

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:33,380

2
00:00:33,380 --> 00:00:34,320
61, marker one.

3
00:00:34,320 --> 00:00:34,820
Mark.

4
00:00:34,820 --> 00:00:40,040

5
00:00:40,040 --> 00:00:43,070
Helen, why don't you
begin by telling me

6
00:00:43,070 --> 00:00:46,470
when and where you were born
and the name you were born with?

7
00:00:46,470 --> 00:00:49,320

8
00:00:49,320 --> 00:00:52,020
OK.

9
00:00:52,020 --> 00:01:02,730
I was born in Kovno, Lithuania
in 1932, September 15.

10
00:01:02,730 --> 00:01:08,180
My maiden name was Verblunsky.

11
00:01:08,180 --> 00:01:17,940
And my family consisted
of my father and mother

12
00:01:17,940 --> 00:01:20,520
and the younger brother.

13

00:01:20,520 --> 00:01:22,950
He was born in--

14
00:01:22,950 --> 00:01:26,750
my brother was born in 1937.

15
00:01:26,750 --> 00:01:31,060
And that was our family,
our immediate family.

16
00:01:31,060 --> 00:01:34,690
Tell me a little bit
about your childhood

17
00:01:34,690 --> 00:01:37,120
before the war started.

18
00:01:37,120 --> 00:01:40,600

19
00:01:40,600 --> 00:01:46,460
My childhood was uneventful.

20
00:01:46,460 --> 00:01:50,490
My mother stayed home
after-- she had a business.

21
00:01:50,490 --> 00:01:54,950
But after I was born, soon
after, she gave up her business

22
00:01:54,950 --> 00:01:58,790
and stayed home with me-- and
then with my brother, too,

23
00:01:58,790 --> 00:02:00,650
of course.

24
00:02:00,650 --> 00:02:03,530
My father was self-employed.

25
00:02:03,530 --> 00:02:09,139

He had a business
where he was making

26
00:02:09,139 --> 00:02:14,420
heating ovens for
heating houses,

27
00:02:14,420 --> 00:02:17,780
actually, with ceramic tiles.

28
00:02:17,780 --> 00:02:19,260
That's what they
turned out to be.

29
00:02:19,260 --> 00:02:21,650
But they were
roundish and straight.

30
00:02:21,650 --> 00:02:25,080
And you put the
wood into the oven.

31
00:02:25,080 --> 00:02:28,280
And that's how the
house was heated.

32
00:02:28,280 --> 00:02:30,080
And that was his business.

33
00:02:30,080 --> 00:02:34,080

34
00:02:34,080 --> 00:02:40,760
I was a pretty bright
kid, from what I was told.

35
00:02:40,760 --> 00:02:42,360
I used to sing a lot.

36
00:02:42,360 --> 00:02:43,610
I used to like to sing.

37

00:02:43,610 --> 00:02:44,450
I used to like--

38
00:02:44,450 --> 00:02:49,980
I learned the Yiddish
alphabet at a very young age.

39
00:02:49,980 --> 00:02:57,590
And I went to kindergarten
at the age of five and six.

40
00:02:57,590 --> 00:03:03,770
And then, at age seven,
I went to school.

41
00:03:03,770 --> 00:03:07,400
It was first grade,
age seven, which

42
00:03:07,400 --> 00:03:10,580
was Hebrew school,
a private school.

43
00:03:10,580 --> 00:03:12,500
My parents were not very--

44
00:03:12,500 --> 00:03:18,502

45
00:03:18,502 --> 00:03:20,210
they didn't have a
lot of money, but they

46
00:03:20,210 --> 00:03:24,320
felt like they wanted me to
get a very good education.

47
00:03:24,320 --> 00:03:26,570
It was just a girls' school.

48
00:03:26,570 --> 00:03:29,420
And I had one year
of this school.

49
00:03:29,420 --> 00:03:32,780

50
00:03:32,780 --> 00:03:42,680
And in September of '40,
I started the school.

51
00:03:42,680 --> 00:03:45,200
And I went under the Russians.

52
00:03:45,200 --> 00:03:46,430
And then I learned Yiddish.

