

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:30,770

2  
00:00:30,770 --> 00:00:31,904  
Part.

3  
00:00:31,904 --> 00:00:33,060  
Oh, setting sticks.

4  
00:00:33,060 --> 00:00:37,780

5  
00:00:37,780 --> 00:00:38,730  
OK.

6  
00:00:38,730 --> 00:00:40,960  
Go ahead and tell me.

7  
00:00:40,960 --> 00:00:43,880  
While we were looking  
a place in the ghetto,

8  
00:00:43,880 --> 00:00:46,960  
I went along once  
with my father.

9  
00:00:46,960 --> 00:00:49,450  
And that was what  
you call Slobodke.

10  
00:00:49,450 --> 00:00:51,350  
The ghetto was in Slobodke.

11  
00:00:51,350 --> 00:00:54,940  
Kovno was like a peninsula.

12  
00:00:54,940 --> 00:00:59,610  
They had two rivers on  
either side of the town.

13

00:00:59,610 --> 00:01:04,220  
And at the end of the town  
that the two rivers met--

14  
00:01:04,220 --> 00:01:09,770  
the one river was the Neman  
the other one the Viliya.

15  
00:01:09,770 --> 00:01:12,680  
Slobodke was on the  
other side of the Viliya.

16  
00:01:12,680 --> 00:01:15,370  
That's where the  
Kovno ghetto was.

17  
00:01:15,370 --> 00:01:19,240  
While going there  
to look for a place

18  
00:01:19,240 --> 00:01:23,160  
that we had to move  
into the ghetto,

19  
00:01:23,160 --> 00:01:29,220  
we walked into some of  
the abandoned houses

20  
00:01:29,220 --> 00:01:33,270  
that Jewish people lived before.

21  
00:01:33,270 --> 00:01:40,290  
And the blood that we saw  
in the beds, beds unmade,

22  
00:01:40,290 --> 00:01:45,140  
cribs full with  
bloodstains in the cribs.

23  
00:01:45,140 --> 00:01:51,620  
And that was right after  
the Germans came in.

24

00:01:51,620 --> 00:01:57,150  
The Lithuanians themselves  
made such a pogrom.

25  
00:01:57,150 --> 00:02:02,960  
They went through Jewish  
houses, killing everybody.

26  
00:02:02,960 --> 00:02:07,340  
Old, young, babies in the cribs.

27  
00:02:07,340 --> 00:02:12,120  
That scene, with the  
blood in the beds

28  
00:02:12,120 --> 00:02:16,730  
and the blood in the cribs,  
this I'll never forget.

29  
00:02:16,730 --> 00:02:22,320  
And that was the  
Lithuanian [YIDDISH],,

30  
00:02:22,320 --> 00:02:26,370  
the Lithuanian murderers  
that committed these things.

31  
00:02:26,370 --> 00:02:29,620

32  
00:02:29,620 --> 00:02:34,330  
Later, we have seen a  
lot of other atrocities.

33  
00:02:34,330 --> 00:02:39,850  
Well, that was one of  
the most horrible scenes

34  
00:02:39,850 --> 00:02:44,060  
that I have seen, even  
throughout the Holocaust.

35  
00:02:44,060 --> 00:02:50,940

36  
00:02:50,940 --> 00:02:56,120  
When you moved into the  
ghetto, were you afraid?

37  
00:02:56,120 --> 00:03:00,380

38  
00:03:00,380 --> 00:03:04,760  
Fear was not the question.

39  
00:03:04,760 --> 00:03:10,530  
We were afraid every  
time we heard footsteps.

40  
00:03:10,530 --> 00:03:13,830  
The joke was that you knew  
when the Germans are coming

41  
00:03:13,830 --> 00:03:16,140  
because they are banging on--

42  
00:03:16,140 --> 00:03:21,220  
the way they were walking, you  
could hear for a block away.

43  
00:03:21,220 --> 00:03:24,010  
The only problem was, in ghetto,  
in the street that we lived,

44  
00:03:24,010 --> 00:03:25,420  
it was not paved.

45  
00:03:25,420 --> 00:03:28,450  
It was sand.

46  
00:03:28,450 --> 00:03:34,190  
But if you saw a German from  
the three blocks away, you hid.

