

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

2
00:00:30,770 --> 00:00:31,270
Five.

3
00:00:31,270 --> 00:00:36,170

4
00:00:36,170 --> 00:00:38,060
So we're at the big Action.

5
00:00:38,060 --> 00:00:40,160
We're at the big Action.

6
00:00:40,160 --> 00:00:46,685
We're all streaming to be sure
to be on time for 6 o'clock.

7
00:00:46,685 --> 00:00:50,000

8
00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:51,890
A song that I don't
really remember,

9
00:00:51,890 --> 00:00:53,240
but a song was written.

10
00:00:53,240 --> 00:00:56,465
A ghetto song was
written for this event.

11
00:00:56,465 --> 00:00:59,460

12
00:00:59,460 --> 00:01:04,790
And I remember, there
were-- now that I think,

13

00:01:04,790 --> 00:01:05,990
there were printed.

14
00:01:05,990 --> 00:01:11,610
They had printed posters.

15
00:01:11,610 --> 00:01:18,150
Small, but big enough to be
for people to read in Yiddish.

16
00:01:18,150 --> 00:01:19,200
I don't have Lithuanian.

17
00:01:19,200 --> 00:01:21,540
German, of course.

18
00:01:21,540 --> 00:01:23,730
And about this decree.

19
00:01:23,730 --> 00:01:26,580
They didn't just--
they made sure

20
00:01:26,580 --> 00:01:32,850
that everybody got to
know about this gathering

21
00:01:32,850 --> 00:01:37,445
to that Democratic Plaza,
to that field, really.

22
00:01:37,445 --> 00:01:40,740

23
00:01:40,740 --> 00:01:46,170
And we were called to come.

24
00:01:46,170 --> 00:01:52,410
We came to that Democratic
Place, to that field.

25
00:01:52,410 --> 00:01:54,900

And there were already
a lot of people there.

26
00:01:54,900 --> 00:01:58,110
And I'm trying to
recapture, really,

27
00:01:58,110 --> 00:02:01,770
what I can see in my mind.

28
00:02:01,770 --> 00:02:05,190
But what mostly
stands out in my mind

29
00:02:05,190 --> 00:02:09,240
is that we were
sort of lined up.

30
00:02:09,240 --> 00:02:12,750
And there was-- we were
moving towards the wall.

31
00:02:12,750 --> 00:02:17,610
As I mentioned before,
now that I see it.

32
00:02:17,610 --> 00:02:22,770
We were moving towards
that wall of uniforms.

33
00:02:22,770 --> 00:02:26,070
That is the only way
I can describe it.

34
00:02:26,070 --> 00:02:28,500
Because I couldn't--

35
00:02:28,500 --> 00:02:29,940
I wouldn't look at the face.

36
00:02:29,940 --> 00:02:30,990
I couldn't.

37

00:02:30,990 --> 00:02:34,320

We were afraid to look
at anybody's face.

38

00:02:34,320 --> 00:02:38,530

Were afraid to look to
see what a person who

39

00:02:38,530 --> 00:02:40,615

plays God would look like.

40

00:02:40,615 --> 00:02:44,760

41

00:02:44,760 --> 00:02:49,480

Uniforms, boots.

42

00:02:49,480 --> 00:02:54,620

And as we were inching
towards our turn,

43

00:02:54,620 --> 00:02:57,240

our turn was coming
closer and closer.

44

00:02:57,240 --> 00:03:01,740

45

00:03:01,740 --> 00:03:05,600

And then our turn came.

46

00:03:05,600 --> 00:03:09,260

And my aunt and my
cousin were not with us,

47

00:03:09,260 --> 00:03:12,560

because they were
not allowed together

48

00:03:12,560 --> 00:03:14,570

with us, to stand beside us.

49

00:03:14,570 --> 00:03:21,540

Because we were designated which groups to be with whom, too.

50

00:03:21,540 --> 00:03:24,930

We were not-- we couldn't just be at random here or at random

51

00:03:24,930 --> 00:03:25,620

there.

