

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:32,250

2
00:00:32,250 --> 00:00:33,240
36, marker one.

3
00:00:33,240 --> 00:00:40,910

4
00:00:40,910 --> 00:00:45,460
Miriam, tell me your
name when you were born,

5
00:00:45,460 --> 00:00:48,550
and where you were
born, and when.

6
00:00:48,550 --> 00:00:53,590
My name is Miriam
Liechtenstein, and I was born

7
00:00:53,590 --> 00:00:58,340
the 13th of August in Memel.

8
00:00:58,340 --> 00:01:02,660
And tell me a little bit
about your family background

9
00:01:02,660 --> 00:01:04,700
and your early life.

10
00:01:04,700 --> 00:01:06,380
We lived in Memel.

11
00:01:06,380 --> 00:01:11,270
My parents came there
after the First World War.

12
00:01:11,270 --> 00:01:17,720
And my father was from Latvia
and my mother from Lithuania.

13
00:01:17,720 --> 00:01:21,920
Both my parents have a
rabbinical background,

14
00:01:21,920 --> 00:01:24,350
generations and generations.

15
00:01:24,350 --> 00:01:27,800
I also had an older brother,
two and a half years older

16
00:01:27,800 --> 00:01:31,160
than I. His name was Marcus.

17
00:01:31,160 --> 00:01:36,440
And we grew up in a very
comfortable, nice home.

18
00:01:36,440 --> 00:01:40,280
We were on the Orthodox side.

19
00:01:40,280 --> 00:01:43,520
And we went to school.

20
00:01:43,520 --> 00:01:46,190
We went to the higher--

21
00:01:46,190 --> 00:01:48,110
to the Gymnasium.

22
00:01:48,110 --> 00:01:51,040
And for the girls,
we were separated.

23
00:01:51,040 --> 00:01:54,440
The girls had one school,
the boys had another school.

24
00:01:54,440 --> 00:02:01,730
And my school was named
Auguste-Viktoria Lyceum.

25

00:02:01,730 --> 00:02:07,580

And there we lived
until March, 1939.

26

00:02:07,580 --> 00:02:11,570

The day, actually, when
Hitler came to take our--

27

00:02:11,570 --> 00:02:13,940

not only the town,
it was like a region.

28

00:02:13,940 --> 00:02:17,750

It was called [LITHUANIAN].

29

00:02:17,750 --> 00:02:20,190

And then we fled.

30

00:02:20,190 --> 00:02:21,690

We went in the morning.

31

00:02:21,690 --> 00:02:25,760

My mother and both kids,
we went to Lithuania.

32

00:02:25,760 --> 00:02:29,150

And my dad still stayed,
because he was a director

33

00:02:29,150 --> 00:02:31,640

of the big textile factory.

34

00:02:31,640 --> 00:02:33,410

And he had the keys.

35

00:02:33,410 --> 00:02:35,900

So he had to go to open.

36

00:02:35,900 --> 00:02:40,830

The owners of the factory had
gone already before to England.

37

00:02:40,830 --> 00:02:45,920

And they had brought
a British man

38

00:02:45,920 --> 00:02:48,500

who was overseeing everything.

39

00:02:48,500 --> 00:02:50,930

And when my dad
came to the factory,

40

00:02:50,930 --> 00:02:53,570

in an hour or two
or three later,

41

00:02:53,570 --> 00:02:56,300

Hitler actually
marched into Memel.

42

00:02:56,300 --> 00:03:01,760

So the director took my dad with
his car with a British flag,

43

00:03:01,760 --> 00:03:05,660

and he brought him over
the border to Lithuania.

44

00:03:05,660 --> 00:03:09,320

And then after that,
my dad came to the stop

45

00:03:09,320 --> 00:03:12,860

where we had made
that was in Schaulen.

46

00:03:12,860 --> 00:03:15,260

We had there relatives.

47

00:03:15,260 --> 00:03:19,760

There we stayed a few days.

48

00:03:19,760 --> 00:03:23,235
And then we went to Ponevezh,
because my dad had his sisters

49
00:03:23,235 --> 00:03:25,100
there and cousins.

50
00:03:25,100 --> 00:03:35,480
And that's where we stayed
until January, 1940.

51
00:03:35,480 --> 00:03:37,100
And then we moved to Kovno.

