

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:29,590

2
00:00:29,590 --> 00:00:30,090
Start.

3
00:00:30,090 --> 00:00:38,190

4
00:00:38,190 --> 00:00:43,300
Back on the road, when
you were coming back.

5
00:00:43,300 --> 00:00:45,190
Do you remember that trek back?

6
00:00:45,190 --> 00:00:46,135
And did you walk?

7
00:00:46,135 --> 00:00:48,090
Did somebody carry
your little brother?

8
00:00:48,090 --> 00:00:49,000
How old was he?

9
00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:52,420
My father carried
my little brother.

10
00:00:52,420 --> 00:00:56,740
He was-- by then, in 1941,
he was four years old.

11
00:00:56,740 --> 00:00:59,650

12
00:00:59,650 --> 00:01:00,880
He was born in May.

13

00:01:00,880 --> 00:01:05,620

14

00:01:05,620 --> 00:01:07,570

Do you remember that walk?

15

00:01:07,570 --> 00:01:08,420

I mean, this--

16

00:01:08,420 --> 00:01:12,790

Yes, I remember it.

17

00:01:12,790 --> 00:01:13,720

I remember.

18

00:01:13,720 --> 00:01:19,270

I remember certain points,
like staying in a barn.

19

00:01:19,270 --> 00:01:29,770

Some kindness from some
peasants, or farmers, rather.

20

00:01:29,770 --> 00:01:31,190

Some not so kind.

21

00:01:31,190 --> 00:01:34,070

22

00:01:34,070 --> 00:01:37,520

I also remember, on
the way to what was--

23

00:01:37,520 --> 00:01:40,280

we were hoping to get to Russia.

24

00:01:40,280 --> 00:01:42,970

Like we were shot at.

25

00:01:42,970 --> 00:01:46,940

But airplanes were sort
of getting in on us.

26
00:01:46,940 --> 00:01:52,130
And we started to run away,
like to lie down in the fields

27
00:01:52,130 --> 00:01:53,870
to try that.

28
00:01:53,870 --> 00:01:59,970
But mainly on the way
back, it was a long--

29
00:01:59,970 --> 00:02:02,900
I remember certain points.

30
00:02:02,900 --> 00:02:07,670
Not vividly everything, no.

31
00:02:07,670 --> 00:02:10,070
But I remember certain
kindnesses, yes.

32
00:02:10,070 --> 00:02:14,640
And in general, had your
world turned upside--

33
00:02:14,640 --> 00:02:18,170
I mean were you now
terrified, or were you

34
00:02:18,170 --> 00:02:19,820
protected pretty
well by your family?

35
00:02:19,820 --> 00:02:22,400
No, well, we couldn't
be protected.

36
00:02:22,400 --> 00:02:23,780
We were exposed.

37
00:02:23,780 --> 00:02:26,690

There was no way to be.

38

00:02:26,690 --> 00:02:29,870

The only way to be protected
was to be out of it.

39

00:02:29,870 --> 00:02:32,660

We were smack in
the middle of it.

40

00:02:32,660 --> 00:02:35,730

I remember-- one thing
comes to my mind.

41

00:02:35,730 --> 00:02:40,340

And this is really
on the way back.

42

00:02:40,340 --> 00:02:42,620

And we were already
at the outskirts.

43

00:02:42,620 --> 00:02:45,140

And everything by foot.

44

00:02:45,140 --> 00:02:51,150

We were at the outskirts of
our hometown of Vilijampole,

45

00:02:51,150 --> 00:02:54,860

or Slobodke, which was
where the ghetto was.

46

00:02:54,860 --> 00:02:57,710

But the ghetto wasn't
established at that time yet.

47

00:02:57,710 --> 00:03:06,330

I remember a young
girl, a Lithuanian girl,

48

00:03:06,330 --> 00:03:07,700

was surrounded.

49
00:03:07,700 --> 00:03:10,972

50
00:03:10,972 --> 00:03:12,700
There were soldiers.

