

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:41,910

2
00:00:41,910 --> 00:00:44,740
Let's talk a little
more about food.

3
00:00:44,740 --> 00:00:48,070
So you had the tomatoes, but
what other kinds of things did

4
00:00:48,070 --> 00:00:48,570
you have?

5
00:00:48,570 --> 00:00:54,100
And what ingenuity did your
mother use, for example?

6
00:00:54,100 --> 00:00:59,850
What actually helped us a
lot to me that I said before,

7
00:00:59,850 --> 00:01:04,830
three of my cousins
stayed with us.

8
00:01:04,830 --> 00:01:11,090
One of them was going out to
work in a kitchen in Kovno.

9
00:01:11,090 --> 00:01:14,060
I don't know what kind
of a place it was,

10
00:01:14,060 --> 00:01:15,920
an army place or--

11
00:01:15,920 --> 00:01:21,300
But one of the jobs
was peeling potatoes.

12

00:01:21,300 --> 00:01:24,270
Of course, they're peeling
potatoes and the peels

13
00:01:24,270 --> 00:01:26,980
they're bringing home.

14
00:01:26,980 --> 00:01:31,600
And you imagine
that being that they

15
00:01:31,600 --> 00:01:33,340
knew that the peels
so that they get

16
00:01:33,340 --> 00:01:36,930
go home they peeled
a little heavier.

17
00:01:36,930 --> 00:01:43,290
But this was one of the
sustaining things, potato peels

18
00:01:43,290 --> 00:01:46,060
that came from kitchens.

19
00:01:46,060 --> 00:01:51,340
And that we used to be washed,
cooked, and all kinds of food

20
00:01:51,340 --> 00:01:53,610
made out of it.

21
00:01:53,610 --> 00:01:56,220
Even if he had to
burn a little flour

22
00:01:56,220 --> 00:02:01,230
and make [SPEAKING HEBREW],,
the potato

23
00:02:01,230 --> 00:02:05,430
balls, and then put in

hot water and boil it

24
00:02:05,430 --> 00:02:07,680
and make soup out of it.

25
00:02:07,680 --> 00:02:11,740
That was part of our diet.

26
00:02:11,740 --> 00:02:16,420
And whatever else you
could find or trade.

27
00:02:16,420 --> 00:02:18,850
Or people that used to
go outside of the ghetto

28
00:02:18,850 --> 00:02:23,860
and deliver the Gentile's
and they give away

29
00:02:23,860 --> 00:02:29,530
a piece of a sweater
or a garment or jewelry

30
00:02:29,530 --> 00:02:33,290
or whatever they could find,
anything for a piece of food.

31
00:02:33,290 --> 00:02:40,040
But all in all,
we comparatively,

32
00:02:40,040 --> 00:02:45,230
we managed for the ghetto
standard the best we could.

33
00:02:45,230 --> 00:02:46,370

34
00:02:46,370 --> 00:02:51,440
And earlier you said you had
to cheat somehow to survive.

35

00:02:51,440 --> 00:02:52,410

Tell me about that.

36

00:02:52,410 --> 00:02:57,050

Well, we did a lot
of things to cheat.

37

00:02:57,050 --> 00:02:59,870

We stole whatever we could.

38

00:02:59,870 --> 00:03:01,070

We needed wood.

39

00:03:01,070 --> 00:03:03,710

You asked me about heating.

40

00:03:03,710 --> 00:03:05,920

Anywhere you had a
piece of wood that you

41

00:03:05,920 --> 00:03:10,730

could tear off and bring it
home, that was brought home.

42

00:03:10,730 --> 00:03:16,160

Anywhere they could find a piece
of wire that was brought home.

43

00:03:16,160 --> 00:03:20,480

For instance, we
made ourselves a

44

00:03:20,480 --> 00:03:23,270

what you call it,
to make hot water.

45

00:03:23,270 --> 00:03:27,410

I took two spoons, wired them
up, hold out a piece of cotton

46

00:03:27,410 --> 00:03:30,860

on a piece of wood and

then you connected it

47

00:03:30,860 --> 00:03:31,860
and put it in the water.

48

00:03:31,860 --> 00:03:33,380
This is boiling.

49

00:03:33,380 --> 00:03:35,420
You made makeshift things.

50

00:03:35,420 --> 00:03:38,040

51

00:03:38,040 --> 00:03:41,750
I want to go back to
the Kinder Aktion.