52
00:03:37,100 --> 00:03:40,370
If we would have stayed
in Ponevezh, we probably--

53
00:03:40,370 --> 00:03:42,920
I wouldn't have
probably sat here now.

54
00:03:42,920 --> 00:03:46,560
Because mostly all
the Jewish population

55
00:03:46,560 --> 00:03:49,355
through all Lithuania was
killed in all the small towns.

56
00:03:49,355 --> 00:03:54,310

57
00:03:54,310 --> 00:04:00,070
And tell me, in Kovno, what you
remember when the Germans came.

58
00:04:00,070 --> 00:04:03,370
And also just before the
changes that you remember.

59
00:04:03,370 --> 00:04:06,040
Well, for us, actually,

it was a big change.

60
00:04:06,040 --> 00:04:10,690
Because I mean, I'm talking
now for me and my brother.

61
00:04:10,690 --> 00:04:13,330
We didn't know the
Lithuanian language too good,

62
00:04:13,330 --> 00:04:15,980
so we couldn't go to school.

63
00:04:15,980 --> 00:04:21,220
So I took a course in
typing and bookkeeping,

64
00:04:21,220 --> 00:04:29,500
and then also in 1940, the
Russians occupied Lithuania.

65
00:04:29,500 --> 00:04:33,940
So I got a job, and they--

66
00:04:33,940 --> 00:04:40,240
they didn't liquidate, they
did all the big factories

67
00:04:40,240 --> 00:04:43,270
and all the stores.

68
00:04:43,270 --> 00:04:47,830
They, oh, what do you call that?

69
00:04:47,830 --> 00:04:50,770
They organized it all together.

70
00:04:50,770 --> 00:04:55,090
So and my dad was really
an expert in textile.

71
00:04:55,090 --> 00:04:59,890

So he got me a job
in that office where

72
00:04:59,890 --> 00:05:07,480
they were liquidating all
those books and supplies.

73
00:05:07,480 --> 00:05:10,720
And so I worked
under a bookkeeper.

74
00:05:10,720 --> 00:05:17,380
And until the war broke out,
that was the 22nd of June.

75
00:05:17,380 --> 00:05:19,940
And it didn't take them--
it took a day or two

76
00:05:19,940 --> 00:05:22,270
and the Germans were there.

77
00:05:22,270 --> 00:05:25,690
So we stayed there.

78
00:05:25,690 --> 00:05:31,340
And you know, I was at that
time still pretty young.

79
00:05:31,340 --> 00:05:36,130
And I thought that I
didn't look too Jewish.

80
00:05:36,130 --> 00:05:41,740
So I went out a little to see
to get some food or things.

81
00:05:41,740 --> 00:05:45,640
And but still, when I stood
in line, the Germans or even

82
00:05:45,640 --> 00:05:48,940
the Lithuanians, came

and they took me out

83
00:05:48,940 --> 00:05:57,640
for labor, to clean some
were the soldiers lived,

84
00:05:57,640 --> 00:06:02,140
or to do other work, to clean
the street, so I don't know.

85
00:06:02,140 --> 00:06:04,210
They always found me.

86
00:06:04,210 --> 00:06:06,790
And that's where,
how long-- and that's

87
00:06:06,790 --> 00:06:14,740
how we lived until there was
an order to go into the ghetto.

88
00:06:14,740 --> 00:06:17,770
Now, in that time
period, were those times

89
00:06:17,770 --> 00:06:21,790
when you got pulled out of
line, were they humiliating you?

90
00:06:21,790 --> 00:06:22,480
Oh, absolutely.

91
00:06:22,480 --> 00:06:24,820
First of all, to work,
to stay in the street

92
00:06:24,820 --> 00:06:26,530
and to clean the street.

93
00:06:26,530 --> 00:06:32,230
And to shout that you,
dirty Jew or Schwartz.

94

00:06:32,230 --> 00:06:34,780

It is very humiliating.

95

00:06:34,780 --> 00:06:38,410

Also, they right

away we gave a order

96

00:06:38,410 --> 00:06:42,490

to wear the Jewish

star in the front

97

00:06:42,490 --> 00:06:45,760

and in the back of your garment.

98

00:06:45,760 --> 00:06:47,890

And you couldn't

walk on the sidewalk,

99

00:06:47,890 --> 00:06:52,990

you had to walk in the street,

you know, close to the curb.

