  
amount of very good clothing,

52  
00:03:29,960 --> 00:03:34,340  
suits, shirts, and whatnot,  
and we traded it for food

53  
00:03:34,340 --> 00:03:37,220  
with the peasants  
for quite a while.

54  
00:03:37,220 --> 00:03:39,710  
Do you remember how you did  
it, where you went and--

55  
00:03:39,710 --> 00:03:46,400  
We actually traded it  
by going to the fence.

56  
00:03:46,400 --> 00:03:49,670  
And they made  
holes in the fence,

57  
00:03:49,670 --> 00:03:53,270  
and you used to give  
them goods and they

58

00:03:53,270 --> 00:03:58,665  
used to give back potatoes and  
turnips and bacon and whatnot.

59

00:03:58,665 --> 00:04:02,370

60

00:04:02,370 --> 00:04:05,630  
And so, in terms of  
your health, were you--

61

00:04:05,630 --> 00:04:07,490  
did you have enough food?

62

00:04:07,490 --> 00:04:09,770  
The Kovno Ghetto,  
I don't believe

63

00:04:09,770 --> 00:04:12,800  
that people actually starved.

64

00:04:12,800 --> 00:04:14,990  
We didn't have any  
luxurious food,

65

00:04:14,990 --> 00:04:20,990  
but we had enough of  
potatoes, legumes, and food

66

00:04:20,990 --> 00:04:25,310  
of that nature that people had  
enough to sustain themselves.

67

00:04:25,310 --> 00:04:28,580  
The Kovno Ghetto did not have  
the mass starvation, which

68

00:04:28,580 --> 00:04:31,730  
places like Lodz or Warsaw had.

69

00:04:31,730 --> 00:04:34,370  
And what about celebrations?

70  
00:04:34,370 --> 00:04:38,270  
Did you have religious--

71  
00:04:38,270 --> 00:04:42,890  
We managed to  
celebrate our holidays.

72  
00:04:42,890 --> 00:04:46,340  
We were never-- my family  
was never very religious.

73  
00:04:46,340 --> 00:04:49,680  
So religion as such  
never played a big role,

74  
00:04:49,680 --> 00:04:53,660  
but we celebrated holidays  
in a traditional way.

75  
00:04:53,660 --> 00:05:00,440  
And that, people still  
managed, somehow, to continue.

76  
00:05:00,440 --> 00:05:03,040  
And how did you--

77  
00:05:03,040 --> 00:05:04,700  
were you able to  
cook special things?

78  
00:05:04,700 --> 00:05:07,310  
Well, the celebrations  
were really

79  
00:05:07,310 --> 00:05:11,032  
defined by a little bit  
more food than maybe--

80  
00:05:11,032 --> 00:05:12,740  
food which was a little  
bit more special.

81

00:05:12,740 --> 00:05:16,500

82

00:05:16,500 --> 00:05:20,130

Other things to  
do with your work,

83

00:05:20,130 --> 00:05:23,670

you worked on the children's  
brigade at a farm once?

84

00:05:23,670 --> 00:05:25,590

I worked on the  
children's brigade.

85

00:05:25,590 --> 00:05:27,780

The name of the farm  
was [? Marva, ?]

86

00:05:27,780 --> 00:05:33,360

and my father was actually  
the foreman of that brigade.

87

00:05:33,360 --> 00:05:37,740

And we used to be taken  
by truck to the farm,

88

00:05:37,740 --> 00:05:48,700

and we used to weed gardens, the  
tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage,

89

00:05:48,700 --> 00:05:50,900

potatoes, and whatnot.

90

00:05:50,900 --> 00:05:54,220

And that was a reasonably  
good place to work,

91

00:05:54,220 --> 00:05:58,430

because while you were doing  
it you had enough food.

92



00:05:58,430 --> 00:06:03,370  
The people who oversaw  
us were not the Germans.

93  
00:06:03,370 --> 00:06:05,350  
They were actually  
farmers themselves

94  
00:06:05,350 --> 00:06:09,160  
who essentially contracted  
us to work for them,

95  
00:06:09,160 --> 00:06:12,530  
and they paid the  
Germans certain monies.