53
00:03:46,430 --> 00:03:50,150
So that was my formal education,
as far as going to school

54
00:03:50,150 --> 00:03:53,450
is concerned.

55
00:03:53,450 --> 00:03:54,920
I used to always--

56
00:03:54,920 --> 00:03:58,050
I always read a lot.

57
00:03:58,050 --> 00:04:05,180
My father really actually
instilled in me of the desire

58
00:04:05,180 --> 00:04:09,350
for knowledge, the curiosity.

59
00:04:09,350 --> 00:04:12,720
He would always-- he told
me always about the world,

60
00:04:12,720 --> 00:04:14,990
about the United States.

61

00:04:14,990 --> 00:04:19,490
He even told me that the
United States will probably

62
00:04:19,490 --> 00:04:22,940
turn out to be the
place that will

63
00:04:22,940 --> 00:04:25,130
rescue the Jews from the Nazis.

64
00:04:25,130 --> 00:04:27,530
That was always his contention.

65
00:04:27,530 --> 00:04:31,040
That was always this
belief, actually.

66
00:04:31,040 --> 00:04:33,080
And I believed that with him.

67
00:04:33,080 --> 00:04:37,520
And he told me about
history and geography.

68
00:04:37,520 --> 00:04:43,190
And even when I was very
young, five and six years old,

69
00:04:43,190 --> 00:04:48,890
he would take me to
museums and to theater,

70
00:04:48,890 --> 00:04:52,070
because I was an only
child for quite a while.

71
00:04:52,070 --> 00:04:54,050
And then, when my
brother was born,

72
00:04:54,050 --> 00:04:57,110
he was even too

young to be taken.

73

00:04:57,110 --> 00:05:00,860

So my father-- and my mother
was not too much interested.

74

00:05:00,860 --> 00:05:02,720

So he took me as his companion.

75

00:05:02,720 --> 00:05:06,290

And we spent an awful lot of
time together-- my mentor,

76

00:05:06,290 --> 00:05:09,510

really, my father.

77

00:05:09,510 --> 00:05:12,660

And how do you remember
things changing?

78

00:05:12,660 --> 00:05:16,320

And what kinds of things
did you see and hear

79

00:05:16,320 --> 00:05:18,930

when things changed?

80

00:05:18,930 --> 00:05:20,640

Interesting.

81

00:05:20,640 --> 00:05:23,850

Our house consisted
of a kitchen.

82

00:05:23,850 --> 00:05:24,690

We rented.

83

00:05:24,690 --> 00:05:27,480

We didn't own a house.

84

00:05:27,480 --> 00:05:30,630

A kitchen that you went through,

that was the first, and then

85

00:05:30,630 --> 00:05:33,720

a living room, a living
room combination sort of.

86

00:05:33,720 --> 00:05:36,900

It was one room,
but it was a sofa--

87

00:05:36,900 --> 00:05:41,310

and a dining room, and a table,
and chairs, and a buffet.

88

00:05:41,310 --> 00:05:45,420

So that was the living room
and combination dining room.

89

00:05:45,420 --> 00:05:48,810

And then, through this,
you went into the bedroom.

90

00:05:48,810 --> 00:05:52,950

And in that bedroom,
the four of us slept.

91

00:05:52,950 --> 00:06:05,080

Now, in 1938, we acquired
a refugee border,

92

00:06:05,080 --> 00:06:07,180

a young man by the
name of Herman,

93

00:06:07,180 --> 00:06:14,290

a Jewish young man who ran
away from Germany and ended up

94

00:06:14,290 --> 00:06:17,590

in Lithuania, in
Kaunas, in our home,

95

00:06:17,590 --> 00:06:24,820

as what we called in those
days a [NON-ENGLISH],,

96
00:06:24,820 --> 00:06:28,030
which is a border.

97
00:06:28,030 --> 00:06:38,790
And I came to know first hand at
a very young age, in the 1938--

98
00:06:38,790 --> 00:06:41,590
how old was I then?