100

00:06:52,990 --> 00:06:55,090

So that was also humiliating.

101

00:06:55,090 --> 00:06:57,550

First of all, everybody

knew that you were.

102

00:06:57,550 --> 00:06:59,860

And whoever passed by--

103

00:06:59,860 --> 00:07:02,030

oh, you dirty Jew.

104

00:07:02,030 --> 00:07:06,490

I also have to tell you that

the Lithuanian population were

105

00:07:06,490 --> 00:07:07,990

very mean.

106

00:07:07,990 --> 00:07:10,690

Before the Germans
even came, they

107

00:07:10,690 --> 00:07:14,320

had killed already hundreds, and
hundreds, and hundreds of Jews

108

00:07:14,320 --> 00:07:17,110

by themselves.

109

00:07:17,110 --> 00:07:20,440

Did you see any of that?

110

00:07:20,440 --> 00:07:23,553

Sure, because it was
in the center of town.

111

00:07:23,553 --> 00:07:24,970

Or it was-- for
instance, one day,

112

00:07:24,970 --> 00:07:29,320

I went out to look up
my brother's friend.

113

00:07:29,320 --> 00:07:34,390

And there, I saw dead
bodies on the street.

114

00:07:34,390 --> 00:07:36,730

He lived in a
section where there

115

00:07:36,730 --> 00:07:39,070

were more religious
people, you know,

116

00:07:39,070 --> 00:07:41,860

with beards and
the special clothes

117

00:07:41,860 --> 00:07:44,080
what the religious people wear.

118
00:07:44,080 --> 00:07:48,010
And those were, unfortunately,
the first ones who

119
00:07:48,010 --> 00:07:49,660
wear very easily picked out.

120
00:07:49,660 --> 00:07:53,400

121
00:07:53,400 --> 00:07:55,560
And the sound of the war.

122
00:07:55,560 --> 00:07:59,180
I mean, when the Germans
actually came, where were you?

123
00:07:59,180 --> 00:08:02,100
And did you hear
anything, see anything?

124
00:08:02,100 --> 00:08:06,250
Well, we were in our apartment.

125
00:08:06,250 --> 00:08:10,560
And we were afraid to go out,
because we had heard already

126
00:08:10,560 --> 00:08:15,210
some very bad stories
about the Germans

127
00:08:15,210 --> 00:08:17,700
and how they dealt
with the Jews.

128
00:08:17,700 --> 00:08:19,230
And we were really afraid.

129

00:08:19,230 --> 00:08:22,710
So we stuck more to the house.

130
00:08:22,710 --> 00:08:25,380
Therefore, I said that
I went out a little bit.

131
00:08:25,380 --> 00:08:29,040
Because I felt, you know,
because my mother at that time,

132
00:08:29,040 --> 00:08:32,950
she was not very sure
of herself to go.

133
00:08:32,950 --> 00:08:38,169
And so I was the
one who went out.

134
00:08:38,169 --> 00:08:42,929
In fact, I had an
aunt and a cousin.

135
00:08:42,929 --> 00:08:45,840
And the cousin was married.

136
00:08:45,840 --> 00:08:48,150
And there was also
a brother from--

137
00:08:48,150 --> 00:08:52,440
I mean, another
cousin, a male cousin.

138
00:08:52,440 --> 00:08:58,620
And both my cousin and the
husband from my other cousin,

139
00:08:58,620 --> 00:09:00,450
they were taken away.

140
00:09:00,450 --> 00:09:05,880
And when they were taken away,

my aunt, and her daughter,

141
00:09:05,880 --> 00:09:10,220
and the two children,
they came to live with us.

142
00:09:10,220 --> 00:09:13,880
And one day, somebody
rang our bell,

143
00:09:13,880 --> 00:09:17,360
and there was a Lithuanian
soldier standing.

144
00:09:17,360 --> 00:09:22,610
And he asked for my cousin,
you know, for Mrs. Feinberg.

145
00:09:22,610 --> 00:09:26,030
And when she came to the
door, he said, come with me

146
00:09:26,030 --> 00:09:28,370
and you can see your husband.

147
00:09:28,370 --> 00:09:29,820
So she was afraid to go.

