

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:38,150

2
00:00:38,150 --> 00:00:41,400
Can you tell me about your
brother's bar mitzvah?

3
00:00:41,400 --> 00:00:44,030

4
00:00:44,030 --> 00:00:45,350
Yes, I'll tell you.

5
00:00:45,350 --> 00:00:49,570
I was bar mitzvahed
in the ghetto in 1942.

6
00:00:49,570 --> 00:00:54,740
I remembered the
necessary things to learn.

7
00:00:54,740 --> 00:00:57,190
An uncle of mine
who was still there

8
00:00:57,190 --> 00:01:02,440
taught me and I said
my kedoshim, my speech,

9
00:01:02,440 --> 00:01:06,190
in the ghetto on a Saturday.

10
00:01:06,190 --> 00:01:11,080
But more vivid and
more interesting

11
00:01:11,080 --> 00:01:15,040
is my brother's bar mitzvah,
which came out in a sukkah.

12
00:01:15,040 --> 00:01:19,090

In the ghetto, my father,
as much as he could,

13
00:01:19,090 --> 00:01:24,460
with the minimum
possibility that they had,

14
00:01:24,460 --> 00:01:31,760
kept up whatever he could as far
as the religious things to do.

15
00:01:31,760 --> 00:01:33,400
And we had a sukkah.

16
00:01:33,400 --> 00:01:37,110
The sukkah means we
take a couple old doors

17
00:01:37,110 --> 00:01:40,950
and covered it up with
some of the growth which

18
00:01:40,950 --> 00:01:42,300
that's the sukkah.

19
00:01:42,300 --> 00:01:44,820
And we had a sukkah
in the ghetto.

20
00:01:44,820 --> 00:01:48,110
My brother, who was
born on Yom Kippur,

21
00:01:48,110 --> 00:01:50,300
had a bar mitzvah on Sukkot.

22
00:01:50,300 --> 00:01:52,280
And at that time,
we had a few people

23
00:01:52,280 --> 00:01:56,450
that we did [HEBREW]
praying in our house.

24
00:01:56,450 --> 00:01:59,480
After that, went into the
sukkah, and my mother,

25
00:01:59,480 --> 00:02:00,530
whatever she--

26
00:02:00,530 --> 00:02:02,030
where she took it
from I don't know,

27
00:02:02,030 --> 00:02:07,400
but had a couple cookies and
what they called something

28
00:02:07,400 --> 00:02:11,480
to say l'chaim on, and they had
the celebration in the sukkah

29
00:02:11,480 --> 00:02:13,350
around the table.

30
00:02:13,350 --> 00:02:16,140
At that time, one
of the secretaries,

31
00:02:16,140 --> 00:02:19,260
the secretary for the
committee, passed by

32
00:02:19,260 --> 00:02:22,710
and my father called
him into the sukkah.

33
00:02:22,710 --> 00:02:27,630
And he begged off,
not to want to come in

34
00:02:27,630 --> 00:02:30,390
because he was called
for important meeting

35

00:02:30,390 --> 00:02:31,770
in the committee.

36

00:02:31,770 --> 00:02:34,410
Nevertheless, my father
took hold of him,

37

00:02:34,410 --> 00:02:36,780
wouldn't let him go,
pulled him in the sukkah,

38

00:02:36,780 --> 00:02:38,880
introduced him to the people.

39

00:02:38,880 --> 00:02:41,400
And he got pulled in.

40

00:02:41,400 --> 00:02:46,420
He was served also the
refreshments, whatever it was,

41

00:02:46,420 --> 00:02:49,890
and he was told that this is
the bar mitzvah of my brother.