99
00:06:41,590 --> 00:06:45,640
'32, '38, so I was
six years old--

100
00:06:45,640 --> 00:06:47,230
six, seven, or
whatever, because he

101
00:06:47,230 --> 00:06:51,310
stayed with us for about a
couple of years, at least.

102
00:06:51,310 --> 00:06:54,530
And I was very--

103
00:06:54,530 --> 00:06:57,070
and I came face to face
with a person like that.

104
00:06:57,070 --> 00:07:00,760
And also, as I said, my
ears were always open.

105
00:07:00,760 --> 00:07:02,440
I knew what was going on.

106
00:07:02,440 --> 00:07:05,020

107

00:07:05,020 --> 00:07:10,450

I heard about the No Man's Land.

108

00:07:10,450 --> 00:07:11,440

I go back.

109

00:07:11,440 --> 00:07:15,010

I heard about that when I
was just a young child--

110

00:07:15,010 --> 00:07:21,710

between Poland and Germany,
where the Jews were not their--

111

00:07:21,710 --> 00:07:24,250

Germany didn't want them.

112

00:07:24,250 --> 00:07:28,420

And Poland didn't let them in.

113

00:07:28,420 --> 00:07:33,850

And I remember we, children,
we were asked also from school

114

00:07:33,850 --> 00:07:43,690

to get together clothing and
things that people needed

115

00:07:43,690 --> 00:07:51,000

for daily use, and food, and for
the refugees that have nowhere

116

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:51,500

to go.

117

00:07:51,500 --> 00:07:54,610

They were sort of
caught in the middle.

118

00:07:54,610 --> 00:08:01,000

So I really have a very
vivid memory of that.

119

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:05,680

It comes to my mind quite
often, as a matter of fact.

120

00:08:05,680 --> 00:08:08,230

And what about the
sounds of the war?

121

00:08:08,230 --> 00:08:09,130

Did you hear?

122

00:08:09,130 --> 00:08:10,030

Yes.

123

00:08:10,030 --> 00:08:13,570

Now, the sounds of the war--

124

00:08:13,570 --> 00:08:19,840

the war did not affect us
directly, not until 1941.

125

00:08:19,840 --> 00:08:23,530

We knew what that
things were happening.

126

00:08:23,530 --> 00:08:25,840

There was a war with Poland.

127

00:08:25,840 --> 00:08:26,990

We heard the news.

128

00:08:26,990 --> 00:08:29,170

We had a radio.

129

00:08:29,170 --> 00:08:33,100

And the newspapers
wrote about it.

130

00:08:33,100 --> 00:08:35,150

And I knew how to read.

131

00:08:35,150 --> 00:08:37,360
And I was interested.

132
00:08:37,360 --> 00:08:43,179
But in 1941, when the
Russians were attacked

133
00:08:43,179 --> 00:08:47,860
by the Germans, our windows--

134
00:08:47,860 --> 00:08:51,440
it was a Sunday morning at
4:00 or 5:00 in the morning.

135
00:08:51,440 --> 00:08:57,550
And our windows were shaking
like an earthquake, shattering.

136
00:08:57,550 --> 00:09:01,880
And that's also very
vivid in my mind.

137
00:09:01,880 --> 00:09:07,120
And that's when it
started for us, the war,

138
00:09:07,120 --> 00:09:10,060
that the war came to
us finally started.

139
00:09:10,060 --> 00:09:12,650

140
00:09:12,650 --> 00:09:14,490
How did you feel then?

141
00:09:14,490 --> 00:09:15,620
And what did you do?

142
00:09:15,620 --> 00:09:17,640
What did your parents--

143

00:09:17,640 --> 00:09:18,140
OK.

144
00:09:18,140 --> 00:09:21,150

145
00:09:21,150 --> 00:09:25,110
As I said, almost
immediately, there

146
00:09:25,110 --> 00:09:29,100
was no question whether
should we, or shouldn't we.

147
00:09:29,100 --> 00:09:33,450
The very same day, my
parents got together

148
00:09:33,450 --> 00:09:42,180
some belongings that were maybe
some valuables that they had,

149
00:09:42,180 --> 00:09:49,440
and some things that we
would need for our existence

150
00:09:49,440 --> 00:09:53,280
and on route or some
kind, to subsist,

151
00:09:53,280 --> 00:09:56,070
on whatever, some food.