148
00:09:29,820 --> 00:09:31,970
So I went along with her.

149
00:09:31,970 --> 00:09:34,790
And he took us to a courtyard.

150
00:09:34,790 --> 00:09:38,090
And there we really,
actually saw him.

151
00:09:38,090 --> 00:09:41,660
And he, at that time,
said that it's very bad,

152

00:09:41,660 --> 00:09:44,660
and said he is together
with her brother.

153
00:09:44,660 --> 00:09:49,010
But he doubted that we
would see each other again.

154
00:09:49,010 --> 00:09:50,510
And then we went back.

155
00:09:50,510 --> 00:09:52,560
And that was really true.

156
00:09:52,560 --> 00:09:54,290
We didn't see them anymore.

157
00:09:54,290 --> 00:09:56,300
They were killed on
the Seventh Fort.

158
00:09:56,300 --> 00:09:59,100

159
00:09:59,100 --> 00:09:59,600
OK.

160
00:09:59,600 --> 00:10:04,410
And then when we went to the
ghetto, we all went together.

161
00:10:04,410 --> 00:10:05,960
But we had separate--

162
00:10:05,960 --> 00:10:08,210
you know, you couldn't
choose your apartment

163
00:10:08,210 --> 00:10:09,920
or where you wanted to live.

164
00:10:09,920 --> 00:10:11,430

You were assigned.

165

00:10:11,430 --> 00:10:16,400

So we were assigned to one place
and my cousin, and my aunt,

166

00:10:16,400 --> 00:10:19,340

and my cousin's
two small children,

167

00:10:19,340 --> 00:10:22,070

they were assigned
to another apartment.

168

00:10:22,070 --> 00:10:26,850

But we were always very
close and we stuck together.

169

00:10:26,850 --> 00:10:30,770

Tell me about moving
into the ghetto.

170

00:10:30,770 --> 00:10:37,400

Well, that was really not a big
deal, because we came to Kovno,

171

00:10:37,400 --> 00:10:41,180

and all our stuff,
we had left in Memel.

172

00:10:41,180 --> 00:10:43,250

So too much, we didn't have.

173

00:10:43,250 --> 00:10:52,290

So we rented a little wagon
and we took there the few beds

174

00:10:52,290 --> 00:10:57,110

what we had and our personal
belongings, the clothes.

175

00:10:57,110 --> 00:10:59,330

And that's how we

went, in a few parts.

176
00:10:59,330 --> 00:11:01,760
And that's how we
went into the ghetto.

177
00:11:01,760 --> 00:11:05,870
And it was a sight,
you know, what you saw.

178
00:11:05,870 --> 00:11:10,430
Only wagon, wagon after
wagon on the whole street.

179
00:11:10,430 --> 00:11:14,990
And the place where we went,
it was called Slabodke.

180
00:11:14,990 --> 00:11:16,970
And at that time, they didn't--

181
00:11:16,970 --> 00:11:17,795
it wasn't paved.

182
00:11:17,795 --> 00:11:20,180
There were cobblestones.

183
00:11:20,180 --> 00:11:22,270
And that's how we moved into.

184
00:11:22,270 --> 00:11:25,210

185
00:11:25,210 --> 00:11:27,490
OK, we're just about to run out.

186
00:11:27,490 --> 00:11:29,607
We have to put
another roll of film.

187
00:11:29,607 --> 00:11:41,550

188
00:11:41,550 --> 00:11:42,300
Seven, mark two.

189
00:11:42,300 --> 00:11:48,200

190
00:11:48,200 --> 00:11:51,340
Did you feel a certain safety
after the ghetto got formed?

191
00:11:51,340 --> 00:11:54,200
Or did everything
turn upside down?

192
00:11:54,200 --> 00:11:55,850
Well, it turned upside down.

193
00:11:55,850 --> 00:11:57,980
First of all, I'll
tell you, we were also

194
00:11:57,980 --> 00:12:01,190
like strangers in
that Jewish community

195
00:12:01,190 --> 00:12:03,560
because we didn't
know too many people.

196
00:12:03,560 --> 00:12:05,540
We came from Memel.

197
00:12:05,540 --> 00:12:09,180
We lived only in
Kovno like a year.

198
00:12:09,180 --> 00:12:11,480
And at that time,
it was also already

199
00:12:11,480 --> 00:12:12,830

the Russians were there.