47  
00:03:34,190 --> 00:03:39,970

In ghetto itself, after it  
got to some kind of normality,

48  
00:03:39,970 --> 00:03:44,710  
whatever normality could be in  
ghetto, they did have rations.

49  
00:03:44,710 --> 00:03:49,700  
And they had to supply the  
minimum of bread or whatever,

50  
00:03:49,700 --> 00:03:51,340  
the minimum of--

51  
00:03:51,340 --> 00:03:58,900  
they need trusted and capable  
people to man to the store,

52  
00:03:58,900 --> 00:04:01,600  
to watch the  
bakeries, and so on.

53  
00:04:01,600 --> 00:04:08,680  
My father being a very honored  
and trusted individual, capable

54  
00:04:08,680 --> 00:04:13,850  
businessman, they  
somehow favored him.

55  
00:04:13,850 --> 00:04:16,670  
I'm talking the  
ghetto administration.

56  
00:04:16,670 --> 00:04:18,500  
And gave him an inside job.

57  
00:04:18,500 --> 00:04:20,360  
In order that he should  
not have to go out

58  
00:04:20,360 --> 00:04:23,520  
every day from the

ghetto to work.

59

00:04:23,520 --> 00:04:26,480

But gave him a job in the  
ghetto because they needed him.

60

00:04:26,480 --> 00:04:28,790

They needed somebody  
to trust, who

61

00:04:28,790 --> 00:04:33,710

should administer  
a store where bread

62

00:04:33,710 --> 00:04:40,020

was being divided and given out  
on the rations to the people.

63

00:04:40,020 --> 00:04:42,860

So that was my father's  
job most of the time.

64

00:04:42,860 --> 00:04:48,610

In a store and also,  
later on, a bakery

65

00:04:48,610 --> 00:04:54,280

that he was the, so to speak,  
the manager of the bakery

66

00:04:54,280 --> 00:04:57,700

to watch what's going on,  
that nothing should be stolen,

67

00:04:57,700 --> 00:05:01,890

nothing should be  
done unjustified.

68

00:05:01,890 --> 00:05:03,670

And they trusted him.

69

00:05:03,670 --> 00:05:06,950

And he was taking

care of that job.

70  
00:05:06,950 --> 00:05:11,020  
So that enabled him  
not to have to meet

71  
00:05:11,020 --> 00:05:12,720  
the Germans on a daily basis.

72  
00:05:12,720 --> 00:05:15,740

73  
00:05:15,740 --> 00:05:20,630  
And what about humiliation  
to your father?

74  
00:05:20,630 --> 00:05:22,760  
Tell me about his--

75  
00:05:22,760 --> 00:05:23,340  
Humiliation?

76  
00:05:23,340 --> 00:05:27,420  
Once, while he was in the  
store behind the counter,

77  
00:05:27,420 --> 00:05:30,370  
a German came in.

78  
00:05:30,370 --> 00:05:36,250  
And seeing my father with a  
beard, pulled out his sword,

79  
00:05:36,250 --> 00:05:39,700  
and cut it off, half a beard.

80  
00:05:39,700 --> 00:05:43,390  
And he wanted to go  
further, but somehow,

81  
00:05:43,390 --> 00:05:46,030  
from the outside,

somebody called him.

82  
00:05:46,030 --> 00:05:47,740  
So he left him like this.

83  
00:05:47,740 --> 00:05:51,610  
My father, being a religious  
man, and didn't care.

84  
00:05:51,610 --> 00:05:55,820  
You know, he will  
not give in to the--

85  
00:05:55,820 --> 00:05:58,820  
so he will not even  
straighten out his beard.

86  
00:05:58,820 --> 00:06:00,680  
Half of it was cut off.

87  
00:06:00,680 --> 00:06:04,140  
He took a scarf, wrapped  
it around his face,

88  
00:06:04,140 --> 00:06:06,450  
and that's the  
way he was walking

89  
00:06:06,450 --> 00:06:08,852  
till the beard grow back.

90  
00:06:08,852 --> 00:06:09,810  
But he wouldn't cut it.

91  
00:06:09,810 --> 00:06:13,330

92  
00:06:13,330 --> 00:06:19,660  
Bigger humiliations than  
beatings and spitting

93  
00:06:19,660 --> 00:06:20,710



in your face.