51
00:03:12,700 --> 00:03:15,940
But they were having fun.

52
00:03:15,940 --> 00:03:20,560
And they saw us, and we were
not the only ones coming back.

53
00:03:20,560 --> 00:03:22,930
There were loads
of people coming.

54
00:03:22,930 --> 00:03:26,630
Because a lot of us came back.

55
00:03:26,630 --> 00:03:29,260
We had nowhere else to go.

56
00:03:29,260 --> 00:03:36,310
And we all happened to come in
doves, as we left in doves.

57
00:03:36,310 --> 00:03:39,880
So she was pointing at us.

58
00:03:39,880 --> 00:03:43,180
And she said something
like that effect

59
00:03:43,180 --> 00:03:45,040
that they won't be
around for too long.

60
00:03:45,040 --> 00:03:48,530
And I remember our head
going back and laughing

61
00:03:48,530 --> 00:03:50,080
with such glee, you know.

62
00:03:50,080 --> 00:03:53,470

63
00:03:53,470 --> 00:03:57,290
That those little,
like, that are

64
00:03:57,290 --> 00:04:01,050
inscribed in a child's mind.

65
00:04:01,050 --> 00:04:04,750
And when the ghetto was formed
and people started moving in,

66
00:04:04,750 --> 00:04:08,000
even though you didn't have
to move, did you see it?

67
00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:11,790
We did it, because we helped
my aunt and my cousin.

68
00:04:11,790 --> 00:04:13,070
It was my mother's aunt.

69
00:04:13,070 --> 00:04:16,730
My mother's mother's sister--
my grandmother's sister

70
00:04:16,730 --> 00:04:20,450
and her daughter
came to live with us.

71
00:04:20,450 --> 00:04:21,529
So we helped them.

72
00:04:21,529 --> 00:04:22,220
I carried.

73
00:04:22,220 --> 00:04:29,030
And there was a bridge
from the city of Kaunas.

74
00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:34,770
Slobodka was actually
a suburb, so to speak,

75
00:04:34,770 --> 00:04:37,520
which she was connected by
a bridge across the river.

76
00:04:37,520 --> 00:04:40,310

77
00:04:40,310 --> 00:04:44,810
And they lived in the city.

78
00:04:44,810 --> 00:04:47,120
And I was a very
frequent visitor.

79
00:04:47,120 --> 00:04:50,990

80
00:04:50,990 --> 00:04:55,970
This lady, my mother's aunt,
was like a grandmother to me.

81
00:04:55,970 --> 00:04:59,210
Because my grandmother died
when she was very young.

82
00:04:59,210 --> 00:05:01,640
And I was named
after my grandmother.

83
00:05:01,640 --> 00:05:02,660
Both my grandmothers.

84
00:05:02,660 --> 00:05:05,480

I never knew my grandparents.

85

00:05:05,480 --> 00:05:08,670

So she was like a surrogate
grandmother to me.

86

00:05:08,670 --> 00:05:11,690

And I used to love to
come to her very often.

87

00:05:11,690 --> 00:05:15,000

And we said, we were very
close with my auntie.

88

00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:16,790

And auntie Zalk.

89

00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:19,970

That was what we used to
call her, auntie Zalk.

90

00:05:19,970 --> 00:05:24,500

Not by her first name, but by
her last name out of respect.

91

00:05:24,500 --> 00:05:32,270

And I remember this lady,
she was very highly diabetic.

92

00:05:32,270 --> 00:05:37,370

And she had ulcerated legs.

93

00:05:37,370 --> 00:05:39,080

And I remember her mostly--

94

00:05:39,080 --> 00:05:42,560

she was a beautiful
woman, with white hair.

95

00:05:42,560 --> 00:05:45,710

White, like not gray, but white.

96

00:05:45,710 --> 00:05:51,290
And wore it in a bun in
the back like this, smooth.

97
00:05:51,290 --> 00:05:53,840
And never a
complaint out of her.