200

00:12:12,830 --> 00:12:16,190

So nobody felt really very safe.

201

00:12:16,190 --> 00:12:19,370

And not safe, but you
didn't socialize too much.

202

00:12:19,370 --> 00:12:24,140

Because under the Russians, you
were always afraid who can talk

203

00:12:24,140 --> 00:12:26,100

and who can say something.

204

00:12:26,100 --> 00:12:29,970

So we really felt
like strangers.

205

00:12:29,970 --> 00:12:31,590

We didn't have too many.

206

00:12:31,590 --> 00:12:34,860

And there was also no time
to socialize in the ghetto.

207

00:12:34,860 --> 00:12:37,320

You got up in the
morning, you went to work,

208

00:12:37,320 --> 00:12:39,180

you came back in the evening.

209

00:12:39,180 --> 00:12:43,920

And the only thing is that--
and that we realized later,

210

00:12:43,920 --> 00:12:46,350

that we were all together.

211

00:12:46,350 --> 00:12:48,570

And we still had
our own clothes.

212
00:12:48,570 --> 00:12:51,450
That if it rained,
and the next day, you

213
00:12:51,450 --> 00:12:53,130
could put on something else.

214
00:12:53,130 --> 00:12:56,510
Where later in the
camp, you couldn't.

215
00:12:56,510 --> 00:12:58,350
So that was.

216
00:12:58,350 --> 00:13:04,200
But otherwise, we really--
we didn't, you know.

217
00:13:04,200 --> 00:13:09,510
And at the beginning
there were Actions.

218
00:13:09,510 --> 00:13:14,760
Did you know about any
before the Great Action?

219
00:13:14,760 --> 00:13:15,360
Oh, sure.

220
00:13:15,360 --> 00:13:20,730
There was the one when
they took out the 500 men.

221
00:13:20,730 --> 00:13:23,310
And at that time, I even--

222
00:13:23,310 --> 00:13:26,670
I don't know if you call it
boyfriend or not, but anyhow.

223

00:13:26,670 --> 00:13:29,580

There was a boy, you
know, who I knew,

224

00:13:29,580 --> 00:13:32,580

and I went out with
him a few times.

225

00:13:32,580 --> 00:13:36,420

And he was taken
away in the 500.

226

00:13:36,420 --> 00:13:38,790

But you know, people,
when you live,

227

00:13:38,790 --> 00:13:42,540

and you always want to
believe the better part.

228

00:13:42,540 --> 00:13:44,460

And at that time,
they said that they'll

229

00:13:44,460 --> 00:13:46,750

take them to sort books.

230

00:13:46,750 --> 00:13:50,850

They wanted more or less like
people who are intelligent,

231

00:13:50,850 --> 00:13:54,880

that to read books, and to
make a library, and to do this,

232

00:13:54,880 --> 00:13:56,920

and to do that.

233

00:13:56,920 --> 00:14:00,630

And then when I worked--

234

00:14:00,630 --> 00:14:02,520

I mean, I'm going off now.

235

00:14:02,520 --> 00:14:06,780

But when I worked at the
commander from the ghetto,

236

00:14:06,780 --> 00:14:09,030

his father once came over.

237

00:14:09,030 --> 00:14:11,280

And he said, you
know, you are working.

238

00:14:11,280 --> 00:14:16,110

Ask it might be he could know
where he is, or it might be he

239

00:14:16,110 --> 00:14:18,450

could even bring him back.

240

00:14:18,450 --> 00:14:21,210

So I didn't ask him directly.

241

00:14:21,210 --> 00:14:27,050

But the commander, he had
like a valet, you know,

242

00:14:27,050 --> 00:14:32,070

who took care of this when
they were not in one place.

243

00:14:32,070 --> 00:14:35,075

Otherwise, I mean, I polished
his shoes and all that,

244

00:14:35,075 --> 00:14:37,800

that the valet was sitting.

245

00:14:37,800 --> 00:14:43,110

So I asked him, and then
he came back, and he says--

246

00:14:43,110 --> 00:14:44,850
you know what he said.

247
00:14:44,850 --> 00:14:48,450
First of all, he came back, he
said, well, what is he to you?

248
00:14:48,450 --> 00:14:52,950
So I said, well, he's my
fiance, because I wanted to.