94

00:06:20,710 --> 00:06:24,410

That was even worse.

95

00:06:24,410 --> 00:06:26,380

Yes.

96

00:06:26,380 --> 00:06:30,770

I had cousins and other family  
that were beaten brutally.

97

00:06:30,770 --> 00:06:33,320

I remember one specific  
and older cousin.

98

00:06:33,320 --> 00:06:36,710

I was at the time 11,  
12 years, 13 years.

99

00:06:36,710 --> 00:06:43,910

And a cousin that was 19 came  
with boils from head to toe.

100

00:06:43,910 --> 00:06:46,880

A German, somebody else  
probably wouldn't have survived.

101

00:06:46,880 --> 00:06:49,220

He was a young  
fellow, strong fellow.

102

00:06:49,220 --> 00:06:54,530

And he was black and  
blue from head to toe.

103

00:06:54,530 --> 00:06:57,350

That was a daily occurrence.

104

00:06:57,350 --> 00:07:00,050

105

00:07:00,050 --> 00:07:04,220  
Do you remember one of the  
early Aktions the Intelligentsia

106  
00:07:04,220 --> 00:07:06,270  
Aktion?

107  
00:07:06,270 --> 00:07:12,240  
That was, in the Jewish  
calendar, Marcheshvan,

108  
00:07:12,240 --> 00:07:15,150  
[HEBREW] Marcheshvan, the  
seventh day of the month

109  
00:07:15,150 --> 00:07:17,850  
what you call Marcheshvan.

110  
00:07:17,850 --> 00:07:22,550  
That was the big Aktion  
that everybody had to go out

111  
00:07:22,550 --> 00:07:27,010  
on the big, open field.

112  
00:07:27,010 --> 00:07:31,510  
And they were selecting  
right, left, left, right.

113  
00:07:31,510 --> 00:07:34,340  
At that time, most of  
them were families.

114  
00:07:34,340 --> 00:07:38,980  
They didn't take-- not as  
much breaking up families,

115  
00:07:38,980 --> 00:07:41,740  
but families on one side,  
families on the other side.

116  
00:07:41,740 --> 00:07:44,740  
Fortunately, we were

selected on the right side.

117  
00:07:44,740 --> 00:07:49,040

118  
00:07:49,040 --> 00:07:52,460  
Those that were selected  
on the left side,

119  
00:07:52,460 --> 00:07:56,450  
they pushed in the what you  
call the Kleiner ghetto.

120  
00:07:56,450 --> 00:08:02,090  
The ghetto was a  
big highway, or what

121  
00:08:02,090 --> 00:08:05,540  
were there was a big highway  
went through the ghetto.

122  
00:08:05,540 --> 00:08:08,150  
On one side of the highway  
was a smaller part that

123  
00:08:08,150 --> 00:08:10,040  
was called the Kleiner ghetto.

124  
00:08:10,040 --> 00:08:12,440  
But being that the highway  
had to go through the ghetto,

125  
00:08:12,440 --> 00:08:19,246  
so each part was individually  
wired or fenced in.

126  
00:08:19,246 --> 00:08:24,710  
So those that selected were  
taken in the small ghetto.

127  
00:08:24,710 --> 00:08:26,270  
And the next day in  
the morning, they

128  
00:08:26,270 --> 00:08:30,370  
took them to the Ninth  
Fort and killed them.

129  
00:08:30,370 --> 00:08:34,360  
At that time, I  
understand, 9,000 Jews

130  
00:08:34,360 --> 00:08:37,740  
were killed, I think,  
in the Great Aktion.

131  
00:08:37,740 --> 00:08:39,480  
Do you remember that day?

132  
00:08:39,480 --> 00:08:41,100  
I remember the day vividly.

133  
00:08:41,100 --> 00:08:46,620  
It was still dark outside when  
we went out from the house.

134  
00:08:46,620 --> 00:08:50,800  
And we were all standing  
there for hours.

135  
00:08:50,800 --> 00:08:52,360  
The day was a dismal day.

136  
00:08:52,360 --> 00:08:55,240

137  
00:08:55,240 --> 00:09:02,080  
It wasn't raining but  
was a cold, damp day.

138  
00:09:02,080 --> 00:09:04,700  
And stayed there till  
late in the evening.

