

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:01:10,300

2

00:01:10,300 --> 00:01:11,460

And you can start any time.

3

00:01:11,460 --> 00:01:14,850

4

00:01:14,850 --> 00:01:17,880

Today is the 27th of May, 1992.

5

00:01:17,880 --> 00:01:21,195

We're interviewing

Mrs. Lotte Greenwald.

6

00:01:21,195 --> 00:01:23,720

No, it's Grunwald.

7

00:01:23,720 --> 00:01:24,480

"Grun"?

8

00:01:24,480 --> 00:01:26,040

"Grun," G-R-U-N.

9

00:01:26,040 --> 00:01:28,110

G-R-U-N. I beg your pardon.

10

00:01:28,110 --> 00:01:30,580

It's not "Greenwald,"

as I was given.

11

00:01:30,580 --> 00:01:32,640

It is Grunwald, G-R-U-N-umlaut--

12

00:01:32,640 --> 00:01:33,790

It's Grunwald--

13

00:01:33,790 --> 00:01:40,750

W-A-L-D, under the auspices of

the San Francisco Oral History

14
00:01:40,750 --> 00:01:42,300
Project.

15
00:01:42,300 --> 00:01:44,670
My name is Alan Peters.

16
00:01:44,670 --> 00:01:46,620
I'm assisted by
Richard Kershman.

17
00:01:46,620 --> 00:01:50,170
And Kathy Katz is
behind the camera.

18
00:01:50,170 --> 00:01:53,060
Thank you for being with
us this afternoon, Lotte.

19
00:01:53,060 --> 00:01:57,955
I'm delighted to have met
you in person finally.

20
00:01:57,955 --> 00:01:59,580
Would you please tell
us when and where

21
00:01:59,580 --> 00:02:02,607
you were born and a little
bit about the background

22
00:02:02,607 --> 00:02:04,440
of your family, your
father and your mother,

23
00:02:04,440 --> 00:02:08,759
where they came from,
what they did, and so on?

24
00:02:08,759 --> 00:02:15,810
I was born on November 15,
1915 in Frankfurt, Germany

25
00:02:15,810 --> 00:02:18,780
into a merchant family.

26
00:02:18,780 --> 00:02:22,680
My mother was born
in Frankfurt also.

27
00:02:22,680 --> 00:02:24,840
So was her father.

28
00:02:24,840 --> 00:02:29,550
And I have a family
tree going back to 1700.

29
00:02:29,550 --> 00:02:35,700
My father came from a small town
in the vicinity of Frankfurt

30
00:02:35,700 --> 00:02:40,690
and, as a young man,
came to join the business

31
00:02:40,690 --> 00:02:43,110
of an uncle of his.

32
00:02:43,110 --> 00:02:50,430
And this business was
manufacturing and distributing

33
00:02:50,430 --> 00:02:53,310
kosher food.

34
00:02:53,310 --> 00:02:58,390
And his business was
the biggest in Germany.

35
00:02:58,390 --> 00:03:04,110
And he had several places
outside of Frankfurt, stores,

36
00:03:04,110 --> 00:03:06,720

in major cities.

37

00:03:06,720 --> 00:03:14,220

And my mother's family
was in silver business

38

00:03:14,220 --> 00:03:17,760

and had a store in
Frankfurt, very well-known,

39

00:03:17,760 --> 00:03:24,310

and I would say in
the United States,

40

00:03:24,310 --> 00:03:26,920

you would say an
upper-middle-class background.

41

00:03:26,920 --> 00:03:29,950

42

00:03:29,950 --> 00:03:33,160

Is Greenwald your family--

43

00:03:33,160 --> 00:03:34,240

My husband's name.

44

00:03:34,240 --> 00:03:35,190

Your husband's name.

45

00:03:35,190 --> 00:03:36,190

Tell us the family name.

46

00:03:36,190 --> 00:03:44,730

My family name is Moses,
M-O-S-E-S. And yeah,

47

00:03:44,730 --> 00:03:46,680

my mother's maiden
name was Posen,

48

00:03:46,680 --> 00:03:52,365

which was in Germany a very well-known name in the silver

49
00:03:52,365 --> 00:03:53,700
line.

50
00:03:53,700 --> 00:04:03,390
And my family was very strictly Orthodox.

51
00:04:03,390 --> 00:04:08,160
And consequently, I went to an Orthodox school.

52
00:04:08,160 --> 00:04:15,660
And we lived not far from an Orthodox synagogue

53
00:04:15,660 --> 00:04:20,310
because on Shabbat, one had to go on foot.

54
00:04:20,310 --> 00:04:27,210
And my father's business was closed on Shabbat and holidays.

55
00:04:27,210 --> 00:04:33,360
And I grew up not knowing that there was anything

56
00:04:33,360 --> 00:04:36,000
outside of Orthodox Jews--

57
00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:39,130
no acquaintance, no non-Jewish acquaintance.

58
00:04:39,130 --> 00:04:46,170
The only non-Jewish person was in the apartment house

59
00:04:46,170 --> 00:04:53,200
where we lived, the what you

call janitor and his wife.

60

00:04:53,200 --> 00:04:56,220

And on Christmas, they
had a Christmas tree.

61

00:04:56,220 --> 00:05:02,160

That was the only Christmas
tree I ever saw when I grew up.

62

00:05:02,160 --> 00:05:05,850

Our friends were
all Orthodox also.

63

00:05:05,850 --> 00:05:09,930

And we did what
other people did,

64

00:05:09,930 --> 00:05:15,300

only that we did not eat
outside of a kosher restaurant.

65

00:05:15,300 --> 00:05:20,040

We did not do certain things
on Shabbat and holidays.

66

00:05:20,040 --> 00:05:27,010

But otherwise, we led a
perfectly normal life.

67

00:05:27,010 --> 00:05:31,650

It was naturally influenced
a lot by religion.

68

00:05:31,650 --> 00:05:37,320

And there was in
the school which

69

00:05:37,320 --> 00:05:39,210

I attended, it
was every morning,

70

00:05:39,210 --> 00:05:43,470

the first class was religion.

71

00:05:43,470 --> 00:05:45,630

And that went on six days.

72

00:05:45,630 --> 00:05:47,520

Saturday, we didn't
go to school.

73

00:05:47,520 --> 00:05:50,220

But we went to
school on Sundays.

74

00:05:50,220 --> 00:05:56,550

And it was a restricted life.

75

00:05:56,550 --> 00:06:05,520

And still, I don't
think I missed anything.

76

00:06:05,520 --> 00:06:15,780

And in 1933, when
I left school, I

77

00:06:15,780 --> 00:06:19,590

went to a business
school in order,

78

00:06:19,590 --> 00:06:22,080

originally, to go into
my father's business.

79

00:06:22,080 --> 00:06:28,290

But this was at the time already
when Hitler made his inroads.

80

00:06:28,290 --> 00:06:34,800

And so we decided that
was not the thing for me

81

00:06:34,800 --> 00:06:36,790

to prepare for.

82

00:06:36,790 --> 00:06:39,300

So after this, I went to
London to a business school

83

00:06:39,300 --> 00:06:40,770

to learn English.

84

00:06:40,770 --> 00:06:49,380

And then I went to, in
Germany still, a college,

85

00:06:49,380 --> 00:06:52,470

kind of, to learn
physical therapy.

86

00:06:52,470 --> 00:06:57,910

And I still received a diploma.

87

00:06:57,910 --> 00:06:59,220

It was towards the end.

88

00:06:59,220 --> 00:07:03,720

89

00:07:03,720 --> 00:07:11,310

My parents lived until 1937,
early 1937, in Frankfurt

90

00:07:11,310 --> 00:07:15,120

and immigrated then
to the Netherlands.

91

00:07:15,120 --> 00:07:18,840

We lived in Amsterdam.

92

00:07:18,840 --> 00:07:21,690

And it was not--

93

00:07:21,690 --> 00:07:24,960

it was really moving from
one city to the other,

94

00:07:24,960 --> 00:07:29,280

because we took all
our belongings along.

95

00:07:29,280 --> 00:07:35,280

There was a van arriving
at our place in Frankfurt

96

00:07:35,280 --> 00:07:38,140

and ending up in Amsterdam
in front of the house

97

00:07:38,140 --> 00:07:39,015

which we had rented.

98

00:07:39,015 --> 00:07:42,780

99

00:07:42,780 --> 00:07:47,220

Life in Amsterdam was very--

100

00:07:47,220 --> 00:07:51,480

in those days, very good.

101

00:07:51,480 --> 00:07:56,760

The only thing is
that there was no work

102

00:07:56,760 --> 00:08:00,780

to be done for refugees.

103

00:08:00,780 --> 00:08:07,830

They let people in only
under the condition

104

00:08:07,830 --> 00:08:11,100

that they would neither
work paid nor unpaid.

105

00:08:11,100 --> 00:08:14,640

So you couldn't even
do volunteer work.

106
00:08:14,640 --> 00:08:16,780
Every three months, you
had to go to the police.

107
00:08:16,780 --> 00:08:20,055
But overall, it
was an easy life.

108
00:08:20,055 --> 00:08:24,140

109
00:08:24,140 --> 00:08:30,290
I had two sisters,
one older one who

110
00:08:30,290 --> 00:08:32,990
lives today in Los
Angeles and a younger one

111
00:08:32,990 --> 00:08:37,650
who unfortunately
did not survive.

112
00:08:37,650 --> 00:08:43,169
And we all ended
up in Amsterdam.

113
00:08:43,169 --> 00:08:45,530
My older sister
studied law in Paris.

114
00:08:45,530 --> 00:08:50,960
But she came then in
1938 also to Amsterdam.

115
00:08:50,960 --> 00:08:54,410
And my younger sister
learned something else.

116
00:08:54,410 --> 00:09:04,170
My mother got very sick,
cancer, and died in 1939.

117
00:09:04,170 --> 00:09:13,310
So thinking of leaving Holland
because Hitler was close by

118
00:09:13,310 --> 00:09:18,200
didn't even enter our mind,
because in World War I,

119
00:09:18,200 --> 00:09:21,890
the Netherlands were
neutral country.

120
00:09:21,890 --> 00:09:27,320
And not only we thought so,
but so many other people

121
00:09:27,320 --> 00:09:31,920
who were in the same
circumstances thought the same.

122
00:09:31,920 --> 00:09:36,410
So we were trapped.

123
00:09:36,410 --> 00:09:41,700
On May the 10th, 1940,
early in the morning,

124
00:09:41,700 --> 00:09:45,530
we heard the bombers
over Amsterdam.

125
00:09:45,530 --> 00:09:53,210
And that was the end of
our fairly comfortable life

126
00:09:53,210 --> 00:09:55,580
until then.

127
00:09:55,580 --> 00:10:00,980
In the cities like
Frankfurt, even after 1933,

128

00:10:00,980 --> 00:10:03,860

you did not feel too much.

129

00:10:03,860 --> 00:10:05,690

It was more the smaller places.

130

00:10:05,690 --> 00:10:09,110

Jews from smaller places
moved into the city

131

00:10:09,110 --> 00:10:12,290

because they often could
not stay where they were.

132

00:10:12,290 --> 00:10:18,380

My father having to do
mostly with Jewish people,

133

00:10:18,380 --> 00:10:23,140

us Jewish institutions didn't
feel the impact, either.

134

00:10:23,140 --> 00:10:26,430

135

00:10:26,430 --> 00:10:37,100

Most businesses had to let
their Jewish employees go.

136

00:10:37,100 --> 00:10:39,830

We mostly had Jewish
employees also.

137

00:10:39,830 --> 00:10:44,840

So it was a little different
from another business.

138

00:10:44,840 --> 00:10:56,450

But 1937, things got a little
more hectic, I would say.

139

00:10:56,450 --> 00:10:59,930

So that was a time
when my father

140
00:10:59,930 --> 00:11:03,030
decided that that was it.

141
00:11:03,030 --> 00:11:05,780
And we prepared to go away.

142
00:11:05,780 --> 00:11:09,440

143
00:11:09,440 --> 00:11:13,500
We left without-- our
furniture came later.

144
00:11:13,500 --> 00:11:15,770
But we just left.

145
00:11:15,770 --> 00:11:18,470
And it was still
possible at that time.

146
00:11:18,470 --> 00:11:23,340

147
00:11:23,340 --> 00:11:25,710
Can you-- while I think
of it, while we're still

148
00:11:25,710 --> 00:11:28,320
in the spirit, you talked
about your siblings.

149
00:11:28,320 --> 00:11:30,390
What about uncles and
aunts, where they work?

150
00:11:30,390 --> 00:11:32,170
Do you come from a large family?

151
00:11:32,170 --> 00:11:37,155

My mother had three
brothers and two sisters.

152
00:11:37,155 --> 00:11:40,500

153
00:11:40,500 --> 00:11:44,460
They all left Germany, with
the exception of one aunt.

154
00:11:44,460 --> 00:11:48,090
My father's family
were also six.

155
00:11:48,090 --> 00:11:51,120
They all survived it.

156
00:11:51,120 --> 00:11:55,280
One brother of my father
lived here in San Francisco

157
00:11:55,280 --> 00:11:58,800
already since before 1900.

158
00:11:58,800 --> 00:12:02,430
And I will come back to
him later on, because he

159
00:12:02,430 --> 00:12:04,110
played a very important part.

160
00:12:04,110 --> 00:12:09,270

161
00:12:09,270 --> 00:12:12,240
Yeah, some of the family--

162
00:12:12,240 --> 00:12:16,810
I had two uncles who left
already 1st of April, 1933.

163
00:12:16,810 --> 00:12:20,138

So it was not-- so we
were not surprised.

164
00:12:20,138 --> 00:12:23,010

165
00:12:23,010 --> 00:12:24,910
It was coming.

166
00:12:24,910 --> 00:12:25,410
Yeah.

167
00:12:25,410 --> 00:12:26,880
Now, you could
hear on the radio.

168
00:12:26,880 --> 00:12:28,450
It was coming.

169
00:12:28,450 --> 00:12:31,560
Somehow, one knew
something very, very bad

170
00:12:31,560 --> 00:12:33,300
was going to come.

171
00:12:33,300 --> 00:12:36,210
But how-- naturally,
one couldn't

172
00:12:36,210 --> 00:12:39,660
visualize what happened.

173
00:12:39,660 --> 00:12:46,200
But as I said, two uncles with
their families left in 1933.

174
00:12:46,200 --> 00:12:48,150
And the rest left.

175
00:12:48,150 --> 00:12:50,040
And when we lived

in Amsterdam, some

176

00:12:50,040 --> 00:12:52,410

came and stayed with
us until they went on

177

00:12:52,410 --> 00:12:55,440

to England and then to America.

178

00:12:55,440 --> 00:12:59,300

But as I say, only one
aunt and her family

179

00:12:59,300 --> 00:13:05,310

were trapped in Germany.

180

00:13:05,310 --> 00:13:15,950

And where am I now?

181

00:13:15,950 --> 00:13:19,380

182

00:13:19,380 --> 00:13:21,030

Did you have servants
in the house?

183

00:13:21,030 --> 00:13:22,350

Yeah.

184

00:13:22,350 --> 00:13:25,410

And how long did you keep them?

185

00:13:25,410 --> 00:13:30,180

Until I think 1935.

186

00:13:30,180 --> 00:13:33,810

There was the law that
was the end of it.

187

00:13:33,810 --> 00:13:36,180

When we were growing
up, we always

188
00:13:36,180 --> 00:13:40,770
had a Jewish servant
for the children

189
00:13:40,770 --> 00:13:44,250
and a non-Jewish
servant for the house.

190
00:13:44,250 --> 00:13:48,100
And besides, there
was somebody coming,

191
00:13:48,100 --> 00:13:52,200
the French lady, teaching--

192
00:13:52,200 --> 00:13:57,810
speaking French and
doing certain things

193
00:13:57,810 --> 00:13:59,610
with the children.

194
00:13:59,610 --> 00:14:01,530
French was the
number-one language.

195
00:14:01,530 --> 00:14:10,830
My father's family was partially
French-connected and Sephardic.

196
00:14:10,830 --> 00:14:15,480
And part of the family
lived in France.

197
00:14:15,480 --> 00:14:18,510
And that's why French was
very important, much more

198
00:14:18,510 --> 00:14:20,580
so than English.

199

00:14:20,580 --> 00:14:27,660
And we lived a comfortable
life, traveled.

200
00:14:27,660 --> 00:14:29,760
We went every year
to Switzerland

201
00:14:29,760 --> 00:14:30,995
in summer, the whole family.

202
00:14:30,995 --> 00:14:34,560

203
00:14:34,560 --> 00:14:37,050
it sounds differently
here than it was,

204
00:14:37,050 --> 00:14:40,440
but then it was my
surroundings in Germany,

205
00:14:40,440 --> 00:14:42,090
because everybody did that.

206
00:14:42,090 --> 00:14:47,040
There was no hardship.

207
00:14:47,040 --> 00:14:52,140
I did not know any hardship
at any time in my life.

208
00:14:52,140 --> 00:14:53,220
There was always money.

209
00:14:53,220 --> 00:14:55,650
And there was-- money
wasn't talked about.

210
00:14:55,650 --> 00:14:57,570
It was just there.

211

00:14:57,570 --> 00:15:07,380

And it really is very different
than with most families here.

212

00:15:07,380 --> 00:15:11,247

It was not the struggle the way
it is here in many families.

213

00:15:11,247 --> 00:15:12,330

There were three children.

214

00:15:12,330 --> 00:15:19,770

And nobody had the
feeling you have to work

215

00:15:19,770 --> 00:15:22,920

or you have to earn the
money to go to school.

216

00:15:22,920 --> 00:15:24,060

I went to private school.

217

00:15:24,060 --> 00:15:28,600

It cost money from day one
and all the other things,

218

00:15:28,600 --> 00:15:34,440

lessons, certain lessons,
which we had music lessons

219

00:15:34,440 --> 00:15:39,130

and other kind of lessons.

220

00:15:39,130 --> 00:15:45,460

Do you recall any kind of--
between '33 and '37, that era,

221

00:15:45,460 --> 00:15:47,800

did you recall harassment?

222

00:15:47,800 --> 00:15:49,040

Not at all.

223

00:15:49,040 --> 00:15:49,810

Not at all.

224

00:15:49,810 --> 00:15:51,280

Not whatsoever.

225

00:15:51,280 --> 00:15:55,010

No, personally definitely not.

226

00:15:55,010 --> 00:15:57,670

Other than my father's
business, not really.

227

00:15:57,670 --> 00:15:58,170

No.

228

00:15:58,170 --> 00:16:00,070

Mm-mm.

229

00:16:00,070 --> 00:16:02,410

It really was
different in Germany,

230

00:16:02,410 --> 00:16:06,340

whether you lived in a big city
or you lived in a small town.

231

00:16:06,340 --> 00:16:11,000

232

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:11,500

No.

233

00:16:11,500 --> 00:16:15,280

As I said, naturally,
I said before my father

234

00:16:15,280 --> 00:16:19,280

manufactured kosher articles.

235

00:16:19,280 --> 00:16:21,820

For instance, he had a dairy--

236

00:16:21,820 --> 00:16:23,860

kosher butter and cheese.

237

00:16:23,860 --> 00:16:29,770

He had a dairy in

Bavaria that was--

238

00:16:29,770 --> 00:16:31,060

it didn't belong.

239

00:16:31,060 --> 00:16:38,080

But it was-- what

do you call that?

240

00:16:38,080 --> 00:16:42,110

This dairy only

worked for the firm.

241

00:16:42,110 --> 00:16:45,460

This was taken

away at one point.

242

00:16:45,460 --> 00:16:47,950

So certain things happened.

243

00:16:47,950 --> 00:16:50,230

But they were not

the major things.

244

00:16:50,230 --> 00:16:53,680

They were absolutely

not the major things.

245

00:16:53,680 --> 00:16:59,680

Certainly, we saw friends

and family leaving.

246

00:16:59,680 --> 00:17:05,410

And everybody thought what

to do and how to do it.

247

00:17:05,410 --> 00:17:09,160

And it was very, very
difficult to make a decision

248

00:17:09,160 --> 00:17:13,270

for people who had
businesses and to give it up.

249

00:17:13,270 --> 00:17:15,516

It's very easy to say,
why didn't you go earlier?

250

00:17:15,516 --> 00:17:16,849

Why didn't you do this and that?

251

00:17:16,849 --> 00:17:21,859

252

00:17:21,859 --> 00:17:24,180

These were terrific decisions.

253

00:17:24,180 --> 00:17:28,130

If one would have known what
comes later, what came later,

254

00:17:28,130 --> 00:17:30,800

that would have been
very unimportant, really.

255

00:17:30,800 --> 00:17:34,640

You would have just left and
would have done anything.

256

00:17:34,640 --> 00:17:38,810

But one didn't--
who could imagine?

257

00:17:38,810 --> 00:17:41,960

Who could imagine what
was going to happen?

258

00:17:41,960 --> 00:17:46,970

So harassment, no,
I absolutely do not

259
00:17:46,970 --> 00:17:51,050
remember any, not at any time.

260
00:17:51,050 --> 00:17:53,075
That came later when
I lived in Holland.