52

00:03:41,750 --> 00:03:45,540
I said before when they
found us in the bunker

53

00:03:45,540 --> 00:03:49,812
they pulled us out and they
made a selection and put

54

00:03:49,812 --> 00:03:51,520
part on one side, part
on the other side.

55

00:03:51,520 --> 00:03:55,140
We did not know what's going on,
but my father was on one side

56

00:03:55,140 --> 00:03:57,250
and I was on the other side.

57

00:03:57,250 --> 00:04:02,863
And then one of the officers
turned it around and said

58

00:04:02,863 --> 00:04:04,650

to send my father on
that side and me he

59
00:04:04,650 --> 00:04:06,150
pulled it to the side.

60
00:04:06,150 --> 00:04:09,000
We didn't know what is the
right and what is wrong.

61
00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:14,890
My brother and a girl, a
daughter of the neighbors,

62
00:04:14,890 --> 00:04:17,980
escaped by a miraculous.

63
00:04:17,980 --> 00:04:22,440
There was a game by the
Germans had big dogs

64
00:04:22,440 --> 00:04:25,920
and they told these two
kids, go ahead, run.

65
00:04:25,920 --> 00:04:30,460
And they told the
dog to chase them.

66
00:04:30,460 --> 00:04:34,990
Somehow, as I said before,
it was late in the afternoon.

67
00:04:34,990 --> 00:04:35,930
The dog chased them.

68
00:04:35,930 --> 00:04:37,810
They ran around the houses.

69
00:04:37,810 --> 00:04:43,120
A couple of times a dog
grabbed my brother by the arm

70

00:04:43,120 --> 00:04:48,170

but he had a heavy coat on
so he couldn't bite him,

71

00:04:48,170 --> 00:04:52,430

and finally they
hid behind a door

72

00:04:52,430 --> 00:04:55,626

and the dogs were called
off and they remained there.

73

00:04:55,626 --> 00:04:58,560

That's how my brother
survived the Kinder Aktion.

74

00:04:58,560 --> 00:05:01,500

75

00:05:01,500 --> 00:05:07,480

That was something that you
survived from day to day.

76

00:05:07,480 --> 00:05:10,240

Every other day there
was something else.

77

00:05:10,240 --> 00:05:13,150

Had it not been a minute
before, a minute after,

78

00:05:13,150 --> 00:05:16,290

you wouldn't have been here.

79

00:05:16,290 --> 00:05:19,450

And how did they let you
and your father go then?

80

00:05:19,450 --> 00:05:22,300

My father was taken away with
my younger brother in the Kinder

81

00:05:22,300 --> 00:05:22,800
Aktion.

82
00:05:22,800 --> 00:05:24,370
I was pushed on the
other side, so I

83
00:05:24,370 --> 00:05:29,250
remained with my mother and
my brother in the ghetto.

84
00:05:29,250 --> 00:05:36,210
That was in '44, in
the spring of '44.

85
00:05:36,210 --> 00:05:36,810
Early spring.

86
00:05:36,810 --> 00:05:41,600

87
00:05:41,600 --> 00:05:44,390
How old was your brother
who went with your father?

88
00:05:44,390 --> 00:05:47,840
Five years my junior, five
years younger than me.

89
00:05:47,840 --> 00:05:54,270
I was at that time 14,
15, so he was 9, 10.

90
00:05:54,270 --> 00:05:56,850
And did you see them get on--

91
00:05:56,850 --> 00:06:02,940
All we saw them is on a truck
and they go out of the ghetto.

92
00:06:02,940 --> 00:06:04,320
I haven't seen him since.

93

00:06:04,320 --> 00:06:08,040

And they took them to
Auschwitz, as far as I know.

94

00:06:08,040 --> 00:06:10,910

And the great action,
how did you find out

95

00:06:10,910 --> 00:06:14,790

what happened to the
10,000 people who were--

96

00:06:14,790 --> 00:06:20,870

That was in a few days that it
was the day talk in the ghetto.

97

00:06:20,870 --> 00:06:23,990

A few days later everybody
said that they took him

98

00:06:23,990 --> 00:06:27,650

to the ninth fort, which
is down that highway

99

00:06:27,650 --> 00:06:30,020

that I just spoke about before.

100

00:06:30,020 --> 00:06:34,370

And that was then
they dug the ditches

101

00:06:34,370 --> 00:06:40,290

and then in front of the ditches
they machine-gunned them.