96  
00:06:12,530 --> 00:06:14,360  
And so did you eat  
food while you were--

97  
00:06:14,360 --> 00:06:15,710  
Yes, yes.

98  
00:06:15,710 --> 00:06:16,940  
We could-- we ate food.

99  
00:06:16,940 --> 00:06:20,600  
We eat vegetables,  
and also, we managed

100  
00:06:20,600 --> 00:06:26,420  
to have the Lithuanians  
cook some cooked food for us

101  
00:06:26,420 --> 00:06:28,730  
for exchanging things.

102  
00:06:28,730 --> 00:06:31,460  
One of the--

103  
00:06:31,460 --> 00:06:33,500  
I was very enterprising  
at that time,

104  
00:06:33,500 --> 00:06:39,560  
and the peasants liked the  
very, very colorful kerchiefs.

105  
00:06:39,560 --> 00:06:41,930  
So I used to make kerchiefs.

106  
00:06:41,930 --> 00:06:45,350  
I used to take white bed sheets,  
cut them up into squares,

107  
00:06:45,350 --> 00:06:48,320  
and I got hold of some paint.

108  
00:06:48,320 --> 00:06:52,040  
I used to make templates and  
make multicolored kerchiefs,

109  
00:06:52,040 --> 00:06:59,120  
and that was a means of  
changing it for food.

110  
00:06:59,120 --> 00:07:06,130  
And you did also some  
work with making valises?

111  
00:07:06,130 --> 00:07:09,610  
When people started  
to be resettled,

112  
00:07:09,610 --> 00:07:11,490  
they didn't know  
really that they

113  
00:07:11,490 --> 00:07:15,860  
were going to be resettled  
to a certain death.

114  
00:07:15,860 --> 00:07:19,420  
So all of a sudden,  
people needed suitcases,

115

00:07:19,420 --> 00:07:22,250

valises, and they  
were not available.

116

00:07:22,250 --> 00:07:26,740

So I have-- when I worked  
in the woodworking shops,

117

00:07:26,740 --> 00:07:29,590

I used to make valises  
out of plywood,

118

00:07:29,590 --> 00:07:31,570

put together four  
pieces of plywood,

119

00:07:31,570 --> 00:07:36,880

put together two backs,  
sew it at a certain place

120

00:07:36,880 --> 00:07:38,500

to make a lead.

121

00:07:38,500 --> 00:07:40,780

And I got hold, I  
remember, of hundreds

122

00:07:40,780 --> 00:07:41,950

of feet of piano hinge.

123

00:07:41,950 --> 00:07:44,530

I don't even remember  
where I got it.

124

00:07:44,530 --> 00:07:49,300

And I used to hinge them and  
make valises and sell them.

125

00:07:49,300 --> 00:07:53,800

Also, one of the items  
which became very important

126

00:07:53,800 --> 00:07:55,360  
were flashlights.

127  
00:07:55,360 --> 00:07:58,510  
Before the war, in  
Lithuania, the flashlights

128  
00:07:58,510 --> 00:08:01,750  
were sheet metal, a round  
flashlight, very similar

129  
00:08:01,750 --> 00:08:03,580  
to the ones we have here.

130  
00:08:03,580 --> 00:08:06,490  
The Germans didn't  
have round batteries.

131  
00:08:06,490 --> 00:08:09,370  
Their batteries were square.

132  
00:08:09,370 --> 00:08:13,030  
So adopting the old  
Lithuanian flashlights

133  
00:08:13,030 --> 00:08:15,790  
to a method which accepts  
the new batteries became

134  
00:08:15,790 --> 00:08:20,920  
a very lucrative business for  
me, and I used to do that.

135  
00:08:20,920 --> 00:08:22,120  
Were you assigned to do it?

136  
00:08:22,120 --> 00:08:22,720  
No, no, no.

137  
00:08:22,720 --> 00:08:25,240  
That was very, very quiet.

138

00:08:25,240 --> 00:08:26,530  
That was clandestine work.

139  
00:08:26,530 --> 00:08:29,710

140  
00:08:29,710 --> 00:08:32,155  
And so who did you sell to?

141  
00:08:32,155 --> 00:08:33,880  
To the people in the ghetto.