261
00:17:53,075 --> 00:17:57,410

262
00:17:57,410 --> 00:18:05,210
The laws-- 1941, 1942,
to wear the Jewish star

263
00:18:05,210 --> 00:18:09,470
and to have a special
identity paper.

264
00:18:09,470 --> 00:18:16,250
And you have your "J" in the
passport and all these things.

265
00:18:16,250 --> 00:18:20,960
While I was living in Germany,
nothing, nothing of this sort.

266
00:18:20,960 --> 00:18:24,380
After all, we traveled
from Frankfurt

267
00:18:24,380 --> 00:18:25,880
to Amsterdam in a train.

268
00:18:25,880 --> 00:18:31,280
And nobody made
any difficulties.

269
00:18:31,280 --> 00:18:33,200
You cleared the border.

270

00:18:33,200 --> 00:18:38,900

And no, at that time, you didn't have the "J" in the passport.

271

00:18:38,900 --> 00:18:42,032

And you could leave, still.

272

00:18:42,032 --> 00:18:43,490

Could you tell us
a little bit more

273

00:18:43,490 --> 00:18:45,800

about the financial-- were
you able to sell your--

274

00:18:45,800 --> 00:18:48,290

were you able to sell anything?

275

00:18:48,290 --> 00:18:50,330

Did you have any real
estate, for example?

276

00:18:50,330 --> 00:18:51,020

In Frankfurt?

277

00:18:51,020 --> 00:18:51,830

In Frankfurt.

278

00:18:51,830 --> 00:18:52,950

Yeah, the house.

279

00:18:52,950 --> 00:18:55,430

There was an apartment
house when we lived in,

280

00:18:55,430 --> 00:19:01,730

which belonged to my parents,
which was forcibly sold

281

00:19:01,730 --> 00:19:04,490

to somebody for a small amount.

282

00:19:04,490 --> 00:19:08,030

283

00:19:08,030 --> 00:19:11,160

But that was after we had left.

284

00:19:11,160 --> 00:19:11,750

Yeah.

285

00:19:11,750 --> 00:19:15,050

So we never really-- we got
practically nothing for it.

286

00:19:15,050 --> 00:19:18,980

And the same with the business--
was also sold to somebody.

287

00:19:18,980 --> 00:19:21,630

And the building
where the business was

288

00:19:21,630 --> 00:19:23,420

belonged also to my father.

289

00:19:23,420 --> 00:19:25,730

And that was destroyed.

290

00:19:25,730 --> 00:19:31,440

There was a-- we got some
compensation after the war.

291

00:19:31,440 --> 00:19:33,290

But the house where
we lived in, we

292

00:19:33,290 --> 00:19:36,620

got back and sold
it consequently,

293

00:19:36,620 --> 00:19:42,950

because it was bomb-damaged
and was run-down and too

294
00:19:42,950 --> 00:19:45,980
expensive to take care of it.

295
00:19:45,980 --> 00:19:48,800
And in those days, I
lived in San Francisco.

296
00:19:48,800 --> 00:19:51,530
My sister lived in Los Angeles.

297
00:19:51,530 --> 00:19:54,420
It was too difficult to handle.

298
00:19:54,420 --> 00:19:55,940
So we sold it.

299
00:19:55,940 --> 00:19:58,570

300
00:19:58,570 --> 00:20:02,320
But yeah, that was the
only thing which was--

301
00:20:02,320 --> 00:20:08,950
but the rest, our furniture
and everything, what we owned,

302
00:20:08,950 --> 00:20:11,590
we could take along.

303
00:20:11,590 --> 00:20:12,320
How about money?

304
00:20:12,320 --> 00:20:14,830
My father-- yes, my father--

305
00:20:14,830 --> 00:20:16,390
we could not have come.

306
00:20:16,390 --> 00:20:18,940

We could not have settled
in Holland if we would not

307
00:20:18,940 --> 00:20:21,490
have proof that we had money.

308
00:20:21,490 --> 00:20:27,280
And so that was
not that difficult.

309
00:20:27,280 --> 00:20:29,890
As far as you recall,
was it a legal transfer

310
00:20:29,890 --> 00:20:31,090
of funds to Holland?

311
00:20:31,090 --> 00:20:31,960
Or was it not--

312
00:20:31,960 --> 00:20:32,800
Yes, it was.

313
00:20:32,800 --> 00:20:37,480
Before, my father had business
also outside of Germany

314
00:20:37,480 --> 00:20:39,680
with shipping
lines, for instance.

315
00:20:39,680 --> 00:20:42,625
Many of the shipping
lines had kosher kitchens.

316
00:20:42,625 --> 00:20:45,130

317
00:20:45,130 --> 00:20:45,760
Yeah.

318
00:20:45,760 --> 00:20:49,900

And he supplied shipping
lines, and this money--

319
00:20:49,900 --> 00:20:53,770
like Italian lines and
Dutch lines, French lines.

320
00:20:53,770 --> 00:20:58,000
And this money was in Holland
or in Switzerland or someplace.

321
00:20:58,000 --> 00:20:59,920
And so that was there.

322
00:20:59,920 --> 00:21:03,580
Then when Hitler came, he
didn't take it into Germany,

323
00:21:03,580 --> 00:21:05,470
obviously.

324
00:21:05,470 --> 00:21:06,730
So it was there.

325
00:21:06,730 --> 00:21:15,745
It was-- so this was
not a problem, either.

326
00:21:15,745 --> 00:21:17,860
Mm-hmm.

327
00:21:17,860 --> 00:21:20,680
Richard, do you have
any sort of pre-war era

328
00:21:20,680 --> 00:21:23,620
questions for Lotte?

329
00:21:23,620 --> 00:21:27,010
You studied French.

330
00:21:27,010 --> 00:21:28,870

Yes.

331
00:21:28,870 --> 00:21:30,940
What languages were
spoken in your home?

332
00:21:30,940 --> 00:21:31,760
In my home?

333
00:21:31,760 --> 00:21:32,350
German.

334
00:21:32,350 --> 00:21:36,850
But since my father
was interested--

335
00:21:36,850 --> 00:21:39,100
French was an important
language for my father.

336
00:21:39,100 --> 00:21:41,470
He did speak French also--

337
00:21:41,470 --> 00:21:43,900
not too good, but he did speak.

338
00:21:43,900 --> 00:21:46,630
So he wanted-- for him,
it was very important

339
00:21:46,630 --> 00:21:48,820
that we spoke French.

340
00:21:48,820 --> 00:21:52,690
And so there was a
lady, a French lady,

341
00:21:52,690 --> 00:21:56,710
coming in the afternoon,
supervising whatever

342
00:21:56,710 --> 00:22:02,950

and went for walks or spent
the afternoon with us.

343
00:22:02,950 --> 00:22:04,900
Can you say a few
words about what

344
00:22:04,900 --> 00:22:08,830
it is that prompted
the family to realize

345
00:22:08,830 --> 00:22:12,130
that they must leave?

346
00:22:12,130 --> 00:22:13,970
Oh, that prompted the
family-- after all,

347
00:22:13,970 --> 00:22:17,230
one knew the Germans
making inroads

348
00:22:17,230 --> 00:22:22,900
in every way in
wherever you turned,

349
00:22:22,900 --> 00:22:27,610
not that we felt it personally
as much as you could read it

350
00:22:27,610 --> 00:22:28,500
in the newspaper.

351
00:22:28,500 --> 00:22:29,500
You're not allowed here.

352
00:22:29,500 --> 00:22:31,390
You're not allowed there.

353
00:22:31,390 --> 00:22:35,500
There came these things
where people were driven out

354

00:22:35,500 --> 00:22:40,150
of public positions.

355

00:22:40,150 --> 00:22:47,350
Or banks had to let their
Jewish higher-ups go.

356

00:22:47,350 --> 00:22:50,530
In the theater
world or wherever--

357

00:22:50,530 --> 00:22:51,830
definitely.

358

00:22:51,830 --> 00:22:53,950
Definitely, you saw
it all around you.

359

00:22:53,950 --> 00:22:56,320
But it was not
personal harassment

360

00:22:56,320 --> 00:23:00,550
towards me or towards my family.

361

00:23:00,550 --> 00:23:03,880
I remember the conductor,
the symphony conductor,

362

00:23:03,880 --> 00:23:04,720
was Jewish--

363

00:23:04,720 --> 00:23:05,470
let go.

364

00:23:05,470 --> 00:23:10,060
Whoever in a public
position had to go.

365

00:23:10,060 --> 00:23:12,590

366

00:23:12,590 --> 00:23:17,050

That was in 1934, 1935, 1936.

367

00:23:17,050 --> 00:23:19,060

That was all around.

368

00:23:19,060 --> 00:23:22,840

And whether one could go
to restaurants or not,

369

00:23:22,840 --> 00:23:24,730

I don't personally
remember because I

370

00:23:24,730 --> 00:23:27,620

didn't go to any restaurants.

371

00:23:27,620 --> 00:23:33,460

So whether there were these
laws already, I do not think so.

372

00:23:33,460 --> 00:23:35,890

It was much, much
slower in Germany

373

00:23:35,890 --> 00:23:38,260

than it was later on
in the other countries.

374

00:23:38,260 --> 00:23:42,010

In the occupied countries,
it was very, very fast.

375

00:23:42,010 --> 00:23:46,090

Every second day,
there was another law.

376

00:23:46,090 --> 00:23:48,250

But in Germany, it
was very, very slow,

377

00:23:48,250 --> 00:23:54,640

with the exception of certain
positions, like judges,

378
00:23:54,640 --> 00:23:58,850
like any official position--

379
00:23:58,850 --> 00:23:59,350
teachers.

380
00:23:59,350 --> 00:24:09,860

381
00:24:09,860 --> 00:24:13,020
So we have now come
to the point where

382
00:24:13,020 --> 00:24:15,100
the German bombers are
flying over Holland

383
00:24:15,100 --> 00:24:18,930
and dropping their loads.

384
00:24:18,930 --> 00:24:21,730
And I presume the German
soldiers arrived shortly

385
00:24:21,730 --> 00:24:22,230
thereafter.

386
00:24:22,230 --> 00:24:27,540
Very shortly thereafter,
there was right away the law.

387
00:24:27,540 --> 00:24:30,180
Non-Dutch citizens
were not allowed

388
00:24:30,180 --> 00:24:34,020
in the street, non-Dutch.

389
00:24:34,020 --> 00:24:38,070

And it was anybody.

390
00:24:38,070 --> 00:24:44,100
But many naturally tried to
flee Holland to get to the coast

391
00:24:44,100 --> 00:24:45,180
and to go to England.

392
00:24:45,180 --> 00:24:48,210
And some were successful.

393
00:24:48,210 --> 00:24:51,930
And others drowned.

394
00:24:51,930 --> 00:24:53,650
There were rickety boats.

395
00:24:53,650 --> 00:24:57,030
People just rented
out boats at the coast

396
00:24:57,030 --> 00:25:00,640
and found it was not that easy--

397
00:25:00,640 --> 00:25:03,940
the channel very choppy
in the little boat.

398
00:25:03,940 --> 00:25:09,150
And so we know of
people who drowned.

399
00:25:09,150 --> 00:25:13,050
We knew of people who
arrived in England.

400
00:25:13,050 --> 00:25:14,470
You took your chance.

401
00:25:14,470 --> 00:25:18,600
But this hindsight,

that was better done

402

00:25:18,600 --> 00:25:21,420
than waiting to get going
to a concentration camp.

403

00:25:21,420 --> 00:25:24,450

404

00:25:24,450 --> 00:25:26,190
But in those days,
there again, you

405

00:25:26,190 --> 00:25:28,830
did not know what
was going to happen.

406

00:25:28,830 --> 00:25:31,620

407

00:25:31,620 --> 00:25:34,680
But after five days,
the war was over.

408

00:25:34,680 --> 00:25:36,965
And pretty soon came the laws.

409

00:25:36,965 --> 00:25:39,590

410

00:25:39,590 --> 00:25:44,070
Jews were not allowed into
stores other than certain times

411

00:25:44,070 --> 00:25:45,660
of the day.

412

00:25:45,660 --> 00:25:49,270
Then they were not allowed
at all anymore in stores.

413

00:25:49,270 --> 00:25:50,820

There was a market
where you could

414
00:25:50,820 --> 00:25:56,100
buy at a certain time and
food or vegetable, only really

415
00:25:56,100 --> 00:25:58,350
the worst kind.

416
00:25:58,350 --> 00:26:04,612
And then there was this law
that you had to wear the star.

417
00:26:04,612 --> 00:26:06,320
Do you remember when
that was instituted?

418
00:26:06,320 --> 00:26:09,230
I think it was 1942, I think.

419
00:26:09,230 --> 00:26:11,910
It could have been 1941.

420
00:26:11,910 --> 00:26:14,760
And then naturally,
in Holland, in 1941

421
00:26:14,760 --> 00:26:18,150
started the razias,
where they closed off

422
00:26:18,150 --> 00:26:20,430
a street on both sides.

423
00:26:20,430 --> 00:26:23,130
And whoever was in there--

424
00:26:23,130 --> 00:26:29,280
in the beginning, they took
only young men up to 40 years.

425

00:26:29,280 --> 00:26:34,680

And the first one was
in the Jewish area

426

00:26:34,680 --> 00:26:43,260

where the Dutch workers lived.

427

00:26:43,260 --> 00:26:49,320

They closed off an area and
took hundreds of young men

428

00:26:49,320 --> 00:26:52,860

to Mauthausen.

429

00:26:52,860 --> 00:26:57,150

It was the first time
one heard of Mauthausen.

430

00:26:57,150 --> 00:26:58,410

Do you remember when that was?

431

00:26:58,410 --> 00:26:59,700

It was '42?

432

00:26:59,700 --> 00:27:04,230

January 1941.

433

00:27:04,230 --> 00:27:04,980

Yeah.

434

00:27:04,980 --> 00:27:06,930

They came in May 1940.

435

00:27:06,930 --> 00:27:09,720

January 1941, that
was the first razia.

436

00:27:09,720 --> 00:27:12,900

And there was a
strike afterwards.

437

00:27:12,900 --> 00:27:17,760

The non-Jewish workers striked.

438

00:27:17,760 --> 00:27:25,020

And the Germans said, you
either start working again,

439

00:27:25,020 --> 00:27:27,060

or you all will be taken.

440

00:27:27,060 --> 00:27:28,590

That was in the Jewish area.

441

00:27:28,590 --> 00:27:35,220

There were thousands
of people striked.

442

00:27:35,220 --> 00:27:38,970

And eventually, they
started working again.

443

00:27:38,970 --> 00:27:42,330

And then these razias
naturally continued.

444

00:27:42,330 --> 00:27:46,830

And in June 1941 was in
a totally different area

445

00:27:46,830 --> 00:27:52,050

in the south, Amsterdam
south, a razia.

446

00:27:52,050 --> 00:27:54,240

And young men again--

447

00:27:54,240 --> 00:27:56,370

up to age 40, about--

448

00:27:56,370 --> 00:27:57,180

were taken.

449

00:27:57,180 --> 00:28:00,600

Everybody else was let go.

450

00:28:00,600 --> 00:28:04,860

And there, I had a very
good friend who was taken.

451

00:28:04,860 --> 00:28:10,500

And he was an only child.

452

00:28:10,500 --> 00:28:13,140

And after maybe
two or three weeks,

453

00:28:13,140 --> 00:28:17,730

his parents got a
letter from Mauthausen.

454

00:28:17,730 --> 00:28:20,380

And he wished well.

455

00:28:20,380 --> 00:28:24,410

Then he mentioned the name of
aunt so-and-so, where she is.

456

00:28:24,410 --> 00:28:27,780

She had been dead
already for a long time.

457

00:28:27,780 --> 00:28:31,830

So it was-- he
sent a few letters.

458

00:28:31,830 --> 00:28:35,130

And then there came
an official notice

459

00:28:35,130 --> 00:28:38,380

that he died of
pneumonia or something.

460

00:28:38,380 --> 00:28:41,610

Everybody knew at that time.

461

00:28:41,610 --> 00:28:47,130
So many people got these letters
that it was naturally not true,

462

00:28:47,130 --> 00:28:47,730
the letter.

463

00:28:47,730 --> 00:28:53,340
And one heard they were
thrown in a quarry.

464

00:28:53,340 --> 00:29:01,080
They were working in a quarry
and met their deaths this way.

465

00:29:01,080 --> 00:29:06,100
This was the second
large razia in Amsterdam.

466

00:29:06,100 --> 00:29:07,670
Were those mostly Dutch Jews?

467

00:29:07,670 --> 00:29:08,837
Or were there some refugees?

468

00:29:08,837 --> 00:29:11,360
No, the refugees
also, a mixture.

469

00:29:11,360 --> 00:29:14,540
Yeah, absolutely a mixture.

470

00:29:14,540 --> 00:29:15,170
Yeah.

471

00:29:15,170 --> 00:29:18,500
No, they didn't
make any difference.

472

00:29:18,500 --> 00:29:21,950
A Jew was a Jew, whether you--

473

00:29:21,950 --> 00:29:32,030
and at that time, people from
the coast, Jews from the coast,

474

00:29:32,030 --> 00:29:33,890
had to leave the
coast because there

475

00:29:33,890 --> 00:29:38,010
was a fear they would give the
enemy, the British, signals.

476

00:29:38,010 --> 00:29:42,380
Or at Scheveningen
and Zandvoort,

477

00:29:42,380 --> 00:29:48,140
all along the Atlantic
Ocean, Jews had to leave,

478

00:29:48,140 --> 00:29:49,490
had to come in the city.

479

00:29:49,490 --> 00:29:53,270
We had some relatives
there who moved in with us

480

00:29:53,270 --> 00:29:59,540
at the time, especially
an aunt, an old aunt, who

481

00:29:59,540 --> 00:30:03,980
stayed with us until the end.

482

00:30:03,980 --> 00:30:05,480
Yeah, that was one law.

483

00:30:05,480 --> 00:30:09,020
And we were not allowed anymore
to travel to these places,

484

00:30:09,020 --> 00:30:12,860

either-- not only to live,
but also not to travel.

485
00:30:12,860 --> 00:30:16,010
And we were not allowed anymore
to go to movie theaters.

486
00:30:16,010 --> 00:30:18,860
We were not allowed anymore
to go to restaurants.

487
00:30:18,860 --> 00:30:22,970
They had the signs for
"not allowed for Jews"

488
00:30:22,970 --> 00:30:24,440
in the window.

489
00:30:24,440 --> 00:30:26,930
So you wouldn't even want to go.

490
00:30:26,930 --> 00:30:32,930
But then there started
some Jewish restaurants,

491
00:30:32,930 --> 00:30:39,380
a Jewish theater where
only Jews performed.

492
00:30:39,380 --> 00:30:42,680
In Amsterdam were quite a
number of Jewish performers

493
00:30:42,680 --> 00:30:47,840
from Berlin and well-known ones.

494
00:30:47,840 --> 00:30:50,990
And they had their own theater.

495
00:30:50,990 --> 00:30:53,630

496

00:30:53,630 --> 00:30:56,720

Until they were
all picked up also,

497

00:30:56,720 --> 00:31:01,310

this theater took
place every week.

498

00:31:01,310 --> 00:31:05,560

And there was a
Jewish newspaper.

499

00:31:05,560 --> 00:31:09,122

You knew what was going on.

500

00:31:09,122 --> 00:31:25,520

And then on July 15, 1942, young
people got a card in the mail--

501

00:31:25,520 --> 00:31:33,080

before-- to come to the
central station on July 15,

502

00:31:33,080 --> 00:31:38,970

because they would be
sent to the east to work.

503

00:31:38,970 --> 00:31:45,380

My father had a
connection banker

504

00:31:45,380 --> 00:31:51,110

who was originally German
and, long before Hitler,

505

00:31:51,110 --> 00:31:52,730

became a Dutch citizen.

506

00:31:52,730 --> 00:31:57,230

But he had many German
Jewish customers.

507

00:31:57,230 --> 00:32:01,190

And on the one hand, he
had Jewish customers.

508
00:32:01,190 --> 00:32:03,590
And on the other
hand, he had also

509
00:32:03,590 --> 00:32:07,820
some businesses with Nazis.

510
00:32:07,820 --> 00:32:17,330
And through him, my two sisters
and I, we got an extension.

511
00:32:17,330 --> 00:32:19,940
We didn't have to
go on that July 15.

512
00:32:19,940 --> 00:32:23,150
So many went to the station.

513
00:32:23,150 --> 00:32:24,890
Can you define "young
people" for us?

514
00:32:24,890 --> 00:32:26,720
Roughly, what's a young person?

515
00:32:26,720 --> 00:32:30,100
Young people were
below 40 years of age.

516
00:32:30,100 --> 00:32:30,600
Below 40?

517
00:32:30,600 --> 00:32:30,865
Yes.

518
00:32:30,865 --> 00:32:31,640
Always below 40?

519
00:32:31,640 --> 00:32:33,440

It was always below 40.

520
00:32:33,440 --> 00:32:34,340
15 to 40?

521
00:32:34,340 --> 00:32:37,730
Yes, not children, 15 to 40.