52

00:03:25,620 --> 00:03:30,150

We had to be designated exactly with such and such a group.

53

00:03:30,150 --> 00:03:32,550

And they were a different group.

54

00:03:32,550 --> 00:03:33,860

And we never saw them again.

55

00:03:33,860 --> 00:03:37,910

56

00:03:37,910 --> 00:03:40,670

And our turn came.

57

00:03:40,670 --> 00:03:47,100

And lo and behold, we were told to go to the left.

58

00:03:47,100 --> 00:03:49,820

And as I said before, didn't take long

59

00:03:49,820 --> 00:03:54,125

to know that the left was the living.

60

00:03:54,125 --> 00:03:57,620

61

00:03:57,620 --> 00:04:01,970

For the time being, anyway,
for whatever long that may be.

62

00:04:01,970 --> 00:04:04,770

63

00:04:04,770 --> 00:04:12,250

And then after that, what
was the mood in the ghetto?

64

00:04:12,250 --> 00:04:15,430

From what I remember,
people moved

65

00:04:15,430 --> 00:04:18,730

in to the houses
that were emptied

66

00:04:18,730 --> 00:04:22,180

by those that were taken away.

67

00:04:22,180 --> 00:04:26,440

There was a part of the
ghetto where our street was.

68

00:04:26,440 --> 00:04:31,480

I don't know if I can take
the time to sort of describe

69

00:04:31,480 --> 00:04:33,700

the layout of that.

70

00:04:33,700 --> 00:04:40,300

The way our ghetto was, that
our street was partly one side

71

00:04:40,300 --> 00:04:44,560

was the ghetto and one
side-- that was our street.

72

00:04:44,560 --> 00:04:48,130

And one side, part of
it, was the Gentle side.

73
00:04:48,130 --> 00:04:50,990

74
00:04:50,990 --> 00:04:55,210
And it extended quite far out.

75
00:04:55,210 --> 00:04:58,160
Now, this part, where
it was the Jewish--

76
00:04:58,160 --> 00:05:04,460
the ghetto where it was on one
side, that part was taken away.

77
00:05:04,460 --> 00:05:09,470
So the people who
returned from that part

78
00:05:09,470 --> 00:05:14,260
and from the small
ghetto, too, that were--

79
00:05:14,260 --> 00:05:18,215
the small ghetto was emptied to
come to that Democratic Place,

80
00:05:18,215 --> 00:05:18,715
too.

81
00:05:18,715 --> 00:05:21,250
To go through the big Action.

82
00:05:21,250 --> 00:05:24,160
They never got back to their
homes in the small ghetto.

83
00:05:24,160 --> 00:05:27,340
The small ghetto was eliminated.

84

00:05:27,340 --> 00:05:29,110
And the bridge was taken away.

85
00:05:29,110 --> 00:05:33,340
So all these people
that remained

86
00:05:33,340 --> 00:05:40,090
moved in to the quarters that
the previous inhabitants lived.

87
00:05:40,090 --> 00:05:42,620
So I acquired new friends.

88
00:05:42,620 --> 00:05:44,230
We acquired new neighbors.

89
00:05:44,230 --> 00:05:47,000

90
00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:53,000
And life, so to speak, went on.

91
00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:53,660
It did.

92
00:05:53,660 --> 00:05:56,220

93
00:05:56,220 --> 00:05:59,940
Every time, there was
another happening, a minor,

94
00:05:59,940 --> 00:06:01,080
maybe not so major.

95
00:06:01,080 --> 00:06:07,260
Because the people that
were taken out to work--

96
00:06:07,260 --> 00:06:10,920
every morning the

people were ordered

97

00:06:10,920 --> 00:06:14,520
to gather at the
gate to go to work.

98

00:06:14,520 --> 00:06:18,100
And some people had
designated places where to go.

99

00:06:18,100 --> 00:06:18,600
They worked.

100

00:06:18,600 --> 00:06:22,080
Like my father worked
for the Gestapo.

101

00:06:22,080 --> 00:06:25,320
In what capacity, I'm not
even sure what he did.