42

00:02:49,890 --> 00:02:52,530

43

00:02:52,530 --> 00:02:58,140
He was amazed, and this Avraham
Tory, writes in the book,

44

00:02:58,140 --> 00:03:05,390
he was amazed how the religious
people can forget about

45

00:03:05,390 --> 00:03:07,970
all the trials and
tribulations, all

46

00:03:07,970 --> 00:03:13,070
it was doing outside the

ghetto and the Germans

47

00:03:13,070 --> 00:03:19,850
and still we're devoted
and with such fervor

48

00:03:19,850 --> 00:03:25,380
to pray and to sing even
so the song was something

49

00:03:25,380 --> 00:03:32,470
that expressed the hopefulness
in the worst situations.

50

00:03:32,470 --> 00:03:40,560
We still the hope to God, the
hope to Hashem, so much so

51

00:03:40,560 --> 00:03:45,810
that the man ends his book that
he envies those that believe.

52

00:03:45,810 --> 00:03:49,150

53

00:03:49,150 --> 00:03:52,620
And that was my
father's character

54

00:03:52,620 --> 00:03:55,000
to make somebody happy.

55

00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:59,380
I know of another story that
somebody asked, what are you

56

00:03:59,380 --> 00:04:00,310
doing on this street?

57

00:04:00,310 --> 00:04:01,540
You don't live here.

58

00:04:01,540 --> 00:04:04,840
People used to go out to
work for a long, long day

59
00:04:04,840 --> 00:04:06,940
from early morning to night.

60
00:04:06,940 --> 00:04:09,517
And that man used to
pass by our house, say,

61
00:04:09,517 --> 00:04:10,350
you don't live here.

62
00:04:10,350 --> 00:04:11,350
What are you doing here?

63
00:04:11,350 --> 00:04:13,930
He's said, well, I
was hoping maybe I

64
00:04:13,930 --> 00:04:21,360
would meet Fievel Zisman and
a few words would enliven me,

65
00:04:21,360 --> 00:04:26,360
would condole me for
the next day or so.

66
00:04:26,360 --> 00:04:28,290
That was the character
of my father.

67
00:04:28,290 --> 00:04:30,710
And that's what
people thought of him.

68
00:04:30,710 --> 00:04:38,940
To speak to him a few words
was enough to uplift somebody.

69
00:04:38,940 --> 00:04:44,930
And unfortunately, with

all the hope some of them

70
00:04:44,930 --> 00:04:47,880
did not materialize.

71
00:04:47,880 --> 00:04:54,430
And he perished in the Holocaust
like so many other millions.

72
00:04:54,430 --> 00:04:55,900
But the bar mitzvah
of my brother

73
00:04:55,900 --> 00:05:03,070
was something special that
other people in ghetto

74
00:05:03,070 --> 00:05:04,680
could celebrate
together with him.

75
00:05:04,680 --> 00:05:07,860

76
00:05:07,860 --> 00:05:13,280
Was religion a
form of resistance?

77
00:05:13,280 --> 00:05:16,490

78
00:05:16,490 --> 00:05:19,490
It was not a question
of resistance.

79
00:05:19,490 --> 00:05:22,970
It is a question that
we will not give up.

80
00:05:22,970 --> 00:05:25,920
That we will not surrender.

81

00:05:25,920 --> 00:05:28,400
We will do ours.

82
00:05:28,400 --> 00:05:33,570
Whatever happens, we will
still do ours with hope

83
00:05:33,570 --> 00:05:37,680
and with prayer to
God that somehow,

84
00:05:37,680 --> 00:05:39,850
hopefully, we will survive.

85
00:05:39,850 --> 00:05:42,820
And those that did, did.

86
00:05:42,820 --> 00:05:43,360
I did.

87
00:05:43,360 --> 00:05:45,910

88
00:05:45,910 --> 00:05:50,020
And the year that this
bar mitzvah took place?

89
00:05:50,020 --> 00:05:53,900
When was this relative
to the Kinder Aktion?

90
00:05:53,900 --> 00:05:56,180
It was a half a year
before the Kinder Aktion.

91
00:05:56,180 --> 00:05:59,900
This was in the
beginning of the winter

92
00:05:59,900 --> 00:06:02,060
and the Kinder Aktion was
in the end of the winter.