522
00:32:37,730 --> 00:32:41,210
And so we had this.

523
00:32:41,210 --> 00:32:43,250
And everybody
carried this around,

524
00:32:43,250 --> 00:32:48,200
because this was a very, very
important piece of paper.

525
00:32:48,200 --> 00:32:50,930
We didn't have to go.

526
00:32:50,930 --> 00:32:56,420
And then came laws
when you were not

527
00:32:56,420 --> 00:33:01,850
allowed to be out of
your house after 8:00 PM.

528
00:33:01,850 --> 00:33:07,310
And this man sometimes
visited us in the evening.

529
00:33:07,310 --> 00:33:10,540
Nobody came.

530
00:33:10,540 --> 00:33:15,680
You were sitting by
yourself, unless a non-Jew

531
00:33:15,680 --> 00:33:18,140

came to visit you.

532

00:33:18,140 --> 00:33:27,980

And so this man informed
us of the happenings,

533

00:33:27,980 --> 00:33:29,305

what the Germans were doing.

534

00:33:29,305 --> 00:33:32,780

535

00:33:32,780 --> 00:33:36,585

What was the excuse for you not
having to report on July 15?

536

00:33:36,585 --> 00:33:37,460

What was it based on?

537

00:33:37,460 --> 00:33:37,960

What was--

538

00:33:37,960 --> 00:33:39,530

Based on nothing, on his--

539

00:33:39,530 --> 00:33:40,880

Not his say-so?

540

00:33:40,880 --> 00:33:44,870

Not his say-so, that
there was a signature--

541

00:33:44,870 --> 00:33:47,690

we got each a piece of
paper with a signature

542

00:33:47,690 --> 00:33:50,540

from the German commander.

543

00:33:50,540 --> 00:33:58,340

No, it was not his say-so, that
he had the influence because I

544
00:33:58,340 --> 00:33:58,970
don't--

545
00:33:58,970 --> 00:34:02,450
up to this day, I don't know
what kind of influence he had.

546
00:34:02,450 --> 00:34:06,860
But it was good enough
for me and for a number

547
00:34:06,860 --> 00:34:09,439
of other people, anyway.

548
00:34:09,439 --> 00:34:15,130

549
00:34:15,130 --> 00:34:15,630
Yes.

550
00:34:15,630 --> 00:34:19,710
And as it happens, the
German headquarters

551
00:34:19,710 --> 00:34:22,889
was about two minutes
from where we lived.

552
00:34:22,889 --> 00:34:24,780
So when we got out
of the house, we

553
00:34:24,780 --> 00:34:27,120
didn't go that
street where it was--

554
00:34:27,120 --> 00:34:31,199
never went through, always
went in the other side

555
00:34:31,199 --> 00:34:33,659

because they're in front--

556

00:34:33,659 --> 00:34:35,380
was always coming and going.

557

00:34:35,380 --> 00:34:38,070
We didn't want to pass by there.

558

00:34:38,070 --> 00:34:43,920
But this is where the
whole thing took place.

559

00:34:43,920 --> 00:34:50,280
The Germans had different
ideas with different people.

560

00:34:50,280 --> 00:34:53,940
With the Dutch people,
originally, they

561

00:34:53,940 --> 00:34:57,450
had the idea after the
war to incorporate that

562

00:34:57,450 --> 00:35:05,220
into Germany because they
were racially related

563

00:35:05,220 --> 00:35:07,050
to the Germans.

564

00:35:07,050 --> 00:35:09,000
The French, they
were not interested.

565

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:11,280
The Belgians, they were
not interested, either,

566

00:35:11,280 --> 00:35:13,750
because they were a
different type of people.

567

00:35:13,750 --> 00:35:20,340

And so that's why in Holland,
the laws were stricter

568

00:35:20,340 --> 00:35:23,220

than they were in
Belgium or in France.

569

00:35:23,220 --> 00:35:24,780

And the people who
lived in Holland

570

00:35:24,780 --> 00:35:27,000

had to suffer more
than the others,

571

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:30,360

because they considered
this part of Germany,

572

00:35:30,360 --> 00:35:32,535

actually, in the future.

573

00:35:32,535 --> 00:35:35,380

574

00:35:35,380 --> 00:35:39,460

And I don't remember anymore.

575

00:35:39,460 --> 00:35:40,690

There was an expression.

576

00:35:40,690 --> 00:35:43,900

577

00:35:43,900 --> 00:35:50,850

They used-- forgot
the expression.

578

00:35:50,850 --> 00:35:56,490

But I know this was the
idea to incorporate Holland

579

00:35:56,490 --> 00:36:00,420
into Germany once
the war was over.

580

00:36:00,420 --> 00:36:01,770
Can you tell us--

581

00:36:01,770 --> 00:36:04,230
describe a typical
day during that period

582

00:36:04,230 --> 00:36:05,480
of my life, you and your--

583

00:36:05,480 --> 00:36:06,480
what did you do all day?

584

00:36:06,480 --> 00:36:08,380
You didn't work, obviously.

585

00:36:08,380 --> 00:36:08,880
When?

586

00:36:08,880 --> 00:36:09,680
At what time?

587

00:36:09,680 --> 00:36:15,090
Well, this period around 1942,
when you were might have been

588

00:36:15,090 --> 00:36:16,290
taken but you weren't.

589

00:36:16,290 --> 00:36:17,220
And here you are.

590

00:36:17,220 --> 00:36:18,810
You have to be
home at 8 o'clock.

591

00:36:18,810 --> 00:36:21,760

Are there still Jewish
restaurants and Jewish theater?

592

00:36:21,760 --> 00:36:22,260

Yes.

593

00:36:22,260 --> 00:36:23,610

That life continues?

594

00:36:23,610 --> 00:36:24,630

Not in the evening.

595

00:36:24,630 --> 00:36:27,137

That was done in the afternoon.

596

00:36:27,137 --> 00:36:27,720

Matinees only?

597

00:36:27,720 --> 00:36:28,960

Yeah.

598

00:36:28,960 --> 00:36:29,460

Yeah.

599

00:36:29,460 --> 00:36:32,160

No-- evening, nothing,
absolutely nothing.

600

00:36:32,160 --> 00:36:34,560

During the day, what did one do?

601

00:36:34,560 --> 00:36:39,472

One commiserated
with one's friends.

602

00:36:39,472 --> 00:36:41,680

Well, did you spend a lot
of energy looking for food,

603

00:36:41,680 --> 00:36:42,180

for example?

604
00:36:42,180 --> 00:36:43,320
Yeah.

605
00:36:43,320 --> 00:36:46,140
And we all had a bicycle.

606
00:36:46,140 --> 00:36:48,210
My life was on a bicycle.

607
00:36:48,210 --> 00:36:50,940
And you went to certain--

608
00:36:50,940 --> 00:36:54,060
to different areas
to look for food.

609
00:36:54,060 --> 00:36:54,840
Exactly.

610
00:36:54,840 --> 00:36:58,200
Also, that was
something one did.

611
00:36:58,200 --> 00:37:04,620
Then yes, there was energy
expenditure to that.

612
00:37:04,620 --> 00:37:06,660
Definitely.

613
00:37:06,660 --> 00:37:15,680
And otherwise, one did-- what
did one do in 1941, 1942?

614
00:37:15,680 --> 00:37:20,310
There were already so many
people picked up in razias.

615
00:37:20,310 --> 00:37:29,040
There were so many
people in terrible shape

616
00:37:29,040 --> 00:37:36,010
emotionally so that one
really helped each other.

617
00:37:36,010 --> 00:37:40,830
It was like a brotherhood.

618
00:37:40,830 --> 00:37:48,570
Every morning, you heard this
family, some close to you,

619
00:37:48,570 --> 00:37:52,630
or this family was picked
up the night before.

620
00:37:52,630 --> 00:37:58,530
So it was a frightful existence.

621
00:37:58,530 --> 00:38:05,910
You always-- after 12
o'clock, 12:00 midnight,

622
00:38:05,910 --> 00:38:08,670
they usually did not
come to any door.

623
00:38:08,670 --> 00:38:10,170
So you slept for a few hours.

624
00:38:10,170 --> 00:38:19,470
But before, it was a very,
very frightening existence,

625
00:38:19,470 --> 00:38:25,020
constantly in fear,
constantly in fear.

626
00:38:25,020 --> 00:38:28,170
And that was actually in daytime
also, because you never knew.

627

00:38:28,170 --> 00:38:29,880

It could be a razia
here or there.

628

00:38:29,880 --> 00:38:34,170

You never knew that, where
it was, where it would be.

629

00:38:34,170 --> 00:38:37,440

But at night, until
midnight, as a rule,

630

00:38:37,440 --> 00:38:44,020

we didn't even go
to bed, because just

631

00:38:44,020 --> 00:38:45,760

I don't know what we did.

632

00:38:45,760 --> 00:38:48,760

I do not remember what we did.

633

00:38:48,760 --> 00:38:51,790

Those days, it was my
father and my two sisters.

634

00:38:51,790 --> 00:38:57,593

My mother had died
in 1939 in Amsterdam.

635

00:38:57,593 --> 00:38:59,010

Did you have a
radio, for example?

636

00:38:59,010 --> 00:38:59,640

Yeah, radio.

637

00:38:59,640 --> 00:39:00,140

Yes.

638

00:39:00,140 --> 00:39:02,400

You were allowed
to have a radio.

639
00:39:02,400 --> 00:39:04,630
Only also up to a certain time.

640
00:39:04,630 --> 00:39:07,180
Then you had to
bring the radio to--

641
00:39:07,180 --> 00:39:11,320
no, you were not allowed to
have a radio, certainly not

642
00:39:11,320 --> 00:39:12,100
officially.

643
00:39:12,100 --> 00:39:14,940

644
00:39:14,940 --> 00:39:15,930
Yeah.

645
00:39:15,930 --> 00:39:17,490
I do not remember.

646
00:39:17,490 --> 00:39:19,680
When you ask me that,
I do not remember

647
00:39:19,680 --> 00:39:25,030
what we did, absolutely
not, in the evening,

648
00:39:25,030 --> 00:39:27,210
especially, when we
had to be at home.

649
00:39:27,210 --> 00:39:30,150
And no, I do not remember.

650
00:39:30,150 --> 00:39:34,710
I know there was this constant
fear and this constant

651
00:39:34,710 --> 00:39:37,470
when you have day and night
fear and day and night

652
00:39:37,470 --> 00:39:41,670
fear of being picked up.

653
00:39:41,670 --> 00:39:46,710
And then on March
10, 1943, when there

654
00:39:46,710 --> 00:39:52,830
was a famous knock at the
door, it was kind of a relief.

655
00:39:52,830 --> 00:39:54,630
How old was your father
then, if I may ask?

656
00:39:54,630 --> 00:40:00,990
My father was going to be 60
years old on March the 13th.

657
00:40:00,990 --> 00:40:02,160
Of '43.

658
00:40:02,160 --> 00:40:03,360
'43.

659
00:40:03,360 --> 00:40:10,640
And this is what made him
too old to go to a work camp.

660
00:40:10,640 --> 00:40:13,710
I want to say that first,
how this was when-- oh, you

661
00:40:13,710 --> 00:40:15,730
have some question for me?

662
00:40:15,730 --> 00:40:16,230

Yeah.

663
00:40:16,230 --> 00:40:17,130
Maybe this is a--

664
00:40:17,130 --> 00:40:19,515
since this is another
key date, perhaps this

665
00:40:19,515 --> 00:40:21,240
is a good time to to back.

666
00:40:21,240 --> 00:40:23,520
Would you like-- Richard,
if you have any questions.

667
00:40:23,520 --> 00:40:26,880
I wanted to ask in
the spring of '42,

668
00:40:26,880 --> 00:40:33,000
when you had received
the extension

669
00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:36,810
and the official announcement
was that people were being

670
00:40:36,810 --> 00:40:42,450
sent east to work, what
did you know was the truth

671
00:40:42,450 --> 00:40:43,290
at that time?

672
00:40:43,290 --> 00:40:46,230
In those days, one didn't know.

673
00:40:46,230 --> 00:40:49,470
One did not believe
that we would

674

00:40:49,470 --> 00:40:51,210
be sent to work in the east.

675
00:40:51,210 --> 00:40:54,000
But we didn't know
exactly what it was.

676
00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:58,350
But pretty soon, the minute
I was in the camp, I knew it.

677
00:40:58,350 --> 00:41:02,220
In the camp in Holland,
I knew it, but not

678
00:41:02,220 --> 00:41:06,360
while I was at home,
because you didn't

679
00:41:06,360 --> 00:41:08,520
hear this over the radio.

680
00:41:08,520 --> 00:41:11,970
And you didn't hear this
certainly not in a paper.

681
00:41:11,970 --> 00:41:15,160
You just-- what you
thought it would be.

682
00:41:15,160 --> 00:41:19,020
But also, already by 1941,
when I knew my friend

683
00:41:19,020 --> 00:41:22,680
was killed in Mauthausen--

684
00:41:22,680 --> 00:41:27,570
so that was the first thing
I heard of a camp, really,

685
00:41:27,570 --> 00:41:32,070
Mauthausen, because

in those days,

686

00:41:32,070 --> 00:41:35,970

I didn't know anything
about Auschwitz yet.

687

00:41:35,970 --> 00:41:37,860

But Mauthausen was
the first camp.

688

00:41:37,860 --> 00:41:41,460

I knew, naturally, in Germany
about Dachau and Oranienburg

689

00:41:41,460 --> 00:41:45,060

because people were
sent there in 1933--

690

00:41:45,060 --> 00:41:47,040

from 1933 on.

691

00:41:47,040 --> 00:41:52,410

But these were not the type
of camp they had in the east,

692

00:41:52,410 --> 00:41:55,130

not at all.

693

00:41:55,130 --> 00:41:57,510

They were not
extermination camps.

694

00:41:57,510 --> 00:42:02,610

They were often camps where
people, political prisoners,

695

00:42:02,610 --> 00:42:04,360

were.

696

00:42:04,360 --> 00:42:06,270

There were all kinds of people.

697

00:42:06,270 --> 00:42:12,080
And sure, people were killed
also, but not en masse.

698
00:42:12,080 --> 00:42:18,330
There was more the
rarity when somebody

699
00:42:18,330 --> 00:42:20,640
was killed in those camps.

700
00:42:20,640 --> 00:42:23,970
They died of hunger, starvation.

701
00:42:23,970 --> 00:42:25,470
Sure, enough people died.

702
00:42:25,470 --> 00:42:30,690
But that they were
systematically killed, no.

703
00:42:30,690 --> 00:42:32,630
They were not, not
in those camps.

704
00:42:32,630 --> 00:42:35,970
Oranienburg, Dachau,
Sachsenhausen, these

705
00:42:35,970 --> 00:42:38,940
were the three camps
which were known already

706
00:42:38,940 --> 00:42:40,050
while I was in Germany.

707
00:42:40,050 --> 00:42:43,590
But it was usually for
men, not for women.

708
00:42:43,590 --> 00:42:49,560
And either it was Jews or
for political reasons--

709
00:42:49,560 --> 00:42:51,780
many Communists.

710
00:42:51,780 --> 00:42:54,600
It was a different type of camp.

711
00:42:54,600 --> 00:42:59,070
But I did not know anything
about the eastern camps,

712
00:42:59,070 --> 00:43:06,650
like the camps in Poland
or the other countries--

713
00:43:06,650 --> 00:43:07,410
Romania.

714
00:43:07,410 --> 00:43:09,750
I didn't know
anything about those.

715
00:43:09,750 --> 00:43:13,860
And the camps in Poland were
only erected in the '40s.

716
00:43:13,860 --> 00:43:15,990
They were after the war.

717
00:43:15,990 --> 00:43:19,830
They were not there
in 1933 because Poland

718
00:43:19,830 --> 00:43:23,550
was an independent
country in those days.

719
00:43:23,550 --> 00:43:30,090
On September 1, 1939, the
Germans overran Poland.

720
00:43:30,090 --> 00:43:34,650

And whatever started,
that was after '39.

721
00:43:34,650 --> 00:43:39,210
So in the early days, there
were only the camps in Germany.

722
00:43:39,210 --> 00:43:41,280
It was a totally
different kind of thing.

723
00:43:41,280 --> 00:43:48,710

724
00:43:48,710 --> 00:43:49,210
All right.

725
00:43:49,210 --> 00:43:53,320
Now, we've arrived at March '43.

726
00:43:53,320 --> 00:43:56,890
March '43-- March
10, '43, each of us

727
00:43:56,890 --> 00:44:06,920
had kind of like a knapsack
with warm clothing,

728
00:44:06,920 --> 00:44:15,230
some bedding, maybe some
shoes ready next to the bed.

729
00:44:15,230 --> 00:44:18,860
And so we all took that.

730
00:44:18,860 --> 00:44:21,050
And outside was a talk.

731
00:44:21,050 --> 00:44:22,460
And we were brought.

732
00:44:22,460 --> 00:44:26,133

Two Dutch Nazis picked us up.

733

00:44:26,133 --> 00:44:27,550

Was it in the
middle of the night?

734

00:44:27,550 --> 00:44:28,467

Tell us a little more.

735

00:44:28,467 --> 00:44:29,150

No, it was not.

736

00:44:29,150 --> 00:44:33,320

It was in the evening, not long
after 8 o'clock, between 8:00--

737

00:44:33,320 --> 00:44:37,100

because it's still our supper.

738

00:44:37,100 --> 00:44:39,725

And it was in the
middle of our supper.

739

00:44:39,725 --> 00:44:42,450

740

00:44:42,450 --> 00:44:43,540

But you were ready?

741

00:44:43,540 --> 00:44:45,060

Yeah.

742

00:44:45,060 --> 00:44:49,260

And as I say, when you
live for months in fear,

743

00:44:49,260 --> 00:44:51,740

it's kind of a relief, finally.

744

00:44:51,740 --> 00:44:58,370

745

00:44:58,370 --> 00:45:00,710

In the moment, it was
a relief, but only

746

00:45:00,710 --> 00:45:04,820

in the moment, because
we went then on a truck.

747

00:45:04,820 --> 00:45:06,980

The three girls--

748

00:45:06,980 --> 00:45:08,360

Three girls and my father--

749

00:45:08,360 --> 00:45:09,443

And your father, as well--

750

00:45:09,443 --> 00:45:14,270

Mm-hmm, on a truck to school,
which was in walking distance,

751

00:45:14,270 --> 00:45:17,360

actually, from our home.

752

00:45:17,360 --> 00:45:20,795

And we were assembled
there, a few hundred

753

00:45:20,795 --> 00:45:25,830

from the area, German
Jews and Dutch Jews

754

00:45:25,830 --> 00:45:28,880

and a number of
people whom we knew.

755

00:45:28,880 --> 00:45:31,460

So you come inside and sit.

756

00:45:31,460 --> 00:45:35,360

Everybody was in the
same boat, not knowing

757
00:45:35,360 --> 00:45:37,370
what was going to happen.

758
00:45:37,370 --> 00:45:41,690
Then when there were so
many-- enough people,

759
00:45:41,690 --> 00:45:44,330
maybe in the middle
of the night,

760
00:45:44,330 --> 00:45:53,950
we were brought by truck to
another area of Amsterdam

761
00:45:53,950 --> 00:45:57,610
and, well, into
a former theater.

762
00:45:57,610 --> 00:46:03,470
It was a Jewish theater, but
it was before the Nazi time.

763
00:46:03,470 --> 00:46:09,400
It was a well-known
theater in Amsterdam.

764
00:46:09,400 --> 00:46:15,580
And this was the place
where they assembled people

765
00:46:15,580 --> 00:46:19,750
from the whole city,
literally in a theater built

766
00:46:19,750 --> 00:46:20,890
with the seats.

767
00:46:20,890 --> 00:46:22,960
If you were lucky,
you had a seat.

768

00:46:22,960 --> 00:46:26,620

Or you were sitting
on the floor.

769

00:46:26,620 --> 00:46:29,250

Facilities were
totally inadequate

770

00:46:29,250 --> 00:46:32,950

for hundreds and
hundreds of people.

771

00:46:32,950 --> 00:46:39,220

We were sitting in
this place for 48 hours

772

00:46:39,220 --> 00:46:42,730

without knowing anything at all.

773

00:46:42,730 --> 00:46:44,200

Nobody knew anything.

774

00:46:44,200 --> 00:46:51,790

Nobody said anything and
just waiting for what?

775

00:46:51,790 --> 00:46:52,360

Nobody knew.

776

00:46:52,360 --> 00:46:55,030

Circumstances-- was
there any mistreatment?

777

00:46:55,030 --> 00:46:56,550

No nobody, was treated--

778

00:46:56,550 --> 00:46:57,300

No kicking around?

779

00:46:57,300 --> 00:46:57,970

No.

780

00:46:57,970 --> 00:46:59,200

There were no Germans.

781

00:46:59,200 --> 00:47:02,860

There were no Germans
whatsoever, no Germans.

782

00:47:02,860 --> 00:47:08,380

At that point, what I forgot
before, during those years,

783

00:47:08,380 --> 00:47:11,380

there was a Jewish council.