142  
00:08:33,880 --> 00:08:37,390  
It was a tremendous--  
bartering was the--

143  
00:08:37,390 --> 00:08:39,340  
whatever you sold, you  
didn't sell for money.

144  
00:08:39,340 --> 00:08:42,760  
You bartered, item  
A for item B--

145  
00:08:42,760 --> 00:08:46,990  
bread for flashlights,  
butter for something else.

146  
00:08:46,990 --> 00:08:48,790  
This is how things went on.

147  
00:08:48,790 --> 00:08:51,410  
Also, combs were not available.

148  
00:08:51,410 --> 00:08:56,070  
So I used to make  
combs out of wood.

149  
00:08:56,070 --> 00:08:58,560  
Because when I worked  
in the workshops,

150

00:08:58,560 --> 00:09:00,795  
I had access to  
machinery and to tools.

151  
00:09:00,795 --> 00:09:03,960

152  
00:09:03,960 --> 00:09:09,300  
And something about  
blowing fuses?

153  
00:09:09,300 --> 00:09:14,340  
Yeah, well, due to the fact that  
all the houses were overloaded

154  
00:09:14,340 --> 00:09:15,840  
and they were never  
really designed

155  
00:09:15,840 --> 00:09:19,600  
for the amount of people  
which lived in them,

156  
00:09:19,600 --> 00:09:23,700  
electricity was very scarce.

157  
00:09:23,700 --> 00:09:27,480  
And one of the items  
for boiling water

158  
00:09:27,480 --> 00:09:29,910  
we used to make  
immersion heaters, which

159  
00:09:29,910 --> 00:09:32,340  
was nothing else but  
two pieces of metal,

160  
00:09:32,340 --> 00:09:35,760  
and you separate them  
with an insulator,

161  
00:09:35,760 --> 00:09:37,590

and you hang a cord on it.

162  
00:09:37,590 --> 00:09:41,880  
And if you have a tiny amount  
of salt or sodium in the water,

163  
00:09:41,880 --> 00:09:44,700  
you create electrolytic  
action, which essentially

164  
00:09:44,700 --> 00:09:46,380  
brings the water to a boil.

165  
00:09:46,380 --> 00:09:49,740  
And that became another  
item which I used to make.

166  
00:09:49,740 --> 00:09:52,980  
And I figured, if I blow  
fuses in the houses,

167  
00:09:52,980 --> 00:09:54,720  
they'll call me to fix it.

168  
00:09:54,720 --> 00:09:58,570  
So I used to blow fuses.

169  
00:09:58,570 --> 00:10:00,750  
I had a little gadget  
which made shorts.

170  
00:10:00,750 --> 00:10:03,570  
And for fixing, I used to  
get bread, butter, potatoes.

171  
00:10:03,570 --> 00:10:06,420

172  
00:10:06,420 --> 00:10:07,410  
OK.

173  
00:10:07,410 --> 00:10:08,430

What about hiding?

174  
00:10:08,430 --> 00:10:09,490  
Did you ever hide?

175  
00:10:09,490 --> 00:10:14,100  
Yeah, we had a lot of  
places, including ours.

176  
00:10:14,100 --> 00:10:16,850  
We had the hiding  
place, which was known

177  
00:10:16,850 --> 00:10:18,870  
in Yiddish as a [YIDDISH].

178  
00:10:18,870 --> 00:10:20,940  
And we had one, too.

179  
00:10:20,940 --> 00:10:26,070  
And whenever things  
got to be very tense,

180  
00:10:26,070 --> 00:10:28,170  
we used to hide over there.

181  
00:10:28,170 --> 00:10:30,660  
In retrospect, under  
closer scrutiny,

182  
00:10:30,660 --> 00:10:33,600  
it would have been  
discovered very easily.

183  
00:10:33,600 --> 00:10:34,710  
Describe it to me.

184  
00:10:34,710 --> 00:10:37,140  
I think we had a--

185  
00:10:37,140 --> 00:10:42,410  
essentially, one of



the rooms, I think,

186  
00:10:42,410 --> 00:10:45,950  
or in the shed or something,  
was made a false wall,

187  
00:10:45,950 --> 00:10:49,400  
and you could open  
it up and go in.