93

00:06:02,060 --> 00:06:05,690

94

00:06:05,690 --> 00:06:10,760

Did you know anything
about partisans?

95

00:06:10,760 --> 00:06:14,160

We heard about it
through the grapevine.

96

00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:16,920

And as a matter of
fact, I had somebody

97

00:06:16,920 --> 00:06:21,150

that came in to the ghetto that
I knew from before the ghetto.

98

00:06:21,150 --> 00:06:26,340

And he used to come in,
disappear, and reappear.

99

00:06:26,340 --> 00:06:30,270

And he used to sneak out
of the ghetto somehow

100

00:06:30,270 --> 00:06:32,850

and he belonged to the partisan.

101

00:06:32,850 --> 00:06:34,300

He is alive now.

102

00:06:34,300 --> 00:06:35,575

What's his name?

103

00:06:35,575 --> 00:06:36,075

Yuzhak.

104

00:06:36,075 --> 00:06:39,400

105

00:06:39,400 --> 00:06:43,635

I can't recall his name, but
yes, he went to the partisan.

106

00:06:43,635 --> 00:06:46,820

107

00:06:46,820 --> 00:06:51,620

And can you again describe
for me the hiding place?

108

00:06:51,620 --> 00:06:53,630

Did you help build
the hiding place?

109

00:06:53,630 --> 00:06:54,170

Yes.

110

00:06:54,170 --> 00:07:01,550

Sure, we helped dig
that tunnel on all fours

111

00:07:01,550 --> 00:07:04,760

to dig a tunnel in
the ground, support it

112

00:07:04,760 --> 00:07:05,870

with whatever we could.

113

00:07:05,870 --> 00:07:10,100

Pieces of lumber, pieces
of wood to support.

114

00:07:10,100 --> 00:07:13,220

The only way to get in,
as described before,

115

00:07:13,220 --> 00:07:18,440

is through that basement
of that vestibule.

116

00:07:18,440 --> 00:07:22,040

And there was a slab of
cement that when you took it

117
00:07:22,040 --> 00:07:25,310
out and from the
inside you had a way

118
00:07:25,310 --> 00:07:27,830
to put it back in
place, to pull it back

119
00:07:27,830 --> 00:07:30,290
in place, that when
you looked at it

120
00:07:30,290 --> 00:07:31,910
you could see a
crack in the cement

121
00:07:31,910 --> 00:07:35,300
but you would not recognize that
this was something like a door.

122
00:07:35,300 --> 00:07:38,060
And you had to go on all
fours to creep into that,

123
00:07:38,060 --> 00:07:44,330
and the 10, 12 feet to go to
that room that was dug out

124
00:07:44,330 --> 00:07:52,280
there in that room was made
like a couple of beds like one

125
00:07:52,280 --> 00:07:53,600
on top of the other.

126
00:07:53,600 --> 00:07:57,590
And that's where people
sat or laid down.

127
00:07:57,590 --> 00:08:00,210

And there was also
a problem with air.

128
00:08:00,210 --> 00:08:04,100
So there was a pipe in
the back of that shed.

129
00:08:04,100 --> 00:08:08,940
In the bushes there, we
left one pipe for air

130
00:08:08,940 --> 00:08:11,810
so we'd have some
air inside there.

131
00:08:11,810 --> 00:08:20,540
And the tunnel was like a Y.
It had a turn that it went

132
00:08:20,540 --> 00:08:25,710
to the well, and
any time you wanted

133
00:08:25,710 --> 00:08:30,660
you could fetch some water
with a pail and a rope.

134
00:08:30,660 --> 00:08:34,409
And from there it
went back to the shed

135
00:08:34,409 --> 00:08:36,630
where underneath
the shed, maybe two

136
00:08:36,630 --> 00:08:39,929
or three feet underneath it, was
two feet of dirt on top of it.

137
00:08:39,929 --> 00:08:42,360
And underneath there,
there was a bunker.