784

00:47:11,380 --> 00:47:14,500

The Jewish council was the
one who was in charge there

785

00:47:14,500 --> 00:47:18,350

to take care of whatever
had to be taken care of.

786

00:47:18,350 --> 00:47:24,400

The Jewish council
counseled people

787

00:47:24,400 --> 00:47:30,070

what to do from small
towns in Holland, where

788

00:47:30,070 --> 00:47:32,920

to go to find them--

789

00:47:32,920 --> 00:47:37,360

the people who had to leave
their areas because the Nazis

790

00:47:37,360 --> 00:47:42,070

cleared them of Jews,
where to go to in the city.

791

00:47:42,070 --> 00:47:44,410

And they all came
to the cities--

792
00:47:44,410 --> 00:47:48,290
where to live, where to
go with their families.

793
00:47:48,290 --> 00:47:50,020
And this is what the
Jewish council did.

794
00:47:50,020 --> 00:47:51,790
It was a temporary
kind of thing.

795
00:47:51,790 --> 00:47:54,310
But the people
came into the city.

796
00:47:54,310 --> 00:47:57,790
And they were advised to go to--

797
00:47:57,790 --> 00:48:02,080
in every house, everybody who
had a house or an apartment

798
00:48:02,080 --> 00:48:05,750
had to take in some people.

799
00:48:05,750 --> 00:48:12,580
And so the Jewish
council was there also.

800
00:48:12,580 --> 00:48:15,220
My sister who lives
in Los Angeles

801
00:48:15,220 --> 00:48:16,900
was working for
the Jewish council

802
00:48:16,900 --> 00:48:21,220
somehow in the office as--

803
00:48:21,220 --> 00:48:23,680
but the people who worked
in the Jewish council

804
00:48:23,680 --> 00:48:28,420
had the advantage that they
got a paper where they were

805
00:48:28,420 --> 00:48:30,610
freed until some later date.

806
00:48:30,610 --> 00:48:36,190
So my sister went
to that theater.

807
00:48:36,190 --> 00:48:38,800
But with her papers,
she was freed

808
00:48:38,800 --> 00:48:43,990
and went back to our house.

809
00:48:43,990 --> 00:48:47,590
And we said goodbye then,
not knowing what would

810
00:48:47,590 --> 00:48:53,950
happen to us, to her, to--

811
00:48:53,950 --> 00:48:56,560
you didn't know.

812
00:48:56,560 --> 00:48:59,950
Did you think you were on your
way to a camp at that point?

813
00:48:59,950 --> 00:49:01,840
Yeah, absolutely.

814
00:49:01,840 --> 00:49:06,580
Absolutely, but for work.

815
00:49:06,580 --> 00:49:07,510
That's what I thought.

816
00:49:07,510 --> 00:49:11,470
And I thought to
myself, if anybody--

817
00:49:11,470 --> 00:49:13,390
I was young and strong.

818
00:49:13,390 --> 00:49:19,930
And there was no reason in the
world why I couldn't make it.

819
00:49:19,930 --> 00:49:25,210
I was very hopeful that I
would under any circumstance

820
00:49:25,210 --> 00:49:26,320
be able to make it.

821
00:49:26,320 --> 00:49:29,140

822
00:49:29,140 --> 00:49:34,120
And then came--
yeah, as it happened,

823
00:49:34,120 --> 00:49:38,590
the man in charge of the Jewish
council was somebody I knew--

824
00:49:38,590 --> 00:49:40,540
I played tennis with.

825
00:49:40,540 --> 00:49:43,930
And he said to me, if I--

826
00:49:43,930 --> 00:49:46,960
there are two camps
in Holland, which

827
00:49:46,960 --> 00:49:50,380
at the time of the second,
I didn't know anything.

828
00:49:50,380 --> 00:49:52,390
He said, one is a
camp where people

829
00:49:52,390 --> 00:49:59,110
are being sent to the east to--

830
00:49:59,110 --> 00:50:02,650
"resettled in the east," as
they called it at the time.

831
00:50:02,650 --> 00:50:05,530
And the other one
is a work camp.

832
00:50:05,530 --> 00:50:11,590
If I can advise you, go to the
work camp, whatever that is.

833
00:50:11,590 --> 00:50:13,120
But then you stay in Holland.

834
00:50:13,120 --> 00:50:20,320
So my father, my sister, and
I went to this work camp.

835
00:50:20,320 --> 00:50:21,400
You had a choice?

836
00:50:21,400 --> 00:50:22,060
Yeah.

837
00:50:22,060 --> 00:50:25,090
Now, he-- yes.

838
00:50:25,090 --> 00:50:27,760
They were also--

839
00:50:27,760 --> 00:50:28,960
I had a choice.

840
00:50:28,960 --> 00:50:31,240
Normally, I don't know what--

841
00:50:31,240 --> 00:50:35,050
I would have probably
chosen the work camp also.

842
00:50:35,050 --> 00:50:38,890
Yes, at that point, you still
had a choice, more or less.

843
00:50:38,890 --> 00:50:41,380
But in some families,
the one wanted here

844
00:50:41,380 --> 00:50:43,570
and the one wanted there.

845
00:50:43,570 --> 00:50:48,010
And they said-- again, and also
when there were old people,

846
00:50:48,010 --> 00:50:49,420
they didn't go to the work camp.

847
00:50:49,420 --> 00:50:51,550
They were not allowed
to go to the work camp.

848
00:50:51,550 --> 00:50:53,500
So they didn't have a choice.

849
00:50:53,500 --> 00:50:54,940
But we were young.

850
00:50:54,940 --> 00:50:59,110
My father was an iffy age.

851

00:50:59,110 --> 00:51:02,410

And so we went to that
work camp and, well,

852

00:51:02,410 --> 00:51:08,350

in the middle of the
night, again on a train

853

00:51:08,350 --> 00:51:20,410

to a place maybe two hours out
of Amsterdam, there was a city.

854

00:51:20,410 --> 00:51:24,520

And the camp was
Vught, V-U-G-H-T.

855

00:51:24,520 --> 00:51:26,140

I don't know if
you know the name.

856

00:51:26,140 --> 00:51:28,480

It's not well-known.

857

00:51:28,480 --> 00:51:30,040

No, it's not well-known.

858

00:51:30,040 --> 00:51:32,980

It was a work camp in Holland.

859

00:51:32,980 --> 00:51:41,380

And it was hastily erected maybe
that same week when we came.

860

00:51:41,380 --> 00:51:47,830

The only thing what was in
place was the electrified fence.

861

00:51:47,830 --> 00:51:52,300

It was always the first
thing that did, a fence.

862

00:51:52,300 --> 00:51:55,240

There was nothing else,
but a fence was there.

863
00:51:55,240 --> 00:51:59,710
So within that fence,
they put up barracks.

864
00:51:59,710 --> 00:52:01,750
And they were still
under construction,

865
00:52:01,750 --> 00:52:03,010
putting these barracks up.

866
00:52:03,010 --> 00:52:07,150
And you had the dirt floor.

867
00:52:07,150 --> 00:52:09,610
There was never a
floor in that camp.

868
00:52:09,610 --> 00:52:14,860
There was always only dirt
floor, bunk beds, and--

869
00:52:14,860 --> 00:52:19,280
I don't remember--
100 in one barrack.

870
00:52:19,280 --> 00:52:20,470
So you came.

871
00:52:20,470 --> 00:52:21,430
You arrived there.

872
00:52:21,430 --> 00:52:23,890
You were assigned a barrack--

873
00:52:23,890 --> 00:52:26,530
number one, number
two, number three.

874

00:52:26,530 --> 00:52:33,790
And there, it was the first time
I encountered what was called

875
00:52:33,790 --> 00:52:35,380
"kapos."

876
00:52:35,380 --> 00:52:41,410
And these were
the German inmates

877
00:52:41,410 --> 00:52:45,490
of penitentiaries
who were building

878
00:52:45,490 --> 00:52:49,510
these camps, were
overseeing it, who had

879
00:52:49,510 --> 00:52:51,760
been in penitentiaries for--

880
00:52:51,760 --> 00:52:53,320
had nothing to do
with the Nazis--

881
00:52:53,320 --> 00:52:55,360
for many years before.

882
00:52:55,360 --> 00:52:58,600
And they gave us
all the information

883
00:52:58,600 --> 00:53:00,820
of the camps in the east.

884
00:53:00,820 --> 00:53:04,330
So through them,
we got to know it

885
00:53:04,330 --> 00:53:08,740
was right away in Holland in
the camp what was awaiting us.

886
00:53:08,740 --> 00:53:11,320
He said, you go to Auschwitz.

887
00:53:11,320 --> 00:53:12,640
There is a chimney.

888
00:53:12,640 --> 00:53:15,100
That's where you are going.

889
00:53:15,100 --> 00:53:17,740
And they were building
up these camps.

890
00:53:17,740 --> 00:53:24,760
All these camps were supervised
by these kapos and people,

891
00:53:24,760 --> 00:53:26,260
inmates of the camps.

892
00:53:26,260 --> 00:53:28,340
But they knew how to do it.

893
00:53:28,340 --> 00:53:30,610
And they were the overlords.

894
00:53:30,610 --> 00:53:32,770
How did they treat you?

895
00:53:32,770 --> 00:53:33,350
Good.

896
00:53:33,350 --> 00:53:33,850
Yeah?

897
00:53:33,850 --> 00:53:35,350
Yeah.

898
00:53:35,350 --> 00:53:38,650
They played-- never in their

lives were they as important

899

00:53:38,650 --> 00:53:40,450

as they were in the camps.

900

00:53:40,450 --> 00:53:41,960

They were the big shots.

901

00:53:41,960 --> 00:53:43,390

That was the first

time also when

902

00:53:43,390 --> 00:53:50,080

I saw the striped suits

and the red triangle.

903

00:53:50,080 --> 00:53:52,310

They had no chance

of getting out of it.

904

00:53:52,310 --> 00:53:58,600

But here, they were definitely

between inmates like me

905

00:53:58,600 --> 00:54:03,220

and the Germans, these guys.

906

00:54:03,220 --> 00:54:06,910

So this is what I knew

right away in Holland.

907

00:54:06,910 --> 00:54:10,630

So we were separated.

908

00:54:10,630 --> 00:54:12,880

Men and women were separated.

909

00:54:12,880 --> 00:54:18,100

But I got to meet

my father again.

910

00:54:18,100 --> 00:54:20,440

There were occasions
when we could meet.

911
00:54:20,440 --> 00:54:25,300
And so in that camp--

912
00:54:25,300 --> 00:54:28,105
How were you separated,
by barrack site?

913
00:54:28,105 --> 00:54:29,620
Or was it--

914
00:54:29,620 --> 00:54:30,700
There was a fence.

915
00:54:30,700 --> 00:54:32,533
There was a fence between
the men and women.

916
00:54:32,533 --> 00:54:36,640
Yes, there was a fence
between the men and the women.

917
00:54:36,640 --> 00:54:40,720
There was nothing to do,
because this was just

918
00:54:40,720 --> 00:54:44,320
in the building-up stage--

919
00:54:44,320 --> 00:54:46,670
hanging around, not doing.

920
00:54:46,670 --> 00:54:52,140
And you rather wanted to do
something than hanging around

921
00:54:52,140 --> 00:54:58,420
and do nothing, because you
knew this wasn't going to last.

922

00:54:58,420 --> 00:55:02,050

So what happened then,
that was March the 13th.

923

00:55:02,050 --> 00:55:05,240

924

00:55:05,240 --> 00:55:07,850

My father was very soon--

925

00:55:07,850 --> 00:55:11,960

knew very soon he couldn't stay
there because they didn't-- he

926

00:55:11,960 --> 00:55:13,880

was too old--

927

00:55:13,880 --> 00:55:14,450

work camp.

928

00:55:14,450 --> 00:55:22,220

My sister, my youngest
sister, had some papers

929

00:55:22,220 --> 00:55:25,580

of some kind of a
marriage to somebody

930

00:55:25,580 --> 00:55:27,440

in Sweden whom she
didn't even know.

931

00:55:27,440 --> 00:55:29,750

But she had papers.

932

00:55:29,750 --> 00:55:31,010

But they were not complete.

933

00:55:31,010 --> 00:55:32,750

And she expected
some more papers.

934

00:55:32,750 --> 00:55:37,580
But they didn't leave anybody
in that camp who had any papers

935
00:55:37,580 --> 00:55:43,890
or had maybe chances to go to
Palestine then, certain things.

936
00:55:43,890 --> 00:55:48,740
So she and my father went on a
transport on the 31st of March,

937
00:55:48,740 --> 00:55:52,850
1943.

938
00:55:52,850 --> 00:55:56,570
And unfortunately,
they were sent--

939
00:55:56,570 --> 00:55:58,610
they were on the 6th of--

940
00:55:58,610 --> 00:56:08,810
the Red Cross notification
was that they were killed

941
00:56:08,810 --> 00:56:13,730
on the 6th of April in Sobibor.

942
00:56:13,730 --> 00:56:16,280
They went via
Westerbork to Sobibor.

943
00:56:16,280 --> 00:56:18,860

944
00:56:18,860 --> 00:56:24,140
In that camp in Vught where I
was, naturally, lots of people

945
00:56:24,140 --> 00:56:28,130
came who were sent
away like my father--

946
00:56:28,130 --> 00:56:32,550
too old or sick or too
young, something or other.

947
00:56:32,550 --> 00:56:34,100
Who made that determination?

948
00:56:34,100 --> 00:56:35,300
Germans.

949
00:56:35,300 --> 00:56:36,440
SS or--

950
00:56:36,440 --> 00:56:39,660
SS, yeah, not the
guards, the upper--

951
00:56:39,660 --> 00:56:41,300
Obersturmfuhrer.

952
00:56:41,300 --> 00:56:41,990
Officers?

953
00:56:41,990 --> 00:56:43,080
Yeah, the officers.

954
00:56:43,080 --> 00:56:43,580
Yes.

955
00:56:43,580 --> 00:56:45,875
No, the guards--
yeah, the guards

956
00:56:45,875 --> 00:56:48,650
were something else again here.

957
00:56:48,650 --> 00:56:52,910
In the camp in
Holland were mostly

958

00:56:52,910 --> 00:57:00,110
Dutch Nazis, men and women.

959
00:57:00,110 --> 00:57:08,590
And naturally,
the ones who chose

960
00:57:08,590 --> 00:57:20,320
this kind of work, they
were the worst, because they

961
00:57:20,320 --> 00:57:24,940
tried to make the life
as miserable as possible

962
00:57:24,940 --> 00:57:27,490
and want to take it out,
whatever grievance they

963
00:57:27,490 --> 00:57:30,220
had against Jews.

964
00:57:30,220 --> 00:57:31,705
They have found their place.

965
00:57:31,705 --> 00:57:34,810

966
00:57:34,810 --> 00:57:39,640
In the camp in
Holland, in Vught,

967
00:57:39,640 --> 00:57:41,020
I want to say that
first, I don't

968
00:57:41,020 --> 00:57:44,990
know whether it was right
in the beginning or later.

969
00:57:44,990 --> 00:57:52,450
There was a so-called
elder man, elder,

970
00:57:52,450 --> 00:57:58,420
for the inside one for the--

971
00:57:58,420 --> 00:58:03,310
who registered, did
all this kind of work,

972
00:58:03,310 --> 00:58:08,950
registered, and one
for the work course.

973
00:58:08,950 --> 00:58:11,740
It was also a Jewish man.

974
00:58:11,740 --> 00:58:15,610
Both were Jewish men, and
both were German Jewish men.

975
00:58:15,610 --> 00:58:20,110
I say German Jewish men
because the Germans wanted only

976
00:58:20,110 --> 00:58:23,020
to converse with
Germans, because most

977
00:58:23,020 --> 00:58:26,590
of the Dutch people
who were in that camp

978
00:58:26,590 --> 00:58:28,540
didn't speak any German.

979
00:58:28,540 --> 00:58:32,620
So obviously, they
selected a German.

980
00:58:32,620 --> 00:58:37,840
And well, the one in the
office was an accountant

981

00:58:37,840 --> 00:58:39,190
in his former life.

982
00:58:39,190 --> 00:58:42,760
And the one outside,
he was a young man.

983
00:58:42,760 --> 00:58:48,610
And the Germans liked
this kind of a person.

984
00:58:48,610 --> 00:58:50,950
And he imitated the Germans.

985
00:58:50,950 --> 00:58:53,140
It didn't help him,
because later on, he

986
00:58:53,140 --> 00:58:56,320
was sent to Auschwitz
earlier than anybody

987
00:58:56,320 --> 00:59:00,760
else because the minute you
had a position which was out

988
00:59:00,760 --> 00:59:04,900
of the ordinary,
your life was very

989
00:59:04,900 --> 00:59:10,480
much in danger, because somebody
didn't like you and you went.

990
00:59:10,480 --> 00:59:17,360
There were every week,
transports going from this work

991
00:59:17,360 --> 00:59:21,560
camp because it got too
full or they needed people.

992
00:59:21,560 --> 00:59:24,230

Every train was 800 people.

993

00:59:24,230 --> 00:59:29,360

So they were always lists being
put together of 800 people.

994

00:59:29,360 --> 00:59:31,020

Now, who were the 800 people?

995

00:59:31,020 --> 00:59:32,910

The Germans couldn't care less.

996

00:59:32,910 --> 00:59:36,050

The number had to be it.

997

00:59:36,050 --> 00:59:42,470

And so when transport
day came, that

998

00:59:42,470 --> 00:59:45,680

was a very, very, very
dangerous situation

999

00:59:45,680 --> 00:59:48,920

where you're in the right
place that you were not

1000

00:59:48,920 --> 00:59:50,940

put on transport.

1001

00:59:50,940 --> 00:59:52,830

I want to go back
to the working.

1002

00:59:52,830 --> 00:59:55,700

1003

00:59:55,700 --> 00:59:59,660

Pretty soon, they
started putting machinery

1004

00:59:59,660 --> 01:00:02,420

into that camp.

1005

01:00:02,420 --> 01:00:08,030

And well, from Amsterdam,
the industry was--

1006

01:00:08,030 --> 01:00:14,630

making women's clothing was
a large industry and also

1007

01:00:14,630 --> 01:00:19,170

men's clothing, mostly
in Jewish hands.

1008

01:00:19,170 --> 01:00:23,390

So lots of this machinery
came into the camp.

1009

01:00:23,390 --> 01:00:27,620

And they started a factory, but
not making women's clothing,

1010

01:00:27,620 --> 01:00:30,650

but uniforms.

1011

01:00:30,650 --> 01:00:34,370

And many of the people
with whom I was together

1012

01:00:34,370 --> 01:00:38,840

came from the
manufacturing of clothing.

1013

01:00:38,840 --> 01:00:43,850

And they naturally went to
work for this clothing factory.

1014

01:00:43,850 --> 01:00:50,380

After this came fur
manufacturing that was also

1015

01:00:50,380 --> 01:00:56,630

a thing, which was they made

fur for the lining of coats

1016
01:00:56,630 --> 01:00:59,070
for the Russian front.

1017
01:00:59,070 --> 01:01:01,880
So there were many
in the fur business.

1018
01:01:01,880 --> 01:01:04,460
They went into this factory.

1019
01:01:04,460 --> 01:01:07,850
And then the third came,
an electronic factory,

1020
01:01:07,850 --> 01:01:14,810
which was Philips
Eindhoven, Philips lamps.

1021
01:01:14,810 --> 01:01:17,210
They had lots of
Jewish employees.

1022
01:01:17,210 --> 01:01:21,110
And in order to protect
their Jewish employees who

1023
01:01:21,110 --> 01:01:25,580
were sent to that camp, they
started a factory really

1024
01:01:25,580 --> 01:01:28,130
originally for the
Jewish employees.

1025
01:01:28,130 --> 01:01:31,820

1026
01:01:31,820 --> 01:01:36,320
But they took outsiders also.

1027

01:01:36,320 --> 01:01:39,360

So I had to go to
one factory or other.

1028

01:01:39,360 --> 01:01:42,890

So I selected-- that
was my selection,

1029

01:01:42,890 --> 01:01:44,900

the electronic factory.

1030

01:01:44,900 --> 01:01:50,630

We made radio parts for
radios for submarines.

1031

01:01:50,630 --> 01:01:54,060

1032

01:01:54,060 --> 01:01:56,730

At the time, I had
to go to one factory.

1033

01:01:56,730 --> 01:01:58,800

And I didn't know of either.

1034

01:01:58,800 --> 01:02:02,040

So I thought electronics sounded
better to me than clothes.

1035

01:02:02,040 --> 01:02:07,230

I said, if it goes
not well, they

1036

01:02:07,230 --> 01:02:10,980

closed the clothes manufacturing
earlier before they

1037

01:02:10,980 --> 01:02:13,805

closed the electronic factory.

1038

01:02:13,805 --> 01:02:17,800

And that's exactly
what happened.

1039
01:02:17,800 --> 01:02:23,130
But in between, there
were lots of families,

1040
01:02:23,130 --> 01:02:26,100
young families with children.

1041
01:02:26,100 --> 01:02:31,870
Their children either died
of terrible sicknesses.