102

00:06:40,290 --> 00:06:44,100

And the mood in the
ghetto changed after that?

103

00:06:44,100 --> 00:06:51,600

That-- The big action,
most people said that's it,

104

00:06:51,600 --> 00:06:53,070
we are doomed.

105

00:06:53,070 --> 00:06:56,220
Sooner or later it was
a question of time.

106

00:06:56,220 --> 00:07:02,630
Sooner or later it will
be our time will be up.

107

00:07:02,630 --> 00:07:06,200
And as I said before,
the religious people,

108

00:07:06,200 --> 00:07:09,530
even if they have a
knife on their throat

109

00:07:09,530 --> 00:07:11,650
don't give up hope.

110

00:07:11,650 --> 00:07:12,950
So that's what it was.

111

00:07:12,950 --> 00:07:17,090
And weren't books and
religious practices forbidden?

112

00:07:17,090 --> 00:07:20,268
Tell me about the rules as
if I don't know about it.

113

00:07:20,268 --> 00:07:21,560
Tell me about the ghetto rules.

114

00:07:21,560 --> 00:07:24,280
There was a time, I
don't know exactly when,

115

00:07:24,280 --> 00:07:29,000
that was a command that all

books to be brought outside,

116
00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:32,850
to be brought in a pile
in the field there.

117
00:07:32,850 --> 00:07:36,380
And any books we found them
and like any there was only one

118
00:07:36,380 --> 00:07:38,390
punishment and get killed.

119
00:07:38,390 --> 00:07:42,660
If you didn't obey the
rules, that's the only thing.

120
00:07:42,660 --> 00:07:46,410
The same thing is
with the yellow star.

121
00:07:46,410 --> 00:07:50,610
Even before they get
the clothes every Jew

122
00:07:50,610 --> 00:07:58,490
had to wear a yellow star
on his lapel, on the front.

123
00:07:58,490 --> 00:08:01,990
I think later they put
it on front and back.

124
00:08:01,990 --> 00:08:04,810
And what about
religious practices?

125
00:08:04,810 --> 00:08:07,840
Was that allowed in the ghetto?

126
00:08:07,840 --> 00:08:09,970
I don't think there
was even a question.

127
00:08:09,970 --> 00:08:11,560
Nothing was allowed.

128
00:08:11,560 --> 00:08:20,660
But a few religious people
that secretly kept it.

129
00:08:20,660 --> 00:08:22,370
Of course if you
heard somebody coming

130
00:08:22,370 --> 00:08:28,760
you dispersed immediately,
but we did practice.

131
00:08:28,760 --> 00:08:31,400
Most of the time we
didn't have a minimum,

132
00:08:31,400 --> 00:08:32,780
means that 10
people that used to

133
00:08:32,780 --> 00:08:37,049
sneak in, and pray in a quorum.

134
00:08:37,049 --> 00:08:41,850
Many times we didn't have
10 and I wasn't 13 yet.

135
00:08:41,850 --> 00:08:45,220
They used to give me
a book and count me

136
00:08:45,220 --> 00:08:49,680
in that maybe I was
close to 13 enough

137
00:08:49,680 --> 00:08:53,710
that they put me in the quorum.

138

00:08:53,710 --> 00:08:56,680

What about other things
in the ghetto like culture

139

00:08:56,680 --> 00:08:58,720

or other social life?

140

00:08:58,720 --> 00:09:02,290

They did try to have some
kind of social activities.

141

00:09:02,290 --> 00:09:04,150

I wasn't much involved.

142

00:09:04,150 --> 00:09:05,710

My family wasn't involved.

143

00:09:05,710 --> 00:09:08,020

But as far as
religious activities,

144

00:09:08,020 --> 00:09:11,530

like there was a few rabbis.

145

00:09:11,530 --> 00:09:16,390

So the religious people
tried to organize

146

00:09:16,390 --> 00:09:19,990

a little learning, a little
teaching for the youngsters.

147

00:09:19,990 --> 00:09:24,250

There was something
called [HEBREW] Oshry

148

00:09:24,250 --> 00:09:27,740

who is right here in New York.

149

00:09:27,740 --> 00:09:31,720

He organized a
group of youngsters

150

00:09:31,720 --> 00:09:34,000
to have a group to learn.

151

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:37,000
But of course it
was disrupted and it

152

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:39,400
couldn't be on a steady basis.