249
00:14:52,950 --> 00:14:54,030
So then he came back.

250
00:14:54,030 --> 00:14:55,530
And he said-- you
know what he said?

251
00:14:55,530 --> 00:14:58,170
That he feels sorry for you.

252
00:14:58,170 --> 00:15:00,420
So you know that they
were gone already,

253
00:15:00,420 --> 00:15:02,625
all the 500 men and boys.

254
00:15:02,625 --> 00:15:06,760

255
00:15:06,760 --> 00:15:11,844
Before we go to that job, let's
talk about the Great Action.

256
00:15:11,844 --> 00:15:12,810
Do you remember that?

257
00:15:12,810 --> 00:15:13,800
Oh, sure I do.

258
00:15:13,800 --> 00:15:17,130

Because that is
actually after my job.

259
00:15:17,130 --> 00:15:20,850

Because that is when I
saved my aunt and my--

260
00:15:20,850 --> 00:15:27,160

because we got a
order that November.

261
00:15:27,160 --> 00:15:30,528

so and so, the 28, I think.

262
00:15:30,528 --> 00:15:31,070

October 28th.

263
00:15:31,070 --> 00:15:34,170

October 28, we
should all assemble,

264
00:15:34,170 --> 00:15:37,330

6 o'clock in that one place.

265
00:15:37,330 --> 00:15:38,640

So we all went.

266
00:15:38,640 --> 00:15:42,540

And you know, at that time, as I
said, we still had our clothes.

267
00:15:42,540 --> 00:15:45,270

And because my dad
was in textile,

268
00:15:45,270 --> 00:15:47,820

we were quite well-dressed.

269
00:15:47,820 --> 00:15:50,730

And we were, I have
to say it myself,

270

00:15:50,730 --> 00:15:53,970
we were quite a very
handsome family.

271
00:15:53,970 --> 00:15:56,220
My dad, and my mother,
and my brother,

272
00:15:56,220 --> 00:16:01,050
we were all
good-looking and tall.

273
00:16:01,050 --> 00:16:06,510
So we were standing, my father
and my brother on the sides,

274
00:16:06,510 --> 00:16:10,110
and we, too, my mother
and I, in the middle.

275
00:16:10,110 --> 00:16:14,070
And in the back was my
aunt, and my cousin,

276
00:16:14,070 --> 00:16:16,660
and her two small children.

277
00:16:16,660 --> 00:16:18,090
And when we went through--

278
00:16:18,090 --> 00:16:19,890
and that I'll really
never forget--

279
00:16:19,890 --> 00:16:21,420
when we went through,
you know, when

280
00:16:21,420 --> 00:16:25,330
we came closer to the German,
he was standing like this,

281
00:16:25,330 --> 00:16:25,830

you know.

282

00:16:25,830 --> 00:16:28,980

And he said, right,
left, right, left.

283

00:16:28,980 --> 00:16:32,100

So he asked us, he said,
is that one family?

284

00:16:32,100 --> 00:16:33,990

And my dad said, yes.

285

00:16:33,990 --> 00:16:37,990

And he said, please,
straight ahead.

286

00:16:37,990 --> 00:16:41,220

So we probably made-- because
for a German to say to a Jew

287

00:16:41,220 --> 00:16:42,280

please.

288

00:16:42,280 --> 00:16:44,970

So we probably made an
impression on him, too.

289

00:16:44,970 --> 00:16:48,270

290

00:16:48,270 --> 00:16:51,150

And then so we went to
the right, you know.

291

00:16:51,150 --> 00:16:54,060

All of a sudden, my dad
turned around, and he said,

292

00:16:54,060 --> 00:16:58,710

you know, the [GERMAN]
isn't here, aunt Sarah.

293

00:16:58,710 --> 00:17:01,410

294

00:17:01,410 --> 00:17:05,430

And all of a sudden, I see, and
there was a group to the left.

295

00:17:05,430 --> 00:17:10,319

And they were surrounded
by Lithuanian police.

296

00:17:10,319 --> 00:17:12,430

And they were there.

297

00:17:12,430 --> 00:17:16,079

So in the corner, I saw
one for whom I had worked.

298

00:17:16,079 --> 00:17:19,230

After the commander, I
worked for somebody else

299

00:17:19,230 --> 00:17:21,450

in that same outfit.