98
00:05:53,840 --> 00:05:56,760
Very poor people.

99
00:05:56,760 --> 00:06:00,930
And she would sit
with the bandages.

100
00:06:00,930 --> 00:06:04,170
Every time I saw her, she would
change dressing on her legs.

101
00:06:04,170 --> 00:06:08,160

102
00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:14,540
So she had to walk from
her home to our home.

103
00:06:14,540 --> 00:06:16,250
Quite a distance.

104
00:06:16,250 --> 00:06:18,810
Because there was
no transportation.

105
00:06:18,810 --> 00:06:21,510
And we helped
carry her in pails.

106
00:06:21,510 --> 00:06:27,060
We didn't have any baskets
or anything, or plastic bags,

107
00:06:27,060 --> 00:06:29,070
as people would have today.

108
00:06:29,070 --> 00:06:34,760
So in pails, like
in ordinary pails.

109
00:06:34,760 --> 00:06:36,650
With the load up
whatever we could.

110
00:06:36,650 --> 00:06:38,330
And I would-- and
I was very proud

111
00:06:38,330 --> 00:06:44,210
that I could carry two balancing
together to cross the bridge.

112
00:06:44,210 --> 00:06:46,404
We helped them
move, I was there.

113
00:06:46,404 --> 00:06:48,620
Were there a lot
of people moving?

114
00:06:48,620 --> 00:06:49,480
Oh, yes.

115
00:06:49,480 --> 00:06:50,820
Describe this going on.

116
00:06:50,820 --> 00:06:52,830
Well, there were
people constantly

117
00:06:52,830 --> 00:06:58,110
going, either through
the place of their home,

118
00:06:58,110 --> 00:07:01,980
their former home, to
get back more things

119

00:07:01,980 --> 00:07:03,420
that they could carry.

120

00:07:03,420 --> 00:07:09,280
And carrying to the ghetto
area across the bridge.

121

00:07:09,280 --> 00:07:11,310
The streets are, I
mean, they're in my--

122

00:07:11,310 --> 00:07:12,750
I can see them.

123

00:07:12,750 --> 00:07:15,120
I can see the name of--

124

00:07:15,120 --> 00:07:19,110
some of the names of the
streets, I even remember.

125

00:07:19,110 --> 00:07:23,130
There was, in Yiddish,
it was called [YIDDISH]..

126

00:07:23,130 --> 00:07:26,440
There was a town in
Lithuania called Janovos.

127

00:07:26,440 --> 00:07:30,570
And the town-- the street
was named after the town.

128

00:07:30,570 --> 00:07:32,760
And that town, that--

129

00:07:32,760 --> 00:07:36,510
excuse me, that street, that's
where the bridge started,

130

00:07:36,510 --> 00:07:38,610
at Janovos Street.

131
00:07:38,610 --> 00:07:44,280
And it went across to
Yurburergus in Yiddish.

132
00:07:44,280 --> 00:07:45,780
Yurburergus.

133
00:07:45,780 --> 00:07:48,990
Now, what it was called in
Lithuanian, I'm not exactly--

134
00:07:48,990 --> 00:07:51,720
I don't want to kill it.

135
00:07:51,720 --> 00:07:53,730
Jurbarkas or
something like that,

136
00:07:53,730 --> 00:07:58,020
I don't-- and that is the
street that the bridge ended.

137
00:07:58,020 --> 00:08:03,510
And the street that we lived on,
which was [LITHUANIAN] Street

138
00:08:03,510 --> 00:08:06,340
started at this
Jurbarkas Street.

139
00:08:06,340 --> 00:08:10,590
So it was like you crossed the
bridge, you got off the bridge,

140
00:08:10,590 --> 00:08:16,188
and you walked a few yards, not
far, a few meters or whatever.

141
00:08:16,188 --> 00:08:18,480
And you made the right turn,
and you came on the street

142
00:08:18,480 --> 00:08:19,890
where I lived.

143
00:08:19,890 --> 00:08:22,840
But further down.