102

00:06:25,320 --> 00:06:29,150
He was called in
German an [GERMAN]..

103

00:06:29,150 --> 00:06:31,960
[GERMAN] like an oven.

104

00:06:31,960 --> 00:06:34,990
And they made ovens, for
cooking or for whatever,

105

00:06:34,990 --> 00:06:36,130
or for heating.

106

00:06:36,130 --> 00:06:38,800
That was the trade.

107

00:06:38,800 --> 00:06:41,170
Whether he made the
ovens for them or not,

108

00:06:41,170 --> 00:06:44,490
I really don't know.

109
00:06:44,490 --> 00:06:47,890
But they called him
on his paper [GERMAN],,

110
00:06:47,890 --> 00:06:49,460
so I suppose that's what he did.

111
00:06:49,460 --> 00:06:52,370

112
00:06:52,370 --> 00:06:57,110
But the big project for work was
what they called the [GERMAN],,

113
00:06:57,110 --> 00:06:59,400
the airport.

114
00:06:59,400 --> 00:07:02,070
Numerous, numerous
people were taken

115
00:07:02,070 --> 00:07:06,790
to build the airport
in Kaunas, in Kovno.

116
00:07:06,790 --> 00:07:11,920
Which wasn't-- and also in
a suburb called Aleksot.

117
00:07:11,920 --> 00:07:14,200
I don't know if anyone
ever mentioned this,

118
00:07:14,200 --> 00:07:15,550
if you ever heard this word.

119
00:07:15,550 --> 00:07:17,230
I shouldn't.

120

00:07:17,230 --> 00:07:18,670
Anyway.

121
00:07:18,670 --> 00:07:22,630
And so this was most--

122
00:07:22,630 --> 00:07:27,250
where most of the people went
to work there, at the airport,

123
00:07:27,250 --> 00:07:30,310
and returning every night back.

124
00:07:30,310 --> 00:07:37,060
Now, on the return, very
often, people did not return.

125
00:07:37,060 --> 00:07:41,240
Because either in the morning,
before they went to work,

126
00:07:41,240 --> 00:07:44,920
they were designated no, no, no,
you're not going to work today.

127
00:07:44,920 --> 00:07:47,020
We need you someplace else.

128
00:07:47,020 --> 00:07:49,270
And they would just
at random take a group

129
00:07:49,270 --> 00:07:52,840
and put them in the what used
to be near us, the synagogue,

130
00:07:52,840 --> 00:07:54,550
and they made it into a jail.

131
00:07:54,550 --> 00:07:59,320
And that's where they put
the people temporarily.

132

00:07:59,320 --> 00:08:04,840

And then they deported
them somewhere.

133

00:08:04,840 --> 00:08:07,270

To a forced labor somewhere.

134

00:08:07,270 --> 00:08:11,060

That was the story.

135

00:08:11,060 --> 00:08:12,500

And it didn't
matter whether they

136

00:08:12,500 --> 00:08:15,665

were-- it wasn't a young
or old, it was at random.

137

00:08:15,665 --> 00:08:20,310

138

00:08:20,310 --> 00:08:25,530

So those were the circumstances
that we lived under.

139

00:08:25,530 --> 00:08:28,170

And we were close to it.

140

00:08:28,170 --> 00:08:30,810

Because we were--
we were number 29.

141

00:08:30,810 --> 00:08:35,850

And probably number
20 or whatever,

142

00:08:35,850 --> 00:08:38,010

that's where the synagogue was.

143

00:08:38,010 --> 00:08:40,500

It was-- the blocks
were very small.

144

00:08:40,500 --> 00:08:44,130

It wasn't like a street, like
you imagine the Washington

145

00:08:44,130 --> 00:08:44,745

or Toronto.

146

00:08:44,745 --> 00:08:47,400

147

00:08:47,400 --> 00:08:49,640

It was a different time.

148

00:08:49,640 --> 00:08:51,700

And the houses looked
a lot different.

149

00:08:51,700 --> 00:08:53,550

I couldn't believe it
when I saw pictures

150

00:08:53,550 --> 00:08:56,370

of what it looked like.