188  
00:10:49,400 --> 00:10:53,440  
And that used to connect,  
somehow, to the basement.

189  
00:10:53,440 --> 00:10:58,150  
And we had over there, we  
made banks out of wood,

190  
00:10:58,150 --> 00:11:01,360  
and we could stay  
there for a while.

191  
00:11:01,360 --> 00:11:03,825  
I think we made use  
of it a couple times.

192  
00:11:03,825 --> 00:11:07,790

193  
00:11:07,790 --> 00:11:08,920  
I think we're almost--

194  
00:11:08,920 --> 00:11:10,840  
we're close to running out.

195  
00:11:10,840 --> 00:11:16,980

196  
00:11:16,980 --> 00:11:18,630  
The hanging?

197  
00:11:18,630 --> 00:11:24,030

That I remember very  
vividly, the hanging of Meck.

198  
00:11:24,030 --> 00:11:26,130  
That was-- I don't  
remember the date,

199  
00:11:26,130 --> 00:11:29,130  
but I remember that  
we all had to gather.

200  
00:11:29,130 --> 00:11:31,830  
And I saw them building  
up a scaffold--

201  
00:11:31,830 --> 00:11:32,958  
or the scaffold--

202  
00:11:32,958 --> 00:11:40,440

203  
00:11:40,440 --> 00:11:41,480  
[INAUDIBLE]

204  
00:11:41,480 --> 00:11:52,706

205  
00:11:52,706 --> 00:11:55,240  
Toward the end, did  
the ghetto change and--

206  
00:11:55,240 --> 00:11:59,440  
The ghetto became, really,  
a concentration camp.

207  
00:11:59,440 --> 00:12:01,870  
Even though physically it  
still looked like the ghetto,

208  
00:12:01,870 --> 00:12:04,150  
but as far as the  
German administration,

209

00:12:04,150 --> 00:12:07,620

it was run as a  
concentration camp already.

210

00:12:07,620 --> 00:12:10,260

And what defined that?

211

00:12:10,260 --> 00:12:14,340

I think what happened--  
the SS, I think,

212

00:12:14,340 --> 00:12:18,570

took over the administration  
of the ghetto,

213

00:12:18,570 --> 00:12:23,620

and the whole atmosphere  
changed drastically.

214

00:12:23,620 --> 00:12:26,650

In what ways did it change?

215

00:12:26,650 --> 00:12:31,750

Number one, prior to that,  
they deported many people.

216

00:12:31,750 --> 00:12:34,360

The ghetto became very small.

217

00:12:34,360 --> 00:12:43,340

And I think that  
they sent people

218

00:12:43,340 --> 00:12:46,850

out to Estonia, to Latvia,  
and elsewhere very often.

219

00:12:46,850 --> 00:12:51,436

And eventually, it  
became really a tiny--

220

00:12:51,436 --> 00:12:53,780

a very-- I don't remember  
how many thousands of people

221  
00:12:53,780 --> 00:12:58,440  
stayed, but it was a far  
cry from how we started.

222  
00:12:58,440 --> 00:13:02,960  
How did you feel as it  
got smaller and smaller?

223  
00:13:02,960 --> 00:13:05,000  
We felt impending doom.

224  
00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:06,920  
But we always felt  
impending doom.

225  
00:13:06,920 --> 00:13:14,300  
We never felt-- fear was an  
emotion which didn't go away

226  
00:13:14,300 --> 00:13:16,220  
from me for four years.

227  
00:13:16,220 --> 00:13:20,800  
So it was more fear,  
more uncertainty.

228  
00:13:20,800 --> 00:13:23,490

229  
00:13:23,490 --> 00:13:27,270  
And so then at the end, the  
Kinder Aktion, you don't--

230  
00:13:27,270 --> 00:13:32,190  
I think that I was tall  
enough and big enough

231  
00:13:32,190 --> 00:13:37,460  
to have really weathered  
the Kinder Aktion.

232

00:13:37,460 --> 00:13:42,710

But I cannot remember any minute  
details, because by that time,

233

00:13:42,710 --> 00:13:45,280

I was already I think  
about 15 years old.