138

00:08:42,360 --> 00:08:45,540
So yes, we built it and
took us months to build it.

139
00:08:45,540 --> 00:08:48,640
Of course, this was
done only at night.

140
00:08:48,640 --> 00:08:51,020
One night the well disappeared.

141
00:08:51,020 --> 00:08:54,450
Nobody knows there's
a trace of it.

142
00:08:54,450 --> 00:08:55,560
We covered.

143
00:08:55,560 --> 00:08:59,880
We took off a couple of rings,
covered it up and filled it

144
00:08:59,880 --> 00:09:04,560
with dirt, make sure that there
was some growth on top of it

145
00:09:04,560 --> 00:09:07,660
like nothing before.

146
00:09:07,660 --> 00:09:11,050
And that was the bunker.

147
00:09:11,050 --> 00:09:15,250
While there, air was
the biggest problem.

148
00:09:15,250 --> 00:09:19,030

149
00:09:19,030 --> 00:09:24,790
We had also made a couple of
cans and the little food that

150

00:09:24,790 --> 00:09:28,290

we did have, so we spilled
something and dried up,

151

00:09:28,290 --> 00:09:29,890

make what you
called, "sakharinkes"

152

00:09:29,890 --> 00:09:34,330

[Yid, rusks] We made dried
pieces of bread into cans

153

00:09:34,330 --> 00:09:38,050

in case we have to stay there
for more than a day or two that

154

00:09:38,050 --> 00:09:42,110

we'd have something
to nourish ourselves.

155

00:09:42,110 --> 00:09:45,370

This was also left in
cans in the bunker.

156

00:09:45,370 --> 00:09:49,690

But when they came in and we
knew that we are found out,

157

00:09:49,690 --> 00:09:52,810

they had no choice but
to get out of there.

158

00:09:52,810 --> 00:09:56,670

Had we stayed there, they would
have blown up the whole thing.

159

00:09:56,670 --> 00:10:00,620

160

00:10:00,620 --> 00:10:03,744

And what did you
do with the dirt?

161

00:10:03,744 --> 00:10:08,220

With the dirt, we put it
aside and then put on top

162

00:10:08,220 --> 00:10:12,180

and spread it out and
put it on top of the well

163

00:10:12,180 --> 00:10:13,710

where there was a hole.

164

00:10:13,710 --> 00:10:17,760

The dirt was a problem where
we spread out of the gardens,

165

00:10:17,760 --> 00:10:26,070

especially if they did it in the
time where it was not winter.

166

00:10:26,070 --> 00:10:30,120

And there was big lots
around the houses.

167

00:10:30,120 --> 00:10:33,040

It wasn't just a house,
it was a house and lot,

168

00:10:33,040 --> 00:10:35,580

so there were places to put
the dirt and spread it out.

169

00:10:35,580 --> 00:10:38,380

170

00:10:38,380 --> 00:10:40,020

OK.

171

00:10:40,020 --> 00:10:40,650

Thank you.

172

00:10:40,650 --> 00:10:44,700

Have I not asked you

anything of importance?

173

00:10:44,700 --> 00:10:48,370

Well, I don't know what else you want to know.

174

00:10:48,370 --> 00:10:51,570

A lot of interesting stories that I have.

175

00:10:51,570 --> 00:10:58,930

For instance, in the ghetto, since I was bar mitzvahed

176

00:10:58,930 --> 00:11:01,510

I used to put on a tefillin every day.

177

00:11:01,510 --> 00:11:06,550

In the concentration camp, we only had one pair of tefillin

178

00:11:06,550 --> 00:11:08,380

and that was Barav Snegg.

179

00:11:08,380 --> 00:11:14,020

Many times, he used to work day shift, night shift.

180

00:11:14,020 --> 00:11:16,960

On the way we used to meet and pass by

181

00:11:16,960 --> 00:11:20,400

and as we passed by we pass over each other.