151

00:08:56,370 --> 00:08:58,880

What did you do all day?

152

00:08:58,880 --> 00:08:59,672

What did I do?

153

00:08:59,672 --> 00:09:00,755

I looked after my brother.

154

00:09:00,755 --> 00:09:03,440

155

00:09:03,440 --> 00:09:07,700

The two of us were
left behind at home.

156

00:09:07,700 --> 00:09:11,180

Also, we had people
move in with us, too.

157

00:09:11,180 --> 00:09:15,500

Because the ghetto got
condensed every time.

158

00:09:15,500 --> 00:09:17,000

So people moved in.

159

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:21,290

And a mother and a son
joined us and slept

160

00:09:21,290 --> 00:09:25,880

on the sofa in our-- what was
sort of, kind of living room.

161

00:09:25,880 --> 00:09:27,800

Wasn't really a living
room, but it was

162

00:09:27,800 --> 00:09:29,350

the sofa in the dining room.

163

00:09:29,350 --> 00:09:32,000

164

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:34,460

The mother and a
quite a grown son.

165

00:09:34,460 --> 00:09:36,247

But there was no other way.

166

00:09:36,247 --> 00:09:36,830

So they slept.

167

00:09:36,830 --> 00:09:41,670

Because the four of us, we
slept in one bedroom, too.

168

00:09:41,670 --> 00:09:43,140

I slept in a crib--

169

00:09:43,140 --> 00:09:44,040

not in a crib--

170

00:09:44,040 --> 00:09:44,730

in a crib.

171

00:09:44,730 --> 00:09:47,340

What you would call

a crib now for--

172

00:09:47,340 --> 00:09:51,540

not a cradle, but a crib till

we moved out of this place.

173

00:09:51,540 --> 00:09:53,120

And I'll get to

that a bit later.

174

00:09:53,120 --> 00:09:55,430

I slept in a crib.

175

00:09:55,430 --> 00:09:58,130

And my brother slept

with my mother and father

176

00:09:58,130 --> 00:09:58,730

in the middle.

177

00:09:58,730 --> 00:10:01,570

178

00:10:01,570 --> 00:10:05,260

So my father and mother

went to work every day.

179

00:10:05,260 --> 00:10:09,670

And I stayed at home

with my brother.

180

00:10:09,670 --> 00:10:18,660

And my mother used to also
risk her life very often.

181

00:10:18,660 --> 00:10:20,070

And that's where--

182

00:10:20,070 --> 00:10:21,900

I don't want to jump the gun.

183

00:10:21,900 --> 00:10:30,080

She would cover her clothes,
her coat, the yellow stars,

184

00:10:30,080 --> 00:10:34,550

with the Jew on it on
both sides, cover up.

185

00:10:34,550 --> 00:10:43,460

And steal away and try to
exchange something for food.

186

00:10:43,460 --> 00:10:46,525

By then, we did not
have any valuables,

187

00:10:46,525 --> 00:10:47,900

because there was
something, too.

188

00:10:47,900 --> 00:10:51,440

There was a decree
that all the valuables

189

00:10:51,440 --> 00:10:55,340

must be brought to where
that Judenrat, where

190

00:10:55,340 --> 00:10:59,540

that the Jewish committee,
or the Komitet in Yiddish,

191

00:10:59,540 --> 00:11:02,310
it was called the Komitet.

192
00:11:02,310 --> 00:11:05,660
Into the premises
of this building,

193
00:11:05,660 --> 00:11:10,340
all the belongings--
furs, wedding bands,

194
00:11:10,340 --> 00:11:14,360
any kind of-- anything that
is valuable that you think

195
00:11:14,360 --> 00:11:15,420
is valuable.

196
00:11:15,420 --> 00:11:16,490
You must not keep.

197
00:11:16,490 --> 00:11:17,660
You must take it.

198
00:11:17,660 --> 00:11:19,610
Silver candlesticks.

199
00:11:19,610 --> 00:11:20,555
Anything, anything.