234

00:13:45,280 --> 00:13:47,530

I was rather tall for my age.

235

00:13:47,530 --> 00:13:50,630

And I've worked in the shops.

236

00:13:50,630 --> 00:13:55,400

And at that time, I already  
worked outside of the ghetto.

237

00:13:55,400 --> 00:13:57,260

So you were just outside--

238

00:13:57,260 --> 00:14:00,620

I was outside of that,  
because I remember

239

00:14:00,620 --> 00:14:04,900

I used to go to work  
on the bus depot

240

00:14:04,900 --> 00:14:07,930

to fix buses, all the woodwork.

241

00:14:07,930 --> 00:14:12,150

242

00:14:12,150 --> 00:14:15,390

So then after that,  
that was in March--

243

00:14:15,390 --> 00:14:19,060

1944.

244  
00:14:19,060 --> 00:14:21,170  
And then?

245  
00:14:21,170 --> 00:14:25,460  
By June, I think it was just  
about the summer of 1944

246  
00:14:25,460 --> 00:14:29,960  
when the Soviets started  
approaching Lithuania.

247  
00:14:29,960 --> 00:14:36,880  
And the German decision was to  
quote, unquote, "evacuate us."

248  
00:14:36,880 --> 00:14:37,483  
And this--

249  
00:14:37,483 --> 00:14:40,600  
Describe it to me.

250  
00:14:40,600 --> 00:14:42,350  
As far as I know, we  
knew that the ghetto

251  
00:14:42,350 --> 00:14:45,370  
is going to be  
liquidated, and we

252  
00:14:45,370 --> 00:14:49,960  
had to appear at a certain  
place just with whatever

253  
00:14:49,960 --> 00:14:51,670  
we could carry on us.

254  
00:14:51,670 --> 00:14:55,180  
And we were put  
into freight cars.

255  
00:14:55,180 --> 00:15:03,700

And they close the freight cars, and we started traveling.

256  
00:15:03,700 --> 00:15:06,430  
Was the ghetto burning when you left, or no?

257  
00:15:06,430 --> 00:15:08,980  
I remember the burning of a hospital.

258  
00:15:08,980 --> 00:15:13,890  
I don't remember exactly what happened when we left.

259  
00:15:13,890 --> 00:15:16,380  
Tell me about the burning of the hospital.

260  
00:15:16,380 --> 00:15:19,470  
To the best of my recollection, they just

261  
00:15:19,470 --> 00:15:20,880  
closed up the hospital.

262  
00:15:20,880 --> 00:15:22,680  
They put the hospital on fire, and they

263  
00:15:22,680 --> 00:15:28,780  
burnt everybody inside, doctors, nurses, patients, and whatnot.

264  
00:15:28,780 --> 00:15:30,280  
And how did you see it?

265  
00:15:30,280 --> 00:15:30,880  
How did you--

266  
00:15:30,880 --> 00:15:32,830  
Oh, that you could see.

267

00:15:32,830 --> 00:15:37,310

But I cannot put it  
chronologically at a specific

268

00:15:37,310 --> 00:15:37,810

time.

269

00:15:37,810 --> 00:15:39,640

I don't remember.

270

00:15:39,640 --> 00:15:43,090

And other personal  
memories that you

271

00:15:43,090 --> 00:15:46,920

have of that time, like  
mischiefs that you got into,

272

00:15:46,920 --> 00:15:48,940

or girls that you  
sneaked off to see?

273

00:15:48,940 --> 00:15:50,920

Were there any incidents?

274

00:15:50,920 --> 00:15:55,930

I was too young and too hungry  
that that particular aspect

275

00:15:55,930 --> 00:16:00,190

of life did not really come up.

276

00:16:00,190 --> 00:16:05,100

What about mischief  
that you got into?

277

00:16:05,100 --> 00:16:07,600

I don't think I got  
into any mischief

278

00:16:07,600 --> 00:16:10,510

because we were very



busy trying to survive.

279

00:16:10,510 --> 00:16:13,670

280

00:16:13,670 --> 00:16:15,950

Any other recollections  
that you can

281

00:16:15,950 --> 00:16:19,450

think of from that time period  
that I haven't asked you about?