152
00:09:56,070 --> 00:09:59,550
And we packed us up,
the two children,

153
00:09:59,550 --> 00:10:02,790
and amongst many
thousands, and all the Jews

154
00:10:02,790 --> 00:10:04,630
that-- you would

see those roads.

155

00:10:04,630 --> 00:10:07,170

They were black with
people walking--

156

00:10:07,170 --> 00:10:10,530

there were no cars, there were
no horse and buggy, nothing--

157

00:10:10,530 --> 00:10:14,940

by foot, trying to get
away from the Nazis,

158

00:10:14,940 --> 00:10:18,750

trying to get to the Russian
border to outrun the Nazis,

159

00:10:18,750 --> 00:10:21,440

the Germans.

160

00:10:21,440 --> 00:10:23,990

And that's what my parents did.

161

00:10:23,990 --> 00:10:28,130

162

00:10:28,130 --> 00:10:30,140

And what happened?

163

00:10:30,140 --> 00:10:31,040

What happened?

164

00:10:31,040 --> 00:10:33,530

We were on route for two--

165

00:10:33,530 --> 00:10:34,610

we were on route.

166

00:10:34,610 --> 00:10:36,260

We walked and walked.

167

00:10:36,260 --> 00:10:42,550

We were every-- the tanks were--

168

00:10:42,550 --> 00:10:43,870

they overtook us.

169

00:10:43,870 --> 00:10:45,940

It was really--
if it wouldn't be

170

00:10:45,940 --> 00:10:50,680

so sad, it wouldn't be so
tragic, it was very funny,

171

00:10:50,680 --> 00:10:56,080

because we were going nowhere,
because the German military

172

00:10:56,080 --> 00:10:57,220

were just passing us.

173

00:10:57,220 --> 00:10:58,780

And they were singing songs.

174

00:10:58,780 --> 00:11:00,430

And they were making fun of us.

175

00:11:00,430 --> 00:11:07,300

And there was one that was
going, [GERMAN],, going to Zion,

176

00:11:07,300 --> 00:11:07,960

aren't you?

177

00:11:07,960 --> 00:11:09,960

He's making fun of us,
like the Jews are going

178

00:11:09,960 --> 00:11:13,360

to Zion, to whatever he meant.

179

00:11:13,360 --> 00:11:16,110

180

00:11:16,110 --> 00:11:18,680

And we finally ended
up in a small town--

181

00:11:18,680 --> 00:11:22,280

in a village,
actually, a village--

182

00:11:22,280 --> 00:11:24,320

by the name of Zaim.

183

00:11:24,320 --> 00:11:27,150

Now, I don't know the
Lithuanian name of the Zaim.

184

00:11:27,150 --> 00:11:29,510

I think this is the Jewish
name, the Jewish way

185

00:11:29,510 --> 00:11:30,500

of pronouncing it.

186

00:11:30,500 --> 00:11:39,810

187

00:11:39,810 --> 00:11:40,530

This is mark two.

188

00:11:40,530 --> 00:11:41,030

Mark.

189

00:11:41,030 --> 00:11:45,290

190

00:11:45,290 --> 00:11:47,440

So you just arrived at the town.

191

00:11:47,440 --> 00:11:48,040

All right.

192
00:11:48,040 --> 00:11:53,650
We were taken in by a Jewish
family who owned a farm.

193
00:11:53,650 --> 00:11:55,040
I think it was a small farm.

194
00:11:55,040 --> 00:11:57,160
I don't recall anything big.

195
00:11:57,160 --> 00:12:00,070
But I remember they
had a couple of cows.

196
00:12:00,070 --> 00:12:03,520
I remember having
drank milk straight--

197
00:12:03,520 --> 00:12:08,470
the milk, newly freshly
milked from the cow,

198
00:12:08,470 --> 00:12:11,350
warm from the udders.

199
00:12:11,350 --> 00:12:12,250
And they took us in.