200
00:11:20,555 --> 00:11:23,280

201
00:11:23,280 --> 00:11:28,430
So perhaps my mother
didn't give everything.

202
00:11:28,430 --> 00:11:32,160
So she would exchange for food.

203
00:11:32,160 --> 00:11:34,590
And at the risk of her life.

204
00:11:34,590 --> 00:11:35,490
To try to smuggle--

205
00:11:35,490 --> 00:11:49,910

206
00:11:49,910 --> 00:11:55,140
So just tell me again, how
your mother would sneak out.

207
00:11:55,140 --> 00:12:00,120
She would sneak out,
either from the work,

208
00:12:00,120 --> 00:12:04,770
from the place of
work, or while walking

209
00:12:04,770 --> 00:12:07,980
towards the place of work.

210
00:12:07,980 --> 00:12:10,800
And she was not the only
one who would do that.

211
00:12:10,800 --> 00:12:14,760

212
00:12:14,760 --> 00:12:18,460
But it was at the risk of death.

213
00:12:18,460 --> 00:12:22,300
First, to get out
then to get back in,

214
00:12:22,300 --> 00:12:26,890
and then to smuggle in,
if she did get something,

215
00:12:26,890 --> 00:12:28,210
to the ghetto.

216
00:12:28,210 --> 00:12:33,010
Because sporadically,
they were searched.

217
00:12:33,010 --> 00:12:34,210
You, you, you?

218
00:12:34,210 --> 00:12:35,170
Like that, you know.

219
00:12:35,170 --> 00:12:36,710
What have you got?

220
00:12:36,710 --> 00:12:37,987
Are you bringing?

221
00:12:37,987 --> 00:12:39,820
They always knew that
somebody was bringing.

222
00:12:39,820 --> 00:12:42,400
It's like going through
the customs, excuse me.

223
00:12:42,400 --> 00:12:45,370
You know, please.

224
00:12:45,370 --> 00:12:47,620
But sporadically.

225
00:12:47,620 --> 00:12:48,820
Yes.

226
00:12:48,820 --> 00:12:51,580
And she was never caught.

227
00:12:51,580 --> 00:12:57,580
And she managed to
bring in food for us.

228

00:12:57,580 --> 00:13:03,850
And as in any other society,
there were, even in the ghetto,

229

00:13:03,850 --> 00:13:09,310
there were people who had
it better than others.

230

00:13:09,310 --> 00:13:13,930
They had better, maybe
their place of work.

231

00:13:13,930 --> 00:13:16,120
Maybe they could
work where they--

232

00:13:16,120 --> 00:13:17,290
they worked with food.

233

00:13:17,290 --> 00:13:20,080
Or maybe they
worked with clothes.

234

00:13:20,080 --> 00:13:23,380
Or whatever it was.

235

00:13:23,380 --> 00:13:30,280
There were even songs on this
matter about the nouveau riche,

236

00:13:30,280 --> 00:13:34,120
so to speak, of the
ghetto, kind of.

237

00:13:34,120 --> 00:13:39,940
And they would
probably buy something

238

00:13:39,940 --> 00:13:44,410
from that my mother smuggled in.

239

00:13:44,410 --> 00:13:48,970
Or I would stand on the corner

in the ghetto on the street

240
00:13:48,970 --> 00:13:49,870
somewhere.

241
00:13:49,870 --> 00:13:54,460
That I would be put
out to do the selling.

242
00:13:54,460 --> 00:13:59,235
And that was part of my--

243
00:13:59,235 --> 00:14:01,960

244
00:14:01,960 --> 00:14:06,640
this was my duty

245
00:14:06,640 --> 00:14:11,710
So my mother could save
some, perhaps, either money.

246
00:14:11,710 --> 00:14:13,210
I don't know whether
they got money.

247
00:14:13,210 --> 00:14:16,580
Or some stamps, maybe for food,
or to change, or something.

248
00:14:16,580 --> 00:14:22,680
I don't know what they
changed for in the ghetto.