182

00:11:20,400 --> 00:11:24,160

All this was taking chances with your life because had you

183

00:11:24,160 --> 00:11:27,910

been caught, you probably

they put you up and shoot you.

184
00:11:27,910 --> 00:11:32,155
To them it was the biggest
thing to make you an example.

185
00:11:32,155 --> 00:11:52,210

186
00:11:52,210 --> 00:11:56,600
And you're telling me
that, things that you saw

187
00:11:56,600 --> 00:11:59,570
In the ghetto there was
what they called a hospital.

188
00:11:59,570 --> 00:12:02,000
I don't know how much
of a hospital it was,

189
00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:04,610
but children were there.

190
00:12:04,610 --> 00:12:09,950
I remember once they had
an open truck outside

191
00:12:09,950 --> 00:12:13,250
and children were thrown
out by Germans right

192
00:12:13,250 --> 00:12:16,610
through the window into the
open truck, live children.

193
00:12:16,610 --> 00:12:21,280
It looked like one-year-old,
six months, babies,

194
00:12:21,280 --> 00:12:24,310
right from the window in
second floor, third floor

195
00:12:24,310 --> 00:12:25,780
into the truck.

196
00:12:25,780 --> 00:12:29,620
The atrocity that I saw was--

197
00:12:29,620 --> 00:12:32,290
By that time you were numb.

198
00:12:32,290 --> 00:12:34,240
I saw somebody just--

199
00:12:34,240 --> 00:12:38,350
All the silver, all the
everything, the valuables,

200
00:12:38,350 --> 00:12:40,406
should have been surrendered.

201
00:12:40,406 --> 00:12:44,360
A German went and saw a
silver spoon in the dirt.

202
00:12:44,360 --> 00:12:47,330
He went out into the
house and accused

203
00:12:47,330 --> 00:12:55,375
the woman that was there that he
saw a piece of silver flatware.

204
00:12:55,375 --> 00:12:58,910
He put them up against
the wall, took aim

205
00:12:58,910 --> 00:13:01,790
with the left hand
behind his back

206
00:13:01,790 --> 00:13:06,230
as if he's a real soldier

like, and killed them

207

00:13:06,230 --> 00:13:09,090

while they are executed
right there on the spot.

208

00:13:09,090 --> 00:13:14,290

This was the Germans' idea of
teaching somebody a lesson,

209

00:13:14,290 --> 00:13:19,970

you know, it's to
make everybody obey.

210

00:13:19,970 --> 00:13:29,080

There was a systematic way
from the Germans, the Gestapo,

211

00:13:29,080 --> 00:13:35,120

to make you believe
that this is it

212

00:13:35,120 --> 00:13:38,830

and there's no way
of escaping them.

213

00:13:38,830 --> 00:13:44,170

In spite of all that,
people hid and people--

214

00:13:44,170 --> 00:13:49,310

[INAUDIBLE] if it came
to a concentration camp.

215

00:13:49,310 --> 00:13:52,490

Everybody was supposed to
give up whatever they had--

216

00:13:52,490 --> 00:13:55,910

any valuables, any money,
anything bring it to front

217

00:13:55,910 --> 00:13:57,410

and give it up.

218
00:13:57,410 --> 00:13:58,970
People were scared.

219
00:13:58,970 --> 00:14:02,900
If somebody had money was
scared to put it on the table

220
00:14:02,900 --> 00:14:05,300
because he'll be accused
of doing something wrong.

221
00:14:05,300 --> 00:14:08,210
How do you come to the money?

222
00:14:08,210 --> 00:14:10,230
But they had no choice.

223
00:14:10,230 --> 00:14:12,600
So there was a
latrine, you know what

224
00:14:12,600 --> 00:14:15,130
a latrine is, the bathrooms.

225
00:14:15,130 --> 00:14:16,690
It happened to be new.

226
00:14:16,690 --> 00:14:19,720
But this is two days
that there were a couple

227
00:14:19,720 --> 00:14:21,300
of thousand people in camp.

228
00:14:21,300 --> 00:14:23,470
And they used it.