1042
01:02:31,870 --> 01:02:38,030
Or there was a transport
with only small children,

1043
01:02:38,030 --> 01:02:42,250
where parents had the choice
to either go with them.

1044
01:02:42,250 --> 01:02:46,720
Or they were sent alone,
two and three-year-olds,

1045
01:02:46,720 --> 01:02:50,810
four-year-olds, children up to--

1046
01:02:50,810 --> 01:02:55,720
they were maybe 10, 11, where
they could work, not before.

1047
01:02:55,720 --> 01:03:00,220
Anybody below that age left.

1048
01:03:00,220 --> 01:03:03,460
There were also situations that
were just absolutely terrible,

1049
01:03:03,460 --> 01:03:04,420
when people were--

1050
01:03:04,420 --> 01:03:08,230

1051
01:03:08,230 --> 01:03:11,470
they were just in such
a quandary what to do,

1052
01:03:11,470 --> 01:03:15,490
to go with their children or
to send their children alone.

1053
01:03:15,490 --> 01:03:18,160
And both decisions happened?

1054
01:03:18,160 --> 01:03:19,780
Both decisions happened.

1055
01:03:19,780 --> 01:03:22,600
I saw many cases where
children went alone

1056
01:03:22,600 --> 01:03:24,850
and the parents stayed.

1057
01:03:24,850 --> 01:03:27,430
Mm-hmm, terrible decisions.

1058
01:03:27,430 --> 01:03:30,730
And others, I want to
be with my children.

1059
01:03:30,730 --> 01:03:35,470
Naturally, they had
no chances whatsoever.

1060
01:03:35,470 --> 01:03:37,880
They were terrible decisions.

1061
01:03:37,880 --> 01:03:39,100
These are such incredible--

1062
01:03:39,100 --> 01:03:44,240
I talk about it as if

this was anything easy.

1063

01:03:44,240 --> 01:03:44,980

It wasn't.

1064

01:03:44,980 --> 01:03:45,910

It wasn't.

1065

01:03:45,910 --> 01:03:48,040

It wasn't.

1066

01:03:48,040 --> 01:03:52,210

So anyway, the camp pretty
soon consisted only out

1067

01:03:52,210 --> 01:03:58,060

of younger people,
among where I fitted in,

1068

01:03:58,060 --> 01:04:02,970

where I was pretty much in
the middle, I would say.

1069

01:04:02,970 --> 01:04:05,950

But there still were
transports going.

1070

01:04:05,950 --> 01:04:10,030

The Germans demanded
so many a week.

1071

01:04:10,030 --> 01:04:13,450

There were lists being
made who is going.

1072

01:04:13,450 --> 01:04:17,510

And it was really
like a roulette,

1073

01:04:17,510 --> 01:04:22,090

like Russian roulette.

1074

01:04:22,090 --> 01:04:24,220
What was my luck there again?

1075
01:04:24,220 --> 01:04:26,350
I had some lucky breaks.

1076
01:04:26,350 --> 01:04:30,250
I knew this man in the office.

1077
01:04:30,250 --> 01:04:34,390
I knew him from
outside, from Amsterdam.

1078
01:04:34,390 --> 01:04:39,040
And he-- not only me,
but several others

1079
01:04:39,040 --> 01:04:43,420
were making up the
lists on typewriters.

1080
01:04:43,420 --> 01:04:45,910
Actually, when you
work in the office,

1081
01:04:45,910 --> 01:04:50,960
you were safe this time,
until the next time.

1082
01:04:50,960 --> 01:04:58,120
So that was constantly you lived
from one anxiety to the next.

1083
01:04:58,120 --> 01:05:00,220
You never knew what happened.

1084
01:05:00,220 --> 01:05:05,470
And if they felt like waking
you up at 2:00 in the morning

1085
01:05:05,470 --> 01:05:07,870
and let you stand
for three hours,

1086

01:05:07,870 --> 01:05:11,020

they did it just
for the fun of it,

1087

01:05:11,020 --> 01:05:15,160

probably when it
was raining hard.

1088

01:05:15,160 --> 01:05:18,800

That was at all a very
important thing to be counted.

1089

01:05:18,800 --> 01:05:21,820

It was always being counted,
morning count and evening

1090

01:05:21,820 --> 01:05:22,930

count.

1091

01:05:22,930 --> 01:05:25,420

And somebody died
during the day,

1092

01:05:25,420 --> 01:05:28,840

this person had to appear
in the evening counting

1093

01:05:28,840 --> 01:05:30,970

in a wheelbarrow dead.

1094

01:05:30,970 --> 01:05:36,040

He was counted in and was
then discarded afterwards.

1095

01:05:36,040 --> 01:05:37,120

How much time is now?

1096

01:05:37,120 --> 01:05:38,760

And what time of
year are we now?

1097

01:05:38,760 --> 01:05:39,840
I was there--

1098
01:05:39,840 --> 01:05:40,930
From March '43--

1099
01:05:40,930 --> 01:05:42,490
March '43.

1100
01:05:42,490 --> 01:05:43,930
There was a summer.

1101
01:05:43,930 --> 01:05:46,420
And then came the winter.

1102
01:05:46,420 --> 01:05:51,940
And then came--
yeah, then came just

1103
01:05:51,940 --> 01:05:54,080
I was in Holland in that camp.

1104
01:05:54,080 --> 01:05:56,680
I forgot many other things.

1105
01:05:56,680 --> 01:06:00,040
Every time and somebody-- in
this camp were not only Jews.

1106
01:06:00,040 --> 01:06:02,980
There were Dutch
political prisoners, lots

1107
01:06:02,980 --> 01:06:05,190
of Dutch political prisoners.

1108
01:06:05,190 --> 01:06:07,140
We were working with them.

1109
01:06:07,140 --> 01:06:08,740
The best of the young people--

1110

01:06:08,740 --> 01:06:11,800

the best of the young
people were in the camp.

1111

01:06:11,800 --> 01:06:21,460

And for whatever reason, there
was any hanging going on.

1112

01:06:21,460 --> 01:06:24,420

The punishment was hanging.

1113

01:06:24,420 --> 01:06:25,770

There was no crematoria.

1114

01:06:25,770 --> 01:06:26,890

There was no gas chamber.

1115

01:06:26,890 --> 01:06:27,640

There was nothing.

1116

01:06:27,640 --> 01:06:28,890

Hanging was the thing.

1117

01:06:28,890 --> 01:06:30,990

Everybody had to appear.

1118

01:06:30,990 --> 01:06:36,240

And do you know, the
Germans, always they

1119

01:06:36,240 --> 01:06:37,500

were looking at you.

1120

01:06:37,500 --> 01:06:41,130

And if you did not
watch that hanging,

1121

01:06:41,130 --> 01:06:47,430

you got it in your neck was
there, whatever you call it.

1122

01:06:47,430 --> 01:06:48,940
I forgot.

1123
01:06:48,940 --> 01:06:49,830
[INAUDIBLE]

1124
01:06:49,830 --> 01:06:51,570
Yeah, something.

1125
01:06:51,570 --> 01:06:52,650
You had to watch it.

1126
01:06:52,650 --> 01:06:55,140
You could not look down.

1127
01:06:55,140 --> 01:06:56,430
You had to watch that.

1128
01:06:56,430 --> 01:06:59,940
Your eyes had to be up--

1129
01:06:59,940 --> 01:07:03,930
sadistic, terribly sadistic.

1130
01:07:03,930 --> 01:07:06,840
Are we now-- has a
year gone by, Lotte?

1131
01:07:06,840 --> 01:07:09,700
Are you now in
the spring of '44?

1132
01:07:09,700 --> 01:07:10,200
Yeah.

1133
01:07:10,200 --> 01:07:12,000
I forgot one thing.

1134
01:07:12,000 --> 01:07:15,240
They made also
counterfeit money.

1135

01:07:15,240 --> 01:07:17,310

That was a very small thing.

1136

01:07:17,310 --> 01:07:19,320

One was not allowed
to talk about it.

1137

01:07:19,320 --> 01:07:21,210

And naturally,
one knew about it.

1138

01:07:21,210 --> 01:07:25,096

They made dollars and
pounds and Swiss francs.

1139

01:07:25,096 --> 01:07:26,400

Mm-hmm.

1140

01:07:26,400 --> 01:07:29,966

Yeah, they made there,
but no Jews employed.

1141

01:07:29,966 --> 01:07:30,466

Mm-hmm.

1142

01:07:30,466 --> 01:07:36,480

Yeah, no Jews employed-- was
a very secret manufacturing.

1143

01:07:36,480 --> 01:07:38,640

Mm-hmm.

1144

01:07:38,640 --> 01:07:40,890

And yeah.

1145

01:07:40,890 --> 01:07:42,830

Did you speak some
Dutch by this time?

1146

01:07:42,830 --> 01:07:43,440

Yeah.

1147

01:07:43,440 --> 01:07:44,640

Oh, yeah, sure.

1148

01:07:44,640 --> 01:07:47,160

I was together only
with Dutch people.

1149

01:07:47,160 --> 01:07:49,360

I had to speak Dutch.

1150

01:07:49,360 --> 01:07:49,860

Mm-hmm.

1151

01:07:49,860 --> 01:07:50,532

Yes.

1152

01:07:50,532 --> 01:07:51,450

Mm-hmm.

1153

01:07:51,450 --> 01:07:57,830

By this time, do
most people know

1154

01:07:57,830 --> 01:08:01,340

what the truth of being
shipped to the east was?

1155

01:08:01,340 --> 01:08:02,780

Yes.

1156

01:08:02,780 --> 01:08:04,680

And it was no surprise.

1157

01:08:04,680 --> 01:08:06,320

There was no surprise.

1158

01:08:06,320 --> 01:08:08,330

So sending children off--

1159

01:08:08,330 --> 01:08:10,730

They knew exactly that

they would be killed.

1160
01:08:10,730 --> 01:08:12,410
Yes.

1161
01:08:12,410 --> 01:08:13,130
They knew that.

1162
01:08:13,130 --> 01:08:14,510
Their parents knew this.

1163
01:08:14,510 --> 01:08:15,290
Mm-hmm.

1164
01:08:15,290 --> 01:08:16,430
Yeah.

1165
01:08:16,430 --> 01:08:20,569
These kapos, they
informed everybody.

1166
01:08:20,569 --> 01:08:22,760
There was nobody in
that camp in Holland

1167
01:08:22,760 --> 01:08:26,890
who did not know what was
going to happen in the east.

1168
01:08:26,890 --> 01:08:28,640
They said, if you are
lucky, you are being

1169
01:08:28,640 --> 01:08:30,260
selected to work somewhere.

1170
01:08:30,260 --> 01:08:33,620
But they let you
work until you drop.

1171
01:08:33,620 --> 01:08:35,660
And that's what

happened in most cases.

1172

01:08:35,660 --> 01:08:37,490

And they at that
time, naturally, they

1173

01:08:37,490 --> 01:08:39,740

came from a much earlier time.

1174

01:08:39,740 --> 01:08:40,399

They came.

1175

01:08:40,399 --> 01:08:43,130

They talked about Auschwitz
very much in the beginning

1176

01:08:43,130 --> 01:08:45,770

when they were building
up the camp also.

1177

01:08:45,770 --> 01:08:53,810

And people in the swamps had
to work through the swamps

1178

01:08:53,810 --> 01:08:57,620

and clear the swamps.

1179

01:08:57,620 --> 01:09:01,970

People died just right there.

1180

01:09:01,970 --> 01:09:08,210

If you had to work summer and
winter in terrible conditions

1181

01:09:08,210 --> 01:09:10,750

and with very little food--

1182

01:09:10,750 --> 01:09:12,500

I forgot the food.

1183

01:09:12,500 --> 01:09:13,609

Mm-hmm.

1184
01:09:13,609 --> 01:09:17,180
I was going to go
back again and say,

1185
01:09:17,180 --> 01:09:19,910
during your work
time in this camp,

1186
01:09:19,910 --> 01:09:21,680
tell us about a typical day.

1187
01:09:21,680 --> 01:09:22,720
A typical day--

1188
01:09:22,720 --> 01:09:24,770
From the time of
waking to the time of--

1189
01:09:24,770 --> 01:09:27,290
I worked there from
6:00 in the morning

1190
01:09:27,290 --> 01:09:28,609
until 6:00 in the evening.

1191
01:09:28,609 --> 01:09:30,859
That was always 12 hours.

1192
01:09:30,859 --> 01:09:36,140
But before going to work, the
factory was right in the camp.

1193
01:09:36,140 --> 01:09:42,620
There was counting, where you
had to stand and being counted.

1194
01:09:42,620 --> 01:09:46,880
And if they didn't count right,
which often enough happened,

1195
01:09:46,880 --> 01:09:49,740

they did it over and
over and over again.

1196
01:09:49,740 --> 01:09:54,050
You have to stand
there, rain or shine.

1197
01:09:54,050 --> 01:09:56,510
I was given an
overall when I came.

1198
01:09:56,510 --> 01:09:59,120
At that time, I still
had my own shoes,

1199
01:09:59,120 --> 01:10:05,990
which were some sturdy
shoes, and my own underwear

1200
01:10:05,990 --> 01:10:07,490
and overall.

1201
01:10:07,490 --> 01:10:08,930
That was all.

1202
01:10:08,930 --> 01:10:11,870
And in that camp,
naturally, compared

1203
01:10:11,870 --> 01:10:20,480
to what I experienced
later, was more facilities,

1204
01:10:20,480 --> 01:10:24,870
like bathroom and water.

1205
01:10:24,870 --> 01:10:25,370
But--

1206
01:10:25,370 --> 01:10:25,870
Shower?

1207

01:10:25,870 --> 01:10:26,370
No.

1208
01:10:26,370 --> 01:10:26,990
No shower.

1209
01:10:26,990 --> 01:10:28,040
No shower.

1210
01:10:28,040 --> 01:10:30,260
I didn't see a shower in years.

1211
01:10:30,260 --> 01:10:30,830
No.

1212
01:10:30,830 --> 01:10:32,250
Uh-uh.

1213
01:10:32,250 --> 01:10:32,750
No.

1214
01:10:32,750 --> 01:10:38,870
And also, the water
was also so limited.

1215
01:10:38,870 --> 01:10:41,630
There were hundreds
and hundreds of people.

1216
01:10:41,630 --> 01:10:44,480
You had to stand in line
to wash your hands maybe.

1217
01:10:44,480 --> 01:10:48,680

1218
01:10:48,680 --> 01:10:51,680
Yeah, this was in the morning.

1219
01:10:51,680 --> 01:10:54,150
Then we went to the factory.

1220

01:10:54,150 --> 01:11:00,020

And I was working on
a belt, conveyor belt.

1221

01:11:00,020 --> 01:11:02,300

It was going slowly, but
you had to pick it up.

1222

01:11:02,300 --> 01:11:06,200

I remember 700 a day
I took in my hands.

1223

01:11:06,200 --> 01:11:07,280

There were radios.

1224

01:11:07,280 --> 01:11:09,900

I had a certain work
on these radios.

1225

01:11:09,900 --> 01:11:14,480

There were four spots
which I had to solder.

1226

01:11:14,480 --> 01:11:15,560

So you had to sit there.

1227

01:11:15,560 --> 01:11:18,840

There was no talking
because you couldn't talk.

1228

01:11:18,840 --> 01:11:20,750

You were busy constantly.

1229

01:11:20,750 --> 01:11:23,120

If you had to go
to the bathroom,

1230

01:11:23,120 --> 01:11:25,500

somebody else was
sitting in your seat.

1231

01:11:25,500 --> 01:11:28,400

And you didn't even go
alone to the bathroom.

1232
01:11:28,400 --> 01:11:30,650
Somebody went with you.

1233
01:11:30,650 --> 01:11:33,260
There were always Germans
walking in back of you

1234
01:11:33,260 --> 01:11:39,450
with their dogs and
with their guns, always.

1235
01:11:39,450 --> 01:11:44,580
And yeah.

1236
01:11:44,580 --> 01:11:50,220
Work-- naturally, you were
like a machine, like a robot.

1237
01:11:50,220 --> 01:11:55,860
And I always said any work
is better than factory work.

1238
01:11:55,860 --> 01:11:58,320
That is deadening.

1239
01:11:58,320 --> 01:12:04,080
Anyway, the only good part
was in this whole work,

1240
01:12:04,080 --> 01:12:09,540
at the end of the band,
the radios were tied.

1241
01:12:09,540 --> 01:12:11,370
They were working.

1242
01:12:11,370 --> 01:12:17,260
And so there was
occasionally a time,

1243

01:12:17,260 --> 01:12:20,460
especially when they were
eating or whatever, the guards,

1244

01:12:20,460 --> 01:12:25,530
you're now to listen very
low to the beep-- not me,

1245

01:12:25,530 --> 01:12:27,270
but somebody--

1246

01:12:27,270 --> 01:12:32,700
to the beep to BBC
and got the war news.

1247

01:12:32,700 --> 01:12:38,160
And that was naturally uplifting
whatever, even at the time

1248

01:12:38,160 --> 01:12:41,250
when the Germans were still
making inroads here and there.

1249

01:12:41,250 --> 01:12:46,300
But you knew it
wasn't going so well.

1250

01:12:46,300 --> 01:12:53,250
And so that went like wildfire
through the whole band.

1251

01:12:53,250 --> 01:12:56,770
And everybody knew about
it, what was going on.

1252

01:12:56,770 --> 01:13:05,160
And so I did this kind of
work until June the 3rd,

1253

01:13:05,160 --> 01:13:09,720
1944, when they thought
the invasion, the Normandy

1254

01:13:09,720 --> 01:13:12,810
invasion, would come, D-Day.

1255

01:13:12,810 --> 01:13:17,280
And when they were wrong
in their calculation,

1256

01:13:17,280 --> 01:13:18,750
we went back to the camp.

1257

01:13:18,750 --> 01:13:23,470
But we knew it was
going to happen soon.

1258

01:13:23,470 --> 01:13:27,150
And so we were just
hanging around.

1259

01:13:27,150 --> 01:13:28,710
That happened often enough.

1260

01:13:28,710 --> 01:13:30,540
You were just doing nothing.

1261

01:13:30,540 --> 01:13:32,880
There was nothing to do.

1262

01:13:32,880 --> 01:13:39,300
And then on June the
6th, we were loaded

1263

01:13:39,300 --> 01:13:44,230
into a closed cattle car--

1264

01:13:44,230 --> 01:13:46,320
not a-- it was not a
cattle-- freight car.

1265

01:13:46,320 --> 01:13:49,740
It was not a cattle car.

1266

01:13:49,740 --> 01:13:55,440

I don't remember how many people
in the car, but it was full.

1267

01:13:55,440 --> 01:13:58,260

But there was straw
on the ground.

1268

01:13:58,260 --> 01:14:02,280

So you were sitting
on the ground.

1269

01:14:02,280 --> 01:14:04,920

And the door was closed.

1270

01:14:04,920 --> 01:14:11,330

You got a bread, which
wasn't a bread at all.

1271

01:14:11,330 --> 01:14:12,870

It only looked like a bread.

1272

01:14:12,870 --> 01:14:15,855

But it got gray in no time--

1273

01:14:15,855 --> 01:14:20,530

1274

01:14:20,530 --> 01:14:23,140

nothing to drink.

1275

01:14:23,140 --> 01:14:24,190

And the train went.

1276

01:14:24,190 --> 01:14:28,780

And there was a
slit in that car--

1277

01:14:28,780 --> 01:14:32,800

was the only air that came in.

1278

01:14:32,800 --> 01:14:36,595

Before the train moves
east, you began to tell us

1279
01:14:36,595 --> 01:14:37,720
about the food in the camp.

1280
01:14:37,720 --> 01:14:40,247
I'd like you to finish that.

1281
01:14:40,247 --> 01:14:41,080
Had you lost a lot--

1282
01:14:41,080 --> 01:14:43,090
I want to know whether
you lost a lot of weight.

1283
01:14:43,090 --> 01:14:44,320
Tell us about your food.

1284
01:14:44,320 --> 01:14:44,892
The food--

1285
01:14:44,892 --> 01:14:45,475
The breakfast.

1286
01:14:45,475 --> 01:14:48,340
Did you have breakfast
or something?

1287
01:14:48,340 --> 01:14:49,660
A soup.

1288
01:14:49,660 --> 01:14:50,290
A soup.

1289
01:14:50,290 --> 01:14:56,440
And Holland still was a
little better than later on.

1290
01:14:56,440 --> 01:14:59,110
Soup was usually
potato peel in--

1291
01:14:59,110 --> 01:15:01,900

1292
01:15:01,900 --> 01:15:04,480
I cannot tell you what
kind of soup it was.

1293
01:15:04,480 --> 01:15:07,540
It was a soup and
a piece of bread.

1294
01:15:07,540 --> 01:15:10,270
On a very good day, we
got a piece of margarine

1295
01:15:10,270 --> 01:15:16,780
and a piece of sausage,
but not every day.

1296
01:15:16,780 --> 01:15:20,600
But this had to
last for 24 hours.

1297
01:15:20,600 --> 01:15:21,100
Mm-hmm.

1298
01:15:21,100 --> 01:15:22,150
Was this in the morning?