200
00:12:12,250 --> 00:12:15,610
And we stayed with them for
two weeks, the four of us,

201
00:12:15,610 --> 00:12:17,500
plus two young men--

202
00:12:17,500 --> 00:12:20,440
two young Jewish boys, really.

203
00:12:20,440 --> 00:12:26,080
And we stayed with
them for two weeks,

204

00:12:26,080 --> 00:12:28,870

like we would have been
their family, that's how.

205

00:12:28,870 --> 00:12:31,450

And they were a
small family, too.

206

00:12:31,450 --> 00:12:34,540

I remember a couple of children.

207

00:12:34,540 --> 00:12:39,920

And we realized-- I mean,
when I say we, at that point,

208

00:12:39,920 --> 00:12:43,270

I was not even nine yet.

209

00:12:43,270 --> 00:12:48,820

So my parents talked it over
with the people of the house,

210

00:12:48,820 --> 00:12:50,500

of that farm.

211

00:12:50,500 --> 00:12:54,770

And they decided that, no
point in us hanging around.

212

00:12:54,770 --> 00:13:01,990

We have to go back to our homes,
to our home, which they did.

213

00:13:01,990 --> 00:13:05,680

My parents made
arrangements with--

214

00:13:05,680 --> 00:13:13,810

they hired a local person, a
Lithuanian who owned a horse

215

00:13:13,810 --> 00:13:17,890
and then carriage for the
six of us, the four of us

216
00:13:17,890 --> 00:13:20,650
and the two young boys
that were with us,

217
00:13:20,650 --> 00:13:22,780
to take us back to our
home town, to Kovno.

218
00:13:22,780 --> 00:13:25,350

219
00:13:25,350 --> 00:13:26,700
We loaded up whatever--

220
00:13:26,700 --> 00:13:31,170
I mean, whatever we carried,
we took back with us,

221
00:13:31,170 --> 00:13:37,710
and got on the buggy, and that
carriage, whatever, the wagon.

222
00:13:37,710 --> 00:13:39,880
And we just got out of town.

223
00:13:39,880 --> 00:13:43,440
It was a little town.

224
00:13:43,440 --> 00:13:48,750
And we realized that
we're being chased

225
00:13:48,750 --> 00:13:52,110
by a couple of young
guys, barefooted.

226
00:13:52,110 --> 00:13:57,120
It was in June, or at the end
of June, or beginning of July,

227
00:13:57,120 --> 00:13:59,370
around then--

228
00:13:59,370 --> 00:14:05,040
barefoot, with torn
pants, peasant boys,

229
00:14:05,040 --> 00:14:07,810
peasant young men.

230
00:14:07,810 --> 00:14:10,930
And they motioned
to stop, to stop.

231
00:14:10,930 --> 00:14:18,850
And the fellow, our
driver stops the buggy.

232
00:14:18,850 --> 00:14:22,570
And we are ordered to get out.

233
00:14:22,570 --> 00:14:29,020
And we knew that nothing good
is going to come of that.

234
00:14:29,020 --> 00:14:31,030
We were scared.

235
00:14:31,030 --> 00:14:33,850
But we knew enough
as children, too.

236
00:14:33,850 --> 00:14:36,030
We children, we were scared.

237
00:14:36,030 --> 00:14:41,980
They started to search
the men for weapons.

238
00:14:41,980 --> 00:14:47,150
And they found-- and in the--

239
00:14:47,150 --> 00:14:47,650
whatever.

240
00:14:47,650 --> 00:14:49,810
We had a [? stand, ?]
the things--

241
00:14:49,810 --> 00:14:52,070
that bag, or whatever.

242
00:14:52,070 --> 00:14:53,260
And they found something.

243
00:14:53,260 --> 00:14:55,840
And it turned out to
be the phylacteries,

244
00:14:55,840 --> 00:14:59,740
my father's, and the boys' too.

245
00:14:59,740 --> 00:15:03,080
So they realized-- OK, he says.

246
00:15:03,080 --> 00:15:04,330
Oh, you're not communists.

247
00:15:04,330 --> 00:15:06,320
OK, you go.