144
00:08:22,840 --> 00:08:25,330
So how long did
the moving go on?

145
00:08:25,330 --> 00:08:28,330
It took weeks, I think.

146
00:08:28,330 --> 00:08:29,680
A couple of weeks.

147
00:08:29,680 --> 00:08:33,700
They didn't give us too
much notice or too much

148
00:08:33,700 --> 00:08:34,840
opportunity to move.

149
00:08:34,840 --> 00:08:38,320
Like I said, you couldn't
move anything that wasn't--

150
00:08:38,320 --> 00:08:41,600
only way you could carry.

151
00:08:41,600 --> 00:08:44,465
And then there were
some other decrees

152
00:08:44,465 --> 00:08:48,590
soon after the ghetto
was closed off.

153
00:08:48,590 --> 00:08:53,060
Well, the other decrees--

154

00:08:53,060 --> 00:08:56,930
the most important one
that comes to my mind,

155
00:08:56,930 --> 00:09:00,290
because there must have
been other minor ones, which

156
00:09:00,290 --> 00:09:04,780
are about working and going--

157
00:09:04,780 --> 00:09:06,885
oh, yes, excuse me,
I have to retract.

158
00:09:06,885 --> 00:09:09,840

159
00:09:09,840 --> 00:09:12,720
I told like my--

160
00:09:12,720 --> 00:09:16,470
they grabbed people
on the streets

161
00:09:16,470 --> 00:09:19,620
and took them to
the Seventh Fort.

162
00:09:19,620 --> 00:09:22,365
Kaunas was surrounded by forts.

163
00:09:22,365 --> 00:09:25,160

164
00:09:25,160 --> 00:09:29,930
From 1914, for the
tsars, the Russian tsars

165
00:09:29,930 --> 00:09:34,130
built as fortresses
around Kaunas or Kovno.

166

00:09:34,130 --> 00:09:37,940

And we children
used to play there.

167

00:09:37,940 --> 00:09:40,370

And that's where
the people later on,

168

00:09:40,370 --> 00:09:44,720

men, one of my
childhood friends,

169

00:09:44,720 --> 00:09:47,780

neighbors, was grabbed
with her father.

170

00:09:47,780 --> 00:09:49,430

To the Seventh Fort.

171

00:09:49,430 --> 00:09:50,930

There were many
forts, I don't know.

172

00:09:50,930 --> 00:09:54,680

But the Seventh and the
Ninth became very prominent,

173

00:09:54,680 --> 00:09:56,750

infamous.

174

00:09:56,750 --> 00:10:03,410

And her father and herself were
grabbed and taken to this fort.

175

00:10:03,410 --> 00:10:06,590

That was before the
ghetto was established.

176

00:10:06,590 --> 00:10:11,520

The father was killed in
front of her right there.

177

00:10:11,520 --> 00:10:15,180
And she was let go then.

178
00:10:15,180 --> 00:10:17,520
So she was in the ghetto, too.

179
00:10:17,520 --> 00:10:19,860
So all these things
were happening prior

180
00:10:19,860 --> 00:10:23,880
to the ghetto establishment.

181
00:10:23,880 --> 00:10:25,940
Why was he killed?

182
00:10:25,940 --> 00:10:27,830
Why was he killed?

183
00:10:27,830 --> 00:10:29,100
He was not the only one.

184
00:10:29,100 --> 00:10:30,080
There were many killed.

185
00:10:30,080 --> 00:10:32,885
Because he was a Jew, and
they were just at random.

186
00:10:32,885 --> 00:10:35,240
Caught the people
walking on the street.

187
00:10:35,240 --> 00:10:37,190
He had his yellow star.

188
00:10:37,190 --> 00:10:42,495
And he was grabbed and taken
to this Seventh Fort and shot

189
00:10:42,495 --> 00:10:43,370
or whatever they did.

190
00:10:43,370 --> 00:10:44,163
Killed.

191
00:10:44,163 --> 00:10:45,710
Yes, shot I said.