229
00:14:23,470 --> 00:14:27,010
The latrine was full
with money, with whatever

230
00:14:27,010 --> 00:14:29,680
valuables they brought along.

231
00:14:29,680 --> 00:14:30,970
They filled up there.

232
00:14:30,970 --> 00:14:32,695
The Germans got wind of it.

233
00:14:32,695 --> 00:14:38,570
They sent down the people into
the human waste, barefooted,

234
00:14:38,570 --> 00:14:42,350
took out every valuable thing,
every dollar, everything

235
00:14:42,350 --> 00:14:44,510
to take out from the latrines.

236
00:14:44,510 --> 00:14:49,810
And that was the biggest joke to
see the people in the latrine,

237
00:14:49,810 --> 00:14:54,900
in the human waste
collecting their valuables.

238
00:14:54,900 --> 00:14:59,270
They enjoyed seeing
somebody suffer.

239
00:14:59,270 --> 00:15:02,500

240
00:15:02,500 --> 00:15:06,620
They made a game out
of people suffering.

241
00:15:06,620 --> 00:15:08,210
They made a game of murder.

242

00:15:08,210 --> 00:15:14,890

They made a game of target practice, shooting people.

243

00:15:14,890 --> 00:15:18,560

That was the whole idea of the Germans.

244

00:15:18,560 --> 00:15:26,670

And anybody telling me that this is just orders from above,

245

00:15:26,670 --> 00:15:31,210

they did 10 times more than the orders were given.

246

00:15:31,210 --> 00:15:35,520

In other words, they enjoyed doing that on their own,

247

00:15:35,520 --> 00:15:37,840

regardless what the orders were.

248

00:15:37,840 --> 00:15:39,900

And if anybody had said that this was only

249

00:15:39,900 --> 00:15:44,640

a segment of them, they knew very well what's going on.

250

00:15:44,640 --> 00:15:46,830

I spoke with Germans after the war.

251

00:15:46,830 --> 00:15:50,670

They knew what was going on and either they didn't care

252

00:15:50,670 --> 00:15:53,490

or who cares, this is it.

253

00:15:53,490 --> 00:15:55,380

If they had a chance,
they would kill you.

254

00:15:55,380 --> 00:15:58,240

255

00:15:58,240 --> 00:16:00,970

I do not forgive them.

256

00:16:00,970 --> 00:16:03,790

257

00:16:03,790 --> 00:16:07,260

And there's no
punishment for that.

258

00:16:07,260 --> 00:16:10,280

259

00:16:10,280 --> 00:16:14,126

So the thing you
have to remember

260

00:16:14,126 --> 00:16:20,030

that there is no way to
condone it or forgive it

261

00:16:20,030 --> 00:16:22,050

or to forget it.

262

00:16:22,050 --> 00:16:24,320

They are enemies.

263

00:16:24,320 --> 00:16:29,200

And as long as the
world exists, the longer

264

00:16:29,200 --> 00:16:35,230

they exist they'll have to
carry that burden of that guilt

265

00:16:35,230 --> 00:16:38,140
on the whole German nation.

266

00:16:38,140 --> 00:16:41,230
The Lithuanians were no better.

267

00:16:41,230 --> 00:16:45,820
Murderers to the last of them.

268

00:16:45,820 --> 00:16:48,370
This is from my
experience and this

269

00:16:48,370 --> 00:16:53,290
is what I will never forget
it, never forgive it, and tell

270

00:16:53,290 --> 00:16:54,450
my children to do the same.

271

00:16:54,450 --> 00:17:00,380

272

00:17:00,380 --> 00:17:02,090
In the ghetto at
the beginning there

273

00:17:02,090 --> 00:17:03,920
was a hospital that was burned.

274

00:17:03,920 --> 00:17:05,890
Did you see that?

275

00:17:05,890 --> 00:17:08,079
I heard about it.

276

00:17:08,079 --> 00:17:11,319
I did not witness it myself
but I heard about it.