249
00:14:22,680 --> 00:14:24,780
I mean, I did the selling.

250
00:14:24,780 --> 00:14:27,240
And I did get money, I think.

251
00:14:27,240 --> 00:14:28,722
I don't recall, truly.

252
00:14:28,722 --> 00:14:29,430
I don't remember.

253
00:14:29,430 --> 00:14:32,770
But I remember
standing on the corner

254
00:14:32,770 --> 00:14:34,770
not too far from my--
there was a special corner

255
00:14:34,770 --> 00:14:35,895
and I was not the only one.

256
00:14:35,895 --> 00:14:37,410
There were other kids.

257
00:14:37,410 --> 00:14:38,730
There were another people.

258
00:14:38,730 --> 00:14:42,240
And selling of goods
that were brought,

259
00:14:42,240 --> 00:14:45,840
smuggled into the ghetto.

260
00:14:45,840 --> 00:14:49,110
What about other parts of life
in the ghetto as life went on?

261
00:14:49,110 --> 00:14:49,960
What about--

262
00:14:49,960 --> 00:14:58,410
OK, now, previously, I
mentioned that I loved--

263
00:14:58,410 --> 00:15:01,680
that I had a curious
mind, that I love to read.

264
00:15:01,680 --> 00:15:03,390
And I did.

265
00:15:03,390 --> 00:15:07,830
Now, when I think
back on those days.

266
00:15:07,830 --> 00:15:11,580
And books were-- they were
among those things that

267
00:15:11,580 --> 00:15:12,920
were forbidden.

268
00:15:12,920 --> 00:15:18,870
We were not to have books, or
schools, or anything like that.

269
00:15:18,870 --> 00:15:20,730
Nothing that would humanize us.

270
00:15:20,730 --> 00:15:23,580

271
00:15:23,580 --> 00:15:26,890
Now, I really don't know.

272
00:15:26,890 --> 00:15:30,330
But that is unbelievable
to me, even.

273
00:15:30,330 --> 00:15:32,520
I always had a book.

274
00:15:32,520 --> 00:15:33,600
Different kinds of books.

275
00:15:33,600 --> 00:15:36,060
I read, I found everywhere.

276

00:15:36,060 --> 00:15:37,650
I found books.

277
00:15:37,650 --> 00:15:42,810
I read in Yiddish,
the Jewish classics

278
00:15:42,810 --> 00:15:46,650
and non-Jewish classics
translated into Yiddish.

279
00:15:46,650 --> 00:15:49,605
Guy de Maupassant, I
remember having read.

280
00:15:49,605 --> 00:15:52,560

281
00:15:52,560 --> 00:15:56,640
Of course, Sholem
Aleichem I knew, I read.

282
00:15:56,640 --> 00:16:02,010
I read the Jewish
history by Graetz.

283
00:16:02,010 --> 00:16:03,780
I read in the ghetto.

284
00:16:03,780 --> 00:16:09,230
I was just 10, 11
years old then.

285
00:16:09,230 --> 00:16:13,580
I don't know how I got--
how those books came to me.

286
00:16:13,580 --> 00:16:16,940
And it's not like
somebody provided them.

287
00:16:16,940 --> 00:16:24,560
Or maybe because the way I

was going to people, like--

288
00:16:24,560 --> 00:16:26,690
and I'll get to that,
to the photograph

289
00:16:26,690 --> 00:16:29,540
that is of me in the museum.

290
00:16:29,540 --> 00:16:30,830
There's the photograph of me.

291
00:16:30,830 --> 00:16:33,590
And I'll have to
bring that up soon.

292
00:16:33,590 --> 00:16:36,800
Maybe that's how I-- because
I would go to people's houses

293
00:16:36,800 --> 00:16:38,000
to sell things.

294
00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:43,270
And maybe I would notice a book.

295
00:16:43,270 --> 00:16:46,960
Or maybe I would ask for the
book, if did they have books.

296
00:16:46,960 --> 00:16:51,310
Because I was pretty
gutsy in those days.

297
00:16:51,310 --> 00:16:53,320
I was.