139  
00:09:04,700 --> 00:09:07,670

And then we were sent  
back to the house.

140  
00:09:07,670 --> 00:09:13,490  
From my family, my uncle  
[PERSONAL NAME] family,

141  
00:09:13,490 --> 00:09:17,310  
only three children were left  
on the right side, the rest

142  
00:09:17,310 --> 00:09:19,090  
of the family on the left.

143  
00:09:19,090 --> 00:09:21,600  
So these three  
children later moved

144  
00:09:21,600 --> 00:09:25,445  
in with us in the  
two rooms that we

145  
00:09:25,445 --> 00:09:27,330  
had the kitchen and the room.

146  
00:09:27,330 --> 00:09:29,620  
And we partitioned  
of the kitchen.

147  
00:09:29,620 --> 00:09:34,020  
These three slept behind the  
partition in the kitchen.

148  
00:09:34,020 --> 00:09:40,680  
While we, meaning my parents  
and the two more brothers,

149  
00:09:40,680 --> 00:09:44,040  
myself slept in one  
room, in the other room.

150  
00:09:44,040 --> 00:09:47,950  
It means at night, the

room became one bed.

151

00:09:47,950 --> 00:09:49,960

It wasn't a very  
large room, either.

152

00:09:49,960 --> 00:09:53,110

And in the morning, they  
used to put it together

153

00:09:53,110 --> 00:09:55,930

because they wanted to make a  
quorum, a minyan in our house,

154

00:09:55,930 --> 00:09:57,810

even in ghetto.

155

00:09:57,810 --> 00:10:01,350

So everything was pushed  
aside and the 10 people

156

00:10:01,350 --> 00:10:04,140

used to come in and used  
to pray down right there.

157

00:10:04,140 --> 00:10:07,230

158

00:10:07,230 --> 00:10:09,890

Later, they took away  
the books and there was--

159

00:10:09,890 --> 00:10:11,640

they gave up the books.

160

00:10:11,640 --> 00:10:15,180

So we had to hide  
whatever we wanted to.

161

00:10:15,180 --> 00:10:18,270

The few books that we  
kept, we had to hide them,

162

00:10:18,270 --> 00:10:21,340

that god forbid somebody  
shouldn't see it.

163

00:10:21,340 --> 00:10:24,880

And that was the biggest crime.

164

00:10:24,880 --> 00:10:27,130

In the big Aktion,  
do you remember

165

00:10:27,130 --> 00:10:32,500

going past the German  
doing the selecting?

166

00:10:32,500 --> 00:10:34,490

It was a fleeting moment.

167

00:10:34,490 --> 00:10:35,478

It was a go this way.

168

00:10:35,478 --> 00:10:36,520

And that's where we went.

169

00:10:36,520 --> 00:10:39,450

170

00:10:39,450 --> 00:10:44,680

It wasn't that we were  
looked over for hours.

171

00:10:44,680 --> 00:10:46,870

It was a fleeting moment.

172

00:10:46,870 --> 00:10:49,280

It became the line.

173

00:10:49,280 --> 00:10:52,250

We go to the right, we went  
to the right and that's it.

174

00:10:52,250 --> 00:10:54,290  
Did you know-- had  
you already figured

175  
00:10:54,290 --> 00:10:56,540  
out which was the good side?

176  
00:10:56,540 --> 00:11:00,270  
I did not remember figuring  
it out at that time.

177  
00:11:00,270 --> 00:11:05,740  
But after a while, we realized  
that we are on the right side.

178  
00:11:05,740 --> 00:11:09,460

179  
00:11:09,460 --> 00:11:09,970  
OK.

180  
00:11:09,970 --> 00:11:11,833  
We have to put another roll in.

181  
00:11:11,833 --> 00:11:32,046

182  
00:11:32,046 --> 00:11:32,560  
Mark.

183  
00:11:32,560 --> 00:11:33,220  
Three marker.

184  
00:11:33,220 --> 00:11:38,500

185  
00:11:38,500 --> 00:11:42,790  
In the big Aktion, when  
you talked before to Paul,

186  
00:11:42,790 --> 00:11:46,750  
you told him that it looked like



the people doing the selecting

187  
00:11:46,750 --> 00:11:48,700  
and the guarding were  
enjoying their jobs.