277

00:17:11,319 --> 00:17:13,900

I did see the children
thrown from there,

278
00:17:13,900 --> 00:17:15,569
but I did not see it burn.

279
00:17:15,569 --> 00:17:19,079
And when you saw the children
thrown, when was that?

280
00:17:19,079 --> 00:17:20,940
Was it during the Kinder Aktion?

281
00:17:20,940 --> 00:17:22,890
No, that was way before.

282
00:17:22,890 --> 00:17:23,819
It was way before.

283
00:17:23,819 --> 00:17:25,339
It wasn't in the last year.

284
00:17:25,339 --> 00:17:29,710
It was the second year of the
ghetto or something like that.

285
00:17:29,710 --> 00:17:31,680
So there were just
random atrocities.

286
00:17:31,680 --> 00:17:35,950
There were atrocities
done constantly.

287
00:17:35,950 --> 00:17:40,750
And sometimes it was
an individual act

288
00:17:40,750 --> 00:17:45,070
and sometimes it was
an organized act,

289

00:17:45,070 --> 00:17:49,030
but there were atrocities
in a daily occurrence.

290
00:17:49,030 --> 00:17:52,060
Here you heard this one was
killed and this one killed.

291
00:17:52,060 --> 00:17:54,096
Every day something
else was happening.

292
00:17:54,096 --> 00:17:58,860

293
00:17:58,860 --> 00:18:02,160
In general, in the ghetto
did people help each other?

294
00:18:02,160 --> 00:18:04,150
Did Jews help each
other do you think?

295
00:18:04,150 --> 00:18:06,700

296
00:18:06,700 --> 00:18:10,120
On a general rule, I would
say everybody looked out

297
00:18:10,120 --> 00:18:11,860
for themselves.

298
00:18:11,860 --> 00:18:15,490
Self-preservation was also
the rule in the ghetto too.

299
00:18:15,490 --> 00:18:19,360
But I would say definitely
within religion,

300
00:18:19,360 --> 00:18:22,900
especially there's a lot of

people that knew each other,

301
00:18:22,900 --> 00:18:26,910
and those families of course
they helped each other.

302
00:18:26,910 --> 00:18:29,880
Everybody looks for their
own family, which is normal.

303
00:18:29,880 --> 00:18:32,370
Everybody looks for their
own children, for their own,

304
00:18:32,370 --> 00:18:35,440
and for themselves.

305
00:18:35,440 --> 00:18:38,740
To what extent,
that's the question.

306
00:18:38,740 --> 00:18:39,580
How much--

307
00:18:39,580 --> 00:18:45,190
Would somebody kill somebody
else to protect themselves?

308
00:18:45,190 --> 00:18:46,840
In some cases, yes.

309
00:18:46,840 --> 00:18:48,760
Like the one that
snitched on us.

310
00:18:48,760 --> 00:18:52,620
I don't think he
survived the Holocaust.

311
00:18:52,620 --> 00:18:54,900
But at that moment he
thinks that he'll get away

312

00:18:54,900 --> 00:18:57,970

with by snitching
on other people,

313

00:18:57,970 --> 00:19:09,740

so he exposed maybe 20 people
by trying to save himself.

314

00:19:09,740 --> 00:19:12,377

This happened, too,
but not that often.

315

00:19:12,377 --> 00:19:13,960

I wouldn't say that
that was the rule.

316

00:19:13,960 --> 00:19:16,720

317

00:19:16,720 --> 00:19:26,415

The rule was to sacrifice more
than to give out somebody.

318

00:19:26,415 --> 00:19:29,330

319

00:19:29,330 --> 00:19:32,538

Any other things that you
remember in the ghetto

320

00:19:32,538 --> 00:19:33,830

that I haven't asked you about?

321

00:19:33,830 --> 00:19:37,920

322

00:19:37,920 --> 00:19:42,080

I had a moment to say all the
instances I don't remember

323

00:19:42,080 --> 00:19:47,330

except that I remember a cousin

coming beaten up from head

324

00:19:47,330 --> 00:19:50,210
to toe, black and blue.