298
00:16:53,320 --> 00:16:55,420
Unfortunately, I'm not now.

299
00:16:55,420 --> 00:16:59,380
Quite timid as a person,

but that's another story.

300
00:16:59,380 --> 00:17:03,070
But I was very, very
outgoing and very gutsy.

301
00:17:03,070 --> 00:17:05,170
That's the word.

302
00:17:05,170 --> 00:17:11,790
So I always read and
I always listened.

303
00:17:11,790 --> 00:17:21,540
I remember going to a
concert in the ghetto.

304
00:17:21,540 --> 00:17:25,770
Now, it wasn't on
a regular basis.

305
00:17:25,770 --> 00:17:30,840
But there was what you
call a higher school

306
00:17:30,840 --> 00:17:33,810
of learning for the Talmud.

307
00:17:33,810 --> 00:17:36,880
They call it a yeshiva now.

308
00:17:36,880 --> 00:17:41,890
A yeshiva, a higher school for
students of higher learning.

309
00:17:41,890 --> 00:17:47,610
And the Slabodka yeshiva was a
very famous one in the world.

310
00:17:47,610 --> 00:17:50,370
There is even one in
Israel now that carries

311
00:17:50,370 --> 00:17:52,200
the name of that yeshiva.

312
00:17:52,200 --> 00:17:54,090
But it's just only the name.

313
00:17:54,090 --> 00:17:55,670
It's not the same
thing, of course.

314
00:17:55,670 --> 00:17:59,865

315
00:17:59,865 --> 00:18:05,410
And within the walls of this
yeshiva, which was still

316
00:18:05,410 --> 00:18:10,750
within the ghetto, there
were people who got together

317
00:18:10,750 --> 00:18:12,940
who played instruments.

318
00:18:12,940 --> 00:18:16,240
And they played classical music.

319
00:18:16,240 --> 00:18:18,010
And I remember it being.

320
00:18:18,010 --> 00:18:21,150
And this was also very risky.

321
00:18:21,150 --> 00:18:22,485
But people took chances.

322
00:18:22,485 --> 00:18:25,180

323
00:18:25,180 --> 00:18:28,480
Lithuanian Jews

have a reputation

324

00:18:28,480 --> 00:18:37,420
of being very cultured, and
learned, and very informative,

325

00:18:37,420 --> 00:18:39,580
and all of those things.

326

00:18:39,580 --> 00:18:44,880
And I think there
was something to it.

327

00:18:44,880 --> 00:18:49,140
I think there were newspapers
being printed in the ghetto.

328

00:18:49,140 --> 00:18:54,260
Of course, they
were underground.

329

00:18:54,260 --> 00:18:56,780
There were all kinds
of songs being written.

330

00:18:56,780 --> 00:18:58,820
I knew a lot of the songs.

331

00:18:58,820 --> 00:19:00,730
I still remember
some of the songs.

332

00:19:00,730 --> 00:19:03,530

333

00:19:03,530 --> 00:19:06,740
People's minds just wouldn't
die because their bodies

334

00:19:06,740 --> 00:19:09,320
were dying.

335

00:19:09,320 --> 00:19:11,240
People made the
best of what they

336
00:19:11,240 --> 00:19:13,520
could under the circumstances.

337
00:19:13,520 --> 00:19:17,930
The children-- they tried
to educate the children.

338
00:19:17,930 --> 00:19:18,935
There were schools.

339
00:19:18,935 --> 00:19:22,180

340
00:19:22,180 --> 00:19:27,100
I don't recall
really attending one.

341
00:19:27,100 --> 00:19:31,180
I may have, because I
remember knowing of it.

342
00:19:31,180 --> 00:19:32,750
But not on the regular.

343
00:19:32,750 --> 00:19:35,050
You couldn't do it
on a regular basis.

344
00:19:35,050 --> 00:19:36,340
Life was not regular.

345
00:19:36,340 --> 00:19:39,100
You couldn't do it
on a regular basis.

346
00:19:39,100 --> 00:19:44,950
But certainly,
attempts were made.