188  
00:11:48,700 --> 00:11:49,870  
Is that right?

189  
00:11:49,870 --> 00:11:51,880  
Laughing.

190  
00:11:51,880 --> 00:11:54,010  
To them, it was a joke.

191  
00:11:54,010 --> 00:11:55,510  
They're kidding around.

192  
00:11:55,510 --> 00:11:57,010  
Go here, go there.

193  
00:11:57,010 --> 00:12:00,310  
It was like with  
smiles on their faces.

194  
00:12:00,310 --> 00:12:05,870  
And the biggest joke was  
that people did not know

195  
00:12:05,870 --> 00:12:07,430  
what is right, what is wrong.

196  
00:12:07,430 --> 00:12:09,500  
People did not know  
what's happening.

197  
00:12:09,500 --> 00:12:12,020  
And when the people wanted  
to go the wrong way,

198  
00:12:12,020 --> 00:12:16,133  
and they were laughing, they

made the biggest joke to them.

199

00:12:16,133 --> 00:12:17,050

They did them a favor.

200

00:12:17,050 --> 00:12:19,217

Some day, some people asked  
them to go the other way

201

00:12:19,217 --> 00:12:21,970

because families were separated.

202

00:12:21,970 --> 00:12:24,130

So they-- there was a joke.

203

00:12:24,130 --> 00:12:26,080

You want to go there, go ahead.

204

00:12:26,080 --> 00:12:28,210

They did him a favor.

205

00:12:28,210 --> 00:12:30,880

That was a joke.

206

00:12:30,880 --> 00:12:32,460

There was-- I don't  
remember exactly,

207

00:12:32,460 --> 00:12:35,160

but a few officers that  
was there, standing there.

208

00:12:35,160 --> 00:12:37,470

And of course, a lot of guards.

209

00:12:37,470 --> 00:12:40,230

And that's the way  
it went through.

210

00:12:40,230 --> 00:12:44,016

211  
00:12:44,016 --> 00:12:44,930  
Go ahead.

212  
00:12:44,930 --> 00:12:52,160  
As a result of that big  
Aktion, what we call,

213  
00:12:52,160 --> 00:12:55,610  
people realize that many times--

214  
00:12:55,610 --> 00:12:59,720  
there was a lot of other  
Aktions, even before and after.

215  
00:12:59,720 --> 00:13:04,910  
That if you're not there  
and you survived it,

216  
00:13:04,910 --> 00:13:07,970  
you have a better chance  
to stay surviving instead

217  
00:13:07,970 --> 00:13:10,990  
of going to a selection.

218  
00:13:10,990 --> 00:13:13,935  
So what we started doing  
is make hiding places.

219  
00:13:13,935 --> 00:13:16,980

220  
00:13:16,980 --> 00:13:20,410  
Bunkers as we called.

221  
00:13:20,410 --> 00:13:27,010  
And of course, not every house  
or every place was suitable.

222  
00:13:27,010 --> 00:13:31,180  
So we teamed up with a  
neighbor across the street

223  
00:13:31,180 --> 00:13:35,820  
from us who had a little house.

224  
00:13:35,820 --> 00:13:42,990  
And the water source  
was a well in the yard.

225  
00:13:42,990 --> 00:13:49,200  
And next to the house, maybe  
10, 12 feet away from the house

226  
00:13:49,200 --> 00:13:52,140  
was a barn.

227  
00:13:52,140 --> 00:13:55,080  
That way he kept  
at one time wood

228  
00:13:55,080 --> 00:13:58,530  
if he had anything  
to keep there.

229  
00:13:58,530 --> 00:14:01,710  
So he decided to  
dig up the barn,

230  
00:14:01,710 --> 00:14:07,650  
make like a bunker underneath,  
cover it up with whatever wood

231  
00:14:07,650 --> 00:14:15,610  
he could, and cover it up with  
the dirt, and dig a tunnel.

232  
00:14:15,610 --> 00:14:18,160  
Because once you went  
into that little house,

233  
00:14:18,160 --> 00:14:21,520  
the vestibule had  
like a cold basement.

234

00:14:21,520 --> 00:14:24,370

I mean, it's poured cement.

235

00:14:24,370 --> 00:14:26,260

That was like a basement.