153

00:09:39,400 --> 00:09:42,830
But as much as you could and
whenever you can get away

154

00:09:42,830 --> 00:09:46,830
there was a little bit
learning, but very little.

155

00:09:46,830 --> 00:09:48,570
Did you go to his group?

156

00:09:48,570 --> 00:09:52,350
Yes, I did go for I
don't know for how long,

157

00:09:52,350 --> 00:09:57,330
but I did belong to that group
that's called the [HEBREW]..

158

00:09:57,330 --> 00:09:58,810
Tell me a little more about it.

159

00:09:58,810 --> 00:10:02,160
Tell me about an average day.

160

00:10:02,160 --> 00:10:06,620
An average day till
I went to that work,

161

00:10:06,620 --> 00:10:11,310
the [NON-ENGLISH] Werkst^Äotten,
I actually did nothing except be

162
00:10:11,310 --> 00:10:15,810
around the house except
around the garden or planting

163
00:10:15,810 --> 00:10:17,850
something or things like that.

164
00:10:17,850 --> 00:10:21,870
But later on, when I to be in
the morning to the WerkstÄtten

165
00:10:21,870 --> 00:10:25,050
the whole day and come
back into the house late

166
00:10:25,050 --> 00:10:29,100
in the afternoon, so that was
more or less taken up with

167
00:10:29,100 --> 00:10:30,420
this.

168
00:10:30,420 --> 00:10:32,250
Very little teaching.

169
00:10:32,250 --> 00:10:34,440
The older ones used
to get a chance

170
00:10:34,440 --> 00:10:37,470
to teach for a while,
while my father took

171
00:10:37,470 --> 00:10:42,750
a private individual and that
they should go there every day

172
00:10:42,750 --> 00:10:47,040
and he should learn
with me to teach me.

173

00:10:47,040 --> 00:10:48,660
So that was--

174
00:10:48,660 --> 00:10:53,040
It was so much
interruptions, so scarce

175
00:10:53,040 --> 00:10:57,120
the time that you
could feel safe.

176
00:10:57,120 --> 00:11:00,630
And you did not want to
show your face too much

177
00:11:00,630 --> 00:11:04,360
in the street in the ghetto.

178
00:11:04,360 --> 00:11:06,160
Because you were a kid?

179
00:11:06,160 --> 00:11:11,650
Because a kid and because
you didn't want it to appear.

180
00:11:11,650 --> 00:11:15,070
If you're not a kid,
what were you doing?

181
00:11:15,070 --> 00:11:17,710
If you're and adult
you're supposed

182
00:11:17,710 --> 00:11:19,540
to be occupied to do something.

183
00:11:19,540 --> 00:11:23,290
You knew that just if you meet
somebody's going in the ghetto

184
00:11:23,290 --> 00:11:25,460
it was terrible.

185

00:11:25,460 --> 00:11:29,526

If you saw a German, you
disappeared, you hid.

186

00:11:29,526 --> 00:11:56,370

187

00:11:56,370 --> 00:12:01,790

Tell me about the
police in the ghetto.

188

00:12:01,790 --> 00:12:06,280

There was a Jewish police force.

189

00:12:06,280 --> 00:12:12,010

I had one incident
with that police force,

190

00:12:12,010 --> 00:12:14,845

and that is while I was
working in the [NON-ENGLISH]

191

00:12:14,845 --> 00:12:18,460

WerkstÄtten and they needed
somebody to go outside to get

192

00:12:18,460 --> 00:12:22,300

it to work for whatever reason
I don't remember but I did not

193

00:12:22,300 --> 00:12:28,180

show up and they came and
arrested me and put me in jail

194

00:12:28,180 --> 00:12:29,160

in the ghetto.

195

00:12:29,160 --> 00:12:31,810

There was a jail in the ghetto.

196

00:12:31,810 --> 00:12:35,500

And I was miserable.

197
00:12:35,500 --> 00:12:38,320
There were characters
in ghetto in jail

198
00:12:38,320 --> 00:12:41,530
that I guess like in every jail.

199
00:12:41,530 --> 00:12:44,380
And I had to stay
overnight there.

200
00:12:44,380 --> 00:12:46,790
Even my father with all
his [? protective, ?]

201
00:12:46,790 --> 00:12:48,850
with all these
people that he knew

202
00:12:48,850 --> 00:12:52,270
couldn't get me out
before the next day.