192
00:10:45,710 --> 00:10:46,300
That was it.

193
00:10:46,300 --> 00:10:47,360
That's how it was.

194
00:10:47,360 --> 00:10:48,500
I wasn't there to see it.

195
00:10:48,500 --> 00:10:51,845
But it was a known,
well-known fact.

196
00:10:51,845 --> 00:10:55,300

197
00:10:55,300 --> 00:10:56,667
We're just about out of film.

198
00:10:56,667 --> 00:10:57,750
I think we have to reload.

199
00:10:57,750 --> 00:11:12,820

200
00:11:12,820 --> 00:11:13,760
Mark.

201
00:11:13,760 --> 00:11:14,260
Speed.

202
00:11:14,260 --> 00:11:17,720

203

00:11:17,720 --> 00:11:22,080

Let's talk about the
Actions that happened.

204

00:11:22,080 --> 00:11:23,780

OK, yes.

205

00:11:23,780 --> 00:11:27,190

And that is what I was
referring to, the decree.

206

00:11:27,190 --> 00:11:28,510

Yes.

207

00:11:28,510 --> 00:11:30,690

This here.

208

00:11:30,690 --> 00:11:34,980

The big Action that
comes to my mind.

209

00:11:34,980 --> 00:11:38,230

210

00:11:38,230 --> 00:11:40,920

It was in October, at
the end of October.

211

00:11:40,920 --> 00:11:45,630

212

00:11:45,630 --> 00:11:49,830

And there was this decree
that the entire population

213

00:11:49,830 --> 00:11:57,060

of the ghetto, at the risk
of being shot instantly

214

00:11:57,060 --> 00:12:06,240

if being found at
home, by 6:00 the day,

215
00:12:06,240 --> 00:12:07,980
the entire population
of the ghetto

216
00:12:07,980 --> 00:12:14,440
was supposed to
gather at this square.

217
00:12:14,440 --> 00:12:16,210
The Demokrato.

218
00:12:16,210 --> 00:12:18,515
The Democratic
Square, if you please.

219
00:12:18,515 --> 00:12:21,080

220
00:12:21,080 --> 00:12:23,510
Very ironic, OK.

221
00:12:23,510 --> 00:12:27,080
It was a big, empty area.

222
00:12:27,080 --> 00:12:29,450
And you could see.

223
00:12:29,450 --> 00:12:33,530
I remember people
being carried in beds.

224
00:12:33,530 --> 00:12:35,540
Because they couldn't walk.

225
00:12:35,540 --> 00:12:38,690
They were sick or
they were elderly.

226
00:12:38,690 --> 00:12:43,640
And the whole-- from all sides
of the streets of the ghetto

227

00:12:43,640 --> 00:12:48,770
were streaming towards this
Democratic Plaza, or Place,

228

00:12:48,770 --> 00:12:53,990
or Square, or call
it what you like.

229

00:12:53,990 --> 00:12:58,850
And we were also
made aware that it's

230

00:12:58,850 --> 00:13:15,990
good to have [GERMAN],, which
means to show that you're

231

00:13:15,990 --> 00:13:21,330
worthy of work, that
you're employable,

232

00:13:21,330 --> 00:13:22,920
that you are employed.

233

00:13:22,920 --> 00:13:25,620
Not only are you employable,
but you're employed.

234

00:13:25,620 --> 00:13:30,900
And that you have a [GERMAN],,
or a paper of some kind to show

235

00:13:30,900 --> 00:13:31,710
that you are--

236

00:13:31,710 --> 00:13:34,790

237

00:13:34,790 --> 00:13:39,210
you count, that
you can contribute

238

00:13:39,210 --> 00:13:43,860
to the welfare of the German
Empire, whatever that may mean.

239
00:13:43,860 --> 00:13:47,910
That you still were--

240
00:13:47,910 --> 00:13:49,080
they can use you.

241
00:13:49,080 --> 00:13:51,600
Simply, they can use you.