236

00:14:26,260 --> 00:14:30,590

Only small, but just  
under the vestibule.

237

00:14:30,590 --> 00:14:35,550

So they had a trap door  
to get onto that place.

238

00:14:35,550 --> 00:14:40,855

They broke through  
a wall in the cement

239

00:14:40,855 --> 00:14:46,750

and dug a tunnel from there  
to the room that was actually

240

00:14:46,750 --> 00:14:50,050

underneath that barn.

241

00:14:50,050 --> 00:14:53,815

Now, they needed any  
kind of supplies.

242

00:14:53,815 --> 00:14:57,850

So the well was very close by.

243

00:14:57,850 --> 00:15:02,140

So it made it so that they  
took out the first round

244

00:15:02,140 --> 00:15:05,020

from the well,  
covered it up, and put

245

00:15:05,020 --> 00:15:08,380

a well also into the bunker.

246  
00:15:08,380 --> 00:15:09,430  
Not no well.

247  
00:15:09,430 --> 00:15:12,488  
And they were taking  
water from our well

248  
00:15:12,488 --> 00:15:13,655  
that we had in the backyard.

249  
00:15:13,655 --> 00:15:16,640

250  
00:15:16,640 --> 00:15:24,400  
By the Kinderaktion, and  
that was already in '44.

251  
00:15:24,400 --> 00:15:27,550  
In then Jewish date, it was  
two days, the Kinderaktion,

252  
00:15:27,550 --> 00:15:29,980  
that was the third  
and the fourth day

253  
00:15:29,980 --> 00:15:33,100  
of the month of Nisan.

254  
00:15:33,100 --> 00:15:37,310  
We were hidden there  
in that bunker.

255  
00:15:37,310 --> 00:15:44,250  
However, a parent of one of  
the people of another neighbor

256  
00:15:44,250 --> 00:15:48,580  
somehow was found  
somewhere else.

257  
00:15:48,580 --> 00:15:52,000

And in order to be  
released, or what

258  
00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:55,540  
he thought he'll be  
released, he snitched on us

259  
00:15:55,540 --> 00:15:59,350  
so they should let him go.

260  
00:15:59,350 --> 00:16:03,640  
So the second day  
of the Kinderaktion,

261  
00:16:03,640 --> 00:16:07,430  
in the late afternoon,  
all of a sudden,

262  
00:16:07,430 --> 00:16:08,860  
they started  
banging on the wall,

263  
00:16:08,860 --> 00:16:11,798  
because they already  
found this out.

264  
00:16:11,798 --> 00:16:13,590  
They wouldn't have  
found it unless somebody

265  
00:16:13,590 --> 00:16:14,730  
pointed a finger.

266  
00:16:14,730 --> 00:16:16,830  
And that's the one that  
pointed a finger at us.

267  
00:16:16,830 --> 00:16:22,780  
They took us all out and that's  
when my father and my younger

268  
00:16:22,780 --> 00:16:23,920  
brother were taken away.

269  
00:16:23,920 --> 00:16:27,770

270  
00:16:27,770 --> 00:16:33,690  
Before that, when  
I was about 14,

271  
00:16:33,690 --> 00:16:38,010  
that was means two  
years in the ghetto,

272  
00:16:38,010 --> 00:16:42,930  
they also realized that  
if you have a profession

273  
00:16:42,930 --> 00:16:48,600  
or you're employed, you had  
a better chance of survival,

274  
00:16:48,600 --> 00:16:52,780  
at least on a day to day basis.

275  
00:16:52,780 --> 00:16:58,350  
So my father put me in  
the [GERMAN] in ghetto.

276  
00:16:58,350 --> 00:17:01,170  
I should learn a  
trade of tinsmith.

277  
00:17:01,170 --> 00:17:03,990

278  
00:17:03,990 --> 00:17:10,890  
And capable I was and  
picked up very fast.

279  
00:17:10,890 --> 00:17:15,450  
Within a few months, I was  
a full-fledged tinsmith,

280



00:17:15,450 --> 00:17:20,160  
so much so that what we were  
doing there was for hothouses.

281  
00:17:20,160 --> 00:17:26,430  
We used to make the cans,  
the spray cans or milk cans.