203
00:12:52,270 --> 00:12:56,380
And I think [? Snegg, ?] who
was a friend of the family,

204
00:12:56,380 --> 00:12:59,290
and he was a member of
the Jewish committee,

205
00:12:59,290 --> 00:13:03,550
having to win to let me
out of that jail that

206
00:13:03,550 --> 00:13:05,430
was the next day.

207
00:13:05,430 --> 00:13:09,090
That was my personal
encounter with the police.

208

00:13:09,090 --> 00:13:17,580

All in all, I understand
that they were, as a whole,

209

00:13:17,580 --> 00:13:25,180

they were helping the Jewish
people rather than hurting

210

00:13:25,180 --> 00:13:28,180

them, other than giving out.

211

00:13:28,180 --> 00:13:32,890

So they were not
collaborating with the Germans

212

00:13:32,890 --> 00:13:35,410

as I've heard other places.

213

00:13:35,410 --> 00:13:38,480

But this is as a rule generally.

214

00:13:38,480 --> 00:13:40,870

Of course, there
were at one time

215

00:13:40,870 --> 00:13:45,190

I understand the
policemen were arrested

216

00:13:45,190 --> 00:13:49,990

and they were tortured that
they should tell about bunkers,

217

00:13:49,990 --> 00:13:52,090

about things in ghetto,
did you give out

218

00:13:52,090 --> 00:13:54,040

secrets for the ghetto?

219

00:13:54,040 --> 00:13:59,890

And a few of them succumbed

or did they give out,

220
00:13:59,890 --> 00:14:02,470
but most of them
stood their ground.

221
00:14:02,470 --> 00:14:10,280
This is as far as my
knowledge and my personal

222
00:14:10,280 --> 00:14:13,360
to do with the police.

223
00:14:13,360 --> 00:14:20,460
I didn't know anybody personally
that I knew as a policeman,

224
00:14:20,460 --> 00:14:27,560
but as a whole, we were not
afraid of the Jewish police.

225
00:14:27,560 --> 00:14:32,070
For instance, when I was
in a concentration camp

226
00:14:32,070 --> 00:14:34,220
I wouldn't trust the kapos.

227
00:14:34,220 --> 00:14:35,930
They were terrible.

228
00:14:35,930 --> 00:14:40,830
But in the ghetto we did
not fear the Jewish police,

229
00:14:40,830 --> 00:14:44,450
at least not our family.

230
00:14:44,450 --> 00:14:47,225
And tell me about the
rabbi of the ghetto.

231

00:14:47,225 --> 00:14:50,510

232

00:14:50,510 --> 00:14:57,800

The [? Kovnorov ?], who was the,
Devar Avraham, Avraham Shapiro,

233

00:14:57,800 --> 00:14:59,570

that's his name.

234

00:14:59,570 --> 00:15:02,820

He died in 1942.

235

00:15:02,820 --> 00:15:08,490

I personally as a kid I
was nine or 10 years old

236

00:15:08,490 --> 00:15:14,100

when I had an incident
and I met him.

237

00:15:14,100 --> 00:15:19,350

And that was because there
was a summer place not far

238

00:15:19,350 --> 00:15:22,890

from Kovno called Kulautuva.

239

00:15:22,890 --> 00:15:25,770

And he used to stay
in a villa there

240

00:15:25,770 --> 00:15:28,980

and we were also for the
summer in that place.

241

00:15:28,980 --> 00:15:33,390

One day I went in the street and
I see him going out for a walk.

242

00:15:33,390 --> 00:15:36,480

I went over, was a
very brazen young kid,

243
00:15:36,480 --> 00:15:39,450
and I said, good
morning, Kovnorov.

244
00:15:39,450 --> 00:15:42,300
He took me for his
hand and for an hour

245
00:15:42,300 --> 00:15:45,330
he walked with me, asking
me all kinds of questions,

246
00:15:45,330 --> 00:15:52,260
my family, so I had a big
honor and unusual that I

247
00:15:52,260 --> 00:15:55,920
had met that known person.

248
00:15:55,920 --> 00:15:58,650
He was a very learned
scholar from what

249
00:15:58,650 --> 00:16:01,380
I have in his book
Devar Avraham,

250
00:16:01,380 --> 00:16:05,820
and in general he was
very highly respected.