282

00:16:19,450 --> 00:16:25,050

283

00:16:25,050 --> 00:16:26,960

Well, one of the  
things I can remember,

284

00:16:26,960 --> 00:16:30,080

which is rather important, most  
certainly in my later life,

285

00:16:30,080 --> 00:16:33,290

is in the ghetto  
there was a person who

286

00:16:33,290 --> 00:16:36,780

used to be a mathematics  
professor before the war.

287

00:16:36,780 --> 00:16:40,770

And he insisted that  
I study math with him.

288

00:16:40,770 --> 00:16:43,220

Of course, for  
free, because that

289

00:16:43,220 --> 00:16:46,010

was going to give him  
some sense of reality.

290

00:16:46,010 --> 00:16:49,200

And he told me, if you  
survive, you'll use it.

291

00:16:49,200 --> 00:16:53,030

And if you don't survive,  
then it's unimportant.

292

00:16:53,030 --> 00:16:55,550

I basically had a good  
aptitude for math.

293

00:16:55,550 --> 00:16:58,940

And when I was at the  
end of the ghetto,

294

00:16:58,940 --> 00:17:04,109

I was proficient in math  
to actually college level.

295

00:17:04,109 --> 00:17:06,904

I was one of the few people who  
got into the concentration camp

296

00:17:06,904 --> 00:17:08,654

with a knowledge of  
differential calculus.

297

00:17:08,654 --> 00:17:12,440

298

00:17:12,440 --> 00:17:14,569

When did you-- how  
did he teach you?

299

00:17:14,569 --> 00:17:21,410

Oh, just-- the socialization  
inside of the ghetto was there.

300

00:17:21,410 --> 00:17:22,640

People spoke to people.

301

00:17:22,640 --> 00:17:25,099

I mean, there was no  
separation of people,

302

00:17:25,099 --> 00:17:26,990

because after you  
came from work,

303

00:17:26,990 --> 00:17:30,530

people just  
congregated together.

304

00:17:30,530 --> 00:17:34,910

And that may have been one of  
the reasons why there were very

305

00:17:34,910 --> 00:17:38,160

few, if any, suicides  
in the ghetto,

306

00:17:38,160 --> 00:17:42,050

because there was always  
a community spirit.

307

00:17:42,050 --> 00:17:45,650

And people didn't feel  
singled out in their misery.

308

00:17:45,650 --> 00:17:48,730

309

00:17:48,730 --> 00:17:51,460

So in general, people  
helped each other.

310

00:17:51,460 --> 00:17:55,090

People helped each other and  
people supported each other.

311

00:17:55,090 --> 00:17:59,290

And due to the fact that there  
was a cohesive community,

312

00:17:59,290 --> 00:18:02,320

people did not feel  
abandoned, because whatever

313

00:18:02,320 --> 00:18:05,290

happened happened to a group  
rather than to individuals.

314

00:18:05,290 --> 00:18:08,820

315

00:18:08,820 --> 00:18:09,480

OK.

316

00:18:09,480 --> 00:18:12,390

And what about-- do you remember  
having to wear the yellow star?

317

00:18:12,390 --> 00:18:13,260

Oh, yeah.

318

00:18:13,260 --> 00:18:16,290

That's the-- I had to wear two  
yellow stars, one on the front,

319

00:18:16,290 --> 00:18:18,630

one in the back.

320

00:18:18,630 --> 00:18:20,460

That started in  
the very beginning

321

00:18:20,460 --> 00:18:22,080

after the German occupation.

322

00:18:22,080 --> 00:18:26,250

And that also became a rather  
interesting business of mine,

323

00:18:26,250 --> 00:18:29,310

because I used to make  
yellow stars out of plywood

324

00:18:29,310 --> 00:18:32,800

and connect the front and  
the rear with a string

325

00:18:32,800 --> 00:18:38,280

so people could put it over  
the back and the front.

326

00:18:38,280 --> 00:18:42,980

327

00:18:42,980 --> 00:18:44,870

OK.

328

00:18:44,870 --> 00:18:45,850

Thank you.

329

00:18:45,850 --> 00:18:47,700

Let's cut.

330

00:18:47,700 --> 00:21:15,243