282  
00:17:26,430 --> 00:17:36,030  
So it needed turning the  
metal and also a solder iron.

283  
00:17:36,030 --> 00:17:39,220  
I caught on so  
fast that it's not

284  
00:17:39,220 --> 00:17:43,590  
how you holding the solder iron  
or you're leading the solder,

285  
00:17:43,590 --> 00:17:47,010  
but how you apply  
the acid before.

286  
00:17:47,010 --> 00:17:50,440  
And that's how the  
solder will be.

287  
00:17:50,440 --> 00:17:54,550  
When I once brought  
in a utensil finished,

288  
00:17:54,550 --> 00:17:56,410  
it was only about  
two months after I

289  
00:17:56,410 --> 00:17:59,020  
started, not even two months.

290  
00:17:59,020 --> 00:18:01,810  
And I showed him  
that I finished it.

291

00:18:01,810 --> 00:18:03,228  
The foreman couldn't believe it.

292  
00:18:03,228 --> 00:18:04,020  
You couldn't do it.

293  
00:18:04,020 --> 00:18:05,350  
He wouldn't trust me.

294  
00:18:05,350 --> 00:18:10,280  
He accused me that somebody  
else did it for me.

295  
00:18:10,280 --> 00:18:14,020  
Till he went in  
the shop with me,

296  
00:18:14,020 --> 00:18:17,320  
and I showed him how I solder.

297  
00:18:17,320 --> 00:18:20,860  
That just like a string.

298  
00:18:20,860 --> 00:18:23,620  
That convinced him  
there that I did it.

299  
00:18:23,620 --> 00:18:29,100  
And a month later, he made me  
the foreman for the whole shop.

300  
00:18:29,100 --> 00:18:35,440  
That was what I did in  
the ghetto after I was 14.

301  
00:18:35,440 --> 00:18:37,950  
My father worked  
during that time,

302  
00:18:37,950 --> 00:18:40,870  
as I said before, in the bakery.

303

00:18:40,870 --> 00:18:43,930  
But when they were  
short in people

304  
00:18:43,930 --> 00:18:48,220  
to send out for certain jobs  
outside of the ghetto and they

305  
00:18:48,220 --> 00:18:50,530  
didn't have enough who to send.

306  
00:18:50,530 --> 00:18:53,060  
And they had, let's say the  
demand was that they give me

307  
00:18:53,060 --> 00:18:56,980  
60 men, or 100 men, or 300  
men, and they were short,

308  
00:18:56,980 --> 00:18:58,870  
they grabbed  
whatever they could.

309  
00:18:58,870 --> 00:19:03,160  
So even my father, who was  
employed in the ghetto,

310  
00:19:03,160 --> 00:19:05,320  
had to go outside.

311  
00:19:05,320 --> 00:19:07,932  
Usually he did not go  
outside the ghetto.

312  
00:19:07,932 --> 00:19:11,790  
The problem was that  
this was a winter.

313  
00:19:11,790 --> 00:19:15,840  
And they used to go out  
when it was dark and used

314  
00:19:15,840 --> 00:19:17,880

to come back when it was dark.

315

00:19:17,880 --> 00:19:20,640

And here, my father  
was very religious,

316

00:19:20,640 --> 00:19:24,210

and he had to put  
on the tefillin.

317

00:19:24,210 --> 00:19:28,530

During the day, not during the  
night, you cannot put it on.

318

00:19:28,530 --> 00:19:30,870

So he needed to put on the  
tefillin in the morning

319

00:19:30,870 --> 00:19:35,010

before he went out,  
put a forehead on top

320

00:19:35,010 --> 00:19:35,880

of the tefillin.

321

00:19:35,880 --> 00:19:37,200

A forehead.

322

00:19:37,200 --> 00:19:41,360

And a whole day, he  
used to work like that,

323

00:19:41,360 --> 00:19:42,740

and came back at night.

324

00:19:42,740 --> 00:19:44,450

That is torture.

325

00:19:44,450 --> 00:19:47,330

Because anybody knows  
that there are certain

326

00:19:47,330 --> 00:19:49,762  
limitations,  
certain restrictions

327  
00:19:49,762 --> 00:19:51,470  
what you can do within  
the tefillin, when

328  
00:19:51,470 --> 00:19:53,450  
you wear the tefillin.