300

00:17:21,450 --> 00:17:22,800

So I ran over.

301

00:17:22,800 --> 00:17:26,220

And when he saw me running over,
he said, Miriam, what happened?

302

00:17:26,220 --> 00:17:27,869

Where's your family?

303

00:17:27,869 --> 00:17:31,480

I said, we are here, but
my aunt is not with us.

304

00:17:31,480 --> 00:17:33,100

He said, come with me.

305

00:17:33,100 --> 00:17:38,090

He went with me in that
group, and we took them out.

306

00:17:38,090 --> 00:17:42,020

And I mean, unfortunately,
they didn't survive.

307

00:17:42,020 --> 00:17:43,850

But at that time, I saved them.

308

00:17:43,850 --> 00:17:47,690

309

00:17:47,690 --> 00:17:56,100

And what happened to the people
who went to the bad side?

310

00:17:56,100 --> 00:17:59,490

To the bad side, there were--
overnight they were taking.

311

00:17:59,490 --> 00:18:03,450

Our ghetto was, when we
started with the ghetto,

312

00:18:03,450 --> 00:18:07,440

there was a small
ghetto and a big ghetto.

313

00:18:07,440 --> 00:18:08,800

So they were all taken.

314

00:18:08,800 --> 00:18:11,130

There were about 10,000 people.

315

00:18:11,130 --> 00:18:13,680

They were taken to
the small ghetto.

316

00:18:13,680 --> 00:18:17,010

And during the night they

were taken to one of the forts

317
00:18:17,010 --> 00:18:19,650
and liquidated.

318
00:18:19,650 --> 00:18:20,700
Did you see any?

319
00:18:20,700 --> 00:18:23,580
Did you see them going
off the road to the forts?

320
00:18:23,580 --> 00:18:25,920
No, those I didn't.

321
00:18:25,920 --> 00:18:30,480
Because mostly, when transports
came, and they brought--

322
00:18:30,480 --> 00:18:32,820
the Germans brought
quite a lot of transport

323
00:18:32,820 --> 00:18:38,550
from Germany and from Austria.

324
00:18:38,550 --> 00:18:41,640
But mostly, it was
done during the night.

325
00:18:41,640 --> 00:18:44,940
Only once, during that,
they brought them.

326
00:18:44,940 --> 00:18:47,400
And probably, they were delayed.

327
00:18:47,400 --> 00:18:52,200
So they took them
over in the morning.

328
00:18:52,200 --> 00:18:56,040

And our ghetto was
surrounded with barbed wire.

329
00:18:56,040 --> 00:18:58,560
And we had our own police.

330
00:18:58,560 --> 00:19:03,390
So when the police saw so
many people going, so they

331
00:19:03,390 --> 00:19:05,850
opened a little, you
know, the barbed wire.

332
00:19:05,850 --> 00:19:07,020
And they said.

333
00:19:07,020 --> 00:19:09,240
I mean, they couldn't say
to everybody, but you know,

334
00:19:09,240 --> 00:19:11,190
a few, come here.

335
00:19:11,190 --> 00:19:12,030
Come in here.

336
00:19:12,030 --> 00:19:13,380
You will be safe.

337
00:19:13,380 --> 00:19:16,290
But you know, the
German Jews, they

338
00:19:16,290 --> 00:19:20,490
thought that to them,
nothing will happen.

339
00:19:20,490 --> 00:19:22,650
They said, oh, no,
we are going to,

340

00:19:22,650 --> 00:19:24,700
as I mentioned,
some kind of a camp.

341
00:19:24,700 --> 00:19:27,270
And they didn't come.

342
00:19:27,270 --> 00:19:29,400
And unfortunately,
they were all killed.

343
00:19:29,400 --> 00:19:32,810

344
00:19:32,810 --> 00:19:36,110
Could you hear machine
guns from where you lived?

345
00:19:36,110 --> 00:19:36,770
No.

346
00:19:36,770 --> 00:19:41,930
But I'll tell you how we knew
that they are bringing people,

347
00:19:41,930 --> 00:19:46,350
or that they'll have an
Action in the ghetto.

348
00:19:46,350 --> 00:19:50,200
They used to come for lime.

349
00:19:50,200 --> 00:19:52,750
You know, that white stuff.