251
00:16:05,820 --> 00:16:13,200
But in ghetto I understand that
they let him alone when he died

252
00:16:13,200 --> 00:16:14,760
and I went to his funeral.

253
00:16:14,760 --> 00:16:17,700
This was 1942.

254

00:16:17,700 --> 00:16:19,860
What was the funeral like?

255
00:16:19,860 --> 00:16:21,135
I do not remember details.

256
00:16:21,135 --> 00:16:24,540
I only remember there
was people, not too many,

257
00:16:24,540 --> 00:16:29,680
but there was people
nevertheless went today

258
00:16:29,680 --> 00:16:30,610
that the funeral.

259
00:16:30,610 --> 00:16:33,730
I do not know where
the burial ground was,

260
00:16:33,730 --> 00:16:40,900
but I remember the funeral and
I remember going to the funeral

261
00:16:40,900 --> 00:16:45,605
In the ghetto, did
you ever have fun?

262
00:16:45,605 --> 00:16:46,105
Fun?

263
00:16:46,105 --> 00:16:48,720

264
00:16:48,720 --> 00:16:51,990
As normal as kids,
regardless what's

265
00:16:51,990 --> 00:16:56,310
doing outside there's always
you live in the present

266

00:16:56,310 --> 00:16:58,590

and the present
is always you have

267

00:16:58,590 --> 00:17:04,349

to have whether it is
fun or play or games.

268

00:17:04,349 --> 00:17:08,160

Of course, between
interruptions,

269

00:17:08,160 --> 00:17:12,930

between the black
clouds from the outside,

270

00:17:12,930 --> 00:17:16,290

we did not constantly
live as children.

271

00:17:16,290 --> 00:17:19,589

We did not constantly
have it on our minds.

272

00:17:19,589 --> 00:17:24,240

But we were reminded quite
often that we were in ghetto.

273

00:17:24,240 --> 00:17:26,790

Quite often we were reminded.

274

00:17:26,790 --> 00:17:28,380

My cousins were taken away.

275

00:17:28,380 --> 00:17:30,660

I don't remember what aktion.

276

00:17:30,660 --> 00:17:33,990

They were sent to Riga
or they were sent away.

277

00:17:33,990 --> 00:17:36,270

Then there were
not there anymore.

278
00:17:36,270 --> 00:17:40,180
After my father and my younger
brother were taken away,

279
00:17:40,180 --> 00:17:46,200
I remained with my other
brother and my mother.

280
00:17:46,200 --> 00:17:48,940
We were numb.

281
00:17:48,940 --> 00:17:51,960
It wasn't a question,
we weren't crying,

282
00:17:51,960 --> 00:17:57,490
but we were like numb,
just pieces of wood.

283
00:17:57,490 --> 00:18:03,530
I remember it was 10,
12 days before Passover,

284
00:18:03,530 --> 00:18:10,320
and Passover came, we
called in some acquaintance

285
00:18:10,320 --> 00:18:14,130
to make a seder, say
the prayers for seder,

286
00:18:14,130 --> 00:18:16,650
and I think we had a
couple of matzohs there.

287
00:18:16,650 --> 00:18:22,015
But this was going
through the motions.

288
00:18:22,015 --> 00:18:26,160

289

00:18:26,160 --> 00:18:29,280

Till after that

Passover I remember

290

00:18:29,280 --> 00:18:33,960

that the news was that the

Germans are retreating,

291

00:18:33,960 --> 00:18:37,230

the Russians are

pushing them back,

292

00:18:37,230 --> 00:18:41,640

and it's only a question

what they will do

293

00:18:41,640 --> 00:18:44,460

or when they will do

liquidating the ghetto

294

00:18:44,460 --> 00:18:46,200

and how they'll do it.

295

00:18:46,200 --> 00:18:47,520

The day came.

296

00:18:47,520 --> 00:18:50,910

At that time we were already

too numb to look for shelter

297

00:18:50,910 --> 00:18:54,710

to look for bunkers to hide.

298

00:18:54,710 --> 00:18:58,040

Some did hide and survived.

299

00:18:58,040 --> 00:19:01,790

Some hid and did not make it

because a lot of the houses

300

00:19:01,790 --> 00:19:03,686
were burned to the ground.