1299
01:15:22,150 --> 01:15:25,210

1300
01:15:25,210 --> 01:15:28,927
No, I think it
was at the first--

1301
01:15:28,927 --> 01:15:30,010
we started in the morning.

1302
01:15:30,010 --> 01:15:37,230
At 11 o'clock or so, we

had a 15-minutes pause.

1303

01:15:37,230 --> 01:15:37,860

Yeah.

1304

01:15:37,860 --> 01:15:39,277

And that's when
you got your food.

1305

01:15:39,277 --> 01:15:40,470

Then we got our food.

1306

01:15:40,470 --> 01:15:41,313

Yes.

1307

01:15:41,313 --> 01:15:42,060

Uh-huh.

1308

01:15:42,060 --> 01:15:46,390

And that had to
last for 24 hours.

1309

01:15:46,390 --> 01:15:47,880

I don't know.

1310

01:15:47,880 --> 01:15:51,810

Sure, in the beginning--

1311

01:15:51,810 --> 01:15:53,250

I'm talking about myself.

1312

01:15:53,250 --> 01:15:55,270

I was much more
hungry than later on.

1313

01:15:55,270 --> 01:15:57,870

First of all, you
get used to it.

1314

01:15:57,870 --> 01:16:02,280

And then much later came
a time when I rather

1315
01:16:02,280 --> 01:16:08,050
didn't eat anything because
it was too bothersome to open

1316
01:16:08,050 --> 01:16:10,380
your mouth, too strenuous.

1317
01:16:10,380 --> 01:16:14,940

1318
01:16:14,940 --> 01:16:19,380
Towards the end, when you opened
your mouth, it didn't close.

1319
01:16:19,380 --> 01:16:23,130
You had to go with
your hand to close.

1320
01:16:23,130 --> 01:16:26,370
So it was easier not
to eat than to eat.

1321
01:16:26,370 --> 01:16:28,050
It was very strenuous.

1322
01:16:28,050 --> 01:16:31,150
It hurt all over.

1323
01:16:31,150 --> 01:16:33,880
But in that Dutch camp,
on those kinds of rations,

1324
01:16:33,880 --> 01:16:35,040
which are obviously--

1325
01:16:35,040 --> 01:16:37,590
Better than later--

1326
01:16:37,590 --> 01:16:40,320
But still, they were
still much worse

1327
01:16:40,320 --> 01:16:41,940
than a normal
human being needs--

1328
01:16:41,940 --> 01:16:42,930
Absolutely--

1329
01:16:42,930 --> 01:16:46,120
To survive a work regime.

1330
01:16:46,120 --> 01:16:48,330
But were people dying?

1331
01:16:48,330 --> 01:16:49,740
Not of hunger yet.

1332
01:16:49,740 --> 01:16:53,760
No, you don't die that
fast of hunger, not at all.

1333
01:16:53,760 --> 01:16:55,230
You have reserves
built into you.

1334
01:16:55,230 --> 01:16:56,550
Oh, absolutely.

1335
01:16:56,550 --> 01:16:57,240
Absolutely.

1336
01:16:57,240 --> 01:17:03,150
And then there was also
many people at that time

1337
01:17:03,150 --> 01:17:05,700
did get packages from somebody.

1338
01:17:05,700 --> 01:17:11,610
I also got packages from some
non-Jewish Dutch friends.

1339

01:17:11,610 --> 01:17:13,050

Yeah.

1340

01:17:13,050 --> 01:17:17,280

And that was naturally a
help also in that Dutch camp,

1341

01:17:17,280 --> 01:17:19,680

not later on.

1342

01:17:19,680 --> 01:17:22,980

Later on, whatever
came in from Red Cross

1343

01:17:22,980 --> 01:17:25,290

was only for non-Jews.

1344

01:17:25,290 --> 01:17:27,270

There was nothing for Jews.

1345

01:17:27,270 --> 01:17:31,050

They did not allow
anything for Jews.

1346

01:17:31,050 --> 01:17:33,990

But in Holland, they did still.

1347

01:17:33,990 --> 01:17:40,440

Relatively, that camp
was unbelievable compared

1348

01:17:40,440 --> 01:17:43,890

to anything later on.

1349

01:17:43,890 --> 01:17:47,370

As harsh as it was, for
instance, they also--

1350

01:17:47,370 --> 01:17:55,560

they had-- when you got sick,
it was a dangerous thing

1351

01:17:55,560 --> 01:17:56,730
to get sick.

1352

01:17:56,730 --> 01:17:57,930
You never knew.

1353

01:17:57,930 --> 01:18:05,400
It was a minor thing, you
could go to the sick bay

1354

01:18:05,400 --> 01:18:12,670
and got whatever was
necessary for you.

1355

01:18:12,670 --> 01:18:16,380
But if you had a major
thing, your chances

1356

01:18:16,380 --> 01:18:18,780
were very, very slim.

1357

01:18:18,780 --> 01:18:21,720
And later on-- it
was not in Holland.

1358

01:18:21,720 --> 01:18:25,290
But later on, people were just
being picked up in these vans

1359

01:18:25,290 --> 01:18:27,930
and was gas in.

1360

01:18:27,930 --> 01:18:33,964
I would say they look like here
the UPS trucks, big brown--

1361

01:18:33,964 --> 01:18:36,300
In the sick bay
in the Dutch camp,

1362

01:18:36,300 --> 01:18:41,040
were there inmate doctors

and nurses, for example?

1363

01:18:41,040 --> 01:18:42,840

Doctors, yeah.

1364

01:18:42,840 --> 01:18:47,910

Doctors-- there were medics,
probably, not doctors--

1365

01:18:47,910 --> 01:18:48,660

not doctors.

1366

01:18:48,660 --> 01:18:52,920

I had, for instance,
a very infected tooth.

1367

01:18:52,920 --> 01:18:56,280

And I just couldn't stand it.

1368

01:18:56,280 --> 01:19:03,390

They pulled my tooth without
any novocaine or anything,

1369

01:19:03,390 --> 01:19:05,400

just pulled it out.

1370

01:19:05,400 --> 01:19:06,900

And it was the end of it.

1371

01:19:06,900 --> 01:19:09,510

I was sitting on a
chair, and that was it.

1372

01:19:09,510 --> 01:19:11,550

Something like
this, you could do,

1373

01:19:11,550 --> 01:19:14,580

because you were OK otherwise.

1374

01:19:14,580 --> 01:19:18,970

But to have major disease, no.

1375
01:19:18,970 --> 01:19:21,240
Mm-mm-- was dangerous.

1376
01:19:21,240 --> 01:19:23,620
It's very dangerous.

1377
01:19:23,620 --> 01:19:27,060
It was not the same for
the non-Jewish people.

1378
01:19:27,060 --> 01:19:29,010
The non-Jewish
people were treated.

1379
01:19:29,010 --> 01:19:29,690
Yeah.

1380
01:19:29,690 --> 01:19:30,870
Mm-hmm.

1381
01:19:30,870 --> 01:19:32,430
Yeah, they made a difference.

1382
01:19:32,430 --> 01:19:34,320
Absolutely, they
made a difference.

1383
01:19:34,320 --> 01:19:40,680
In that camp were also
Jews like nuns out of--

1384
01:19:40,680 --> 01:19:45,210
in Holland were a number of
Jewish women who became nuns.

1385
01:19:45,210 --> 01:19:49,630
I remember that
clearly in the camp.

1386
01:19:49,630 --> 01:19:54,780
And all kinds of streetwalkers--

1387
01:19:54,780 --> 01:19:57,930
they picked up
sleepwalkers-- non-Jewish--

1388
01:19:57,930 --> 01:19:59,650
and put them in the camps.

1389
01:19:59,650 --> 01:20:03,670
And it was all kinds of people.

1390
01:20:03,670 --> 01:20:08,970
But when I was sent
away, it was only they

1391
01:20:08,970 --> 01:20:14,160
sent the non-Jews into Germany.

1392
01:20:14,160 --> 01:20:16,560
The Jews went to the east.

1393
01:20:16,560 --> 01:20:18,030
That was then very,
very different,

1394
01:20:18,030 --> 01:20:21,390
because they emptied
the camps in Holland

1395
01:20:21,390 --> 01:20:24,180
because they didn't
want the people to fall

1396
01:20:24,180 --> 01:20:27,240
into the hands of the Allies.

1397
01:20:27,240 --> 01:20:27,840
Yes.

1398
01:20:27,840 --> 01:20:30,330
Were the Jews and the
non-Jews physically

1399

01:20:30,330 --> 01:20:31,690
separated in the camps?

1400

01:20:31,690 --> 01:20:32,885
Not in Holland, no.

1401

01:20:32,885 --> 01:20:33,510
Not in Holland.

1402

01:20:33,510 --> 01:20:36,360
So in your same barrack room,
there would be all kinds.

1403

01:20:36,360 --> 01:20:37,170
Non-Jews.

1404

01:20:37,170 --> 01:20:38,550
Yes, all kinds of people.

1405

01:20:38,550 --> 01:20:40,170
Yeah, all kinds of people.

1406

01:20:40,170 --> 01:20:41,070
No distinction?

1407

01:20:41,070 --> 01:20:42,710
No, there was no distinction.

1408

01:20:42,710 --> 01:20:44,100
Did you have a star in the camp?

1409

01:20:44,100 --> 01:20:44,430
Yeah.

1410

01:20:44,430 --> 01:20:44,700
Mm-hmm.

1411

01:20:44,700 --> 01:20:45,630
You did have a star.

1412
01:20:45,630 --> 01:20:46,170
Oh, yes.

1413
01:20:46,170 --> 01:20:49,650
So you were immediately
recognized as a Jew.

1414
01:20:49,650 --> 01:20:52,350
And in Holland, I
still had my name.

1415
01:20:52,350 --> 01:20:54,210
I was registered under my name.

1416
01:20:54,210 --> 01:20:56,610
Later on, I didn't
have a name anymore.

1417
01:20:56,610 --> 01:21:00,990

1418
01:21:00,990 --> 01:21:01,630
Yeah.

1419
01:21:01,630 --> 01:21:02,520
Where am I?

1420
01:21:02,520 --> 01:21:05,940
Any questions, Richard,
since this is a sort of--

1421
01:21:05,940 --> 01:21:07,350
it is now June the sixth.

1422
01:21:07,350 --> 01:21:08,400
And the train is moving.

1423
01:21:08,400 --> 01:21:10,440
The train is moving.

1424
01:21:10,440 --> 01:21:11,356

This was D-Day.

1425
01:21:11,356 --> 01:21:11,856
D-Day.

1426
01:21:11,856 --> 01:21:12,356
D-Day.

1427
01:21:12,356 --> 01:21:14,310
D-Day, very much so.

1428
01:21:14,310 --> 01:21:16,110
Very much-- all the Jews.

1429
01:21:16,110 --> 01:21:16,770
Interesting.

1430
01:21:16,770 --> 01:21:18,150
Yeah.

1431
01:21:18,150 --> 01:21:21,090
And I knew right
away the direction

1432
01:21:21,090 --> 01:21:23,670
where we are going that
we were going to the east.

1433
01:21:23,670 --> 01:21:27,780
But I was completely
prepared to go to Auschwitz,

1434
01:21:27,780 --> 01:21:32,880
completely prepared, because I
know that's where I was going.

1435
01:21:32,880 --> 01:21:39,090
And also, I knew that they
select people there for work.

1436
01:21:39,090 --> 01:21:42,450
And I thought I was still

in pretty good shape,

1437

01:21:42,450 --> 01:21:46,230
that if anybody's being
selected, I have a chance.

1438

01:21:46,230 --> 01:21:48,420
I was very confident.

1439

01:21:48,420 --> 01:21:53,370
And five days, we went
via Berlin, I remember.

1440

01:21:53,370 --> 01:21:56,130

1441

01:21:56,130 --> 01:21:58,350
And people got sick.

1442

01:21:58,350 --> 01:22:01,530
And the door never was opened.

1443

01:22:01,530 --> 01:22:08,610
Nobody cared less who died
and who lived, nothing.

1444

01:22:08,610 --> 01:22:11,880
Men and women
together in the same--

1445

01:22:11,880 --> 01:22:17,890
No, there were only women in the
wagon where I was, only women.

1446

01:22:17,890 --> 01:22:27,000
But I remember my tongue was
totally swollen from thirst.

1447

01:22:27,000 --> 01:22:33,930
And sitting for five days and
five nights in the same seat--

1448

01:22:33,930 --> 01:22:35,880
maybe I got up in between.

1449
01:22:35,880 --> 01:22:39,120
But anyway, you can hardly walk.

1450
01:22:39,120 --> 01:22:42,300
When we arrived in Auschwitz,
quick, quick, quick, quick,

1451
01:22:42,300 --> 01:22:43,200
quick.

1452
01:22:43,200 --> 01:22:47,770
And then standing there on
that ramp with all the Nazis,

1453
01:22:47,770 --> 01:22:55,710
I got my fast view of
what was going to be it--

1454
01:22:55,710 --> 01:22:58,830
hitting, hitting,
hitting, hitting.

1455
01:22:58,830 --> 01:23:02,460
And then right away
was the selection,

1456
01:23:02,460 --> 01:23:05,710
one of the famous
selections, here and there.

1457
01:23:05,710 --> 01:23:09,840
And I was selected to go--

1458
01:23:09,840 --> 01:23:12,400
at that point, I know
there were two groups.

1459
01:23:12,400 --> 01:23:17,400
I didn't know what was what
and who was going where.

1460
01:23:17,400 --> 01:23:26,070
So I went for 48 hours
into a small room,

1461
01:23:26,070 --> 01:23:29,430
hundreds and hundreds
of people standing up.

1462
01:23:29,430 --> 01:23:37,620
And there were these overhead--
you could see whatever it was.

1463
01:23:37,620 --> 01:23:38,940
You didn't know what it was.

1464
01:23:38,940 --> 01:23:42,240
Was it water coming
out eventually or what?

1465
01:23:42,240 --> 01:23:46,020
48 hours at least, we
were standing there.

1466
01:23:46,020 --> 01:23:49,050
I remember clearly it got dark.

1467
01:23:49,050 --> 01:23:50,220
And it got light.

1468
01:23:50,220 --> 01:23:53,310
And we are standing and
standing and standing.

1469
01:23:53,310 --> 01:23:55,420
The funny thing is you
didn't feel anything.

1470
01:23:55,420 --> 01:23:58,110
In normal life, you'd say,
oh, I cannot stand, anyway.

1471

01:23:58,110 --> 01:24:01,170
You didn't feel anything.

1472
01:24:01,170 --> 01:24:13,340
You were already in a state
of in between a life and death

1473
01:24:13,340 --> 01:24:21,800
somehow, in an inhuman state.

1474
01:24:21,800 --> 01:24:23,930
And that came
later very much so,

1475
01:24:23,930 --> 01:24:26,630
that I did not feel anything.

1476
01:24:26,630 --> 01:24:34,400
I didn't feel cold or warm in
winter in Poland, no thirst,

1477
01:24:34,400 --> 01:24:37,480
no hunger, no nothing--

1478
01:24:37,480 --> 01:24:42,480
not being tired, nothing,
absolutely nothing.

1479
01:24:42,480 --> 01:24:47,570
And I know I have heard this.

1480
01:24:47,570 --> 01:24:52,730
I talked to several physicians.

1481
01:24:52,730 --> 01:24:59,390
And they said this is
in a condition where

1482
01:24:59,390 --> 01:25:02,780
a human being can
be in and still

1483

01:25:02,780 --> 01:25:06,350
can come back to normal life.

1484
01:25:06,350 --> 01:25:11,300
It sounds incredible, but
that's the way it was.

1485
01:25:11,300 --> 01:25:15,095

1486
01:25:15,095 --> 01:25:19,610
Now, eventually, we
were led into some--

1487
01:25:19,610 --> 01:25:22,250
this room was
packed with people.

1488
01:25:22,250 --> 01:25:26,430
Eventually-- I forgot one thing.

1489
01:25:26,430 --> 01:25:32,450
I had to shed my clothes,
everything I had on, before.

1490
01:25:32,450 --> 01:25:34,370
We were all naked in that room.

1491
01:25:34,370 --> 01:25:35,540
Again, men and women?

1492
01:25:35,540 --> 01:25:36,800
No, not men and women.

1493
01:25:36,800 --> 01:25:37,410
Only women.

1494
01:25:37,410 --> 01:25:37,910
Yeah.

1495
01:25:37,910 --> 01:25:41,800

1496
01:25:41,800 --> 01:25:44,550
All naked-- yes, I forgot that.

1497
01:25:44,550 --> 01:25:48,500
So anything-- water,
gas, whatever.

1498
01:25:48,500 --> 01:25:53,540
But it was at a point when
people didn't care anymore,

1499
01:25:53,540 --> 01:25:56,720
because you were
already so numb that--

1500
01:25:56,720 --> 01:25:59,370

1501
01:25:59,370 --> 01:26:04,190
so eventually, water came out.

1502
01:26:04,190 --> 01:26:08,600
It was really a bath.

1503
01:26:08,600 --> 01:26:10,670
And after we were
through there, we

1504
01:26:10,670 --> 01:26:16,010
were all given a
dress, a striped dress,

1505
01:26:16,010 --> 01:26:18,050
and wooden clogs.

1506
01:26:18,050 --> 01:26:21,080
That was it.

1507
01:26:21,080 --> 01:26:27,160
Then we were led into
barracks, huge barracks.

1508

01:26:27,160 --> 01:26:31,270

And the woman who
was overseeing it

1509

01:26:31,270 --> 01:26:36,550

was a Polish Jewish woman
who was a beastly person,

1510

01:26:36,550 --> 01:26:40,780

because these people,
they had already

1511

01:26:40,780 --> 01:26:42,760

been in camps for years.

1512

01:26:42,760 --> 01:26:44,620

It was 1944, after all.

1513

01:26:44,620 --> 01:26:47,410

They had since '39 or '40 came.

1514

01:26:47,410 --> 01:26:50,290

They'd survived
terrible hardships

1515

01:26:50,290 --> 01:26:59,380

and felt very much
a great animosity

1516

01:26:59,380 --> 01:27:03,310

towards the newcomers.

1517

01:27:03,310 --> 01:27:05,530

Anyway, they are also
again in barracks,

1518

01:27:05,530 --> 01:27:14,080

in those bunk beds, three
to a bed and three layers,

1519

01:27:14,080 --> 01:27:18,790

and just waiting for what?

1520

01:27:18,790 --> 01:27:19,930

You didn't know for what.

1521

01:27:19,930 --> 01:27:23,080

1522

01:27:23,080 --> 01:27:27,280

The grounds were dirt.

1523

01:27:27,280 --> 01:27:29,380

And when it was raining--

1524

01:27:29,380 --> 01:27:31,420

and it was raining--

1525

01:27:31,420 --> 01:27:34,000

you had a hard time
picking up your feet,

1526

01:27:34,000 --> 01:27:35,990

because you couldn't
walk in that dirt

1527

01:27:35,990 --> 01:27:39,730

in those heavy wooden shoes.

1528

01:27:39,730 --> 01:27:42,790

The latrine and spigot are
not allowed to be used,

1529

01:27:42,790 --> 01:27:46,390

because they had to
be clean at all times.

1530

01:27:46,390 --> 01:27:48,260

Water was nonexistent.

1531

01:27:48,260 --> 01:27:54,700

1532

01:27:54,700 --> 01:28:01,950

So you were in a state
of hibernation, kind of.

1533

01:28:01,950 --> 01:28:04,880

1534

01:28:04,880 --> 01:28:06,880

So how long did that go on?

1535

01:28:06,880 --> 01:28:08,630

That went on for a few days.

1536

01:28:08,630 --> 01:28:15,330

And then I was among--

1537

01:28:15,330 --> 01:28:17,160

the people they
called out then were

1538

01:28:17,160 --> 01:28:24,560

people who were working
for Philips in Holland.

1539

01:28:24,560 --> 01:28:30,470

And everybody had to--

1540

01:28:30,470 --> 01:28:34,340

they were looking for
workers for Telefunken, which

1541

01:28:34,340 --> 01:28:39,290

was a big German
electronic company who

1542

01:28:39,290 --> 01:28:44,460

had a factory in the area
of Auschwitz because there,

1543

01:28:44,460 --> 01:28:49,310

they had put their
factories from around Berlin

1544
01:28:49,310 --> 01:28:52,610
to the east because
of the bombardment.

1545
01:28:52,610 --> 01:28:57,290
Anyway, I was one of the--
there were 250 people chosen

1546
01:28:57,290 --> 01:29:00,200
to work for Telefunken.

1547
01:29:00,200 --> 01:29:10,040
So each of us had to parade
in front of the people who

1548
01:29:10,040 --> 01:29:12,410
made the decisions of
Telefunken and also

1549
01:29:12,410 --> 01:29:14,690
the Nazis of the camp--

1550
01:29:14,690 --> 01:29:18,500
had to parade
naked like a model.

1551
01:29:18,500 --> 01:29:21,380
They wanted to see what
shape you were in, if you had

1552
01:29:21,380 --> 01:29:23,510
any sicknesses on your skin.