248
00:15:06,320 --> 00:15:07,570
And they let us go.

249
00:15:07,570 --> 00:15:11,598
But we did not get to go back
on that carriage, on that wagon.

250
00:15:11,598 --> 00:15:13,015
And they took away
all our things.

251

00:15:13,015 --> 00:15:15,720

252

00:15:15,720 --> 00:15:21,690

So that was part
of the experience

253

00:15:21,690 --> 00:15:26,010

we had with the local people.

254

00:15:26,010 --> 00:15:30,030

And it took time,
of course, by foot.

255

00:15:30,030 --> 00:15:32,620

We walked back to our hometown.

256

00:15:32,620 --> 00:15:35,880

We slept in barns.

257

00:15:35,880 --> 00:15:38,620

258

00:15:38,620 --> 00:15:40,650

The local peasants,
they did let us.

259

00:15:40,650 --> 00:15:43,441

Sometimes, they didn't know.

260

00:15:43,441 --> 00:15:50,270

We made it back and
came to our home.

261

00:15:50,270 --> 00:15:55,100

And we heard the
very sad news that,

262

00:15:55,100 --> 00:16:00,950

between the time that the
Russians left in such a hurry--

263

00:16:00,950 --> 00:16:04,740
when they were attacked,
they left in a great hurry.

264
00:16:04,740 --> 00:16:07,680
And the Germans took a
few days to get back,

265
00:16:07,680 --> 00:16:13,100
to coordinate to get in,
into the city of Kaunas.

266
00:16:13,100 --> 00:16:15,170
There was a pogrom.

267
00:16:15,170 --> 00:16:20,610
And many were murdered--
elderly, children.

268
00:16:20,610 --> 00:16:24,740
And this was in Slobodka.

269
00:16:24,740 --> 00:16:28,160
I don't know if the Slobodka
ever came up in your interviews

270
00:16:28,160 --> 00:16:28,760
or not.

271
00:16:28,760 --> 00:16:31,700
But that's where the ghetto
ended up being established,

272
00:16:31,700 --> 00:16:33,110
in Slobodka.

273
00:16:33,110 --> 00:16:36,530
In Lithuanian, it was
called Vilijampole,

274
00:16:36,530 --> 00:16:37,700
if that rings a bell.

275

00:16:37,700 --> 00:16:40,320

I don't know.

276

00:16:40,320 --> 00:16:45,290

It so happened that our home
was within the perimeter

277

00:16:45,290 --> 00:16:46,790

of the ghetto.

278

00:16:46,790 --> 00:16:49,640

They're very close today
to the gate, actually.

279

00:16:49,640 --> 00:16:52,890

280

00:16:52,890 --> 00:16:55,830

But when we came back,
there was no ghetto yet.

281

00:16:55,830 --> 00:17:00,240

But all edicts were,
all kinds of edicts--

282

00:17:00,240 --> 00:17:03,330

not to walk on the
sidewalk, and only

283

00:17:03,330 --> 00:17:09,569

to shop at certain times
in particular stores,

284

00:17:09,569 --> 00:17:12,569

and of course right away
to put on the yellow star

285

00:17:12,569 --> 00:17:20,130

on the front and back, that
was immediate, and so on.

286

00:17:20,130 --> 00:17:23,550

And that same fall--

287

00:17:23,550 --> 00:17:26,460

now, I don't
remember exactly when

288

00:17:26,460 --> 00:17:27,990

the ghetto was established.

289

00:17:27,990 --> 00:17:30,210

Was it in September, or August?

290

00:17:30,210 --> 00:17:30,900

In August.

291

00:17:30,900 --> 00:17:31,690

Mid-August, right?

292

00:17:31,690 --> 00:17:33,550

The 15th of August, I think.

293

00:17:33,550 --> 00:17:34,050

Yeah.

294

00:17:34,050 --> 00:17:35,770

Yes.

295

00:17:35,770 --> 00:17:36,270

And--

296

00:17:36,270 --> 00:17:37,520

But just back up a little bit.

297

00:17:37,520 --> 00:17:38,310

Yes, OK.