350
00:19:52,750 --> 00:19:57,360
I don't know, it doesn't
make you smell bodies.

351
00:19:57,360 --> 00:20:00,190
And there was, in the
ghetto, there probably

352

00:20:00,190 --> 00:20:02,050

there was a pit from that.

353

00:20:02,050 --> 00:20:05,860

So when we saw those
wagons going with the lime,

354

00:20:05,860 --> 00:20:07,810

we knew that
something will happen.

355

00:20:07,810 --> 00:20:12,310

Or in our ghetto,
or they'll bring,

356

00:20:12,310 --> 00:20:19,420

you know, somebody from
another country to be killed.

357

00:20:19,420 --> 00:20:25,090

And now, tell me how you came
to work for that officer?

358

00:20:25,090 --> 00:20:29,680

Well, when the ghetto was
closed, a couple of days

359

00:20:29,680 --> 00:20:31,670

later, they came.

360

00:20:31,670 --> 00:20:36,010

And they looked for
silver and gold.

361

00:20:36,010 --> 00:20:38,530

And so they went
from house to house.

362

00:20:38,530 --> 00:20:41,980

And it so happened that
the commander probably

363

00:20:41,980 --> 00:20:46,420
must have come, you know,
like fate to our house.

364
00:20:46,420 --> 00:20:51,550
And when he heard us talking
in German between my parents

365
00:20:51,550 --> 00:20:54,730
and us children,
he called me out.

366
00:20:54,730 --> 00:20:57,940
And he said, do you
want to work for me?

367
00:20:57,940 --> 00:21:01,000
And I said, well, I'll have to.

368
00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:04,070
So he even said, you
know, and he said,

369
00:21:04,070 --> 00:21:06,640
don't worry, I won't
go to bed with you,

370
00:21:06,640 --> 00:21:08,660
because that's forbidden.

371
00:21:08,660 --> 00:21:12,120
And he came with two big dogs.

372
00:21:12,120 --> 00:21:14,720
So I said, OK.

373
00:21:14,720 --> 00:21:17,050
So he said, OK, come along.

374
00:21:17,050 --> 00:21:20,440
So he took me right
away with his car.

375

00:21:20,440 --> 00:21:25,030

And he took me out of the
ghetto into his apartment.

376

00:21:25,030 --> 00:21:27,700

And he introduced
me to his valet.

377

00:21:27,700 --> 00:21:31,450

And he said, from
now on, I mean,

378

00:21:31,450 --> 00:21:33,490

you'll be responsible
to him, you know.

379

00:21:33,490 --> 00:21:35,590

And he'll tell you what to do.

380

00:21:35,590 --> 00:21:42,310

And he wrote a note
that I can go by myself

381

00:21:42,310 --> 00:21:45,190

to the ghetto from his house.

382

00:21:45,190 --> 00:21:49,030

And in the morning from
the ghetto to his house.

383

00:21:49,030 --> 00:21:52,120

So I actually was
the first one who

384

00:21:52,120 --> 00:21:59,470

had such a note that I am
allowed to walk by myself.

385

00:21:59,470 --> 00:22:02,210

Because mostly, when
people went to work,

386

00:22:02,210 --> 00:22:05,380
they all went in a big
group like a brigade.

387
00:22:05,380 --> 00:22:08,410
You know, [GERMAN],, used
to be it was called.

388
00:22:08,410 --> 00:22:13,970
And I was the only
one to have that.

389
00:22:13,970 --> 00:22:15,260
And the first one.

390
00:22:15,260 --> 00:22:20,780
I mean, later, some other people
also got jobs individually.

391
00:22:20,780 --> 00:22:23,390
But I was the first
one of the Kovno ghetto

392
00:22:23,390 --> 00:22:28,440
get to have that piece of paper.

393
00:22:28,440 --> 00:22:31,610
In fact, when I came back,
when all those things--

394
00:22:31,610 --> 00:22:34,110
now, you'll remember.

395
00:22:34,110 --> 00:22:38,390
Yeah, and then that day--
no, I went back by myself.

396
00:22:38,390 --> 00:22:42,200
And my parents, they probably
thought that they will never

397
00:22:42,200 --> 00:22:44,000
see me again.

398

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:46,090

So when I--

399

00:22:46,090 --> 00:25:02,315