242
00:13:51,600 --> 00:13:53,340
My father had one of those.

243
00:13:53,340 --> 00:13:56,370

244
00:13:56,370 --> 00:14:02,080
My father worked in the
same profession that he was.

245
00:14:02,080 --> 00:14:06,420
It wasn't actually a
profession, it was more a trade.

246
00:14:06,420 --> 00:14:15,930
But he worked outside the ghetto
for the Gestapo, if you please.

247
00:14:15,930 --> 00:14:19,140
The green uniforms.

248
00:14:19,140 --> 00:14:23,710
And they gave him a
paper of some sort.

249
00:14:23,710 --> 00:14:26,400
Whether it made a difference
or not at that point,

250

00:14:26,400 --> 00:14:27,220
I don't know.

251
00:14:27,220 --> 00:14:28,590
I can't say.

252
00:14:28,590 --> 00:14:32,640
But when we were all
gathered at that place,

253
00:14:32,640 --> 00:14:39,810
at that Democratic Plaza,
and after what seemed hours,

254
00:14:39,810 --> 00:14:44,280
suddenly, there was
a wall of uniforms.

255
00:14:44,280 --> 00:14:48,540
All I remember, really,
were uniforms and boots.

256
00:14:48,540 --> 00:14:49,905
Black boots and green uniforms.

257
00:14:49,905 --> 00:14:54,930

258
00:14:54,930 --> 00:14:59,000
And it did not take
long for even a child.

259
00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:01,600
By then I was already nine.

260
00:15:01,600 --> 00:15:07,060
But even a child of
nine knew that if you

261
00:15:07,060 --> 00:15:10,360
were sent to go to the
left, you were to live.

262

00:15:10,360 --> 00:15:12,730

For the time being, anyway.

263

00:15:12,730 --> 00:15:20,770

If you were sent to the
right, it didn't look good.

264

00:15:20,770 --> 00:15:22,960

Didn't know why it wasn't good.

265

00:15:22,960 --> 00:15:24,330

But we knew it wasn't good.

266

00:15:24,330 --> 00:15:27,620

267

00:15:27,620 --> 00:15:30,950

And they didn't look at the
papers, they didn't care.

268

00:15:30,950 --> 00:15:32,690

Yes, papers.

269

00:15:32,690 --> 00:15:35,030

And they broke up families.

270

00:15:35,030 --> 00:15:36,560

And they started to--

271

00:15:36,560 --> 00:15:39,890

people, here are my papers,
and here are my papers.

272

00:15:39,890 --> 00:15:44,010

And they chased, and
they just swiped you away

273

00:15:44,010 --> 00:15:45,720

like a piece of garbage.

274

00:15:45,720 --> 00:15:49,980

And you were sent to
the right, and you

275
00:15:49,980 --> 00:15:52,320
were surrounded by guns.

276
00:15:52,320 --> 00:15:54,360
And Lithuanian
Partisans, they were

277
00:15:54,360 --> 00:15:57,390
called [YIDDISH] in Yiddish.

278
00:15:57,390 --> 00:16:02,790
They were in uniforms with guns.

279
00:16:02,790 --> 00:16:07,980
And they were the ones who
were guarding the ones who

280
00:16:07,980 --> 00:16:11,610
were sent to the right.

281
00:16:11,610 --> 00:16:13,830
The lucky ones
turned out to be--

282
00:16:13,830 --> 00:16:16,370
and we were among those.

283
00:16:16,370 --> 00:16:17,760
We were not guarded.

284
00:16:17,760 --> 00:16:22,980
And that's how we knew that
this is good and this is bad.

285
00:16:22,980 --> 00:16:26,500
We didn't know how bad.

286
00:16:26,500 --> 00:16:29,830
By the time the

day was through, it

287

00:16:29,830 --> 00:16:32,920

was a long, long
day in many ways.

288

00:16:32,920 --> 00:16:35,350

And by the time the day
was through, it was dark

289

00:16:35,350 --> 00:16:38,305

but the time we got back to
our places, to our homes.