1553
01:29:23,510 --> 01:29:25,310
They didn't want
to take anybody who

1554
01:29:25,310 --> 01:29:28,810
had any marked kind of thing.

1555
01:29:28,810 --> 01:29:34,760

So anyway, I was
selected to go to work.

1556
01:29:34,760 --> 01:29:37,700
The next-- before--

1557
01:29:37,700 --> 01:29:42,000
they first had 250, then out
of the 250 selected some.

1558
01:29:42,000 --> 01:29:45,830
And it was an
elimination process.

1559
01:29:45,830 --> 01:29:47,960
And you had to walk
again in front of them.

1560
01:29:47,960 --> 01:29:52,340
Anyway, I was one of
the selected ones.

1561
01:29:52,340 --> 01:29:56,570
The next step was
to be tattooed,

1562
01:29:56,570 --> 01:30:02,810
because from then on, I was
known under my number, which

1563
01:30:02,810 --> 01:30:04,040
I got on my arm.

1564
01:30:04,040 --> 01:30:06,740
And my name disappeared totally.

1565
01:30:06,740 --> 01:30:09,170
Whenever there was a
roll call, anything,

1566
01:30:09,170 --> 01:30:11,540
there was only the number.

1567

01:30:11,540 --> 01:30:16,610

And these tattoos
were given also

1568

01:30:16,610 --> 01:30:23,030

by Polish Jewish women
who were the same kind

1569

01:30:23,030 --> 01:30:26,960

as the one in the
barrack, full of hatred--

1570

01:30:26,960 --> 01:30:31,130

full of hatred--
and saying we are

1571

01:30:31,130 --> 01:30:36,560

lucky leaving that camp
because physically,

1572

01:30:36,560 --> 01:30:40,790

when I worked in the
factory, I left that camp.

1573

01:30:40,790 --> 01:30:46,250

But jurisdiction
was still Auschwitz.

1574

01:30:46,250 --> 01:30:49,850

But I was physically
not in Auschwitz,

1575

01:30:49,850 --> 01:30:54,830

only when they had the
say whatever happened.

1576

01:30:54,830 --> 01:31:04,250

But I was in what they
call "outside kommando."

1577

01:31:04,250 --> 01:31:08,210

So it wasn't very
far from Auschwitz.

1578
01:31:08,210 --> 01:31:13,250
And there was also hastily
put together again,

1579
01:31:13,250 --> 01:31:16,710
a camp barracks, again, the
same thing as in Holland.

1580
01:31:16,710 --> 01:31:18,980
There always was again put up.

1581
01:31:18,980 --> 01:31:21,410
But there were no
facilities, no nothing.

1582
01:31:21,410 --> 01:31:22,640
The factory was there.

1583
01:31:22,640 --> 01:31:26,480
There was a former
weaving factory.

1584
01:31:26,480 --> 01:31:31,010
And they put now
Telefunken in there.

1585
01:31:31,010 --> 01:31:35,390
But again, the electrified
wire and the barracks

1586
01:31:35,390 --> 01:31:38,690
and no facilities-- there
was a hole in the ground.

1587
01:31:38,690 --> 01:31:42,650
Facilities were just
absolutely nonexistent.

1588
01:31:42,650 --> 01:31:50,840
And here, I worked
from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM

1589

01:31:50,840 --> 01:31:56,030
and before standing
to be counted

1590

01:31:56,030 --> 01:31:58,550
and walking through
the village--

1591

01:31:58,550 --> 01:32:01,070
the village's name
was Reichenbach.

1592

01:32:01,070 --> 01:32:05,120
It was in Upper Silesia--

1593

01:32:05,120 --> 01:32:11,030
and walked to the factory and,
after 12 hours, walked back

1594

01:32:11,030 --> 01:32:15,020
and standing again
for to be counted.

1595

01:32:15,020 --> 01:32:18,440

1596

01:32:18,440 --> 01:32:25,460
And in this factory, we got
from the factory at night

1597

01:32:25,460 --> 01:32:32,600
a soup that was in addition to
the ration we got in the camp.

1598

01:32:32,600 --> 01:32:34,250
That was from the factory.

1599

01:32:34,250 --> 01:32:35,060
We earned.

1600

01:32:35,060 --> 01:32:39,410
Every hour I worked, I

earned money for the Germans.

1601

01:32:39,410 --> 01:32:43,620

We didn't get paid,
but they got paid.

1602

01:32:43,620 --> 01:32:48,560

And in return, somehow, the
factory supplied a soup.

1603

01:32:48,560 --> 01:32:53,300

So that was additional food,
actually, while I worked there.

1604

01:32:53,300 --> 01:32:55,730

What were you making?

1605

01:32:55,730 --> 01:32:59,540

I was making always for radios.

1606

01:32:59,540 --> 01:33:03,470

I made-- oh, that was
work which was very, very

1607

01:33:03,470 --> 01:33:05,000

difficult on your eyes.

1608

01:33:05,000 --> 01:33:07,580

1609

01:33:07,580 --> 01:33:09,800

What you had before those--

1610

01:33:09,800 --> 01:33:11,315

what do you call that still?

1611

01:33:11,315 --> 01:33:12,030

Dial?

1612

01:33:12,030 --> 01:33:12,530

Pardon?

1613
01:33:12,530 --> 01:33:13,160
Dial?

1614
01:33:13,160 --> 01:33:14,210
The rotary dial?

1615
01:33:14,210 --> 01:33:15,440
No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

1616
01:33:15,440 --> 01:33:17,060
Those glass--

1617
01:33:17,060 --> 01:33:17,840
Tubes.

1618
01:33:17,840 --> 01:33:19,370
The tubes-- no, the inside.

1619
01:33:19,370 --> 01:33:20,810
What do you call this?

1620
01:33:20,810 --> 01:33:21,310
Filament.

1621
01:33:21,310 --> 01:33:21,810
Filament.

1622
01:33:21,810 --> 01:33:22,430
Filament.

1623
01:33:22,430 --> 01:33:22,730
Yeah.

1624
01:33:22,730 --> 01:33:24,022
So you were making radio tubes.

1625
01:33:24,022 --> 01:33:26,210
Yeah, I was making radio tubes.

1626
01:33:26,210 --> 01:33:26,990

Yeah.

1627
01:33:26,990 --> 01:33:28,040
Uh-huh.

1628
01:33:28,040 --> 01:33:31,730
Yeah, but it was a very-- and
they were some very tiny ones.

1629
01:33:31,730 --> 01:33:33,560
This was very hard on the eye.

1630
01:33:33,560 --> 01:33:38,450
And especially when
you work at night,

1631
01:33:38,450 --> 01:33:43,380
your body isn't geared
to be working all night.

1632
01:33:43,380 --> 01:33:44,780
So it was very, very hard.

1633
01:33:44,780 --> 01:33:49,280
We worked together there with
Germans, with real Germans.

1634
01:33:49,280 --> 01:33:50,690
German civilians?

1635
01:33:50,690 --> 01:33:51,880
Yeah, civilians.

1636
01:33:51,880 --> 01:33:52,550
Not prisoners?

1637
01:33:52,550 --> 01:33:56,000
No, employees of Telefunken.

1638
01:33:56,000 --> 01:33:57,260
Yes.

1639

01:33:57,260 --> 01:34:04,850

And yeah, the hard thing was
when they unwrapped their lunch

1640

01:34:04,850 --> 01:34:06,095

or whatever they were eating.

1641

01:34:06,095 --> 01:34:08,040

Mmm, and the smell--

1642

01:34:08,040 --> 01:34:11,270

and that drives you crazy.

1643

01:34:11,270 --> 01:34:15,510

We worked together, yeah, in
the same band with them and also

1644

01:34:15,510 --> 01:34:22,160

with Polish not slave labor,
but also Polish people

1645

01:34:22,160 --> 01:34:23,690

who were living in camps.

1646

01:34:23,690 --> 01:34:25,590

But they had a certain freedom.

1647

01:34:25,590 --> 01:34:28,460

They were not like we were.

1648

01:34:28,460 --> 01:34:31,820

They were one above us.

1649

01:34:31,820 --> 01:34:34,810

Yeah, Polish workers
and these Germans.

1650

01:34:34,810 --> 01:34:36,710

Yes,

1651

01:34:36,710 --> 01:34:38,330

You were wearing
the striped dress?

1652
01:34:38,330 --> 01:34:41,690
Yeah and that one
striped dress--

1653
01:34:41,690 --> 01:34:44,418
never had anything else
but this one striped dress.

1654
01:34:44,418 --> 01:34:44,960
No underwear?

1655
01:34:44,960 --> 01:34:46,580
No underwear.

1656
01:34:46,580 --> 01:34:51,330
And it got wet, and
you just wore it wet.

1657
01:34:51,330 --> 01:34:54,710
You had nothing else to wear.

1658
01:34:54,710 --> 01:34:56,030
That's what I say.

1659
01:34:56,030 --> 01:35:02,030
I was not sick one single day--
no cold, nothing, absolutely

1660
01:35:02,030 --> 01:35:02,810
nothing.

1661
01:35:02,810 --> 01:35:07,850
And I think the conditions,
just the weather conditions,

1662
01:35:07,850 --> 01:35:09,470
that was in--

1663
01:35:09,470 --> 01:35:11,300

I was there in winter.

1664
01:35:11,300 --> 01:35:14,270
It was snow.

1665
01:35:14,270 --> 01:35:17,270
I don't remember
there was cold ever.

1666
01:35:17,270 --> 01:35:18,620
Was your head shaved?

1667
01:35:18,620 --> 01:35:19,220
Oh, yes.

1668
01:35:19,220 --> 01:35:20,117
I forgot that.

1669
01:35:20,117 --> 01:35:21,200
When was your head shaved?

1670
01:35:21,200 --> 01:35:24,470
My head was shaved
right away in the--

1671
01:35:24,470 --> 01:35:25,350
After the shower?

1672
01:35:25,350 --> 01:35:25,850
Yeah.

1673
01:35:25,850 --> 01:35:28,640
Yeah, right away in Auschwitz.

1674
01:35:28,640 --> 01:35:29,412
Yes.

1675
01:35:29,412 --> 01:35:30,770
Uh-huh.

1676
01:35:30,770 --> 01:35:33,230

But that was--

1677
01:35:33,230 --> 01:35:35,030
Your relationship--
was there any kind

1678
01:35:35,030 --> 01:35:39,350
of relationship at a human
level with the German civilian

1679
01:35:39,350 --> 01:35:41,180
workers or Polish?

1680
01:35:41,180 --> 01:35:42,570
Did anybody ever
give you a crust

1681
01:35:42,570 --> 01:35:44,130
of bread of anything like that?

1682
01:35:44,130 --> 01:35:44,630
No way.

1683
01:35:44,630 --> 01:35:45,130
No.

1684
01:35:45,130 --> 01:35:48,470
On the contrary, the Germans,
you know what they said?

1685
01:35:48,470 --> 01:35:52,300
Well, when we were talking
sometimes when we're eating

1686
01:35:52,300 --> 01:35:55,790
and we're talking,
oh, after the war,

1687
01:35:55,790 --> 01:35:59,000
you will have a better life.

1688
01:35:59,000 --> 01:36:00,830

But you will never
live among us.

1689
01:36:00,830 --> 01:36:03,260
You will always live
somewhere in a camp.

1690
01:36:03,260 --> 01:36:05,120
But you will have more clothes.

1691
01:36:05,120 --> 01:36:06,620
But you will never be free.

1692
01:36:06,620 --> 01:36:07,580
Hmm.

1693
01:36:07,580 --> 01:36:10,770
That's what the Germans
said, the civilians.

1694
01:36:10,770 --> 01:36:12,470
Yes.

1695
01:36:12,470 --> 01:36:18,530
And they were not
particularly nasty, but yes.

1696
01:36:18,530 --> 01:36:23,080
And I felt always, well,
I have news for you.

1697
01:36:23,080 --> 01:36:25,950

1698
01:36:25,950 --> 01:36:30,060
I'm sure my life will
be better than yours.

1699
01:36:30,060 --> 01:36:32,060
Somehow, I had the feeling
I'm going to make it.

1700

01:36:32,060 --> 01:36:34,227

Did they still think they
were going to win the war?

1701

01:36:34,227 --> 01:36:36,620

Oh, yes, until the last moment.

1702

01:36:36,620 --> 01:36:38,630

"When we win the war."

1703

01:36:38,630 --> 01:36:40,580

Yes.

1704

01:36:40,580 --> 01:36:41,900

Mm-hmm.

1705

01:36:41,900 --> 01:36:42,650

Yeah.

1706

01:36:42,650 --> 01:36:48,470

No, I always was very
hopeful and very optimistic.

1707

01:36:48,470 --> 01:36:51,650

I'm basically a very
optimistic person.

1708

01:36:51,650 --> 01:36:57,860

So I never thought that
I cannot survive it,

1709

01:36:57,860 --> 01:37:01,650

because I knew at this
point, it was up to me.

1710

01:37:01,650 --> 01:37:04,490

If I would have got a
major sickness, naturally--

1711

01:37:04,490 --> 01:37:08,030

but otherwise, I said,
I want to survive it.

1712

01:37:08,030 --> 01:37:10,970

I knew I was going to America.

1713

01:37:10,970 --> 01:37:14,130

I was so determined
to go to America.

1714

01:37:14,130 --> 01:37:16,110

And I knew I had an
uncle in San Francisco.

1715

01:37:16,110 --> 01:37:17,270

And I had someplace to go.

1716

01:37:17,270 --> 01:37:19,890

And most people didn't
have a place to go.

1717

01:37:19,890 --> 01:37:21,350

I knew I had a place to go.

1718

01:37:21,350 --> 01:37:24,130

1719

01:37:24,130 --> 01:37:26,740

So out of all--

1720

01:37:26,740 --> 01:37:29,410

this was obviously--
I'm sort of surprised,

1721

01:37:29,410 --> 01:37:31,540

because I've heard other
stories where there were

1722

01:37:31,540 --> 01:37:34,300

acts of individual kindness.

1723

01:37:34,300 --> 01:37:35,770

I didn't notice one.

1724

01:37:35,770 --> 01:37:36,298
I did not--

1725
01:37:36,298 --> 01:37:37,340
You have no recollection?

1726
01:37:37,340 --> 01:37:38,230
No.

1727
01:37:38,230 --> 01:37:40,270
No, I have no recollection.

1728
01:37:40,270 --> 01:37:42,100
I said they were not
particularly nasty.

1729
01:37:42,100 --> 01:37:46,540
But just to open up their
paper, I hear that paper still

1730
01:37:46,540 --> 01:37:48,400
when I'm thinking about it.

1731
01:37:48,400 --> 01:37:57,160
And there came out a roll
with some cheese, sausage,

1732
01:37:57,160 --> 01:37:59,830
or what have you.

1733
01:37:59,830 --> 01:38:03,360
Eating in front of
us, is that kind?

1734
01:38:03,360 --> 01:38:05,920
No.

1735
01:38:05,920 --> 01:38:09,550
They could have gone out
and eat someplace else.

1736
01:38:09,550 --> 01:38:11,930

No, there was no kindness.

1737
01:38:11,930 --> 01:38:15,740
You speak-- was there any
recorded case-- no, that's

1738
01:38:15,740 --> 01:38:17,380
a bad way of putting it.

1739
01:38:17,380 --> 01:38:19,360
Were you mistreated
at all physically?

1740
01:38:19,360 --> 01:38:20,110
Me?

1741
01:38:20,110 --> 01:38:21,860
You or other people like you?

1742
01:38:21,860 --> 01:38:22,360
Like me?

1743
01:38:22,360 --> 01:38:22,860
Yes.

1744
01:38:22,860 --> 01:38:27,870
Occasionally, you got
in your neck was a butt.

1745
01:38:27,870 --> 01:38:28,370
Yeah.

1746
01:38:28,370 --> 01:38:29,037
For what reason?

1747
01:38:29,037 --> 01:38:29,740
For no reason.

1748
01:38:29,740 --> 01:38:30,323
For no reason.

1749

01:38:30,323 --> 01:38:31,790
For no reason at all.

1750
01:38:31,790 --> 01:38:32,290
No.

1751
01:38:32,290 --> 01:38:33,970
While you were working?

1752
01:38:33,970 --> 01:38:35,230
No, not while we were working.

1753
01:38:35,230 --> 01:38:37,460
We were standing
around being counted.

1754
01:38:37,460 --> 01:38:39,640
They just felt like it.

1755
01:38:39,640 --> 01:38:42,650
Who were we?

1756
01:38:42,650 --> 01:38:46,030
And I had such contempt
for all these people,

1757
01:38:46,030 --> 01:38:50,860
because mostly from the
moment I was in Auschwitz,

1758
01:38:50,860 --> 01:38:55,510
it was mostly Ukrainians,
Ukrainians or Croatians.

1759
01:38:55,510 --> 01:38:58,650

1760
01:38:58,650 --> 01:39:00,870
First of all, they
didn't speak German.

1761
01:39:00,870 --> 01:39:03,750

They didn't speak anything.

1762

01:39:03,750 --> 01:39:08,655

I felt they thought they could--

1763

01:39:08,655 --> 01:39:13,310

1764

01:39:13,310 --> 01:39:17,750

they felt superior to us.

1765

01:39:17,750 --> 01:39:23,300

And in fact, they were the
lowest of the lowliest.

1766

01:39:23,300 --> 01:39:29,930

But no, only when they
were in the sadistic mood

1767

01:39:29,930 --> 01:39:34,910

did they do that, not for
doing anything in particular.

1768

01:39:34,910 --> 01:39:35,660

No.

1769

01:39:35,660 --> 01:39:38,930

But I have several instances
when people, for instance,

1770

01:39:38,930 --> 01:39:45,950

stole some bread from
somebody or stole bread from--

1771

01:39:45,950 --> 01:39:48,080

or stole anything.

1772

01:39:48,080 --> 01:39:55,850

You could lose your life easily
with just the smallest item.

1773

01:39:55,850 --> 01:39:58,700

People who were
hungry would eat--

1774
01:39:58,700 --> 01:39:59,870
often, there were dogs.

1775
01:39:59,870 --> 01:40:01,340
And there was dog food.

1776
01:40:01,340 --> 01:40:04,340
If you took of that dog food,
there were people who did this.

1777
01:40:04,340 --> 01:40:08,570

1778
01:40:08,570 --> 01:40:10,460
Dogs-- everybody had a dog.

1779
01:40:10,460 --> 01:40:16,953
But there was sometimes a
little container with dog food.

1780
01:40:16,953 --> 01:40:19,370
When you say everybody had a
dog, do you mean the Germans?

1781
01:40:19,370 --> 01:40:20,270
The Germans.

1782
01:40:20,270 --> 01:40:22,670
They were all walking
around with dogs.

1783
01:40:22,670 --> 01:40:24,680
Every single one had a dog.

1784
01:40:24,680 --> 01:40:29,930
And these dogs were all
trained to go after whoever

1785
01:40:29,930 --> 01:40:32,135

wanted to flee or whatever.

1786

01:40:32,135 --> 01:40:33,980

They were all German shepherds.

1787

01:40:33,980 --> 01:40:37,340

Every single German had
a dog of these guards.

1788

01:40:37,340 --> 01:40:38,215

Yeah.

1789

01:40:38,215 --> 01:40:40,610

Uh-huh.

1790

01:40:40,610 --> 01:40:43,840

And naturally, everywhere,
you have these watchtowers.

1791

01:40:43,840 --> 01:40:47,300

1792

01:40:47,300 --> 01:40:49,370

No, not-- I wouldn't
say not everywhere.

1793

01:40:49,370 --> 01:40:52,730

When you had those
little camps which

1794

01:40:52,730 --> 01:40:56,870

were hastily put together, they
didn't have the watchtower.

1795

01:40:56,870 --> 01:41:00,110

How far was that little
camp from your workplace?

1796

01:41:00,110 --> 01:41:02,090

Was it much of a march?

1797

01:41:02,090 --> 01:41:05,022

Yeah, much of a march
through the whole town.

1798
01:41:05,022 --> 01:41:05,980
Through the whole town.

1799
01:41:05,980 --> 01:41:06,380
Mm-hmm.

1800
01:41:06,380 --> 01:41:06,880
Yes.

1801
01:41:06,880 --> 01:41:08,750
And everybody was gawking.

1802
01:41:08,750 --> 01:41:10,190
And everybody saw us.

1803
01:41:10,190 --> 01:41:13,400
And afterwards, they
had never seen anything.

1804
01:41:13,400 --> 01:41:14,390
Yeah.

1805
01:41:14,390 --> 01:41:15,290
Oh, yes.

1806
01:41:15,290 --> 01:41:18,250
So this was this town
called Reichenbach.

1807
01:41:18,250 --> 01:41:19,780
Reichenbach.

1808
01:41:19,780 --> 01:41:21,530
And how far was that
from Auschwitz again?

1809
01:41:21,530 --> 01:41:24,760

1810
01:41:24,760 --> 01:41:25,320
Roughly.

1811
01:41:25,320 --> 01:41:26,920
In mileage, not much.

1812
01:41:26,920 --> 01:41:27,775
Not--

1813
01:41:27,775 --> 01:41:28,870
Within walking distance?