329  
00:19:53,450 --> 00:19:57,930  
And that is torture, but  
few times he had to do it.

330  
00:19:57,930 --> 00:20:02,270  
Otherwise, he was not exposed  
to the outside of the ghetto.

331  
00:20:02,270 --> 00:20:05,120

332  
00:20:05,120 --> 00:20:08,630  
In the house, was it cold?

333  
00:20:08,630 --> 00:20:15,350  
In the house, we had a oven  
that was heated by wood.

334  
00:20:15,350 --> 00:20:18,740  
And the back of it  
was in the other room

335  
00:20:18,740 --> 00:20:20,570  
in between the two rooms.

336  
00:20:20,570 --> 00:20:23,870  
And the same over we  
used to bake some things.

337  
00:20:23,870 --> 00:20:28,190  
And being, like I say,  
my father in the bakery,

338  
00:20:28,190 --> 00:20:30,500  
so we probably had maybe  
a little bit better

339  
00:20:30,500 --> 00:20:32,120  
than most people.

340  
00:20:32,120 --> 00:20:34,810

341  
00:20:34,810 --> 00:20:39,010  
But in the house,  
the cold of the house

342  
00:20:39,010 --> 00:20:41,470  
was more or less bearable.

343  
00:20:41,470 --> 00:20:43,390  
We managed the best we could.

344  
00:20:43,390 --> 00:20:46,510  
Of course, it was  
not comfortable.

345  
00:20:46,510 --> 00:20:50,720  
But manageable, according  
to the ghetto standard.

346  
00:20:50,720 --> 00:20:54,210

347  
00:20:54,210 --> 00:21:00,322  
At one summer, I  
remember, we had nowhere

348  
00:21:00,322 --> 00:21:01,155  
to put the garbages.

349  
00:21:01,155 --> 00:21:04,760

350

00:21:04,760 --> 00:21:08,660

So in the backyards, these  
houses were separate,

351

00:21:08,660 --> 00:21:12,350

and each one was the  
small houses on lots.

352

00:21:12,350 --> 00:21:19,970

So those backyards, the toilets  
were a separate little house

353

00:21:19,970 --> 00:21:21,860

in the backyard.

354

00:21:21,860 --> 00:21:25,268

And when they used to  
dig a hole for garbage,

355

00:21:25,268 --> 00:21:26,060

to put the garbage.

356

00:21:26,060 --> 00:21:30,560

But when the hole were filled  
up, you covered it with dirt,

357

00:21:30,560 --> 00:21:32,880

and dug a hole next to it.

358

00:21:32,880 --> 00:21:34,800

And that's the way  
you go around to it,

359

00:21:34,800 --> 00:21:37,950

to get rid of the rubbish.

360

00:21:37,950 --> 00:21:42,430

One summer or spring morning,  
I go out, and I take a look.

361

00:21:42,430 --> 00:21:46,830

There are certain weeds,

a certain grass that grows

362  
00:21:46,830 --> 00:21:50,430  
on top of an old garbage dump.

363  
00:21:50,430 --> 00:21:52,950  
And I recognized this  
is tomato, two plants.

364  
00:21:52,950 --> 00:21:55,740

365  
00:21:55,740 --> 00:21:58,350  
And I kept it a secret.

366  
00:21:58,350 --> 00:22:01,390  
But I said, these are  
definitely tomato plants.

367  
00:22:01,390 --> 00:22:04,800  
So in corner of the house  
that we had in the other side,

368  
00:22:04,800 --> 00:22:08,970  
I took these plants  
and made a garden.

369  
00:22:08,970 --> 00:22:13,290  
That year, I picked  
150 kilo of tomatoes.

370  
00:22:13,290 --> 00:22:16,120

371  
00:22:16,120 --> 00:22:17,860  
I was about 14--

372  
00:22:17,860 --> 00:22:19,960  
13, 14.

373  
00:22:19,960 --> 00:22:24,880  
I used to sell the



tomatoes, a kilo of tomatoes

374

00:22:24,880 --> 00:22:27,990

for two kilo of bread.

375

00:22:27,990 --> 00:22:34,490

That helped us survive

while other people had

376

00:22:34,490 --> 00:22:36,640

to do other things.

377

00:22:36,640 --> 00:24:46,315