301
00:19:03,686 --> 00:19:07,310
If they had a suspicion
anybody is hiding there,

302
00:19:07,310 --> 00:19:10,290
they burned the
houses to the ground

303
00:19:10,290 --> 00:19:13,850
and the ghetto was liquidated,
but I understand about 7,000

304
00:19:13,850 --> 00:19:17,750
people that they were
liquidated from the ghetto

305
00:19:17,750 --> 00:19:26,340
and they took us into
the freight trains.

306
00:19:26,340 --> 00:19:28,310
And we came to Stutthof.

307
00:19:28,310 --> 00:19:31,580
That's what separated
the women and children

308
00:19:31,580 --> 00:19:35,310
from the other men.

309
00:19:35,310 --> 00:19:37,380
My brother wanted
to go with my mother

310
00:19:37,380 --> 00:19:39,570
and my mother wouldn't let him.

311
00:19:39,570 --> 00:19:44,220
She understood that a better
chance even for a young kid

312
00:19:44,220 --> 00:19:47,520
to be with a men
in a working camp

313
00:19:47,520 --> 00:19:50,460
rather than to go
with the women.

314
00:19:50,460 --> 00:19:54,130
And he wanted to go to Mother,
Mother pushed him away.

315
00:19:54,130 --> 00:20:00,150
You can imagine how hard for
a mother to push away a child,

316
00:20:00,150 --> 00:20:05,580
but she figured that
this is a better chance.

317
00:20:05,580 --> 00:20:08,270
From my mother I
never heard since.

318
00:20:08,270 --> 00:20:12,930
I mean I did hear about
her that she was still

319
00:20:12,930 --> 00:20:21,905
alive in the beginning of
the winter of '44, '45.

320
00:20:21,905 --> 00:20:25,240

321
00:20:25,240 --> 00:20:31,170
A couple of weeks after
Sukkot somebody still saw her

322
00:20:31,170 --> 00:20:37,390
in that camp near Stutthof,
but after that we never heard

323
00:20:37,390 --> 00:20:39,080
of her.

324
00:20:39,080 --> 00:20:44,094
My brother and I myself
were sent to Dachau.

325
00:20:44,094 --> 00:20:50,540
In Dachau, after the second week
they separated the younger kids

326
00:20:50,540 --> 00:20:54,080
and took away about
120, 130 children

327
00:20:54,080 --> 00:20:58,900
and send them back to Auschwitz
and my border with them.

328
00:20:58,900 --> 00:21:07,820
I remained in Lager
1 till April of '45.

329
00:21:07,820 --> 00:21:11,360
During that time, I
work in mall and that

330
00:21:11,360 --> 00:21:18,140
was building an underground
airport for the Germans.

331
00:21:18,140 --> 00:21:20,660
To describe this
airport after I look

332
00:21:20,660 --> 00:21:22,940
at it and being in
construction now,

333
00:21:22,940 --> 00:21:27,570
it was fabulous type
of construction.

334
00:21:27,570 --> 00:21:31,950
They actually
created a mountain,

335
00:21:31,950 --> 00:21:39,370
put a 10-meter cover
of solid cement

336
00:21:39,370 --> 00:21:47,780
reinforced with the metal
rods, and afterwards dug out

337
00:21:47,780 --> 00:21:54,280
the mountain from underneath
leaving a big, large tunnel

338
00:21:54,280 --> 00:22:01,250
where two large planes can pass
by each other side by side.

339
00:22:01,250 --> 00:22:07,940
And at the end at the other side
of it they had the workshops.

340
00:22:07,940 --> 00:22:10,970
That was a fabulous idea.

341
00:22:10,970 --> 00:22:13,730
However, they did not finish it.

342
00:22:13,730 --> 00:22:16,410

343
00:22:16,410 --> 00:22:18,240
My brother was
sent in Auschwitz.

344
00:22:18,240 --> 00:22:21,030
I stayed in Dachau till April.

345
00:22:21,030 --> 00:22:26,910

In April they took us back to,
when the Americans came closer,

346

00:22:26,910 --> 00:22:30,900
they took us to Dachau proper,
and from there afterwards we

347

00:22:30,900 --> 00:22:33,870
went on the death
march in Tyrol,

348

00:22:33,870 --> 00:22:37,540
and I was liberated
in Tyrol May 5.

349

00:22:37,540 --> 00:22:40,440
My brother I didn't find.

350

00:22:40,440 --> 00:22:44,820
Actually, I didn't
find him till the day

351

00:22:44,820 --> 00:22:49,220
before Yom Kippur of 1945.

352

00:22:49,220 --> 00:25:01,334