1814
01:41:28,870 --> 01:41:29,370
No.

1815
01:41:29,370 --> 01:41:31,780
No, not in walking distance.

1816
01:41:31,780 --> 01:41:33,700
It was a train
ride, but not far.

1817
01:41:33,700 --> 01:41:34,480
Not far.

1818
01:41:34,480 --> 01:41:35,300
But not far.

1819
01:41:35,300 --> 01:41:35,800
No.

1820
01:41:35,800 --> 01:41:37,380
No, not in walking distance.

1821
01:41:37,380 --> 01:41:38,410
No.

1822
01:41:38,410 --> 01:41:40,960
It was a real factory.

1823

01:41:40,960 --> 01:41:43,510

And it was actually
in Germany, was it?

1824

01:41:43,510 --> 01:41:44,140

Yes.

1825

01:41:44,140 --> 01:41:44,860

Yeah.

1826

01:41:44,860 --> 01:41:48,910

Yeah, Auschwitz is a border.

1827

01:41:48,910 --> 01:41:50,740

Yes, it was in Silesia.

1828

01:41:50,740 --> 01:41:51,340

Yeah.

1829

01:41:51,340 --> 01:41:51,950

Mm-hmm.

1830

01:41:51,950 --> 01:41:53,950

It's Poland now, but it
would have been Silesia.

1831

01:41:53,950 --> 01:41:54,660

Absolutely.

1832

01:41:54,660 --> 01:41:55,160

Reichenbach.

1833

01:41:55,160 --> 01:41:56,530

Reichenbach.

1834

01:41:56,530 --> 01:42:07,030

And in December 1944, one could
hear the cannons in the east.

1835

01:42:07,030 --> 01:42:10,840

Oh, that gave a lift.

1836

01:42:10,840 --> 01:42:13,390

We thought, naturally, any
moment, they would be coming.

1837

01:42:13,390 --> 01:42:17,260

They didn't come so soon.

1838

01:42:17,260 --> 01:42:20,620

So how long did you build
radio tubes for Telefunken?

1839

01:42:20,620 --> 01:42:31,690

From I would say July 1, 1944
until December 15, about.

1840

01:42:31,690 --> 01:42:38,950

On December 15, they sent us
a little bit more to the west.

1841

01:42:38,950 --> 01:42:42,490

Very, very close,
there was a big school

1842

01:42:42,490 --> 01:42:44,710

where we were assembled
and where people

1843

01:42:44,710 --> 01:42:47,200

came from different camps.

1844

01:42:47,200 --> 01:42:55,000

They had already the
idea of sending us west.

1845

01:42:55,000 --> 01:42:56,800

That was [PLACE NAME].

1846

01:42:56,800 --> 01:43:00,100

That was a school.

1847

01:43:00,100 --> 01:43:01,210

There was nothing to work.

1848
01:43:01,210 --> 01:43:04,240
We just had to stand for
hours and hours being counted.

1849
01:43:04,240 --> 01:43:07,390
And it was already--

1850
01:43:07,390 --> 01:43:12,130
you could tell they were
already not 100% in command,

1851
01:43:12,130 --> 01:43:17,200
because they didn't know what
really was going to happen.

1852
01:43:17,200 --> 01:43:19,600
The individual guard
didn't know what

1853
01:43:19,600 --> 01:43:21,070
was going to happen to him.

1854
01:43:21,070 --> 01:43:23,410
I don't know.

1855
01:43:23,410 --> 01:43:27,340
Anyway, they
assembled there people

1856
01:43:27,340 --> 01:43:30,610
from different camps,
all kinds of people,

1857
01:43:30,610 --> 01:43:37,240
again, mostly non-Jews
and Poles, lots

1858
01:43:37,240 --> 01:43:43,900
of Poles and Romanians
and Czechs and whatever.

1859

01:43:43,900 --> 01:43:53,770
Then on January the 19th, 1945,
we were told we had to march--

1860
01:43:53,770 --> 01:43:56,530
there was no
transportation available--

1861
01:43:56,530 --> 01:44:07,200
120 kilometers over a mountain
range us into Czechoslovakia.

1862
01:44:07,200 --> 01:44:11,250
The place where we
ended up was Trautenau.

1863
01:44:11,250 --> 01:44:16,290
And we did 30 kilometers a day.

1864
01:44:16,290 --> 01:44:18,450
And this was the
so-called "death match."

1865
01:44:18,450 --> 01:44:21,180
There were thousands
and thousands of people.

1866
01:44:21,180 --> 01:44:25,050
And I don't know how many
lost their life there

1867
01:44:25,050 --> 01:44:27,335
because they just
couldn't continue.

1868
01:44:27,335 --> 01:44:28,960
Were they killing
them as they dropped?

1869
01:44:28,960 --> 01:44:32,190
Yeah, immediately, constantly.

1870
01:44:32,190 --> 01:44:35,570

And that was at a point when
you didn't even turn around.

1871
01:44:35,570 --> 01:44:38,558
You were too busy with yourself.

1872
01:44:38,558 --> 01:44:41,100
What happened at the end of the
day, after you marched there?

1873
01:44:41,100 --> 01:44:53,370
We were put into some kind of a
barn among animals or whatever.

1874
01:44:53,370 --> 01:44:55,050
The German-- there
were always trucks

1875
01:44:55,050 --> 01:44:57,900
where the Germans followed.

1876
01:44:57,900 --> 01:45:00,930
There were Germans on
each side and then trucks

1877
01:45:00,930 --> 01:45:03,270
where they followed.

1878
01:45:03,270 --> 01:45:05,310
Yeah, in a barn, kind of.

1879
01:45:05,310 --> 01:45:08,760
And also, no food-- there was
no food, absolutely no food,

1880
01:45:08,760 --> 01:45:11,790
available.

1881
01:45:11,790 --> 01:45:13,350
You walked.

1882
01:45:13,350 --> 01:45:15,450

And when you couldn't
go on, you dropped.

1883
01:45:15,450 --> 01:45:17,070
And that was it.

1884
01:45:17,070 --> 01:45:18,420
And this walk was done--

1885
01:45:18,420 --> 01:45:22,500
I remember I was on
bare feet, because I

1886
01:45:22,500 --> 01:45:27,480
couldn't walk in these wooden
things, and in the snow.

1887
01:45:27,480 --> 01:45:31,860
And my feet, I remember, they
also clearly were dark blue--

1888
01:45:31,860 --> 01:45:34,450

1889
01:45:34,450 --> 01:45:35,540
dark blue.

1890
01:45:35,540 --> 01:45:37,000
Yes.

1891
01:45:37,000 --> 01:45:41,150
And 30 miles a day--

1892
01:45:41,150 --> 01:45:44,560
30 kilometers a day.

1893
01:45:44,560 --> 01:45:49,270
And one night, we
overnighted in a factory,

1894
01:45:49,270 --> 01:45:54,130
I remember, among machinery

and the oil of the machinery.

1895

01:45:54,130 --> 01:45:56,110

And you couldn't care.

1896

01:45:56,110 --> 01:46:00,340

This wasn't the place where
you minded where you were

1897

01:46:00,340 --> 01:46:02,840

or whatever.

1898

01:46:02,840 --> 01:46:11,530

And so at the end, we
arrived in Trautenau.

1899

01:46:11,530 --> 01:46:15,760

I must say I was walking
next to a woman who

1900

01:46:15,760 --> 01:46:21,200

we got friendly over time,
but didn't talk to each other.

1901

01:46:21,200 --> 01:46:26,860

You were just not
capable to talk.

1902

01:46:26,860 --> 01:46:28,750

It was too strenuous.

1903

01:46:28,750 --> 01:46:30,220

You just couldn't do it.

1904

01:46:30,220 --> 01:46:32,770

1905

01:46:32,770 --> 01:46:44,110

So we were loaded on a cattle
car, loads and loads of cars.

1906

01:46:44,110 --> 01:46:45,520

I forgot one thing.

1907

01:46:45,520 --> 01:46:48,520

In that factory,
often enough, we

1908

01:46:48,520 --> 01:46:52,390

were sitting around for days
and days and days with nothing

1909

01:46:52,390 --> 01:46:55,390

to do because the
material didn't arrive.

1910

01:46:55,390 --> 01:46:57,950

The freight trains were bombed.

1911

01:46:57,950 --> 01:46:59,560

There was no material.

1912

01:46:59,560 --> 01:47:01,330

So we were sitting
there and sitting there

1913

01:47:01,330 --> 01:47:03,070

and sitting there.

1914

01:47:03,070 --> 01:47:08,230

And oh, you couldn't doze
off or anything like this.

1915

01:47:08,230 --> 01:47:13,240

Right away, you would get
something in your neck.

1916

01:47:13,240 --> 01:47:18,580

You had to sit
there doing nothing.

1917

01:47:18,580 --> 01:47:22,710

And often enough, you were
not allowed to talk, either,

1918

01:47:22,710 --> 01:47:24,600
just sit there.

1919

01:47:24,600 --> 01:47:30,150
Were there selections
at that factory?

1920

01:47:30,150 --> 01:47:31,350
Selection?

1921

01:47:31,350 --> 01:47:33,420
When you first
arrived at Auschwitz--

1922

01:47:33,420 --> 01:47:34,570
Yeah, there were the--

1923

01:47:34,570 --> 01:47:34,890
There was a selection.

1924

01:47:34,890 --> 01:47:35,390
Yeah.

1925

01:47:35,390 --> 01:47:36,960
Were there other selections?

1926

01:47:36,960 --> 01:47:38,460
Later on, no.

1927

01:47:38,460 --> 01:47:42,790
No, only the sick people were
sent away, only sick people.

1928

01:47:42,790 --> 01:47:47,310
And then this was a case when
this truck came and picked up

1929

01:47:47,310 --> 01:47:55,590
people, the gas trucks where
you lost their life right away--

1930

01:47:55,590 --> 01:47:58,290
were gassed right away in there.

1931
01:47:58,290 --> 01:48:01,980
But also, I was in Birkenau--

1932
01:48:01,980 --> 01:48:05,100
Auschwitz-Birkenau,
where they had the gas

1933
01:48:05,100 --> 01:48:06,480
chamber and the crematorium.

1934
01:48:06,480 --> 01:48:10,530
And you had
continuously that stench

1935
01:48:10,530 --> 01:48:16,720
in your nose of
the burned bodies.

1936
01:48:16,720 --> 01:48:18,520
That was also something.

1937
01:48:18,520 --> 01:48:22,900
And up to this day,
anything burned also

1938
01:48:22,900 --> 01:48:29,800
makes me think of the
smell immediately.

1939
01:48:29,800 --> 01:48:32,425
It was a certain stench.

1940
01:48:32,425 --> 01:48:35,095

1941
01:48:35,095 --> 01:48:38,650
So did they give
you any food to get

1942

01:48:38,650 --> 01:48:41,050
on that train, as
you recall, as you

1943
01:48:41,050 --> 01:48:42,959
boarded the train in Trautenau?

1944
01:48:42,959 --> 01:48:48,450

1945
01:48:48,450 --> 01:48:50,340
That's a question I
can't even answer.

1946
01:48:50,340 --> 01:48:54,160
I don't remember--
don't remember.

1947
01:48:54,160 --> 01:48:59,970
But I do remember we were like
sardines in that, because there

1948
01:48:59,970 --> 01:49:02,920
were so many people.

1949
01:49:02,920 --> 01:49:05,610
And they want to
put them all in.

1950
01:49:05,610 --> 01:49:06,990
You were standing.

1951
01:49:06,990 --> 01:49:08,820
There was no room to sit.

1952
01:49:08,820 --> 01:49:11,025
That's when I learned
to sleep standing.

1953
01:49:11,025 --> 01:49:13,650

1954

01:49:13,650 --> 01:49:18,510
But the worst part was
the minute you went down,

1955
01:49:18,510 --> 01:49:22,680
you died, for sure, because
you were trampled on.

1956
01:49:22,680 --> 01:49:27,300
And in the morning, the train
was going not very fast.

1957
01:49:27,300 --> 01:49:31,380

1958
01:49:31,380 --> 01:49:37,590
And between two cars were
two guards standing high up.

1959
01:49:37,590 --> 01:49:39,330
They could overlook both cars.

1960
01:49:39,330 --> 01:49:42,040
And nobody would
jump out or whatever.

1961
01:49:42,040 --> 01:49:47,040
But in the morning, when
we stopped somewhere,

1962
01:49:47,040 --> 01:49:50,710
the dead in the car were
picked up and thrown out,

1963
01:49:50,710 --> 01:49:53,130
just thrown out.

1964
01:49:53,130 --> 01:49:57,880
So the cars got lighter
and lighter, eventually.

1965
01:49:57,880 --> 01:49:59,490
But what everybody was--

1966
01:49:59,490 --> 01:50:02,580

1967
01:50:02,580 --> 01:50:07,320
people were afraid there were
gypsies in all those cars.

1968
01:50:07,320 --> 01:50:10,260
There were lots of
gypsies in the camps.

1969
01:50:10,260 --> 01:50:13,480
And they all had knives still.

1970
01:50:13,480 --> 01:50:15,690
They were not treated
the way we were treated.

1971
01:50:15,690 --> 01:50:20,310
They had their own stuff,
but they were also prisoners.

1972
01:50:20,310 --> 01:50:23,070
But the knives
were the bad part,

1973
01:50:23,070 --> 01:50:29,670
because they showed
they were cannibals.

1974
01:50:29,670 --> 01:50:33,370
But that, I will tell later.

1975
01:50:33,370 --> 01:50:37,980
We arrived at a dead end,
which was a big, big,

1976
01:50:37,980 --> 01:50:44,070
big meadow in Germany's
Lüneburger Heide.

1977

01:50:44,070 --> 01:50:49,740
And we were all let out,
surrounded by the Germans

1978
01:50:49,740 --> 01:50:52,890
with their dogs
and their trucks,

1979
01:50:52,890 --> 01:50:54,850
where they had their food.

1980
01:50:54,850 --> 01:51:01,380
And we were sitting on that
meadow for days and days

1981
01:51:01,380 --> 01:51:02,800
and days in daytime.

1982
01:51:02,800 --> 01:51:04,770
At night, we had
to be in the train.

1983
01:51:04,770 --> 01:51:06,300
The train didn't move.

1984
01:51:06,300 --> 01:51:10,860
At that point, they did not
know what to do with us.

1985
01:51:10,860 --> 01:51:12,390
They had no order to kill.

1986
01:51:12,390 --> 01:51:13,500
They had no order.

1987
01:51:13,500 --> 01:51:18,870
They didn't do these kinds of
things, killing, without order.

1988
01:51:18,870 --> 01:51:21,310
They had no orders.

1989

01:51:21,310 --> 01:51:23,340
So we were standing on this.

1990
01:51:23,340 --> 01:51:28,650
We were in the LÃ¼neburger
Heide in day time outside

1991
01:51:28,650 --> 01:51:34,080
and, at nighttime,
in the cattle car.

1992
01:51:34,080 --> 01:51:41,600
And eventually, the
cars got lighter

1993
01:51:41,600 --> 01:51:43,320
because so many people died.

1994
01:51:43,320 --> 01:51:46,260
And so you had some room to sit.

1995
01:51:46,260 --> 01:51:50,130
But what the gypsies did-- and
I must say I don't think anybody

1996
01:51:50,130 --> 01:51:51,360
else--

1997
01:51:51,360 --> 01:51:57,990
they cut human flesh and
made a fire and ate it.

1998
01:51:57,990 --> 01:51:59,850
I saw this with my own eyes--

1999
01:51:59,850 --> 01:52:02,500
never thought I would.

2000
01:52:02,500 --> 01:52:04,960
But I don't think
anybody else, no matter--

2001

01:52:04,960 --> 01:52:07,920
everybody was hungry
to a certain extent.

2002
01:52:07,920 --> 01:52:11,970
But other people didn't do that.

2003
01:52:11,970 --> 01:52:20,950
And what you ate may be some
grass or whatever there was.

2004
01:52:20,950 --> 01:52:22,720
It was January,
though, was it not?

2005
01:52:22,720 --> 01:52:24,000
It was January.

2006
01:52:24,000 --> 01:52:24,670
Yeah.

2007
01:52:24,670 --> 01:52:25,240
Yes.

2008
01:52:25,240 --> 01:52:27,770
In January, Germany
is pretty cool.

2009
01:52:27,770 --> 01:52:29,120
You can say that again.

2010
01:52:29,120 --> 01:52:30,070
Yeah.

2011
01:52:30,070 --> 01:52:31,510
Mm-hmm.

2012
01:52:31,510 --> 01:52:32,260
It sure is.

2013
01:52:32,260 --> 01:52:39,160
But as I say, at that point,

I didn't feel any cool or warm

2014

01:52:39,160 --> 01:52:42,130
or anything at all.

2015

01:52:42,130 --> 01:52:44,170
Were these men and women
in those cattle cars?

2016

01:52:44,170 --> 01:52:45,520
Yes.

2017

01:52:45,520 --> 01:52:47,470
Yes, men and women.

2018

01:52:47,470 --> 01:52:49,420
Oh, yes.

2019

01:52:49,420 --> 01:52:51,370
Yes, absolutely.

2020

01:52:51,370 --> 01:52:58,840
So eventually, we went
on further to the west.

2021

01:52:58,840 --> 01:53:05,710
We went-- we stopped at
the gate of Bergen-Belsen.

2022

01:53:05,710 --> 01:53:08,650
But the campus over--

2023

01:53:08,650 --> 01:53:11,240
filled to capacity.

2024

01:53:11,240 --> 01:53:14,680
So there was no chance
they would take in anybody.

2025

01:53:14,680 --> 01:53:17,440
But they came out
with some soup.

2026
01:53:17,440 --> 01:53:21,130
So every car got some.

2027
01:53:21,130 --> 01:53:22,870
Everybody got some soup.

2028
01:53:22,870 --> 01:53:25,180
You always carried
around-- you had a big--

2029
01:53:25,180 --> 01:53:30,160

2030
01:53:30,160 --> 01:53:32,740
what you used for the soup.

2031
01:53:32,740 --> 01:53:34,410
Canteen or something?

2032
01:53:34,410 --> 01:53:35,123
Yeah.

2033
01:53:35,123 --> 01:53:36,860
"Mess tank," they called it.

2034
01:53:36,860 --> 01:53:37,360
Yeah.

2035
01:53:37,360 --> 01:53:40,940

2036
01:53:40,940 --> 01:53:42,700
So everybody got some soup.

2037
01:53:42,700 --> 01:53:44,200
You never cleaned that thing.

2038
01:53:44,200 --> 01:53:46,810

2039

01:53:46,810 --> 01:53:52,780

So hygiene was about minus zero.

2040

01:53:52,780 --> 01:53:55,030

So everybody got some soup.

2041

01:53:55,030 --> 01:53:57,770

And at the time, I would have
loved to go into Bergen-Belsen,

2042

01:53:57,770 --> 01:54:01,450

because I knew my sister
was in Bergen-Belsen.

2043

01:54:01,450 --> 01:54:04,220

But we were not going there.

2044

01:54:04,220 --> 01:54:06,460

So we went on.

2045

01:54:06,460 --> 01:54:09,280

These were all very,
very slow trains,

2046

01:54:09,280 --> 01:54:11,420

because they didn't
know where to go.

2047

01:54:11,420 --> 01:54:13,720

How did you know your
sister was in Bergen-Belsen?

2048

01:54:13,720 --> 01:54:16,690

Very strange story also--

2049

01:54:16,690 --> 01:54:20,800

there were people who were sent
from Bergen-Belsen to the east.

2050

01:54:20,800 --> 01:54:26,380

And I had heard from somebody
just by chance that she--

2051
01:54:26,380 --> 01:54:27,930
who met her in Bergen-Belsen.

2052
01:54:27,930 --> 01:54:31,720
My sister was fluent in French.

2053
01:54:31,720 --> 01:54:37,630
And she was interpreter
for the Greek Jews.

2054
01:54:37,630 --> 01:54:40,480
And that's how she was known,
because the Greek Jews didn't

2055
01:54:40,480 --> 01:54:44,360
speak German or didn't speak
anything else but French.

2056
01:54:44,360 --> 01:54:46,010
So that's what she did.

2057
01:54:46,010 --> 01:54:50,500
And there was somebody
who brought this one.

2058
01:54:50,500 --> 01:54:53,830
And just one chance
in a million,

2059
01:54:53,830 --> 01:54:56,350
I ask if he by any
chance knew her.

2060
01:54:56,350 --> 01:54:57,160
And he said, yes.

2061
01:54:57,160 --> 01:54:59,980
But I still up to this day
don't know why they didn't just

2062
01:54:59,980 --> 01:55:02,560

say yes, he knew her, he said.

2063

01:55:02,560 --> 01:55:04,690

But anyway, I knew
she was there.

2064

01:55:04,690 --> 01:55:06,250

And as it turned
out, she was there.

2065

01:55:06,250 --> 01:55:09,994

2066

01:55:09,994 --> 01:55:12,360

Excuse me.

2067

01:55:12,360 --> 01:55:16,350

This might be a minute
to stretch our legs.

2068

01:55:16,350 --> 01:56:16,000