325

00:19:50,210 --> 00:19:55,190
A German caught him, and just
because he looked like a Jew,

326

00:19:55,190 --> 00:19:56,390
for no reason at all.

327

00:19:56,390 --> 00:19:59,060

328

00:19:59,060 --> 00:20:01,910
I remember one
cousin, Labal Means.

329

00:20:01,910 --> 00:20:06,530
He came once beaten up, and
he was a religious, pious kid,

330

00:20:06,530 --> 00:20:08,720
and he said, well,
somehow I must

331

00:20:08,720 --> 00:20:10,280
have deserved it somewhere.

332

00:20:10,280 --> 00:20:14,810
And with cold compresses, with
all the things he survived.

333

00:20:14,810 --> 00:20:21,020
But atrocities I remember
seeing it as you would shivah.

334

00:20:21,020 --> 00:20:23,450
And after a while you're numb.

335

00:20:23,450 --> 00:20:24,320

You get used to.

336
00:20:24,320 --> 00:20:27,630
You can get used to anything.

337
00:20:27,630 --> 00:20:32,490
But this was the situation
with what you lived through.

338
00:20:32,490 --> 00:20:35,730
Did the ghetto progressively
get worse and worse

339
00:20:35,730 --> 00:20:38,020
as it got smaller and smaller?

340
00:20:38,020 --> 00:20:39,580
Can you tell me?

341
00:20:39,580 --> 00:20:46,960
It was more and more difficult
to survive, to have food.

342
00:20:46,960 --> 00:20:50,710
It was more and more difficult.
In the beginning you handled--

343
00:20:50,710 --> 00:20:52,990
you got in from outside.

344
00:20:52,990 --> 00:20:55,030
You got help here,
you got help there.

345
00:20:55,030 --> 00:20:58,150
Like I said before, here
you got the potato peels

346
00:20:58,150 --> 00:21:02,950
and here you got the deal
where you sold a pair of pants

347

00:21:02,950 --> 00:21:07,690
or a piece of jewelry and
got half a pound of butter

348
00:21:07,690 --> 00:21:08,950
or something for it.

349
00:21:08,950 --> 00:21:13,360
So as the ghetto
progressed, it became

350
00:21:13,360 --> 00:21:17,140
more orderly in the
sense there was working.

351
00:21:17,140 --> 00:21:19,390
You had to go to
work, you came back.

352
00:21:19,390 --> 00:21:22,870
You know what you have to do.

353
00:21:22,870 --> 00:21:26,260
But to survive
became even harder.

354
00:21:26,260 --> 00:21:29,250
It was harder to what we
used to call to organize,

355
00:21:29,250 --> 00:21:33,610
to organize means
to have something

356
00:21:33,610 --> 00:21:37,030
to eat or have something
additional to do

357
00:21:37,030 --> 00:21:41,490
the meager ration that you get.

358
00:21:41,490 --> 00:21:46,930
And how did you keep your

tomatoes from getting stolen?

359

00:21:46,930 --> 00:21:50,680

It happened to be in
a corner of the house

360

00:21:50,680 --> 00:21:56,650

and there was some kind
of a fence in front of it

361

00:21:56,650 --> 00:21:59,800

so it wasn't obvious.

362

00:21:59,800 --> 00:22:03,710

And I used to ripen it,
I used to dig it up green

363

00:22:03,710 --> 00:22:06,680

and ripen it under a blanket.

364

00:22:06,680 --> 00:22:10,150

And that's how we
got it through.

365

00:22:10,150 --> 00:22:13,580

366

00:22:13,580 --> 00:22:14,330

OK.

367

00:22:14,330 --> 00:22:15,530

Thank you very much.

368

00:22:15,530 --> 00:22:17,660

You're welcome.

369

00:22:17,660 --> 00:24:31,296