290

00:16:38,305 --> 00:16:42,490

291

00:16:42,490 --> 00:16:44,770

All my neighbors,
all our neighbors

292

00:16:44,770 --> 00:16:46,240

surrounding our street.

293

00:16:46,240 --> 00:16:48,250

On our street, my
next door neighbors,

294

00:16:48,250 --> 00:16:51,950

and then the same
courtyard where we lived.

295

00:16:51,950 --> 00:16:57,700

The people who owned the place
that we rented of our home.

296

00:16:57,700 --> 00:17:00,730

The children whom
I played with for--

297

00:17:00,730 --> 00:17:06,349

because I lived on this street
from age three, probably.

298
00:17:06,349 --> 00:17:07,610
And we grew up together.

299
00:17:07,610 --> 00:17:11,130

300
00:17:11,130 --> 00:17:14,609
We wore each other
mother's shoes.

301
00:17:14,609 --> 00:17:17,490
We pretended to be movie stars.

302
00:17:17,490 --> 00:17:21,089
We knew the names of Jeannette
MacDonald, and Nelson Eddy,

303
00:17:21,089 --> 00:17:23,339
and of course, Shirley Temple.

304
00:17:23,339 --> 00:17:27,960
We didn't pronounce them
as well as we should have.

305
00:17:27,960 --> 00:17:32,670
Shirley Temple was Shirleh
Temple, not Shirley.

306
00:17:32,670 --> 00:17:33,660
But we knew.

307
00:17:33,660 --> 00:17:38,950
We went to the movies, too,
before the war broke out.

308
00:17:38,950 --> 00:17:43,590
So all these people
never returned.

309
00:17:43,590 --> 00:17:49,260
None of my friends came back

from this here big Action.

310
00:17:49,260 --> 00:17:53,590

311
00:17:53,590 --> 00:17:58,750
At that point there were, from
what we heard, from I remember,

312
00:17:58,750 --> 00:18:03,670
we were told that there
were 22,000 inhabitants

313
00:18:03,670 --> 00:18:06,100
of the ghetto at that time.

314
00:18:06,100 --> 00:18:14,720
After this big, the [GERMAN]
Aktion, the Big Action,

315
00:18:14,720 --> 00:18:18,640
they took away 11 and
1/2 thousand people.

316
00:18:18,640 --> 00:18:19,900
That is what I heard.

317
00:18:19,900 --> 00:18:24,740
Whether it corresponds with what
later came out, I don't know.

318
00:18:24,740 --> 00:18:27,280

319
00:18:27,280 --> 00:18:32,080
And all the people whom
I knew, they were gone.

320
00:18:32,080 --> 00:18:37,510
New people-- by then, it turned
out that all the people that

321

00:18:37,510 --> 00:18:43,390
were guarded by the Lithuanian
Partisans, they were put into--

322
00:18:43,390 --> 00:18:48,350
they were taken to this small
ghetto across the bridge.

323
00:18:48,350 --> 00:18:53,130
And from there, they were
marched to the Ninth Fort.

324
00:18:53,130 --> 00:18:55,700

325
00:18:55,700 --> 00:18:59,900
One of the forts that
I mentioned earlier.

326
00:18:59,900 --> 00:19:02,950
And systematically
killed, those who made it.

327
00:19:02,950 --> 00:19:06,410
Now, I can not imagine
my mother's aunt

328
00:19:06,410 --> 00:19:10,070
having been able to
walk up mountains.

329
00:19:10,070 --> 00:19:11,140
It was up.

330
00:19:11,140 --> 00:19:14,000

331
00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:15,260
She would never walk up.

332
00:19:15,260 --> 00:19:16,670
I'm sure that she never made it.

333

00:19:16,670 --> 00:19:21,800

I'm sure she was killed on
the way towards that fort.