347

00:19:44,950 --> 00:19:49,710

And sometimes,
really, they worked.

348

00:19:49,710 --> 00:19:52,200

They worked well.

349

00:19:52,200 --> 00:19:55,950

What about celebrations?

350

00:19:55,950 --> 00:19:57,030

Good question.

351

00:19:57,030 --> 00:20:00,900

Because again, when I was
talking about the concert,

352

00:20:00,900 --> 00:20:02,460

I remember--

353

00:20:02,460 --> 00:20:05,370

to the same yeshiva, we went.

354

00:20:05,370 --> 00:20:09,240

It was the holiday
of Sukkot, which

355

00:20:09,240 --> 00:20:12,720

was actually the end of
Sukkot, which is Simchat Torah.

356

00:20:12,720 --> 00:20:17,220

Now, Simchat Torah means
the joy of the Torah.

357

00:20:17,220 --> 00:20:21,000

You celebrate the
Torah, the finishing

358

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:24,450

of reading it and the beginning
of the reading it again.

359
00:20:24,450 --> 00:20:26,850
It's like a circle
that never ends.

360
00:20:26,850 --> 00:20:34,350
And I remember going there,
dancing with everybody.

361
00:20:34,350 --> 00:20:36,520
And it was crowded.

362
00:20:36,520 --> 00:20:40,140
It was crowded
with people dancing

363
00:20:40,140 --> 00:20:42,120
because of the
Simchat Torah, because

364
00:20:42,120 --> 00:20:44,730
of the joy of the Torah.

365
00:20:44,730 --> 00:20:46,410
So that was a celebration.

366
00:20:46,410 --> 00:20:51,200

367
00:20:51,200 --> 00:20:57,230
What about religious--
wasn't religious practice?

368
00:20:57,230 --> 00:21:04,670
Well, religious practice--
our home was very traditional.

369
00:21:04,670 --> 00:21:09,210
Strictly kosher always.

370
00:21:09,210 --> 00:21:11,310
My father never

worked on the Sabbath.

371
00:21:11,310 --> 00:21:14,930

372
00:21:14,930 --> 00:21:19,490
And my father didn't go to the
synagogue on a daily basis.

373
00:21:19,490 --> 00:21:23,360
He put on his
phylacteries at home.

374
00:21:23,360 --> 00:21:24,620
And then he went to work.

375
00:21:24,620 --> 00:21:26,120
He had breakfast
and went to work.

376
00:21:26,120 --> 00:21:31,050

377
00:21:31,050 --> 00:21:35,220
I remember, on the
Sabbath, we walked a lot.

378
00:21:35,220 --> 00:21:38,790
But I think I also remember
that we took a bus.

379
00:21:38,790 --> 00:21:39,960
So we were not--

380
00:21:39,960 --> 00:21:42,120
I think, maybe
not so much a bus.

381
00:21:42,120 --> 00:21:45,960
But my father, I remember, one
time, took me on an excursion

382

00:21:45,960 --> 00:21:47,460
on a boat.

383
00:21:47,460 --> 00:21:51,360
Because the city of
Kaunas was on two rivers.

384
00:21:51,360 --> 00:21:54,060
And two rivers went
into the other.

385
00:21:54,060 --> 00:21:57,330
And the Viliya.

386
00:21:57,330 --> 00:21:59,220
I don't know how to
pronounce it otherwise.

387
00:21:59,220 --> 00:22:00,600
That's how I knew it.

388
00:22:00,600 --> 00:22:05,190
And our street actually was
right next to that Viliya.

389
00:22:05,190 --> 00:22:10,850
And then Neman, the very
famous Lithuanian Neman,

390
00:22:10,850 --> 00:22:13,400
that this was the
national river.

391
00:22:13,400 --> 00:22:16,955
That many, many Lithuanian
songs were written on that.

392
00:22:16,955 --> 00:22:23,050
And I remember one or
two of them vaguely.

393
00:22:23,050 --> 00:22:25,650
We have to put another roll.

394

00:22:25,650 --> 00:24:47,382