298

00:17:38,310 --> 00:17:39,060

[INAUDIBLE]

299

00:17:39,060 --> 00:17:39,878

Yes, OK.

300
00:17:39,878 --> 00:17:41,545
Tell me where the
ghetto was established

301
00:17:41,545 --> 00:17:43,320
and that your house fell in it.

302
00:17:43,320 --> 00:17:44,280
Yes.

303
00:17:44,280 --> 00:17:48,060
The ghetto was established--

304
00:17:48,060 --> 00:17:53,100
we lived on what was called in
Lithuanian KriÅ;Ä iukaiÄ io gatvÄ—,

305
00:17:53,100 --> 00:17:56,730
or KriÅ;Ä iukaiÄ io Street.

306
00:17:56,730 --> 00:17:58,650
I know it's a tongue twister.

307
00:17:58,650 --> 00:18:00,810
It's Lithuanian.

308
00:18:00,810 --> 00:18:03,150
What KriÅ;Ä iukaiÄ io
means, I don't know.

309
00:18:03,150 --> 00:18:05,220
It's probably a
name after somebody.

310
00:18:05,220 --> 00:18:07,400
In Yiddish, it had a
different name totally.

311
00:18:07,400 --> 00:18:11,010
It was called [PLACE NAME],,
[PLACE NAME] street.

312
00:18:11,010 --> 00:18:14,790
Why it was so-called,
I don't know, either.

313
00:18:14,790 --> 00:18:22,150
We lived number 29
KriÅÄ iukaiÄ io Street.

314
00:18:22,150 --> 00:18:25,720
Just a few numbers
before that, there

315
00:18:25,720 --> 00:18:29,980
was a synagogue on
the same street, which

316
00:18:29,980 --> 00:18:33,640
was converted into a jail.

317
00:18:33,640 --> 00:18:36,993

318
00:18:36,993 --> 00:18:38,410
They called it
the [? daboklÄ— ?]..

319
00:18:38,410 --> 00:18:41,680
I don't know if that term
ever came up, if you heard it

320
00:18:41,680 --> 00:18:44,740
from the other interviewees.

321
00:18:44,740 --> 00:18:48,760
And the ghetto gate
was just at our street.

322
00:18:48,760 --> 00:18:53,430
But it was-- there was--

323
00:18:53,430 --> 00:18:57,345

the Lithuanian name of
it was Ariogalos gatvė—.

324
00:18:57,345 --> 00:19:00,450

325
00:19:00,450 --> 00:19:03,870
And in Yiddish, it was
called [PLACE NAME]..

326
00:19:03,870 --> 00:19:07,620
[YIDDISH] means the dead
people, the dead street,

327
00:19:07,620 --> 00:19:09,180
where people died.

328
00:19:09,180 --> 00:19:11,820
Am I telling you something
that you didn't hear before?

329
00:19:11,820 --> 00:19:14,440

330
00:19:14,440 --> 00:19:17,520
Yeah, it seems very strange.

331
00:19:17,520 --> 00:19:21,180
You look-- I don't know,
your look on your face.

332
00:19:21,180 --> 00:19:24,990
And that's where
the main gate was.

333
00:19:24,990 --> 00:19:31,610
And we were surrounded by
barbed wire, of course.

334
00:19:31,610 --> 00:19:37,590
And they established a ghetto, a
big ghetto and a little ghetto.

335

00:19:37,590 --> 00:19:40,520

But let me retract
myself right now.

336

00:19:40,520 --> 00:19:42,980

Now, prior to the
ghetto, of course

337

00:19:42,980 --> 00:19:45,140

all the Jews from
the surrounding areas

338

00:19:45,140 --> 00:19:51,110

and from the city proper of
Kovno were all evacuated.

339

00:19:51,110 --> 00:19:52,430

They were not evacuated.

340

00:19:52,430 --> 00:19:58,467

They were told to take what they
can carry, all the belongings

341

00:19:58,467 --> 00:19:59,300

that they can carry.

342

00:19:59,300 --> 00:20:04,400

They cannot take a truck and
take their belongings, no way.