334

00:19:21,800 --> 00:19:25,850

And that's when they
liquidated the small ghetto,

335

00:19:25,850 --> 00:19:28,130

they cleaned the ghetto
and took off the bridge.

336

00:19:28,130 --> 00:19:31,340

And there was only the
big ghetto remained.

337

00:19:31,340 --> 00:19:36,260

Also, and they condensed.

338

00:19:36,260 --> 00:19:40,610

Even the big ghetto was
condensed at that point, too.

339

00:19:40,610 --> 00:19:42,630

Before you get to
that, how do you

340

00:19:42,630 --> 00:19:44,360

know what happened
to the people?

341

00:19:44,360 --> 00:19:46,400

Or how did you know that?

342

00:19:46,400 --> 00:19:48,830

How did we know?

343

00:19:48,830 --> 00:19:57,350

Because people-- now, that's a
very hard question to answer.

344

00:19:57,350 --> 00:20:01,760

It so happened that later
on, in our city of Toronto,

345
00:20:01,760 --> 00:20:07,910
where I'm from, there is a man
who survived this very Action.

346
00:20:07,910 --> 00:20:09,500
He was there, he
was left for dead.

347
00:20:09,500 --> 00:20:12,170

348
00:20:12,170 --> 00:20:15,460
And there were witnesses.

349
00:20:15,460 --> 00:20:20,590
There were witnesses who
knew this is what happened.

350
00:20:20,590 --> 00:20:25,930
And the people never,
ever came back.

351
00:20:25,930 --> 00:20:29,170
We were surrounded by people,
by children-- these people lived

352
00:20:29,170 --> 00:20:33,190
in those homes all their lives.

353
00:20:33,190 --> 00:20:36,160
They weren't just-- they
just came and disappeared.

354
00:20:36,160 --> 00:20:40,240
That's where they lived,
they were born there.

355
00:20:40,240 --> 00:20:42,315
And they lived there,
they went to school there.

356
00:20:42,315 --> 00:20:46,810
There were older ones than I,
there were younger ones than I.

357
00:20:46,810 --> 00:20:49,320
Nobody returned.

358
00:20:49,320 --> 00:20:54,090
They were killed as sure as--

359
00:20:54,090 --> 00:20:55,140
they were killed.

360
00:20:55,140 --> 00:20:58,440
There was no doubt
that's what happened.

361
00:20:58,440 --> 00:20:59,150
They were killed.

362
00:20:59,150 --> 00:21:03,740

363
00:21:03,740 --> 00:21:06,710
Describe to me again the
beginning of the Big Action.

364
00:21:06,710 --> 00:21:11,690

365
00:21:11,690 --> 00:21:12,250
It's hard.

366
00:21:12,250 --> 00:21:15,330

367
00:21:15,330 --> 00:21:20,610
I remember us all
streaming to that place,

368

00:21:20,610 --> 00:21:23,340
through that big square.

369
00:21:23,340 --> 00:21:26,370
I don't think it was even a
square, because there were no--

370
00:21:26,370 --> 00:21:28,920
I remember, there was no--

371
00:21:28,920 --> 00:21:34,440
you cannot even compare it
to a square that we know now

372
00:21:34,440 --> 00:21:35,580
as a square.

373
00:21:35,580 --> 00:21:41,750
A big-- Times
Square, Red Square,

374
00:21:41,750 --> 00:21:43,820
any kind of square
with buildings,

375
00:21:43,820 --> 00:21:48,470
and it's modern and civilized.

376
00:21:48,470 --> 00:21:49,800
Nothing like that.

377
00:21:49,800 --> 00:21:51,065
It was more like a field.

378
00:21:51,065 --> 00:21:55,110

379
00:21:55,110 --> 00:21:56,835
But they called it
Democratic Square.

380
00:21:56,835 --> 00:21:59,990

381

00:21:59,990 --> 00:22:03,170

And people were carried in beds.

382

00:22:03,170 --> 00:22:07,960

People were-- like there
wasn't old and young.

383

00:22:07,960 --> 00:24:36,331