343

00:20:04,400 --> 00:20:07,310

But whatever they can
carry in their hands,

344

00:20:07,310 --> 00:20:09,860

they should go to the
ghetto, and leave everything

345

00:20:09,860 --> 00:20:11,720

else behind.

346

00:20:11,720 --> 00:20:18,060

And it so happened that my
mother had an elderly aunt

347
00:20:18,060 --> 00:20:20,840
whose name was Esther.

348
00:20:20,840 --> 00:20:24,610
And their last name was Zalk.

349
00:20:24,610 --> 00:20:27,700
And she had a family, children.

350
00:20:27,700 --> 00:20:29,770
One daughter was named Leah.

351
00:20:29,770 --> 00:20:31,390
And one son was named Pinchas.

352
00:20:31,390 --> 00:20:34,660
And Pinchas had just
married recently.

353
00:20:34,660 --> 00:20:39,670
And Pinchas, and Leah, and
Pinchas' wife ran away.

354
00:20:39,670 --> 00:20:40,930
They never returned.

355
00:20:40,930 --> 00:20:45,700
They ran like we
started to run away.

356
00:20:45,700 --> 00:20:47,380
We came back to the ghetto.

357
00:20:47,380 --> 00:20:48,580
They never made it back.

358
00:20:48,580 --> 00:20:51,810

359

00:20:51,810 --> 00:20:59,030

So this elderly lady and
her daughter, who was--

360

00:20:59,030 --> 00:21:04,770

in our day and age, this is what
politically correct we call--

361

00:21:04,770 --> 00:21:11,840

she was mentally handicapped.

362

00:21:11,840 --> 00:21:16,310

And so these two women, because
the father of the family--

363

00:21:16,310 --> 00:21:18,080

and I'm retracting even further.

364

00:21:18,080 --> 00:21:20,930

When the war broke
out, the Lithuanians

365

00:21:20,930 --> 00:21:22,730

shot him dead on the--

366

00:21:22,730 --> 00:21:25,880

he was walking to shul, to
synagogue, and they shot him.

367

00:21:25,880 --> 00:21:29,330

So the two ladies
were left alone.

368

00:21:29,330 --> 00:21:34,400

So they moved in with us,
in our home in the ghetto.

369

00:21:34,400 --> 00:21:36,500

And that's why I
took all this back.

370

00:21:36,500 --> 00:21:39,840

It's important.

371

00:21:39,840 --> 00:21:46,410
So the ghetto was surrounded
from the outside of--

372

00:21:46,410 --> 00:21:50,700
as I said before, from the
small towns, and from the city.

373

00:21:50,700 --> 00:21:52,980
We're all gathered
into the ghetto.

374

00:21:52,980 --> 00:21:57,660
And a bridge was built
across a highway.

375

00:21:57,660 --> 00:21:58,560
It wasn't a highway.

376

00:21:58,560 --> 00:22:00,960
It was like-- they called
it the [NON-ENGLISH],,

377

00:22:00,960 --> 00:22:03,060
which was highway, actually in--

378

00:22:03,060 --> 00:22:04,290
you'd call it highway.

379

00:22:04,290 --> 00:22:05,970
It was a main thoroughfare.

380

00:22:05,970 --> 00:22:09,110

381

00:22:09,110 --> 00:22:13,910
The people who lived on the
street were mostly Jewish.

382

00:22:13,910 --> 00:22:19,850

So they built the fence
right in front of the homes

383
00:22:19,850 --> 00:22:22,550
where the big ghetto
was on one side,

384
00:22:22,550 --> 00:22:27,480
built a bridge to go across,
and fenced in the other side,

385
00:22:27,480 --> 00:22:30,530
and made a smaller part of the--

386
00:22:30,530 --> 00:22:36,310
they called it the [NON-ENGLISH]
ghetto, the small ghetto.

387
00:22:36,310 --> 00:22:38,605
So that is how the
ghetto started.

388
00:22:38,605 --> 00:22:41,340

389
00:22:41,340 --> 00:22:44,660
We have to put another
roll of film on.

390
00:22:44,660 --> 00:25:06,000